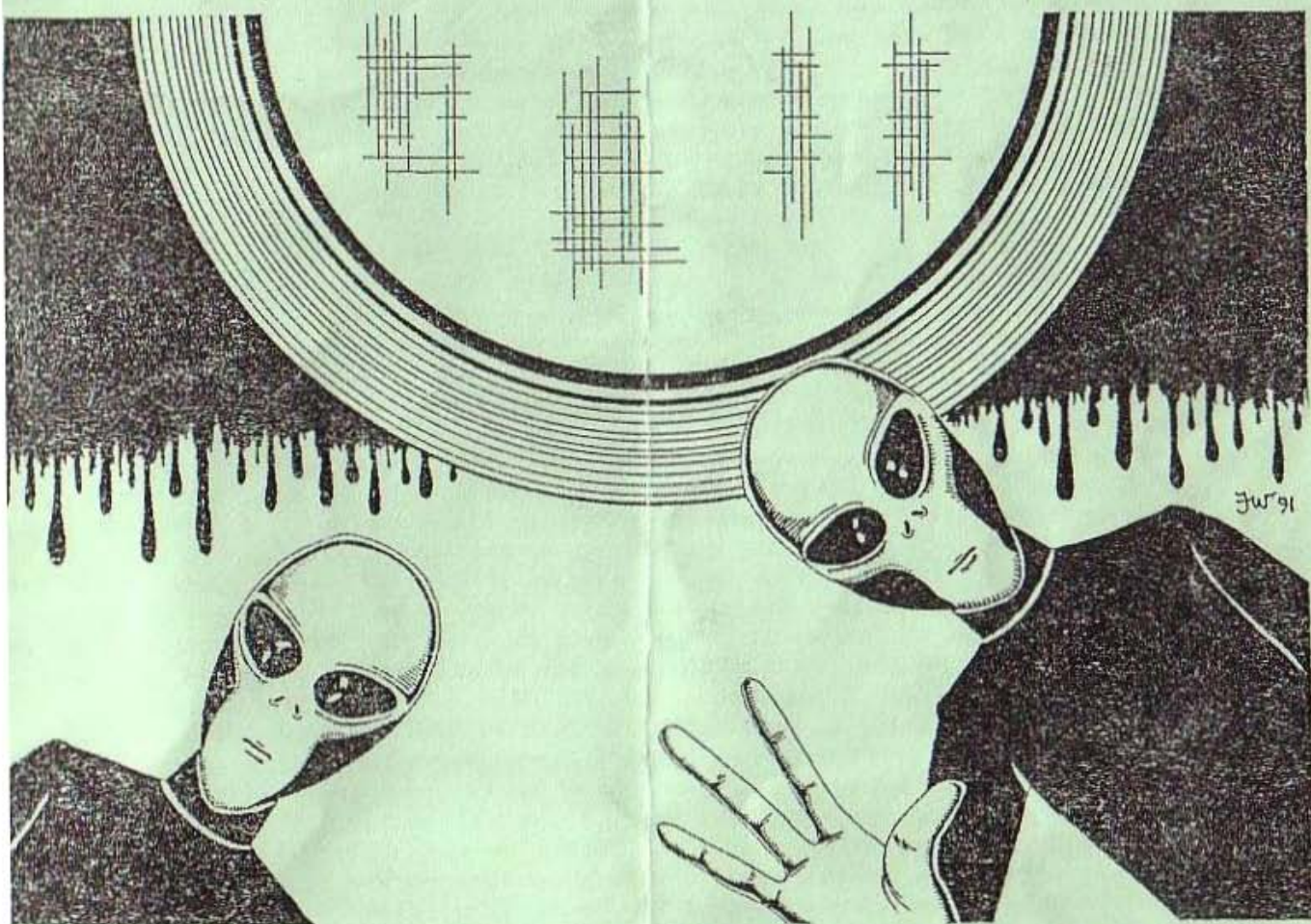


# NORTHERN NEWS

# UFO

151  
OCTOBER  
1991



All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six  
Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Johnny Waudby  
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Gypsies of a strange and distant time, amazing Welsh CE 4 from Margaret Fry

NORTHERN UFO NEWS 37 HEATHBANK RD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESH SK3 0UP

*J. R. Comments . . . This editorial will surprise - maybe even shock - many readers. It recounts something dramatic that took place during September when I spent a month on tour in Australia.*

Now don't panic. I am not about to tell you I was abducted by a kangaroo-shaped alien; although I have had a CE 4 experience which Robert Hale considered too compromising for my book 'Abduction'. I purposely haven't written about it, though I shared it with others at the time, as someproof it 'happened' in some way...but that is very much another story.

This experience was less dramatic, yet no less profound. It came about possibly because I spent such a concentrated period literally eating and sleeping UFOs in the course of the preparations for and duration of a two day international congress in Sydney. For days I was faced with wall to wall interviews with radio, TV and other media, constant phone calls in my room and in 'free' moments discussions with other UFOlogists who were there to put forward their points of view. All of this time I was constantly assessing what I had to say and why I was saying it and gradually taking in the deluge of raw information about our subject which dedicated researchers from Australia and the USA were presenting.

In fact, I had not even had time to get over jet lag as I had done interview number one just a couple of hours after exiting a 30 hour incarceration within a jumbo jet. As I stood up to give the final lecture of the conference (my second - although the first was about crop circles) I became aware of something. I was very tired, after days of ceaseless pressure. Now in a sort of freewheeling state I was ad-libbing about abduction cases, scarcely knowing what I was saying. As the words poured out from within I came to sense something I had done in the past.

Whenever I appear before cameras or a reporter, or to a degree when lecturing in public, I tend to overstress the cautious approach. It is just a part of the way I handle the subject which may never change. Yet I also realised that at least part of my scepticism of the ETH was a result of this desire to be objective and balance both sides. When I really sat down and thought about the evidence, it was hard to deny that some cases only really made sense in the light of intervention by another intelligence.

I knew that, but I wasn't saying it. Why? Was I afraid it might jeopardise my objectivity or damage my credibility? Would it mean retracting much of what I had written in the past? I don't know. Perhaps all of this was partly true, or maybe I was just scared of the potential implications of the acceptance of the ETH. Then again I was well aware that any public statement to such an effect might seem like jumping ship from a creaky battered barge going nowhere onto the QE II sailing past with a promise of greater riches and celebrated lifestyle. Sensing the attitude of my critics were I to actually do that I had been hesitant for some time.

Yet, as the words tumbled out before 400 folk in my abduction lecture, I watched the parade of images, recognised what they seemed to mean and heard myself say in conclusion that whilst we had to be careful not to jump to conclusions it really was easier to accept that the best of these cases fitted the intervention of another intelligence than it was to define ever more complex psychological theories to dismiss them all as hallucinations. Hallucinatory in nature the CE 4 experience undoubtedly was. Its essence was witness dependent, creating 'Dan Dare' imagery for the storyline. Yet beyond all that was a common thread - a uniting bond which seems to suggest that they are all personal, human attempts to visualise in mythological terms some form of contact with an intelligence beyond our comprehension.

The next day I flew north on a plane to Brisbane and weighed up in my mind the situation.

The abduction data was not the only evidence - indeed not the best evidence even, as it was unequivocally compromised by the vagaries of human consciousness. But the case being pieced together for the Roswell Incident was almost impossible now to refute. It wasn't a weather balloon. If it was earth-based technology, what happened to it after 1947? The claims of alien pilots are another matter, but the evidence that something truly out of this world may have been at the heart of that case is increasing in strength, not decreasing, as each new investigation piles on the agony.

Then I realised that I had this summer written 'From out of the blue' - my assessment of the Bentwaters encounters back in 1980. Although I had stopped short of endorsing an intelligently controlled unknown phenomenon as the cause (indeed in the conclusions I outlined four scenarios of which that was but one) I also knew that it fitted the case perhaps better than the others and I had drawn back from saying so as perceived objectivity.

Once you begin to think about photographic cases such as McMinnville, Oregon - and recognise that IF that or the Willamette Pass case some 15 years later - is as substantive as the investigations seem to suggest, where else are you led but to some sort of craft of intelligent origin? Again if this were a secret USAF test plane of such evident capabilities it is ludicrous to imagine that 40 years later we would not know about it.

No - the clues are there and you either hide from them or accept them. You can, of course, try to find alternative solutions to account for them - and that is what I have been doing for many years. I don't regret it. Nor do I apologise for it, for I sincerely believe that most of what I have written on UFOs in the past still remains true.

90% of all reported UFOs are indeed IFOs. Of the remainder many probably are natural phenomena on the fringes of science; such as super ball lightning and maybe earthlights as well as plasma vortices. Psychology and sociology are integral to the close encounter. American UFOlogy does not recognise that fully. Yet there lurks maybe 1% of the data which all efforts to wish it away have apparently strengthened rather than disintegrated. Many will still deny this for a host of reasons. I realised that I could no longer deny it and be true to what I really felt.

I am not endorsing the ETH wholesale. Far from it. In fact, I am not even necessarily endorsing the ETH at all (the time travel hypothesis is worth a look). What I am saying is that UFOlogy always has been many things to many people and will remain so. Spaceships are NOT flying around the skies by the flotilla and the vast majority of the UFO data relates to things which certainly are not the product of another intelligence. But it would be foolish to evade the likelihood that just a few of our truly puzzling cases, may well be evidence of some intelligence beyond ourselves.

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#### NEWS ROUND UP:



:: Did anybody see the classic black manta-ray UFO over north west London at 19.35 on 22 September? If so, let us know. A leading British UFOlogist and his wife have reported their observation and if anybody else saw anything they may go public. At this stage they prefer anonymity.

:: In the last NUN 'Media Matters' reported an article in 'Woman's Realm' on 25 June which quoted Northants CE 4 witness Elsie Oakensen stating that she may have developed healing abilities from her 1978 close encounter. Elsie wishes to say that normally she ignores the media as they tend not to understand the complexities of this field. But regarding this article she wants readers to know that *'neither of the reporters named nor anyone else from Woman's Realm contacted me personally, nor have I ever given anyone else mentioned in that article permission to speak to any magazine on my behalf let alone quote me...that supposed interview with me covered 63 lines and contained 17 errors...I have never refused to speak honestly to any member of the media when asked...'*

As I said in the last NUN the very brief quote attributed to me was fairly misleading but do not recall if the reporter DID interview me as I speak with many journalists each month. However, a second article (like the first promoting the Sheffield conference) appeared in 'Woman's Own' magazine on 5 August. This again featured what is presented as an interview with Elsie and also quoted her as having developed healing powers as a result of her encounter. Hopefully, Elsie will let us know how accurate this latest story was and inform us if she has got to the bottom of how either magazine came to obtain their alleged interviews with her.

:: Readers can still obtain a bargain price copy of my book SIXTH SENSE for £5 or \$10 US (bills only). This is a mint conditioned hardback of the now out-of-print title. A few (VERY few) copies of my book UFO REALITY, which examines the physical evidence, are available on the same terms - but it must be first come, first served. Both books cost £10 in shops. Finally, with the release of 'From out of the Blue' in the USA, readers wishing to access the original report on the Bentwaters case - SKY CRASH - co-authored with Brenda Butler and Dot Street - can purchase the last few copies of the 1986 paperback which has an added chapter from the hardback updating events. Special offer is £2 or \$5 US (bills only). All prices are post inclusive and UK cheques should be made payable to 'Jenny Randles' please.

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#### CIRCLES UPDATE:



There is no doubt that September 1991 will go down as the turning point in the history of circles research - if not the termination! For it was then that two significant events occurred, both involving hoaxes.

As NUN readers will know hoaxing reached extreme levels in 1991 and my prophetic words in the August issue may even look as if I knew something was afoot when I uttered them. Indeed one interview for foreign TV given at the Sheffield conference saw me openly accused of this and faking crop circles - a ludicrous fabrication which contains not one shred of truth.

In NUN I said; *'There is now virtually no doubt in my mind that much (if not all) of the complex patterns we have seen are the result of hoaxing. In my view there may well not even be any real crop circle phenomenon beyond simple circles, doublets, triplets and rings, etc.'* This was not calculated to win any friends from either side of the cereology debate but I think history has rapidly shown that my worries were justified.

Early in September it was revealed that the makers of an EQUINOX documentary (to be screened on Channel 4 at the end of October) had fooled Dr Meaden into saying positive things on camera about a circle they had just secretly filmed being faked. Dr Meaden cried foul and argues things that might mitigate the situation, but in essence it does seem as if the doubts some have expressed about the supposed ease with which fake and real circles can allegedly be segregated may have had some justification all along. Which is NOT to say that Dr Meaden or anyone else who has been fooled from time to time (which includes most serious crop circle investigators if truth be told) have ALWAYS been wrong. Personally, I don't think they have. But the implications of the the way hoaxing defeated all comers this summer must be given very deep contemplation.

For only days later two elderly chaps (Doug and Dave) stormed the world media by claiming that they had created the circle mythology from 1978 right up to the complex insectograms of August 1991. Their story has doubts associated (see the Sept/Oct issue of Paul Fuller's THE CROP WATCHER for a perceptive detailed review - £1.50 or £9 for 6 from 3 Selborne Court Tavistock Close Romsey Hampshire SO51 7TY) but I have little doubt they are a key factor in the very complex shapes and increasing circle numbers of recent summers. Once we strip away the effect of their hoaxing (and others who no doubt emulated them) a much smaller, simpler, less exotic and surely by now obviously a natural phenomenon is all that is left behind.

This is not actually a surprise or a disappointment. For me it is a relief. I have little doubt from the escalating evidence in favour of the weather theory, the impressive eyewitness testimony and the historical and geographical data that there IS a meteorological force behind some circles. The only significant argument against that was the pictogram patterns and alleged intelligent escalation of the circles. If - as seems likely - this was after all just a con trick, what else can survive intact - even though some of the elaborate claims made for a vortex (including possibly some Paul Fuller and I made in our book) may have to be moderated in my view.

It will be very interesting to see how the main cereologists respond to the challenge, but it seems pretty clear that at least one or two may well reject the hoax admissions and cling desperately to the now dwindling evidence that the circles were an esoteric message, or ever more than a lot of human endeavour plus two rather different sorts of hot air.

By wonderful irony (or was it? - presumably myth-makers will view it differently) on the very day the Doug and Dave story broke I was in Far North Queensland in the Tully area south of Cairns looking into the original 'saucer nests' of 1965-66 at the spot where they formed. These were the very ones that the two men claimed in their account gave them the idea for the entire hoax! No doubt the last laugh of the circle god mercurius.

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#### HYPNOTIC REGRESSION DOUBTS:

David MacMillan is a psychologist who has just joined BUFORAs investigation and research team. He has sent me a good deal of data culled from professional journals which expresses doubts about the usefulness of regression hypnosis. As this is such a common technique in the investigation of CE 4 cases it seemed worthwhile summarising some of his main points. I hope that David might choose to submit an article to BUFORAs UFO TIMES on how he perceives the investigation of abduction cases in the light of this.

David was, incidentally, of the view that UFOlogists were unaware of such problems created by regression. He gained this impression from certain books by a leading UFO author whom I will not name. However, he evidently has not read other books in the field, or mine, as these make no secret of the real difficulties when evaluating testimony obtained under hypnosis.

In summary of his main points, David notes:-

- 1: Hypnosis does not generally distort memory recall
- 2: Material recalled by hypnosis can be subject to confabulation, particularly when the subject is highly hypnotisable or responds to leading questions.
- 3: A subjects confidence in his hypnotic recall is no guide to its actual correctness; indeed it seems that greater confidence is related to greater error.

David adds that experiments have further shown that when there is a memory loss (ie time lapse) highly hypnotisable people are more prone to fill the gap with confabulation. Vague stimuli, for instance, can be remembered in very different ways. In the masses of documentation provided he cites one case where the black dot used to induce the hypnotic state was recalled through the amnesia block as a coloured clowns face.

Yet again, research into cases of a trauma recovered under hypnotic regression shows that there is a significant tendency to recall unreal material. What appears to happen is that the state brings forth MORE material, making it appear successful, but the percentage which is accurate DECREASES from that recalled without hypnosis. This is because, whilst some of the hypnotically added material matches reality (as it may even do just by chance) a lot of it seems to be guesswork or confabulation, thus diminishing the overall value of hypnotically recalled testimony.

Obviously, such experimental findings - quoted from several sources - are of major importance to the question of the CE 4. Nevertheless, as Eddie Bullard has pointed out - only half the CE data in the UFO records come from hypnotic regression and the consciously recalled testimony varies little from it. Even so these disturbing research conclusions appear to justify the 'ceasefire' on hypnotic regression into abduction cases that much of British UFOlogy has voluntarily imposed over the past three years.

#### FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



'The Unexplained' was a 156 part encyclopedia written weekly from 1980 by many leading researchers. It has since made more comebacks than Cleopatra in a past life clinic, under various disguises. This was not the doing of the writers, who were paid just once ten years ago. In summer 1990 some of us were approached and told a brand new part work from Orbis was to be launched (named ENIGMAS). We were sworn to secrecy for fear of a rival company stealing the idea; but much material was commissioned. Then it was 'put on ice'. Imagine our surprise (as none of us were told) when five million copies of Issue 1 of the 'new' 'Unexplained' were given free with the News of the World this month. From Issue 2 onward it is in newsagents.

Whilst it does contain the newly commissioned material, most of what has appeared so far is the old stuff; although I am assured the intention is to 'update' this. I'll let you know if that happens. It is not cheap at £1.50 an issue, but it is a serious paranormal newsstand journal published weekly and there are no others like that around. If you didn't get the original 'Unexplained' don't miss it. If you did, wait a while and see how it scans.

Also new is 'The Fireside Philosopher' from Anthony North (BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX) - stablemate to Rattler's Tale. Indeed aside from books (see below) Mr North produces FIVE regular magazines (is he aiming for the Guinness book of records?) This one is about 'mysteries' and issue one covers crop circles, the Bermuda Triangle, evolution etc. It is on subscription at £3 for four but for £2 you can get a sample of all five of his publications which are the essence of 'patternology' - his own breed of research. They are always neatly produced and easy to read. The prolific author is set to launch a paranormal writing competition soon as his latest venture and evidently he has found a niche or two within the marketplace.

Fortean Times 59 (£2 in stores, £12 for six, 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11) FT is terrific value. No arguments there. Always packed with newsy stuff on all things strange. But circle coverage has problems. This issue came just as the Doug & Dave story broke and hasty incorporation of it doesn't help.

UFO Debate (£8, for six, 40 Stubbing Way Shipley West Yorks BD18 2EZ) Two issues recently received, both chock full of the most unusual, weird and often entertaining articles in any UFO mag anywhere. With titles like 'Does ET dream?' or 'Cyberspace invaders' you know your mind will be stretched.

TLH 114 (£7, for four, PO Box 92 Penzance Cornwall TR18 2XL) Paul Devereux has just complained because I haven't yet reviewed this Ley Hunter. Sorry, this was the first NUN since 114 arrived! I see his urgency. It is a significant edition with a big section on new earthlights cases worldwide and a piece from Serena Roney-Dougal on the pineal gland.

Annals (£7.50 for 6, 8 St John Street Wells Somerset BA5 1SW) Amazing artwork adorn a sprinkling of everything from unusual weather effects, through much circle data to unusual 'aircraft' over Bristol. Nice.

IUR Jul (\$30, for 6, 2457 West Peterson Ave Chicago Illinois USA 60659) Budd Hopkins and Eddie Bullard fight back well with major articles about why the abduction data are not urban legends and do reflect 'real' events.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas USA 78155) Thanks to Dennis Stacy arguably the best article-based UFO publication in the world. With IUR and UFO Times in my top five in English anyhow. It has lots of variety. Jul and Aug range over US circles, Soviet UFOs, new cases and UFO crash data etc. The only monthly around and it is well worth a look.

Orbiter Jul/Aug (\$30, for 6, PO Box 652 Reading MA USA 01867) Definitive account of the truth about the Daily Star's 'exclusive' photo of a dead alien featured earlier this year and an interesting sceptical piece on Dr Lincoln La Paz and the Roswell crash.

CAN ANY READER ADVISE WHAT ERIC VON DANIKEN WRITES IN HIS INTRODUCTION TO THE GERMAN EDITION OF CROP CIRCLES? AUTHORS IN DARK AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW!

NEXUS Aug (\$50 AUS, for 6, PO Mapleton QLD 4560 Australia)

A new mass market 'New Age' publication from down under in the 'UFO Universe' format but with less (though some) UFO and some crop circle content. You need to be able to cope with orgone energy and other odd therapies, mark you, and it is fairly credulous. But a good read nonetheless.

UFO NYT (177,00 DKr for 4, Postboks 6 2820 Gentofte Denmark)

I don't often mention SUFOI because their excellent magazine is in Danish. A one page English summary of the previous issue is always inserted though. They seem to do very good work and if you can read it then its worth a look

## BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



It is interesting to see the way Tim Good's 'Alien Liaison' has to my surprise received mixed reviews from some mainstream US UFOlogy. This may reflect a sea change there. Quite a rebellion looks to be growing against the more bizarre things we in Britain have long condemned (sometimes - of course - at great cost). This is encouraging; although a new book on CE 4s from a top American UFOlogist comes next spring. I hear that its content may blow your socks off. If you agonise over Budd Hopkins ideas, best look out.

Life Beyond Planet Earth? Janet & Colin Bord Grafton h/b 238pp £17.99

Not a cheap book, as you can see. In compensation it has 40 or so b & w photos throughout the text and is slightly larger than normal format; though not the 'Atlas' size we saw from John Spencer. This is the closest the Bords have come to doing a straight UFO book (except one for children some years back with strange line drawings and maybe best forgotten).

All my standard quibbles to a typical Bords book apply - many other peoples cases cited with seldom any credit to the investigators; although (to be quite fair) a well referenced and indexed section on sources is added. It is also to some extent superficial, ranging over dozens of cases but tackling few in any depth. Of course, this style of approach has both merits and general reader appeal and the Bord's reputation is legendary, ensuring a high profile and good sales for such a title.

At first glance it is by coincidence very similar to a book that Peter Hough and I wrote some time ago for Cassell, but which for various reasons will not appear till February. Both the Bord's offering and our 'Looking for the aliens' tackle the search for extra-terrestrial life and share some common ground. But they are fortunately very different books that may even complement one another to some degree. We have concentrated on talking to people who are actively looking (from cosmologists to SF authors and UFO researchers) asking questions about the successes and failures of the quest and the potential repercussions if it should ever lead to alien contact. Although we address UFO issues en route it is much less UFO orientated than the Bords venture - which in the main is a sort of gentle stroll through the decades of alleged contact with extraterrestrials.

In fact, its best feature is as a review of the major CE 3/4 cases in a sort of 'what the aliens from planet x, y and z said to whom and where'. Long chapters review fifties contactee yarns, modern channelers tales and close encounters with odd named aliens from here, there and everywhere.



Although there is some added commentary and when it comes it is fair, reasonably cautious and well done, there was too little of that for me. Too often stories were presented, left dangling and the reader had to conclude whether you were supposed to believe them or not. In a field as rich as UFOlogy that provides a wonderful basis for a book of fascinating tales but after a while leaves the knowledgable reader bamboozled trying to figure out what to do with them all! There is no real attempt to evaluate the data, but lets be fair that was obviously never the intention of the book.

At the end they write separate conclusions. Janet seems to argue against the ETH. Colin may (its hard to tell) semi-favour it. He certainly quotes at length from my report on the 'conversation with a witty UFO' (NUN 141) in a way that seems to make more of it than I ever would have done. But then you don't really find out what Colin does think about it - which is the dilemma of the book. Its long on tall tales and short on any guide as to what to really make out of their content.

That said, most folk will know how with the Bords you get an eminently readable and always entertaining text. This has to be one of their best. It is also about UFOs, so for those less well read in the field will present a wealth of alien contact stories they likely haven't met before. That alone makes it invaluable. Its just that for the dedicated UFOlogist (of which few buy books, sad to say) its a shame it did not go just a little bit deeper.

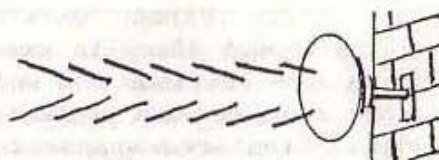
The Roswell Report (Ed) George Eberhart CUFOS 146 pp \$12.00 post inc

In the summer after a long wrangle Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt published their Avon paperback 'UFO Crash at Roswell' - the first of several coming titles on the case, supposedly going some way to vindicating the strengths of the alleged crash in New Mexico. The Center for UFO Studies issue this volume as a 'companion' .Essentially a collection of articles from IUR (mostly by Randle and Schmitt but also others and with a few original items) it reflects the recent CUFOS investigation which uncovered new leads adding things to the popularly written book - eg a very detailed chronology and background data and documentation. It has a well argued refutation of the recently promoted 'Japanese' balloon theory to explain the incident and this is a fine book - which probably needs to be read alongside the Avon paperback for full effect. But it is pretty persuasive in its own right as to the fact that something truly strange went on 44 summers ago. You may need to add a few dollars for air mail postage via 2457 West Peterson Ave Chicago Illinois 60659...but its a worthy investment if you dont get IUR.

Life Pulse Anthony North Keyhole Publications 74pp £2 post inc

Anyone who offers a 'grand unifying theory of life' in 74 pages seems to be asking a bit much, especially when you hear it is being released as a self published booklet because many publishing houses rejected it. That said its author is the same Anthony North behind Rattler's Tale and the new Fireside Philosopher magazine and if you've read these or his articles elsewhere (eg in UFO Debate) you will know he has things to say of UFO relevance and can express himself lucidly. That's a lot more than one might claim for most of the yawn-inducing 'meaning of life' tracts I have been sent by would-be authors down the years. In mini chapters he relates everything from the industrial revolution, the ecological crisis facing earth, quantum physics and on to altered states. For £2 its a good few hours read, which you can't say about many books these days. Available from BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX.

## MEDIA MATTERS



A look at UFOs in the public eye

The press coverage for the Sheffield conference was all-embracing - a tribute to BUFORAs press officer Philip Mantle who worked tirelessly to get the media to promote it and then attend. The local Sheffield Star, for instance, carried no less than FIVE separate articles!

On 13 Aug they announced an 'invasion of UFO spotters' - not auguring well with a cartoon of a little green man with bags packed, destination Sheffield. But essentially it provided a taster of what was on offer and no doubt helped make the event a success. On 16 Aug they reported the opening press conference as 'Creatures from the hack lagoon' (who comes up with this stuff?) Likening the gathering to a Liberal Democrat press conference (though I suspect more attended!) John Spencer was cited calling it all 'heavyweight' (it was) and much space was devoted to contactee Kathryn Howard telling her amazing story. I was quoted expounding the importance of hoaxing in crop circles and stressing that the complex formations are 'very rare and very recent' (now we know why!). John Spencer signed off pointing out that the press are not interested if you have an explanation for a sighting; often sadly true. But at least the article took the mickey out of itself with the by-line; 'They came from another world - and that was only the journalists.' Anyone who has faced the UK press will say amen to that.

The Star also reported the doomed plan to fly in the Richard Branson UFO balloon as a joke (unfavourable weather - what else - scuppered that clever ploy cooked up by the IUN). The Yorkshire Post (16 Aug) made much of the decision to ban the Sunday Sport reporters from the event (an ill conceived nice idea that luckily did not backfire too far). Seemingly sympathising with our 'serious mission', as they dubbed it, they quoted John Spencer as diplomatically terming a Sport invitation as 'inappropriate'.

But it was the quality nationals who really went to town. The Daily Telegraph (16 Aug) focused (as did many British regionals) on Kathryn Howard's extraordinary tale described as a 'Cosmic trip in a beer barrel'. Overall this was the poorest effort, with little disguised irony and only quoting Walt Andrus as terming this 'the greatest mystery of the space age. What keeps you going is the drive that this is important and affects every man, woman and child on planet earth.' There was no balance at all - which is more or less what you'd expect from the previous dismal UFO treatment meted out by this newspaper whenever discussing UFOs.

Significantly, on the other hand, the Times - no less - not only featured an article on 16 Aug but gave lengthy editorial leader comment. This 'storm in a saucer' was also predictably less than 100% serious, pontificating about Utopia and musing in conclusion 'It is high time for a debate on UFOs as a vital issue of national security... Perhaps... not.' The article also played on the banning of the Sport and then confined itself to comparing such yarns with the true story of Kathryn Howard's own CE 4 and the decision to hold the conference in the 'Silly season'. Ah, but - for some 'quality' papers that lasts 12 months.

However, for me it was the Independent on Sunday (18 Aug) which came up with the best reporting - two articles, one on circles and one on UFOs. I must admit bias here, as I was quoted widely in both. Even so I think Alex Renton undeniably put together the most perceptive overview on offer.

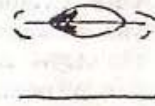
On circles, he covered the Japanese experiments to reproduce circles in the lab and the finding of circles in dust on the Tokyo underground (exclusive film screened at the conference) and noted my qualms about Britain losing out by debating silly theories whilst the Japs were thinking 'lets patent it and make a few billion yen' out of the process.

As for its UFO article this had the obligatory coverage of Kathryn Howard and the same tired jokey intro (this time about cigar shaped objects!) But I was pleased with the quotes attributed to me, which were good balance. 'If I resolve a case, I've succeeded. But too many UFOlogists don't want to explain things... Its a waste of time to be seen as a bunch of amateurs wandering around looking for aliens on hilltops. But in the end it always comes down to money: to fund serious research you've got to pander to an extent to the community.' By which I meant that you must present a more sensationalised image in public to appeal to a majority and bring in the sort of funds needed to do less sensational research. It is a sad fact of UFO life presently much under debate within BUFORA as it charts its future.

As for the Sport - they mentioned the conference, did NOT report they had been banned and restricted themselves instead to a YUFOS prediction from Tony Dodd that 'something big is about to happen' because of a 'massive increase in sightings of aliens' (2 Aug). But my favourite came on 11 Aug with their wonderful discussion of a 'massive cover up' by astronomers. This of the astounding news that aliens are 'thieving our stars' (you heard correctly!) Apparently, all year scientists have noticed stars vanishing but the government is hiding the truth that UFOs are using them for nuclear fuel and wiping out the universe bit by bit! What next??

## BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations

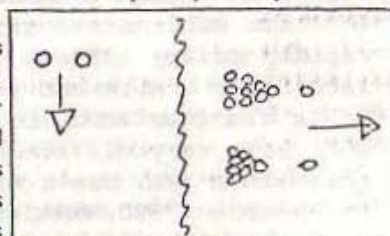


*Malvern earthlights?* ... Reports have come in from from Bushley Green, a small village on the Worcester/Glostershire borders. These tell of events near Bredon Hill. In June 1986 at 21.30 the purple night sky suddenly turned green according to Mr B. This lasted for a minute and then at a very slow pace an object appeared which was a ball of light with a short tail. This drifted down towards the hills taking 45 seconds to do so. At the conclusion the green glow vanished from the sky through which the thing had passed. The same witness reports a twilight observation at 20.05 in May 1991 when a rapidly moving white light crossed the sky and was joined by a second. Both left faint trails and passed horizon to horizon in under 60 seconds. He says he is familiar with local military aircraft which are common sights. These were both very different observations. He also recalls a story told by his grandmother who was a witness to it at the village of Casitemorton way back in November 1920. Walking past the local church with a friend they saw the roof glowing. Thinking it was on fire they rushed round the side to see but were confronted by two globes of light. As the women approached the lights 'took off' heading for a larger object in the sky, which drifted away. As the globes passed by, the terrified witnesses were apparently knocked to the ground, by a wind generated or some forcefield (??). I am trying to chase up more information on this interesting case.

Yorkshire puddings ... At least, that is what that noted UFO expert James Randi seems to think of witnesses in East Yorkshire who witnessed a recent flap. On 7 August 1991 two holidaymakers spotted orange lights darting through clouds by cliffs near Filey. This was at 01.45 and at least 10 lights were seen. Suggestions ranged from military planes with afterburner to 'unusual cloud formations' as the Met Office reported locally without being more specific. It then transpired that at 23.30 next night a farmer and hotel receptionist in Sancton near Market Weighton both saw a cross shaped green and red light over fields, which became a bright light that rushed in and hovered low over a field. After a few minutes this dimmed, the red and green returned and the object flew off. A 'soft drone', which was 'nothing like an aircraft' was heard. Local air bases all denied knowledge or responsibility. No sooner had the Hull Mail reported this than similar sightings came in. By 14 August more witnesses to a pulsing orange light at Gristhorpe near Filey arrived and the media sensed a flap. So the Hull Mail cornered Randi in his Florida home and Tony Dodd of YUFOS. They fought it out in print. Tony Dodd unsurprisingly spoke of a major rise in cases, linked them with 'the formation of crop circles' and noted that they were in touch with NASA and the MoD about it... 'Theres no question about it. These things exist and (are) intelligently piloted vehicles of some sort...' Philip Mantle sensibly reminded of previous local cases which proved to be mid-air refuelling exercises. The MoD LIED (for that is all one can call it) by denying this, saying that the UK is such a small country that refuelling mid flight is never necessary. Sure, but they knew perfectly well that exercises involving both RAF VC-10s and also USAF tankers HAVE flown over when training for long range missions that may be needed some day (as they were when the USAF bombed Libya from Britain a few years ago). These even took place over the Humber estuary near Hull. So the paper took the MoD at their word, ignored Philip Mantle (at their peril) and gave the reader a straight choice between Mr Dodd and Randi. The TV pundit himself had noted the aircraft option but also suggested a hoax was possible. This seems very improbable given the independent witnesses - but it is a shame on the media that the views of a knowledgeable expert who had actually spent much time and effort proving the aircraft refuelling solution in the past were junked in favour of a magician whose experience of UFOs in general and this case in particular is probably rather limited. Give me serious UFology any day.

#### MIDLANDS INVASION (Part 2) Report by Anthony James, EMUFORA

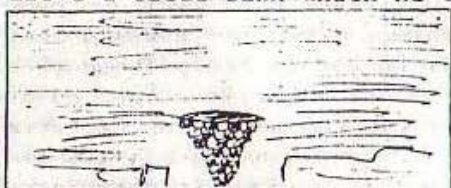
Readers of the last NUN will recall the wave on the night of 22 May 1991 over Nottingham. Thanks very much to EMUFORA for such a speedy response to my request for a report. They have done a fine job. Collating statements from several of the witnesses it is obvious that they saw the same thing as it went by on a VERY slow path from east to west over Woodborough, Calverton, Arnold, Bulwell, Hucknall and elsewhere. There were so many consistent sightings it is clear there WAS an encounter. Each story has very similar features - usually two white lights in the distance, seeming stationary but then noticeably drifting towards the witnesses and passing over. As they do so resolving into triangular formations that appear to have been made up of many lights, including some red and green. A humming or droning unlike normal aircraft was also commonly heard at closest proximity. One witness was insistent they WERE aircraft. But



another said they were not two objects side by side but one single airship. Investigation by EMUFORA seems to have ruled that out. The group checked with many sources without finding an answer and claim the MoD said off the record that THEY tracked the object heading into Derbyshire, did not know what it was but it 'played havoc with their airspace'. The MoD denied the refuelling theory because 'aircraft always refuel over the sea, we do not refuel over land and certainly not over a city' (Ah - but they DO refuel - tell that to the Hull Mail!). EMUFORA understandably reject this theory, note the similarity with the Belgian triangles and count this as an important UFO case. They also note the unusual noise and low height/slow speed estimates of witnesses. Fair points - but conclusive? As we know from past cases, the refuelling DOES occur over sea, but the planes line up into formation over LAND en route. Previous ones also crossed Nottingham and in those cases witnesses ASSUMED the huge array of lights to be on just one or two aircraft and so placed these very low down and moving very slowly because of the apparent size. In fact they were seeing MANY aircraft spread over a large area of sky at great height - hence the slow speed. The sound of many such aircraft so high up would be very unusual and unlike anything witnesses would be used to. I may be wrong, but we cannot rule this solution out as the visual descriptions given here seem to me to fit too well.

CASE 9107 23 May 1991 02.30 Padiham, Lancashire Roy Sandbach C3-5

Mr B - a security guard - was on patrol at an office when he saw a light above a cloud bank which he took to be the moon. But after a few moments he



realised that the moon was in the south east and this was north west. Then a break in the clouds revealed a cone shaped mass of lights coloured red, green and white. This was stationary in the sky and very intense. He returned to his security base and still saw it for 20-30 minutes until it dimmed as clouds covered it. When the clouds cleared it was still there but as a faint light, then it faded altogether. Superficially this seems to be a bright star or planet, but no obvious candidates appear (except venus - which set earlier and in a different part of the sky). Roy Sandbach suggests a vortex, but I still suspect an astronomical source for something stationary for as long as this. Ideas???

CASE 9109 4 Aug 1991 23.00 Ladywell, Lothian, Scotland SRUFO A5-6

A middle aged couple were awoken in their end terraced by a brilliant lightbeam which illuminated the entire upper storey. The beam entered the hall window and was much brighter than sunlight. They jumped from bed expecting to see a source but when they got to the window it vanished and there was nothing to be seen. They ran downstairs and outside but saw and heard no more. The beam entered a north facing window which had CLOSED horizontal style Venetian blinds! A neighbour 50 yards south east saw the same thing at the same time and told the couple next morning. Investigation showed car headlights could not be a cause and air movements revealed no likely candidates. Stuart Campbell proposes the three-quarter moon was the source of the beam. It was rising in the north east at the time. SRUFO investigations suggest its angle of entry was not sufficient and the witnesses all laughed the suggestion away. However, weather conditions that night might have led a temperature inversion to magnify the moons effect.

Two nurses at a nearby hospital subsequently reported seeing a narrow beam of light without source at 23.30 on the same night. But even odder, the very next night the couple in the terraced house saw another UFO. This was watched for 25 minutes as it hung in the south and was described as 'pyramid shaped sitting on a base'. It revolved giving off multiple colours then just vanished (sounds not unlike the Padiham UFO above). Stuart Campbell this time proposed the star Antares but investigators Ron Halliday and Ken Higgins estimate the UFO location as some distance away from that.

CASE 9111 10 August 1991 Blackridge, Lothian, Scotland SRUFO C5-5

Preliminary report on a strange case of a potential UAP to be investigated further. Five members of a family in this village saw a triangular object in the sky over Bathgate Hills. Beams of light poured out towards the ground. One appeared to HIT the roof of a house in the distance. Seconds later a loud explosion was heard and the object moved away and vanished.

## CASE HISTORIES



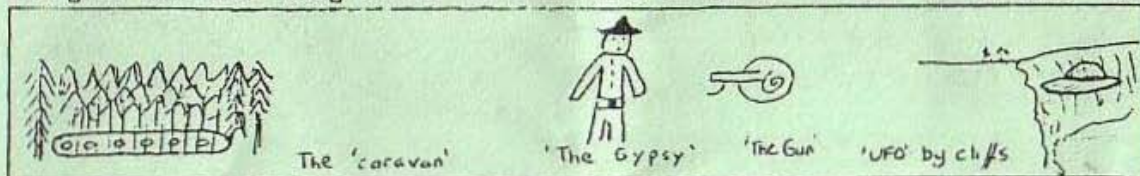
### GYPSIES OF A STRANGE AND DISTANT TIME Report by Margaret Fry

This is a case which had innocuous beginnings, after the appearance by Jenny (a CE witness from Todmorden) and myself on BBC-1s 'People Today' in April. A woman from south Wales, whom we shall not identify further, called to share her story. Initially it seemed a good way for new BUFORA AI Kerry Blower to get some experience, but fortunately Margaret Fry quickly saw that this was no ordinary case and went to remarkable lengths to investigate it. For that we must all be thankful, as it took her many miles with a very difficult case and a witness who was torn between expressing her story and confiding in somebody she did not know. For that reason - even identifying locations are withheld.

The woman is an attractive grandmother and from now on will be referred to simply as G (for Grannie!) Her story begins in summer 1934 when she was aged about 3. She lived in a rural farming area and used to play with a girl of about 6 from a family who also had younger boys. They lived in houses by a bean field and G had specific instructions to be home for tea by 4.30. This day (July or August it appears) when she reached their house it was empty but the door was open. She went past the beans towards a group of 'people' in the distance and realised this was her friend and family in the company of strange 'soldiers' who wore green boiler like suits and tin hats. They also had a belt with something strapped to it and carried what to the youngster looked like 'ray guns'. They were FORCING the family up steps into a 'big silver caravan behind the trees in a field' and G trailed after them, grabbing one 'soldiers' trousers and begging for her friend to be released. By now they were in a large room with many people standing about like statues. The father of her friends family spoke to the soldiers 'You can see she is obviously not mine. She belongs to a family down the road. Let her go.' At this G was forcefully lifted and dumped outside, the door slid shut and she ran like mad back to the empty house.

G recalls it was 3.45 when she went to the house, but as she sat on the step it was growing dark (so at least 4 or 5 hours later). When she next looked toward the trees the caravan was gone and she was sad at losing her friend. She hurried home, to be met by her own angry father who had mobilised a long search for her. Her family were more mad at her friends parents for not letting them know she had stayed with them, but G insisted that the 'soldiers' had taken them away. Her mother and father rebuked her saying there were no soldiers but when they went to the house it was empty as claimed. The missing family never returned. Several times as G grew up her mother talked about the incident so she knew it was not just a daydream.

We move now to May 1943. G lived in another house by a river as her father had changed jobs. A group of gypsies who sometimes helped out parked in a field near here and she recalls one very odd 'rich looking' silver caravan. She has a dim memory of being 'taken' into one around 1937, but no detail. Then it returned. A couple of weeks later (now June 1943) the gypsies had gone but one 'long silver caravan with a row of a lot of windows' was



in the same field. About 80-90 local people (many she recognised) were standing immobile outside as she was approached by a man and woman, both wearing the green one-piece suits, one carrying a gun like 9 years before. They forced her towards the 'caravan'. She was very frightened. G describes these beings as small men (4 feet tall with grey/white skins and diamond like eyes). But inside the van was a tall, good looking being whom she dubbed 'The Khan' (from his oriental looks?). Although she had assumed them to be odd gypsies, 'Khan' explained that his people came from 'Chiron - a satellite of Pluto' (knowledge which if truly imparted in 1943 is astonishing in its accuracy). 'Khan' claimed that they had 'programmed' her from early on. Margaret Fry notes that in 1991 G was weeping as she struggled to recall many of what were evidently painful memories. Around this time a coloured ball of light (small - red, turning white, then rainbow coloured) had appeared at her bedroom window as if 'keeping tabs' on her.

G's father died soon after this and they moved to an old house by a sheer cliff. In 1949, now aged 17, she had charge of her youngest brother - then 5. They were playing some distance from the cliffs, as they were sensibly banned from going near the edge but her brother had wandered off somewhere. As soon as she realised this G saw a large 'insect' in the grass. It was talking to her (and in retrospect she realises it was not an insect but some sort of communication device). She yelled at her brother who returned and they both stared at the device which TOLD them to go to the cliff edge. They followed as if under a compulsion. G was able to walk curiously onward but as they neared the dip where the ground fell several hundred feet toward the sea she noticed a dull silvery bell shape about 15 feet in diameter hovering beside the cliff edge, rising and falling towards their level and then back down the cliff face. As if entranced her brother was being pulled towards the gaping chasm and G had to lunge forward and grasp his hand to prevent him falling to certain death.

G dragged her brother back home, very shaken. *To be continued...*



## Final Words...



Congratulations Victor Kean, winner of Media Matters competition last issue. He wins No 5 of UFO Newfile (available at £1 from 16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 3ST for anyone else). We asked you to suggest what the the alien frogman might have put fictionally in the sand after an alleged close encounter with actress Shelley Winters reported by the media. In fun only, he says - "If that was one of your winters, I'd hate to try one of your summers"

*The November Brigantia will be issue 50 - our last issue (did you notice?) was number 150. Not many other UFO journals make it as far as that - so you can reckon we are here to stay. In the August Brigantia you missed all the usual wry commentary in articles about modern worldwide UFO life. We intend to keep the joint subscriber savings deal going into 1992. Presently £12 pa brings you 10 issues (6 NUNs and 4 Brigantias). Major printing and postal rises may force increased charges in the new year, so if you want to secure your 1992 issues at 1991 costs renew now (£12 for both, £6 for NUN only - cheques payable to "NUFON")*

### What's on where

BUFORA lectures begin at 6.30 pm at the London Business School, Regents Park Outer Circle  
 Nov 2 features an evening debate of latest research chaired by Steve Gamble. Bring schemes!  
 Dec 7 will present pilot and crop circle photographer Busty Taylor dodging the flak.

Nov 9/10 Andy Collins and Caroline Wise host a 'Psychic Questing Conference' featuring the quest for the Meonia swords, etc. £9 (or £8 if you live outside 071 or 081 phone areas or can prove OAP or UB40 status) Location is Conway Hall Red Lion Square Nr Holborn Tube London Price includes late night party! Details:- PO Box 189 Leigh on Sea Essex S59 1NF

The Leigh, Lancashire, Library Turnpike Centre (0942-604131) has a short season of paranormal lectures at 7.30 pm. On 7 Nov Michael Carro the Wigan Reporter clairvoyant talks astrology and on 5 Dec Jenny Randles talks about UFO and psychic experiences of TV stars etc. Peter Hough's lecture on 'Scary Stories' - personal supernatural investigations - is over but you can catch him in a rerun of the series in early 1992 at the Wigan Library (0942-827625).

### NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(W. Scotland)	41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
SRUFO	(E. Scotland)	129 Langton View, East Calder, Wst Lothian	EH53 0RE
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
MUFORA*	(North West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
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SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Vales, Sheffield	S 31 3RW
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EMUFORA	(Notts)	8 Roosa Close, Bulwell, Nottingham	NG 6 7BL
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LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
MUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

\* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265