

British UFO Research Association



CRICKETING ENCOUNTER—SEE REPORT EXTRA!

# bufo journal

Vol 6 No 4 November/December 1977

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# BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 6 Number 4

November/December 1977

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## Editorial

No theory regarding the nature of UFOs or—if they are in fact extra-terrestrial—where they come from, has yet been proven. One can, as of now, only offer alternatives of varying degrees of credibility: and these degrees will differ themselves according to the type of outlook of the individual researcher: I believe that to be a fair statement of the present position.

William of Occam was a 14th century Franciscan friar who came up with what has since become known as '*Occam's Razor*,' a philosophical maxim which basically said '*Entities are not to be multiplied without necessity*': quite appropriate when you think about it! This was later amended—perhaps expanded would be a better term, by Bertrand Russell into '*If everything in some science can be interpreted without assuming this or that hypothetical entity, there is no ground for assuming it.*' Another version has

been '*We should get by with the smallest number of hypothetical elements and only bring in extra mechanisms when we're stumped.*'

Now let us take the possibility of extra-terrestrial visitors. Using the ETH, we've to assume not only the visitants themselves, but also that faster-than-light travel is possible (and I'm not saying it isn't). We've to assume that for some reason an extraordinarily large number of solar, extra-solar and even extra-galactic planetary populations are interested in US. We've to assume that a large number of extra-terrestrial civilisations are at a comparable state of technical evolution to ourselves: for think about it—we have advanced technically many times as far in the last hundred years as we did in the previous thousand, and what was happening here even only ten thousand years ago is almost guesswork, and those statements about visitants being five thousand, ten thousand or millions of years ahead of us may well be absolute nonsense! So, with the ETH we have to make not one, but a large number of assumptions.

I submit, therefore, that it is in accordance with Occam's Razor to interpret UFO events as having an earthly origin if this can be done without the necessity of dragging in Other Worlds—and I consider it can. Staying with this point for a moment, if an earthly origin is postulated, can it be done without the necessity of dragging in Parallel Universes, Time-travel or Keel's Ultra-terrestrials: I consider it can.

May we well not be missing the whole

*continued overleaf*

point because most people do not take seriously the possibility there may be other advanced civilisations on or under this planet—largely, perhaps, because they think this has of necessity to encompass the Hollow Earth theory as well. Is it not, after all, logical that such races, if they wished to confuse us regarding their place of origin, would try to get us searching upwards, not downwards? And is it also not logical that it would be far easier to postulate forms of mental manipulation to be emanating from sources on this planet rather than sources from, or sources that have travelled from many light-years dis-

tant? When you think about it, SHOULD the source or sources of UFOs happen to be on our own planet we're somewhat better placed to locate it or them than if they're on a planet or planets light-years away!

Let me just add that I am NOT advocating the Hollow Earth theory: I am NOT saying that UFOs DO come from our own planet. I AM saying that no avenue of investigation should be neglected, and that this line of thought is one that has hitherto received comparatively little attention. It just might help if we gave it a little more.

Norman Oliver

## Book Review

*Apparitions* by Celia Breen and Charles McCreery.  
£3.75 (1975), Institute of Psychophysical Research, Oxford.

This book is the result of many years experience of research into the 'paranormal' visual and auditory manifestations which have hitherto been lumped together as 'Apparitions.'

Their material has been derived from many sources which are listed also from the archives of the *Institute of Psychophysical Research* and the *Society for Psychical Research* which have accepted these cases as worthwhile evidence.

It is a serious attempt to bring some order into an intricate and complex subject which—it seems to me—is bound to defeat an attempt at close analysis because of its resistance to usual scientific methods of investigation and the limitations of the human mind.

These sentiments would seem to apply equally well to analysis of UFO manifestations, but it is interesting to find that few, if any, of the apparitions cited appear to be linked to those we have come to expect in the sphere of

Ufology, and it stresses the fact that the authors do not appear to have updated their evidence much since the early years of this century before the 'UFO era' had become consolidated. However, it is a sincere and heavily painstaking work and the comments made on the cases quoted attempt to provide some sort of explanation of their origins. These seem to range from telepathy to 'genuine' external Operators via traditional hauntings and dreams.

Hoaxing is not mentioned and there is little attention given to the role of drugs and mental illness in the production of visual phenomena. I feel that it is a book which will be of more value to the serious researcher into our ability on occasion to see visions and to dream dreams than to the casual reader. Incidentally, if the excitement seekers are beguiled into purchasing the book by the lure of the formidable unclothed beldame on the jacket they are in for a big disappointment.

Dr G G Doel

# UFO Reports and Scientific Investigation of Rare Phenomena—1

Philip Taylor

It has been said many times, in this journal and elsewhere, that the UFO phenomena is not amenable to normal scientific investigation because it lacks that one feature beloved by scientists—repeatability. This is a factor absent from almost all psychic manifestations and perhaps explains why UFOs are so often allied with the paranormal, whether in condemnation or enthusiasm. A UFO cannot, in the vast majority of cases, be studied at leisure in the laboratory, since it consists solely of a report, and that usually by a non-scientist. Normally there is no physical trace, such as film, photographs or markings which permit further analysis.

In these articles I will compare UFO reports with those of two rare physical phenomena: fireballs and ball lightning. Although different they share two important features of UFOs: they are unpredictable in time and space, are relatively infrequent and thus not often seen by scientists in person. They are therefore studied at second hand via reports from members of the public and so rely on the same 'flimsy evidence' as UFOs (ignoring for the moment the relatively recent fireball-recording networks). Looking at UFOs in isolation from other scientific investigation is unproductive and I believe that study of the types or reporting and investigation of these phenomena and others like them can teach a lot about UFOs, so I hope I am permitted to deviate from describing UFOs pure and simple.

## Fireballs

As a meteoroid falls through the atmosphere it produces a streak of light which, if sufficiently bright, is termed

a fireball (they must appear as brighter than the planet Venus, stellar magnitude  $-4$ ). They can give rise to solid remnants, a meteorite, on rare occasions. It is estimated that on average 1.2 fireballs occur each night over the British Isles; more than 60% are not reported due to cloud or their occurring at inconvenient times. It is those which do give rise to reports that are of interest. A very bright fireball, such as that of 27 December 1973, will give rise to a very large number of reports from widely distributed points. These reports are sufficiently detailed to enable a quite accurate track to be computed for the meteoroid. In the case previously mentioned, about 1000 reports were received by the *British Astronomical Association*. With extensive publicity, as was done in the Isle of Man on this occasion, 120 reports were procured from this area alone: about 1 for every 400 adults on the island. This implies that the total number of persons seeing the fireball was in fact tens of thousands over Scotland and Northern England. This case was ideal in that it occurred at 9 p.m. on a clear evening, but there have been many similar instances where there have been numerous witnesses able to give accurate positions, colour, etc. The comparison with UFO reports is instructive—how many UFO reports resemble those of fireballs? None that I am aware of: the typical UFO report is restricted to 1 or 2 people at a single geographic location and frequently is not of high quality (*Bottomley 1976*). What this leads me to conclude is not that the reports are spurious, but that the large glowing craft flying at high altitudes

*continued overleaf*

sometimes described as giving rise to UFO reports, could easily produce the entire number of UFOs reported in Britain to date in a single night. The fact that this is not so is a major factor against the extra-terrestrial craft hypothesis: we must introduce another hypothesis that for some unknown reason the craft are visible only below a certain altitude.

In the *Condon Report (Section VI, Chapter 2)*, Hartmann, by comparing fireball and UFO reports in the USA, comes to the conclusion that the number of UFOs reported is far too high to have eluded detection by conventional means, eg. radar and photography. However, he makes several invalid assumptions: if UFOs were high-level phenomena it would indeed be incredible that there were so many reports without copious 'hard' evidence. However, I think the above argument shows that they cannot be so. A more minor point is the time factor he introduces and considers important in determining the number of observers: surely it is not true that a 30 second event will be witnessed by 3 times as many people as a 10 second one—it is simply a matter of being in the right place at the right time to observe a sky phenomenon of brief duration. His figures for the numbers witnessing fireball events show a lower rate of reporting than the case previously described—for example, his figure of 1 out of every 200,000 people reporting

a fireball. All told, I do not think this type of numbers game can be applied to UFOs; the number of separate events involved in UFO reports is practically equal to the number of reports, quite a different situation from that which he assumes.

Finally, the reporting pattern of fireballs may cast some light on the relationship between the number of UFO 'close encounters' and population density. These occur with much greater frequency in the sparsely populated areas (*Vallee & Vallee, 1966*), and this effect is held to be a real one and not an observational anomaly. There have been several cases of fireballs passing over the London area and producing no sighting whatever from the built-up areas despite reports from nearby countryside. Although this by no means refutes the population density theory, it illustrates the reduction in peoples' perception of 'things celestial' in a city environment—but not, we may assume, their reaction to an extraordinary experience such as those described as close encounters.

For a reporting pattern more resembling that of UFOs we must turn to a more mysterious and controversial phenomenon—that of Ball Lightning which will be dealt with in Part 2.

*A reference list for both Part 1 and Part 2 will be given at the end of Part 2 in the next issue—Ed.*

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### **Investigators Handbook**

Supplies of the First Edition of the *Handbook* have now run out. Mr S Gamble will be collating suggestions for improvements to be incorporated in a Second Edition. Suggestions should be sent in detail to: Mr S J Gamble, Anson Primary School, Anson Road, London NW2 4AB.

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*AWARENESS*—the Journal of Contact UK. Details from The National Chairman, Contact UK, 59d Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford.

## Points from the Press

Valerie Martin

The *Daily Mail* of 15 July and many other newspapers carried the story of the macabre deaths of 15 Dartmoor ponies, whose bodies were found in a remote valley near Postbridge. Animal experts were baffled by the shattered bones and rapid decomposition and the *Devon UFO Centre* of Torquay investigated because of similarities with animal mutilations in the USA which have been linked with UFO activity, but failed to find evidence. Various causes were suggested, including poisoning by eating bog asphodel, drowning in a cloud burst, stampeding, or starvation due to poor grazing, with predators pulling the bones apart. Later reports from *Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society* which is collecting information on neglect, indicated that the animals could have died elsewhere and the carcasses dragged there to avoid owner's liability for burial.

\* \* \*

The *West Briton* of 5 May had an account of a brilliant white star seen moving along the skyline near Truro, pulsating, getting larger as it moved towards the witness's house and changing to flame red as it disappeared.

\* \* \*

The *Cornish Times* of 18 March had a report by a Polperro restaurateur of a round yellow moving star seen in early morning, which lit up the whole village and left him with a feeling of goodwill for the next 24 hours.

\* \* \*

In the *West Briton and Royal Cornwall Gazette* of 26 May, a possible explanation for the pulsating orange lights seen in West Cornwall that Spring was offered by a former Naval flier. They

could be beams of light used by meteorologists to calculate cloud base heights. Both RNAS Culdrose and RAF St Mawgan confirmed that they use such measuring devices even on so-called cloudless nights when a veil of medium cloud at 8000 to 10000 feet is almost invisible. However the meteorologists consulted did not consider all sightings were within their range.

\* \* \*

The *Romford Reporter* of 24 June mentioned that Norman Oliver was to be guest speaker that evening at a special anniversary meeting of the *Essex UFO Study Group*, held to commemorate the coining of the word 'flying saucer' 30 years ago.

\* \* \*

The *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* of 2 July and many provincial papers had an article on the first international UFO congress held in Chicago in June. Speakers included Dr J. Allen Hynek and Ken Arnold the original saucer spotter. Among the cases discussed was the famous sighting by President Carter in Thomastown, Georgia in 1973.

\* \* \*

In the *Daily Telegraph* of 12 August, the UFO seen by President Carter at Leary, Georgia on 6 January 1969, was the planet Venus, according to Dr Robert Sheaffer, member of the *Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Paranormal*.

\* \* \*

The *Evening Gazette* of 6 July reported that 2 police patrol officers had seen something they could not identify in the sky at 4.33 am near Skipton, Yorkshire.

*continued overleaf*

The *Daily Mail* of 18 July had a short item on the sighting by a police dog-handler of a white cigar-shaped object hovering over Arkesden and a similar UFO seen 20 miles away. Essex police have notified the MoD and UFO experts.

\* \* \*

The *Grimsby Evening Telegraph* of 8 July quoted a reply from the Under Secretary of State for Defence for the RAF, James Wellbeloved, to the MP for Brigg and Scunthorpe, and former meteorologist John Ellis, which said that the MoD had no explanation for the small triangular, and oval and cigar-shaped objects reported to RAF Binbrook earlier this year.

\* \* \*

The *Bromley Times* of 16 June in an article on local UFO sightings, mentioned Timothy Good, Bufora member and top researcher. One investigation he could not explain was a large round light which divided into 4 more lights, plus a red one, flashing on and off.

\* \* \*

The *Yorkshire Evening Press* of 8 July had a report on 2 teenage boys who watched a mystery object shaped like a boomerang and with 4 coloured lights flashing on and off, hovering for 3½ hours the previous night.

\* \* \*

The *Evening Standard* of 8 July showed drawings made independently by 3 girls aged 11, and described the strange craft they saw one lunchbreak from their South Woodford school playground. Heading towards London the silver-grey object, shaped like the letter 'A' had 6 propellers, spikes protruding from the sides, and red writing.

The *Stroud News and Journal* of 14 July had an article on Cotswold Hospital Radio, featuring Graham Knewstub, a vice-president of Bufora who had appeared on the 'Sunday Omnibus' programme discussing UFO cases and his work with the Association.

\* \* \*

The *Journal* of 13 July had a paragraph on the Newcastle Festival 'Flying Saucers have landed' exhibition. Visitors were invited to fill in sighting forms if they had seen anything unusual, but at close of the exhibition the box provided was empty.

\* \* \*

The *Surrey Herald* of 23 June mentioned that Bufora is investigating the sighting of a strange pulsating oval light hovering above trees at the bottom of Mr & Mrs Steel's garden at 12.20 am one morning. Accompanied by a terrifying noise similar to a helicopter's, it was in view for about 30 seconds before moving away, and Joan Steel described it to Norman Oliver as unlike anything she had seen before.

\* \* \*

The *Telegraph & Argus* of 30 June had a telephone call from 2 ambulance men who reported they had seen a silver disc-shaped object bigger than an aeroplane hovering over Thornbury, Bradford, for about 6 minutes, at 12.45 pm.

\* \* \*

The *Daily Telegraph* of 2 August reported that a UFO airport had been opened at Varese near Lake Maggiore. A spokesman said it was built because beings from outer space have decided to land in chosen areas, and he and associates had been in contact with them for 4 years.

*continued on p15*



# Report—Extra!

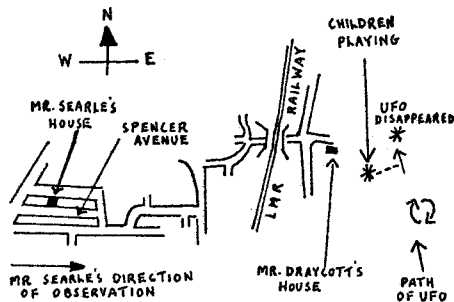
Presented by Norman Oliver

Though the South Wales 'Flap' has eased somewhat, reports are still flooding in country-wide and, as the selection in this issue shows, the proportion of LITS still seems to be much lower than normal. Our feature opens with a report from the Midlands (see front cover impression by Jennifer Cook).

\* \* \*

## Cricketing encounter

*Inv T J Thornton*



NOT TO SCALE

On Wednesday, 11 May 1977 at 8.45 pm, Mr Stephen Searle of Spencer Avenue, Thurmaston, Leics, reported seeing a bright object moving in the eastern sky: he described it as 'a very bright light low in the sky moving slowly from left to right. Through binoculars it appeared as a round white ball.' He watched it for a couple of minutes before it shot straight up and disappeared in five seconds.

At the same time, Mr G F Draycott, over half a mile away in Colby Drive, also saw a bright light in the same direction which 'all of a sudden seemed to shoot and hover above fields where the kids were playing cricket: the next minute it just went across our place, stayed there for a minute, then it was

gone: it just hovered—no noise whatsoever. Then the kids came running from the field—they were frightened.' The children—who included Mr Draycott's son Adrian—said that the object had come towards them from the south-east and had circled a light aircraft flying past at the time, apparently stopping the aircraft in mid-flight: then it disappeared above them. They reported hearing a humming noise. Adrian aged 10, made a rough drawing of the object which appeared to have red lights on the underside: a similar drawing was made by Lance Crouch, also aged 10. The colour of the body of the object was silver and was comparable to the brightness of car headlamps.

Checks with Leicester Aero Club, East Midlands Airport and the police however, produced no further reports

\* \* \*

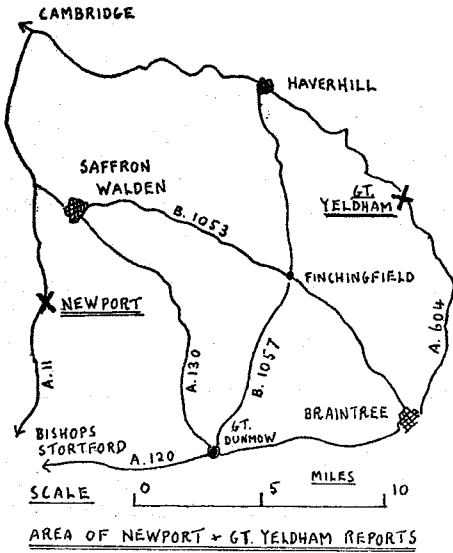
## Constable sees 'Cigar'

*Inv Andy Collins*

P C Frost is a police dog-handler and when 'on call' covers any part of Essex. On 17 July 1977, he was patrolling country lanes in north-western Essex. At about 01.30 he stopped his mini-van just off the A11 near Newport: the vehicle was facing south across fields. At 02.50 he glanced up and saw at between 30°-40° a cigar-shaped object becoming larger. It had approximately a 3 to 1 ratio of length to width, was orangey-red in colour and was very sharp and bright with slightly convex sides.

This object remained stationary for about fifteen minutes, then shot to the right and again stopped: this time it appeared to turn on its vertical, central axis, showing its circular cross-section:

it repeated the manoeuvres several times, changing to a deep red colour. Then, after a few further minutes, it shot off eastwards, appearing as a white glow moving across the sky.

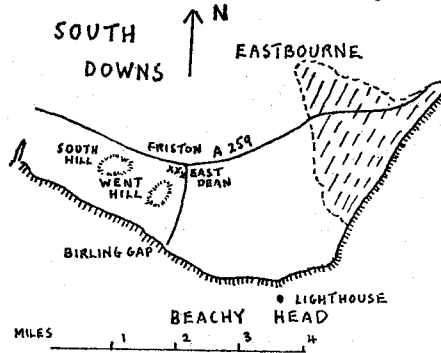


The witness (name on file but withheld by request) had woken up at 4 am and opened the back door to let the dog out. She saw a bright object hanging in the sky. It was head-on towards her and had a circular cross-section. Protruding from the centre of each side was a 'wing'—quite thin with slight dihedral: these appeared to be wider than an aircraft's wings. Pointed towards the ground were two 'legs' also slightly angled outwards: the whole object was silvery, shiny and self-luminous. For about eight minutes it remained perfectly stationary at an angle of some 20°-30° before it began to get lost behind several clouds passing by, finally becoming completely obscured. It then reappeared to the south-east apparently still head-on: again disappeared behind cloud, then made a final brief reappearance in a patch of clear sky to the north-east. There had been no sound.

\* \* \*

### Sussex Downs cylinder

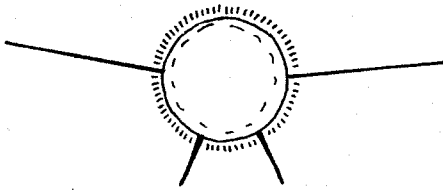
*Inv Larry Dale*



### 'Legs and Wings' over Great Yeldham

*Inv Andy Collins*

Despite variations in time and description, comparison may be made with the previous report, as this was also seen in the same direction and was only about twenty miles away. Andy's report refers to it being on the same day, whilst at the same time dating it on 18 July, but this is presumably because it refers to the night of 17/18 July.



One Saturday last October, Mrs Causton of East Dean, Eastbourne, was preparing a meal at 4.45 pm, and was in fact looking at the sunset and the pink fleecy clouds which were drifting from the south-west. Then she noticed one which seemed to be stationary in the 'V' between two

houses on the skyline of the hill opposite at Friston. Looking more closely, she saw that it was cylindrical in shape and seemed to be hovering: it appeared to be glowing from the inside but she wasn't close enough to see if the thing had any windows or portholes. She called her husband who agreed that it was an unusual object. After about five minutes it tilted slightly to one side and gradually moved towards the south and disappeared from view.

Its movement had been in the opposite direction to that in which clouds were moving and neither witness had seen anything like it before. They were not near enough to say for sure whether any sound had come from the object, though they heard none.

\* \* \*

### Another school report

Mention has been made in previous Journals of sightings by pupils at schools in Broad Haven, Herbrandston Anglesey, Edenhurst and elsewhere. The following letter was recently received from the Librarian of Ashfield School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. The report is currently under further investigation:

'Dear Sir,

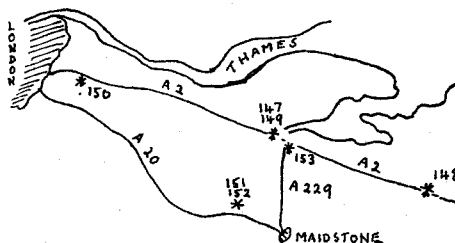
*I wish to report a UFO sighting. At approximately 11.30 am on Thursday, 30th June, two cigar-shaped flying objects were observed by one of our PE teachers together with 15 children. The objects were white or silver in colour, without wings or visible means of propulsion, and progressed roughly from NE to SW over the Nottinghamshire village of Huthwaite which is two miles or so from the school. They were flying in tandem, with one above the other and hanging about a length behind. The teacher concerned estimates the air speed to be anything between 500-1000 mph at*

*a height of about 300 feet. Earlier in the day a 'Goodyear' Airship had been sighted by the same teacher, and he is adamant that the UFOs in no way resembled airships. I hope this information will be of use to you, and we would be interested to hear if anything similar was reported that day so that we can plot its course across the country. . . . .'*

\* \* \*

### Medway 'multiple'

*Invs M Ford, f Castle*



#### KEY

|           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 147, 149. | ROCHESTER 22.00     |
| 148.      | SITTINGBOURNE 21.50 |
| 150.      | BEXLEY 21.57        |
| 151, 152  | AYLESFORD 21.57     |
| 153       | CHATHAM 21.45       |

Whilst not falling into the 'high-strangeness' category, this report is included because of the large number of witnesses involved. At least seven different reports quoting fourteen different witnesses were received from over a wide area, and it would appear there were a large number of other witnesses also. This is what was variously described as having been seen:

*Report 77-147: 21 May 1977 (for all reports). Witness was looking across Priestfields recreation ground, Rochester, Kent and saw a single white light moving along slowly parallel to the edge of the ground. It was large and bright, and after two to three minutes suddenly disappeared as though going behind cloud, but there was none. Time of sighting: 22.00.*

*Report 77-148:* Neville Goldsmith, an ex-RAF instrument technician was travelling on the A2 by car with his wife and family between Bapchild and Sittingbourne. They all saw a white light apparently hovering over the western end of Sittingbourne. On stopping the car, they realised it was not a single light, but one large one with three or four smaller ones very close together: these 'pulsed' rather than twinkled and after a minute faded away as if being covered by cloud.

*Time of sighting: 21.50.*

*Report 77-149:* Mike Ford, himself a Bufora member and investigator, observed in the sky above Rochester what was apparently a very large object showing three bright lights in a line, though there was no visible shape. No sound could be heard, and there was very little movement, if any. Witness went into a building and on coming out two or three minutes later nothing was to be seen.

*Time of sighting: 22.00.*

*Report 77-150:* Witness was driving westwards from Bexley with his wife when they saw three bright lights in the sky to the right of the New Moon. These were bright, very close together and seemed to belong to one object—apparently stationary. After several seconds, the three lights merged into one and suddenly disappeared.

*Time of sighting: 21.57.*

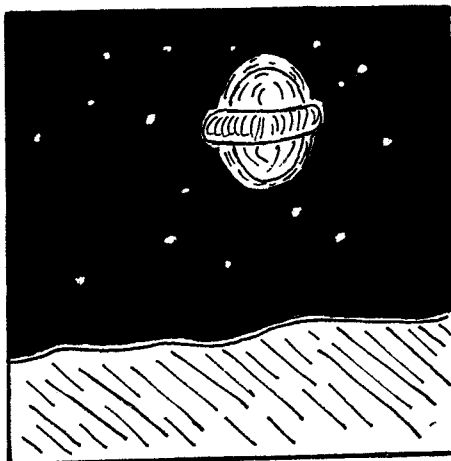
*Reports 77-151, 152:* Keith Beschi and Caroline Chapman, both of Aylesford reported observing an object with three bright white lights in a line. The object appeared to change direction and accelerate, first the outer lights, then the centre one disappearing. No outline could be seen.

*Time of sighting: 21.57.*

*Report 77-153:* Betty Cunningham was travelling home along the A229 towards Chatham in a minibus. As it passed Rochester Airport passengers remarked on a strange object in the sky. Looking out of the window she saw what appeared to be three lights in a row near the Moon: at first seeming stationary, they then appeared to move slowly and turned as though they were one object. Another passenger had watched the lights for over five minutes. *Time of sighting: 21.45.*

\* \* \*

### **Rotating top at Leigh**



At 5.15 am on Monday, 28 February 1977, Mr Craske was disturbed in his sleep at his home in Leigh, Worcester, by screeching cats. On going to the window, his eyes were drawn to a large bright object in the sky. This was rotating, the shape being that of a child's top with a distinct halo round the middle. The object moved first to the left, then to the right, then upwards and downwards against the backcloth of stars. Mr Craske awoke his wife and together they watched the object

## BUFORA LTD

The Second Annual General Meeting of BUFORA Ltd will be held at the Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road entrance, in the Lecture Theatre at 7.00 pm on Saturday, 3 December, 1977, to receive the President's Address, the Chairman's Statement, the Report of the Council of Management for the Year ended 31 August, 1977, the Report of the Auditor, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to elect the Members of the Council for the following year according to the Articles of Association.

1 September, 1977.

Miss B D WOOD, *Secretary*,  
on behalf of the Council of Management.

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a Member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's Registered Office, Hazlemont House, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the Meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3 December, 1977

#### AGENDA

1. Notice convening the Meeting.
2. Minutes of First Annual General Meeting.
3. President's Address.
4. Chairman's Statement.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Director of Research's Report
7. Adoption of the Report of the Council of Management, of the Report of the Auditor, and of the Accounts for the year ended 31 August, 1977.
8. Re-appointment of Auditor.
9. Election of Directors to the Council of Management for the ensuing year.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REPORT OF THE AUDITOR to the Members of BUFORA Ltd.

I have examined the attached Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and Notes attached thereto. These have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

In my opinion these accounts give, under the accounting convention stated above, a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs at 31 August 1977 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the period ended on that date and have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967.

Hazlemont House,  
Gregory Boulevard,  
Nottingham.

J C FOXON,  
*Chartered Accountant.*  
1st October, 1977.

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT for the twelve months ended 31 August, 1977

1. This Report and the attached set of Accounts and Report of the Auditor cover the first full year of operations from 1976 to 1977 August, 31.
2. The state of the Company's affairs is as indicated in the attached Balance Sheet.
3. The principal activities of the Company during the Financial Period have been to encourage promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom, to collect and disseminate evidence relating to UFOs, and to co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such work throughout the World.
4. The Membership of the Company at 31 August 1976 was 605 and at 31 August 1977 it was 577. The Registered Membership was raised by 100 to 550 during the year.
5. A National Conference was held on 5-7 November 1976 in Birmingham and seven Lecture Meetings during the year in London and Manchester. The National Conference Proceedings are in course of preparation.

*continued overleaf*

6. Six editions of the BUFORA Journal were distributed to Members and exchanged with other organisations Worldwide. The BUFORA Investigators Handbook was published and the entire edition sold out. Sales of the UFO Guide and the three Science Papers, "The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Spacecraft," Viewing, "Investigation Procedures," Whitaker, and "An Engineer's Look at UFOs," Cramp, continue.
7. Research has continued into Vehicle Interference Cases and 410 Reports have been catalogued. A Paper is in course of preparation. A Research Grant has been made to enable the setting up of electro-magnetic noise monitoring stations in relation to UFO Reports in the Kent area. Research has begun into a comparative study of Radar Cases.
8. Investigation of about 400 UFO Reports has been initiated during the year and these have been added to BUFORA's Case Catalogue. An Investigators' Training Programme is continuing to be developed.
9. The following Members constituted the Council of Management as at 31 August 1977:
 

|             |                 |                  |                  |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mr L E Beer | Miss B D Wood   | Mr S L Smith     | Mrs S A Harcourt |
| Mr A R Pace | Mr C F Lockwood | Miss J C Randles | Mr N T Oliver    |
| Mr S Gamble | Mr R Nash       | Mr M Stenhoff    |                  |

 In addition the following Members have served on the Council during the year:
 

|                  |                   |             |             |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mr C A E O'Brien | Mr K W C Phillips | Mr R C Beet | Mr J Webber |
| Mr R H Stanway   |                   |             |             |
10. No Member of the Council received any remuneration during the year.
11. Under Sections 49 & 50 of the Articles of Association, the following Members of Council are retiring by rotation:
 

|               |              |                |                  |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Miss B D Wood | Mr S L Smith | Mrs A Harcourt | Miss J C Randles |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|

 Under Section 37 the following Member of Council appointed during the year is retiring: Mr S Gamble.  
 All retiring Members, except Miss J C Randles who has resigned her Directorship since August 31, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

L E BEER,  
*Chairman.*

Registered Office:  
Hazlemont House,  
Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the time of Roger Stanway's unexpected resignation from the Chairmanship shortly before last year's AGM (1976), I was not a member of the Council of Management. Being unhappy with some of the policies being adopted, which I felt were not in the best interests of members, I had resigned from the Council earlier in the year. On 5 February 1977, the Council elected me to the Chair, and I have done my best to co-ordinate the Association's activities in my limited spare time, but admit a great deal has still to be done.

I have been extremely impressed by the loyalty and the unstinting and unrewarded hard work of my colleagues both on and off the Council. On the administrative side, I can say that without the conscientious work done by Betty Wood, Anne Harcourt, Stephen Smith and Arnold West, my position would have been untenable. I am indebted to Norman Oliver not only for his excellent lecture programme and continuing editorial work, but for his willingness to make time to discuss BUFORA activities with me. On the R. and I. side, I pay tribute to Ken Phillips' work as Investigations' Co-ordinator, and to Anthony Pace and Charles Lockwood for their (often behind the scenes) work. There are many more people I would like to thank including our photographic section and our many investigators who have remained loyal to BUFORA. Finally I would like to thank most cordially the large number of members who have donated hard cash. The level of research and investigation that can be supported is directly proportional to these members' generosity.

I conclude by saying that I am always open to consider constructive suggestions and criticisms (preferably in writing) that members have, and to refer them to the Council as appropriate.

October 1977.

LIONEL BEER.

## BUFORA LTD

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

|   | 12 months<br>to 31.8.77 |               | 9 months<br>to 31.8.76 |               |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
|   | £                       | £             | £                      | £             |
| <b>INCOME</b>   |                         |               |                        |               |
| Subscriptions .....   |                         | 2159          |                        | 1597          |
| Life Subscriptions maturing .....   |                         | 60            |                        | 39            |
| Publications Sales .....  | 715                     |               | 103                    |               |
| Less: Printing and postage .....  | 663                     |               | 46                     |               |
|   |                         | 52            |                        | 57            |
| Donations .....   |                         | 392           |                        | 262           |
| Interest from Deposit Account .....   |                         | 45            |                        | 30            |
| London Lectures .....   |                         |               | 248                    |               |
| Less: Expenses .....  |                         |               | 203                    |               |
|   |                         |               | 45                     |               |
| Miscellaneous income .....  |                         | 37            |                        | 41            |
|   |                         | 2745          |                        | 2071          |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b> inclusive of VAT   | £                       | £             | £                      | £             |
| Journal printing and distribution .....   |                         | 1537          |                        | 1201          |
| Research and Investigation .....  |                         | 427           |                        | 406           |
| London Lectures expenses .....  | 298                     |               |                        |               |
| Less: Income therefrom .....  | 248                     |               |                        |               |
|   |                         | 50            |                        | —             |
| Administration Expenses reimbursed to Council                                     |                         |               |                        |               |
| Members .....   | 385                     |               |                        |               |
| Other administration expenses .....   | 57                      |               |                        |               |
|   |                         | 442           |                        | 516           |
| Honorarium to Auditor .....   |                         | 27            |                        | 27            |
| Conference expenses (1976 Nov) .....  | 628                     |               |                        |               |
| Less: Registration fees received .....  | 514                     |               |                        |               |
|   |                         | 114           |                        | —             |
|   |                         | 2597          |                        | 2150          |
| Surplus (deficit) of income over expenditure .....                                |                         | 148           |                        | (79)          |
| Company Formation expenses written off .....                                      |                         | —             |                        | 269           |
|   |                         | 148           |                        | (348)         |
| <b>TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b><br>for the period ..... |                         | 148           |                        | (348)         |
| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>  |                         |               |                        |               |
|   |                         | as at 31.8.77 |                        | as at 31.8.76 |
| <b>ASSETS</b>   | £                       | £             | £                      | £             |
| Sundry stocks at cost .....   |                         | 197           |                        | 251           |
| Sundry debtors .....  |                         | 480           |                        | 289           |
| Cash: Deposit Account .....   | 984                     |               | 202                    |               |
| Current Account .....   | 413                     |               | 261                    |               |
|   |                         | 1397          |                        | 463           |
|   |                         | 2074          |                        | 1003          |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>  | £                       | £             | £                      | £             |
| Subscriptions in advance .....  |                         | 1468          |                        | 870           |
| Sundry Creditors .....  |                         | 600           |                        | 125           |
| Conference Registrations (1976 Nov.) .....  |                         | —             |                        | 120           |
|   |                         | 2068          |                        | 1115          |
| <b>Net Assets (Liabilities)</b> .....   |                         | 6             |                        | (112)         |

*continued next page*

## FUNDS

|                                     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Research Fund at start of period    | ..... | ..... | ..... | 87    | 189   |       |
| Less: Research Grant                | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30    | —     |       |
| Less: Charged to Fund               | ..... | ..... | ..... | —     | 102   |       |
|                                     |       |       |       | 57    | —     | 87    |
| General Fund at start of period     | ..... | ..... | ..... | (199) | 149   |       |
| Add: surplus of income for period   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 148   | —     |       |
| Less: deficit of income for period  | ..... | ..... | ..... | —     | (348) |       |
|                                     |       |       |       | (51)  | —     | (199) |
| Total of Research and General Funds | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6     | —     | (112) |

- Notes: (1) The Company is limited by guarantee and in the event of winding up the liability of each Member would be limited to £1.00.  
 (2) Life Subscriptions are credited to income at a rate equivalent to the current Annual Subscription.

1 October, 1977

Signed: Mr L E BEER, *Chairman*, Mr S L SMITH, *Treasurer*.

## DONATIONS

The Council of Management wish to thank the undermentioned Members for their generous donations to BUFORA Ltd Funds during the year ended 31.8.77.

|                |                 |                 |               |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| J Brown        | P W J Watts     | B P James       | W Skellan     | Capt E A I Mackay |
| D Whitaker     | G A Budzinski   | W M Watts       | C Elrick      | E Downey          |
| L W Dale       | R B Snell       | L Taylor        | T O'Neill     | B J O'Brien       |
| B A Moore      | B Baster        | S LaPlante      | Sgt M Foreman | D Stripp          |
| R C Westaway   | C A E O'Brien   | F B Wood        | K Phillips    | R B Snell         |
| B M King       | A T Knight      | J Pinker        | J Gunn        | A H Brogden       |
| E M Demuth     | N Mazout        | B M King        | J Corell      | W A M Webster     |
| M J Wilderspin | P Hardman       | I Drever        | J Connor      | D Gideon          |
| P Carden       | I C Marchant    | E D M Sparshott | S Salmon      | A Downey          |
| G A Budzinski  | I Emery         | T M G Johnston  | K R Phillips  | P Wain            |
| G A Baker      | A Harte         | P Liss          | G S Holman    | A W Griffin       |
| C Emmerson     | F G Farquharson | E C A Down      | M D Thorpe    | T J Thornton      |
| A E Curry      | M E Laurie      | H Gontounik     | P Wain        | P Brierley        |
| A T Knight     | W H Chester     | W J Clinton     | G N Appleby   | S R Davies        |
| A West         | V Golingham     | F Farquharson   | D Wilde       | S Burnett         |
| J B Ratcliffe  | R Digby         | B A Moore       | E C Langley   | G M Rowe          |
| J C Marchant   | B Baster        | S A Lawrence    | N P Harris    | S J Swift         |
| G G Doel       | E Ives          | L Webbe         | P Morgan      | M O Fenn          |
| S Bradley      | A Aylard        | P Wain          | F M Nunan     | C P G Townshend   |
| L Kendrick     | D Wilde         | L Dale          | A Harte       | D Medina          |
| L E Beer       | G F Wilkinson   | J W Scarfe      | L Taylor      | S Parker          |
| G F Long       | D C Pooley      | C A Langley     | S E Chetwynd  | C F Bailey        |
| G Spiers       | J J Dingle      | A Ackerman      | O W Grunau    | P R G Worth       |
| Baron Quarles  | M Webb          | E W Taylor      | P Liss        | R D Stally        |
| S B Bowles     | J L Morris      | M Hague         | P A Hill      | G R Ruff          |
| K Phillips     | P Deacon        | Dr L N Temple   | G F Long      | W Joliffe         |
| T T Duhig      | C A Worth       | P Parr          | E L Barns     | P Bradley         |
| P W Teague     | J Squires       | D Weinstein     | B Taylor      | A Mountjoy        |
| G Mincham      | M J Barnett     | A Treays        | J Robinson    | C Emmerson        |
| J R D Powell   | M D Thorpe      | P Bartholomew   | S J Gamble    | R Selmes          |
| P R Manison    | T Males         | G Thornton      | T Whitaker    | W H Chester       |
| M E Laurie     | I Emery         | C A E O'Brien   | J E Haynes    | I R Hunt          |
| J J Dingle     | N P Harris      | G F Turner      | M A Cundle    | R Fisher          |
| W A M Webster  | A Lockyer       | B M Gardner     | G N Salway    | C Dorman          |
| K J Bloxham    | I Blania        | D R Hankin      | T Collins     | J Brown           |
| C A Langley    | G Wilks         | N T Oliver      | R J Nash      | L E Beer          |
| K Westbury     | E E M Kirkness  | A C Morgan      | J Webster     | T Fisher          |
| G A Baker      | M Lynch         | F M Nunan       | G Butler      | G C Grundill      |
| D R Hankin     | J G Hesketh     | G S Brownnett   | M R Beazley   | J W Scarfe        |

STEPHEN L SMITH, MA, *Treasurer*.



**MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of Bufora Limited, held on Saturday, 4 December 1976, at Kensington  
Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London, W8 at 7.00 pm.**

The meeting opened with approximately 35 members present.

The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting.

The Chairman for the meeting, Mr C A E O'Brien, announced that the Company's Chairman, Mr R H Stanway, had for personal reasons indicated that he did not wish to stand for re-election and would not therefore be attending the Annual General Meeting.

The Secretary reported that the two special resolutions set forth in the Notice of Meeting (attached) were deemed carried as no objections had been received from the membership.

The President, Dr G G Doel, then gave a short address to the meeting.

Mr C A E O'Brien then read a message from the Company Chairman.

Mr S L Smith, Treasurer, then enlarged on the state of the Company's finances, as set out in his Report (already circulated to members).

Mr Smith then thanked Mr Arnold West for all his work as Treasurer in preceding years. The Company and Council were very grateful to him for his services.

Mr Smith then thanked all those who had donated to BUFORA's funds.

Captain Mackay proposed and Dr G G Doel seconded, that the meeting should adopt the Report of the Council of Management, the Report of the Auditor and the set of accounts presented by the Treasurer. This resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman suggested that the 9 Members of the Council retiring and offering themselves for re-election should be re-elected en bloc. The motion was proposed by Captain Mackay and seconded by Dr Doel. A member asked if it would be possible for more information to be circulated about members offering themselves for election to the Council prior to the election.

The Chairman then put the motion which was carried.

The 9 members so elected were:

|                  |                   |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mr C A E O'Brien | Miss B D Wood     | Mr C F Lockwood  |
| Mr S L Smith     | Mr K W C Phillips | Mr N T Oliver    |
| Mr A R Pace      | Mrs S A Harcourt  | Miss J C Randles |

Mr Langley proposed and Mr Gamble seconded, that the 2 Council members appointed by the Council after 31 August and before the AGM should be re-elected. The motion was carried. The 2 members were: Mr R Nash and Mr M Stenhoff.

Mr West proposed and Captain Mackay seconded that Mr L E Beer be elected a member of the Company. The motion was carried. The total number of members elected to the Council was then 12.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and closed the business.

## Report—Extra !

*continued from page 10*

for some ten minutes before returning to bed. Mr Craske was unable to get back to sleep, and on getting up some twenty minutes later, looked out of the window where he saw the object moving away in a nor-nor-westerly direction. Formerly in the RAF, he is familiar with aircraft: this was unlike any plane and was also silent.

\* \* \*

### UFO formation at Cookley

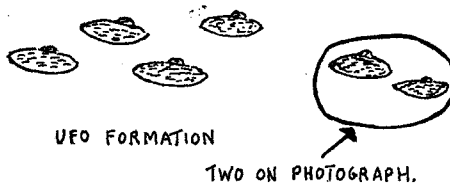
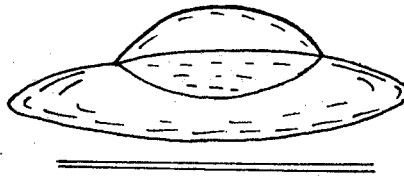
*Inv M Pritchard*

Gilbert Whatmore, aged 13 of Cookley, Worcs, claims that at 1.30 p.m on 27 November 1976 he was lying on the couch in the rear dining room of his home: his parents had gone shopping and he was alone. He heard a continuous humming sound from outside: this was one continual tone of low pitch and did not fluctuate at all.

He went to the French window and looked out over the rear garden. In the sky just below cloud cover he could see an object hovering: this was black in appearance and took the form of a flattened disc with a dome-like protrusion on its upper side. It was too far away for him to determine whether it had a clearly defined shape, nor could he give an indication of its dimensions.

He watched the object hovering for a (unknown) length of time, then fetched his Polaroid Super Swinger camera which gives instant B & W photos. When he returned, the noise had stopped and the object was no longer visible. Waiting by the window for several minutes, he again heard the humming sound, this time a little louder and saw six objects lower down from the cloud all identical in size and shape. They

hovered for a while and Gilbert took a photo. The objects then moved off fairly slowly till they were no longer visible. As they moved away they did not move 'in harmony,' but rather individually, keeping roughly the same formation.

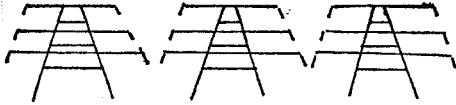
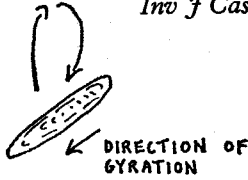


Gilbert later told his parents what he had seen and says that at the time the TV was on and the buzzing could be heard above this. The Whatmores also have a dog, but no effects were noticed. The camera had had only one exposure remaining, and this had been badly handled when removed, giving only about half a photo (not suitable for reproduction) with two objects in the top left-hand corner.

Bufora's PAID consider it quite possible for the photo to have been faked. Gilbert, however, maintains this is not so and his parents are assured of their son's integrity. The investigator also found it difficult to believe—after seeing the witness several times—that he would wish to manufacture the sighting then still maintain his story after doubts about the photograph. It would seem to have been more believable, were he making it up, for him to have claimed to have seen only one or two objects rather than six.

**Object over pylons**

*Inv J Castle*



A mile away from W Farleigh, Kent, at 9.35 pm on 11 July 1977, bus driver Robert Cole was in a lay-by. It was a clear, fine evening and he saw an oval-shaped object suddenly appear in the north directly over three electricity pylons, apparently hovering. It retained the same position for about five minutes then began to spin. Following this it gained height and slowly faded away. It then descended to its original position before finally vanishing at 9.47 pm. The object was apparently metallic as it reflected sunlight.

**Westcliff sighting** *Inv P O'Grady*

Nine witnesses (all names on file), including a pilot, watched a circular object high in the sky above Westcliff, Essex, on 5 July 1977 for one-and-a-quarter hours between 12.45 pm and 2 p.m

A circular, sharply-defined, apparently solid object, silver in colour was seen almost directly overhead, travelling very slowly and on occasion stopping and hovering for a few moments. After five minutes, the object suddenly emitted what seemed to be flames from both front and rear, this lasted only a few seconds but occurred several other times during the period of observation. After ten minutes, one of the witnesses ran in-

doors to get his Kodak Instamatic camera and took the six remaining frames of the film.

After about an hour, the object was still moving at around the same altitude (estimated 20,000 to 30,000 feet) when a passenger jet appeared at around 10,000 feet moving in the same direction, but obviously very much faster. The object climbed away almost immediately after.

The photos failed to come out, the last five being completely blank: it is an odd point that the first one, taken when the object was at its closest, had apparently been tampered with, having something on it which appeared to have been scratched out. Since there would seem, in view of the number of witnesses, to be no possibility of a hoax—indeed, one would expect any hoax to be of a closer nature than this—this remains a puzzling aspect.

\* \* \*

**'Cigars' near Dulverton**



THREE LIKE THIS - IN LINE

ONE..... EMITTED ORANGEY BLAST

Witness was driving with her husband on the S Molton Road in Devon on 20 May 1977, when, at 9 pm she looked across towards the horizon and saw three cigar-shaped objects: they stopped and her husband watched them also. They were described as the colour of 'congealed snowflakes' and were sharp and metallic looking, apparently in the direction of Bideford Bay. The three cigars were 'in line but wide apart' and the one on the right suddenly 'turned tail' and emitted a sort of pale-coloured flare—like looking at the hazy flame of a circular-shaped blast. The others disappeared 'like flickering out a light.'

## Mexican hat sequel

*Inv Andy Collins, Barry King*

Our last *Report Extra!* included a report from Wooburn Green, Bucks, initially investigated by NIC Ken Phillips. Barry King and Andy Collins were asked to instigate 'follow-up' enquiries and the following is a summary of their findings.

\* \* \*

### *Sighting One*

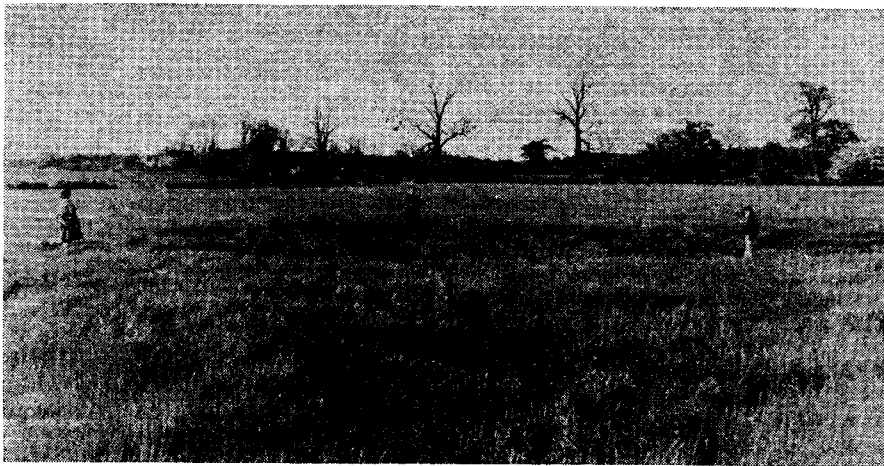
The first incident was witnessed by three boys, Darren Hawkes 14, David Gillitt 19 and Richard Huggins 14, who sighted a UFO when returning from cricket practice at 9.30 pm on 19 May 1977. The investigators found that the report as related to them was considerably different from that originally given to the NIC, and that Darren Hawkes claimed a far more dramatic and close encounter than did David Gillitt, and taking all factors into consideration, they decided the latter's account was more relevant. This is what David stated occurred:

The three were walking along Wycombe Lane towards the green at

Woodham Green when they noticed a yellow light shimmering toward the right in the direction of Wooburn Green. After a minute or so it stopped and suddenly grew to about three times the size: a few minutes later, returning to its original size, it moved to the left, and a metallic structure was seen which had a red light at the front. Eventually it disappeared towards the north-west, but was again seen several minutes later as a yellow light travelling north-west to south-west. There was no sound and the total duration was 25 minutes.

### *Sighting Two*

On 27 May 1977 a skywatch was undertaken by David Gillitt and Darren Hawkes at Black's Meadow, a mile east of Wooburn Green. At 9.55 pm the cows in the adjoining field seemed uneasy, and towards the north-east there was seen what David described as a 'discus' or 'upturned saucer' moving to their right some distance away: it glowed white and a light seemed to flicker about it. On top was a small dome and the whole thing appeared to be tilted down towards them. Photographs were taken, but,



to quote the investigators, 'there was not really a lot of hope for them anyway.' The object disappeared after about a minute.

*Sighting Three*

On Monday, 30 May 1977, at about 10.05 pm, the same two boys and Darren's grandmother were at Black's Meadow when they spotted a bright glow in the east. Through binoculars it appeared as a 'mushroom shape with short rays of light emitted from its underside.' This remained stationary for about thirty seconds, then disappeared.

*Possible Traces*

When visiting the area, the NIC had found two circular depressions in a barley field. The barley in these areas appeared more flattened than the rest,

and Barry King and Andy Collins subsequently carried out further checks.

One depression had a diameter of 16 metres and the other 9 metres: they were 11 metres away from each other the smaller being to the south-west of the larger one. Directly above the smaller—about 7 metres up, was a telegraph line with two wires. The depressions were caused by the barley being at slightly a lower angle than the rest of the field, and there also appeared to be smaller depressions in the soil of each. Checks with a geiger counter proved negative as also were magnetic field checks. Samples were taken and are being analysed, but it is not anticipated these will produce any abnormal results as it is believed the depressions are natural, the odd point being that each area was exactly circular.

*continued overleaf*



*Other sightings in the area*

19 May 1977 A commercial traveller, parked in a lay-by on the M4 between Windsor & Eton, saw an elongated silver object stationary to the north-west: it accelerated away at high speed after 20 seconds.

23 May 1977 At 9.30 pm two journalists from the Bucks Free Press, were at Forty Green, four or five miles from Wooburn Green. At the junction with the main Beaconsfield Road they saw a triangular-shaped object in the sky towards Wooburn Green, fifteen degrees from the ground and glowing white: it was rounded at the corners and the top was 'cut off' or flat. Whilst it remained perfectly still for one or two minutes, two red 'dots' detached themselves from the object (one from each side) simultaneously and drifted laterally from the object: they then changed course and headed toward the ground and were lost to sight. The two men drove off and the object itself was lost to view also.

1 June 1977 Two witnesses were driving through Rothersfield Pep-

pard about ten miles from Wooburn Green. They noticed a pale stationary orange light. This moved to the right, stopped and then moved back and forth, having taken the shape of a ring, then diminishing in until disappearing.

It is thought possible by the investigators that the first two sightings of Darren Hawkes and David Gillitt might well be landing and other lights of aircraft: no immediate explanation can be suggested, however, for the other reports from the Wooburn Green area.

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**Points from the Press**

*continued from page 6*

The *Daily Telegraph* of 1 August tells of 4 Portuguese motorists who saw UFOs above a road near Estoril, causing their car engines to cut out. An exhibition of photos of suspected UFOs was recently held in Lisbon.

\* \* \*

Finally, in the *Daily Telegraph* of 5 September, it was announced that an hotel near Milford Haven is offering UFO spotting weekends in response to requests, and Randall Jones Pugh of Bufora is arranging guided trips to places of UFO interest.

**London Lectures**

Saturday, 3 December 1977, 7 pm: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Members only). 8.30 pm: The Welsh UFO Wave (non-members admitted). *Speaker:* Randall Jones Pugh.

Saturday, 7 January 1978, 7 pm: Aspects of Scientific UFO Studies. *Speaker:* Martin J Heath, BSC. *ALSO* Current UFO Studies in North America. An audio-visual presentation by Alan Fossey.

Saturday, 4 February 1978, 7 pm: Ley Lines in relation to UFOs. *Speaker:* Paul Devereux, BA.

# **Bufora Conference '78**

**Nottingham, Saturday and Sunday, 15-16 April, 1978**

## *1978 Programme*

This will follow the pattern of previous conferences and Bufora hopes to include a distinguished guest speaker. There will probably be an illustrated survey of the 1977 Dyfed humanoid cases. Coverage will be given to current research projects and include a talk on radar aspects. Papers are invited for consideration.

14 April: Evening get-together and possible sightseeing expedition.

15 April: Morning, Afternoon and Evening Sessions (ending before 10 pm).

16 April: Morning and Afternoon Sessions (ending about 6 pm).

## *Special features*

A long lunch-hour is planned for Saturday to allow time for sight-seeing and shopping. Also there will be adequate breaks between talks and ample opportunity for informal discussions. For the convenience of delegates, it is planned to include the cost of morning coffee and afternoon tea in the session fees. Delegates registering in advance will receive in addition to the hotel tariff, a detailed colour leaflet on what to see in and around Nottingham, plus a street plan clearly showing details of the City Centre and multi-storey car parks, etc. These will be supplied in addition to the usual conference papers.

## *Venue*

The official venue will be the George Hotel, George Street, Nottingham. It is an old building with an attractive interior, a comfortable lounge, buffet bar and modern lounge bar; the staff are friendly and obliging. Room tariffs and reservation cards are available from Bufora, and the hotel's management have agreed to charge 1977 rates for conference delegates, irrespective of any subsequent price increases, early reservation is recommended.

## *Travel*

*Rail*—Nottingham Station is less than half a mile from the George Hotel. Cheap weekend return tickets should be available. A nominally priced bus service operates around the City Centre including Saturdays.

*Road*—Close to the M1 motorway (124 miles from London). The George is fairly close to multi-storey car parks and cars may be parked free in George Street on Sunday (Nottingham is also served by National Express Coaches).

*Air*—East Midlands Airport, Castle Donington, is about 15 miles away to the Southwest.

## *Fees*

It will be possible to attend single sessions or take advantage of the attractive whole conference rate provisionally set at £5 \*(and £6). \*Non-members will pay a weighted fee, but the difference may be reclaimed if a membership application is submitted before the conference.

Please send a 9" x 4½" (DL size) SAE for further details and registration form (available in due course) to: *Charles Lockwood (Conf.), 5 The Ridgeway, Farnsfield, Newark, Nottingham.*

# Sighting Summaries

Presentation by Pauline Grego

| Code No.   | Date    | Time                 | Place                       | Report                           | Class | Investigator/<br>Credit |
|------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 77-084     | 27.1.77 | 1925                 | Haddington,<br>E Lothian    | White, red light<br>balls        | B4c   | A SINUKS                |
| 77-085     | 3.2.77  | 1615                 | Blackpool, Lancs            | Triangular object                | C3c   |                         |
| 77-086     | April   | Dusk                 | Bridlington,<br>E Yorks     | Silver object                    | C4b   | P R FARGUS              |
| 77-088     | 13.4.77 | 2300                 | Bromley, Kent               | Elongated triangular<br>light    | C4b   | T GOOD                  |
| 77-089     | 16.4.77 | 2200                 | Bromley, Kent               | Gold-white 'shrinking'<br>light  | C4b   | T GOOD                  |
| 77-090     | 3.4.77  | 2100                 | Bexley, Kent                | Yellow-orange lits               | C4b   | L DALE                  |
| 77-091     | 1.4.77. | 2150                 | Tenterden, Kent             | White lits                       | B4c   | L DALE                  |
| 77-092     | 17.3.77 | 0554                 | Birchington, Kent           | 'Kidney shape' flashing          | C4c   | V MARTIN                |
| 77-093     | Feb '77 | 1815                 | Wilmington, Kent            | Two white-yellow<br>star-shapes  | B3c   | L DALE                  |
| 77-094     | 31.1.77 | 0740                 | Tunbridge Wells,<br>Kent    | Slow moving 'white<br>cloud'     | C4c   | A HALL                  |
| 77-095 (a) | 15.4.77 | Between<br>1930-2100 | St Pauls Cray,<br>Kent      | Orange-red triangle              | C4b   |                         |
| 77-095 (b) | 15.4.77 | „                    | St Pauls Cray, Kent         | Orange-red triangle              | C4b   | L DALE                  |
| 77-096     | 14.5.77 | 2305                 | Findsbury, Kent             | Circular light                   | C4b   | L. DALE                 |
| 77-097     | 16.4.77 | 1130                 | Biggin Hill, Kent           | Saucer or bowl-<br>shaped object | C4b   | T GOOD                  |
| 77-098     | 17.5.77 | 2140                 | Livingstone,<br>Scotland    | Orange-red oval disc             | C3a   | A A SINUKS              |
| 77-099     | 17.5.77 | 2130                 | Dirleton,<br>W Lothian      | Pink cigar                       | C3a   | A A SINUKS              |
| 77-101     | 28.2.77 | 1545                 | W Newton,<br>Norfolk        | Series of spherical<br>objects   | C4b   | J COPSEY                |
| 77-102 (a) | 19.5.77 | 2130                 | Wooburn Green,<br>Bucks     | 'Mexican hat' flashing<br>lights |       |                         |
| 77-102 (b) | 27.5.77 | 2130                 | „                           | „                                |       | K PHILLIPS              |
| 77-103     | 19.4.77 | 2100-2130            | Forest Gate, E7             | White oval object                |       | B EASTON                |
| 77-115     | 19.5.77 | 2205                 | Barking, Essex              | Yellow sphere                    | C3a   | B M KING                |
| 77-        | 8.6.77  | 2215                 | Englefield Green,<br>Surrey | Round 'noisy' object             | C3b   |                         |

76-382 October 1976. 19.30-2000.  
Talgarreg, Dyfed.

The witness and a friend were out shooting foxes, when his friend looked up and saw what appeared to be a very slow moving star, which then disappeared, only to reappear again. After watching a little longer it disappeared for good, and then the witness observed another 'moving star' to the right of the first one, which turned at 45 deg three or four times until it disappeared.

*Inw R Jones Pugh*

77-058 11 March 1977. 01.05.  
Llansteffan, Dyfed.

It was just after 1 a.m. when Mr John Petts was about to retire. He switched off the light in the living room, drew back the curtains and looked SE across the estuary. Above the horizon of the hills on the far side of the river, he saw a horizontal strip of light in the sky, luminous pale gold, like the light of the Moon, which at first he thought it was, through a gap in the clouds. Staring intently, he was amazed to see that the outlined shape was clear and sharp, far from woolly-



edged as it would be from a cloud. He observed a clear-cut shape, evenly lit as though from within, pale gold, and the shape of a weaver's shuttle sharply pointed at each end, the top and bottom edges straight and parallel. It stayed poised, without movement or sound, then suddenly 'switched off' like a light.

*Inv R Jones Pugh*

77-061a 15 April 1977. 18.50/55-19.05.

77-061b *Alasger, Staffs.*

Mr John Blagg's attention was drawn to an unusual light by his son. It seemed to be circular, and bright silver in colour. When viewed through binoculars the object seemed doughnut-shaped and practically stationary, at an estimated height of 40,000 to 45,000 feet, span 100-150 feet. After about one minute, the object disappeared in a puff of cream-coloured smoke from which three smaller silver objects emerged. These remained in sight for about forty-five seconds, gradually decreasing in size, and finally disappearing from sight. The position of the three objects remained more or less in the same position relative to each other and to the observer. The witness is an ex RAF pilot.

(b) The witness's son, Nigel Blagg, aged 13, was sitting in the dining room looking for aircraft with binoculars. On looking straight up at a different area of the sky, he saw a very small shining dot like a star, but when observed through the binoculars it seemed to have two stubs like wings on each side. At this point he called his father. The sighting ended at 1905.

*Inv D James*

77-068 28 April 1977. 05.45.

*Scunthorpe, Lincs.*

Mr Richard Stewart was travelling to work on his motor bike, when he looked up and saw a silver cigar-shaped object, stationary and initially vertical. As he watched it, it turned to a horizontal position and almost immediately, the pointed edges appeared to 'feather' and become hazy. At this point the object suddenly disappeared, the sighting having lasted 6 seconds.

*Inv A Darley*

77-089 16 April 1977. 22.00.

*Bromley, Kent.*

Mrs Hope Alexander of Hayes Lane, was driving along with her sister and a friend towards Hayes, when they noticed a very large bright light, like a car headlamp, on the

right. She stopped the car, wound down the window, and they all watched the object for one and a half minutes, when suddenly it shrank to star brightness, moved off slowly to the right and disappeared.

*Inv T Good*

77-092 17 March 1977. 05.54.

*Birchington, Kent.*

The witness was woken by a very loud rustling noise, as though the sea was rushing down the road. On looking out of the window, she saw a very large object with flashing red and white lights. It was very bright, travelling in an arc from near the horizon, perhaps 1000 feet high, and disappearing behind house. The object was almost circular, slightly kidney or heart-shaped, and its estimated speed was 30 mph. As it came over the shore, the noise changed to a slight drone and the object was flying in a straight line.

*Inv V Martin*

77-094 31 January 1977. 07.40.

*Tunbridge Wells, Kent.*

The witness, Christopher Scott, was walking towards High Brooms Station just before sunrise, when he noticed what he thought was a long, thin white cloud, tilted upwards. As he watched, however, it's top started moving slowly upwards, detaching itself from the bottom, which afterwards gradually faded away. The top part was disc-shaped and seemed quite solid though slightly hazy. The disc then began to fade rapidly and had disappeared within one and a half minutes.

*Inv A Hall*

77-095a 15 April 1977. 19.30-21.00.

77-095b *St Pauls Cray, Kent.*

The witness, while looking through the lounge windows, saw a large bright object in the sky, triangular in shape with rounded edges, and orange/red in colour. She called her husband and while he watched, fetched some binoculars. At this point the object shrank to about star brightness and disappeared, reappearing on the left, seemingly right next to a block of flats. It appeared to be near ground level and on both occasions stayed motionless for 1-2 minutes. When viewed through binoculars, the light was 'like the sun' and it hurt the eyes. While next to the block of flats, it appeared to cover about three or four storeys and was white in colour, surrounded by a reddish glow.

*Inv L Dale*

| Code No.                      | Date              | Time           | Place                               | Report                            | Class         | Investigator/<br>Credit |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 77-116                        | 21.5.77           | 2013           | Dagenham, Essex                     | Pulsating LIT                     | C3c           | B M KING                |
| 77-117                        | 2.3.77            | 1930           | Durton, Essex                       | Triangular LIT formation          | C3c           | B M KING                |
| 77-119a<br>77-119b<br>77-119c | 27.5.77<br>"<br>" | 1310<br>"<br>" | Bridlington,<br>North<br>Humberside | Rocket shape<br>with<br>tail fins | C3b<br>"<br>" | P FARGUS                |
| 77-121                        | 7.6.77            | 2157           | Bridlington                         | Upright cigar                     | C3b           | P FARGUS                |
| 77-122                        | 16.5.77           | 2315           | Forest Gate,<br>London              | Bright moving red<br>object       | B4c           | B EASTON                |
| 77-124                        | 18.5.77           | 2300           | Dudley, Worcs                       | Two converging stars              | C4c           | M PRITCHARD             |
| 77-125                        | 17.5.77           | 2350           | Donaghadee, NI                      | Bright moving object              | C4b           | JOHN HIND               |
| 77-126                        | 22.6.77           | 2300           | Burbage, Leics                      | 'Dome shape' with<br>Lights       | C4b           | P BERRY, HAPI           |
| 77-127                        | 31.3.77           | 2030           | Bexleyheath, Kent                   | Orange/Pink Light                 | C4c           |                         |
| 77-128                        | 2.7.77            | 1840           | Perivale, Middx                     | High LITS                         | C4c           |                         |
| 77-129                        | 29.4.77           | 0540           | Penryn, Cornwall                    | Round grey hazy<br>object         | C3c           | R FARROW                |
| 77-141a<br>77-141b            | 3.6.77<br>"<br>"  | 2030<br>"<br>" | Sherborne Dorset<br>"<br>"          | Discoid object<br>"<br>"          | C3b<br>"<br>" |                         |
| 77-143                        | 3.7.77            | 2215           | Southchurch, Essex                  | Round white object                | C3c           | A COLLINS               |
| 77-146                        | 31.5.77           | 2110           | Pitsea, Essex                       | Silver disc with dome             | C3b           | J CASTLE                |
| 77-147                        | 21.5.77           | 2200           | Rochester, Kent                     | Bright light                      | C4c           | M FORD                  |
| 77-148                        | "                 | 2150           | Sittingbourne                       | 3 or 4 hovering LITS              | B4b           | M FORD                  |
| 77-149                        | "                 | 2200           | Rochester                           | Object with lights                | B4b           | M FORD                  |
| 77-150                        | "                 | 2157           | Bexley                              | 3 white ellipses                  | B4b           | M FORD, J CASTLE        |
| 77-151                        | "                 | 2157           | Aylesford                           | Object with 3 lights              | C4b           | M FORD                  |
| 77-152                        | "                 | 2157           | Aylesford                           | Object with 3 lights              | C4b           | M FORD                  |
| 77-153                        | "                 | 2145           | A229 Chatham                        | 3 silver/yellow lights            | C4b           | M FORD                  |
| 77-155                        | 28.6.77           | 1956           | W Farleigh, Kent                    | Silver disc                       | C3b           | J CASTLE                |
| 77-158                        | 6.6.77            | Midnight       | Bromley, Kent                       | Silent box-like object            | C3b           | T GOOD                  |

## Uforum

Dear Sir

I read with interest a UFO report in Vol 6, No 2 of the *Journal* by Mr G W Taylor in which he referred to the mysterious booms occurring over a large part of southern England—the last one I recorded was at 10.15 pm on 9 April 1977. Mr Taylor didn't seem to know whether the UFO and mysterious booms were related, and I must admit I don't know either, but I did see something strange on 1 June 1977, at 12.05 pm in Weymouth, Dorset.

What happened was that I was walking down a hill towards the caravan site where I was staying, when I heard a single boom, exactly like those during the winter at home: I looked up and saw a strange incandescent blue cloud in the sky. From the 'cloud' a silent object was moving very fast leaving a vapour trail. I looked at the object through my 8 x 30 binoculars, but it was moving so fast it was impossible to make out any shape. The object's height was 15,000 to 20,000 feet, or so it seemed.

*continued overleaf*

The weather was very fine, with no clouds, but there was a slight south west wind: the temperature was 22°C. The object disappeared over the top of the hill—I think it would have gone over Portland where there are Navy and Helicopter bases: whether any of them picked up the object on radar I suppose we will never know . . . .

Brian James  
Blewbury, Nr Didcot

Dear Sir

I have been reading Dr J A Hynek's book *The UFO Experience*, from which I have concluded that there is such a weight of authenticated evidence as to leave little room for doubt that UFOs really do exist. I then began to speculate on the nature of these objects . . . It seems very unlikely that they originate on Earth in our time, which leaves the only alternative that they originate elsewhere: but there are grave objections to this theory, one being the enormous distance which they could have to traverse, and another the fact that the alleged 'crews' seem quite at home upon Earth.

It occurs to me that, fantastic though it may seem, a more tenable theory would be that the vehicles are no less than machines which will be constructed upon Earth in the future, and are capable of travelling through time itself. I know this has been a favourite theme for Science Fiction ever since H. G. Wells, but the theory does have points to commend it: (1) it explains

why the 'humanoid' crews are (a) well-adapted to live under the conditions which prevail upon Earth, and (b) bear a marked resemblance to present-day humans, from whom they are presumably descended; (2) It accounts for the astonishingly high accelerations which are frequently observed. For if an object is travelling both in space and time, it would have quite a modest acceleration with respect to its own time and yet appear to have a very high one observed from ours. An imperfect analogy is a passenger observed walking along the corridor of a passing train: although he is only walking with respect to the train, to a stationary observer he seems to be travelling at an incredibly high velocity.

Actually, for time to be apparently foreshortened in this way it would be necessary for the UFO to be moving from our present to our future, so that in fact, what we observed when it appeared to be moving off at high acceleration would actually be its approach, in space, and from future time. The whole thing, I am well aware, seems fantastic . . . This theory may have been advanced before, but if so, I have never heard of it . . . .

M J H Ellis  
Bristol

*Yes, Mr Ellis, the theory has been advanced before, though it is certainly not amongst the more widely-held. See also Take Your Pick, Vol 3, No 12, Autumn 1973—Ed.*

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### "Weekends in Wales"

A number of enquiries regarding 'UFO-spotting weekends' in Dyfed (see last item in *Points from the Press*) have been received as many Press reports have incorrectly indicated these to be Bufora organised. We would emphasise that they are not in fact Bufora sponsored, being a personal venture by Mr Randall Jones Pugh in which Bufora has no involvement.

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## Science supplement to Bufora Journal

A short reference was made to this in the last Journal: full details now from Mark Stenhoff.

The Council decided at its meeting on 2 July 1977, to undertake experimentally early in 1978, the publication of a science supplement to the Journal, which will be provided free to members and made available for purchase by others. Some examples of topics which might be covered by papers in this supplement are:

In-depth investigations of significant UFO sightings.

Analysis of, and analysis techniques for UFO data.

Natural phenomena giving rise to UFO sightings.

Scientifically formulated hypotheses to account for UFO phenomena.

Psychological aspects of UFO reports.

### Call for papers

Authors are therefore invited to submit papers on these or other topics for publication in the supplement. A high level of scientific quality is demanded, and papers are subjected to the scrutiny of specialist referees. Advice to authors on the submission of manuscripts is available on request, and the Editors will be pleased to hear from and to advise prospective contributors of articles. Please contact the address given at the end.

### Referees required

A number of honorary referees are required to examine and check papers submitted for publication in the supplement. Applications are invited from specialists in any fields which may be of relevance. These posts are non-

remunerative, save for postal expenses, etc. Written applications, together with Curriculum Vitae and details of areas of specialisation should be received by November 30 by *Mark Stenhoff, BSc, FRAS, AFBIS, 128 Lennard Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1QP.*

Applications will be dealt with in strict confidence by Council.

\* \* \*

### Ball Lightning Project

'Ball lightning' is a short-lived, rare phenomenon often observed in connection with thunderstorms, but also seen under other atmospheric conditions. Its life time is of the order of seconds. It is often spherical, with a diameter of several centimetres. Because of its unfamiliar nature and rare occurrence, ball lightning may sometimes be reported as an unidentified flying object, particularly since it can share many characteristics with those reported for UFOs, such as odours of sulphur or ozone, interference with electrical apparatus, burns, ground marks, etc.

A project has been launched by Bufora to collect and evaluate reports of ball lightning. We would be very grateful to receive reports of any observations which may bear relevance to ball lightning phenomena. It is expected that a summary of the Project's work will be published in the Scientific Supplement.

Please address all reports and communications to: *Mark Stenhoff, BSc (Hons), FRAS, AFBIS, Bufora 'Ball Lightning' Project, 128 Lennard Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1QP.*

## Personal Column

**SKYWATCH UFO DETECTOR:** Successful magnetic needle type detector incorporating latching circuit and audio alarm, battery operated. £9.00. Stamped Addressed Envelope for explanatory literature.

Malcolm Jay, 102 Nelson Road, Chingford, E4 9AS.

*(The use of the word 'successful' should not be taken to mean you will automatically see a UFO, but Malcolm's literature DOES quote names of purchasers who have—Ed.).*

**ADAMSKI**—Venusian Scout, UFO pictures in gloss or matt. SAE for details or international reply coupon to: R Lawrence, Hampstead H G Wells Society, 47 Belsize Square, London, NW3, England.

**CASSETTE TAPES:** *Skyquest* cassettes available as follows: UFOs & YOU £2.65 (\$4.50); UFOs OVER ENGLAND £2.65 (\$4.50); SKY EXPLORING—AROUND POLARIS £2.50 (\$4.25); OUR SOLAR SYSTEM £2.50 (\$4.25). All inc P & P. If ordering two tapes deduct 20p: four tapes deduct 50p. Norman Oliver, FRAS, *Skyquest* (B7), 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA.

"SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UFOS" (The Condon Report): £5.00 hardback, £2.50 paperback, paid for good copies. Good condition FSRs bought. Lionel Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS.

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## Books and Leaflets

| Title  | members              | non-members<br><i>(all post free)</i> |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Guide to the UFO Phenomenon  | 45p                  | 65p                                   |
| The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extra-terrestrial Spacecraft<br><i>David Viewing</i> | 30p                  | 50p                                   |
| Investigation Procedures<br><i>Trevor Whitaker</i>   | 30p                  | 50p                                   |
| An Engineer's Look at UFO's<br><i>Leonard Cramp, ARAeS, MSIA</i>   | 30p                  | 50p                                   |
| Articles of Association  | £1.25 (members only) |                                       |
| Bufora Journals (back numbers)   | 35p                  | 50p                                   |

*(In some cases, only photocopies of Journals can be supplied, at cost, plus handling and P & P).*

All the above publications are available post free from:

**Arnold West, Bufora Publications, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST.**

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## THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Bufora Limited (by guarantee). Founded 1964. Registered Office: Hazelmont House, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham. Registered in London: 1234924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Organisation, founded 1959, and the British UFO Association, founded 1962.

**Aims:** To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into UFO phenomena. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFOs. To co-ordinate UFO research on a nationwide scale and to co-operate with people and organisations engaged on similar research in all parts of the World.

**Membership:** The annual subscription is £5.00, \$10 in the USA and Canada. Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Council. Application/information forms can be obtained from any officer.

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*Burnett's Printing Works, Cyprus Rd, Burgess Hill, W Sussex. Tel. B. Hill 3126 (STD 044 46).*