

AWARENESS

22:2



Conference Issue

The Journal Of



**CONTACT
INTERNATIONAL
UFO RESEARCH**

AWARENESS

A Contact International Publication

Editorial Address &
All correspondence

November 1997

P.O. Box 23, WHEATLEY
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Subscriptions £9 for 4 £14 for 8 UK £12 for 4 foreign Airmail

ADVERTISING RATES

£15 per page (4 issues) £10 per ½ page (4 issues)
 £7 per ¼ page (4 issues) Lineage 50p a line of 12 words
 Issues average 3-4 months - subject to the workload of the production team who are all unpaid volunteers.

Front Cover B.P. James

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RIPE FOR TAKEOVER?

The events of August 31st - September 6th brought home certain home truths. Following the saga from a detached viewpoint was rather difficult - the world's most popular media icon had died in an awful car crash and the media did not let us forget it. Only by spending the week at the North Pole could one escape! New clichés such as "The Peoples' Princess" emerged and the Queen herself appeared to be manipulated into lowering the flag at half mast over Buckingham Palace and even making a live impromptu broadcast on the Friday evening. Would the same have been done for another non-Royal divorcee if they should have been the unfortunate victim - hardly. More people attended the funeral in London on the Saturday, September 6th than we could reasonably expect for the sovereign herself.

What's all this do with our subject you may ask? We now have a world containing a few thousand "marketable" people out of the 5 billion and rising Joe Public! This select few get their photographs splashed on screens, newspapers and magazines. Most are from the USA, several from Britain and major European states - very few are from Tunisia or Mali. Most of us could not recall a single person in the news from many third world nations. Of the few thousand, something like 20 or so are of "icon" standing - Diana was one of these and arguably the greatest of all. Her picture could be found in every bookshop from London to Tokyo!

If intelligent aliens should be watching the proceedings from a comfortable spaceship parked a few miles above the planet, they could well see that by controlling the minds and activities of the top twenty media stars, this would lead no doubt to almost total control of the global population. During the black week in September, it emerged that millions of people regarded the late princess as a personal friend even though they had never met. Intense media activity over her new romance ensured that the newspapers had a photograph of her in every day the 3 months prior to her death. What if she had suddenly joined a strange sect or espoused bizarre beliefs - many would take heed and a movement would grow.

Of course there are those that contend takeover has already happened - that "Illuminati" run the show - not aliens, but very sinister members of the human race. The circumstances of the Diana crash - drunk driver, muslim connections, out of control Paparazzi, will guarantee a mountain of conspiracy theories to rival "JFK" over the next 5 years.

We regret since the mid-Summer "Roswell" celebrations, UFO reports have been few and far between in most areas save possibly East Anglia. Lack of exciting stories in the press has generated a certain apathy, and conference attendances are well down. Whatever you think of the "alien autopsy" in 1995 it certainly created a buzz!

This situation is a recurring one and could literally change overnight. There is the belief that the re-emergence of sunspot activity on the 11 year cycle will herald a new bout of UFO activity. Whatever is out there, assuming it comes from the far reaches of the galaxy, the chances are that it will have a wider view of time than humans, and any revelations might be unfolded over a 1000 year period rather than 10. The crop circles are maybe that 1000 year revelation as they continue unabated after 18 years, again adding to their complexity level in 1997. In the meantime perhaps we should be looking at other phenomena such as strange light flashes and sounds as signs of alien arrival. These and "invisible energy" being seen on photographs are becoming more widespread in recent years. Eyes should be kept wide open

for something unique which may already have shown up, but which we have failed to spot in our rat-race world today.

THE EDITOR

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NEWS IN BRIEF

FAKED MOON LANDINGS: The controversial arguments about whether the Apollo missions took place rage on unabated with the publication of several books imminent. One of the central notions being put about is that astronauts would be cooked by radiation in passing through the Van Allen Belts surrounding the Earth.

In reply to a question in the Daily Mail of July 17th 1997, H.J.P Arnold of Space Frontiers Ltd Havant, recalls that Gemini 11 ventured into the lower Belt (1000-5000) kilometres above the Earth) between September 12-15 1966 and measured the radiation at 0.3 rads per hour, which encouraged the quote by Alan Bean at NASA control: "It's safer than having a chest xray!"

This was nearly 3 years before Apollo 11 actually "landed" on the Moon and testing radiation levels would have been an obvious advance safety precaution, before sending men into deep space.

Most of the damning evidence otherwise, is supposed to be on the authenticity of photographs taken on the Moon's surface by Apollo 11. This will no doubt be discussed elsewhere in the future, but it sadly means we can also cancel out all the UFO reports made by Apollo astronauts on their missions!

"MEN IN BLACK?": The blockbuster film presently circulating around British cinemas appears to a spoof on the original concept of "Men In Black". The records speak about sinister looking men in black suits, usually in pairs, that knocked on the door of UFO witnesses and warned them about talking too much about their experiences to the media. In "MIB" 1997 these gentlemen apparently go round seeking out aliens who have taken on human shape, and eradicating (or unmasking) dangerous ones. Just think your best buddy might be a grotesque looking alien under that innocent front! It all seems to be a load of tosh to please the 18-25 age group who are the cinema's main patrons these days. There are some quite exceptional special effects which must be the selling point - its had an unbroken run of over 3 months in Oxford.

As we have no definite proof "Men In Black" ever existed, then the film boys are entitled to make of it what they will.

An infinitely superior film called "CONTACT" is also circulating at the present time. Please note this is not the history of the CONTACT INTERNATIONAL organisation!

PROBES GALORE: After a period of disastrous failures NASA has got a space probe on to the Martian surface and another is about to photograph the surface features from orbit. From our point of view, the new survey should confirm whether or not the "Martian Face" and other features in the Cydonia region are artificial or just odd shaped rocks. The quality of the existing pictures taken in 1976 should be greatly surpassed by the 1997 technology,

and the answers we have been waiting for revealed in about a years time if NASA schedules are to be believed. Whatever is processed from Global Surveyor will be very carefully scrutinised by CIUFOR researchers. Reputations are at stake!

The massive nuclear powered "Cassini" mission is now on its way to Saturn by a rather devious route and we may learn something about "life" on the mysterious moon Titan about 2004. Most of the pre-launch rhetoric on "Cassini" concerned protest groups worried about the excessive amount of plutonium inside the power plant on board the probe. If it should have crashed on take-off, half of America would have been contaminated with nuclear radiation went the argument - there's confidence for you!

FRED PASSEY: News has just reached us that former Chairman of Contact (UK), Fred Passey died in October as a result of contracting a virus while holidaying in Portugal. This unfortunately compounded existing health problems which Fred was unable to overcome.

Fred was Chairman in the mid-late 1970s and restored Contact to an orderly and competent outfit after some very erratic management in the early 1970s. Always a stickler for format and the constitution, Fred unfortunately was unable to support the changes made in 1996 and resigned his membership. However he will be remembered for the many contributions made at an earlier period in the history of the group.

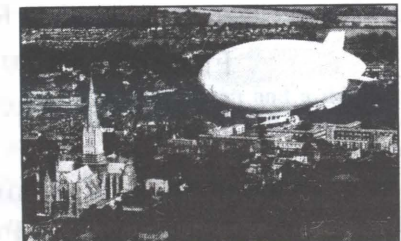
EAST ANGLIAN UPDATE: Awareness has taken up a good deal of space in reporting the events of October 5th 1996, when 2 UFOs were seen hovering over The Wash for something like 10 hours.

It has been established from our colleague, Robin Cole, of Circular Forum, Cheltenham, that GCHQ, Britain's main "spy centre" and based at Cheltenham, was fully alerted on these events and officials were seen rushing in and out of the complex at odd hours that weekend, which may have lead to some of the disinformation sent out by the Ministry of Defence.

Rechecking the press reports of the night of October 5th, UFOs were reported from dozens of Lincolnshire villages and towns including Woodhall Spa, Stixwold, Bucknall and Horsington. Some of these places are more than 20 miles from the estimated position over The Wash that the services monitored. It would have to have been a massively contrived hoax to have generated all these false reports.

BLIMP FOR SALE!: An unmarked white airship has been undergoing trials with the army since 1993. Planned for silent surveillance in Northern Ireland to replace noisy helicopters, it has been tested out in other places than NI where its presence was considered too sensitive. The MOD spent £330,000 on the blimp in 1993, called Skyship 600, and the project costs have now reached £2.5 million using up a 35 man assessment team.

SKYSHIP 600
over Salisbury



Could this explain a number of UFO events over the last 4 years? The widely reported sightings of October 22nd 1996 describe a plain white illuminated object cruising between Reading and Birmingham, but we were informed it was a "Virgin Lightship". It is not stated in the Sunday Telegraph article (12/10/97) whether the helium envelope was or could be illuminated and how much testing was done at night.

For would be buyers, the blimp was deflated at RAF, Boscombe Down, Wilts, in early October.

AUSTRALIAN LIGHT BEAM MATCHES OURS: Our abductee friend, "Viv" whose case was reported in the last magazine 22-1 has forwarded a photograph taken in Perth, Western Australia on New Year's Eve 1996 at his open air party. The shot shows a white spiralling beam of light, invisible to the naked eye, entering from the RHS and running to earth at a very similar angle to a number of pictures taken in England over the past 3 years.

This does not solve the mystery, but shows that the experience is not confined to England or to one camera.

In addition to a black beam shown in the previous magazine we now have seen another black one on a photograph of a church yard taken in July 1997. Is the introduction of BLACK rather than WHITE a new development?

PARANORMAL UPDATE: Of the three witnesses reporting strange phenomena in the first half of the year (See Awareness 22-1, pages 3-4), the second case reporting apparitions is still active. Another apport arrived in late-Summer, being a similar sized pebble but grey-black in colour. This was found on the bedroom landing and again contained energy. Our witness reported flashing light disturbances during the night in question. The white powder reported in the third case remains stable giving off powerful energy and heat after 6 months.

**CONTACT
INTERNATIONAL
UFO RESEARCH**

1998 AGM
Wednesday, 28th January - 8.00pm

at the
Meeting Room
Fleur de Lys Public House,
East Hagbourne, Nr Didcot

**Any proposals or motions should be
forwarded to the PO Box address,
by 15th January, please.**

CONFERENCE 1997 - EXETER HALL KIDLINGTON

The day dawned bright and clear on Sunday October 26th for the second CIUFOR conference to be held at the Exeter Hall. Would it be another packed house like 1996 - well not this time - an adequate but not overwhelming audience came along reflecting the violent mood swings of Joe Public these days! The usual panics at the back of the hall ensued - no sign of a dealer and one of the speakers and almost 11 o'clock. (They both had car breakdowns, but eventually made it.) Brian was suffering with a bad throat, but fortunately was able to get Robin Cole of Circular Forum to replace his talk at short notice. In the end the show ran quite smoothly after a bit of juggling.

Grateful thanks are due to Council members who put the conference together, particularly Brian James for the overall management.

Alan Copeland and family for catering services.

Chris Farmer for videoing the full conference.

Lee Nichols for photographs.

Nick Rigby for controlling P.A systems.

Busty Taylor for loan of his audio-visual equipment.

SYNOPSIS OF LECTURES:

ROBIN COLE (Circular Forum, Cheltenham)

Replacing Brian James' talk, Robin gave an interesting insight into some of the history of UFOs and related some of his own experiences. He saw his first UFO at the age of 5-6 and thought it was 30ft across. Later on at the age of 12 he had a disagreement with the press on the description of a UFO described as "the size of a football" pointing out the divergence of descriptions the media use to butter up their reports rather than what the witness actually said.

Robin then reverted to historical evidence finding reports from 1879 of two huge spring wheels; illustrations of "greys" in Cosmopolitan magazine of 1907; and images of aliens in the books of H.G Wells in the early years of the 20th century. Does the public report what they read about? Is there a difference in what they perceive to see and what they believe to see?

Where do UFOs come from? He brought up alternative ideas suggesting they might be higher life forms in different dimensions; life forms actually existing in toxic gases; and the possibility of high technology being developed from alien knowledge. It was interesting to note that men in authority had once said it was impossible to achieve what had now been done in the last 100 years.

He then went on about our obsession with aliens - pointing out the vast quantities of merchandise with alien motifs- e.g birthday cards, books, bed spreads, fizzy drink cans and "The Teletubbies" in three dimensions!

A number of UFO reports from 1952, 1954 and 1976 were shown and a document from NASA dated 1978 revealing that the USAF investigated UFOs as part of air surveillance. The recent East Anglian incident (October 1996) was discussed, in particular the part known to be played by GCHQ, Cheltenham. (Robin has entered into correspondence with GCHQ and produced a detailed report on the nature of the covert activities there).

He finished off with some wise counsel - why with all the cut backs and cancellations within the MOD did they still keep the UFO desk officer in work?

ANANDA SIRISENA (Milton Keynes, specialist on Martian features):

Ananda previously gave his talk on the "Face on Mars" to a Contact International audience of 5 at Geoff Ambler's house some 10 years ago! Since then he has become one of the top 3 or 4 experts on the subject in the country and has lectured at all the major conferences.

He related the "Search for Extraterrestrial Life", SETI, as like the beat of the jungle drum across the sea. The natives wait for a reply that never comes. Up to recently the technique of SETI was to send logical radio signals out into space and wait for a logical answer. Now the emphasis is firmly on "Planetary SETI", whereby all possible sources of life will be sought out on the planets and moons of the Solar System, for which Global Surveyor and Pathfinder now at work on Mars, are early examples.

There followed detailed examination of the Cydonia photographs showing the "face", the "fort" and the "DNM pyramid". In spite of the official line that the "face" was an optical illusion, Ananda revealed that a second sequence of photos still showed the features as before.

GRAHAM BIRDSALL (Leeds, Editor of UFO Magazine):

Originally an investigator for Contact (UK), for which he was Investigator of the Year in 1981 - kindly brought to the attention of the audience - then founder of YUFOS at Leeds, and latterly the editor of UFO Magazine with a global circulation, Graham has strived over a long period of time to become almost the "Voice of Ufology". We were privileged to welcome him back to Oxford after a long gap.

Covering much ground from 1947 onwards in his dynamic 90 minute talk, the following points were of particular significance under the concept "That the Evidence for UFOs is Overwhelming":

(A) A recent quote on the red herring or otherwise that the aliens recovered from Roswell might be dummies in experimental use with the USAF/Army - "The airforce had invented time travel for dummies!"

(B) The Mantell air crash incident of 1948 - the official report did not reveal that the aircraft had belly flopped down after an incident with a UFO.

(C) In the early 1950s, the "Lubbock Lights" were witnessed by a group of professors at conference who insisted they were unknowns. The official report downgraded the quality of the witnesses.

(D) "Project Blue Book" recently quoted by the Pentagon came over on the BBC as being "up to date" in spite of being 30 years old. Analysis of "Blue Book" received by Graham Birdsall indicated 12618 reports of which 701 were unidentified. Of these 117 were examined in detail, of which 30% were unexplained. Furthermore, Pentagon reports of sightings over military bases and overseas reports were not registered.

(E) A recent UFO conference in Beijing, China was followed with interest by the Ministry of Defence - rather odd they should want to know about it, when they are only concerned about British airspace.

(F) More and more pilots are reporting UFOs. An estimated 3500 have now come forward. The percentages are 10% reporting, but 90% who do not.

(G) Referring to the Rendlesham Forest incident of 1980, new information indicates that the biggest stockpile of nuclear weapons in Europe were hidden at nearby RAF Woodbridge base at the time. These weapons were "compromised".

(H) Truly frightening descriptions of alien creatures were quoted from Varginha, Brazil, which had been visited by the Birdsalls.

In conclusion, Graham pointed to only 15,000 years of known human history on planet Earth. Is our previous history on other planets?

GRAHAM BIRDSALL WITH BRIAN JAMES AT EXETER HALL.



ROBIN COLE INTERVIEWED BY CENTRAL TELEVISION



CONTACT INTERNATIONAL U.F.O. RESEARCH.



1997 CONFERENCE EVIDENCE FOR E.T. LIFE?



"There they go again - always looking for explanations!! We just like a bit of 3D Pop art and a visit to the human zoo." - EARTH!! follows 97.

"BUSTY" TAYLOR: (Andover, Crop Circle specialist) Busty has been investigating crop circles since August 3rd 1985, when he examined one near his home town of Andover. His photographs from the air, and "pole shots" are well known, and he has specialised in odd phenomena associated with the circles.

A strange gelatinous substance found in one circle caused all who sniffed it to contract heavy colds. Some of his pole shots showed black dots or arrows invisible to the naked eye.

Busty found a number of very tiny 9 inch diameter circles which were perfectly formed. These were remote from the tramlines in the field, and showed no entry points. They would be too small to be trampled by feet without making major disturbances.

More recently he found faint ring outlines in a field of maize from air observation. These marks would be totally un-noticeable from the ground.

A wide range of crop circles on slides were shown to the audience, and Busty concluded by showing the similarity of disc UFOs to the topography of ancient hill forts!

EDWARD ASHPOLE: (Pembroke, Author on the subject of SETI). A specialist in SETI and author of 2 recent books, Edward was unfortunately delayed and had to shorten his talk. He showed views from space looking towards the Earth, and surmised it might be easier for ETs to find us than the other way around.

Given life on Earth started 350 million years ago, the ozone layer would have built up then, and life would have been detected from afar by spectral analysis, if the technology were available.

We now have the Hubble telescope in position and this has already made some spectacular finds. The speaker believes we are within 2 decades of finding planets similar to Earth.

===== AUSTRALIAN ABDUCTIONS PART 2 =====

The following account has been received from "MAY" the girl friend of "VIV" whose possible abduction scenario was reported in the last edition of Awareness. Her experience occurred on June 29th 1997 about a week before Viv returned to Perth WA.

On July 16th Viv, back home again, was attacked by the forces, finding more marks on his arms on awakening, and noticing new scars on his ear lobes. Viv has since phoned us, but no further activity has followed since July 16th.

If anyone has any advice on this case we would be pleased to hear about it. We have a number of photographs of the marks on Viv's body, but are probably not sharp enough to reproduce in black and white. (Editor)

29 JUNE 1997
Went to bed at approximately 12.30pm - couldn't sleep. Mind was preoccupied with Viv returning to Perth, Thursday.

Sometime later, (unsure of the time) the atmosphere of the room changed. The sounds of the traffic and night sounds could no longer be heard. There was a strange noise which could best be described as "buzzing" (only sound at this stage and seemed to be in my head). I also felt a shortage of breath. My eyes felt very heavy and I could barely keep them open. I struggled with this for a couple of seconds, but it was pointless as the energy was too strong. My arms, legs and body at this precise moment were like "lead". I tried to move my arms and struggled once again, this time to move my body into a more comfortable position - but could not. (I was facing the windows of our bedroom - half on my back and half on at an angle).

Finally giving in, my body started to tingle from the feet up. A surge of "energy" is the only way I can describe it, and it entered my body and drew me to the very edge of the bed, almost to the point I feared I would end up with a thud on the floor - but somehow I didn't. I felt both my arms being held (by an increased pressure of energy, **not hands**). My body still maintaining the same position was turned around and drawn towards the end of the bed and back up again. This happened twice (completing 2 full anti-clockwise circles of the bed) as if I was hypnotised. I then went blank. The next thing I remember, I was in a large empty room being made to follow two women. Both had nurse-like uniforms (one had short brown hair and was fairly stocky wearing a light green uniform and the other was slightly built and had short mousy blonde hair wearing a white uniform). I was not able to see their faces and no words were spoken. However I just "knew" as if telepathically I was to go with them. We entered a lift and once the doors closed I passed out once again. I regained my consciousness in another smaller room and was woken by the sound of soft music. (It was a ballad type song sung by a male and female doing a duet). I am unable to remember the title, however I feel sure if I hear it again I will remember it. This was my last recollection until I woke up rather suddenly back in my bed in exactly the same position bodywise; however my arms were straight down by my side.

At this stage I must say I did not feel convinced it was all over. A little nervous about what might happen next, I turned on the light to check the time and found it was 2.30am.

After turning out the light, the noises of the night started to dissipate once again. However I was determined, this time, to stay in full control. Suddenly the dog (who was sleeping in my daughter's room at the end of the hall) began to bark frantically. The door to this room was open which meant the dog could see our bedroom door from where he was. I heard my daughter tell him to be quiet. I then realised that the atmosphere of the room had within an instant returned to "normal" and I proceeded to turn on the light. I calmed the dog down and patted him - he was by my door at that stage - took my little girl to the toilet, and returned her and the dog to their own beds before returning to mine.

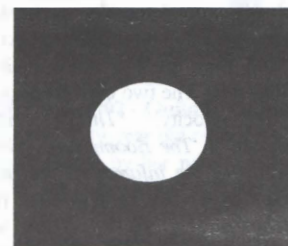
As soon as I settled down, as if within minutes, the atmosphere instantly changed, obliterating all the sounds from outside, and I found myself once again paralysed. After this I do not remember what happened, but however I woke up at 7.05am feeling extremely tired, as if I had not been to bed at all that night. Later that morning I started to bleed (as if I had a period). This I felt was not possible as I had one two weeks before. My head also hurt particularly over the right eye and I felt extremely flushed and with an adrenalin rush which continued for most of the day.

This I took to be one of my first encounters with the paranormal.

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SIGHTING SUMMARIES

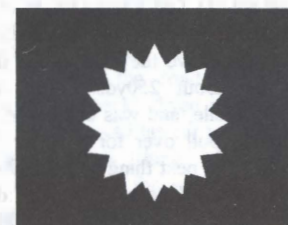
by Data Research



2 May 1997 - Stanton Harcourt, Oxon

A 17 year old student, the son of a data research member, was night fishing at Linch Hill leisure park. The fisherman noticed a bright ball of white-green light off to his left, just to the side of a tree by a footpath. The light was about 4' off the ground, it was the size of a football. The object was seen for about a minute, until the observer glanced at his fishing rods, then found that the object had gone when he looked back in that direction.

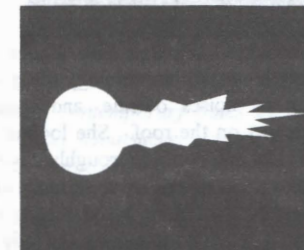
Source & Investigations - CIUFOR



Autumn 1996 - Prestatyn, N Wales

A series of strange observations were made by a family in Prestatyn, during 1996. The Whitworth family frequently observed an odd cloud formation out across the sea, a little way off the coastline just outside Prestatyn. Within this cloud, they were then able to see a bright pulsating light, always seemingly in the same place in the sky. The witnesses were able to observe the light through binoculars and telescope, where it seemed to be surrounded by swirling 'energy'. *It is easy to assume that the observers were mistakenly looking at a bright star, but this clearly could not have remained in one position to have been seen sporadically over several months.*

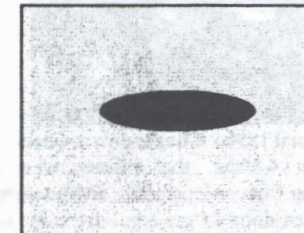
Source & Investigations - CIUFOR



15 May 1997 - Bicester

At just after midnight, the witness, who had difficulty sleeping, looked out of her window towards the west. She noticed an object bigger than any star, though moving like a meteor, but much slower. The object was perhaps more like a comet in appearance, and was a yellow-orange colour.

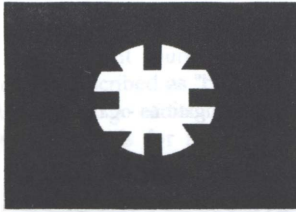
Source & Investigations - CIUFOR



13 January 1997 - Didcot, Oxon

Having been alerted by earlier sightings in the evening, some members of Data Research went out to scan the skies in their local area. At 1955hrs one member was rewarded by the sighting of a dense black, roughly elliptical object pass quickly across the northern sky, passing through Ursa Major and was lost to sight above the cirrostratus cloud to the northeast. *Based on angular size estimates from known stars within Ursa Major, and that it must have been at a minimum height of 20km, this object was at least 3km long.*

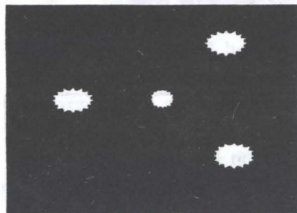
Source & Investigations - CIUFOR



4 June 1996 - Warden Hill, Gloucs

In the early hours of the morning, a lady was woken up by noises outside, and thought something was on the roof. She looked out of her window and noticed a roughly circular-shaped object, but its edge was serrated more like a cog-wheel. The object was orange in colour, and it appeared to pulse. The lady felt threatened, and went back to hide in bed. The next morning she found her video had malfunctioned, and the gas boiler timer was slow by 35 minutes.

(Source & Investigation - Gloucestershire UFO Group)



29 April 1996 - Churchdown, Gloucs

Just after 4.00am, the witness, who was recovering from an operation, and he went to the kitchen door to get some fresh air on a mild night. He was staggered to see a massive triangular object with a bright light at each corner, with a bright red light in its centre. The object was very low, and came straight over the house, emitting low hum as it did so.

(Source & Investigation - Gloucestershire UFO Group)



2 March 1997 - Celle, Germany

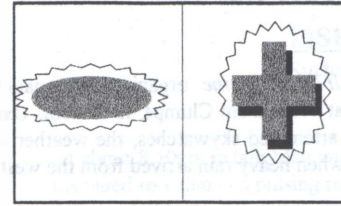
The witness was staying with relatives in Germany. Three members of the family were able to observe an apparent pair of craft moving slowly around the sky, perhaps only 50m off the ground. At times the two craft hovered, and they made a noise similar to Harrier jump-jets. The two craft then sped off with extreme velocity. **This seems like another report of 'The Boomerang', perhaps a new variant of the infamous Triangle, but an important difference here was the rather contemporary aircraft noise. If this was a normal helicopter of Harrier-type of VSTOL aircraft, then neither would have been capable of the acceleration reported by the witnesses.**

Source & Investigations - CIUFOR

15 February 1995 - Newent, Gloucs

The witness was travelling along the M50 near Newent at 9.40pm on 15 February, when he was aware of a bright object coming at speed across the open countryside towards him. The road went into a cutting, and the object was lost to sight until he emerged from the cutting, only to find a large bright object, as wide as the motorway, and descending to only about 50ft above the road as the driver continued for about 250yds. The driver suddenly felt docile, and was compelled by a voice inside to pull over for a better look, which he did. The next thing he remembers is being in the middle lane in third gear, doing about 50mph, and a voice inside telling him to "Keep going, there is no traffic, keep going." The driver was soon at his exit junction, and then pulled over, believing that he may have been in an accident, but the car was undamaged. It was fifteen months before the witness made himself known to the Gloucester UFO Group, by which time he had started to have flashbacks of something, and irrational fears that strongly suggested an abduction. Other strangely coincidental events have begun to happen in the witness's life. Further investigations are continuing.

(Source & Investigation - Gloucestershire UFO Group)



20 April 1997 - Guildford, Surrey

The witness, a 49-year old retired civil servant had been alerted by her neighbour, who had seen the odd object about 15 minutes before. The two of them went outside at 9.40pm with binoculars, and both observed for over 40 minutes. The object first appeared as a cigar shape, surrounded by brilliant light, but then slowly changed to a four-pointed cross, but still shining brightly, and then it finally changed again to a crescent. The night was cool and clear, with no cloud cover.

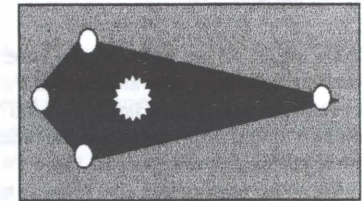
Source & Investigations - CIUFOR

11 June 1996 - Gotherington, Gloucs

The witness, Mr S, was travelling on the A435 at 2.25am, a very regular journey for him. On this night he was to experience something very different. As he approached the Gotherington junction, his car headlights seemed to illuminate a "hessian sack over two posts" covering the road sign up ahead. However, the "sack" dived into the roadside ditch. Mr S slowed his car to an almost stop and watched this 'thing' roll and scamper along in the ditch for some 15yds until he came up level with it. At this point the 'thing' raised itself onto its front legs and looked at him, being less than 8ft away from a by now very shaken Mr S. The 'creature' was evil looking, with "large ears, and about 5 ft tall. Its skin was similar to that of a pig, and was light tan in colour, but this was no creature that I had even seen before. It looked more like a gargoyle." Mr S revisited the site some days later with investigators from the Gloucester UFO Group, and he was clearly very shaken and traumatised, and this is despite him being a retained fire-fighter, who has had to deal with some very horrific accidents and tragedies. The witnesses description, and drawing depicted something like a headless humanoid, but with wings. A

bright orange UFO was independently reported the previous evening. *This description is similar to the experience of four teenagers on 16 November 1963, near Sandling Park. They witnessed a bright object drop into some trees, and then a headless, winged creature ran across the field at them. This sort of winged humanoid is also known in the USA, and was chronicled in John Keel's The Mothman Prophecies. Of course in contemporary times we also have the curious 'Goatsucker' creature spreading through Latin America, and indeed possibly into the Iberian Peninsula. I am not sure where the boundaries between Ufology and Cryptozoology can be drawn*

(Source & Investigation - Gloucestershire UFO Group)



29 November 1996 - Mevagissey, Cornwall

Two police officers, one a sergeant, were on static observation in their patrol car, while on a hill overlooking Mevagissey itself. One of them noticed a group of lights approaching their position, and told his colleague, and they both thought it was an aircraft. As it got closer, they noted it was a definite elongated triangle in shape, with greenish-white lights at each point, and a very bright white light in the centre. Both of the police officers got out of their car to watch this craft come nearer. It appeared to stop and hover, before moving off at around 40mph, before performing a sudden 90° turn to the west, and it immediately accelerated to over 1000mph in very short distance, keeping at the same altitude until it rapidly vanished in the distance.

Source & Investigations - CIUFOR, with help from PUFORG

by Data Research

As you will remember, CIUFOR participated in the *UFO Magazine* organized International Skywatch weekend, and held our Skywatch on Round Hill, at Wittenham Clumps, nr Didcot, Oxon, on Saturday 30th August. For once this year on one of our attempted skywatches, the weather was actually clement, well, until 12:15am on the Sunday anyway, when heavy rain arrived from the west.

Prior to the event, CIUFOR had locally publicised our participation, and the local media was very interested. Brian James did a telephone interview on the Saturday morning with Richard Forrest of local radio station FOX FM, which was broadcast on numerous news segments throughout the day. Brian was joined by Linda Dellow and Nick Rigby for an interview with Mike O'Connor of Radio Thames Valley FM on the Saturday afternoon, which was recorded at the Skywatch venue itself, and which was broadcast during the evening. One other communication we also make is to remind the Northmoor Trust, who own the Wittenham Clumps, that we would be up there that night, so that the warden would not have to come and find out what we were doing, just in case members of the public became suspicious - as they have in the past.

Perhaps I had better explain that the Wittenham site is an ancient landmark, part of it was an Iron-Age hillfort, and even in modern times, certain pagan rituals are carried out on the other of the two hills, Castle Hill. It is less than five years ago that dark forces were supposed to have been 'in control' of the landmark.

The evening itself was good weatherwise, with high cirrostratus cloud moving away to the east of our location. Stalwart skywatchers Bill Foley and Laurence Stockdale were joined by Linda and Brian. recent new members James Hill and Vince MacDonald also came along, and it was good to get to know them, once we all had negotiated the electric fence (Merely one for enclosing sheep, which were being grazed on Round Hill!). We had several visitors join us during the evening, though most were more keen to see the Russian space station *Mir* than any UFOs. We also had a very interesting visit by a young lady and her husband, whose names we cannot mention, but the lady and her friend had apparently had a very clear abduction experience while driving home one night - we are still following up this potential case. It is interesting to note that one the previous Skywatch at Wittenham, on the very wet 21st June event, another witness came along who had experienced several paranormal events, including an apparent abduction near South Hinksey, in Oxford.

Okay, I hear you ask, what did we see?

In truth, not a lot that could be attributed to Ufological activity! The only odd phenomena that did occur were the now very common 'skyflashes', which were seen in many parts of the sky during the evening. Two of the visitors who were with us also commented on how often they see these flashes while all-night fishing locally. We were treated to the surprisingly common firework displays around the Oxford area. The clearing skies did allow us to see Jupiter and Saturn through a small telescope, and the Pleiades always look wonderful as they rise in the eastern sky. And yes, we did see *Mir* on one of its orbits (Easily recognisable by its erratic flight as the poor cosmonauts switched the computer on and off, and also the bits hanging off*).

While we didn't see a major UFO event, that we all presumably wanted, the evening did provide us with the opportunity to meet new people, and hear their experiences. We should also not forget the educational aspect of skywatches, as visitors do appreciate learning things about the night sky, and it might just stop them from erroneously reporting a bright planet or star as a UFO. Perhaps one of the most important parts of a skywatch is simply being with like-minded people, who are all willing to speak, and listen, on all manner of paranormal phenomena.

**Just in case anyone didn't spot it, this was a joke*

FISHING IN THE NET

Surfed by Frances Copeland.

At about 8.10pm in late May we (my husband and two friends and myself) saw -- and managed to video -- a pulsing round light for about 8 minutes northwest of Sedona, Arizona USA.

The object was videoed over the roof top of the house across the street. Its diameter was approximately 1/2 the width of the stack on top of our neighbour's chimney -- and pulsed to about the same width. The object pulsed and all other objects in the video remained clear and steady. It did not fly in an exact straight line from our vantage point.

Through binoculars it looked like a flat oval. It was blue on top, yellow in the middle and red on the bottom. We are currently checking with the local airports for flight reports.

We then heard of another couple who saw the object and they reported it as being white, hovering, spinning and moving up and down while it hovered. It was over Coffee Pot Mountain and headed over the Mingus.

A further report was added to the list which stated it was spinning, and hovering moving side to side and up and down. The different coloured lights on it were blue red and yellows.

The final witness stated that the object beamed lights towards the ground and also stated that an aircraft was flying in the direction of the object towards Sedona airport.

LAKELAND FLORIDA USA C 1968.

Mr & Mrs McMullen, Sharon Burgess and two school students saw a mysterious object heading towards the McMullen home from a nearby hill. The disc-shaped UFO approximately 13feet in diameter and 8 feet high, hovered 7 feet above a palm tree, 150 feet distant from the house.

Two occupants in white tight outfits and with headgear, were seen through its transparent dome. Prior to the actual sighting Mr McMullen noted audio and visual interference on their TV also they complained of a smell like ammonia that burned their noses and eyes. During the excitement the McMullen's dog knocked a hole in the screen porch in an effort to get away from the UFO. Lakeland police were called, but the visitors had left by the time the police car arrived.

BAHIA BLANCA, ARGENTINA. evening time on the 5th October 1950

Report Summary:- Dr Botta, ex-war pilot, aeronautical engineer and now architectural engineer with a well-known real estate company in Caracas was in Argentina on a construction project. He was driving along the highway about 75 miles from his hotel in an isolated region when he saw the metallic, discoid object resting in the grass of the highway.

Approaching nearer, he saw an opening or door in its side. He peered inside and it seemed empty. There was some sort of red light pulsating in the dome at intervals of one second. He went inside and was surprised to see a curved divan with four seats, three of which were occupied by small beings covered in a kind of tight fitting grey overall. He estimated the height of the beings to be about four feet.

Their faces were dark, or charred. In front of them was a screen with rays playing on it and on top of the screen was a globe of transparent material which was rotating. He touched one of the little occupants, whose flesh was rigid.

He related his story to two friends and they decided to return the next morning but all they found was a heap of charred ashes. One of the friends at that point looked up and spotted three objects.

One was cigar shaped, high up. Two others were discoid and smaller. One of the discs about ten meters in diameter, was hovering above the group at an estimated height of 600m. He took five pictures, of which only two showed the object with any degree of clarity, the discs then shot up and merged with the cigar-shaped object.

It travelled for a short distance then turned blood red, made an 80degree turn and disappeared in a matter of seconds.

PUERTO RICO UFO STORY

Jorge Martin, a Puerto Rican journalist, carefully documented a growing UFO phenomenon in Southwest Puerto Rico. Since April 1967 when a giant UFO was sighted over Ramsey Air Force Base, UFO activity and government involvement has become a bizarre series of events.

It may have climaxed on the night of December 28th 1988 when a witness took several photographs of F-14s circling a large UFO. More than 60 witnesses from at least three locations watched the incident in which the F-14s were seen to merge with the UFO never to be seen again. This incident was described in the January 1990 MUFON UFO Journal.

There was intense speculation when in May 1987 explosion and tremors computed to have been 80,000 feet below Laguna, Cartagena occurred. Crevasses appeared and black smoke was reported coming from them. Further witnesses reported people in contamination suits arrived on the scene and took samples. The area, completely

devoid of wildlife was put off limits to the public and later acquired by the government as a wildlife management area.

The Laguna Cartagena area and a nearby small island off the coast have been a hotbed of UFO activity with many sightings and photographs taken by pilots, fishermen tourists and others. UFOs have been seen entering and rising out of the water. Several aircraft and pilots disappeared under strange circumstances.

Analysis of the photographs of the UFO with the F-14s shows no evidence of fraud, but the owner of the negatives has thus far refused to release them for scientific examination fearing government confiscation.

The Navy has kept a carrier task force in the immediate area and six AWAC planes are also kept in this vicinity.

A translation from the German Press Agency dated March 20th 1997.

Madrid. The Spanish Air Force has released numerous secret documents on UFOs from the seventies and eighties. Or to be precise, 83 reports which at the time were categorised as "Top Secret" and now can be viewed in the headquarters of the Air Force the (Spanish) newspaper "ABC" states.

Among the documents are 20 so-called "X-Files" on strange phenomena that haven't been explained, in spite of several years of research. According to one of these reports the former Spanish Prime Minister Suarez witnessed one such inexplicable incident in February 1980.

During a return flight from Germany a mysterious multicoloured ball of light could be seen in the sky. The pilots of this aircraft and an accompanying one had at the same time picked up radar signals that could not be identified. Subsequent investigations showed that the air space had been totally free at the time.

In another case, the pilot of an airliner to Tenerife felt compelled to make an intermediate landing in Valencia. "Some strange red lights came towards us with an enormous speed", the pilot reported at the time. The phenomenon was simultaneously registered on radar screens in other towns.

WHAT DO ALIENS LOOK LIKE, AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Because we do not know for certain that UFOs are spacecraft, we cannot be sure aliens are visiting the earth from other planets. Many ufologists argue that there is enough evidence to show that UFOs are really spacecraft operated by intelligent aliens. Among the reports of encounters with aliens (Close Encounters of the Third Kind or CE-3s) there is a wide variety of descriptions. Some witnesses describe beings who look very human. In fact, they say these aliens could easily blend into the crowd on

any street in any city of the world. These types of aliens are sometimes called Nordics, because they most closely resemble the people living in northern Europe.

Others report seeing short, grey beings with large, almond-shaped eyes and large bulbous heads. These aliens have been called Greys. The Greys are sometimes divided into sub-groups, depending on other physical characteristics, such as height.

On some occasions witnesses report seeing creatures that resemble robots or androids. Only in the most unusual cases do people claim to have seen monstrous creatures so often depicted in popular movies about beings from outer space.

There are many theories about where aliens come from, but there is no absolute proof. Some speculate that aliens come from other planets, whilst others suggest different dimensions. The idea that UFO beings are time travellers from our own future could also be a possibility.

The most intriguing clue about the origin of the aliens comes from the UFO abduction account of Betty and Barney Hill. During their abduction aboard a UFO in 1961, Betty Hill was shown a three-dimensional map of a cluster of stars. She later drew the star map whilst under hypnosis. Years later, an Ohio school teacher, Marjorie Fish, made many models of known groups of stars in our section of the galaxy and compared them to the Hill star map. Fish eventually found a match and concluded that the two major stars shown were the binary stars, Zeta Reticulum I and II. It is interesting to note that these stars are similar to the sun and could very well have earthlike planets in orbit around them - planets that might support intelligent life!

ASSOCIATED PRESS 15th March 1997. Arizona report strange lights in sky.

PHOENIX (AP) Strange bright lights over northern and north-western Arizona evoked a bevy of telephone calls but drew no official explanation.

Law enforcement agencies said their phones began ringing Thursday night with questions from people wanting to know what the lights were.

One Phoenix area man videotaped what appeared to be a string of nine lights hovering above the desert floor. The video was highlighted on the television news Friday night.

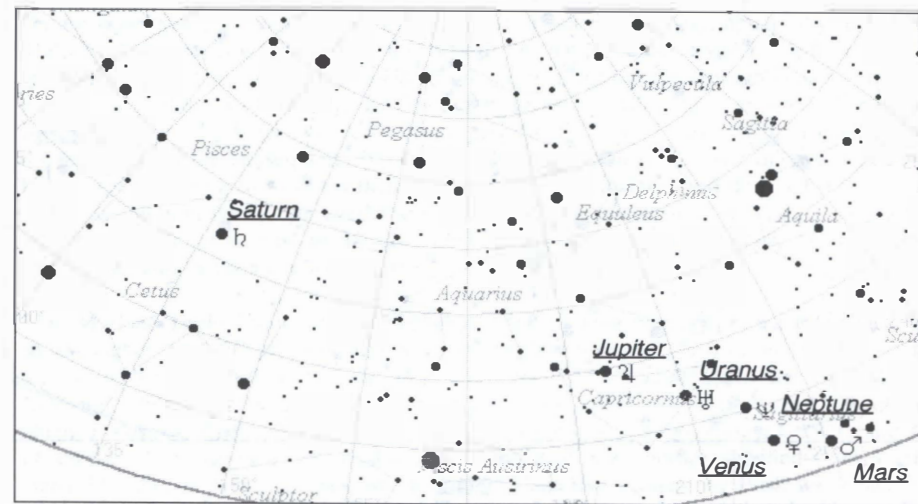
So what were they? The Arizona National Guard said it had no earthly explanation!

A spokesperson for the state guard said that an Apache helicopter pilot stated they were caused by military flares sent up during a training exercise. Another statement also released was that the residents of Prescott had misidentified a formation of five military aircraft as a UFO.

The UFO buffs certainly didn't buy those explanations!

by Brian P James

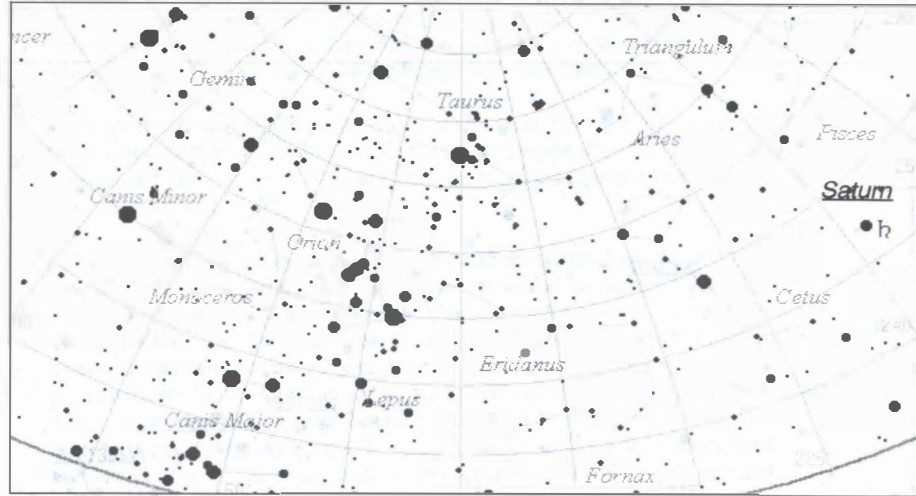
The notes here are for the northern 'winter' months of December 1997 through to February of 1998. The winter skies are undoubtedly the richest in terms of bright stars and spectacular constellations. The nights are of course longer, if you can stand the clear cold night air for a rewarding evening's observing! The notes here will concern those planets, and bright stars, that may cause mis-identifications by inexperienced observers. *The notes, and map, are for observers in Britain and Western Europe.*



Planets

As you will see from the star chart, deliberately set early at 6.00pm on 1st December, there is an interesting apparent near-alignment of planets early in that month. I must stress that this apparent alignment is of course a simple line-of-sight effect as seen from Earth, and no cataclysmic events should be expected. **Mercury** will be almost impossible to see from northern latitudes during our winter. **Mars** is shown on the star chart, but it will be very difficult to see from northern latitudes, and by mid month will be impossible to see. It will not be seen from Britain for the rest of the winter. **Venus** will be quite unmistakable, brilliant in the southwestern sky, as it nears its greatest eastern elongation from the sun, and will be at its brightest magnitude of -4.7 on 11th December. After many months of skimming the horizon and setting quite soon after the Sun, Venus now will be visible for about 2 hours after sunset. However, it will rapidly move back towards the Sun in early January, and will become a morning object by the end of the month. Those of you with telescopes will notice how the phase of Venus changes as it moves westwards towards the Sun. To some people it might seem odd that unlike the Moon, Venus, due to the position of the planets, appears at its brightest to us when it is at its crescent phase. **Uranus** is also in the southwestern quadrant of the sky, but will not be visible to the naked eye. **Neptune** is in the constellation of Sagittarius, but again is not visible without a decent telescope. **Jupiter** is second only to Venus in brightness in the southwestern sky, but it is only at a magnitude of -2.2 in early December. If you are in any doubt as to whether you are looking at Jupiter, just look through even a pair of low-power binoculars, and you will see at least one of the gas giant's main moons, the so called Galilean moons. If you want an interest in Galilean observation, why not make a note of where the moons are on successive evenings? You may be surprised at how much they do move in relation to the

planet. Jupiter will become closer to the Sun as the year comes to an end, and by the end of January will become difficult to see in the twilight as the days lengthen. **Saturn** is the last of the planets to be seen in the winter sky. It is far less brilliant than either Venus and Jupiter, only being at a magnitude of +0.2, but it should still be obvious with its slight yellow hue. A look with reasonable binoculars, or preferably a small telescope, will reveal the planet's ring system, soon to be investigated more by space probes such as the Cassini-Huygens mission. Saturn will be visible in the southwestern sky for all of our winter months.



Stars

The starchart here is for 9.00pm on 15th January. **Sirius** in Canis Major, to the east of the obvious Orion, is by far the brightest star in the sky, and should be quite unmistakable in the southeastern sky with its blue-white colour, but beware as how disturbed air, particularly thermal currents over towns and cities, can make the image distort, making the star seem to spin and pulse different colours. A similar effect may be noticed with **Vega**, in Lyra, which will be skimming the northern horizon for most of the winter - in early 1997 we did have one report from an observer in Swansea, who described Vega as a 'UFO' over several nights. As winter progresses, **Arcturus**, in Boötes, will be rising in the northeastern sky, and it too may well look distorted in murky air low to the horizon. By the end of February, blue-white **Spica**, in Virgo, will be low in the southeast.

Meteor Showers

Three known meteor showers can be seen during the winter. The **Geminid** shower lasts from 9th-14th December, though moonlight will lessen their brilliance - Gemini itself is roughly overhead at this time. The **Ursid** shower is from 17th-24th December, and Ursa Major and Minor are down in the northeastern sky. The **Quadrantid** shower is from 1st-4th January. This shower is somewhat mis-named, since the constellation is long-since forgotten, and the shower originates from the northern part of Boötes, in the eastern sky. While these are known showers, always keep a look out for sporadic meteors and bolides, which are totally unpredictable, but are usually the most spectacular 'shooting stars'.

[Charts from SkyMap shareware]

by Michael Soper

Some of the most controversial UFO reports of the past 50 years, where hoaxing has been widely promoted, are the Maury Island case of 1947; the Gulf Breeze, Florida, photographs; the "Majestic Twelve" scenario; the "UFOs making a crop circle" film of 1996, and the "Alien Autopsy" film of 1995. Now leaving Gulf Breeze for a moment, all the rest actually establish something in the event that they are true.

In July 1947, harbour patrolman, Harold A Dahl and his son were fishing near Maury Island (Washington State USA) when an annular craft appeared overhead apparently in trouble. The object was making a noise and spitting out hot metal, some of which burnt the dog on the boat. Then 6 other craft appeared, forming a ring around the stricken vehicle, and all 7 left the scene slowly and steadily, leaving the witnesses shocked. The one and only Kenneth Arnold got involved in the subsequent investigation, with two men from air-force intelligence, and the subsequent obfuscation is masterly - since for years this was listed as a hoax. Yet according to recent witnesses who have come forward and do not feature in any of the accounts in books, the events were very much as described. We have a case where the brouhaha is not because of the uncertainty about the case, more because of the strength of the case, and this is a common theme.

The "Majestic Twelve" scenario involves twelve high ranking members of a panel which met to investigate the UFO phenomenon and reported in a 9 page document on 18/9/47 ---- the names involved are Berkner, Bronk, Bush, Forrestal, Gray, Hillenkoetter, Hunsaker, Menzel, Montague, Souers, Twining, and Vandenberg. Their interests were Physics, Physiology, Nuclear Physics, Army, CIA, Aircraft Design, Astronomy, Navy, Airforce, DCI, and the document which has been obtained contains details of alien bodies obtained from a UFO crash, like that at Aztec in 1948, which indirect Canadian sources say Bush was concerned with. The odd feature of this scenario is that the personalities seem to be actually getting in the way of the evidence, which relates to crash sites like Roswell, (New Mexico) and Aztec. Thus we have witnesses and no direct physical evidence. Now whilst the protagonists argue about whether or not these documents concerning MJ12 are genuine, swopping photocopies of President Truman's signature on them, the actual evidence from the sites and the witnesses continues to become increasingly unobtainable.

Now to increase the difficulty of the decision about these events, a film on genuine 1940s celluloid, showing a genuine 1940s scene with standard phones, clocks, instruments and dishes for that time, and the carrying out of an autopsy of a body which evidently is not human, containing strange internal organs. Pathologists agree that both the instruments and methodology are those of the 1940s and these top ranking experts agree that this is exactly like the autopsy of a deformed girl with Turner's syndrome and polydactyly, with instruments and even ancillary medical equipment of the time. Additionally an ex army photographer has come forward to say that the camera work was entirely standard, not making a feature film - merely recording events on a camera whose focus was difficult to adjust. (A Bell and Howell film).

Now a top man in Eastman films has said that either the film is genuine or must be one of the best (and most expensive) hoaxes of all time. In fact the film may be the genuine autopsy of a denizen, though not one associated with the New Mexico incidents. Thus a fragment of truth that obfuscates.

MAIN EVENTS OF 1997 : The following are assessed as the 10 most significant British events of 1997.

- (1) April 20, Barbury Castle, near Swindon. Approx 300ft wide formation in oil-seed rape. Profile of "circular saw" with 6 standing crescents. The aerial photographs of this formation indicate it was the best ever formed in this particular crop - the most difficult of the crops to bend.
- (2) May 4th. Second event in rape-seed at Barbury Castle. Ten circles arranged in 3 rows with interlocking pathways. The shape was instantly recognized as the ancient symbol: "The Tree of Life"
- (3) June 1st, Winterbourne Bassett near Avebury. Immaculate geometric design in green barley, rather like a Chinese Puzzle. Basically a triangle inside a circle with patchwork of matching shapes in 3s - overall diameter 200ft.
- (4) June 9th, Stonehenge - in the same field as last year's massive "Julia Set", a raised regular hexagon inside a circle. Across the diagonals of the hexagon sprouted 6 tree like creations with many tiny circles on branches. Looked a bit like the inside of lungs. A unique design in immature barley, and the first incorporating a hexagon. Unfortunately the farmer did not allow visitors as he had done in 1996. The overall size was about 400ft across.
- (5) July 11th, Alton Priors on a hill overlooking the famous East Field, another new concept- of a circle with 12 overlapping rings; it was 300ft across and resembled the Eurovision TV logo. It became known as the "Torus Knot" and was found in wheat hybrid which was fairly green on the day of formation. The arrival coincided with a weekend of crop circle activities in the nearby village hall at Alton Barnes.
- (6) July 13th, Bishop Cannings - just a couple of miles away from (5) above, a beautiful 5 pointed star formation with a crisp outline in wheat. (See photograph)
- (7) July 14th, Cley Hill/Westbury White Horse, the second design based on a hexagon to appear. A vast number of straight, criss-crossing thin pathways made a dynamic looking pattern over the 200ft hexagon. It is understood there was just a small single circle originally there, which developed into a major event in wheat.
- (8) July 23, Silbury Hill, tucked in behind the monument, the first of 2 amazing and similar fractal designs of about 350ft diameter. Basically a large flattened circular area with a highly complex outline of 6 stars and a multitude of tiny circles around the perimeter (in wheat).
- (9) August 1st, Echilhampton near Devizes - a flattened circle with a standing square inside it. A series of parallel hair-line paths criss-crossed over the square producing a lattice of 780 tiny boxes. Nothing like this had been seen before. At the same time another superbly formed ringed circle with 6 petals or propellor blades was constructed just 150ft away in the wheatfield which hosted the longest ever formation in 1996.
- (10) August 8th, Milk Hill, Vale of Pewsey; beautifully positioned beneath the White Horse, this fractal design in wheat was the identical shape to the earlier one at Silbury Hill, but had an additional raised centre containing many small circles (see photograph). In fact this masterpiece breaks the record for the highest number of individual component circles in one

The video of 2 UFOs making a crop circle, (August 1996) has also produced a great controversy. The UFOs sweep over the Wiltshire field in the early hours and make 2 passes. On the first the circles form and on the second interconnecting pathways. The whole flight has the accuracy of some air display. Now the cameraman who is very shy has made no money from this and does not seem likely to. Many may not know that circles have appeared within a few minutes in broad daylight; for example near Stonehenge on July 7th 1996, when a massive formation of 151 circles appeared in a 45 minute period between 5 and 5.45pm as witnessed by a pilot who flew across the field. This was within sight of guards and visitors to the monument who saw nothing. The circles were in the shape of a "Julia Set" which is a mathematical precursor to a "Mandelbrot Set" though much the same.

Now these are very evidential cases, and therefore if accepted the case is closed, and the ETH (Extraterrestrial Hypothesis) is proved. Though this does not entirely explain the furor, since many of those against the cases are seasoned UFO investigators not from the debunking camp; and thus, rather oddly, they argue against the clincher.

One may feel that this is very irrational, and not the behaviour of, let us say, a barrister acting.

However it is explicable. The reason is that the phenomenon is much larger than human nature - we have something gargantuan by the tail, and frankly, mentally, we are scared off. How does a human react when getting involved with something which could give them a difficult mental life for 5 years - fall into angry negation. The reaction is instinctive - most try to avoid learning about their own mental nature, undeniably.

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CROP CIRCLE REPORT 1997

by Geoff Ambler

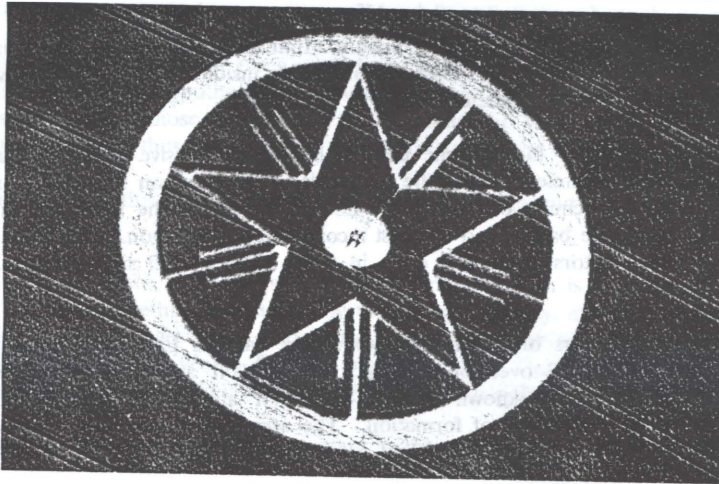
At the end of another exciting Summer about 150 formations were reported across England with Wiltshire dominating the Counties. The area between Badbury Ring (Swindon), Barbury Castle, Avebury, Alton Barnes, Stonehenge and Westbury contained all the major developments of 1997. There was also a goodly number in Hampshire, generally in the Winchester/Alton/Petersfield district, of varying quality. All counties bordering the south coast apart from the above looked to have between 2 and 6 formations, and further north there were the usual odd sprinkling in Essex, Gloucester, Oxon, Shropshire, Somerset and Suffolk. Very few reports have come through from Northern Counties, except for 4 from Yorkshire.

It is obvious that most researchers operate in Wiltshire and Hampshire so very few circles in these areas will be missed. Further afield some very large agricultural counties like Devon and Hereford/Worcester report very few events, so maybe there are scores going unrecorded. Likewise the latest figures from Europe show around 40 formations in Holland, 16 in Germany and 7 in Denmark. The concentration in Holland looks similar to 1996, while Germany and Denmark have risen from low totals in 1996. The Czech Republic claimed 37 in 1996, but has only one early formation listed for 1997. Whether the erratic European reporting represents a breakdown in communications, lack of observers, or is an actual situation cannot, as yet, be determined.

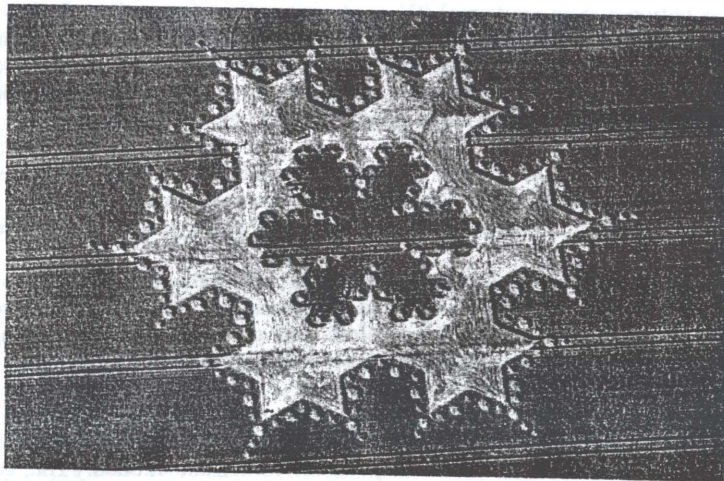
creation - 198 - just passing the 194 in the 1996 triple armed spiral a few miles away. The whole lot was crammed into an area not much more than 200ft across.

Overall the advances in 1997 have been of a mathematical nature and a certain compactness rather than the sprawling "thought bubble" types of a couple of years ago. As usual hoax claims have been made on a number of the above, but opinions are highly subjective and "proof" is another matter.

BISHOP CANNINGS (REF 6), 5 SIDED STAR



MILK HILL, 198 CIRCLE (REF 10) SNOWFLAKE FRACTAL



Full colour photographs of above (and many others) from Steve Alexander, 27, St Francis Rd, GOSPORT, Hants, PO12 2UG, Tel 01705 352867

YEAR BY YEAR COMPARISON: Formations have (definitely) appeared in England since 1980 and were mostly confined to specific areas of Wiltshire and Hampshire over the first 10 years. More recently they have spread out over most of the southern counties, but still are most numerous and sophisticated in the original areas. The distribution varies each year and the following is an indication of the variations over the last 4 years.

1994: Very early activity in rape around the Avebury area and then continuous appearance of "thought bubbles", "scorpions" and "galaxies" up to 1000ft long in Wiltshire within 10 miles of Silbury Hill. Some of the larger "thought bubbles" spread to Oxfordshire and Sussex. Longest ever formation, 2500ft, found at Ashbury, Oxon. Many others found in Dorset.

1995: Most events appeared between Winchester and Andover, Hants, and a large number in Sussex, but a barren year in Wiltshire with less than 10 formations. Development of multi-tiny circle formations making up overall design - centred around Cheesefoot Head, Winchester.

1996: The theme of vast numbers of small circles continued, starting with the "DNA" strands at Alton Barnes in June and the "Julia Set" at Stonehenge followed by a triple version at Windmill Hill, Avebury in July. Many other original designs mainly in Wiltshire, but good numbers in Hants, Oxon, East Midlands, and a few in all counties along the south coast.

1997: A year of excellence with precision built formations based on geometrical shapes and fractals nearly all found within a 30 mile zone of Wiltshire. Quite large numbers of mainly simpler designs in Hampshire. Other counties in the south had their share of variable quality formations.

COSMIC JOKER AT WORK? There has been evidence of provocative placing of odd shaped crop formations in 1997 near to tourist spots or suggesting doubt as to whether they are man made or not. Two of these have been examined by the writer and give indications that the circle making "energy" is present inside them.

(a) White Horse Hill, Uffington, Oxon. (July 6th): A dreaded "smiley face" put off close investigation for 3 weeks. However on eventually carrying out a survey, the outer ring formed round the face was found to be a consistent 67ft diameter and 3, 7ft circles making up the "eyes" and "nose" had classic standing centres typical of Wiltshire circles of 1996.

This is the third occasion that a formation has appeared in the fields beneath the White Horse, on the north side, in 4 years. Each time the work has been dismissed as a hoax, but who's kidding who? It is well known that the fields in question are open to access and in full view of the massed ranks looking down from the hill fort. In the Summer some groups hang about all night, so the obvious inference can be made, but you would have thought by now that someone would have made a circle on the south side fields, respecting the law of averages! Remote dowsing of the formation by another member of data research indicates that it might be genuine.

(b) Bledlow Ridge, Bucks, (July 11th): An emotive "swastika" was seen in a field of ripe barley by a couple out driving in random fashion down narrow country lanes on the Oxon-Bucks border.

The formation was down a valley close to a bridle path 200 yards from a very narrow road in remote countryside. The length was 55ft and the width 40ft overall with the component

arms 5.5ft across, but not entirely symmetrical. At first glance one intended to laugh it off, but the crop was laid really hard to the ground and the dowsing pendulum moved violently. Samples of barley dowsed by uninformed third parties also reacted. A second viewing after harvesting revealed the combined harvester could not remove the ears along one channel of the design as it was flattened down so hard.

Nobody appeared along the path during the times visits were taking place, except for the farmer, and it looks to be used only by riders. Cars pass by on the narrow road about every 15 minutes, so this is certainly not an area where wild neo-nazis would be prancing around! The farmer's son claimed a similar swastika had appeared there in 1996. The area is full of large well concealed houses - so who knows what is going on!

(c) Long Marston, Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks July 16: Once again a strange design has appeared in a field close to where the Phoenix Pop Festival takes place at Long Marston airfield. The rugby ball like shape is said to be an exact replica of the logo used by one of the participating bands called "Sneaker Pimps". Obviously hoax or publicity stunt you may say, and an identical scenario to the 1995 "eye" design which was never fully explained away. Those who saw the formation on the ground say it was beautifully formed, so who did it?

CONCLUSIONS: In the final analysis of a few years ago, it was stated that "this show has a long time to run". It has entirely been vindicated in subsequent years events, inspite of the usual annual attempts to rubbish the subject. There is every indication that the circle makers will set out their agenda steadily and gracefully over possibly 100s or even 1000s of years in the face of human "instant gratification" and "rat-race mentality" that rules modern society in 1997. Is it simply a way of saying "YOU ARE NOT ALONE"?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: SC magazine, Crop Circle Connector - Internet, Paul Anderson, Oxford Crop Circle Group.

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REVIEWS

ALIEN CONTACT THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS - JENNY RANGLES

The 142 pages of this book work out very slightly less than 10 pence a page for the hard cover price, and thus it is a book which could be mimeographed more cheaply. That having been said the work is very beautifully printed and produced, and has some very excellent accounts of the more significant cases of the last 50 years. In addition there are details of crash cases in 1948 which are not readily available.

Randles knocks the Adamski photographs despite the fact that at least ten other photographs of similar objects have been obtained, some of which COULD NOT have been hoaxed. Truth and popularity have never been very good partners.

However the details about the pressures to explain and the way that the public mood controls what is taken seriously are good and one strength of the book is that good though rare cases are included; and fakey though common ones are left out. One clear factor is that the evidence about which there is acrimonious dispute from day one usually contains something important. Thus a trivial hoax with hub cap or a button or cotton reels gets widely featured and no-one argues. Given a thought provoking case like the recent "UFOs create crop circles" video, and knives are out immediately. Everyone agrees about the new

triangular UFOs (made of solid cryptonite), thus very probably these are secret planes, especially as they are endorsed by the MOD's Nick Pope. The round objects have been round for millenia and do not pose a mystery, clearly.

As a sourcebook or diary, this book is invaluable, yet the references are very incomplete and some names oddly absent. There are too few references to serials and very few to SETI publications which back the ET hypothesis and even quote UFO cases. Thus the groundbreaking article by Jastrow in Science Digest and the denotation of possibly SETI artifacts in THE OBSERVATORY are missed. Yet in the terms of educated opinion these are much more important than the confusing pond or mudpatch of declassification and dissimulation.

ALIEN CONTACT is a very attractive book and placed beside a seat gets picked up and perused by almost everybody. Compared to others this is one attractive snip at £14.99 and worth obtaining. ISBN 1 85585 454 6

Michael Soper

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

Edward Ashpole (Sigma Books)

Robert Jastrow wrote in Science Digest: "Can you imagine a form of life as far beyond Man as Man is beyond the worm--- science assures us that such highly evolved beings must exist on the stars and planets around us--- (on the assumption that) life is common in the Universe--- these extraterrestrials are not like the flower children in CE111 or the cowboys of Star Wars--- they are creatures whom we will judge--- possessed of magical powers when we see them--- by our standards, they will be immortal, omniscient and omnipotent." Robert Jastrow, leader of the Viking Project at NASA resigned over the handling of the Viking data, the political decision to play down the possibility of current life on Mars, and the current trend to suggest that Palaeoexobiology might be appropriate.

Strategically Mars is vastly important and this is the reason why the eminently sensible Hoyle and Wickramasinghe Panspermia Hypothesis (the belief that certain biological material comes from outer space) is not given peer support, and why "The Face on Mars" debate has very effectively been muddled by partial truth and hype. That reason relates to the strategic advantage of a once Earth type planet at a greater distance from the Sun with only a fraction of the escape velocity of Earth.

Much to Ashpole's credit in this interesting book of 216 pages for £7 (cheaper than quality mimeograph) he does not trash Hoagland as Frank Drake has, stating that asking questions is always scientific. Only blind dogma and the refusal to read is not - thus the hypothesis as Jastrow pointed out, that some beings are vastly beyond us and travel to Earth with ease is not unscientific. The lack of science inheres in the religious dogmatic belief that this is impossible - one might as well kill Gordano Bruno or burn the books of Wilhelm Reich again. Science is the attitude and method, not the dogma which any cheap religion is capable of.

This book describes the wonderful idea of THE IMMORTAL NETWORK, a type of stellar Internet which, like the theme of Piers Anthony's MACROSCOPE conveys information free to all. Emerging civilisations capable of receiving these messages, once plugged in, and connected to the service, then human culture could ascend like an express lift leaving the

mediocre and their petty institutional solutions behind like dried out nematodes. He states somewhat against his theme that the only feasible method must be radio! My own belief is that "The Council of Nine" is more likely. (Purported extraterrestrial contact picked up by channelling). There are two directions from this - could some elements of our world be already quasireal, and could this fact encode information. Secondly could insects sent by panspermia have SETI encoded messages in the dormant DNA that composes them. Why discuss robots and Von Neumann probes when we already have insects around. There is a molecular radiating ring in the inmost centre of our galaxy.

Clearly this work, quite properly, is a question posing book rather than the reverse, and evidently it is all the more readable for that.

ISBN 1 85058 576 8 Michael Soper

QUEST FOR CONTACT

by Andy Thomas and Paul Bura

This very pleasant paperback chronicles the attempts over 4 years from 1992-5 to establish contact with Devic beings who might be the "circlemakers". The key figure in all this is Paul Bura, a psychic, in contact initially with the spirit "Joeb" who claims to be a link to the circle makers. Unfortunately Paul is a polio victim and has to be carried manually to the rendezvous each time - usually a difficult climb up on to the Sussex Downs.

From an initial failure in 1992, Paul and Andy describe the pains and frustrations of attempting contact with the paranormal, trying to will a crop circle to appear after their meditations. The team changes each year; interpersonal relationships fail (whats new!); UFOs appear to third parties but not to the participants; and new Devic forces or "Guardians" emerge. Is it all on the level? Well at the final attempt in 1995, a crop circle triplet of rings turns up at Felbridge immediately after the meditation and is on the energy line indicated at the time. Success at last, but still no explanation as to who the circlemakers are.

Geoff Ambler

S.B Publications, 19, Grove Rd, East Sussex, BN25 1TP. 144 pp, £7.50 Illustrated.

A POEM by Bobby Dichins, Ashford, Kent.

I DO BELIEVE

Lights in the Sky
All Shapes and Myths
Do humans seek truth
Or just an illusion.

We don't even understand earth
So why do we judge space
Our counterparts in the universe
May bring sense to the confusion.

Maybe friend or maybe foe
Inner world or outer space
Taken home or left to die
Do we need them, or do they need us?

Thousands of People
Millions of Sightings
Government conspiracy
Only time and awareness will tell.

by Brian P James

As many of you 'croppies' will know, for many years now there have been reports, and photos and video footage of small shining balls of light over fields of crops. Early in this year's circles research, I thought I was witnessing such a phenomena. On Monday 30th June at mid-morning, I was at the landmark of Adam's Grave, overlooking the well-known Alton Barnes and surrounding area in the Vale of Pewsey, usually a prime target for circles phenomena. While looking to the southwest, towards the villages of Stanton St Bernard and Allington, I noticed a bright silvery ball apparently over a field below Milk Hill. Unfortunately it was one of those murky summer mornings that leave mist hanging around in the valleys, and even through binoculars, the object was elusive in detail. While watching, the ball seemed to move out about across the field, eventually seeming to the hedgerow on the far side. Photos were taken, but I had neglected to check my camera bag before leaving the car, and consequently didn't have my 2x lens converter, so had to make do with the 210mm end of the zoom on my 35mm SLR camera. After about fifteen minutes, the mist had cleared enough for me to be able to see more clearly through the binoculars, and I could now see glints of light off something underneath the ball. By now I was convinced that this mysterious ball seemed to be tethered, and the lines were now becoming visible. In order to 'investigate' further, I returned to my car. Along the road towards Allington, I was able to confirm this object was nothing more than a tethered silver balloon. Due to the rather muddy state of the bridleway approaching the barn where the thing was being 'flown' from, which was beyond the capabilities of my car, I was not able to find who was flying it, or ascertain just why it was being flown. It seemed inadequate for a bird scarer, particularly over one field of wheat.

It is important to remember here how angles perspective can be confusing. This balloon was on a line, that may have been varied in length, and it was certainly moved around by the breeze. The balloon was probably at a height of no more than 20m off the ground. However, from the observation position, which was around 180m higher, but less than 1.5km away, all of the balloon's movements were exaggerated, making it appear to perform very different manoeuvres, most interestingly such as traversing the entire length of the field, which was probably in the region of 400m.

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