

Investigations Diary 25

by Gloria Heather Dixon

At the time of writing this diary, (24th May 200) it is one of those warm mellow summer days that the whole country have been experiencing and there is not a UFO in sight in these clear skies, at least not today! So, let us take a look at the statistics of UFO reports coming in for 2001. From 1st January 2001 and to the date of writing, BUFORA have received 55 reports coming in via email, telephone and letters. Email is now the most common contact for reporting sightings to BUFORA clearly showing the increasing use of the Internet for these reports. There are problems though, as follow-up to these emailed reports is a slow process with only about fifty per cent of them giving further detailed information.

January generated twenty of the total number of reports for this year with six being described in the more exotic category of reports, so we are looking at nine per cent lying in the range of what could be defined as high strangeness reports. It will be interesting to see how sightings compare with last year during the next seven months.

POSTAL TRAINING COURSE

On behalf of the BUFORA NIC, I would like to extend my congratulations to Craig Raisbeck from Dover, Kent for completing and passing the Postal Training Course with an excellent examination module submitted. Craig is now listed a Provisional Investigator with the NIC.

REPORTS & INVESTIGATIONS

Date of Sighting: 27th November 1999
Location: Borehamwood, Hertfordshire
Investigator: Lionel Beer

Summary of Events:

At approximately 7pm AD and his wife KD were returning home on Green Street from a trip to Tesco's, when they observed lights outside their home, which initially appeared oval-shaped and then like a conical ice cream cone shape. Upon getting out of the car for closer observation, they observed four rotating lights at the top of the cone shape. Height estimation was thirty feet above ground level and the lights appeared to be equidistant from each other pulsing in and out as they rotated very fast around a centre light with changes in size and light intensity. They described the colour as 'white with greeny-yellow tinge'. Although there was no apparent noise, they heard a faint 'air-draft' or wind sound'. The lights were rotating clockwise as viewed from underneath. Their initial observation time was fifteen minutes.

AD insisted that it was a clear night with no clouds and the weather was still and dry. When the lights moved north, the witnesses followed in their car on the B5378 towards Shenley where the lights hovered over Villa Scalabrini. They stopped the car several times and also noticed another witness observing these lights, which then 'shot across' Shenley. AD and KD followed as far as the gate on the western edge of Coombe Wood on B5378, where the lights were thought to have passed over Salisbury Hall close to the M25 (near London Colney). Being unable to follow any further, the witnesses returned. The distance of their journey between Green Street and Combe Wood is approximately one and half miles.

Early the following morning KD contacted Elstree Aerodrome (south-west of their home) to be told that the puzzling lights were seen from the Aerodrome.

Comments from Gloria Dixon: Some of the above description would certainly be indicative of a laser light display, but as AD emphasised to Lionel that the weather was clear without any cloud coverage, it appears this would not be the case.

Date of Sighting: October 2000 Location: Heighington, Lincoln

This report has just come in via email from October of last year. On a clear sunny autumn day AD's son aged two shouted to his mother that there was a star outside. AD went to the front of her home and observed a star shaped object flying very slowly in a northeasterly direction just above tree level. She describes the object as a dull, smooth jet-black colour and dome shaped with five points and around the centre were red dashes. It appeared to be spinning slowly and she was able to observe the object very clearly. It then flipped over once and continued to fly in the direction of her home. As it flew over her home continuing in a straight line for another minute or two it then suddenly accelerated at a 45 degree angle and continued in a vertical track until she was unable to see it. AD describes the weather clear and mild with no clouds or wind. Her perception of the size of the object was about the size of a small car and the red dashes around the centre were still, not flashing. Duration of this sighting was approximately five to six minutes. There was no audible sound. Records do not indicate any other similar sightings from this area at that time.

Date of sighting: 1997 Location: M6, near Knutsford, Cheshire

PL was driving on the M6 towards Birmingham on night in 1997, when he observed something unusual in the sky. The light moved towards the Pickmere area and he turned off at the Knutsford Junction and drove towards Pickmere Lake where the light appeared to be. When he arrived there he was astounded by what he was observing. He describes objects (lights?) moving vertically into and out of the lake. He watched this for about ten minutes and then left to return home.

A few days later PL returned to the lake out of curiosity to discover that the whole area was boarded off. He observed a platform on the lake but was unable to see what the men on the platform were doing. However, he comments that they seemed to be looking for something below the water.

PL goes on to remark that the lake was still closed off three months later when he passed that way again.

This incident was reported to BUFORA via email on 14th May 2001, but to date there has been no response to an email response for further details.

To conclude this investigations diary, I would like to document some strange events that occurred in the mid-eighties. This incident were not reported to BUFORA, but came to me via Jenny Randles after she recorded a programme for BBC Radio Newcastle to promote her book Time Storms. A gentleman from Whitley Bay, Newcastle, who had heard the programme contacted Jenny to discuss some very strange events that occurred in County Durham. He felt that these may relate in some way to a case Jenny had discussed on the programme which took place near Barnard Castle in County Durham and Jenny asked if I would contact the person concerned I followed this up and spoke at length to the gentleman on the telephone in February of this year.

The following events took place during the mid eighties just outside the village of Cotherstone in County Durham...

Tom, his wife Melanie (pseudonyms) and his parents rented a cottage near Cotherstone in County Durham. During their six-day summer holiday they experienced some very odd events.

They arrived at the cottage on a Saturday and by the Sunday there were unusual things occurring, beginning with noises that were occurring in their bedroom. The hot water tank was located in their bedroom and they wondered whether there were birds in the eaves and even thought of rats. However the noises Michael describes sounded to him like those of a pneumatic drill, which seemed to get louder and louder and he claims that the ceiling appeared to be moving.

Because of the constant noise and the fact they could not establish what was causing it they went to see the key-holder to the cottage, but he was of no assistance at all and could not explain the cause of the noise. The cottage had originally been an old farmhouse and was now two cottages.

During the week, they went for a walk down to the river, which flowed at the back of the farmhouse at the end of the field. (I presume this must have been the River Tees). Tom went on to describe some curious events during this walk on that summer's day. Both Tom and his wife had the powerful and extremely eerie sense of other people with them and they heard shuffling sounds and both felt 'out of sync' with things. They had walked down to the river and along the river bank and during that time could feel and hear 'shuffling sounds' reporting that the grass and undergrowth were moving as though people were walking with and around them and they had the impression there were about six people there, although no-one else was in sight.. They commented that there was no wind or breeze of any kind that would have been responsible for this movement in the grass and undergrowth. Melanie became upset and said t Tom 'we've got to go away'

As they approached a small footbridge Tom saw a figure cross over the bridge, which disappeared totally before his eyes. Tom stepped onto the bridge with Melanie calling to him to 'come back'. As he stepped onto the bridge he felt as though he was taking a step down and then another step into nothing as though his foot had gone through the ground. The shuffling noises continued directly alongside them.

Melanie was so very uncomfortable about these events that they headed back to the cottage and consequently she decided that any more walks in the area of the river bank were out of the question.

A culmination of these anomalous events occurred five days later on the Friday night before they were leaving the cottage.

Melanie had fallen asleep in the lounge on the couch, as she was extremely tired due to the fact she had been unable to sleep for the previous five nights. Tom was watching television when he noticed some disturbance on the television affecting the picture, which was fading. At this point the plug jumped out of the socket. He tried to awaken his wife, but could not do so. He went into the kitchen where the fridge plug also jumped out of the socket and the cable seemed to be moving around. The French windows began to rattle and he then became aware of something over the tree line at the back of the cottage (where the field and river were). He went outside and observed what he described as a 'thing moving very slowly over the tree line, like a metallic purple in colour, oval shaped and massive with a defining deep purple edge. It moved over the cottage - he does not recall any sound - and it appeared to recede as it moved towards Cotherstone and then disappeared. He describes half the horizon being blocked from his view. I questioned him as to whether this was a light rather than an object, but he was definite that this was an object with the purple colour emanating around the edge.

He felt that his observation time was about four to five minutes, but cannot be sure of this due to not checking the time before or after. He went from the back to the front of the cottage while he observed this and goes on to describe how he felt after seeing this object. His words to me were 'I felt absolute sadness', totally gutted - an empty feeling like dreaming on your feet'. At this point Melanie awoke coming out of her sleep to say 'I'm glad it was you, not me'. Tom did not understand why she said this and neither did Melanie

One of the things that Tom emphasised during our conversation was that throughout the entire week they were at this cottage and indeed in the area, they both felt 'out of sync' with things as though they were a few seconds behind everything'. I asked him to describe this feeling more fully and he said 'it was like a plate of glass between us and everyone else'.

During the time they were there, they visited the local pub in the evenings just to get away from the cottage and I asked whether they tried to find any further information about the area and the cottage. However, Tom told me that the people didn't seem very friendly, so they did not discuss the events occurring at all as they didn't want to trigger any ridicule from anyone. According to Tom, Melanie had made the comment that it was as though the people they met were people they had known before.

They did not report any of this to anyone. Melanie wanted to totally forget it and Tom searched the newspapers for quite a while after that to see if there had been any other reports or information, but nothing came to light at all.

Tom cannot remember a specific date or even year for these events, so this makes it all the more difficult to corroborate these experiences. The Barnard Castle case referred to earlier occurred in June of 1977 and involved a fuzzy hazy glow, which engulfed a sixteen year-old farm work riding his motorcycle late one night on the B6278 north of Barnard Castle in County Durham, near the village of Lartington . This glow appeared to be linked to a major power loss to his motorcycle in addition to causing physiological effects to the witness. Tom felt that the glow he observed at their cottage in Cotherstone was similar to one described by the witness at Barnard Castle. (See Time Storms, page 17-19) Coincidentally, the village of Cotherstone, lies to the north of Lartington and these villages are in very close proximity to one another.

Durham has generated some highly unusual reports and I have personally investigated several strange cases from Durham, one of which occurred near Brancepeth on the A690. This involved an observation of a very strange small figure very early in the morning of 2nd January 1995. The lady concerned was driving to work when she saw what she describes as a 'small leprechaun-sized man, yellow in colour with almond shaped eyes' appearing to climb the grass verge at the side of the road with a 'puppet-like action'. The lady slowed her car to walking pace where she was only yards aware from the figure and observed it walking sideways up the grass verge for a couple of minutes. She emphasises that this was not wildlife of any known kind and was stunned for several days by what she had seen. Subsequent calls to the police did not bring any further answers other than the usual jokes that this form of enquiry would bring. A colleague and myself spent several hours with the lady and her family as well as visiting the location of the sighting.

An interesting footnote to this report, is that in September of 1976 near Fence Houses, County Durham, a lady and her granddaughter were walking from a friend's home in Fence Houses and instead of taking the main footpath, they took a shortcut between the old pit yard and the fire station, which took them on a path down towards Bournmoor. Across the road was the 'Floaters Mill' pub. She noticed a bus passing, but for some reason could not hear it. Half way along the path the lady observed a very strange translucent object, which was egg-shaped and appeared to be on ski runners (the original investigator has described these as being like the runners of a sledge). The lady approached it, as her terrified granddaughter ran off down the road calling for her grandmother to leave it alone. As the lady put her hand on it she described it as feeling warm. In seconds the translucency began to modify into a semi clear object in which she observed two very small figures, with long white hair and dark costumes and what she described as silvery gloves or hands. She then became aware of the sound of the bus revving its engine up the bank to Fencehouses and her granddaughter crying and shaking with fear . Jenny Randles has documented this case in several of her books and a few years ago I was contacted by the original BUFORA investigator, who sent me a report with details of his interview with the grandmother in the presence of her son. However the granddaughter was not interviewed on the wishes of her father, who felt that it would be too upsetting for her resurrect her bad memories of these experiences.

Meanwhile late one night in November of 1994, a man riding his motorcycle home from work after nightshift was travelling on the A688, near Spennymoor in Durham, when observed a strange light in the field to his left, which appeared to become brighter shining over the field and then illuminating the road in front of him and behind him. Upon arriving home he became aware that he was very uncomfortable and upon removing his clothes he realised the he was covered from head to toe in a red sunburn-like rash, which surrounded the edge of lips but left the lips white. After one and half hours the rash disappeared. Investigation established that there was no police helicopter in the area at the time and neither were farmers using sodium lamps in the fields. The man concerned was convinced that the rash related to his sighting, but when a colleague and I visited him and the area of the sighting, we were unable to prove whether this was the case particularly as the man had not sought medical advice regarding the rash, although his wife confirmed his claims.

I hope that this has illustrated some of the peculiar reports that BUFORA have received for the Durham area.

I plan to visit the village of Cotherstone this summer and I will conduct some research into the area, so an update will be recorded for Jenny and for the Bulletin in due course.

If any reader has any further information on the above cases, I would appreciate you contacting me through BUFORA Central Office or email me at rbx32@dial.pipex.com. Many thanks.

I hope all our members enjoy a spectacular summer.