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EDITORIAL



Hello Everyone,

So – do I hear someone say that *channelling* has nothing to do with UFOs: it's not a scientific method of approach – shouldn't have a place in any respectable UFO magazine? (Mind, a pretty high percentage of scientists may still well not consider UFOs themselves a 'respectable subject' for study!)

Some would point out – and correctly – that the term UFO by no means necessarily equates with 'alien space craft' and also dispute any form of claimed communication with other life-forms whatever or wherever their origin unless backed by verifiable hard evidence as to source.

In my own opinion, however, when seeking an answer to the UFO enigma it becomes obvious after a while that it cannot be dealt with in isolation. We cannot separate ourselves completely from claims of alien contact: from numerous other forms of investigational activity such as, for example, remote viewing: psychic experiences: ancient civilisations and many other areas too numerous to mention – including channelling.

Where such aliens may have come from, or be connecting with us from: whether their origin may be spatial: inter-dimensional: time-travelling or whatever is altogether another question, but, whilst it is a necessary chore to catalogue and itemise all reports in order to eliminate the 'dross', it becomes clear that whilst the vast majority are explainable in ordinary terminology, some of those that are NOT would appear to be craft of unknown

origin. Indeed, approaching things from another direction, worldwide, I would suggest

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 New menu system for news, forthcoming lectures, special events, how to report a sighting and how to join Bufora
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that reports of aliens: possible alien activities: abductions, time-lapses and so on may well now be outstripping 'mere' sighting reports.

We need to take into account also, that 'aliens' come, so to speak in all sorts of packages – and I don't mean just differences in shape, form and size. To some, they may be ethereal beings, maybe equated with 'guardian angels'. To others they may have associations with their own past or future lives and so on, and it is here we may find we are edging into philosophical realms, joining the ultimate quest for the reason of Life itself. It could be said, indeed, that the reason for living is to discover the reason for living – but I digress – or do I?

All science is ever edging forward to try to lift just a little bit more of the veil of ultimate knowledge. However, there is more than one way in which this may be accomplished and I

would here echo the thoughts of Elsie Oakensen and others as to the actual role of the investigator. Of necessity the facts of any particular occurrence need to be established, but, beyond that point, in what direction do we need to proceed? 'Channelling' is really a somewhat different method to most of obtaining information exterior to our own existence. It may be that it comes from an alien source: it may come from the dead: it may come from other dimensions: it could even be held that it comes from our own minds. It may come from all of these - and more, but it IS something that is there to consider. It IS something that impinges upon the 'alien' side of Ufology. It is therefore justifiably presented.

I believe it was Stanton Friedman who made the point - or one very similar - that if we should concede that UFOs include craft of alien origin, then we should be more concerned about the occupants of the craft than the craft themselves!

Mind, as a postscript, I recall one occasion many years back, soon after the Raudive Voices were much in the news - one occasion when a talk was being given to the Society for Psychical Research, when a member sprang to his feet to tell us there was one infallible way to uncover their origin - to hold a séance! He ignored, of course, the fact that this was merely replacing one unknown with another! Certainly one should be very wary of THIS type of dogmatic approach.

Norman Oliver.

STOP PRESS

Council and the Editorial team apologise for the late appearance of NBJ2. We are doing all we can to get back up to date.....

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION.....?

For our second featured item I've chosen one from the period of the 1897 'Airship Flap' in the U.S.A. I have to say that, partly because of the 'unreality' of the whole thing, partly because of the seemingly unassailable veracity of the witness, and also because of the flowing 'period language' used, that it's one of my favourites. Not necessarily meaning I believe it occurred entirely as related, but.....what do YOU think?

What's YOUR opinion?

Here it is..... the 'Adam and Eve' account from Springfield, Missouri - taken verbatim from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of April 19th 1897.....

GOLDEN HAired GIRL IS IN IT

The airship discovered in Southwest Missouri

WHAT HOPKINS SAYS HE SAW

He is an Elderly Christian Gentleman And His Friends Say He Is Perfectly Reliable

"In the mass of evidence which has reached the Post Dispatch concerning the existence of an airship that is said to be floating over the Central West, the most astonishing is that furnished by Mr. W.H.Hopkins, general travelling agent for the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company.

"Mr Hopkins writes the Post-Dispatch that on Friday (April 16) he saw the airship a few miles away from Springfield, Mo. Not only did he see the craft but he saw the aerial navigators and conversed with them.

"The letter is not a hoax. It is in Mr. Hopkins' handwriting, so those employed at the headquarters of the Hartford Company, 517, Security Building, aver. It was also identified

by his wife, who lives at 5028, Minerva Avenue. Mr Hopkins is 50 years of age and is well-known in the West End. He is a prominent church member and everybody spoken to vouches for his veracity. The letter is here given:-

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch

"Till yesterday I had supposed the numerous reports of the appearance of a mysterious airship in different parts of the country (in many instances widely separated) at nearly the same hour, were but the result of very vivid imaginations.

"I thought the first report of an airship was started by some Munchausen of the press to gratify some mischievous whim and to see how many imaginative people would fall in line and claim - honestly of course - that they had seen it also. My impression was strengthened by my own experience a few days ago, when, in Kansas City, a friend and myself thought we saw a bright light in the heavens, which frequently disappeared and then reappeared again, but which we afterwards found was the evening star, which was intensely bright, but which was occasionally obscured by light clouds of steam, which were not visible to us in the darkness.

"But after my adventure of yesterday my doubts of the reality of the airship have been dispelled. I was wandering through hills east of Springfield, Mo. And coming to the brow of a hill overlooking a small clearing in the valley a short distance below me I saw a sight that rooted me to the spot in amazement for some time. I could not believe my eyes at first and shook myself to see if I was not dreaming.

There in the clearing rested a vessel similar in outline to the airship shown in the Post-Dispatch of a few days ago and said to have been taken in Illinois.

"As the sun shone upon it the rays were reflected as from burnished aluminium. It rested upon four legs or supports, which

raised it from the ground sufficiently to give room for two wheels like the propeller of a ship lying horizontally; one at the bow and one near the stern. Another at the stern lying perpendicularly was evidently for the purpose of propelling the vessel ahead, while the other two raised the vessel.

The vessel itself was about twenty feet long and eight feet in diameter and the propellers about six feet in diameter.

"Near the vessel was the most beautiful being I ever beheld. She was rather under medium size, but of the most exquisite form and features such as would put to shame the forms as sculptured by the ancient Greeks. She was dressed in nature's garb and her golden hair, wavy and glossy, hung to her waist, unconfined excepting by a band of glistening jewels that bound it back from her forehead. The jewels threw out rays of light as she moved her head.

She was plucking the little flowers that were just blossoming from the sod with exclamations of delight, and in a language I could not understand. Her voice was like low, silvery bells and her laughter rang out like their chimes. In one hand she carried a fan of curious design that she fanned herself vigorously with, though to me, the air was not warm, and I wore an overcoat.

"In the shade of the vessel lay a man of noble proportions and majestic countenance. His hair of dark auburn fell to his shoulders in wavy masses and his full beard of the same colour, but lighter in shade, reached to his breast. He also was fanning himself with a curious fan as if the heat oppressed him.

"As I looked with astonishment on the picture, I wondered if Adam and Eve had come to Earth again, or was I dreaming? After gazing for a while I moved forward, and the woman, hearing the rustle of leaves, looked around, and in a moment she stood looking at me with wonder and astonishment in her beautiful, blue eyes, then, with a shriek of fear, she rushed to the man who sprang to his feet,

threw his arm around her and glared at me in a threatening manner.

"I stopped and, taking my handkerchief from my pocket, waved it in the air. A few minutes we stood. I then spoke some words of apology for intruding, but he seemed not to understand and replied in a threatening tone and words which I could not make out. I tried by signs to make him understand and finally he left her, trembling and trying to hold him back, and came towards me. I extended my hand. He looked at it for a moment, astonishment depicted in his dark, brown eyes, and finally he extended his own and touched mine. I took his and carried it to my lips. I tried by signs to make him understand I meant no harm. Finally his face lighted up with pleasure, and he turned and spoke to the woman. She came hesitatingly forward, her form undulating with exquisite grace. I took her hand and kissed it fervently. The colour rose to her cheeks and she drew it hastily away.

"I asked them by signs where they came from, but it was difficult to make them understand. Finally they seemed to do so and gazed upwards for a moment, as if looking for some particular point, and then pointed upwards, pronouncing a word which, to my imagination, sounded like Mars.

"I pointed to the ship and expressed my wonder in my countenance. He took me by the arm and led me towards it. In the side was a small door. I looked in. There was a luxurious couch covered with robes of most beautiful stuff and texture, such as I had never seen before. From the ceiling was suspended a curious ball, from which extended a strip of metal which he struck to make it vibrate. Instantly the ball was illuminated with a soft, white light, which lit up the whole interior. It was most beautifully decorated with scenes such as I had never seen before.

"At the stern was another large ball of metal, supported in a strong framework, and connected to the shaft of the propeller at the

stern was similar mechanism attached to each propeller and smaller balls attached to a point of metal that extended from each side of the vessel and from the prow. Connected to each ball was a thin strip of metal similar to the one attached to the lamp. He struck each one and when they vibrated the balls commenced to revolve with intense rapidity and did not cease till he stopped them with a kind of brake. As they revolved, intense lights, stronger than any arlight I ever saw, shone out from the points at the sides and at the prow, but they were of different colours.

The one at the prow was an intense white light. On one side was green and the other red.

"The two had examined me with the greatest curiosity in the meantime. They felt my clothing, looked at my grey hair with surprise and examined my watch with the greatest wonder. Signs are poor mediums to exchange ideas and therefore we could express but little.

"I pointed to the balls attached to the propellers. He gave each of the strips of metal a rap, those attached to the propellers under the vessel first. The balls began to revolve rapidly and I felt the vessel begin to rise and I sprang out and none too soon, for the vessel rose as lightly as a bird and shot away like an arrow and in a few minutes was out of sight. The two stood laughing and waving their hands to me, she a vision of loveliness and he of manly vigour.

"Probably people will ask as they did of the farmer in Iowa, 'Where did you get your whisky?'. But I can say if I ever drink liquor I would go immediately and get some more of the whisky.

"If you wish to learn anything more particularly regarding my experience my address is 517, Security Building, St. Louis - W.H.Hopkins, Muskagee, I.T. April 17, 1897.

The above letter was taken to 517, Security Building, which proved to be the St. Louis

office of Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., and was shown to C.C.Gardner, the manager. He read it through carefully.

" 'This is wonderful'. He said. 'That is Mr. Hopkins' handwriting and he is now in that territory. He was also at Springfield on the day named. He is travelling agent for the company'.

" 'Do you believe what he says?'

" ' Indeed I do. Strange as it seems I am compelled to believe it. Mr. Hopkins is not a romancer. He never courts notoriety. What he writes he has seen and he believes it is his duty to make the facts public. He does not drink a drop. He has been connected with this company for a long time and is most reliable. What he writes you can publish as being absolutely true.'

"While Mr. Gardner was talking several clerks examined the letter. They compared the writing with that of letters received recently from the agent, and it was conclusively proven the same hand penned all. They added their testimony regarding Mr. Hopkins with that given by Mr. Gardner.

"The reporter for the Post-Dispatch then visited Mr. Hopkins' residence, 5028. Minerva Avenue. His wife and two daughters were told of the strange letter that had been received

" 'It's the truth if he wrote it,' said Mrs. Hopkins, 'And I believe every word.'

" 'The last letter received from Mr. Hopkins,' continued his wife, 'was dated Springfield, Mo. April 15. This was apparently the day before he saw the airship. I will probably receive a letter this afternoon telling me all about it.'

" 'Mrs. Hopkins showed the reporter the letter. The handwriting was identical with that of the letter published above.

" 'Would Mr. Hopkins have any reason for perpetrating a hoax? Is he given to jesting?' was asked.

" 'Quite the contrary. He is most serious. What, a man 50 years of age writing such a letter without it being true! No Sir, every line of it is true. Mr. Hopkins is a member of the Maple Avenue M.E. Church, and has many friends in the West End. He undoubtedly wishes to acquaint his friends with the marvel he has seen, and so uses the Post-Dispatch as the medium of communication.'

" 'Mr.Hopkins left home a week ago. Before he left he ridiculed the idea of an airship having been seen. But now I suppose he is convinced it is not a myth. Truly it is wonderful.'"

Well, maybe Mr. Hopkins was hallucinating. Maybe he DID meet with an airship - a Mr. Pennington DID have one capable of flying at the time and this is held by some to be the basis of the 1897 'flap'. Maybe Mr. Hopkins met up with a couple of 19th century naturists playing a practical joke! Maybe other dimensions come into it. Maybe.....but what do YOU think?

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION...? Let us know!

This will be a regular NEW JOURNAL feature. In each issue I shall be including a report, maybe from the distant past, maybe in, or nearly in the present, which evinces features distinguishing it from practically all others. Readers are invited to send in their comments, whether pro, con, constructive or destructive.....

=====

On going through old papers recently I came across this account from Alan Hilton I received some eight years ago. Nothing further seems to have been uncovered relating to the account subsequent to the events referred to. Alan himself organises an annual UFO weekend at Hourn Farm - details of the 2002 weekend follow the article. Ed.

UFO POWER CELL - OR HOAX? PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF AN ABDUCTION?

Alan Hilton.

It was Saturday, 4th April 1992 - a dull, overcast day. I sat waiting for my friend from Peterborough. I live at Lamberhurst which is a good 150 miles from my friend's home. Eventually, just as I was wondering where on earth he had got to I heard the sound of his car pulling up at the side gate. Faces smiling, as though being late was not in the least abnormal, his crew 'deplaned' as they say in American airports.

Later that evening, when the others had gone to bed and we were sitting down with a hot nightcap I asked John what had delayed him. He said that he hadn't wanted to worry the others, but there was something odd about his car. What was puzzling him was the empty fuel tank in the car and the tripmeter showing 300 miles instead of the 150 it should have indicated. It simply did not make sense.

Without thinking about it I felt I knew exactly what must have happened - abduction! After a moment's thought, John agreed with me. We decided that regression

was the answer, this being a specialty of mine, so without further ado we set to work.

After a few words from me, John quickly regressed to the point where he had apparently departed from the intended route. He appeared to have travelled 75 miles in the wrong direction under the influence of an unseen UFO. Eventually they had arrived at a point in some deserted countryside. The other occupants of the car seemed to think everything was 'normal', even when looking at road signs, and that they were still on their way to Lamberhurst. This changed, however, when they found themselves airborne, looking downwards as though from a plane as their car suddenly began to rise nose first and head towards a space ship.

Once inside, they were placed on tables and medically examined, dome-shaped objects being set over their heads, seemingly to check their brain waves and patterns. The beings around them were similar to those in the book *Communion*. These beings were particularly interested in the baby, since it appeared that their reproduction system is different.

The highlight of the experience was a power cell from the UFO lighting circuit which John had been able to bring back with him. This was a small roughcut pyrite cube about 25mm. square. As many will know, pyrite is sulphur combined with iron, copper, cobalt, nickel etc. In the craft, this item went into a green cylinder, being suspended by a force field, with a 3" crystal the other end. A beam of light or energy was then passed through the crystal onto the cube.

As far as I know there have been no similar cases of such items having been retained with which we can make comparisons. It seems that no laboratory tests were carried out on the object, though it was examined by several psychometrists. One received an impression of the inside of a UFO with lights going round, whilst another appeared to confirm that a form of alien being had been met with. This occurred a number of years

ago and to the best of my knowledge there have been no subsequent developments.

Editor's Comment. I am aware that there are pros and cons as to the use of regressive hypnosis and the accuracy of information apparently so revealed. Indeed, BUFORA does not subscribe to its use in investigations. Nevertheless, many consider it can still be a useful tool. In a future JOURNAL I shall be making room for a second presentation on the subject (one has already appeared in the October 2001 Bulletin) so that those pros and cons may be examined and discussed further.

'UFO Weekend'

Hourne Farm, near Crowborough on the E.Sussex/Kent border, provides a most picturesque setting for the 'Weekend Workshops' that are held there on a variety of esoteric, holistic and similar themes between the months of March and October each year.

The visitor to the 'Farm' will find it an enjoyable and relaxing place which includes an excellent mosaic of the zodiacal signs outside the entrance to the buildings.

This year's 'UFO Weekend' will be held from October 19th. to 21st.

Full details available from:-

Alan Hilton,
Forge Cottage,
Perch Lane,
Lamberhurst Quarter,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent
TN3 8AU.

Tel: 01892 890726.

Booked speakers at the moment of writing include Norman Oliver and Max Burns.

Talking to the Alien

- Glimpses of another reality.

By
Brian Allan



What follows is an account of an alleged communication with an alien entity conducted via a medium, using a process termed 'channelling'. Whilst I have an open mind on phenomena of this kind, I am not entirely convinced that what is being manifested is necessarily extra-terrestrial in nature. It is quite possible that the apparent communication is coming via the trance state, straight from the subconscious mind of the clairvoyant, rather like the phenomena of 'cryptomnesia' experienced during past life regression. This condition manifests from the recesses of the subject's mind where sights and sounds of forgotten experiences are resurrected as genuine memories. There is another problem. All channelled entities, while appearing to be very altruistic, offer little, if any practical advice on how to achieve the state of peace, love and harmony that they preach, although in this case a measure of guidance was offered. I am one hundred per cent for the sentiments, but, due to the unpredictability of the human condition, sadly at a loss to see the mechanism by which they can be achieved.

One of the most frequently channelled entities is the so-called 'Council of Nine': they are the most prevalent in a range of extra-terrestrials that transmit similar messages via their human intermediaries. Some people infer that the 'Nine' are the Gods of ancient Egypt.

The most appropriate title for these beings is 'discarnate entities', since this best describes their nebulous state. Devotees claim that messages have been received from them for the past 50 or 60 years and perhaps longer. They also assert that previously, these messages have been misunderstood due to lack of sophistication in their human intermediaries and probably attributed to spirits of the dead. The entities have evidently been attempting through us to restore a balance between good and evil. Again, I cannot entirely accept what they (or at least their channellers) claim.. On the other hand , it is interesting to note certain similarities between some phenomena observed during other channelling sessions and those witnessed by us.

I should make one thing crystal clear. I do not for one-second doubt the integrity or sincerity of the two psychics, Jim Lochhead and Anne-Marie Sneddon who organised this demonstration for us. If they claim to channel extra-terrestrials, then they are giving an honest, subjective account of their experiences. Exactly what these experiences are is open to objective scrutiny, which was the purpose of the experiment. Some ideas and concepts raised during this investigation have far-reaching implications. I will attempt to address these.

We had decided to conduct the experiment at consulting rooms used by the psychics because Anne-Marie felt there would be more residual energy there. The room we used is the largest of the three consulting rooms and is normally where the mediums conduct their classes in psychic development. We set up our monitoring equipment, which consisted of a camcorder and tape- recorders. AnneMarie sat in a corner, she looked tired, but smiled in greeting when we entered the room. She settled into her chair while Jim switched on a cassette recorder and the sound of soft, relaxing music and birdsong filled the room and mingled with the pleasant scent of incense. We sat quietly as AnneMarie entered a trance state, which took about five or six minutes: Jim watched intently

as she did so. According to psychics, this phase of trance can place the medium at some risk. The clairvoyant is exposed, 'opened up' psychically seeking a point of contact. In this vulnerable condition, should any malignant lower spiritual entity happen along, it could easily latch on, and unless dealt with right away inflict damage. For this reason it is vital that a suitably trained person is on hand to take any necessary action.

Anne-Marie's head tilted to one side as if listening to someone: she began speaking in a soft voice: there was an entity talking through her. It announced itself as 'Golida'.

BA. 'Who are you?'

AM/G. 'Umm...Golida.'

BA. 'Where have you come from?'

AM/G. 'Level two.'

BA. 'Level two?'

AM/G. 'Yes.'

BA. 'What do you mean by Level two? Is this a planet?'

AM/G. 'No, it's not...not a planet...it's not like that: it's different, not physical.'

BA. 'OK then what is Level two?'

AM/G. 'It's a state of being.'

BD. 'A state of being, a reality. Do you mean a dimension?'

AM. 'No, not really a dimension, a state of being...a consciousness: there are nine of them. Level Nine is pure, of great purity. .Souls come from Level Nine....souls are created here.'

BD. 'Individual souls...souls for everyone...a spiritual essence?'

AM/G. 'Yes, it's not a physical thing: souls are created and...and...despatched, Yes, despatched...that's the best way to describe it.'

BA. 'Can anyone achieve Level Nine?'

AM/G. 'Yes, it is possible but very difficult. You would have to learn Astral

T ravel: it's difficult and dangerous. If your spirit can go, so can your body, but training is vital. If you try to project and do not...lay the groundwork, you will be physically prevented from travelling, it is too dangerous.'

At this point Anne-Marie/Golida leaned towards Bill Devlin and said, 'My friends are here as well, on your left, put your hand on the chair.' Bill put his hand on the vacant chair immediately to his left. 'It's very cold. I can feel a tingling like tiny needles on my skin, is that them?', he said. Anne-Marie/Golida nodded. 'Yes, that's them - they are beside you: there is nothing bad here, it is quite safe.'

BD. 'How did you come here? Did you travel in any sense of the word?'

AM/G. 'No, not travel....we do not travel....We just ARE!'

BD. 'You just are....what do you mean...just are?'

AM/G. 'We are here when you want us to be. We do not "travel", there is no movement. We just ARE.'

BD. 'This is a difficult concept for us to grasp: this is like omnipresence: like being everywhere at once: we attribute this to God. Is that what you mean?'

AM/G. 'No, not like that, it is difficult for me to explain...it's like telepathy,

yes, like telepathy, but there is a difference. Telepathy will do, it's more like being aware of a need, of being called. We will come if we are called....if we can help.'

BD. 'Do you have a body?, a physical body?'

AM/G. 'No, but we can use bodies, we can adapt and change, we can be whatever we need to be.'

BA. 'Not necessarily human, then?'

AM/G. 'Yes, we can be any shape or any creature depending on need.'

BA. 'Do you have a purpose - a reason to be here - what is your purpose?'

AM/G. 'To help raise consciousness, raise consciousness.'

BD. 'That's a big job. How do you do that - what happens then?'

AM/G. 'We don't need to touch everyone, elevate everyone. Once enough have been elevated the rest will be automatic; the rest will follow the entire population.'

BD. 'Like a set of scales, once one side weighs more than the other it will tip the balance?'

AM/G. 'Yes, like that....once enough have been elevated the rest will be elevated as well. Many of my kind are here, in Tibet, the elevation is easier there and the spirituality is better, stronger.'

BD. 'Are my colleague and I part of this plan, are we part of it?'

AM/G. 'Yes, you are part of this, we need everyone we can get and the more

Involved the quicker it will happen.'

BD. 'Were Christ and Buddha from your people?'

AM/G. 'No, not our kind, but they were special, chosen. Their souls were... well, altered, changed...this is difficult...programmed, yes, programmed. Their souls were programmed so that they could change many people, their influence would affect many.'

Bill glanced at me and motioned with his head. I did not understand his intention. He scribbled a note and passed it to me. 'Her face. Look at her face, it's changing.' I looked intently at her face: she was sitting only a couple of feet away. There was plasticity about her features: they were...morphing, changing, but I could see nothing definite, nothing would settle. We will return to this later because it is significant.

BD. 'I'm curious, do abductees feature in this, you understand, UFO's, are they involved?'

AM/G. 'Yes, they have their part they are....programmed to help. They have specific tasks but they are not aware of this. They will do what is required, they are not harmed, they will not be harmed'.

BD. 'Does the millenium hold any nasty surprises for us? What about 'The Rapture' and the 'Ascension?'

AM/G. 'No, nothing like that, there are many sincere people, but they are wrong, mistaken. They are deluded: there are no surprises'

Jim interrupted. 'Look lads, she's tired. It's been a busy day for her. I'm going to end the session.' Jim knelt in front of her. 'Golida, thank you, but the host is tired now, it needs

rest.' Anne-Marie/Golida stirred slightly. 'Yes, very well, I will try to return if you open your mind again, goodbye'.

We all watched Anne-Marie intently: after one or two minutes she raised her head which had been slumped forward slightly. She licked her lips, opened her eyes and asked for a glass of water: she seemed groggy. She moved in her chair and winced, her body stiff from sitting immobile during the trance. Jim ran a glass of cold water from the tap and handed it to her. She took a sip and licked her lips again: she looked very pale and tired. She explained that she had used a lot of energy that day and her reserves were depleted, rather like a partly discharged battery, but this matter would quickly resolve itself after some rest and sleep.

This opens up some interesting possibilities regarding 'soul' and life energy. The idea of elevating consciousness is also fascinating, but surprisingly, not unique. From the description given by Anne-Marie/Golida, the method by which this elevation will emerge seems to be a variation on what Prof. Rupert Sheldrake refers to as 'Morphogenetic Fields', sometimes called 'Formative Causation'. Prof. Sheldrake's theory is based on the possible existence of incredibly subtle but all pervasive fields consisting of information rather than energy. All sentient beings contribute to the existence of this field. In other words, it exists because we do. The theory is sometimes used to explain ESP and other PSI abilities.

Although hotly debated, this phenomenon was dubbed 'The Hundredth Monkey Syndrome' and refers to a happening in 1952 on Koshima Island off the coast of Japan. A colony of macaque monkeys was under observation by primatologists. In order to encourage the monkeys to come closer, raw sweet potatoes were left out to encourage them. Although the monkeys liked them, the sand adhering to the skins made them unpalatable. Soon a young female (Imo) learned to wash off the sand and taught her mother and other (mainly young) monkeys the trick. By 1958 all the young monkeys

were doing this. Also, by 1959, Imo had discovered that washing the sweet potatoes in salt water improved their flavour.

Suddenly, this new trick (previously taught on a one to one basis) was common knowledge. Overnight all the monkeys were using salt water to wash the potatoes. Even more extraordinarily, the trick spread simultaneously to other macaque colonies isolated on neighbouring islands, as if a critical threshold had been breached. If enough individual monkeys learned the procedure, then it became almost a race memory, a form of telepathy. Therefore, according to Golida, like the island dwelling monkeys it appears that if enough people are prepared to embrace the teachings of the extra-terrestrial entities then the consciousness of the entire planet will elevate automatically – quite a concept!

From this experiment some curious anomalies emerged. The camcorder had been of no use, both fully charged batteries were mysteriously completely discharged: they would not even illuminate the camera standby light. Warnings about these entities having odd effects on items of electronic equipment were completely vindicated. Events such as this help corroborate the theory concerning EM fields and their effects on human beings. Perhaps Anne-Marie herself, because of her slightly weakened state unconsciously used the energy. Two concepts mentioned by Golida were decidedly odd and difficult to grasp. The idea that souls were created then 'dispatched'. I will not speculate on the nature of the soul other than to say that if 'soul' is not a facet of spirit in its purest form, then what is it? Does it represent the very '*elan vital*', the essence of life itself? The idea of instantaneous transfer, or 'being' must surely involve mind and pure intelligence. A coalescing and merging of the essence of life with the subtle yet powerful energy fields that flow and surge around us as they govern the universe.

Regarding my colleague's note: he explained that he had seen Anne-Marie's face adopt an

almost birdlike aspect showing green and gold colours but with scales, not feathers. Curiously, Anne-Marie told us that under trance she experienced the impression of a large bird sitting on her hands. She could feel its clawed feet on her wrists. Although Bill and I were not aware of it at the time, this was not totally unique. We have learned subsequently that In 1976 when American researcher Andrija Puharich was testing the well-known showman and psychic Uri Geller, Puharich asked Geller to channel ET entities and an identical manifestation occurred. Geller appeared to have the head of a hawk. At the time this was equated to the Egyptian hawk god Horus, who, with other gods of ancient Egypt is equated with the Council of Nine. Interestingly, Puharich did not benefit greatly from his association with Geller and the Council of Nine. Geller told him that the Nine were, '*Clowns playing practical jokes.*' Evidently the Nine told Puharich to abandon further tests with Geller.

During our experiment none of the equipment had detected anything anomalous: all we have are subjective impressions. Was something happening? It appears so, but it is very difficult to prove. Was this entity an angel or something else? It is possible given different circumstances that '*Golida*' may have been interpreted as 'an angel' It is a point of crossover that leads to another chapter.

However, before we do this we should be quite clear that 'angels' are not confined to religious belief. This comment from *The Sceptics Dictionary* sums up the situation quite well: *Traditional religionists are not the only ones who love angels. New Age mythmakers have made an industry about angels. Dozens of books connecting angels with everything from guidance in daily life to talking to the dead and psychic healing are published every year. Sales of angel figurines and other material products are brisk. As one lofty soul puts it, "Gently guided by angels, we nurture and cherish the creative soul that heals itself."* (The Sceptics Dictionary c.1998 Robert Todd Carroll).

THE BROWN MOUNTAIN LIGHTS

NORMAN OLIVER

In our last issue, Philip Mantle gave us an informed insight into the lights seen around Hessdalen, rightly pointing out there are a number of areas where there are continuing sightings of unusual lights. One such area is Brown Mountain in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina - one of America's numerous beauty spots. Whilst only 2,600 feet high, it is quite extensive and has a long, horizontal top. It is also surrounded by much higher and better-known mountains such as Mount Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi: Grandfather Mountain; Table Rock Mountain and Blowing Rock Mountain, the latter containing some of the oldest gorges and caverns in the world.

I am indebted to Lucius Farish for having brought these lights to my attention quite a number of years ago. They are interesting, not only inasmuch as reports go back well over two hundred years, but that more recently they gave rise to a most unusual contact claim. These strange lights seem to roam the mountain almost every night, frequently appearing as balls of fire resembling a Roman Candle, though other different forms have frequently been reported. Some rise to various heights, then fade. Others appear to expand and wander around the mountainside. Unfortunately, despite limited height, the mountain is by no means easily accessible and comparatively few people have been fortunate enough - or unfortunate enough to witness the lights at close quarters.

From Wiseman's View on Linville Mountain the lights appear first like a very bright star coming over Brown Mountain, either reddish or bluish in colour, then they move erratically up, down and over the mountain. In quite a number of cases where people have been

hardy enough to try to get near them the lights have vanished as they've climbed the mountainside. The lights can be seen clearly from as far away as fifteen miles on the old Yomahlossee trail, from where they've been described as 'like a troop of candle-bearing ghosts forever destined to march back and forth across the mountain'.

Cherokee Indians recorded the lights so far back that they've passed into legend, according to which a great battle was fought between the Cherokee and Catawba Indians, and the Cherokees believe the lights to be the spirits of Indian maidens searching through the centuries for their husbands and sweethearts who had died in battle.

Back in 1771, a German engineer by the name of Gerhard Wilhelm Brahn suggested they might well be caused when the mountain emitted nitrous vapour borne by the winds - when the winds meet, the nitre inflames, sulphurates and deteriorates. In 1913, the first U.S. Geological Survey found the answer. They declared the lights to be locomotive headlights from the Catawba Valley. Unfortunately several years later, the Catawba Valley was flooded, the railway bridge was demolished and - the locomotives disappeared but the lights remained!. In 1919, the lights were brought to the attention of the Smithsonian Institute and the U.S. Weather Bureau. A Dr. W.J. Humphries of the Weather Bureau investigated and reported that the lights were similar to ones seen in some parts of the Andes, and in 1941, Dr. Herbert Lyman of the American Meteorological Society also said they were manifestations of the Andes lights. What neither of them did, of course, was to explain exactly what caused the Andes lights!

A later Geological Survey thought they could be attributed to our old friend Marsh Gas (shades of the late Dr. Hynek!). However, this overlooked the fact that there are no marshes anywhere on the mountain! The possibility of their being St. Elmo's Fire manifestations was discounted by the Smithsonian Institute who said that conditions were all wrong for this to

be the case. A 'mirage' effect from nearby towns was suggested, but this also failed to stand up since the lights had been well recorded long before the towns had been built, recorded, in fact, way back during the American Civil War. Over the years, newspapers have often featured the lights and enterprising gents have bought up parking sites at vantage points on other mountains such as Wiseman's View and capitalised on the phenomenon. But, to turn to more specific experiences.....

A man living at Jonas Ridge, a small settlement on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains stated in 1962 that he'd left the town of Morganton by car and decided to travel by the old turnpike road that goes round the foot of Brown Mountain. In places the road became very bad and finally his car stuck near the foot of Brown Mountain and he had to spend the night in the car there. After a short while, he saw two 'white balls of fire' coming down the mountain extremely fast, apparently playing tag with one another. They reached the foot of the mountain about a quarter of a mile away from him and lit up the entire area. They then faded and disappeared amongst trees.

Another man, attempting the climb, told of resting under a large protruding rock when a large ball of light came down, appearing to move as though intelligently controlled and rested on the edge of the rock, lighting up all the area around just as though it was daylight. He immediately got up and ran: the ball of light followed him for a short way, then stopped. For the next few days he suffered from a severe cough and said that his lungs seemed to burn.

In 1964, Mr. Paul Ross, aged 52, together with two others, formed a small expedition to ascend the mountain to search for the lights at close quarters and try to discover their origin. They had a geiger counter with them and they managed to get near enough to some of the lights to establish there was a marked increase in radio-activity when in their vicinity, but although at times they were as

close to them as one hundred yards, when they attempted to get closer still the lights always moved away, 'as though guided by some form of intelligence'. On one occasion they saw four of them 'butting' against each other and bouncing off again 'like big basket balls', just as though they were playing some sort of game. At other times, they saw balls of light moving at speeds estimated to be anything up to one hundred miles per hour.

We now come to the story of Ralph Lael, who, back in June 1962 was aged 51. He then owned a sizeable furniture manufacturing business in Hickory, North Carolina. In 1948 he had run for Congress. At the time he was living about two miles from the foot of Brown Mountain on Highway 181, north of the town of Morganton.

It has to be said that the latter part of his claimed experiences with the 'lights' might appear to be rather more suited to the realms of fantasy than fact. Also, that several of his astronomical references are very much open to question. I feel they are still well worth recording, especially as other witnesses have also said at times that the lights appeared 'intelligently controlled'. This was Ralph's story.....

He had seen the lights on numerous occasions from many places and from many angles, and, having read all he could find out about them, he decided that no-one had come up with a proper answer as to what they actually were, so, in June 1962, he decided to try to find out for himself.

Early one morning he went as far as he could by car, then got out to prospect the best route for ascending Brown Mountain. He spent most of that day finding such a route and then, clearly marked his trail - which led almost to the top of the Mountain, to a spot called Wild Cat Knob - so that he could follow it up or down by night. This was by no means easy, since parts of the ascent were in heavily wooded and overgrown country, and at other points there were rough hollows and sheer twenty to thirty foot cliffs. There were

also numerous holes in the cliffs housing rattlesnakes and copperhead snakes. However, he reached Wild Cat Knob in the late afternoon and then returned to his car, since on this occasion he was only intent on 'blazing this clear trail' to the top.

Several days later Ralph returned, this time intent on spending the night on the mountain-top. There was a Full Moon and when he reached Wild Cat Knob it was about a quarter to eleven. The actual top of the mountain lay about three-quarters of a mile away and the Moon was reflecting from a large flatish area of rock on the mountainside. From hereon, of course, one has to take Ralph's word for what occurred, so the word 'alleged' obviously applies.....

Ralph relates that on this night in June 1962 he had been sitting and standing alternately on the top of Wild Cat Knob for around forty-five minutes when a light began to form at one corner of the flat rock the Moon was reflecting from - then another one appeared some two hundred feet from the first. Others then formed until there were more than fifteen of them. These lights grew larger and moved about the side of the mountain. Some returned to the rock and disappeared in the same manner they had formed: others wandered in and out of nearby woodlands, and after a while, Ralph realised that all the lights were appearing and disappearing at the same spot.

After about thirty minutes of this one light moved towards him, stopping about ten feet away. It was almost a perfect circle some ten to twelve feet in diameter. It glowed, and its light would have been sufficient to read a newspaper by. In the centre of the light there seemed to be a brown patch that did not look solid - Ralph's description at this point was 'like a tumble-bug without a head'. This was suspended in the centre of the glowing ball with what seemed to be three hands or feelers protruding out from each side. This light was to his left and above him, and as he turned a flashlight on it the light moved quickly away, dodging trees as though alive

and intelligent. All the lights then moved quickly to the same spot in the rock and disappeared. After this, there was no further sign of them, so he waited for half-an-hour, then followed the trail back to his car.

For the next three weeks bad weather kept Ralph away from the mountain, but when it cleared he went back again to the same spot, reaching it just as darkness fell. He alternately stood, sat and wandered about for some three hours and then the lights began to form. Very soon there was a large number of them and they moved until they surrounded him at a distance of some two to three hundred feet.

One light, Ralph states, detached itself from the others and moved towards him and in a couple of minutes was right beside him. There was the same brown 'thing' in the centre. The light circled right round him: then it moved over his legs and feet, and he seemed to feel a vibration effect which made him want to get up and run, but he didn't. The light then moved away and back again as if beckoning him to follow, but he was too frightened to move. It repeated this a few more times, and then it and the other lights disappeared into the same point on the rock face where this had happened before. Ralph stood for a while, then again made his way back to the car, realising they must be some form of Life, wondering what senses they had and whether they could see, hear and touch him.

Two nights later he returned to the spot once more, reaching it just before darkness fell. One light formed, then three: they moved towards him, two stopping about a hundred feet away, whilst the third continued slowly towards him. He could see the same brown form as before; the same vibration effect was felt and the light moved back down the trail Ralph had ascended. This time he followed it and felt he should speak, saying, 'Shall I continue to follow you?' The light moved around him and went back up the trail. He then said, 'Should I go back now?' Again the light moved up and down. Then, 'Should I

bring someone with me?' This time it moved from side to side. Ralph now realised it could understand him, but would or could not talk to him and said, 'I will be back one week from today' - at which point the light moved up and down. Ralph returned to his car.

Exactly a week later he went back to Wild Cat Knob for the fourth time. It was again around nine o'clock. The light formed in front of him, moving up and down as if saying, 'Follow me'. Ralph did so, and it moved to a part of the rock face some fifteen feet high, disappearing into it. A 'door' not previously visible opened up in the rock and in he went. There was a sound of air compressing and the light moved farther back. He then realised there were several separate 'rooms' under the mountain, but all the walls were of a crystal-like substance as clear as glass, these being visible with rainbow-like effects as far as the eye could see.

He next heard a voice, this telling him that the 'Light-Beings' could hear his voice, but couldn't make sounds themselves, only being able to speak to him via the machine he was then hearing. They were not 'Earth-bound': they neither ate nor drank. They lived on a gas they called 'Pethine' absorbed from the light surrounding them. They would perish in our sunlight or if long exposed in our atmosphere. The crystal section about eight feet square in which Ralph found himself contained our own atmosphere, but the other sections Pethine.

Ralph says that they then told him that humanity was created on another planet they called 'Pewam' which our ancestors had destroyed and which now forms the asteroid belt and that man had lived on this intra-Jovian planet Pewam for many thousands of years until it was destroyed by them and disintegrated. They themselves had as their home the planet Venus which, they told him, included in its composition much of the same pure crystal as was under Brown Mountain. They said they had been on Earth for some five hundred years in order to prevent Man from destroying this planet as he had done on

Pewam. At the time that planet was destroyed Man, apparently, had sent a colony to Earth to exploit its minerals, which was how Man had come to Earth. They intended to save Earth even if they had to destroy Man to do so, since the destruction of the one planet could lead to the destruction of the other. If necessary this could be done by restoring Earth to its former axis. This would create all sorts of problems for us, not least that all land would be flooded to a considerable depth.. Ralph was then ushered out.

On August 3rd. of that year - 1962, Ralph Lael revisited these 'Light-Beings' in the same crystal room, this time being asked to ensure that others would be discouraged from exploratory activities in the Brown Mountain area for a few more years - this giving them time to complete their plans without interruption; they would give him what would seem to be a perfectly natural explanation as to how the lights were formed that he could tell the media and also give him a map by which such statements could be verified. As a reward he would be taken to visit Venus and see a human colony housed there under simulated atmospheric conditions. Amongst other things he claims he was then shown the craft that would be used for the trip. He then left.

Ralph said that in October 1962 he returned to Brown Mountain for the trip. He was told that whilst the ship could travel at the speed of light this would be a slower journey and would take 'a few days', No mention was made by him of the craft's controls, but he did refer to the 'breathtaking views' in Space. When the craft landed he was taken by a machine like one there had been under Brown Mountain, this machine passing through gardens of magnificent colours to where there were the quarters occupied by humans. It entered a strangely-shaped apartment and he was told it was perfectly safe to come out as he was in he quarters occupied by these humans.

He was introduced to some, then shown to his quarters and as he passed each room he could see a 'T.V.' screen . There was also

one in his own room . He was told these were for watching people on Earth and for his benefit one was tuned in to a session of the U.S. Senate. The whole of one wall then became a 'screen' which illustrated the destruction of the planet Pewam. Little further detail was given by Ralph - he just said that he stayed several days before returning to Earth and that he was given permission to release all details of the events that had transpired after a lapse of three years. This he did in 1965. A few years later he opened an 'Outer Space Rock Shop Museum' on Highway 181, north of Morganton.

There we leave Ralph Lael. A fanciful tale, maybe, but, certainly so far as the appearance and 'intelligent' movements of some of the lights seen on Brown Mountain by others is concerned, the first part has a degree of confirmation - others also had referred to the lights on occasion as 'moving intelligently'. Whether the 'Museum' on Highway 181 is still there or, indeed whether Lael himself is still alive I do not know. Several people I've met in the U.S. have seen the lights themselves, but from different vantage points in the area, and had been unaware of Lael's claims or the Museum's existence until I showed them his account. The lights are still being seen to this day - and there are even web sites devoted to them - for those interested, here are two of them:-

<http://www.westernncaattractions.com/BMLights.htm>

http://www.xprojectmagazine.com/archives/pa_ranomal/brnmtlights.html

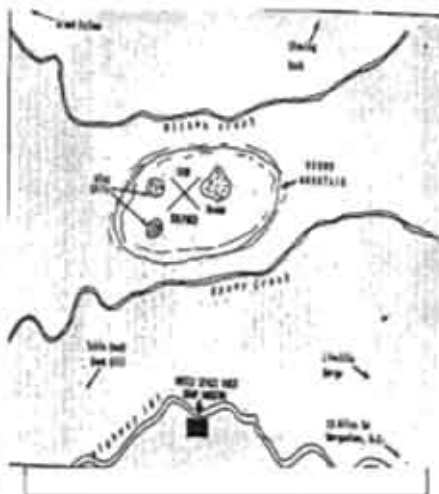
Or, maybe, you might like to go to see the lights for yourself!



Photo of The Marfa lights taken by James Crocker in Texas in September 1986. These

lights are similar to the ones reported in the Brown Mountain region.

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Help Wanted

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We are looking for help to run the ufocall service which requires regular updates of the recordings and sourcing and producing short stories for recording.

Please contact the Secretary or e.mail NBJ@Bufora.org.uk



UFOS AND THE PSI INTERFACE

By Manfred Cassirer, Stephen Gamble,
Elsie Oakensen and John Spencer

In this publication, four contributors – all of whom have different backgrounds and viewpoints into the subject – have assembled current ideas on the possible interaction/crossover between UFO reports and PSI experiences.

Copies are available at £7.50 inc p&p.

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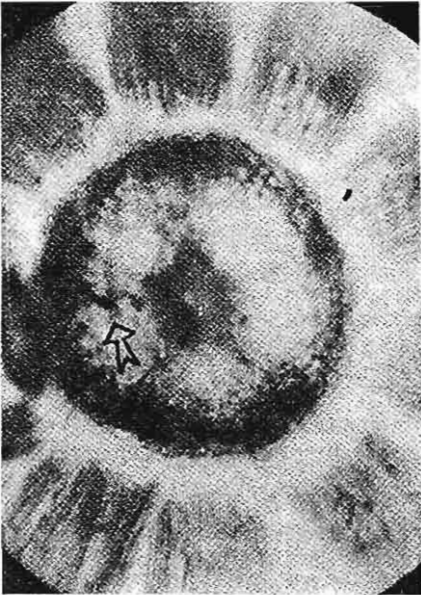
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Photo Feature

From time to time, I shall be including in the Journal, a small selection of photo's from the past and any future photo's that become available. To begin though, here are the photo's of the Evora Microbe, held over from NBJ1.

Photo 1, Magnification X 240



(1)

Readers will recall that following a Ufo sighting at Evora in Portugal, "Angel Hair" was found, collected and sent to Lisbon University for examination.

An unknown microbe was found which existed without the head being physically connected to the body !

Photo 1 shows an aspect of the central nucleus. The arrow at the left indicates the small corpuscle body.

Photo 2 , Magnification X 240



(2)

This photo shows detail of the trifurcation of the tentacles.

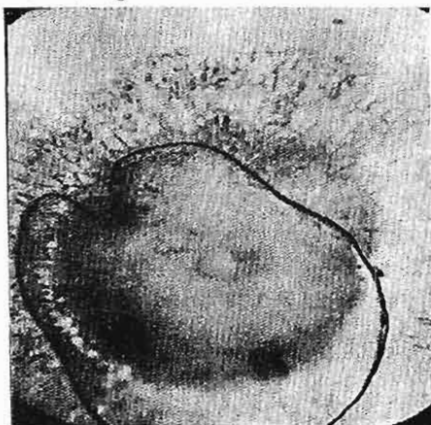
The next photo (3) was taken 6 months after capture.



(3)

Photo 3 shows an aspect of the tentacle extremities. Note the shredding of extremities. Magnification is X 120

Photo 4, Magnification X 240



(4)

Photo 4 shows an aspect of bubble against the microscope preparation by the mysterious life form 6 months after capture.

=====
Cover Photo shown below.....



Photo, courtesy of SOBEPS, Belgium.

Taken on 19th July 1972, this object was seen by a number of witnesses, one of whom, fortunately, had a camera.

The place was Faymonville, Liege Province in Belgium.

This next photo was one of 12 showing a "mini Ufo". They were taken by Jarmo Nykanen on 16th March 1979 near his lakeside cottage in Finland.



Photo Courtesy of Ufo Research, Finland.

And three more photos,,,

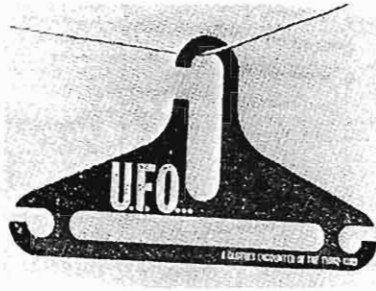
Ranging from Close Encounters to
Clothes Encounters....



The picture above is a sixties "classic" taken
by Paul Villa at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Below is another "classic" which has caused
much controversy.

It is one of the Billy Meier photo's and was
taken at Oberzerg, Switzerland on 3rd March
1975.



Finally, well, a description of this object...

..An overall delta shape with
rounded protruding nose, with
three "cut-outs" on its leading
edge and two symmetrical,
elongated holes at 90 degrees to
one another.

Lettering visible on body of
object, which was seen hanging
motionless in mid-air !

This photo was first published in The Bufora
Journal Vol 9 No.3.

Do you have a ufo Photo of
your own that you can
vouch for or do you have an
opinion on ufo photo's ?

We would be interested to
hear from readers whether
you have a picture or not !

Time to close the X-Files, say UFO watchers

Points from the press...

In this issue I am including references to several items from other UFO/Forcean magazines with which *BUFORA* exchanges, in particular as one has an account of an interesting experience that happened to a friend of mine, whilst others have references to 'Angel Hair', a feature of the 'Evora microbe' in our last issue. First, however, let's have a look at some reports in the national and local press:-

The Derby Evening Telegraph of August 10th. 2001 included a letter from John Hudson of Alvaston which referred to a report taken from A.W.Davison's *Derby, its rise and Progress* published by Bemrose and Sons in 1906. This had contained the following account of a sky 'dog-fight' witnessed in the skies above the area on the 14th. October 1253 (yes, the year IS correct!):- '.....a large star appeared out of a black cloud, with two smaller stars in the vicinity..a battle royal then commenced, the small stars charging into the larger again and again, diminishing it in size....sparks of fire fell from the combatants...this continued for some considerable time...and spectators fled.' I have a fair collection of 'ancient UFO reports' myself, but this one had previously eluded me.

In the *Aberdeen Evening Express* of 2nd October there was an article headed 'Cyberspace, The final Frontier'. This referred to a website (www.angelfire.com/mo/muchalls) launched to log and publicise numerous strange lights and UFO reports from the Muchalls area. In a

sub-heading, 'Close encounters at North-east hotspot' *BUFORA* was quoted as the source for a number of UFO reports in the general area including 'an oval, luminous object' in June 1968: a 'glowing figure' seen by a couple on the A90 Aberdeen - Stonehaven road in November 1968: a 'large saucer-shaped craft' reported north of Newtonhill in May 1969: pulsing bright white lights seen near Cammachmore in June 1992: an 'enormous, luminous cloud' over the Newtonhill flyover in September 1994 and a 'glowing triangle' seen by two Glasgow tourists while driving past Muchalls in 1998.

Eight-year-old Thomas Gerbicz was reported in the *Salford Advertiser* of September 6th. to have seen a mysterious object hovering above a Brindley street near his home in Walkden. He had a small telescope with him at the time and described the object as having 'red lights and a yellow plate in the middle of two half spheres'. It had a red door and silver top and Thomas watched it for up to ten minutes after which time it 'flashed and mysteriously disappeared.' He also drew a quick sketch of the object. His mother was quoted as saying, 'He's very scientific and he loves his facts and figures'.

The Cannock Chase Post of October 11th. and the *Staffordshire Newsletter* of November 15th. both included a plea from Graham Allen, co-ordinator of the Staffordshire UFO Group for any witnesses to come forward who had had UFO sightings or experiences in the area during 1988 and 1989 when there had been a number of reports. In particular he wished to hear from any witness of an incident in May 1988 when 'scores of people' had reported seeing two triangular objects with numerous white lights 'tumbling over' each other in the skies above Cannock Chase after descending silently from a considerable height to around 1,000 feet, then hovering motionless before disappearing. Witnesses had included police and army personnel and the matter had been raised in the House of Commons at the time by the then M.P. Bill Cash.

The *AFU Newsletter of Dec. 2001* – Issue 42 (AFU stands for the Archives for UFO Research Foundation of Sweden) reviews an issue of *Strange Times* (published by BUFORA's own DOI, Gloria Heather Dixon) and specifically refers to an interview conducted by her with Judy Jafaar (BUFORA's Vice-Chairman), this being largely concerned with witness support groups and the use of hypnosis on purported 'abduction witnesses', in which areas Judy is a definite sceptic. I cannot resist quoting the following lines from *AFU's* item, namely, '...reading the editor's (Gloria Dixon) splendid interview with Judy Jafaar, vice chairman of BUFORA, an interview that underlines the respect you have to feel for BUFORA, this age-old institution in ufology.....'. Well done, Gloria and Judy!

In 'WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?' in our last issue one of the main features was 'Angel Hair', the substance that frequently used to be much in evidence insofar as UFO reports were concerned, but, to the best of my knowledge had not been featured overmuch in recent years. I was therefore astonished, when, after having completed the 'Evora Microbe' article, I came across two references to 'Angel Hair' in current UFO publications.

These were in *Italian UFO Newsflash No. 330*, 18th. October 2001 which included an item 'It's Raining Angel Hair' referring to reports published in *La Nazione, Arezzo edition*, 13th. October; *Ufoitalia*, 14th and 15th October and *La Rete* of 15th/16th/ 17th October.

The first of these was about an incident that took place on the afternoon of Thursday, 11th. October, when some children playing in a garden in Subbiano (Arezzo) saw strange whitish filaments descending from the sky. These became entangled in a tree and appeared to cling to the touch. A sample, taken by the Carabinieri, was sent to technicians at the Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment.

The second was concerned with an occurrence on Friday 12th. October, when at least two witnesses, from different areas of Rome, on two occasions observed a whitish, filament-like substance falling out of the sky in elongated 'wads' of various sizes: at the same time, one or two luminous pinpoint of light appeared high in the sky. Both witnesses gathered samples and sent them to the Centro Ufologico Nazionale. According to a statement by biologist and ufologist Giorgio Pattera, observations by stereomicroscope appeared to show evidence of polyfracturing filaments of a sort of 'plastic material' which appeared as though subjected both to high temperature and traction.

In a later issue of *Italian UFO Newsflash – No. 332 – 31st. October 2001* there was a further reference to the 'Arezzo Angel Hair'. This read:-

'Investigation is still ongoing in regard to the recent phenomenon concerning the falling of whitish filaments last 11th October in the province of Arezzo between 2pm and 3pm. It has been ascertained that the phenomenon involved additional residents in the area numbering up to 10 witnesses. The filaments were very long (up to 5-6 metres) and fell copiously and continuously, eventually becoming entangled in trees, on gates and on the ground.

Some analyses were conducted on the gathered samples. These included a microscopic examination of the filaments: a colorimetric examination of their structure and a fusion test. These ultimately revealed a structure that was polysaccharide and irregular, leading to speculation that the filaments were of natural, not artificial origin, thus contributing to dismissal of some local fears about the possibility of industrial contamination....'

On the same day that I read the above, the Fall edition of *IUR Vol26 No3* arrived also. *IUR* is the International UFO Reporter published by the J.Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. Its front page – with appropriate

illustrations – had the heading 'An analysis of Angel Hair 1947 – 2000'. This included such accounts as that of a child in Sudbury, Massachusetts running into the house to tell its mother to come out to see 'the biggest spider web in the world' on October 22nd. 1973 and presented an 11-page article by Brian Boldman which, amongst other things, examined classic cases such as those at Oloron and Gaillac in 1952 and a case in Quindi, New South Wales in August 1998 when three family members witnessed 'cobwebs' falling from a clear, blue sky along with silver spheres that were performing acrobatic manoeuvres. These were a 'bright, metallic grey' and as many as 20 were seen at one time. They could stop and hover and perform rapid right-angle turns.

Boldman's article also examined many factors including 'Weather', 'Angel-Hair Theories', 'Analyses and their problems'. Correlations to both UFO and entity sightings and reports were included and contained numerous diagrams. Amongst its conclusions was that "The correlations between 'waves' in 1954 and 1973 seem to be very strong evidence that angel hair is a constituent of the UFO phenomenon. Further evidence of this is the high percentage of UFOs concurrent with angel hair falls and the number of reports of sublimation.....".

Interestingly, I could find no reference to the 'Evora' case

Readers may recall that at the end of January many national newspapers carried the story of 'something' that had carved a trench in the mountainside of Snowdonia. Janet Bord has kindly sent me along photocopies of the original report that appeared in the *North Wales Daily Post* of January 25th under the heading 'Was this mystery trail really caused by a meteor?' From this article we learn that the 'gash', at a height of about 2,500 feet, between Moel Eilio and Snowden, starts amidst a cluster of smashed rocks and ends in boggy ground close to a fence.

It goes on to tell us that it was first noticed by local walkers and fell-runners; then, Mike Blake, a Caernarfon builder and member of the Eryri Harriers Club, was the first to give it detailed examination. As a keen amateur photographer he took a number of photos, sending them both to Jodrell Bank Observatory and the Natural History Museum. Subsequently he was also in touch with the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland

Mike Blake was certain that the gouge out of the mountainside had not been caused by any vehicle and felt sure also that some kind of natural occurrence had taken place. Shattered fragments from a rocky outcrop had been widely scattered and leading away from this rocky outcrop was this gouged-out trench which ends in boggy ground. He tried to clear away the water from the trench by digging a drainage ditch, but the trench just filled up again.

According to the *The Daily Post* article Mike was puzzled by one feature in particular, namely that the long trench would suggest that whatever object had been responsible for it would have hit at a very shallow angle, whereas anything of a meteoric nature would have made a much more direct strike. Jay Tait, Director of the Knighton Observatory in Powys and Professor Bailey from the Armagh Observatory agreed with this view whilst Tom Muxlow, from Jodrell Bank made the comment, 'It could conceivably be a meteorite, but one would expect some debris and that requires further investigation and geological analysis.'

The last recorded meteorite in England was stated to have been in the 1960s and for Wales it would have been 'virtually unique'.

The only indication of any possible UFO connection came from Graham Ford-Keyte from Dinorwig who, on the evening of December 12th, was driving home from Liverpool when he saw a bright flash above Moel Eilio at around 10.30pm.

A later article in *The Daily Post* – on March 11th. stated that Professor Bailey, together with Alan Bowman, a geologist from Liverpool University and Jay Tate, Director of the Knighton Observatory in Powys all visited the site and although 'very excited' by what they saw, concluded it had been caused by a spectacular lightning strike.

The Australian UFO Bulletin of last December recorded the following incident:- 'One night during 1997, Mr. Peter Miller, a now-40-year-old teacher of Hazelwood Park, and his mother, were travelling for about 20-30 minutes. A yellow object about 10 degrees above the horizon, parallel to the car kept pace at a distance of 100 metres. The night was clear. The object, the size of a small car or truck, disappeared when the car's direction moved away from the object.....the car was stopped: lights and motor turned off. The object remained stationary. There was no sound.....'

Returning to Britain, *The Bolton Evening News* of November 9th. 2001 carried a report of a UFO seen flying above the Daisy Hill Hotel last August. Video footage had been examined by Euroseti – the European search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence and it was confirmed the film had not been tampered with. However, the image had been so small it was impossible to discover what it actually was. It had been claimed, it was stated, by Phil Caterall of the Bolton UFO Society that it had been the star Sirius. The object was seen during a televised football game. No time was given. (*During the hours of darkness, Sirius would not be visible in August and whilst I have on occasion seen the planet Venus during the daytime, I very much doubt that Sirius would attract anyone's attention then – Ed.*)

The Amateur Photographer of 18th. August presented the account of a *Glasgow Daily Record* photographer who had been taking a number of pictures of a sunrise over Glasgow and found what appeared to be a disc hovering in the sky when the film was developed. The 'green saucer-shaped object'

was not noticed at the time the photos were taken.

The Evening News and Star of Cumbria of November 29th. included accounts of a number of sightings in the area, seven having been reported in November alone. Amongst them were a Braithwaite farmer witnessing a white light which lit up a field as he tended sheep; a bright red light frequently seen in the Cocker mouth skies; a woman near Flimby sighting a white manoeuvring object being chased by two military jets and a cigar-shaped UFO photographed by Stephen Smith with a digital camera. Stephen had also claimed a number of earlier sightings.

Finally, *The Daily Mail* of February 20th. presented an article, 'Don't tell the kids, but ET's got his eye on us...' which referred to the Boston, Massachusetts conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science where the possibilities were examined, not just of our trying to get in touch with alien intelligences on other planets, but of THEM trying to get in touch with US.

Interestingly, a 'companion' article on the same page presented findings showing that animals have complex dreams about the events of the day just as humans may experience. (*As a pet owner, I feel that anyone who watches their cat or dog whilst the animal is asleep would know this anyway!* - Ed.)

Norman Oliver.

Reminder...
Please check your address !
Have we got it right ?
Have you told us correctly ?

EXPERIENCES

Norman Oliver

At a Conference in the early 80s I once tried to get people in the audience to recount any UFO or possibly UFO-related experience they may have had themselves. I attempted to do this by speaking about a variety of different accounts, pausing after each one to ask if anyone had had anything of a generally similar nature happen to them. There was a fair-sized audience, but could I get one response? NO. Afterwards I realised my error. I was being impersonal. I was not connecting with or relating to my audience. Maybe some COULD have identified with one or more of the reports I'd presented, but they couldn't identify with a rather remote witness second-hand, and they didn't want to stand up and talk without knowing that someone present at the time had had something similar happen to THEM.

Now, I am quite sure that a large number of our members have had UFO, UFO-related or other unusual experiences. Indeed, one such was presented in 'Watchers at Willenhall' in the last issue and I would like to see more such personal experiences appear in our Journal. My thoughts though, go back to that time when, at that Conference, I could persuade no-one to speak, no-one to tell of any out-of-the-ordinary occurrence that had happened to them. So, why should I expect a better response now, even though it would be in print and not mean standing up in solitary state at a packed meeting?

O.K. - let me now take a lead and start what I hope will be the beginning of a series by telling you something of what happened to ME many years ago, thus, so to speak, leading by example.....!

It was way back in the early 1950s. I had only been married a couple of years and at the time my interest in the subject of UFOs was zero. Certainly I'd been interested in Astronomy since I was eleven and knew my 'night sky' at any time in the year, but, UFOs

- never heard of them!! However, the following incident occurred at 2am on the morning of my daughter's first birthday, which is why I could later pinpoint the occurrence with accuracy.

At the time, my wife and I were living in an upstairs flat in a road off Coldharbour Lane in Brixton, South London - Brixton was a very different place then I can assure you. Our bedroom faced South, the windows were covered by moderately thick curtaining, my daughter lay asleep in a cot by the side of the bed.

The curtains, through which I could make out the vague shape of a Full or near-Full Moon and the face of an alarm clock with luminous figures standing on top of the dressing table were in my line of vision. After a couple of hours sleep I awoke. I was lying on my back, but then, attempting to turn over to a more comfortable position, found I was unable to move, unable to move a muscle, not even the twitch of a muscle, not even the blink of an eyelid. The length of time I was completely immobile appeared to me to be immense, but the clock confirmed it must have been less than two minutes. That couple of minutes, though, seemed an age, an extended age, an age during which I attempted without success to move different parts of my body. Finally, I managed to extract a very slight movement from the upper segment of a little finger. From this point the power of movement gradually returned over my whole body. I turned over on my right side, noting as I did so that the hazy circle of the Moon was no longer to be seen through the curtaining, in my drowsy state attributing this to my changed position in the bed. Immediately I fell asleep, waking at my usual hour in the morning.

Recalling what had happened during the night I then discussed it with my wife, who was really of the opinion that I had dreamt it anyway! Unusually, my daughter had not woken either of us at any time - normally she'd be pretty restless and as a consequence so would we!

There was no recurrence of the incident, but it remained at the back of my mind, and a few months later I came across an item in a magazine which referred to 'sleep paralysis', this being a condition whereby precisely the same symptoms I had evinced may be experienced. Normally, as it had been with me on that night, the person concerned will recover the ability to move within a very short space of time or, if they do not do so, the article said, they will fall asleep again, waking up perfectly normally in the morning. Most people experiencing it, apparently, are liable to have it recur, but this is not necessarily the case for all. Assuming that what I had experienced was, in fact, sleep paralysis, it had not, up to the time of my reading the article, recurred – and, indeed, has never done so since and it's now more than 40 years on! Oddly enough, when writing this article I thought I'd check out the condition in medical books, but I could find no reference to it whatsoever.

That by the by. Some ten years after the experience my interest in Astronomy prompted me to join the British Astronomical Association. The 'paralysis' incident had never fully been put out of my mind, I suppose because even then I was always thinking that at some time there might be a recurrence. The study of man-made satellites, their orbits and trajectories across the sky was popular and I remember plotting out and following the path of many such a trajectory – the BAA then had a section devoted particularly to this purpose. It was whilst I was involved in this connection that the thought came to me – 'You're checking out the present movement of satellites, why not check the position and phase of the Moon on the night of your 'paralysis'? I would explain here that during the week preceding my nocturnal experience the weather had been particularly wet and cloudy, so that the phases of the Moon had not been amongst my uppermost thoughts – indeed, at the time I had other things on my mind than watching the night sky. To the best of my recollection, too, that particular day and night had been an 'oasis' of brightness in the midst of an otherwise

dull, dreary, wet July. So – I checked out tables of the Moon's phases going back to my daughter's first birthday fully expecting to find a 'Full Moon' on or around July 10th. but, to my astonishment the Moon's phase was shown as 'New'.

It was at this point, I suppose that, having read a number of press reports about them that I first became interested in UFOs, though not, so far as I recall as a direct result of making the discovery about the Moon's phase.

As has been stated elsewhere in this issue, UFO-wise, it was a very different world then. Sighting claims galore. Plenty of vehicle interference reports and effects upon the person. Contact claims – commencing with Adamski – had been much reported for some years: even trips in spacecraft of one's own volition (recalling Dan Fry's account of stepping into a remote-controlled craft for a trip over New York and back, for example), but abductions and 'lost time' experiences hadn't really yet appeared above the horizon!

Don't get me wrong here, I'm not claiming I was abducted, but, certainly in the climate of today, such an explanation would be immediately seized upon as the most likely, even should I point out that no lost time was apparently involved since I had – of necessity – been 'clock-watching' at the time. No, I don't THINK that any involuntary displacement of myself occurred. As a thought, perhaps we could use the term 'Involuntary Displacement' as an alternative to 'Abduction' in Ufological phraseology! (On second thoughts – No, it would never 'catch on'!)

But I digress. What I AM saying is that the thought of the 'Moon' of necessity being something other than the Moon triggered off my original interest in UFOs, whether the trigger came entirely from my own mind or whether it was a desire implanted by an exterior source

The only other 'exterior' unusual occurrence so far as I recall – I use the word 'exterior' as opposed to 'interior' which I would reserve for

several extrasensory experiences consciously initiated by myself – happened when I was around the age of nine or ten. The only apparent connection might be that both occurred after my having woken up in the night. At that age I slept in a small bedroom, the door to which opened out onto a landing with stairs to the ground floor. Now, on getting up I would open the door to my left, turn to the left and then right to go down the flight of stairs. On the right the bed was hard against the wall, a very small bedside table being between me and the door on the left. Usually I would sleep through the night, but on this occasion woke up after a few hours. The curtains were open and there was enough light in the room to see objects in outline. But something was wrong. I went to get out of my bed on the left hand side, but – the wall was where the table should have been – left and right were reversed. I remember very clearly getting out of the bed on the right hand side, proceeding very cautiously as it was like walking 'in a mirror image'. I turned right instead of left outside the door to see that the flight of stairs was similarly displaced. At this point I, although I'd intended going downstairs I became scared. Discretion became the better part of valour and I returned to my bed, holding myself against the wall as though it might suddenly disappear! Reaching the bed I got back into it, pulled the blankets almost over my head and went back to sleep. In the morning everything was as it should have been and always had been!

This incident and the 'sleep paralysis' occurrence were separated by some 15 years. I have never really considered any possible connection between them, the main, indeed the only similarity being that they both occurred during the hours of darkness.

So, if anyone has had an unusual experience of any description which might have even the faintest of UFO associations, please write in and tell us about it – for that matter, should it be a really compelling one it doesn't matter if the UFO associations are negligible or even non-existent! I look forward to hearing from you.

We Are The Sceptics My Friend.

(An Article by Malcolm Robinson on the British Sceptic society meeting of 20th February 2002.)

Someone once said, "I don't believe in ghosts, but you'll never get me in a haunted house" !! I quote these words quite often to show people what those skeptical of UFOs and the paranormal usually say to me when we are in discussion about such matters. They seem to be caught between a rock and a hard place and although they don't believe in such things, far be it from me to tempt them to come on any haunting case with me !! This does not apply however to those more hardened sceptics who 'would' gladly come with me on any investigations. UFO and Paranormal research 'need' sceptics, sceptics keep us on our toes and make sure our feet remain firmly on the ground. So I decided to jump over the fence and start walking into what some would say, was, 'enemy territory' I took in my very first sceptic meeting which was held at the Florence Nightingale pub near Waterloo Station London on a very cold, wind-swept February night.

The bar was full, the atmosphere pleasant and I made my way upstairs to where the meeting was held. A number of people had already taken their seats and more were coming in. Scott Campbell, the chairman at previous meetings stated that he was handing over chairing of all future meetings to a colleague, Nick Puller. Scott went on to thank everyone for making his time so enjoyable in hosting these lectures and wished his successor all the best in his new position. With that the new Chairman Nick Puller took over. Nick was a bubbly and very confident chairman and I liked his humour and style. He started by talking about what had been featured in the British press that day, ie, that at 8:02pm the world would witness a time that is triply palindromic, reading 20:02/20.02/2002. The time, day and month backwards or forwards remains the same, which, Nick told us, won't come round for another 111 years. Now not only

this, he continued, but that 'great Iranian psychic' Uri Geller claims that at this precise time anyone who stares into his eyes on his photograph featured in the Sun newspaper, could make their dreams come true ! Immense laughter came from all quarters of the by now busy room. Nick pointed to the dart board where someone had placed a copy of a newspaper featuring Geller's photograph. Nick went on to say he had visited Uri's web site and read statements from it he found amusing, which raised many laughs from the 45 or so individuals present. Moving away from the dart board, he then introduced the speaker for the evening - John Wall. John is a professional engineer who has been called a 'snivelling, insinuating little worm' by Graham Hancock, author of 'Fingerprints of the Gods'. John was here to evaluate Hancock's work sceptically and give an overview of the so called 'Alternative History Movement'. He wasted no time whatsoever, firstly poking fun at Uri Geller and certain things that he stood for which again raised many laughs. I began to realise the stark difference between the society I run, Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI UK) and this one. We never poke fun publicly at individuals working in this field, at best we will state we disagree with them but don't raise laughs publicly at their expense !!

The title of John's talk was, 'Alternative History and the Ma'ations From Cyberspace' subtitled, 'Weighing the evidence for alternative history'. John was about 5 or 10 minutes into his talk when Chairman Nick Puller stood up and asked for all to be quiet as it was now 8:02 and that palindromic moment referred to earlier was now upon us. He asked all to look at the dartboard with Uri Geller's picture on it and stare at Uri's eyes. He asked out loud, "*Can anybody see anything ? Is anyone getting anything*". Loud belly laughs came from all quarters. As some were wiping tears away from their eyes, Nick quickly apologised to the speaker and asked him to resume.

John continued with references to ancient civilisations by that early pioneer Erich Von

Daniken. John showed how, in his belief, Von Daniken's work and conclusions were flawed, saying, "*I personally would never trust anyone with the initials V.D. in a name*". The audience fell about once more. To his credit, John Wall opened my eyes to a lot about the work of Graham Hancock and others. He spoke about the face on Mars and showed how very different that face was now owing to recent photographs taken of it by NASA. In 1976 the Mars face was clear as a bell, whilst fairly recently (and he showed the slide to prove it) you wouldn't think it was a face at all, (if it ever was in the first place !) He presented fascinating stuff about the pyramids of Egypt telling us that when he was there, they smelt of smelly western tourists !. John raced through his slides, but there was no denying he knew his stuff, and a subject like this requires more than the time that was allocated. His humour was directed at Graham Hancock and whilst these two may not get on and disagree about each other's work, it's nonetheless not professional to raise laughs at the expense of others. I found John's discussion on the famous Piri Reis map fascinating. He showed clearly that the original peruser of that map, one Charles Hapgood, only saw what he wanted to see, for as John Walls pointed out, the map that Hapgood looked at clearly had the words 'conjecture' on it! During a break at this point I got talking with a gentleman sat next to me. Like me, this was his first meeting and he said he was on a search for the truth, "*I think we all are*", I replied. This chap never came back for the second half !!

Resuming, John went into many, many aspects of ancient civilisations, and brought up the name of Zechariah Sitchin. Sitchin too has claimed many wondrous things regarding ancient civilisations and men from the stars. Wall said that in his opinion, Zechariah Sitchin was an out and out fraud and that he was more than happy to say slanderous things about him. We were then shown underwater walkways and steps, John pointing out these were all 'Natural Formations'. Many slides were shown, all of 'Natural Formations' which Hancock and

others believe were either terraces or walls of some ancient and forgotten culture. "Nonsense" said John. Looking at the slides of and hearing John point out the alternative explanation, well it seemed he had a point ! He then showed how flawed Hancock's work was in regards to the three Egyptian pyramids and their alleged precision and alignment to the stars in Orion's belt. Hancock, he said, misled his readers with shoddy assumptions which were not quite true, whereas John with his descriptions and drawings showed there were no correlations from the pyramids to the stars. John referred to the book *The Fingerprints of the Gods* by Hancock as 'Fog' since presumably it clouded the reader's judgement. He then had a go at Astrology and gave it as much credence as he did the works of Hancock.

'Signs Of The Sky' is a book by one Adrian Gilbert; it too, said John, is heavily flawed, as is 'The Book Keeper Of Genesis' by Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval and also 'The Message Of The Sphinx'. In regard to Graham Hancock's latest book, 'Underworld', John thinks it would have been better called 'Blunderworld' and would make a great door stopper. And referred to Hancock as an ancient world Jilly Cooper !! A number of interesting articles on ancient civilisations have been featured in the Daily Mail of late and John asked the audience had anyone read the Daily 'Fail'. You can see the feelings the guest speaker had towards his fellow 'seekers of the truth' !

All the above may sound very 'picky' by me but I really don't mean it to be so. John Wall presented a thoroughly fascinating lecture which made me sit up and think. As researchers we need to see what sceptics are presenting, we need to attend their meetings and shouldn't alienate ourselves from them. We need to work side by side with them where we can both hopefully share in discoveries and put our hand on our heart when either 'we' or 'them' are wrong. My attendance at this meeting was a lesson for me to practice what I preach. I am always banging on about how there are two sides to

every coin and for us never to take any story at face value. Good and honest research may well uncover hidden treasures, with benefit to all.

At the close I spoke to chairman Nick Puller and he told me he had checked out the SPI web site and found it interesting but didn't share my views on our research into the 'Devon Case'. I expressed the view that this was not a conclusive and researched case, and the article basically just told it as it was but I was impressed by his comments nonetheless.

All in all my decision to attend the sceptic meeting was a good one; some 45 people attended and the guest speaker was very knowledgeable. Although they kept poking fun at other researchers which I felt was over the top, the evening was a thoroughly good exercise in 'peering over the garden wall' into the next door neighbours garden !!

The Sceptic in the pub meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of every month at the Florence Nightingale Pub, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7UT. Tel: 020 7928 3027. Call organiser Nick Puller on 07740 450 950. Non sceptics are welcome. Founded in 1999 by Scott Campbell and run by Nick Puller, they investigate claims relating to alternative medicines, psychic powers, pseudoscience, UFOs, alien abductions, creationism, fortaean phenomena, cult religions, water-divining, lost civilisations, etc etc.

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UFORUM

Elsie Oakensen's experiences were related in 'UFOs and the PSI Interface' received by members in December. Reference was also made to them in the February Journal. I am pleased, therefore, to publish the following letter received from Elsie:-

".....The articles within (*UFOs and the PSI Interface*) are very interesting, but I did wonder how up-to-date they were as mine was written in 1995 and so much has happened to me since. My life has changed completely and those skills I seemed to be endowed with following my UFO experience have developed in some very interesting ways.....

.....In his introduction Steve Gamble possibly covers what I am saying. He writes that when he first 'became interested in UFOs it was all so simple', but that 'in practice this simple scenario turned out to be the classic example of a nice story spoiled by a few facts'.

That explains exactly how UFO witnesses feel. We supply those 'few facts', but most find it difficult if not impossible to accept them - purely and simply because they weren't there at the time. My husband knew all the facts within minutes of my experience on day one, but to this day (23 years later) he still tells people - 'I know that something happened to her on that day that changed her, but I don't know what.'

If HE still doesn't understand after all this time (and he lives with me), how can any other husbands, wives, partners or friends be expected to understand. Indeed, more necessarily, how can investigators of the subject, whose only contact with the experiences is minute in comparison, understand?

I hope that this letter and my experiences will elicit observations from both the experiencers and investigators, also perhaps from readers who are in neither of these categories. It

would also be interesting to update the 'incomplete' accounts such as mine and mention the necessary and most important part which the WSG (*Witness Support Group*) plays in putting witnesses in touch with each other. The late Ken Phillips understood the importance of fellow experiencers comparing notes first-hand with each other. A great deal of understanding has come from this, if only to realise that we are not alone and have some support as the inevitable ridicule mounts up.

I hope this is not too presumptuous, but I believe a full understanding of the subject will only come from co-operation between both parties, for without the witness there would be nothing for investigators to investigate! I recently read a report of a sighting in an area I knew, and out of curiosity contacted the witnesses, only to find that immediately after the sighting was the only contact made with investigators. Nothing had been updated in the years that followed - including sightings which have happened in the last few weeks.

I sometimes think that BUFORA is missing out on the most important part of the experience. In my case and many others I know, it is a wonderful insight into a spiritual way of life. Maybe to realise what the UFO experience is really about, investigators shouldn't be clinically and statistically investigating. They should be building up an understanding from a realisation that it is the witness who should be leading the way as John Spencer suggested in his proposal for 'Witness Driven Investigation'? That has been one such exercise which I have been able to carry out myself and now I have a full understanding of the reasons for my own experience.

I hope this letter may bring comments and observations on the points I have raised.

Elsie Oakensen

*Church Stowe
December 2001*

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest the article in the October 2001 issue entitled:- Alien Abduction, Hypnosis and Memory, the debates rage on. Page 35. I found the comments by Judy Jafaar in total agreement with my own thoughts and feelings on the subject of hypnotic recall of abduction events.

I first began to study hypnotic memory recall some twenty years ago when some close friends and I became interested in past life recall. After some months of study and practice in both the conducting of hypnotic sessions on others and, to a greater extent, self-hypnosis I found that it was very easy to 'implant' false memories by the careful use of language during these sessions. It soon became obvious to us that this could become a very dangerous tool and my friends and I stopped any further experiments. I continued to use self-hypnosis as an aid to concentration, meditation and the control of pain – a visit to a dentist with a few days' preparation could be totally pain free! However, the demands of a young family and growing business allowed less time for this indulgence and it was many years before I thought of this subject again.

Some nine years ago after a long illness my wife passed away and I found that I was consumed with grief – to the extent that I was totally unable to function. Counselling was of no use and I rejected the drugs prescribed by my G.P. My thoughts turned to self-hypnosis. The periods of calm and clear meditation that it could induce seemed the answer to my present condition. Sadly I found that I could not concentrate for more than a few seconds and all attempts failed to bring about the peace of mind that I craved. In this state I read an advertisement for a local hypnotist. Stop smoking: lose weight: overcome your problems etc. etc. I'm sure you've seen this sort of ad. yourself. Well, it seemed worth a try.

The hypnotist appeared quite intelligent and assured me that she could help me out with a few sessions. The first session went quite

well and consisted of a lengthy introduction followed by a short period of light 'trance' induction to ensure 'that I would be a suitable subject'.

The second session started out with a deeper trance state, where I was fully aware of all that transpired, as at all times during this and subsequent sessions. The hypnotist at this point began to regress me to my childhood, taking me back further through memories of progressively younger years. At this stage I began to resist and became unco-operative. I could see no point in going down this path. I was brought out of the Trance State and we discussed the avenues the hypnotist wished to explore. After some discussion I agreed that we should continue in this area as she convinced me that through this way I could overcome my present problems.

The third session began as before and I was soon reliving a scene from my childhood when I was about five years old. I was in serious trouble as I had ruined a set of net curtains by cleaning the condensation off a window with them and tearing them in the process. My stepfather was giving me a real 'telling off'. At this point the hypnotist began to ask some very telling questions and it soon became clear she was sure that I was concealing many of the facts of this event. Without going into the details of the exact words, that I can remember very clearly, she soon had me convinced that a serious sexual assault took place at this time. Once I had been brought out of the hypnotic state I decided I would end this 'treatment' at once and paid up and left. To this day I now have two clear and contradictory memories of this one event.

To conclude, it is very easy to see that any person, even if they are aware of the problems of regression hypnosis can, if they are in a mental condition of some anxiety – typical after a 'strange occurrence' – can easily be induced with false and very disturbing memories. Any people will be desperate for an answer. As Judy says, the unconscious will be very happy to supply one

on demand! This does not imply that I think all hypnotists are deliberately trying to implant false memories into their subjects. It is just too easy to lead the person under hypnosis into false paths, without realising that you are doing it, and even easier to follow them down these false tracks

A BUFORA member
West Sussex
(Name and address supplied.)

Dear Sirs,

With this year marking 40 years of the existence of BUFORA I think it would be a good idea for you to invite people to write in to say what they think has been the single most significant case from the U.K. during those 40 years and what they think was the most significant from the rest of the world. They should also write a couple of sentences to explain why they think these are the best cases.

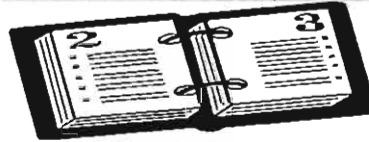
Only looking at the time since 1962 will rule out many of the classic cases. Perhaps it is sobering to think that all the major things which we associate with UFOs, such as flying saucer crashes (Roswell 1947); contactees (Adamski 1953); radar cases (Lakenheath 1956) and abductions (Antonio Villas-Boas 1957 and Betty and Barney Hill 1961) all pre-date our Society. Have UFOs moved forward at all during that time?

In 1962 we had cars like the Morris Minor and the Ford Popular which struggled to reach 30mph and heating and windscreen wipers were optional extras. Compare those with modern slick computer-based cars. Yet most UFOs still seem to be using the same 1960s technology. If we ever capture one, will it be driven by some big-eyed, bald-headed alien or some ageing hippy?!

Jim Smith, Bury.

An excellent idea, Jim. All contributions will be gratefully received. Which cases do YOU think best fit Jim's UFO criteria? Mind, I'm not sure I agree with him when it comes to cars. Seem to remember my Morris 8 and later a Ford Popular, from the late '40s and early '50s both being capable of 60mph and above and even possessing windscreen wipers as standard - though admittedly not at the rear!
Ed.

INVESTIGATIONS DIARY



Heather Dixon

Reflections on the Evolution of Ufology During the Nineties to Present Day Developments and Trends

To begin I would like to give readers a perspective of events and statistics for 2001 on UFOs and related anomalies. Sighting reports to BUFORA indicate that there is still a downward trend in interest as reports continued to fall for 2001. The year 2000 generated 163 reports and 2001 has fallen to a total of 142. Out of these, 10 fall into the high strangeness category. Ninety percent of the rest remain purely as reports of unusual lights in the sky. About 50% of these have been reported via the internet to BUFORA enquiries and follow up is restricted by a lack of interest on the part of the witness when we try to obtain further information. There is enthusiasm in reporting to our website, but continuity is lacking when they discover the mundane questions of form filling or their interest begins to fade or maybe be explained by other sightings in the area. People want to believe they have reported something that is remarkable and unexplainable and lose interest rapidly if this is not the case

There are still problems in gaining any kind of accurate national statistics, due in part to

local UFO groups that come and go and where reports tend to be inaccessible to anyone else. However, it is also evident from various sources that publishers and the press have a very low-grade interest in the UFO subject at the moment. This does not mean for one moment that it will stay that way. There have always been ebbs and flows in ufology and a spate of sighting reports etc. will usually generate more interest, particularly if this is covered by local press, leaving the door open for many people to come forward with their sightings, and therefore increasing the idea that there are areas, which claim to be inundated with UFOs. Of course this is rarely the case as people will report all kinds of things, which actually have nothing to do with the primary sighting. Therefore very inaccurate statistics are obtained for certain areas. Bonnybridge in Scotland is an example of this and certainly researcher Malcolm Robinson, who investigated many sightings in the area, commented about the exaggerated UFO statistics for the area, although there was certainly a higher level than normal for the area

Much of the nineties generated enormous interest in the whole subject due in part to the very successful series *The X Files* and several other science fiction television series and movies. In addition to that came the controversial and alleged Roswell alien footage promoted by Ray Santilli, so interest reached an all time high during that period, with an ever increasing number of UFO conferences, books, magazines and media coverage reinforcing much of the imagery associated with UFOs. This also led to a tremendous increase in UFO sighting reports to many organisations and agencies such as the police, airports, Jodrell Bank, MOD etc and so the public's perception of UFOs began to take on substance creating a legacy of hopes and fears about nuts and bolts spaceships visiting us from far distant planets to the idea that aliens were abducting us behind closed doors, or on lonely roads. This evolved quite radically due to an increasing number of books, articles and documentaries on the subject of abduction by aliens, many

of which were without substance or comprehensive research and certainly devoid of any relevant scientific balance.

One of the outstanding events in the early nineties was the MIT Abduction Study Conference in America, where both scientists and witness gathered together to collate and focus on the comprehensive and incredible raw data on abduction research that had been drawn together for this event. This instigated an academic encyclopaedic book documenting the wide-ranging discussions and conclusions of this conference.

And so the idea of alien abduction progressed through the nineties with stark alien imagery used everywhere including television advertising. Everyone became familiar with the visual sense of an archetypal alien and the scenario which related to it. More and more craziness developed around the subject of abduction and the idea that people were being abducted in real time by aliens and subjected to all manner of abuse for reasons of creating a hybrid race and other fanciful notions. These experiences were often investigated with the aid of regression hypnosis used as a tool to elicit the 'truth' about what the witness had experienced. The fact that hypnosis used in this way is riddled with inaccuracy and fantasy seemed immaterial to some researchers who used it in this way. And so the myths and rumours surrounding the nature of claims of alien abduction developed at a rapid pace supported by a host of media and press documentaries and articles.

Meanwhile across the Atlantic in America abduction researchers including academics were endorsing the idea of alien abduction in quite radical ways and there is no doubt that there were major differences between UK abduction researchers and American researchers particularly with regard to the idea pursued by researchers in the States that these experiences were occurring in the physical here and now world. These ideas and theories were disputed quite dramatically by some researchers within the UK and

many vociferous debates flowed back and forth electronically across the Atlantic.***

By the time the very late nineties occurred, many UFO magazines had gone out of business as interest in the idea of visiting spaceships diminished somewhat and ennui set in with regard to the media sources, who had been responsible for promoting alien abduction stories. Evidence of this decrease became more and more apparent with regard to sighting reports to BUFORA and from 1998 annual statistics continued to drop and there has been a downward spiral since then and to date.

Debunkers of the idea of a UFO phenomenon were very happy to embrace this trend, as were sceptics to a point, and the believers in the idea of UFOs as being alien spacecraft would continue to point out that the real story was very different, there were cover-ups and government conspiracies, which were hiding the fact that there were indeed aliens and spaceships visiting this planet under cover with major life changing schemes in store for us. And so the beat went on.

Whatever the theories, debates and disputes relating to alien abductions issues during the last twelve years, there is no doubt that there are mysteries that we are still failing to explain. An ever increasing number of people are reporting experiences that lie outside that which science can explain and this trend is escalating as we settle into the 21st century. Of course relevant scientific disciplines can be counted on to explain some of these experiences, but few get involved with the real issues which surround ordinary people reporting extraordinary experiences. They are also incredibly unaware of the amount of raw data that organisations like BUFORA and many others receive. This curtails any opportunity to really study what maybe occurring and many show a dismissive attitude to the idea that there is indeed a mountain of data out there, which needs to be investigated and this is important data indeed for the 21st century, if only for the need to understand the enormous potential of the

human consciousness. Research and investigation within BUFORA and many other UFO organisations extends far beyond their original remit and has done for a very long time. This sometimes has gone unrecognised, as we have focused and studied only one area when we needed to look in a comprehensive way at the whole picture of the witness, their physicality, their mentality and their spirituality in addition to their background of environment, beliefs and their desires. These are areas which BUFORA investigators/researchers are very much aware of and it is probably crucial that we are able to concentrate our efforts into conducting some very in-depth research into these areas for publication and for our website. Any investigators or members, who feel they have some relevant insight into these issues please contact either myself or Judy Jaafar.

To sum up on the above, it is my belief that there are a residual of high strangeness cases reported to BUFORA, which defy any rational explanation at all after thorough investigation. This may not necessarily mean that in time or within the correct resources they cannot be explained, but it maybe that we are looking at unknown natural phenomena, which connects with our brain waves to produce some strange and inexplicable effects upon us, drawing us into a journey of mind boggling experiences, which are completely subjective ones and do not have a point of reference for explanation by a third party, who has observed or witnessed these events occurring. It may also be the case that during these experiences there are direct links to otherworld realities which exist beyond the parameters of the physical world as we understand it. Because of this, the witness sets out on a mission of self discovery to try and understand what these experiences are. BUFORA is one of the agencies they may use on their way and it has become crucial now that we are able to draw on these experiences reported to us and try to define some aspects of what may be occurring within our research. To this end, we hope to be able to arrange a training day

for investigators and members in order to illustrate the diverse area that investigation and research covers in this subject. Details of this, when finalised, will be publicised.

Meanwhile here we are in 2002 with reports to BUFORA still falling. I think that it is doubtful that this is a true reflection of international or even national reports. The internet has certainly changed the way people make these reports with many reporting their sightings on UFO and paranormal websites or in chatrooms etc., so it is unlikely that we have anywhere close to a true picture of the reality of what is really going on in the UFO and paranormal world of reports and experiences and this is certainly a major problem in allowing researchers to focus with any definition on the true anomalies in order to explore and examine the nature of extraordinary human experiences and whether there are a residual that do indeed lie outside the boundaries of what science can explain both now and in the future.

So what does 2002 have in store? There are several things going on that may strike a chord into turning the subject around. *Men in Black 2* will also be released this year in addition to *Taken* a Steven Spielberg TV series to be broadcast on the Sci-Fi channel in October of this year, which as you will realise by the title will be looking at abduction. The release of these films together with BUFORA's Fortieth Anniversary and brand new lecture programme as a joint effort between Malcolm Robinson of Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) and BUFORA will certainly be setting the stage for a revival of the subject and so it will be fascinating to see what happens later this year and whether this will show an influx of reports to BUFORA.



Phenomenal Afternoons in London

Meetings will be held at The Sol's Arms, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PN and will last from 3.00pm to 6.30pm. Nearest tube station is Warren Street on the Northern line. Entrance: Public £6.00. SPI and BUFORA members £5.00 (Light Refreshments included)

Tickets available from our Box Office; Evolution: P.O.Box 633, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2GL. Advance Tickets call: 07949 178835. Tickets also on sale at the door. All cheques payable to Strange Phenomena Investigations
UFOcall: Dial 09068 121886 for news, updates, forthcoming lectures, etc. Just dial and listen. BT Premium rate call charges apply

Saturday September 7th. Mathew Williams: *The UFO Abduction Phenomenon. Note: Speaker Change.*

Please note new AGM date

Saturday October 5th Bufora AGM from 1.30pm until 3pm,
Then lecture by John Spencer, 'Ghosts & Poltergeists, The Impertinent Questions'.

Saturday November 2nd. Jenny Ayres (nee Eales): *A Demonstration Of Clairvoyance.*
Michael Ayres: *A Demonstration Of Trance Mediumship.*

Saturday December 7th.

Change to advertised speaker!

Brian Allen
Reading the Mind of God
The possibility of Parallel Universes.....
Please note the changes to arrangements for AGM on 5th Oct and the change of topic in December as well as the Speaker.

About BUFORA

BUFORA was founded in 1962, as a federation of regional UFO groups throughout the UK. Many of these groups were formed in the 1950s. These included the British Flying Saucer Bureau, founded in 1952 (which is believed to be the UK's oldest UFO group), and the London UFO Research Organisation formed in 1959 and the largest UK organisation at the time. In 1962 the group was known as the British UFO Association, changing its name in 1964 to the present British UFO Research Association. BUFORA became a company limited by guarantee in 1975. This means that in the event of BUFORA being wound up each members undertaking to cover any outstanding debts is limited to £1. It was intended to be a prelude to seeking charity status. BUFORA is registered under the U.K. Data Protection Act, and amongst other things membership records are held on a computer database. (It is the policy of BUFORA NOT to release membership records to third parties.)

BUFORA is run entirely by volunteers, relying solely on its members to fund and carry out its investigation, research and educational activities. The day to day running of BUFORA is in the hands of a Council of Management drawn from the members.

Membership of BUFORA is open to all who support the aims of the association, and whose application is approved by the Council of Management.

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AIMS OF BUFORA

The three aims of BUFORA are:-

- To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom
- To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects
- To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

ACTIVITIES OF BUFORA

BUFORA organises a regular programme of lectures on a variety of UFO related topics. As dates, times and locations can vary it is best to enquire about the current programme.

Members receive free of charge, six issues per year, of its regular publication 'New Bufora Journal', which carries details of investigated reports and results of research projects.

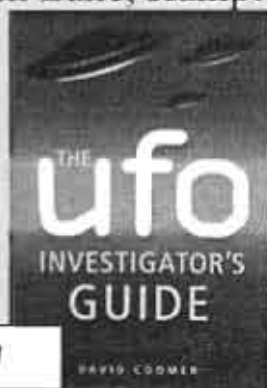
BUFORA operates the 'UFOCALL' information service which carries information about reports and updates on events (phone: 09068 121 886; Charge, currently 60p per minute.) These pre-recorded messages are updated regularly

PUBLICATIONS OF BUFORA

Details of publications currently available (including back issues of Journals) can be obtained from the registered office (enclose S.A.E. please).

Some BUFORA publications are also available through Spacelink Books, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, TW12 2QY England

Lionel Beer, Spacelink Books,
115, Hollybush Lane, Hampton, TW12 2QY



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