

## RIDING THE WAVES



## BUFORA INVESTIGATIONS 2008

GLORIA HEATHER DIXON

I realise there has been an absence of an investigations diary for some time now, so in this diary I would like to address several topics relating to investigations within BUFORA and bring everyone up to date with what's been happening. In addition to this I would like to paint a picture for those who have wondered whether BUFORA still exists! Indeed we do, with a lot of challenging work going on behind the scenes in developing an understanding of modern-day trends and thinking in ufology as we progress into the first eight years of the twenty-first century.

“Riding the Waves”, the title of this article, is very appropriate because there have been many waves to ride for BUFORA over the last few years, not least the restructuring of our association and the fact that we no longer operate as a limited company, but as a simple association without members. This, of course, means that now the website is BUFORA's main contact point for the public, with regular enquiries coming through in the form of sighting reports, questions pertaining to the Investigations Training Course, student enquiries, people commenting on their various theories relating to the UFO subject, the media, researchers and a diverse area of questions and comments from the UK and around the world.

To give the reader an idea of numbers on sighting reports coming into BUFORA, we are looking at approximately one hundred and ten this year to date. These statistics also include the photographs sent into BUFORA. Of recent time we have received several very unusual and interesting reports, a couple of which will be documented later in this article.

During the last few years, sighting reports have been decreasing and changing somewhat in content, reflecting the ever-fluid notions of what actually constitutes a UFO. Certainly, abduction-style reports have changed very dramatically and we have received a very limited number of these during the last few years and to date, thus reflecting the dramatic diminishing of interest in the subject in comparison to the fascination of the nineties.

I believe there are many reasons for this and there is a roller coaster ride evolving, driven by the media, the press, UFO magazines and books, and indeed the investigators and researchers themselves.

With the demise of many television UFO-oriented series and documentaries and a significant decrease in the number of books and magazines now being published on the subject, the interest from the public has plummeted. Occasional interest is normally, and mostly spuriously, generated by the media when they receive several sightings from a localised area or when, more recently, the MoD released two batches of UFO files, which resulted in the usual hype and sensationalism.

Most of the more recent press coverage has been misidentifications of 'Chinese Lanterns', the new 'UFOs'...at least to some members of the public, many of whom have been very excited about what they thought they were observing. These lanterns have created what have been interpreted by some as alien traffic in our skies!

## **BUFORA TRAINING COURSE FOR INVESTIGATORS**



There has been a great deal of interest in our Training Course during the last year with many enquiries coming through to BUFORA expressing interest in enrolling on this course. The Investigators Training Course gives an excellent grounding in what can be observed and very often misidentified in our skies. This includes misidentification of technological, environmental, atmospheric and astronomical phenomena, so it is an excellent resource for understanding misperceptions and how belief systems colour the way a witness reports a sighting of an unexplained light or object in the sky and guides the potential investigator in identifying perceptual and logical inaccuracies in submitted reports. Therefore an investigator has to be very objective and knowledgeable about how witnesses observe objects in the sky and how at times misperceptions, beliefs systems and the inaccuracy of memory can colour the way they report their sighting.

I would like to extend congratulations on behalf of the NIC (National Investigations Committee) to Peter Wooten on completing and passing the Investigations Training Course to a very high standard. On the same basis, I would also like to congratulate John Hartill who is based in Paisley in Scotland, and thus will join AI (Accredited Investigator) George Niedzweidz in the Borders as our Scottish representatives.

Sadly, and as some of you may have read on the website, Sandra Oppido completed and passed the ITC in May of this year, but died very suddenly in July. Sandra was also a photographic analyst for BUFORA and she is a great loss to us, both as an investigator and for her technical skills.

At the present time we have five people in various stages of the Investigators Training Course, two Provisional Investigators who have completed and passed the Training Course and seven Accredited Investigators. We also have several people who have expressed interest in the course and who are awaiting a start date and in this manner BUFORA is building a new team of investigators, in the current and relevant climate of ufology, for the NIC.

While I am on the subject of the Investigators Training Course, I would like to address one of the crucial issues for all investigators to take into consideration - BELIEF SYSTEMS. It must always be remembered that a witness's beliefs often play a huge part in how they report a sighting and more particularly a high-strangeness event. This is something that I will talk about at the Investigators Meeting, which brings me to extending my apologies for having to postpone the October meeting of the NIC, due to some personal reasons. However, we are planning to hold a meeting

towards the end of January in London and I will give two dates for the month in order that as many of us as possible can attend.

The Agenda will include a workshop-style meeting, with Judy Jaafar, Tony Eccles and myself covering some significant topics with regard to investigation. Our Chairman, Robert Rosamond, will welcome you all and give you an insight into 'BUFORA Behind the Scenes' and the diversity of the workload going on at Central Office.

This will also enable a social gathering of our investigators and a chance for us all to get to know one another.

## **SIGHTING REPORTS - 2008**

Moving on here, I would like to touch on sighting reports and photographs coming into BUFORA, and also comment on a couple of stranger reports that BUFORA has received in the past year.

Let us begin with a more general look at sighting reports. A high percentage of these have been identified as Chinese lanterns, which have become very prevalent over the last couple of years, together with sightings of the International Space Station, which has been visible in certain parts of the UK particularly during July and August. Chinese lanterns have certainly created much excitement for those who have observed them and not understood what they were observing and this has resulted in many local newspaper articles, as people have reported them as UFOs. As is often the way, some people were unhappy with this explanation, even though BUFORA were able to sometimes identify the event from which Chinese lanterns were being launched. Of course this is an example of how belief systems affect the way a witness will report and observe an unidentified object or light in the sky and no amount of definitive evidence will change their minds!

To illustrate the Chinese lantern UFO reports further, I am documenting below a sighting report solved by our illustrious AI Judy Jaafar. To begin, let us take a look at a photograph of them taken by a witness:



Two cases of Chinese lanterns reported as UFOs to BUFORA follow, in order to give readers a flavour of how witnesses report these.

*Dear Sirs*

*We have just seen the strangest sight in the skies above Banbury this evening. Between 10:30 & 10:40, 7 of us (all sober) saw approximately 20 - 25 orange lights in the skies, travelling very fast from west to east, starting in formation then breaking rapidly. There was no sound at all and they were travelling much faster than the aeroplanes visible in the sky at the time. They were all either orange or red in colour and were definitely not helicopters, aeroplanes or very fast hot air balloons! The visibility was good / very good and the cloud cover was minimal. We all tried to capture the images on our mobile phones or digital cameras, but we got very indistinct images (I can send some images if you would like).*

*Regards*

*NR*

Response from BUFORA AI Judy Jaafar:

*Hello N,*

*Thanks for contacting us with your report. These sound very much like party or Chinese lanterns, reports of which we are*

*receiving on a weekly basis, and most often seen on Saturday nights. They are silent, travel with the speed of the prevailing wind, are red/orange and form loose clusters which start to stretch out the longer they are aloft. The fact that they seemed to be travelling faster than planes is due to them being much closer to you than the aircraft - a perceptual error.*

*If you wish to know more about them, you can log on to [skylanterns.com](http://skylanterns.com) or search "ufo balloons".*

*Cheers  
Judy Jaafar  
BUFORA*

And a further more in-depth response from Judy to another witness to the many Chinese lantern sighting reports BUFORA has received over the last two years...

*"The lights in question are undoubtedly Chinese lanterns, also called sky or party lanterns. Every year we receive several dozen reports of such, from all over the country, from spring through to late autumn, and they have been around for several years. Almost all reports are from Saturday nights, when these lanterns are released from parties, clubs and weddings (and by pranksters trying to fool people into thinking they are seeing UFOs).*

*Description: orange/red balls or cylinders of light, soundless, travelling quite slowly or swiftly (depending on the wind speed) from SW to NE roughly (prevailing winds in UK are south-westerly, but this changes on occasion), sometimes bobbing and dipping, staying in formation (some releases are tethered) and disappearing one by one as they all reach the same place (candle burners go out) or being lifted up quite quickly and suddenly and fading from view (thermal air current). Sometimes they are seen to drip molten material before they disappear (paper casing catching fire and disintegrating). They can be seen in ones and twos, or in fleets of up to 150, depending on how much money people want to spend on them. More information is available from [www.skylanterns.com](http://www.skylanterns.com), a company specialising in supplying these novelties.*

*BUFORA is often contacted by newspapers about these sightings, but the media prefer to run with a UFO mystery rather than print the mundane truth. The now "famous" Stratford-upon-Avon sighting of July 2007 was lanterns, definitely, but the photographer, having initially contacted us and been told what they were, decided nonetheless to put his footage on YouTube, as "the best UFO video ever". It then hit all the papers. Some people just don't want answers, evidently. :-)* "

In all UFO reports, naked eye observation is crucially important, and arguably more so than any photograph. If the photographer or

videographer sees nothing at the time, either by direct observation or through the screen or viewfinder, then any apparently anomalous object visible only on download is most likely to have a mundane explanation. A witness who was visiting her son in Edinburgh and took a photograph in Argyll, looking across Loch Etive, demonstrates an interesting illustration of how witnesses capture 'UFOs' on camera, when they actually do not see anything at the time of taking the photograph, below. This is her email to BUFORA...

*"Hi.*

*I have been in contact with Nick Pope who used to work for the MoD and he kindly gave me your e-mail address thinking that you may be interested in my story.*

*In June my husband and I visited our son who lives and works as an air traffic controller in Edinburgh. He took us on a 10-day touring holiday. As the weather was very unsettled, mainly raining, I had to take the majority of my photographs with my digital camera sitting on the rear seat of a travelling car, with the window wound down. It was only when my son downloaded my photographs onto his computer did the 3 of us see a strange object appearing on one of them. On the photographs taken immediately before and immediately after the photograph in question everything appears normal. In fact none of us at the time saw anything unusual, but there I have a photograph of what the three of us believe is a UFO. I attached the full photograph plus a cropped version of it, but not as an attachment as my radiotelephone will not allow this to happen. As you will see the craft has a saucer shaped base with what appears to be a lop-sided 'dustbin' on top of it. On top of the 'dustbin' there is a further lop-sided projection. Also appearing at the side/top of the projection is a column.*

*The photograph was taken on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 16.03 on the A85 road some 3-4 miles East of the Connel Bridge (Argyll & Bute) looking across Loch Etive. The exact spot can be calculated using the signpost appearing on the photograph. To the right of the main photograph there is a red roofed building that looks like a house. Comparing the "UFO" with this building it is absolutely huge. I remember years ago reading about UFO resembling dustbins but all the latest photographs taken of UFOs are mainly of the flying saucer version.*

*If you wish any further information then I shall be pleased to oblige. I look forward to your comments."*

Their photograph is shown below. You can copy and paste it into a picture viewing programme if you wish to enlarge it and see better.



*Photograph, courtesy of the photographers Mr & Mrs Marsh*

Robert Rosamond and Judy Jaafar conducted analysis on this photograph and evaluated the object as a seabird, most likely a seagull. There is something in the background, which protruded above the bird, possibly a rock or part of a building. The photograph was obviously taken when the bird was in direct line with this artefact in the background, which was on the other side of the Loch.

There has been a terrific increase in the number of digital photographs and video footage coming into BUFORA very regularly, most of which apparent anomalies can be explained by way of birds and insects, often not seen by the photographer whilst taking the photograph, and then noticing objects after downloading their photographs onto their computers. The photographer often has a major problem accepting the evaluation of their photograph... and thus it has always been! We received a photograph captured over Niagara Falls in recent months, which created some fairly vociferous debate between the photographer and myself and Robert Rosamond. Robert assessed this as a seagull, which it was. The photographer was completely unwilling to accept this.

Fortunately I discovered video footage of a seagull flying in the Falls, very similar to that which the photographer had captured, but even that didn't convince him, and anyway MUFON had evaluated it as unexplained, so who were we to say it was a seagull!! And so the beat goes on and on.... and on!

This particular scenario often occurs as Robert Rosamond and Judy Jaafar assess digital photographs and video footage because belief systems play a huge part in the UFO subject and each photographer is ever hopeful they have captured a definitive UFO on camera and often find it difficult to accept that their photograph has been evaluated as something mundane, albeit sometimes in unusual circumstances or at deceptive angles.

Along with the ubiquitous birds and insects, optical artefacts and reflections crop up with some regularity... people are just convinced they have captured an extra-terrestrial spacecraft on their camera! If this were true (which it is not) it would mean that spaceships are around in huge numbers in our skies, all over the country, often in broad daylight. A thought that occurs to me is that if this were the case, the MoD would be far too busy to be releasing UFO files! After all, this would certainly be of great and rather extraordinary "defence significance".....

The recent release of two batches of MoD Files created immediate media interest and of course this triggered an increase in UFO reports, as people started watching the skies all over again. This sort of "official" input also triggers the reporting of sightings from many years ago, historical accounts that we can only log, as obviously they cannot be investigated with any kind of accuracy. The statement, 'MoD releases UFO files' produces a very animated effect upon the media, and results in a real UFO firework display of news items and press articles.

As BUFORA's Robert Rosamond has addressed in his 'From the Chair' page, this, in effect, means nothing much at all and without a shadow of a doubt, Freedom of Information Act or no, we will never know anything that the MoD does not want us to know about UFOs or anything else. Therefore, in my opinion, the slow release of batches of MoD files are of no consequence except perhaps as historical information and back-up for the more significant cases from many years ago.

## THE HUMAN FACTOR



I want to address important issues surrounding some of the high strangeness reports coming through to BUFORA via email and telephone. It has become more and more evident that in a percentage of these cases mental health issues are very possibly involved. This is not always apparent in the initial stages of an enquiry, but can manifest as investigation proceeds, notably during the course of a face-to-face interview. Witnesses, on occasion, do not give the investigator any clue that mental health problems could be a relevant factor in their unusual experiences. For the unwary or inexperienced field investigator this can present an unrecognised problem that the more aware ufologist will be better equipped to assimilate. “Mental health”, however, covers a wide spectrum of human conditions, most of which do not automatically invalidate the reliability of a witness’s account. Each case, therefore, must be judged upon its own merits, with care being taken not to dismiss testimony out of hand without sufficient cause.

To give an example of the above, Robert Rosamond has documented details of a recent account that came into BUFORA on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008. This transpired to be a situation where such a judgement

call was clearly required, following a three and a half hour drive to meet the witness.

*On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 we received on the office phone at 7pm a call from a witness who then proceeded to explain that he had, over the course of the past seven weeks or so, been observing on a regular basis triangular UFOs flying in and around the vicinity of his village. The call lasted for some thirty five minutes or so during which he unwittingly triggered a number of familiar warning bells, from an investigative perspective. Irrespective of this, however, he finished his dialogue with a plaintive cry for somebody to please come along and confirm that what he was claiming was in fact the truth.*

*This situation presented us with something of a dilemma as we knew that we couldn't just cold-call one of our accredited investigators and reasonably expect them to change their Saturday evening plans to initiate an immediate field investigation, so we decided that as our evening was free we would instead make the journey from London to East Anglia. On that basis we called the witness back and arranged to meet him in his village, whereupon he could then take us to where he was allegedly observing the UFOs.*

*We eventually arrived in the witness's village somewhere around 12.30 in the early hours of the morning and duly called him as arranged. Within five minutes the distinctive sound of a small motorcycle disturbed the tranquil and silent night air, and our witness arrived trailing a plume of thick, blue-tinged smoke behind him. He climbed from what transpired to be a somewhat neglected 'twist and go' moped wearing little more than a lightweight casual jacket, no socks and a time expired orange crash helmet. What left even more of an impression as he enthusiastically shook my hand, however, was a strong smell of alcohol! Introductions over, we then followed the witness on his moped as he lead us back out of the village via a narrow road (along which he twice came perilously close to crashing) until we came to an elevated junction. Here he suddenly swerved off the road, mounted the grass verge and hastily beckoned us to pull in behind him. This, he informed us, was where he had been conducting his many vigils.*

*The road appeared to bisect a gentle slope and despite the late hour we could still ascertain that the surrounding terrain was obviously comprised of various undulating slopes such as ours along with numerous dips and valleys interspersed with illuminated buildings as well as intermittent vehicle headlights travelling along country roads mostly*

*hidden (only one in fact contained any streetlights) by a combination of landscape and darkness.*

*During the course of this fairly straight forward assimilation of our surroundings, the witness suddenly pointed to his left whilst stating dramatically, “THAT doesn’t look right to me!” We followed his finger to where a significantly large and well illuminated building stood upon the brow of a slope some distance away on our left. “That wasn’t there before!”, he claimed, whilst immediately pointing to his right where a vehicle could be seen speeding quite obviously towards the only lighted section of road close to our location. “LOOK...LOOK. There goes one, did you see it...can you see where I’m pointing?” He then pointed out the longish row of orange streetlights gracing a section of the still busy A road we had just come off. “See them, they’re not right, they’re parked or hovering UFOs. They hang about all night then just disappear in the morning. There’s something funny going on here”.*

*We began to explain to our witness exactly what his ‘UFOs’ were, and how or why he had been misidentifying and misperceiving them but he was basically having none of it. So far as he was concerned they were exactly what he said they were, and any attempt to suggest otherwise resulted in him becoming agitated and increasingly more aggressive towards us. Under such circumstances we deemed it wise to terminate the meeting fifteen minutes after our arrival in the village on the basis that whatever issues our witness had, they were clearly beyond our remit and certainly beyond any ufological jurisdiction.*

The above report shows the difficulties involved for the investigators and also how much time can be wasted in following up a case that superficially appears to be interesting, but the ‘human factor’ enters the equation and illuminated buildings and car headlights become triangular UFOs!! The witness in this particular instance had contacted a local paper and his testimony had been written up at face value, thus creating yet another local “mini-wave” entirely engendered by the media, and prompting several other individuals to come forward and report that they had been seeing exactly the same things!

Investigators and researchers continue to tread through the minefields of ufology sometimes with very little understanding that the UFO subject embraces many different facets and fields, notwithstanding the central role that human psychology plays within some of the more unusual reports. It is my opinion that the UFO subject does not exist alone or in isolation from the paranormal field of study and therefore cannot be

studied independently of other anomalous phenomena particularly in high strangeness reports.

Memory also plays a significant role in witness reports and it is crucial to understand how inaccurate memory can actually be in certain circumstances, therefore there are many considerations in identifying and understanding a UFO sighting report, particularly in the more comprehensive cases.

An extract from the British Journal of Psychiatry on the psychology of memory states....

*It is popularly believed that memory acts as a video recorder with events being recorded and stored awaiting recovery essentially as they were laid down. Memory is, however, a much more complex and less efficient process. Bartlett showed that biographical memory is essentially a reconstructive process in which only some elements of past experience are stored and are retrievable. Far from being recovered unchanged he demonstrated that memories maybe reconstructed and elaborated by all kinds of subsequent influences.*

It is obviously evident that we need to understand the functions of memory and memory retrieval in a more extensive way in order to fully appreciate the unreliability of hypnosis and recollection, specifically relating to high strangeness cases.

## **TIME LOSS AT MERMAID TARN**



Toward the end of 2007, I received a report from Ryan Phillips (pseudonym). I subsequently contacted him and talked with him at length by telephone. He had completed a BUFORA questionnaire with an unusual account of his experience.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1991, Ryan was on a weeklong military exercise for crowd control in an area of the Peak District near 'The Mermaid Tarn', close to the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border near the town of Leek. In his own words he related the following unusual experience.

*'At the time I was a private in a field ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps. While on an exercise in the Peak District, I found myself on guard duty at a location called 'Mermaid Tarn'. I was based some way from the Harbour area on a rutted track under cover in a ditch. At about 3am I saw a purple glow some way down the track and at first thought it was part of the exercise and prepared to challenge. However, as it got closer I noticed it was at least thirty feet up in the air, possibly more. At this point I lay in position and tried to work out what I'd seen, when a light on a broad line came down, lighting up a strip of moor land, and began to move towards me. At this point I was too worried that if I shouted or ran I'd be seen so hoped it would pass or go away. However, I realised that it would move right over me and by now it was very close. I was really very scared and tried to get lower in the ditch. At this point the light was very close and I remembered nothing more until about 6am when I was suddenly aware of daylight and the noise of the soldier coming up the track to relieve me. I had no sensation of having slept or of anything after the light reached my position, until the point when I was suddenly aware of light and noise some hours later. I cannot account for what happened or the time lapse, but I was too embarrassed to speak of it at the time, in case the other lads thought I was mad or dreaming. I assure you I was not!'*

Ryan's attention was drawn to the object initially because he said it entered the arc of fire of his guard position. He describes this glow as a purple/violet colour and very bright. His drawing shows a purple ball, which appeared to pulse and move position very quickly and the light beam emanating from it was about 20-30ft wide but only six inches deep. He describes the moorland as being illuminated in a bright, purple-coloured, vertical beam that moved slowly over the ground. He describes weather conditions that night as clear, cold and dry with a strong wind.

He did tell a corporal at the camp, who advised him to report it. The corporal concerned had a similar experience in the 1970s whilst on exercise on Salisbury Plain, where he saw a cylindrical object shooting up from a fold in the ground.

*Follow-up Telephone Conversation - December 2007  
between Ryan Phillips and Heather Dixon*

I asked Ryan what had triggered his call to BUFORA after sixteen years. His response was that he had come across an RAF officer very recently, who had experienced a similar event. This had generated his report to BUFORA.

I wanted to establish some more details about the exercise and he told me it was an exercise in crowd control and was one week long. Crowd control at night, alone, in an isolated area of the Peak District involving the Medical Corps? Something doesn't add up here.

He describes the light as an arc shape moving across the moorland. He did not actually see an object, but only an intense purple light, which was lighter on the outside edges, like a glowing orb but there appeared to be depth too.

He felt afraid but was not sure why he felt this way. It appeared to be about one hundred yards away with an altitude of about thirty to forty feet. The light descended as it came over him and illuminated parts of his uniform. He remembers nothing more, until the other soldier arrived to relieve him. When I asked him why he was convinced he did not fall asleep, he said the following...

*“Yes, I'm totally convinced that as the light reached me I remember nothing more. I'm absolutely certain I didn't fall asleep, as I've never experienced anything like this before or since. **It was just like being switched off.**”* (my emphasis)

The Peak District has generated many mysterious incidents particularly around the Longdendale Valley and further south around Ashbourne and Leek. These strange and eerie sightings and incidents cover eyewitness accounts of mysterious earthlights, phantom planes, strange mists, ancient cursed stones and demonic occurrences. David Clarke's book, “The Supernatural Peak District”, gives an excellent insight into the many extraordinary events reported from the area.

Could there have been a rational and logical explanation for Ryan's experience at ‘Mermaid Tarn’ in the Peak District seventeen years ago? During my telephone conversations with Ryan he is adamant that he had not fallen asleep during those missing hours. He remembers this ‘light’

illuminating his uniform and then.... nothing...until he became aware of the soldier, his relief, coming towards him on the track.

In my opinion, and having talked with Ryan at length, I am inclined to believe that he experienced some kind of mysterious event, which scrambled his brain in some way, creating a missing time episode and with the trigger appearing to be the purple, pulsing glow.

Footnote: AI Judy Jaafar mentioned something she had read recently, which may or may not have a connection to this case. This was related to the use of psychotronic weapons as a form of crowd control, and so I checked out links on the Internet to find some information on this. A section from the link below reads as follows:

<http://istina.rin.ru/eng/ufo/text/360-1.html>

*'In 1999 the STOA (Scientific and Technological Options Assessment), part of the Directorate General for Research of the European Parliament published the report on Crowd Control Technologies, ordered by them with the OMEGA foundation in British Manchester (23). One of four major subjects of the study are the 2nd generation or "non lethal" technologies: "This report evaluates the second generation of 'non-lethal' weapons which are emerging from national military and nuclear weapons laboratories in the United States as part of the Clinton Administration's 'non-lethal' warfare doctrine now adopted in turn by NATO. These devices include weapons using directed energy beam, radio frequency, laser and acoustic mechanisms to incapacitate human targets" (24) The report states that the most controversial non-lethal crowd control technology proposed by the U.S., are so called Radio Frequency or Directed Energy Weapons that can allegedly manipulate human behaviour. The greatest concern is with systems which can directly interact with the human nervous system.'*

Is it a possibility that the military were using this technology on unsuspecting military personnel? Please contact me on [stheatherd77@aol.com](mailto:stheatherd77@aol.com), should anyone have any further information relating to this case.

**ELLESMERE ROAD, SHREWSBURY**

On the night of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007, Jon and Ellie relate the following events...

*“At approximately 21.30 hours on 11th September 2007, in the lay-by on The Ellsmere Road, Shrewsbury my wife, Ellie and I had fish and chips whilst sat in the car. Throwing the chip papers at the bin and missing, I got out of the car to pick them up. As I bent over to retrieve the papers, both Ellie and I observed a red light with a white light surrounding and below it. This object appeared from near the base of two large trees amongst an area of rough land and hedgerows. The light was about the size of a beach ball approximately four feet off the ground.*

*Approximately one hundred and fifty yards into the field where it appeared, travelling from the trees into the field, approximately one hundred yards, curving around, towards us, then stopping about fifty yards from us. From appearing, to coming to a stop, took about ten seconds. No noise could be heard. The shape of the object appeared round and yet we were unable to determine whether it was spherical (ball shaped), due to the light appearing to be facing us at all times.*

*The field that the object travelled across had a mare crop in it, which had been harvested leaving stubble about twelve inches in length.”*

Jon describes the weather as being clear, dry and still and a mild temperature. He also talks about this particular road as being strange in the sense that he feels he is being watched or followed whether driving his car or on his motorcycle.

As we did not have an investigator in this area we were unable to follow this up and so this remains as a rather unusual sighting report, which may have resulted in an explanation, had we been able to go to the area.

## **SIGHTING REPORT FROM KENT**

We received a report from a retired airline pilot in the last week relating to a sighting that he recalls from back in the early sixties. He does not have an exact year and believes the sighting was between 1961 and 1963. He describes his sighting in his written account within the BUFORA questionnaire...

*“Whilst I was at Lydd Airport in Kent and working as an airline pilot, I and many others, both pilots and ground staff observed two objects in the sky. The time was somewhere between 1961 and 1963 and it was not winter, because I remember we were in shirtsleeves when we observed two stationary objects directly overhead and at great height. They were triangular in shape and appeared black in colour. They were larger than an Avro Vulcan aircraft would appear at the same height. These objects were observed on two consecutive days so presumably remained in position during the intervening night; they finally disappeared.*

*It was considered that they would have been visible over the greater part of England and the near continent, subject to cloud cover and so I am sure would have featured in the press. However, my movements were such that I did not have access to the press for some time and when I finally returned I could find no mention in the media”.*

During email communication with Peter (pseudonym) I asked if there was any way he could be more specific with the year of his sighting, but his response was that he had spent some considerable time trying to remember a specific date but 1961-63 is the best he could do. However he expressed the wish that a mention of this on the BUFORA website would be a good idea and that he is currently researching newspaper archives to possibly find further information on this sighting.

Should anyone have any information possibly relating to these sightings, please contact me at [stheatherd77@aol.com](mailto:stheatherd77@aol.com).

## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

I hope this Investigations article has given readers a flavour of what has been occurring in BUFORA during the last year or so, particularly with regard to sighting reports and other activities within the association. We will be keeping you all up to date on a regular basis with case reports and the more mundane sighting reports coming into BUFORA, remembering that a majority of all reports that we receive are reports of lights in the sky that are perceived as being something unusual, as people do not understand what they are viewing. The night (and sometimes the day) sky is full of lights and objects, a majority of which can be identified when people understand what can be seen and misperceived in the sky.

The stranger encounters that are reported to BUFORA, rather more rarely than before, are possibly linked to other explanations, including secret military projects and sometimes the paranormal field of study, or maybe there is something more going on, and as Haldane said... *the universe is not only stranger than we imagine, but stranger than we CAN imagine.*

Gloria Heather Dixon  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2008