

Review of 'UFO DATA'

Following an advertisement from www.ufodata.co.uk, enquires recently requested a copy of the newly advertised and launched UFO DATA, report No1, and edited by Russel Callaghan.

As a firm supporter of printed UFO based magazines, this latest offering didn't quite engender halcyon memories of those not too distant days of newsstand products, however, by arriving in a badly stapled together A5 format and questionable front cover image. The production team had also included a 'free' C.D, which with a cover price of £2.95 inc. p&p, was perhaps just as well on balance.

This particular issue had been billed as a 25-year celebration of the Rendlesham forest incident, and as such more or less touched upon the main elements of this controversial series of incidents and well as one or two more recent, personal takes on it.

Kicking the issue off, we had an interesting lead article concerning the race to militarise our Ionosphere, and then a suggestion that it would be most effectively controlled by those basically more able to incorporate 'reverse engineered' extraterrestrial technology within their orbital weapon systems.

Oh dear here we go again I immediately thought...head first into the familiar old trap of 'take it as read' that we have a stock pile of alien hardware to tinker with and ultimately employ within our terrestrial technology! Call me a sceptic if you like, but until this particular old chestnut becomes established as fact, why do people insist on building such alleged elements of ufology into their articles?

For those with a specific interest in ufological history, we're taken on a blast from the past tour of the great American Airship mysteries of the late 1800's. There's a simplistic, honest and somewhat reassuring comfort contained within these sundry reports and stories from the early days of the weird and wonderful world we inhabit. Perhaps it's just the mixture of innocent, often outraged and at times indignant tones they often employed to describe these mysteries in various articles and newspapers of the time...or perhaps it just reminds me of what is often lacking in today's ufology, feeling!

An article by Joseph R. Gutheinz recounts an investigation of Omniplan Corporation, and its apparent fraudulent activities against NASA. However interesting the article might be, it really does seem to be vaguely out of place in a UFO based publication and with limited appeal to all but those with specific interests in corporate affairs. UFO magazine often did similar things towards the end of its career, to the extent in fact where irrespective of its mast head, one was never quite sure if was a UFO based magazine or one more concerned with science based issues in the end?

Astro-physicist Andrew Pike's article entitled 'The untold science' offers us a taste of the potential science he believes lies behind the events of December 1980 in Rendlesham forest. Drawing upon the scientific study of lighting and its various characteristics in relation to descriptions supplied by eyewitnesses at the time, Andrew suggests that this along with Electromagnetic energy, Quantum and string theory as well as relativity, all play their part in establishing the solid 'nuts and bolts' reality of the object(s)? Involved. Perhaps they do, and no doubt his pending book (due for release this summer) will both expand upon, and reinforce his arguments (and hopefully in a way that the more scientifically challenged amongst us can follow)

The inescapable fact remains though, that no matter how convincing an argument might be, at the end of the day (or perhaps book) it will remain just another theory until somebody actually wheels the real McCoy onto the public stage and successfully proves to the global massive that UFOs both exist, and do exactly what it says on the tin!

Along with a couple of South American articles and sundry other tit-bits this booklet offers a modest little break time read for the UFO enthusiast, despite containing one or two examples of questionable relevance to ufology. On a more personal note, for £2.95 I could have lived without the C.D, and



enjoyed better quality images and a few more pages instead. Hopefully if orders take off, then the team will up the stakes in terms of overall quality.

A. weiver