

Warminster UFO Newsletter

Presented as an Information Service for Persons Interested In Keeping
In Contact with Unusual Happenings in the Warminster District.

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UPSURGE IN INTEREST --

ANSWERS STILL NOT FORTHCOMING.

During the first two months of 1972, the news was full of crises - Ireland, Miners Strike, etc. There was no significant rise in UFO reports, yet the news media gave a great deal of coverage to the subject.

On Wednesday February 2nd, the BBC TV programme 'MAN ALIVE' filmed at Banbury, Oxon, was screened. A film was shown covering various opinions on UFOs followed by discussions with 'Flying Saucer Review' directors, a psychologist and the man who deals with UFO reports at the Ministry of Defence. The programme was a bitter disappointment and one would have thought that the ufologists present could have put up a better case for the existence of unidentifiable objects. The ministry of Defence however, admitted that of all the reports they receive, 10% were unexplainable.

BBC TV's Horizon programme screened on February 8th was far more informative and interesting, highlighting various forms of phenomenon, from frogs that 'rain' from the sky, to UFOs and the Loch Ness Monster!

Harlech TV (Bristol) featured a ten minute film on Warminster's recent UFO activities, interviewing Arthur Shuttlewood and passers-by in the street. The programme was screened on Friday February 4th and repeated a week later.

The 'SUN' newspaper gave its entire centre spread to the subject of UFOs at Warminster and Banbury on February 2nd. Reporter Bill Greaves visited the two areas and produced one of the most unbiased articles of its size that has appeared in a national newspaper for some time.

Dr. John Cleary Baker, Journal editor of the British UFO Research Association - who has been closely associated with investigating occurrences at Warminster, gave a lecture to a packed audience at the Kensington Central Library on February 5th.

The lecture entitled "Warminster - Seven Years of Phenomenon", was ambed to the audience by Cleary-Baker through the various stages which the phenomenon had taken since 1964. The lecture also lacked any theories of facts that may have led to a better understanding of the nature of the occurrences. The speaker was wary, but perhaps wise in not coming forth with even any personal theories as to Why Warminster ?.

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AN ANALYSIS

One of the basic features of the Warminster mystery that concerns us is the appearance of aerial phenomenon which to date defies rational explanation. Before us we have several hundred eye-witness accounts of these observations. From these reports one is able to make certain characterisations about the appearances and the subsequent effects.

Reports can be divided into the following :

NIGHT or twilight.

- Moving single lights with coronas, halos, trails etc.
- Pairs of lights.
- Formations of lights.
- Complete luminous shapes, e.g. luminous 'cigars'.
- Objects visible as silhouettes, or illuminated by outside lights.
- As above, but with light(s), i.e. object visible as well as its light(s).
- Extraordinary single lights.
- Miscellaneous.

DAY including sunset and sunrise.

- Objects accelerating from a stationary position.
- Moving objects of unconventional shape.
- Grounded objects.
- Stationary objects of unconventional shape.
- Miscellaneous.

In the Warminster area we have the occasional appearance of UFOs properly called, i.e. discoid and cylindrical objects. Secondly there are the more common appearances described variously as areas of light, balls of fire, glowing or pulsating lights. Thirdly and perhaps most common of all are what may be called UFO-lights, which may be mistaken for satellites or aircraft lights until they stop in mid career and hover or alter course in a manner no aircraft or satellite would or could do.

The phenomenon is almost certainly controlled or is under the influence of a great intelligence. The appearances are nothing new. Reports are to be found under different descriptive recordings throughout history. Only in recent times has the idea of spacetravel been associated with UFOs. This is one of the reasons why, that some reports, interpreted at the time in very different contexts are not generally recognised as manifestations of the same phenomenon.

The shapes, sizes and colours of UFOs are multifarious. Varying descriptions are often due to the varying conditions under which the phenomenon is observed, e.g. light, weather, angle, distance and duration of observation.

Shapes are various, often round, ovaloid, ovaloid with cupola, discoid, starlike, cigar-shaped or cylindrical. Less often triangular, parachute-like, wing shaped and lozenge shaped.

Sizes are also various ranging from 12 inches or less to 300 feet or more in diameter for discoid objects. Up to 3,000 feet or more in length for cylindrical objects.

Colours, sundry, often white, metallic silver, red, orange, yellow, green, or dark toned if observed in daylight. Less often - other colours of the spectrum. Possibly emission of radiation beyond the range of the human eye e.g. Ultra Violet or Infra Red. Photographic emulsion often records more than the eye.

Sounds - usually none, unless close proximity, when sometimes humming or whistling is heard. Occasionally noises like rushing air and loud cracks are heard. Animals, especially dogs and horses, are sensitive to the presence of ufos even though not visible to the animal, which may indicate emission of sound beyond the frequency of the human ear.

Continued.....

With regard to the motion exercised by UFOs. All appear to possess the ability to combat gravity and inertia as if these are non-existent. Tremendous rates of acceleration and deceleration and sundry violent manoeuvres have been observed and tracked on radar. Also "pendulum", "floating" or "falling leaf" motions have been reported. Ability to hover motionless, follow, lead or negotiate aircraft, motorised vehicles or other man-made objects also figure in UFO reports.

UFOs have been seen singly, in pairs and in formation. Often a large cylindrical object is accompanied by one or more smaller discoid objects. On numerous occasions one or more discoid objects have been seen to appear or disappear when in the immediate vicinity of a larger cylindrical object. Sometimes appearance or disappearance of UFOs resembles lights being switched on or off. Speeds in excess of 30,000 mph have been recorded by radar and relative equipment.

The effects caused by the presence of UFOs are again many and various. Many UFOs exhibit common effects which are associated and consistent with the presence of a powerful electromagnetic field force, i.e. magnetic and electrical interference with sensitive equipment such as compasses, radios, television sets, internal combustion engine vehicles (lights and ignition system) and aircraft. Physical evidence of tremendous temperatures created by some UFOs. When on or near the ground, some have left round areas or paths of flattened vegetation and in some instances depressions and/or holes. UFOs may also emit a certain amount of radiation. Cloud-like vapour trails emitted by UFOs suggests not jet engines but the water vapour in the higher atmosphere forming into water-droplets (cloud) on the surface of the fuselage or body of the UFO.

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Further reading about Warminster Phenomenon :

"The Warminster Mystery" by Arthur Shuttlewood.
pub. Neville Spearman.

"Warnings from flying friends" by Arthur Shuttlewood.
pub. Portway Press.

"UFOs - Key to the new age" by Arthur Shuttlewood.
pub. Regency Press.

BATH MANSEES UFO

Case 201 by John Bennett.
? November 1971.

During February I interviewed the witness, Mr. Paul Waring from Bath. He is a builder in trade and of high intelligence. His is a rare case and worthy of more study. It was the month of November, actual date not known, the time 0030hrs. The 22 year old witness was sitting in his car with his girl friend Miss Mary Besley on Westbury Hills near the White Horse. He happened to look up at the full moon in the cloudless sky when he saw what he describes as a "star-like object, silver in colour, encircling the moon". It was travelling in an anti-clockwise manner. He caught the attention of his girlfriend and she confirmed his observations.

The object encircled the moon once the whole performance taking 2 minutes. It then 'flickered' and dropped away at a fantastic speed and diminished from view. The object had no clear outline in fact it was 'fuzzy' with no clear detail or definition. Indeed it had all the characteristics of a normal magnitude star but had the unusual potential of being able to be seen in the bright moon light. It should be noted that a slightly misted windscreen could have reduced a clearly outlined object into the one described. The weather was dry and windy. The witness had had no previous sightings and is a reliable and level headed person with no defects in the optical system. The incident adhered to the witnesses

LOCAL TALES

The Warminster district is rich with old tales, legends and stories. Many have been lost for the want of telling - or the listening. To scratch a myth and find a fact is not unscientific as every legend has somewhere in its composition, a grain of truth. We have dug up quite a number of interesting tales which may have some bearing on the Warminster phenomenon. Some cases have definite flavours of the supernatural.

There is a growing interest amongst UFO students as to possible connections between folklore, psychic phenomenon, ancient civilisations, old trackways etc. The following series may be of interest to these students. The stories we think are of interest in themselves and further contribute to the mysteries of this district.

They used to tell a tale here, of a Deverill man who was courting a girl at Hindon. It would still be a long and lonely journey in the dark. When this fellow was coming back home down Lords Hill he, to use his own expression, 'seed summat'! Although scared nearly out of his wits he was bold enough to say, "If thou be devil appear bodily!" Then he 'seed summat with eyes big as saucers, s'know.' and the next thing he clearly remembered was arriving home bathed in sweat and trembling in every limb.

There used to be a farmhouse across the field back in Kingston Deverill parish, where at certain times the pot would not stay on the fire, but kept jumping off. When they kept apples on the floor of an old attic, the apples used to dance about on the floor.

Then there is the amusing tale of the carter who lived in Manor Farm in more recent times. He was haunted by the apparition of two maidens, all in white, who would persist in pulling the bedclothes off him when he was asleep! This went on for a few nights, until the carter, a stolid and unimaginative fellow apparently, got fed up with the clothes-stripping game, and he sat up in bed and called out at the top of his voice :

"If thee doesn't stop this voolin I'll throw my shoe at 'ee!"

There is an old story attached to Hill Deverill of a spectral hunt, when the ghost of old Coker is seen and heard driving his hounds round Guns Church - that is a round barrow or mound up on the hills S.E. of the parish - and sometimes he has been seen galloping through the grounds of the house, complete with the sounds of dogs baying, chains rattling, the clatter of horses hooves and the wailing cry of the hunting horn.

In the valley on Midsummer Night, the men used to come at midnight to 'see them come out and in....' To see spectres one would suppose. Men without heads have been seen, and one fellow spoke of seeing the spectre of a child.

Human beings aren't the only ones reputed to have seen 'ghosts' in these parts. There is a field on the other side of the valley at Rye Hill Farm called 'Devils Parrick'. It is said that horses ploughing, or going alone, would run away in terror. As one old fellow put it, "Zummat did gally 'em!" Talking of Devils Parrick, there are some other queerly named fields around this part of the Deverills, such as Pot-hole Thicket, Fiery Corner and Upper Spix.

On the outskirts of the circular village of Corton about 6 miles S.E. of Warminster, the road is flanked on either side by a dark avenue of Beech trees, known as Corton Whitesheet, so named because it is believed to be haunted by a rather unusual ghost who carries his head in a wheel barrow covered by a white sheet. There is a true story of a fellow who was going down the hill into Corton, after coming up through the whitesheet, he heard a queer, rhythmic chanting from the roadside on his right. Imagine his amazement when he saw a man's head swaying on the ground, keeping time with the eerie incantation that proceeded from its lips! That was as recently as 1935.

CONTINUED.....

SOLICITOR NEEDS NO CONVINCING !

"I don't need any convincing that unusual aerial objects have been flying over Warminster area", said Warminster Magistrates Clerk and local solicitor Mr. Frederick Knight.

He and his wife both saw a strange glowing object, of enormous size, that hovered over the top of Cley Hill at night. "It was giving off a terrific glow and, as we watched it intently, it suddenly shot off at a speed our eyes were just able to follow. I have never seen anything so dramatic before, in my experience. "

"MARVELLOUS EXPERIENCE"

Miss Joy Knee is the daughter of Minster Church bell-ringers captain Mr. Norman Knee, Boreham Road, Warminster. After a UFO had been sighted at Cradle Hill by people from Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Bath, Bridgewater, Westbury and Devon on the night of Saturday, Feb. 12th 1972, apart from seven satellites, a further report came in the next night from Miss Knee's boy-friend, who lives in Victoria Road, Warminster.

He attested that he saw a peculiar light, orange in colour and looking much like a street-lamp of the sodium variety, suspended over Cley Hill, Corsley on Sunday.

He immediately jumped into his car and went to investigate, because the light was glowing fiercely one moment, dimming the next. Parking his car near Folly Lane, along the Warminster - Frome road, he again watched the large light aeroform.

It was certainly in the air and not grounded, so was no ordinary lamp or light. As he watched it, it started to move left towards the woodland on Longleat Estate. It moved back again - then changed course, and was last seen by him before it blacked out once more, heading towards Longleat and Heavens Gate.

He estimated that the lighted object was quite large. "I have always been a cynic about unidentified flying objects, refusing to believe the numerous stories one hears from Warminster people. But there is no arguing with fact, once you have seen one for yourself. It was a marvellous experience ! " he enthused.

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