

Editor: ~~RON TOFT~~ Chairman: ~~OMAR FOWLER~~, M.I.S.M. Secretary: ~~RICHARD BEET~~

+ U. F. O. B U Z Z E S H A M P S H I R E V I L L A G E +  
+ By R o n T o f t +  
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AN AERIAL reconnaissance of the sprawling Hampshire village of Yateley and the surrounding district, seems to have been carried out one night last month by a brilliant glowing U.F.O.

S.I.G.A.P. has so far received four independent reports of THE THING, seen, according to present information, between 10 p.m. on May 12 and 4.45 a.m. on May 13. A small Yateley schoolgirl may have been the first to observe the U.F.O. Diane Gardner (8), of Lucas Close, said that at about 10 p.m. on May 12 she watched a glowing ball of light from her bedroom window. Diane had just gone to bed when the "sky was lit up". She looked out of the window and saw the object which she described as "like a saucepan without a handle". She added: "It was just above the trees. It was very bright and white like the moon". The object made no noise and disappeared behind houses. Mrs. Joan Gardner was in Diane's bedroom at the time - attending to some things in the airing cupboard. She said: "Diane called me, saying there was a bright light in the sky. At first I didn't take much notice. But she was so insistent that I went to the window. But by that time it had gone". Diane, a pupil at St. Peter's Primary School, Yateley, said she had never seen anything like it before. Had Mrs. Gardner heard if any other local people had seen anything unusual in the sky that night? "I have been meaning to ask - but people think you're crackers".

It was round about 10 p.m. when housewife Mrs. V.M. Denyer, of Mickle Hill, Sandhurst, saw the U.F.O. She said: "I was in my bedroom when a light caught my eye. I turned to the window and saw a terrifically bright object moving across the sky. It intrigued me. It was so much bigger than a star and seemed to be fluorescent white in colour". Mrs. Denyer added that the U.F.O. was some distance off and its light intensity was "pretty constant". She went on: "Suddenly it shot off at a terrific speed and disappeared to a pinhead. At first I thought it was a parachute flare, but it didn't go down". This particular sighting has yet to be fully investigated.

Just four-and-a-half hours later a mysterious aerial object was seen by two profile operators on night shift at Clark Equipment's Blackbushe branch. It bathed a belt of trees in an eerie fluorescent light before rapidly accelerating away into the distance. The U.F.O., reported to be shaped something like a cigar, was seen by Malcolm Lauchlan (26) and his mate Barry Robinson, of Gloucester Road, Aldershot. I interviewed Mr. Lauchlan at his home in Park Road, Camberley, only a few hours after the sighting. He said: "We were stuck for words. We just stood with our mouths open. I said 'Am I seeing things?'. My mate replied 'I saw it all right. So did you'. He got a bit panicky and said 'What the hell was that?'". The incident began at 2.25 a.m. Mr. Lauchlan and Mr. Robinson were taking a breather outside the Clark Equipment buildings. Suddenly they caught sight of a star-like object moving towards them in the clear sky. As it approached

it got brighter. Then, when about half-a-mile away, it stopped abruptly and hung in the sky, oscillating. Mr. Lauchlan, married with two young children, continued: "The object came from the Eversley direction. At first I thought it was an aircraft of some sort. But there were no flashing lights. It was just one continuous light. There was no noise at any time. There would have been if it were an aircraft, because there wasn't a breath of wind at the time". He added that stars were visible, but there was no moon. He went on: "When it was about half-a-mile away it hovered in the sky, moving up and down. It was massive. It looked like a series of headlights or floodlights at Wembley, but the light was not dazzling. My mate estimated it was 150 feet above the ground. It hovered for about five seconds. Then it seemed to turn, silhouetting the trees with its yellow glow. It accelerated away so fast it was gone in seconds". The U.F.O. was seen again by Mr. Lauchlan and another colleague, between 3.30 a.m. and 3.45 a.m., but in the distance this time. What did Mr. Lauchlan think the object was? "I found it hard to believe. It definitely wasn't an aircraft". S.I.G.A.P. consultant Tim Childerhouse, a satellite expert who works in the Space Department at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, said that a bright flashing Russian satellite was due over at 2.26 a.m. But he would not commit himself as to whether or not this is what the U.F.O. was.

Mrs. Dorothy Mead, of Frensham Close, Yateley, saw her U.F.O. at 4.20 a.m. She described it to me as a huge glowing ball of light in the sky from which a white beam was coming. Said Mrs. Mead, a 43 year old widow: "My dog Jamie woke me to go outside. I went into the kitchen and there shining on the floor was this beam of white light. It was like a searchlight, but very narrow, only about six inches across. Through the window I could see this red glowing ball. It was hovering backwards and forwards". Mrs. Mead tried in vain to rouse her 17-year old son. Then she opened the back door of her bungalow, letting her bull-terrier into the garden. But it quickly came back in again, jumped on to a table and looked at the glowing ball of light with his head on one side. Went on Mrs. Mead: "He was shaking and obviously frightened". The white beam was not visible from outside and may just have been a concentration of the light from the object by the window. The U.F.O. moved around the sky very slowly, as Mrs. Mead watched it, making no noise. Then, after about 20 minutes, it moved at a snail's pace towards Blackwater and Hartley Wintney. What was the object? Said Mrs. Mead: "No-one can convince me it was an aircraft and it was obviously not a flare. I know flares". She concluded: "It must have been out of this world".

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Mrs. Mead informed me that both she and her/husband had seen a U.F.O. last year too. Major (ret'd.) Alfred Mead had observed it through binoculars. Said Mrs. Mead: "My husband wouldn't let me have a look at it with the binoculars. He just told me to forget it". She added that she felt her husband knew more about U.F.O.s than he made out.

From the data available at present it seems the U.F.O. was in the Yateley area for nearly seven hours! Although there are certain differences as to the colour and shape of the object, it is virtually certain that all the witnesses saw the same thing. The chances of four U.F.O.s being seen over one village during the same night, must be exceedingly remote. A full report of any further sightings in the Yateley area, or statements from other witnesses, will appear in next month's bulletin.

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GOLDEN LIGHTS IN SKY: Two brilliant golden balls of light were seen over Blackwater, Hampshire in the early hours of May 18 - less than a week after the Yateley sightings. They were seen by Miss Dorothy Watts, of Vicarage Road, Blackwater. Blackwater is a village which straddles the main A.30 London-Penzance trunk road, only a stone's throw from Yateley. Miss Watts said she saw the lights at about 1 a.m.

She said: "I was in bed. They lit up the room so brightly. They were like two big golden headlamps - ever so bright. There was no noise at all. They were coming from the Yateley direction, going fairly slowly. I saw them for about 15 seconds. I don't know what they were. I've never seen anything like it. They were too bright to be aircraft. They didn't leave a vapour trail".

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+ S. I. G. A. P. ' s T H I R D A N N U A L M E E T I N G +  
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S.I.G.A.P.'s third annual meeting was held on May 6 in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford. It was attended by some 25 people. A talk on the moon was given by S.I.G.A.P. Bulletin Editor Ron Toft. By means of a very detailed 3 ft. by 3½ ft. photographic map of the moon's visible face, he pointed out the main lunar geological features and indicated where Russian and American space probes had landed. He also gave a brief run-down on the data sent back by these probes. Ron then showed members a large selection of excellent lunar photographs - some taken on the surface by the American Surveyor soft-landing craft, and others from a few miles above. Particularly interesting were the colour photos taken by the Apollo 8 astronauts who circum-navigated the moon last Christmas.

S.I.G.A.P.'s Executive Committee now consists of the following:

- CHAIRMAN - Omar Fowler (re-elected).
- SECRETARY - Dick Beet (re-elected).
- TREASURER - Mrs. Jean Fowler.
- BULLETIN EDITOR - Ron Toft (re-elected).

Ordinary members - Dan Butcher, Graham Raine, Dick Munford, P. Parkinson and Miss M. Dalley.

The group now has 86 paying members. Of these, 59 are area investigators.

For those members unable to attend the annual meeting, the following are condensed versions of the reports given by Omar Fowler and Dick Beet:

C H A I R M A N ' S R E P O R T

B y O m a r F o w l e r

The group has been very active during the past year and we have attended a number of conferences up and down the country, such as the Midlands Conference at Manchester on October 12, 1968, the Western Conference at Bristol on July 20, 1968 and the U.F.O. Seminar at Cambridge University on April 19 this year. We have also held 'mini' sky-watches in various places, as well as being hosts to B.U.F.O.R.A. on National Skywatch Day. Our 'mini' watches took place on Chanctonbury Ring in Sussex on June 29, after a local U.F.O. scare, and as the result of another sighting, a mini watch was held at Wanborough on July 13. In an effort to fathom out the mysteries of Warminster, a watch was held on Cradle Hill, but we only succeeded in listing a substantial number of satellites, although the local watchers insisted that several of them were U.F.O.s.

It is obvious that satellites and rocket debris are responsible for an increasing number of U.F.O. reports, but this does not mean that the year has been without its major U.F.O. sightings. The Russian

Cosmos 253 satellite caused wide speculation at the time of its re-entry on November 20, but we established without doubt, and in a very short time, that this particular display was man-made.

Our interests have ventured beyond Surrey, and indeed, beyond the United Kingdom during the past year. We now have many contacts round the world, the latest being in Argentina, and earlier this year we were lucky enough to scoop other groups by publishing information on U.F.O. activity in Norway. I would like to express our thanks to our consultants and translators who have kindly given up a great deal of their time assisting us.

We have great hopes for the future, a new magazine, more world U.F.O. news, our participation in the National Skywatch on June 28 and our probable representation at the National Space and U.F.O. Convention, to be held at Woburn Abbey on August 17.

Unfortunately we have to adjust ourselves to the rising costs of everyday living (our stamp bill is over £20 per year) and therefore we have found it necessary to increase the annual subscription from 10s 6d. to 15s 0d. Also, in view of the increasing amount of time taken up with administrative work, we will attempt to restrict our membership to 100. It is our intention to spend 95 per cent of our time investigating U.F.O.s and 5 per cent on administration, not vice-versa. We now have adequate members to cover Surrey and after all, this was and still is our intention.

At the time of the annual meeting the number of sightings reported had reached a total of 151, of which 58 took place within the last year. Of the 58, 45 were in Surrey and the breakdown is as follows:

12	aircraft
1	star
1	meteor
16	satellites
6	natural phenomena
3	other known explanations
1	investigation incomplete
18	U.F.O.s
<u>58</u>	

My wife Jean has taken over the position of treasurer from Graham Raine, because of his pressure of business. Although Graham was unable to attend the annual meeting we have details of our current financial state:

Cost of stamps and stationery for the year:	£28-0-9
National Skywatch expenses:	£3-8-4
Woburn Abbey fee:	£1-1-0
Book:	12-6
Hire of space films:	£1-12-0
Printing costs:	£2-5-5
Recording tape:	£1-0-4
Cash in hand on May 1:	£4-6-2

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Dick Beet

S.I.G.A.P. now has three representatives on the B.U.F.O.R.A. National Executive Committee and we have been appointed Regional B.U.F.O.R.A. Evaluators for local sightings. This means that we are responsible for all sightings that occur within our investigation capabilities. This increased responsibility calls for enlarged investigation procedures:

1. New preliminary sighting report forms.
  2. New standard sighting report forms (these have been designed so that the information can be extracted for computer purposes).
  3. Investigators' report forms.
  4. Some form of investigator training (The recent Cambridge University seminar was very useful and attended by seven of our investigators. A "Manual for U.F.O. Researchers" is at present being compiled by Stoke-on-Trent amateur astronomers Roger Stanway and Anthony Pace.
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SATELLITE NEWS By Tim Childerhouse: The big Russian spacecraft PROTON 4 is predicted to decay on or about June 15. Proton 4 is one of the heaviest unmanned spacecraft put into orbit. Launched on November 16, 1968, it weighs some 8,600 kg., is four metres long and three metres in diameter. As the name suggests, Proton 4 is monitoring and transmitting information on cosmic ray particles, their energies and composition etc. The visibility pattern (whether it can be seen from these latitudes) for this satellite will be difficult to predict. The short summer nights lessen the chance of observing the last few orbits. If you do see a fast bright object travelling from west to east during the middle of June, it could be Proton 4.

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U.F.O. TALK: A talk on U.F.O.s was given by S.I.G.A.P. Chairman Omar Fowler to approximately 70 parents, teachers and pupils at Broadwater Secondary School, Godalming on May 2. There was a great interest in the subject and many questions from the floor afterwards. "The pupils in particular seemed to know a great deal about U.F.O. phenomena", reports Omar.

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TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION: The cancellation of "The Invaders" T.V. show was not due to poor viewer ratings as announced, but that the real reason was due to the impending resignation of Roy Thinnes from the title part. It is said that Thinnes has been threatened on numerous occasions when the show dealt with topics "too hot to handle". When reached for comment, Thinnes would say only that "I have no comment other than the fact that there is more truth behind the T.V. plots that most people realise".

(Credit: "Saucer Scoop", St. Petersburg, Florida).

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NATIONAL SKYWATCH: This year's National Skywatch Day will be, as already announced, on June 28. As in previous years, the headquarters will be on Pewley Down, Guildford. The Skywatch will start at 7 p.m. on June 28, ending at 7 a.m. on June 29. Volunteers are required for the following shifts:

Shift 1	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Shift 2	9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Shift 3	11 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Shift 4	1 a.m. to 3 a.m.
Shift 5	3 a.m. to 5 a.m.
Shift 6	5 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Those who intend taking part should bring along with them at the very least, a notepad and pencil. Other useful items: camera, binoculars, camera, telescope, U.F.O. detector.

Write the shift or shifts you wish to take part in on a postcard and send it without delay to: Dick Beet, 164 Parkmead, Cranleigh, Surrey. By the way, Dick is now on the phone again. His number is CRANLEIGH 4420.

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LATE NEWS :- Pre-watch briefing at Plastic Coatings canteen 8pm, Tues. 24th June.

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