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RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 329D
(Revised 8/00)
PPQ = 100

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

15 Nov 2000

Registered file reference

D/DAS/64/3/15

Part No. A

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.

2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

DAS (LA) OPS+POL

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT

"Ufos"

PERSISTENT CORRESPONDENCE -

[REDACTED]

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

THE CONTENTS OF THIS

file are contained in:

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

to be completed and sent to the appropriate Branch or passed to another Division if not selected.

and in any event when

UNCLASSIFIED on

Referred to	Date	Min/Encl									
CLOSED -											
SEE											
PART B.											

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)

(17/06/05)
(2013)



Registered File Disposal Form

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

UFAs -
Persistent Correspondence -
[REDACTED]

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):

D/OAS/64/3/15.

Part:

A.

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

U/c.

Date of last enclosure:

17/6/05.

Date closed:

17/6/05.

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION

(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after _____ years

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years

No recommendation

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

Date of 1st review

Date of 2nd review

Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's

Signature: _____

Reviewer's

Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW

(To be fully completed at time of file closure)

(Delete as appropriate)

~~a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R.)~~

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year _____ for the following reason(s):

LEGAL

CONTRACTUAL

FINANCE/AUDIT

DIRECTORATE POLICY

DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS

MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT [_____]

OTHER (Specify)

PERMANENT
RETENTION

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed

Considered by DR for permanent preservation

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation.

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below C2/equivalent)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: Grade 7

Date: 31/1/07

Branch Title and Full Address:

OAS Sec.
MOD
Whitehall.
London.
SW1A 2HB.

Tel No: _____

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____

Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____

Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date:
17 June 2005

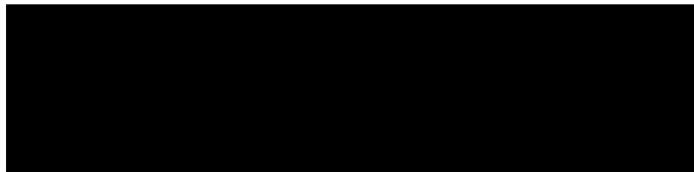
Dear [REDACTED]

I have just received your letter dated 15 June 2005.

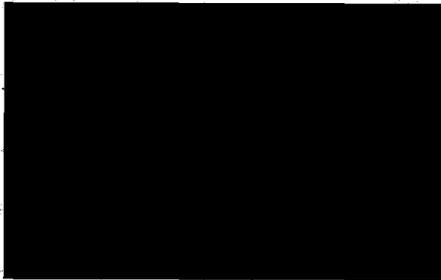
You will know our policy on UFOs from previous correspondence.

Your comments have been noted and your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



VFO Desk



15/6/ -

Dear



me sent video.
to Wq. CO at RAF Wittering
me informed Sandhurst
for his copy

my concern is solar
Gamma RAY
intrusion to power
lines. and harmful
effects of ozone
Damage from Kerosene
pollution
coupled that 4 years
ago a VFO was
seen coming out of
ground in Corn field next
to power lines

Please



DAS

102No.

15 JUN 2005

FILE _____

7 ASPH
15 JUNE





From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date:
27 April 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 22 April 2005.

As previously stated the MOD's only purpose in looking at reports of UFOs is to establish the presence of a matter that might be of defence concern, such as unauthorised aircraft in UK airspace. UK airspace is continually policed to ensure that no such aircraft enters our airspace.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date, the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. The MOD does not police space stations. Hence, it knows not, of any alien craft being involved in any activity to do with a space station.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 22 April 2005 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

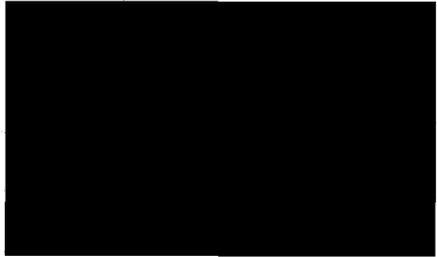
Yours sincerely





UFO Desk
Whitehall
London

DAS
102No.
26 APR 2005
FILE



Dear [Redacted]

22/4/2005

I saw the space station
 last week highlighted by Patrick Moore
 hosted "garden party" special SKY
 at night program I believe
 I saw a UFO of a bright
 white light of timing and
 navigated altitude of pro
 passage of when of former of mention
 last passing over UK of *

Can you inform the public if
 MOD police space station
 by possible alien craft and
 is indeed transmitters of i.e. SKY
 police from piracy to Cathartes
 Election parasitism a Risk to public
 from [Redacted]



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:

11 February 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

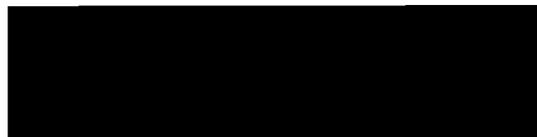
Thank you for your letter dated 3 February 2005.

As stated in my previous letters, you will know our policy on ‘UFO’s. As I mentioned before, the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of ‘UFO/flying saucer’ matters.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of ‘UFO’ sightings for 2 February 2005 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom’s airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your comments have been noted and your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



VFO Desk
Whitehall
London

102 No. ...

- 8 FEB 2005

7/2/2005

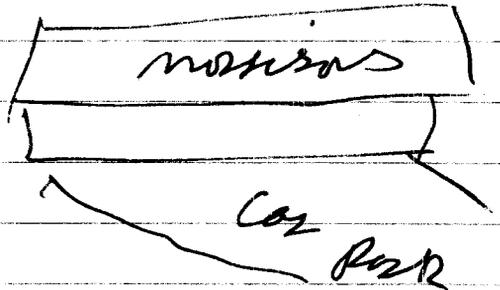
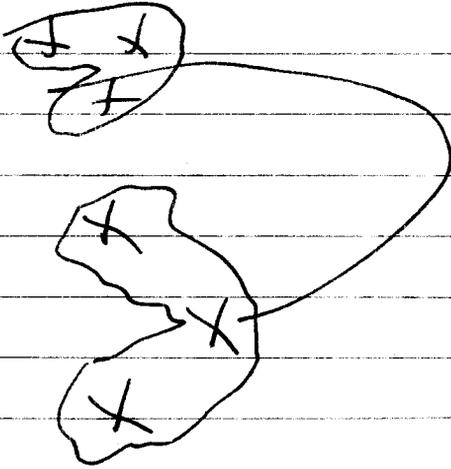
Dear [REDACTED]

you went on to say that nothing flies in British Air space that you not aware of well as like I mentioned Whitehall Wellingtonborough has had delta lights and blocks v and several block shapes in Air in day and night last evening missions was Buzzed by a v shape object sound of bees and lights this was very much to strong believe then and VFO as like you will reply it won't be recorded time seen 10 to 6

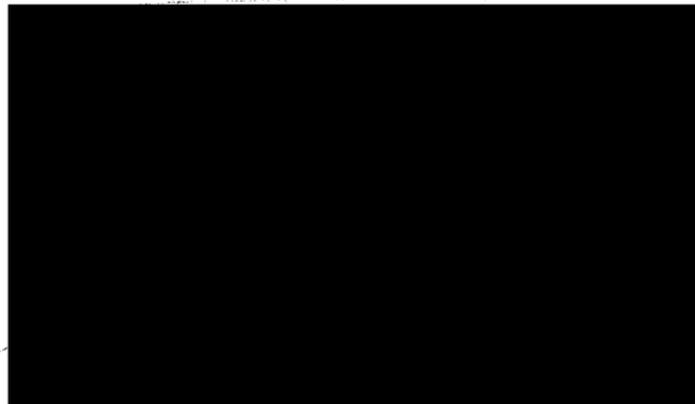
about thousands feet up.
I Don't Believe MOD is coming
Honest entirely about Freedom of
Information these must have

been 20 people who witnessed
last night's mystery
Airplane

below is what was
seen



me.



1 PM
2 FEB
4 2005
2005



c/a



S/H/12
MR

UFO Desk.
m o d
Whitehall
London



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:
28 January 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just received your letter dated 18 January 2005.

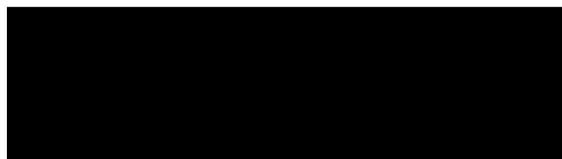
I am not questioning the fact that you have witnessed UFO's, it's simply that the MOD has no expertise or role, in respect of the possibility of life on other planets. We remain open-minded, but to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of the UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Defence Region would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). Only a handful of reports in recent years have warranted further investigation and none revealed any evidence of a threat.

As to the mentioning of Nazi/War trials, this department does not have any responsibility for these different matters and thus can't comment on them.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



UFO Desk

18/1/2004

Dear [REDACTED]

I have seen UFOs around Wellesborough and feel your view them as not a risk of Air Breaching of Air space threat I suggest you re view this especially of my UFO picture of WAZ1 and of recent Royal I seek prosecution for wearing contravening 1946 legal wearing of swastika brought by End of War trials

The RAF and Clarence House letters to me held by Police at WPT and Stamford and Evening Telegraph could

Wian you to sense the
RAF of local stations
for projection of UFO
seen in Air space in
and around Wellington,
to safeguard ALL public-
and to use NAZI file
Windsor currency they
decently love as your
self.

I appreciate your
low key of UFO
but insist you
Adhere to Police
and Police I mean
enforcement of gravity
to my informant you
of actual UFO

Sightings which
could be NAZI

Associated german

your in Texas name

The message is for the
Tangier
Cross

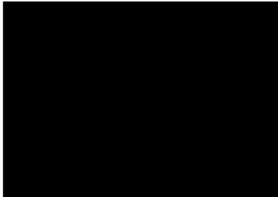




From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date:
13 January 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just received your letter dated 4 January 2005.

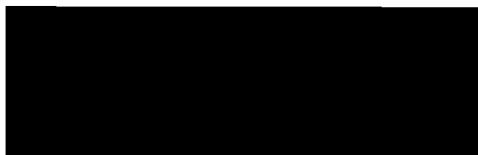
As stated in my previous letters, you will know the MOD's policy on 'UFO's.

You mentioned about not receiving a reply for your last letter, which was dated 1 December 2004, reporting the 'UFO' you sighted on the 26 November 2004. I can confirm, that I did reply to you about that particular sighting on the 8 December 2004, and that the letter was sent out to you on the same day. I have enclosed a copy of that letter for your information.

With regard to your particular observation of the UFO that you have reported seeing over the outskirts of Wellingborough, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 27 December 2004 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



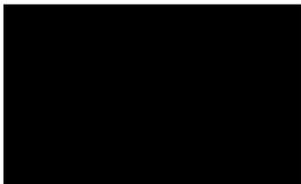
previous letter sent.



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:

8 December 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

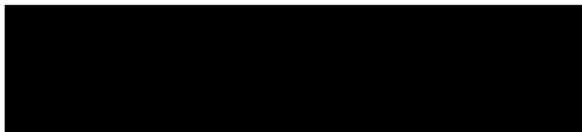
I have just received your letter dated 1 December 2004.

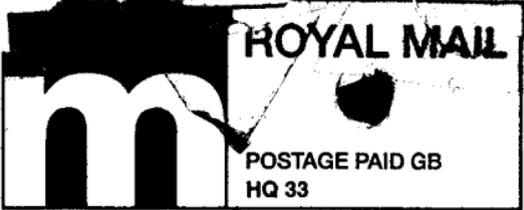
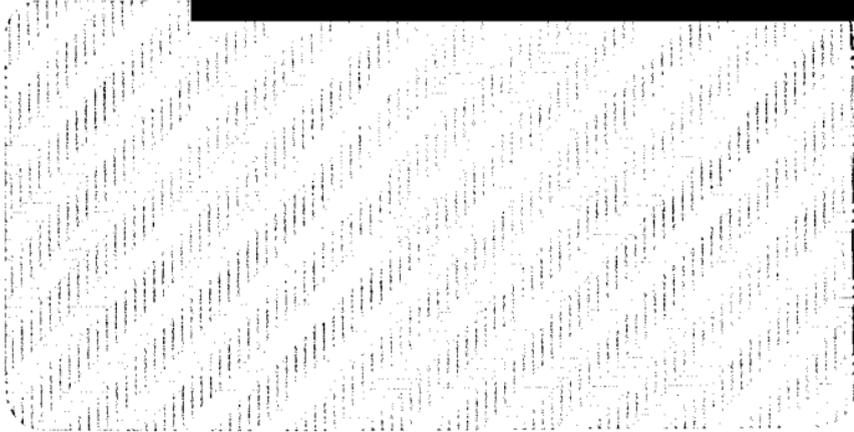
As stated in my previous letters, you will know our policy on 'UFO's.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received one other report of a 'UFO' sighting for 26 November 2004, and that was in Ayrshire in Scotland, 9pm, later in the evening. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely





POSTAGE PAID GB
HQ 33

c/o LEGAL



UFO Desk
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall

London
SW1A 2HB



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/6413/15
Date:
13 January 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just received your letter dated 4 January 2005.

As stated in my previous letters, you will know the MOD's policy on 'UFO's.

You mentioned about not receiving a reply for your last letter, which was dated 1 December 2004, reporting the 'UFO' you sighted on the 26 November 2004. I can confirm, that I did reply to you about that particular sighting on the 8 December 2004, and that the letter was sent out to you on the same day. I have enclosed a copy of that letter for your information.

With regard to your particular observation of the UFO that you have reported seeing over the outskirts of Wellingborough, I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for the 27 December 2004 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



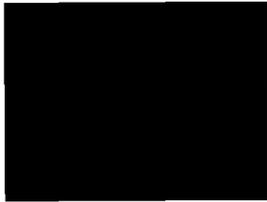
copy -
sent to [redacted]
[redacted] 40
to provide
with a
letter
of info



From: [redacted]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [redacted]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:

8 December 2004

Dear [redacted]

I have just received your letter dated 1 December 2004.

As stated in my previous letters, you will know our policy on ‘UFO’s.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received one other report of a ‘UFO’ sighting for 26 November 2004, and that was in Ayrshire in Scotland, 9pm, later in the evening. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom’s airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



Whitehall
London.

DAS
102No.
13 JAN 2005
FILE



4/1/2005

Dear



Monday Evening on the out skirts of
on the A45 VFO seen the light was prot 2000ft
white light the identification I feel be UFO. was that the
light was not consistent of my seeing of a
telescope of light air craft. I yet have had reply
from your desk of last one correspondence to your desk sent.

Date. 27/12/2004 ^{from}



X UFO
Bright light.

Time
1/2 5 pm (Dark)



advanced

Healthspan

nutrition

 **Guernsey
Awards for
Achievement**

The Board of Industry Award
for Achievement 2001

The Guernsey Post Office Award
for Exporter of the Year 2001 & 2002

The Cable & Wireless Award
for Innovation in Business 2002

42471

January 2005

Dear 

The Healthspan January Sale

May I first of all take this opportunity to wish you a very healthy and happy 2005. Please also accept this new Healthspan SALE magazine with our compliments. We're sending it out to all our loyal customers to make sure that you get the first chance to take advantage of our across-the-board price cuts. This new year, we have cut the prices of over 50 of our products, making this the best ever SALE! There's therefore never been a better time to stock up on your favourite supplements – or indeed to take the advice of our experts and try something new.

SAVE an extra £1.00 when you buy online

If you are an internet shopper, then you can make even greater savings by buying at our secure online shop, at www.healthspan.co.uk. It's quick and easy to use and is packed with all kinds of interesting information and nutritional advice. What's more, because it's a very efficient ordering method, we are passing on our savings to our customers in the form of an extra £1.00 discount when you spend £18 or more. All you have to do, is enter the code shown in the yellow lozenge on the back page of this magazine into the space on the internet order form.

With Christmas over, most of us start thinking about the year ahead and what it holds in store for us. I believe that one of the keys to success and happiness is to set ourselves 'realistic' achievable goals. For example, if you make only one dietary new year's resolution this year, my advice is to start taking omega 3 fish oils every day for the sake of your heart, joints and general good health. The ultimate objective of a resolution must after all be to improve the overall quality of our life.

It's the same when it comes to choosing where to buy your supplements. Quality must be at the very top of your priorities. It's why, at Healthspan, all our products are made in government-licensed premises operating to the most exacting pharmaceutical standards known as GMP – this is your quality guarantee. There are quite simply no better products than Healthspan's on the market!

So, once again, may I thank you for choosing to buy your supplements from us. Please be assured we value your custom and will continue to strive to provide you with the highest quality at the lowest prices that you will find anywhere in the UK.

Yours sincerely



Derek Coates, *Managing Director*

KIR084B

DAS

Floor 5 ←
Zone H15
To Main Bldg

C/o

VFO Desk
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London.



7PM

4 JAN 200

ON AIR



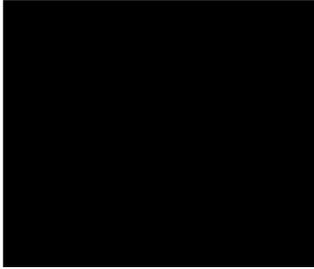


From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:
8 December 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just received your letter dated 1 December 2004.

As stated in my previous letters, you will know our policy on ‘UFO’s.

With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received one other report of a ‘UFO’ sighting for 26 November 2004, and that was in Ayrshire in Scotland, 9pm, later in the evening. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom’s airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely

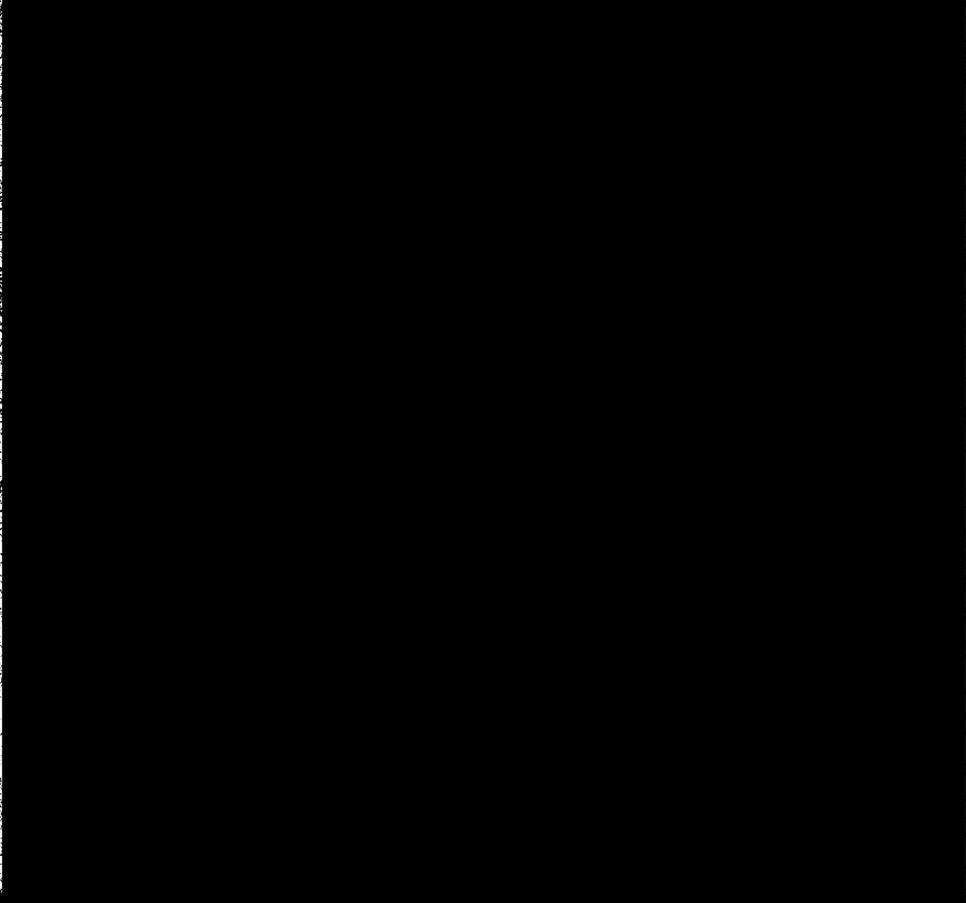


171VA

11

ROYAL MAIL

POSTAGE PAID 55
BLACKPOOL 110A



2/0 5/H | [redacted]
[redacted]
UFO Desk
Whitetail
London
SW-1
2/0
SW-1

Royal Mail[®] recorded
Signed for[™]



DP 1211 7328 7GB

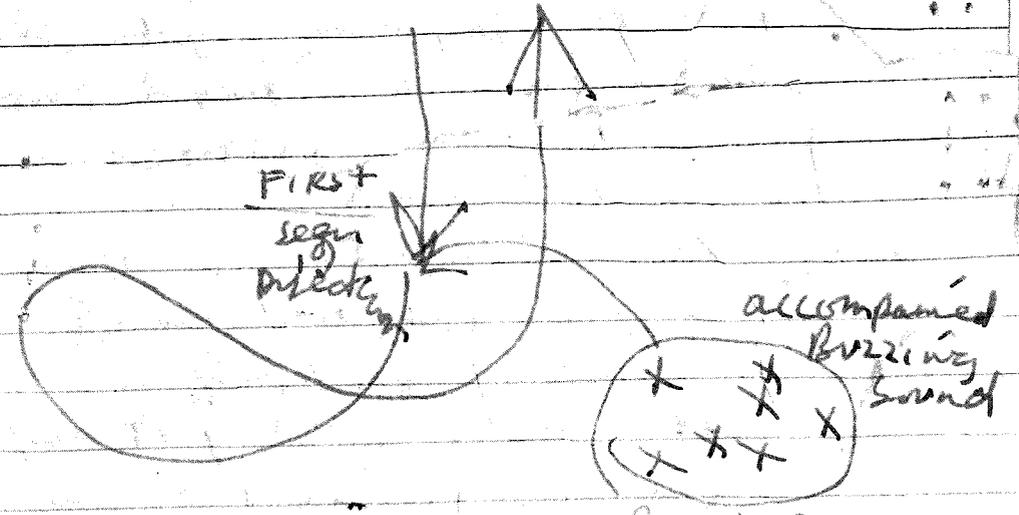
Whitehall
MOO
London.

1/Dec 2004,

Dear [REDACTED]

I was walking in Crystal
Park on Monday afternoon June
to post J and F noticed a
configuration of many green yellow
lights in sky height approx
2000 ft & more accompanied
by a buzzing sound the
configuration of lights did a
360 degree circumference of
arc of circle stoppingly.
this also act could not have
been done by airlines - as
the circle of manoeuvre was
so tight I strongly believe
it was either a boomarang
slaped VFO or a very large
cylinder form of VFO the

day of which I witnessed.
 this phenomenon was Monday.
 29 NOV 2004, the darkness
 was quite quite dark and
 the air was still little
 wind the direction of the sight-
 ing was coming directly
 over Clayland park and
 drawn below to show exactly
 what I witnessed



Bank of
 Lights.
 seen just
 Hear
 than.
 did not
 than leaded off.

7:45 PM
30 NOV



Branch Office
TA Centre
Clare Street
NORTHAMPTON
NN1 3JQ

01604 - 603899

20th November 2004

*in sorry job
pieces of paper
sent I am scrounged
of content
some sent in form of may*

*to let you know on
this occasion*

*these envelopes (letters)
sent as compact of
make up to deliver
into to you*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dear

[Redacted]

Further to your letter to [Redacted] I regret he has recently undergone a serious operation and will not be able to undertake his duties in the foreseeable future.

May I suggest you contact your local Royal British Legion branch - they may be able to put you in touch with one of their representatives who may be able to help you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

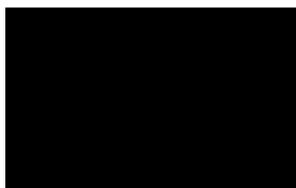
County Secretary



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
e-mail [REDACTED]



Your Reference

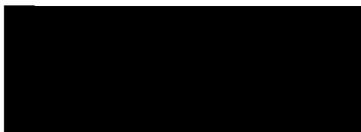
Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date
3 November 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing concerning your letter of 30th October addressed to my colleague, [REDACTED]. I must clarify our position with regard to our replies to your letters.

This Department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence regarding 'unidentified flying objects' and we have answered all of your previous letters about these matters. Recently however, you have started to write to us about issues for which the Directorate of Air Staff has no responsibility or expertise. Your latest letter, for example, included correspondence with the Veterans Agency about a war pension appeal. In this case, you are clearly corresponding with the correct area of the MOD about this issue and members of this Directorate are not able to comment or help you. Both [REDACTED] and I have explained this to you and there is, therefore, no useful purpose in continuing to send us such material. In the future we will only reply to letters which directly concern our own particular area of UFOs.

Yours sincerely,



Ministry of Defence
London.



Ref D/DAS/04/3/15

Dear [REDACTED]

30/04/2004

I've decided that your letter deserves to be corrected and in the unpatriotic view you place of my Royal help to the sons of HRH Prince Charles we decided to forward also negative holdoverment I mean asked for

I Don't mean negative to the Dear men whose content documents included but negative to traumatising we on back of Royal help.

I trust you know with wide and state Royal documents have nothing to do with Royal Air Force and Royal [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:

27 October 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your last letter dated 22 October 2004 and your newspaper articles. As to our last acknowledgement, my colleague [REDACTED] replied to you on the 19th October.

Some of the issues you mention, as in some of your previous letters, this office does not have any responsibility for these different matters and thus can't comment on them.

Your comments have been noted and your letter and articles have been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
(CROWN OFFICE LIST)

PA/2/97
PA/5/96
PA/8/96

Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London WC2

Friday, 17 October 1997

Before:

MR JUSTICE ALLIOTT

IN THE MATTER OF S 6 OF THE PENSIONS APPEAL TRIBUNALS ACT 1943 BETWEEN

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

Appellant

-and-

CYRIL JAMES BENNETT (PA/8/96)

Respondent

MR S KOVATS (Instructed by the Solicitor to the Departments of Health and Social Security) appeared on behalf of the Applicant.

MR R METHUEN QC (Instructed by Messrs Vizards, London WC1R 4LL) appeared behalf of the Respondents.

JUDGMENT

MR JUSTICE ALLIOTT:
Cyril James Bennett

The Secretary of State appeals with my leave against the decision of a Pension Appeals Tribunal that the respondent Mr Bennett suffered from a back injury attributable to his service. Mr Bennett served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 8 January 1942 to 22 December 1946, when he was released in accordance with the provisions of Class A. According to the records, he went to Normandy a few days after D-Day and served in Northwest Europe until 9 February 1945. He subsequently served in Norway from 27 May 1945 to 29 August 1945.

In April 1993, the appellant claimed pension for injuries to the base of the spine which he said he had sustained at Arromanches, France, when the base of his spine was caught by the secure bolt on the back of a field ambulance. The respondent's claim was rejected under the labels "back injury" and "lumbar spondylosis". The respondent appealed against this rejection and his appeal was heard by the Pensions Appeal Tribunal sitting at Exeter on 21 March 1996. The tribunal found that the back injury in 1944 was attributable to service, but disallowed the appeal in respect of lumbar spondylosis, which they found to be neither attributable to nor aggravated by service.

Mr Bennett was perhaps a lucky man. At paragraph 4 of his skeleton, Mr Kovats sets out matter which might have, had the Secretary of State been represented, given rise to telling cross-examination. Mr Kovats points to the fact that there was no contemporary official record of the incident; that when the respondent was medically examined on 26 September 1946 no back injury was recorded; that when the respondent was medically examined in July 1952 he said he had not suffered from any defect, disability or injury relevant to the present case, and no such abnormality was recorded by the examining doctor; that the general practitioner had said that after the war he said he had sustained a lumbar back injury and that he had worked as a coalman and in baking and catering and as a publican; and finally that the respondent did not consult a doctor about his back until sometime in the 1970s. He also pointed to some discrepancies in the account given by Mr Bennett of his injury.

But at the end of the day, the tribunal found firmly in Mr Bennett's favour. They held:

"The Appellant confirmed the circumstances when his back was struck by the door of a K2 ambulance. The Tribunal accept his evidence and find as a matter of fact that it did occur as stated by the Appellant. The Tribunal...find that the back injury 1944 is attributable to service."

Mr Kovats argues that the tribunal did not find the disablement occurred as Mr Bennett contended. I do not construe their findings in that way. The mere fact that I might have found differently on the facts does not entitle me to say their decision was against the weight of the evidence or Wednesbury unreasonable. I conclude therefore that the tribunal arrived at a decision open to it and that it adequately indicated its reasons for so doing.

This appeal is therefore dismissed.

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No. CO/2281/90

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
DIVISIONAL COURT
CROWN OFFICE LIST

Royal Courts of Justice
Friday, 10th July 1992

Before:

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN

and

MR JUSTICE PILL

THE QUEEN

v.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY
EX PARTE JOHN HENRY EDWARDS

(Computer Aided Transcript of the Stenograph Notes of Marten Walsh Cherer Limited, Midway House, 27-29 Cursitor Street, London EC4A 1LT. Telephone Number 071 405 5010. Shorthand Writers to the Court)

MR R. DRABBLE (instructed by Messrs Robert Leach Palmer & Co., Fleetwood) appeared on behalf of the Applicant

MR R. JAY (instructed by the Solicitor to the Department of Social Security) appeared on behalf of the Respondent

JUDGEMENT

(As approved by Judge)

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN: This is an application for judicial review of a decision of the Secretary of State for the Department of Social Security brought with the leave of MacPherson J. The decision in question was one of 31st July 1990 refusing to backdate the applicant's claim to a war pension to before 1st February 1980. The relief sought in the notice of application is (1) an order of certiorari to quash the decision of 31st July 1990 and (2) an order of mandamus for the claim to be backdated to 11th April 1957.

Subsequently, by a further decision dated 29th January 1991, the Secretary of State accepted that the first decision was flawed and expressed willingness to consent to an order of certiorari to quash it but adhered to his refusal to backdate the applicant's claim to a war pension to before 1st February 1980. It follows that he continued to resist the application for an order of mandamus for the claim to be backdated to 11th April 1957.

In the course of the hearing, Mr Drabble, appearing for the applicant, sought leave to amend to add to the decision in respect of which relief is sought "the further decision of the Secretary of State contained in a letter dated 29th January 1991" and to add to the relief claimed "a declaration that the revised decision of the Secretary of State contained in the letter of 29th January 1991 is flawed by error of law in that no reasonable Secretary of State could have held that if Mr Edwards had asked for the 1957 decision on his claim to be reviewed at any time before 1980, any decision to reject it would have been reasonable in the light of medical opinion at the time. In cases such as Mr Edwards's, a reasonable doubt existed in 1957."

Mr Drabble explained his application by saying that he accepted that the Secretary of State has a broad discretion whether to backdate at all, and hence that the court could not order him to do so at any particular date. However, in this case, the Secretary of State's reasoning in his replacement letter was as flawed as in his first. For those two reasons a declaration in the terms sought was appropriate.

Mr Jay for the Secretary of State raised no objection to the amendment though making it clear that if the court were to hold that a declaration of any sort should be made, he would argue against the terms sought by Mr Drabble and, in particular, the last sentence. On that basis the court gave leave to amend in the terms sought.

The applicant was born on 17th July 1916 and is therefore now 75. He served in the forces from June 1940 to June 1946 and, during that time, spent some 19 months in France and Germany, beginning in June 1944, shortly after D-Day. On 29th August 1954 he was admitted to Whittingham Hospital in Preston and stayed there until 1976, receiving psychiatric treatment.

On 11th April 1957 his wife claimed a war pension on his behalf, alleging that the schizophrenia from which he suffers was attributable to his war service. His claim was rejected on 2nd June 1957 on the medical evidence then available and was not appealed.

His case notes from Whittingham Hospital, which were put before the Ministry in 1957, have been relied on before the court. The history of his mental illness, which was recorded on his admission, shows his wife saying then that his mental illness commenced in about August 1946. Asked how it first showed itself, she replied: "By a series of crying and sobbing like a child, also going very religious, this went on for quite a period." She said that the attack did not follow any fever or illness. In answer to the question, "What do you consider was the cause?" she replied, "Reaction to war service." The medical diagnosis on admission was "schizophrenic reaction" but what to was not identified.

Mrs Edwards is recorded as making this further statement at that time: "Shortly after my husband was released from the army, he complained of feeling ill and, despite his doctor's attention, he did not get better. He began imagining that he was suffering from cancer and other serious diseases. He refused to talk or listen to anything connected with the war. He gave the impression that he was afraid of being arrested for some imagined crime, probably connected with his war service. His condition worsened until 1954 when he was admitted to Whittingham Hospital."

On 19th July 1987 his wife made a further claim on his behalf for a war pension. Once again the claim was rejected on the ground that his schizophrenia was not attributable to war service. She appealed to the Pension Appeal Tribunal and gave these reasons on her husband's behalf: "My first breakdown was shortly after discharge from the army, and I had never had any previous history of mental illness. The doctor at the time said that stress during the war had caused his illness. Whilst I was serving in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers I was offered the rank of Lance Corporal but I turned this down because I could not cope with the extra stress placed on me. I could never hold down a job after discharge and eventually I was admitted to Whittingham Hospital where I

remained for 20 years. I feel that I should be recompensed for all my illness which was caused by war service."

However, on further consideration the Department conceded that his illness was attributable to war service. At that stage the Department's attitude was that the pension would only be paid from 19th July 1987, being the date of the second claim. Later, however, the Department stated that it would pay arrears from 1st February 1980.

At this point it is appropriate to have regard to the relevant provisions of The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983. Article 4 of that order deals with the situation where a claim is made in respect of a disablement "not later than 7 years after the termination of the service of a member of the armed forces". In those circumstances Article 4(2) provides:

"Subject to the following provisions of this article, in no case shall there be an onus on any claimant under this article to prove the fulfilment of the conditions set out in paragraph (1) and the benefit of any reasonable doubt shall be given to the claimant."

I pass to Article 5(1) which reads:

"Where, after the expiration of the period of 7 years beginning with the termination of the service of a member of the armed forces, a claim is made in respect of a disablement of that member, or in respect of the death of that member (being a death occurring after the expiration of the said period), such disablement or death, as the case may be, shall be accepted as due to service for the purposes of this Order provided it is certified that -

(a) the disablement is due to an injury which -

(i) is attributable to service after 2nd September 1939

I pass to Article 5(4) which reads:

"Where, upon reliable evidence, a reasonable doubt exists whether the conditions set out in paragraph (1) are fulfilled, the benefit of that reasonable doubt shall be given to the claimant."

In Schedule 3, which deals with commencing dates of awards of pension, paragraph 1 reads:

"Except in so far as the Secretary of State may otherwise direct with respect to any particular case or class of case, payment of a pension in respect of disablement or as the case may be death, including payment of an increase in the rate of pension on account of an increased assessment of the degree of disablement, shall not be made in respect of any period preceding

(b) (iii) the date of the claim to pension".

In this case that date was 19th July 1987.

Mr Drabble accepts that the present is a case where Article 5(4) applies and hence that there is a burden on the applicant to produce reliable evidence. He concedes further that the Secretary of State has a discretion whether to backdate. This

in turn led him to concede, as I have indicated, that declaratory relief rather than an order of mandamus would be appropriate.

Mr Drabble referred us to Dickinson v. The Minister of Pensions 5 War Pension Appeal Reports 211. The claim there fell to be considered under the provisions of the Pensions Warrant of 1949, but for relevant purposes it was in the same terms as the order now applicable. Ormerod J, in giving judgement, said at page 242:

"In Article 5 no exception is made, and there is no provision that there shall be no onus of proof upon the Claimant. Therefore, on the face of it, it must, I think, follow that the Claimant, in order to succeed, must satisfy the Court or the Tribunal (whichever body has to decide the matter) that the conditions which entitle him to an award have been satisfied."

Lower down the page he continued:

"I agree with Mr McQuown that the wording of that paragraph is probably unfortunate, but I am satisfied that the intention of the paragraph is that it is the duty of the claimant to produce reliable evidence, to establish his claim, but if (after hearing and considering that reliable evidence and making a comparison between such evidence and other evidence which is called on behalf of the Ministry to contradict or to controvert it) the Tribunal has a reasonable doubt, then under those circumstances the plain meaning of that paragraph of the Article is that the benefit of that doubt shall be given to the Claimant."

Mr Drabble also relied on a decision of Drake J in Westcott v. Secretary of State for Social Services (11th December 1987) of which we were provided with a transcript. Drake J began his judgement by saying:

"In this case the appellant claims a pension on the grounds that he suffers from osteoarthritis of (1) the knees and (2) the lumbosacral spine attributable to service. He says it had its origin in a heavy fall which he sustained while testing a parachute in Norway while serving in the 1st airborne Division, the fall taking place in 1945 shortly after the end of the war."

Drake J went on to say that the surgeon in question had given his report in which he said:

"..... it is absolutely impossible to give a firm indication as to whether Mr Westcott would not have suffered arthritis had he not had his accident during the war, and in my view, he should be given the benefit of the doubt in this case".

Drake J commented:

"I read that as a clear answer to the question posed by the DHSS. The answer is: 'Yes, Mr Westcott's orthopaedic pathology involving the knees and spine could be related to heavy parachute landings'."

It seems that the DHSS then asked for a report from their own medical division.

The report set out other considerations which, in the view of those giving the report,

pointed very strongly indeed to the conclusion that Mr Westcott's condition was not related to any parachute landing and was in fact primary osteoarthritis. At page 4 at A, Drake J said:

"..... the Tribunal did not find that Mr Westcott did not have the fall as he described.

What it then did was to accept and agree with the opinions of the medical services division and say 'We are satisfied that Mr Westcott had generalised osteoarthritis.' They therefore concluded, basing themselves firmly on that decision, that the claimed conditions are not attributable to service. In reaching their decision the Tribunal, with that evidence, had a great deal of evidence which pointed – and I would say pointed strongly – against the appellant's claim that his osteoarthritis was attributable to the parachute fall. But there was also some evidence which did support his claim. The Tribunal could of course have made a finding that they expressly rejected the consultant orthopaedic surgeon's opinion as being without any foundation, a wrong opinion that no reasonable specialist could have reached. They did not make that finding and it is not surprising: they had no reason to do so.

In my judgement, there was therefore on the evidence before them, just as there was before the medical services department in their opinion, evidence which did raise a reasonable doubt in the appellant's favour. There was simply no material on which the Tribunal could find, as they did, that the evidence did not raise any reasonable doubt in favour of the appellant.

I have had regard to a decision which I have been referred to: Cadney v. Minister of Pensions and National Insurance Volume 5, War Pensions Appeal Reports, 687, in which the nominated judge (then Mr Justice Edmund Davies) held that it is entirely a matter for the Tribunal to decide whether the evidence placed before it is reliable or whether the evidence, being reliable, is such as to create such a reasonable doubt as falls within Article 5, and it is not for the nominated judge to re-open these questions."

I take up the judgement again at page 5 at E:

"As I have indicated, the evidence in this case, on a balance of probabilities, points against the appellant's claim. It may be that many would therefore consider this appellant to be fortunate to be entitled to a pension in all of the circumstances of this case. But it is not a case of being sympathetic and saying that he is fortunate: he is entitled to rely on the law as it stands, which does weight matters heavily in his favour. For the reasons I have given I hold that this appeal succeeds."

I look next at the decision letter of 31st July 1990 which is impugned in the proceedings. In that letter, among other things, this is said at paragraph 5:

"It is a fundamental principle of the War Pensions Scheme that for an award to be made there must, at the very least, be a reasonable doubt that the cause of disablement in any particular case could be due to service. In the case of schizophrenia, there was, before 1980, no medical doubt that the condition was genetically determined and could not therefore be attributable to service. The Secretary of State was therefore satisfied that all rejections before February 1980 were correct in the light of medical knowledge at that time. Consequently in cases such as Mr Edwards, where the 'additional evidence' supporting the application (under section 6(2a) of the PAT Act) arises from a change in medical opinion concerning the aetiology of the condition in question, the Secretary of State does not consider it reasonable to award a pension for any period before the date of that change.

All cases reviewed in the light of the change in medical opinion are treated the same. Pensioners, therefore, receive the benefit of any reasonable doubt about the possibility of the condition being attributable to service, from the earliest possible date the doubt could have arisen. It appears to the Secretary of State that is a perfectly fair and reasonable outcome."

Mr Jay concedes that this letter could be said to be in error in two respects: (1) the sentence "there was, before 1980, no medical doubt that the condition was genetically determined and could not therefore be attributable to service" puts the matter too high: (2) the suggestion that the Secretary of State had no discretion to go back before 1st February 1980 may have amounted to a fettering of his discretion.

However, said Mr Jay, none of these errors is to be found in the Secretary of State's replacement decision letter of 29th January 1991. It is necessary for me to read several passages in this letter. In the second paragraph it is stated:

"The administrators on behalf of the Secretary of State concede that there is doubt as to whether his discretionary power contained in Schedule 3 to The Naval, Military and Air Forces etc (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983 (SPO) were exercised correctly. The letters of 30th May and 26th June 1990 from the Department to Keith Mans MP contained inaccuracies regarding the Secretary of State's discretionary powers. There is doubt as to whether the decision contained in our letter of 31st July to yourselves (to backdate to 1st February 1980) was correctly reached. In the circumstances the Secretary of State is prepared to consent to an order of certiorari to quash the decision of 31st July 1990.

The Secretary of State has looked at Mr Edwards' case again and has decided not to backdate Mr Edwards' pension to 1957, or for any period prior to 1st February 1980.

The reason why Mr Edwards was awarded a pension for schizophrenia when his earlier claim for the condition (previously notified as psychosis) had been rejected, was due to a shift in medical opinion about the relationship between stress and the precipitation of schizophrenia in a vulnerable person. The Secretary of State has noted the reasons given by his medical advisers for this shift in opinion and also their reasons for adopting 1st February 1980 as being the date of 'change in medical opinion'. The Secretary of State therefore is satisfied that if Mr Edwards had asked for the 1957 decision on his claim to be reviewed at any time before 1st February 1980, any decision to reject it, would have been reasonable in the light of medical opinion at the time

Thus, when there is a change in the interpretation of the law or in medical opinion, which enables the Secretary of State to award a pension in a case where a previous claim for the same disablement had been rejected, the Secretary of State, as a general policy, exercises his discretionary powers under Schedule 3 of the SPO to backdate all such claims to the date of change in the interpretation of the law, or in the change of medical opinion as determined by his medical advisers, as the case may be. There is thus a common date of award for all similar cases, which ensures that they are all treated equitably.

The Secretary of State has also considered whether there are any circumstances known to him that would justify him using his discretionary powers to depart from his general policy to award pension from any date earlier than 1st February 1980, but has concluded that there are not. In particular he has considered the fact that Mr Edwards was hospitalised for some 23 years and has taken into account the circumstances of his discharge from hospital in 1976. He has, however, concluded that these factors do not constitute any circumstances which would justify him exercising his discretionary powers to any greater extent than he has already done in backdating Mr Edwards' pension to 1st February 1980."

In the penultimate paragraph of the letter, the writer said:

"In the circumstances therefore the Secretary of State is not prepared to consent to an order of mandamus for Mr Edwards' claim to be backdated to 11th April 1957, but consents to an order for certiorari to quash the decision of 31st July 1990."

The respondent relies on an affidavit sworn by Mr David Bodfield Smith on 30th July 1991. In it he says that he is a Principal employed by the Department of Social Security and is responsible for policy and administrative matters relating to War Pensions. He says in paragraph 4 of the affidavit:

"The Secretary of State has formulated a policy whereby when a claim is rejected, but subsequently reviewed, and an award favourable to the claimant is made because of a change in medical opinion, then providing the original decision to reject was reasonable at the time it was made, the Secretary of State does not consider it unreasonable not to pay pension for any period before the date of change in medical opinion. I understand from the Department's Medical

Advisors and respectfully refer to the medical report prepared by Dr Thompson a copy of which is exhibited hereto and marked 'DBS1' that the year 1980 was chosen as the date when medical opinion on the relationship between stress and the precipitation of schizophrenia had changed."

Dr Thompson, to whom he refers, is a senior medical officer in the medical branch of the Department of Social Security. In his exhibited report he says, among other things:

"Medical Branch accepts that present day thinking is that the illness called schizophrenia is not a single condition but is of different types, and of multifactorial origin, and in some cases certain aetiological factors such as genetic make up are more important than in others where genetic origins are not traced, but other causal factors such as possible birth trauma etc. are important.

There is described a Type 1 in which genetic factors seem to be important and a Type 2 of more insidious onset where genetic factors are not so significant. It seems generally agreed that stressful life events often provoke the disorder

Life stresses have often been put forward as precipitant of schizophrenia, but few satisfactory studies have been carried out. In one of the most convincing studies, Brown and Birley (1968) used a standardised procedure to collect information from 50 patients (my comment: a small number by research standards, and it could be argued that this number is not statistically significant)"

Later he went on to pose this question:

"What then is the change in medical opinion?"

Genetic factors as causal are common to both 1957 and today. The only opinion that has changed is that now we believe that ordinary life events, now thought to be every day experiences such as changing jobs, getting married, moving house, joining or leaving the services etc., may represent sufficient severity of stress to precipitate symptoms of schizophrenia. In 1957 and before it was held that the precipitating stress had to be severe, for example to quote W. Mayer-Gross's textbook of Clinical Psychiatry, 1955 Edition, pages 228-229, 'death of close relative or friend, professional failure, extreme mental and physical exhaustion, a threat to life' etc., and that stress had to be in close time relationship to the onset of symptoms if it were to be regarded as influential. No other causal factors have been confirmed although other causal factors have been proposed and investigated.

On what date did these changes occur?

As in most scientific change of thinking there is no single positive date that can be given. From the evidence of the Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry quoted above it would seem that the first scientifically accepted paper proposing the present thinking regarding the severity of stress required was in 1968 (Brown and Birley). I have pointed out, however, that this series was small, and like any new

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thinking would require testing by the scientific Medical body and confirmation by other workers before it could be said that it would be accepted as 'consensus' medical thinking. The 'few satisfactory studies' carried out were those in 1974 (Jacobs), 1976 (Jacobs and Myers) and 1978 (Paykel).

Thus it can only be repeated that medical opinion on this subject changed, not on any certain date, but over a decade from at earliest 1968 to confirmation by other authoritative workers in 1974, 1976 and 1978. One can say, therefore, that it would be by about 1980 that this series of scientific papers would come to be acceptable as the generally held view of medical practitioners, and of sufficient strength to merit the Department accepting that the consensus had changed.

The Department Medical Branch were considering all the psychiatric appendices in the mid 1980s and when the question of schizophrenia was discussed the change in opinion was observed. As a result it was considered that 1980 was a reasonable date to suggest that the consensus had changed

In the case of Edwards, it seems that he served as a driver and did not report symptoms during service that could have been recognised in 1957 as due to schizophrenia. No history was obtained in 1957 to show severe service stress in close time relationship to the onset of symptoms. Therefore the decision taken at that time was correct by the standard and knowledge at the time."

Dr Thompson swore an affidavit on 11th June 1992. In paragraph 2 of that affidavit he said:

"It is now accepted by the Secretary of State that the consensus of medical opinion supports the proposition that the onset of schizophrenia may be precipitated by a 'life event' and not always by severe and overwhelming stress. I have previously drawn attention to the original work of Brown & Birley which was published in 1968: this was when, to my mind, the hypothesis which has since steadily gained currency was first published and backed by a trial, however limited. This trial was followed by other workers seeking to test the hypothesis"

At paragraph 6 he said:

"The original hypothesis that the onset of schizophrenia may be precipitated by a 'life event' and not always by severe and overwhelming stress, as formerly believed, was made by Brown and Birley in 1968. This hypothesis was investigated by other workers during the 1970s and early 1980s (Leff, 1973; Jacobs & Myers, 1976; Day, 1981; Malzacher, 1981; Harder 1980), but although the results of trials were generally supportive of the hypothesis proposed by Brown and Birley, there were conflicting conclusions. Thus, it is certainly reasonable to predicate that the subject was still controversial until well into the 1980s. It was not until a WHO multinational trial, the findings of which were published in 1987, that worldwide confirmation was reached as to a medical consensus on the status of 'life events'.

It is, of course, accepted by the Department that the consensus of medical opinion does not change overnight and proceeds by evolution rather than by revolution. None the less, I contend that the date chosen for the consensus

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having been reached, namely 1st February 1980, is a generous date, since 1987 would appear to be the more appropriate date, based as it is on the WHO multinational trial. In the circumstances, the date which the Secretary of State has selected is eminently reasonable."

Noticeable throughout is that Dr Thompson, upon whose advice the Secretary of State has acted, has been looking for the date at which a consensus was reached that ordinary life events may present sufficient stress to precipitate schizophrenia, and that by consensus he means that becomes the "generally accepted view of medical practitioners".

Mr Jay's submissions on behalf of the Secretary of State can be summarised as follows. The Secretary of State's policy is based on there having been a shift in medical opinion. What was believed in 1957 to be required to precipitate schizophrenia was extreme stress. Now it is accepted that no more than a life event can do it. That shift of opinion was a gradual process between 1968 and 1987. The Brown and Birley paper in 1968 was the beginning of the process. At that time it was only hypothesis, based on a narrow study. Had the Secretary of State considered this case in 1968, he would not have regarded it as "reliable evidence". That it may now be regarded as compelling evidence is not to the point. It is only when a consensus of medical opinion begins to emerge that the Secretary of State considers evidence of that effect to be reliable. The date at which that consensus began to emerge in respect of schizophrenia was February 1980, and prior to that date the claim would have failed. That view of the Secretary of State is only challengeable on Wednesbury grounds.

Mr Jay adds that even if he is wrong on all the foregoing, he takes issue with the formulation of the claim for declaratory relief, and particularly the last sentence, because he says that this is not a court of original jurisdiction and it is for the Secretary of State to decide when a reasonable doubt existed.

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Mr Drabble, on the other hand, submits that the approach of the Secretary of State is flawed because although his criteria for backdating are theoretically drawn up with an eye to identifying the earliest moment that the doubt arose, the actual approach of his medical advisers, acted upon by him, is to identify not the start of the controversy, when one might expect it to be said that the doubt arose, but its end. Consensus, he says, means "the generally held view". "Reliable evidence" means "evidence to which credence can be given". If one adopts the approach that one will not accept evidence as reliable until it is the orthodox view of the majority of doctors, one is depriving the provision with regard to "reasonable doubt" of any effect.

As I have indicated, it is, to my mind, plain that by consensus the Secretary of State means "the generally accepted view of medical practitioners". If the right question is to ask when the present view of the possible causes of schizophrenia became the generally accepted view of medical practitioners, then it is impossible to say that the Secretary of State was not entitled to fix on 1st February 1980 as the appropriate date. I am in no doubt, however, that it is the wrong question and that it involves a misunderstanding of the meaning of Article 5(4).

In considering that Article, the word "reliable" cannot, in my judgement, have been intended to mean "convincing". At most it can be construed as "not fanciful". But in fact I doubt whether the word adds anything to the sentence. The real question is: does the evidence raise a reasonable doubt in the mind of the Secretary of State? If he finds the evidence unreliable, it obviously will not raise a reasonable doubt in his mind.

I see no reason why, on the material put before him, the Secretary of State should not be entitled to hold that in 1968, the time of publication of the Brown and Birley study, what has now come to be the generally accepted view was a mere hypothesis based on a limited study which would not have created a "reasonable doubt" within the terms of Article 5. The stage at which it becomes sufficiently supported to raise such a

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doubt in his mind is a matter for the Secretary of State. Accepting, however, that the shift of opinion was a gradual process and that by February 1980 it was the general accepted view, there must have been an earlier stage when, asked to consider the matter, he would have found that there was a "reasonable doubt" and failure on his part to do so would have been challengeable on Wednesbury grounds. There are, in other words, in my judgement, three stages: no reasonable doubt, reasonable doubt, and consensus.

It follows, in my judgement, that the Secretary of State's decision that 1st February 1980, being the date at which consensus was reached, is the earliest date at which he can hold that there was a reasonable doubt, is flawed and cannot stand. I would therefore quash both the decisions of 31st July 1990 and 29th January 1991.

MR JUSTICE PILL: I agree.

MR DRABBLE: In those circumstances I simply ask for the orders of certiorari on the basis that we discussed at the end of the last hearing and for my costs.

MR JAY: I have no submissions to make.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN: Yes.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

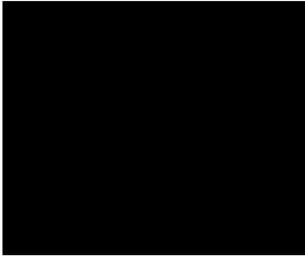
Veterans Agency

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Your ref:

Our ref: YS666818A

Date: 28.10.2004

Direct Line:



Dear 

I am writing in reply to your letter of 16th October 2004 about your war pension appeal.

I am sorry you were upset by the inclusion of the Bennett High Court appendix in your statement of case. This was not an error, it is now standard practice to include the appropriate High Court references to all our statements of case. In your case the Bennett and Edwards references were appropriate.

Yours sincerely



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LH8(WP)

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No. CO/2281/90

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
DIVISIONAL COURT
CROWN OFFICE LIST

Royal Courts of Justice
Friday, 10th July 1992

Before:

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN

and

MR JUSTICE PILL

THE QUEEN

v.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY
EX PARTE JOHN HENRY EDWARDS

(Computer Aided Transcript of the Stenograph Notes of Marten Walsh Cherer Limited, Midway House, 27-29 Cursitor Street, London EC4A 1LT. Telephone Number 071 405 5010. Shorthand Writers to the Court)

MR R. DRABBLE (instructed by Messrs Robert Leach Palmer & Co., Fleetwood) appeared on behalf of the Applicant

MR R. JAY (instructed by the Solicitor to the Department of Social Security) appeared on behalf of the Respondent

JUDGEMENT

(As approved by Judge)

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN: This is an application for judicial review of a decision of the Secretary of State for the Department of Social Security brought with the leave of MacPherson J. The decision in question was one of 31st July 1990 refusing to backdate the applicant's claim to a war pension to before 1st February 1980. The relief sought in the notice of application is (1) an order of certiorari to quash the decision of 31st July 1990 and (2) an order of mandamus for the claim to be backdated to 11th April 1957.

Subsequently, by a further decision dated 29th January 1991, the Secretary of State accepted that the first decision was flawed and expressed willingness to consent to an order of certiorari to quash it but adhered to his refusal to backdate the applicant's claim to a war pension to before 1st February 1980. It follows that he continued to resist the application for an order of mandamus for the claim to be backdated to 11th April 1957.

In the course of the hearing, Mr Drabble, appearing for the applicant, sought leave to amend to add to the decision in respect of which relief is sought "the further decision of the Secretary of State contained in a letter dated 29th January 1991" and to add to the relief claimed "a declaration that the revised decision of the Secretary of State contained in the letter of 29th January 1991 is flawed by error of law in that no reasonable Secretary of State could have held that if Mr Edwards had asked for the 1957 decision on his claim to be reviewed at any time before 1980, any decision to reject it would have been reasonable in the light of medical opinion at the time. In cases such as Mr Edwards's, a reasonable doubt existed in 1957."

Mr Drabble explained his application by saying that he accepted that the Secretary of State has a broad discretion whether to backdate at all, and hence that the court could not order him to do so at any particular date. However, in this case, the Secretary of State's reasoning in his replacement letter was as flawed as in his first. For those two reasons a declaration in the terms sought was appropriate.

Mr Jay for the Secretary of State raised no objection to the amendment though making it clear that if the court were to hold that a declaration of any sort should be made, he would argue against the terms sought by Mr Drabble and, in particular, the last sentence. On that basis the court gave leave to amend in the terms sought.

The applicant was born on 17th July 1916 and is therefore now 75. He served in the forces from June 1940 to June 1946 and, during that time, spent some 19 months in France and Germany, beginning in June 1944, shortly after D-Day. On 29th August 1954 he was admitted to Whittingham Hospital in Preston and stayed there until 1976, receiving psychiatric treatment.

On 11th April 1957 his wife claimed a war pension on his behalf, alleging that the schizophrenia from which he suffers was attributable to his war service. His claim was rejected on 2nd June 1957 on the medical evidence then available and was not appealed.

His case notes from Whittingham Hospital, which were put before the Ministry in 1957, have been relied on before the court. The history of his mental illness, which was recorded on his admission, shows his wife saying then that his mental illness commenced in about August 1946. Asked how it first showed itself, she replied: "By a series of crying and sobbing like a child, also going very religious, this went on for quite a period." She said that the attack did not follow any fever or illness. In answer to the question, "What do you consider was the cause?" she replied, "Reaction to war service." The medical diagnosis on admission was "schizophrenic reaction" but what to was not identified.

Mrs Edwards is recorded as making this further statement at that time: "Shortly after my husband was released from the army, he complained of feeling ill and, despite his doctor's attention, he did not get better. He began imagining that he was suffering from cancer and other serious diseases. He refused to talk or listen to anything connected with the war. He gave the impression that he was afraid of being arrested for some imagined crime, probably connected with his war service. His condition worsened until 1954 when he was admitted to Whittingham Hospital."

On 19th July 1987 his wife made a further claim on his behalf for a war pension. Once again the claim was rejected on the ground that his schizophrenia was not attributable to war service. She appealed to the Pension Appeal Tribunal and gave these reasons on her husband's behalf: "My first breakdown was shortly after discharge from the army, and I had never had any previous history of mental illness. The doctor at the time said that stress during the war had caused his illness. Whilst I was serving in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers I was offered the rank of Lance Corporal but I turned this down because I could not cope with the extra stress placed on me. I could never hold down a job after discharge and eventually I was admitted to Whittingham Hospital where I

remained for 20 years. I feel that I should be recompensed for all my illness which was caused by war service."

However, on further consideration the Department conceded that his illness was attributable to war service. At that stage the Department's attitude was that the pension would only be paid from 19th July 1987, being the date of the second claim. Later, however, the Department stated that it would pay arrears from 1st February 1980.

At this point it is appropriate to have regard to the relevant provisions of The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983. Article 4 of that order deals with the situation where a claim is made in respect of a disablement "not later than 7 years after the termination of the service of a member of the armed forces". In those circumstances Article 4(2) provides:

"Subject to the following provisions of this article, in no case shall there be an onus on any claimant under this article to prove the fulfilment of the conditions set out in paragraph (1) and the benefit of any reasonable doubt shall be given to the claimant."

I pass to Article 5(1) which reads:

"Where, after the expiration of the period of 7 years beginning with the termination of the service of a member of the armed forces, a claim is made in respect of a disablement of that member, or in respect of the death of that member (being a death occurring after the expiration of the said period), such disablement or death, as the case may be, shall be accepted as due to service for the purposes of this Order provided it is certified that -

(a) the disablement is due to an injury which -

(i) is attributable to service after 2nd September 1939"

I pass to Article 5(4) which reads:

"Where, upon reliable evidence, a reasonable doubt exists whether the conditions set out in paragraph (1) are fulfilled, the benefit of that reasonable doubt shall be given to the claimant."

In Schedule 3, which deals with commencing dates of awards of pension, paragraph 1 reads:

"Except in so far as the Secretary of State may otherwise direct with respect to any particular case or class of case, payment of a pension in respect of disablement or as the case may be death, including payment of an increase in the rate of pension on account of an increased assessment of the degree of disablement, shall not be made in respect of any period preceding"

(b) (iii) the date of the claim to pension".

In this case that date was 19th July 1987.

Mr Drabble accepts that the present is a case where Article 5(4) applies and hence that there is a burden on the applicant to produce reliable evidence. He concedes further that the Secretary of State has a discretion whether to backdate. This

in turn led him to concede, as I have indicated, that declaratory relief rather than an order of mandamus would be appropriate.

Mr Drabble referred us to Dickinson v. The Minister of Pensions 5 War Pension Appeal Reports 211. The claim there fell to be considered under the provisions of the Pensions Warrant of 1949, but for relevant purposes it was in the same terms as the order now applicable. Ormerod J, in giving judgement, said at page 242:

"In Article 5 no exception is made, and there is no provision that there shall be no onus of proof upon the Claimant. Therefore, on the face of it, it must, I think, follow that the Claimant, in order to succeed, must satisfy the Court or the Tribunal (whichever body has to decide the matter) that the conditions which entitle him to an award have been satisfied."

Lower down the page he continued:

"I agree with Mr McQuown that the wording of that paragraph is probably unfortunate, but I am satisfied that the intention of the paragraph is that it is the duty of the claimant to produce reliable evidence, to establish his claim, but if (after hearing and considering that reliable evidence and making a comparison between such evidence and other evidence which is called on behalf of the Ministry to contradict or to controvert it) the Tribunal has a reasonable doubt, then under those circumstances the plain meaning of that paragraph of the Article is that the benefit of that doubt shall be given to the Claimant."

Mr Drabble also relied on a decision of Drake J in Westcott v. Secretary of State for Social Services (11th December 1987) of which we were provided with a transcript. Drake J began his judgement by saying:

"In this case the appellant claims a pension on the grounds that he suffers from osteoarthritis of (1) the knees and (2) the lumbosacral spine attributable to service. He says it had its origin in a heavy fall which he sustained while testing a parachute in Norway while serving in the 1st airborne Division, the fall taking place in 1945 shortly after the end of the war."

Drake J went on to say that the surgeon in question had given his report in which he said:

"..... it is absolutely impossible to give a firm indication as to whether Mr Westcott would not have suffered arthritis had he not had his accident during the war, and in my view, he should be given the benefit of the doubt in this case".

Drake J commented:

"I read that as a clear answer to the question posed by the DHSS. The answer is: 'Yes, Mr Westcott's orthopaedic pathology involving the knees and spine could be related to heavy parachute landings'."

It seems that the DHSS then asked for a report from their own medical division.

The report set out other considerations which, in the view of those giving the report,

pointed very strongly indeed to the conclusion that Mr Westcott's condition was not related to any parachute landing and was in fact primary osteoarthritis. At page 4 at A,

Drake J said:

" the Tribunal did not find that Mr Westcott did not have the fall as he described.

What it then did was to accept and agree with the opinions of the medical services division and say 'We are satisfied that Mr Westcott had generalised osteoarthritis.' They therefore concluded, basing themselves firmly on that decision, that the claimed conditions are not attributable to service. In reaching their decision the Tribunal, with that evidence, had a great deal of evidence which pointed – and I would say pointed strongly – against the appellant's claim that his osteoarthritis was attributable to the parachute fall. But there was also some evidence which did support his claim. The Tribunal could of course have made a finding that they expressly rejected the consultant orthopaedic surgeon's opinion as being without any foundation, a wrong opinion that no reasonable specialist could have reached. They did not make that finding and it is not surprising: they had no reason to do so.

In my judgement, there was therefore on the evidence before them, just as there was before the medical services department in their opinion, evidence which did raise a reasonable doubt in the appellant's favour. There was simply no material on which the Tribunal could find, as they did, that the evidence did not raise any reasonable doubt in favour of the appellant.

I have had regard to a decision which I have been referred to: Cadney v. Minister of Pensions and National Insurance Volume 5, War Pensions Appeal Reports, 687, in which the nominated judge (then Mr Justice Edmund Davies) held that it is entirely a matter for the Tribunal to decide whether the evidence placed before it is reliable or whether the evidence, being reliable, is such as to create such a reasonable doubt as falls within Article 5, and it is not for the nominated judge to re-open these questions."

I take up the judgement again at page 5 at E:

"As I have indicated, the evidence in this case, on a balance of probabilities, points against the appellant's claim. It may be that many would therefore consider this appellant to be fortunate to be entitled to a pension in all of the circumstances of this case. But it is not a case of being sympathetic and saying that he is fortunate: he is entitled to rely on the law as it stands, which does weight matters heavily in his favour. For the reasons I have given I hold that this appeal succeeds."

I look next at the decision letter of 31st July 1990 which is impugned in the proceedings. In that letter, among other things, this is said at paragraph 5:

"It is a fundamental principle of the War Pensions Scheme that for an award to be made there must, at the very least, be a reasonable doubt that the cause of disablement in any particular case could be due to service. In the case of schizophrenia, there was, before 1980, no medical doubt that the condition was genetically determined and could not therefore be attributable to service. The Secretary of State was therefore satisfied that all rejections before February 1980 were correct in the light of medical knowledge at that time. Consequently in cases such as Mr Edwards, where the 'additional evidence' supporting the application (under section 6(2a) of the PAT Act) arises from a change in medical opinion concerning the aetiology of the condition in question, the Secretary of State does not consider it reasonable to award a pension for any period before the date of that change.

All cases reviewed in the light of the change in medical opinion are treated the same. Pensioners, therefore, receive the benefit of any reasonable doubt about the possibility of the condition being attributable to service, from the earliest possible date the doubt could have arisen. It appears to the Secretary of State that is a perfectly fair and reasonable outcome."

Mr Jay concedes that this letter could be said to be in error in two respects: (1) the sentence "there was, before 1980, no medical doubt that the condition was genetically determined and could not therefore be attributable to service" puts the matter too high: (2) the suggestion that the Secretary of State had no discretion to go back before 1st February 1980 may have amounted to a fettering of his discretion.

However, said Mr Jay, none of these errors is to be found in the Secretary of State's replacement decision letter of 29th January 1991. It is necessary for me to read several passages in this letter. In the second paragraph it is stated:

"The administrators on behalf of the Secretary of State concede that there is doubt as to whether his discretionary power contained in Schedule 3 to The Naval, Military and Air Forces etc (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983 (SPO) were exercised correctly. The letters of 30th May and 26th June 1990 from the Department to Keith Mans MP contained inaccuracies regarding the Secretary of State's discretionary powers. There is doubt as to whether the decision contained in our letter of 31st July to yourselves (to backdate to 1st February 1980) was correctly reached. In the circumstances the Secretary of State is prepared to consent to an order of certiorari to quash the decision of 31st July 1990.

The Secretary of State has looked at Mr Edwards' case again and has decided not to backdate Mr Edwards' pension to 1957, or for any period prior to 1st February 1980.

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The reason why Mr Edwards was awarded a pension for schizophrenia when his earlier claim for the condition (previously notified as psychosis) had been rejected, was due to a shift in medical opinion about the relationship between stress and the precipitation of schizophrenia in a vulnerable person. The Secretary of State has noted the reasons given by his medical advisers for this shift in opinion and also their reasons for adopting 1st February 1980 as being the date of 'change in medical opinion'. The Secretary of State therefore is satisfied that if Mr Edwards had asked for the 1957 decision on his claim to be reviewed at any time before 1st February 1980, any decision to reject it, would have been reasonable in the light of medical opinion at the time

Thus, when there is a change in the interpretation of the law or in medical opinion, which enables the Secretary of State to award a pension in a case where a previous claim for the same disablement had been rejected, the Secretary of State, as a general policy, exercises his discretionary powers under Schedule 3 of the SPO to backdate all such claims to the date of change in the interpretation of the law, or in the change of medical opinion as determined by his medical advisers, as the case may be. There is thus a common date of award for all similar cases, which ensures that they are all treated equitably.

The Secretary of State has also considered whether there are any circumstances known to him that would justify him using his discretionary powers to depart from his general policy to award pension from any date earlier than 1st February 1980, but has concluded that there are not. In particular he has considered the fact that Mr Edwards was hospitalised for some 23 years and has taken into account the circumstances of his discharge from hospital in 1976. He has, however, concluded that these factors do not constitute any circumstances which would justify him exercising his discretionary powers to any greater extent than he has already done in backdating Mr Edwards' pension to 1st February 1980."

In the penultimate paragraph of the letter, the writer said:

"In the circumstances therefore the Secretary of State is not prepared to consent to an order of mandamus for Mr Edwards' claim to be backdated to 11th April 1957, but consents to an order for certiorari to quash the decision of 31st July 1990."

The respondent relies on an affidavit sworn by Mr David Bodfield Smith on 30th July 1991. In it he says that he is a Principal employed by the Department of Social Security and is responsible for policy and administrative matters relating to War Pensions. He says in paragraph 4 of the affidavit:

"The Secretary of State has formulated a policy whereby when a claim is rejected, but subsequently reviewed, and an award favourable to the claimant is made because of a change in medical opinion, then providing the original decision to reject was reasonable at the time it was made, the Secretary of State does not consider it unreasonable not to pay pension for any period before the date of change in medical opinion. I understand from the Department's Medical

Advisors and respectfully refer to the medical report prepared by Dr Thompson a copy of which is exhibited hereto and marked 'DBS1' that the year 1980 was chosen as the date when medical opinion on the relationship between stress and the precipitation of schizophrenia had changed."

Dr Thompson, to whom he refers, is a senior medical officer in the medical branch of the Department of Social Security. In his exhibited report he says, among other things:

"Medical Branch accepts that present day thinking is that the illness called schizophrenia is not a single condition but is of different types, and of multifactorial origin, and in some cases certain aetiological factors such as genetic make up are more important than in others where genetic origins are not traced, but other causal factors such as possible birth trauma etc. are important.

There is described a Type 1 in which genetic factors seem to be important and a Type 2 of more insidious onset where genetic factors are not so significant. It seems generally agreed that stressful life events often provoke the disorder

Life stresses have often been put forward as precipitant of schizophrenia, but few satisfactory studies have been carried out. In one of the most convincing studies, Brown and Birley (1968) used a standardised procedure to collect information from 50 patients (my comment: a small number by research standards, and it could be argued that this number is not statistically significant)"

Later he went on to pose this question:

"What then is the change in medical opinion?"

Genetic factors as causal are common to both 1957 and today. The only opinion that has changed is that now we believe that ordinary life events, now thought to be every day experiences such as changing jobs, getting married, moving house, joining or leaving the services etc., may represent sufficient severity of stress to precipitate symptoms of schizophrenia. In 1957 and before it was held that the precipitating stress had to be severe, for example to quote W. Mayer-Gross's textbook of Clinical Psychiatry, 1955 Edition, pages 228-229, 'death of close relative or friend, professional failure, extreme mental and physical exhaustion, a threat to life' etc., and that stress had to be in close time relationship to the onset of symptoms if it were to be regarded as influential. No other causal factors have been confirmed although other causal factors have been proposed and investigated.

On what date did these changes occur?

As in most scientific change of thinking there is no single positive date that can be given. From the evidence of the Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry quoted above it would seem that the first scientifically accepted paper proposing the present thinking regarding the severity of stress required was in 1968 (Brown and Birley). I have pointed out, however, that this series was small, and like any new

thinking would require testing by the scientific Medical body and confirmation by other workers before it could be said that it would be accepted as 'consensus' medical thinking. The 'few satisfactory studies' carried out were those in 1974 (Jacobs), 1976 (Jacobs and Myers) and 1978 (Paykel).

Thus it can only be repeated that medical opinion on this subject changed, not on any certain date, but over a decade from at earliest 1968 to confirmation by other authoritative workers in 1974, 1976 and 1978. One can say, therefore, that it would be by about 1980 that this series of scientific papers would come to be acceptable as the generally held view of medical practitioners, and of sufficient strength to merit the Department accepting that the consensus had changed.

The Department Medical Branch were considering all the psychiatric appendices in the mid 1980s and when the question of schizophrenia was discussed the change in opinion was observed. As a result it was considered that 1980 was a reasonable date to suggest that the consensus had changed

In the case of Edwards, it seems that he served as a driver and did not report symptoms during service that could have been recognised in 1957 as due to schizophrenia. No history was obtained in 1957 to show severe service stress in close time relationship to the onset of symptoms. Therefore the decision taken at that time was correct by the standard and knowledge at the time."

Dr Thompson swore an affidavit on 11th June 1992. In paragraph 2 of that affidavit he said:

"It is now accepted by the Secretary of State that the consensus of medical opinion supports the proposition that the onset of schizophrenia may be precipitated by a 'life event' and not always by severe and overwhelming stress. I have previously drawn attention to the original work of Brown & Birley which was published in 1968: this was when, to my mind, the hypothesis which has since steadily gained currency was first published and backed by a trial, however limited. This trial was followed by other workers seeking to test the hypothesis"

At paragraph 6 he said:

"The original hypothesis that the onset of schizophrenia may be precipitated by a 'life event' and not always by severe and overwhelming stress, as formerly believed, was made by Brown and Birley in 1968. This hypothesis was investigated by other workers during the 1970s and early 1980s (Leff, 1973; Jacobs & Myers, 1976; Day, 1981; Malzacher, 1981; Harder 1980), but although the results of trials were generally supportive of the hypothesis proposed by Brown and Birley, there were conflicting conclusions. Thus, it is certainly reasonable to predicate that the subject was still controversial until well into the 1980s. It was not until a WHO multinational trial, the findings of which were published in 1987, that worldwide confirmation was reached as to a medical consensus on the status of 'life events'.

It is, of course, accepted by the Department that the consensus of medical opinion does not change overnight and proceeds by evolution rather than by revolution. None the less, I contend that the date chosen for the consensus

having been reached, namely 1st February 1980, is a generous date, since 1987 would appear to be the more appropriate date, based as it is on the WHO multinational trial. In the circumstances, the date which the Secretary of State has selected is eminently reasonable."

Noticeable throughout is that Dr Thompson, upon whose advice the Secretary of State has acted, has been looking for the date at which a consensus was reached that ordinary life events may present sufficient stress to precipitate schizophrenia, and that by consensus he means that becomes the "generally accepted view of medical practitioners".

Mr Jay's submissions on behalf of the Secretary of State can be summarised as follows. The Secretary of State's policy is based on there having been a shift in medical opinion. What was believed in 1957 to be required to precipitate schizophrenia was extreme stress. Now it is accepted that no more than a life event can do it. That shift of opinion was a gradual process between 1968 and 1987. The Brown and Birley paper in 1968 was the beginning of the process. At that time it was only hypothesis, based on a narrow study. Had the Secretary of State considered this case in 1968, he would not have regarded it as "reliable evidence". That it may now be regarded as compelling evidence is not to the point. It is only when a consensus of medical opinion begins to emerge that the Secretary of State considers evidence of that effect to be reliable. The date at which that consensus began to emerge in respect of schizophrenia was February 1980, and prior to that date the claim would have failed. That view of the Secretary of State is only challengeable on Wednesbury grounds.

Mr Jay adds that even if he is wrong on all the foregoing, he takes issue with the formulation of the claim for declaratory relief, and particularly the last sentence, because he says that this is not a court of original jurisdiction and it is for the Secretary of State to decide when a reasonable doubt existed.

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Mr Drabble, on the other hand, submits that the approach of the Secretary of State is flawed because although his criteria for backdating are theoretically drawn up with an eye to identifying the earliest moment that the doubt arose, the actual approach of his medical advisers, acted upon by him, is to identify not the start of the controversy, when one might expect it to be said that the doubt arose, but its end. Consensus, he says, means "the generally held view". "Reliable evidence" means "evidence to which credence can be given". If one adopts the approach that one will not accept evidence as reliable until it is the orthodox view of the majority of doctors, one is depriving the provision with regard to "reasonable doubt" of any effect.

As I have indicated, it is, to my mind, plain that by consensus the Secretary of State means "the generally accepted view of medical practitioners". If the right question is to ask when the present view of the possible causes of schizophrenia became the generally accepted view of medical practitioners, then it is impossible to say that the Secretary of State was not entitled to fix on 1st February 1980 as the appropriate date. I am in no doubt, however, that it is the wrong question and that it involves a misunderstanding of the meaning of Article 5(4).

In considering that Article, the word "reliable" cannot, in my judgement, have been intended to mean "convincing". At most it can be construed as "not fanciful". But in fact I doubt whether the word adds anything to the sentence. The real question is: does the evidence raise a reasonable doubt in the mind of the Secretary of State? If he finds the evidence unreliable, it obviously will not raise a reasonable doubt in his mind.

I see no reason why, on the material put before him, the Secretary of State should not be entitled to hold that in 1968, the time of publication of the Brown and Birley study, what has now come to be the generally accepted view was a mere hypothesis based on a limited study which would not have created a "reasonable doubt" within the terms of Article 5. The stage at which it becomes sufficiently supported to raise such a

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doubt in his mind is a matter for the Secretary of State. Accepting, however, that the shift of opinion was a gradual process and that by February 1980 it was the general accepted view, there must have been an earlier stage when, asked to consider the matter, he would have found that there was a "reasonable doubt" and failure on his part to do so would have been challengeable on Wednesbury grounds. There are, in other words, in my judgement, three stages: no reasonable doubt, reasonable doubt, and consensus.

It follows, in my judgement, that the Secretary of State's decision that 1st February 1980, being the date at which consensus was reached, is the earliest date at which he can hold that there was a reasonable doubt, is flawed and cannot stand. I would therefore quash both the decisions of 31st July 1990 and 29th January 1991.

MR JUSTICE PILL: I agree.

MR DRABBLE: In those circumstances I simply ask for the orders of certiorari on the basis that we discussed at the end of the last hearing and for my costs.

MR JAY: I have no submissions to make.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN: Yes.

C/O

[Redacted]

Ministry of Foreign
Affairs
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United Kingdom

[Large Redacted Area]

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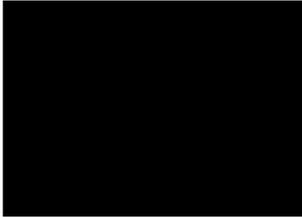


From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date:
27 October 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your last letter dated 22 October 2004 and your newspaper articles. As to our last acknowledgement, my colleague [REDACTED] replied to you on the 19th October.

Some of the issues you mention, as in some of your previous letters, this office does not have any responsibility for these different matters and thus can't comment on them.

Your comments have been noted and your letter and articles have been placed on our files.

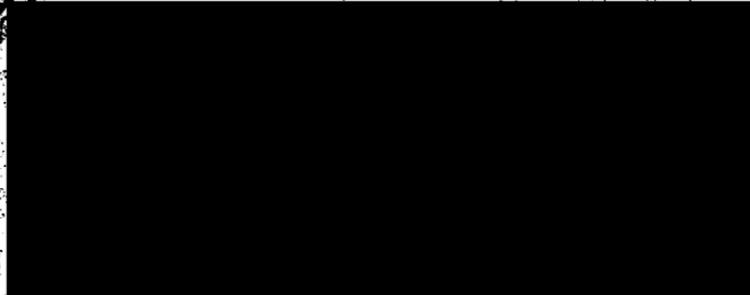
Yours sincerely



Dear [REDACTED]

I have yet to receive acknowledgement from you for last correspondence I sent you especially on the back of Squadron Leader reply from Glasame house and accompanied earlier reply from Wing Commander from RAF Wittering reply from letter I sent him from H R IT Prince of Wales the reason why we write here is for your retention for a file of UFO seen landing by joint women in 1971 and this accompanied news of Black Panthers in Warrants I know the 33 year old report was old but the significance of the UFO was that it was spoken of whilst I was student for British

and the effects on Ewys
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by VFO can not be
written off especially especially
of recycling scrap metal
for process of steel making
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Remember when



Memories from the 70s, 80s and 90s for the week October 21 to October 27

with Tony Smith

Minister's praise for new venture

BRITAIN'S Agriculture Minister Gillian Shephard visited the county 11 years ago to perform the official opening ceremony at a new laboratory.

The £4m building was the latest facility at the Corby animal feeds firm Cheminex, an investment aimed at helping the Godwin Road plant export more of its products world-wide.

Mrs Shephard said: "In Corby food and drink manufacturers are very important, which is pleasing, as is anything which keeps employment and export going."

1993

The lab had also been built to help Cheminex achieve the highest manufacturing standards to meet all the latest European Community health and safety regulations.

The firm was a specialist producer of soluble powders and medicated feeds aimed particularly at the poultry and pig markets.

The rebuilt site, which also included more office and warehouse space, was part of an investment

programme by the Upjohn Company, which acquired Cheminex in 1991.

Cheminex, which had traded in Corby for four years, boasted a 70ft-high manufacturing tower housing a six-ton blender to mix all the materials prepared in the new upgraded air-locked laboratories.

This offered the same control that went into the production of human health products also manufactured by Upjohn.

Cheminex employed 20 staff who produced up to 20 products for the animal feed supplement market.



■ MINISTER'S VISIT - Gillian Shephard, who opened the new laboratory

Also in the headlines

1971 - FOUR Weldon women claimed a UFO landed in the village. In separate interviews they said they saw the large craft come down behind some caravans on the Woodlands caravan site.

1988 - GOLDEN Wonder announced that 650 jobs were to go at its fire-gutted factory in Earlstrees Road, Corby.

1993 - KETTERING mayor Chris Groome unveiled a plaque at the town's railway station naming an InterCity Power Car the Borough Of Kettering.

1971 - AN ALDWINCLE couple were distraught after

And that's the end of



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for thought from vets

ANIMAL lovers are killing their
pets with kindness.

The results of a survey
released this week showed
rising obesity levels in pets.

Veterinary nurse Glenda
Burke said an increased
number of animals were
being brought to clinics.

She said: "We are loving
their pets too much by not real-
ising the treat they give their
animals are inappropriate."

"Obesity puts a strain on the
heart, the liver and the joints. It
cuts life expectancy and makes
the animals miserable."

Increasing obesity levels in
animals can be linked to a
higher number of related

illnesses such as diabetes,
arthritis and high blood pres-
sure, according to insurance
firm More Than, which carried
out the survey.

Mrs Burke, of Well Pets Veteri-
nary Centre, Rushden, said:
"People need to realise choco-
late, ice cream and other
snacks are not suitable for
animals."

John Bowie, a vet at Swans-
pool Veterinary Clinic in
Wellingborough, said: "The
problem comes from dispro-
portionate levels of food and
exercise. Owners sometimes
expect animals to be rounded
when they should look more
athletic."

Mr Bowie advised concerned
owners to have their pet
weighed.

Kerry Taylor, veterinary nurse
at PM Haughton in Corby, said
many practices offered diet
plans to help owners but
owners needed to recognise
when there was a problem.

Edward Howes, practice
manager at Northlands Veteri-
nary Clinic in Kettering, said:
"The number of obese pets is
increasing, simply as a result of
overeating."

"Vets can provide diets and
food but this is only half the
battle - owners need to take
responsibility for the treats
they give their pets."

Elusive panther is spotted again

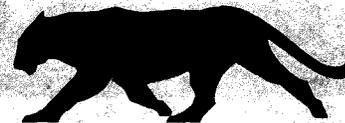
THE mysterious black
panther has been spotted
again.

John Crampton, 52, saw
the elusive creature at
8.05am on Tuesday near
the Eurohub roundabout
outside Stanion.

Mr Crampton, of Ridgeway,
Wellingborough, said: "I saw
it leaping into the under-
growth.

"It was a very peculiar
shape. It had very short legs
and a long body."

The road was very busy at
the time and Mr Crampton



said: "Other people must
have seen it."

● The ET is offering a £100
reward to anyone who can
provide photographic
evidence that the black
panther exists.

To claim the reward or to
report a sighting call the
newsdesk on 01536 506153.

Testing times in village pubs

THE Green Dragon pub in Brigstock
holds a quiz every Thursday from
8.30pm. Entry is free.

The Old Three Cocks in the village
also has a quiz every Tuesday from
8.30pm. All are welcome.

Raised voices

A SUNG Eucharist will take place in
St John the Baptist Church in
Oakley Road, Corby, on Sunday, at
11am.

Was this couple the first

Betty and Barney Hill began a new chapter in UFO history when they told of an amazing spacecraft experience in 1961

LAST Sunday, after a battle against lung cancer, Eunice Elizabeth Barrett Hill died peacefully in her sleep at her home. While any death is sad, the passing of the 85-year-old child welfare worker, keen gardener and animal lover might well have gone unnoticed outside her hometown of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, had it not been for an extraordinary encounter one dark night more than four decades earlier.

Because on September 19 1961, Betty Hill and her husband Barney had an encounter worthy of The X Files which transformed their lives and started

By Nick Redfern

today's global fascination with the "alien abduction" controversy.

The couple were driving through the picturesque White Mountains late one evening as they returned from a holiday in Canada when they spotted what looked like an asteroid or a "bright star" in the night sky. It quickly became apparent the object was keeping pace with their car, as if tracking their progress.

Increasingly nervous, the Hills kept the object under observation as they approached a point known as Indian

Head until Barney slammed on the brakes, juddered the car to a screeching halt and grabbed his binoculars for a closer look.

Soon, events were taking an altogether stranger turn. Peering through the lenses, it was clear that whatever the object was, it was neither star nor asteroid.

According to Barney, then a 39-year-old postal worker, he saw a "flat, pancake-like craft with portholes around its mid-section". And behind each porthole were "shadowy, human-like figures, who could be seen moving about".

The terrified couple made to escape but even with Barney's foot flat to the floor, there was no getting away. As they fled Indian Head, the "craft" hovered directly over their car and, as Betty later recalled, the last thing they remembered was a sound similar to a tuning fork, before suddenly growing drowsy.

Two hours later they found themselves near Ashland, New Hampshire, with only fragmentary memories of the journey and no recollection of the time lost (or perhaps erased) from their memories. Betty's dress was torn, the strap on Barney's binoculars was broken and their watches had stopped.

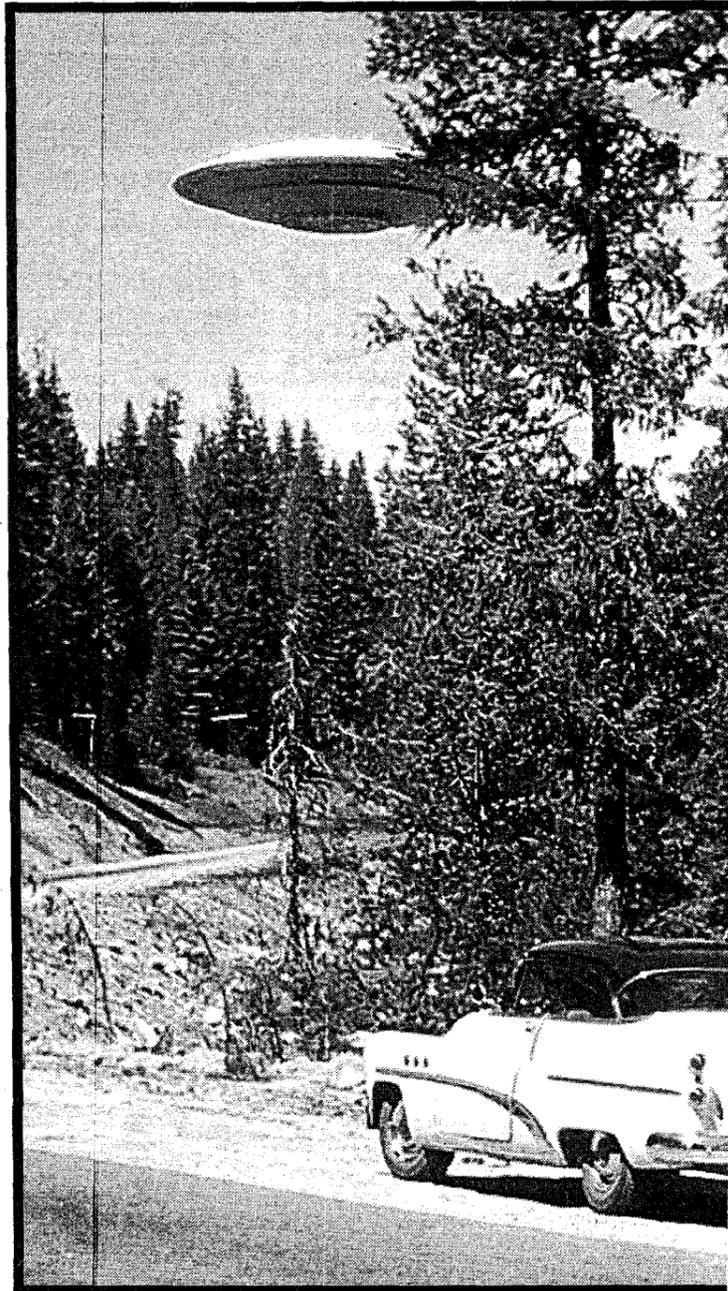
FOLLOWING their extraordinary encounter, the Hills suffered regular, distressing and chillingly realistic nightmares, invariably involving strange craft in which they were subjected to a raft of unusual medical tests performed by strange-looking humanoids.

There appeared to be no rational explanation. Major Paul W Henderson of Pease Air Force Base later revealed the unidentified object had been tracked on military radar scopes on September 19, 1961. And there was still their perplexing period of missing time.

The alien abduction mystery, previously unheard of in UFO research, had started to unfold.

As the years passed and their nightmares continued, the pair delved deeper to unravel the secret of that night. They underwent rigorous hypnotherapy with Boston psychologist and neurologist Dr Benjamin Simon.

The results were far from comforting. Betty recounted that on fleeing Indian Head the pair had driven only a short distance



when, inexplicably, and in a semi-trance-like state, they veered off the main highway and into a dark and secluded wooded area.

As they drew to a stop, "at least six, but up to nine beings" approached the car, extracted them and "escorted" them up a ramp and on to a disc-shaped UFO.

Betty recalled the creatures as being "between five

and five-and-a-half feet in height and clad in dark clothing". All of them had "broad foreheads, dark, cat-like eyes, small mouths and thin noses".

Next, the Hills were ushered down a long, narrow corridor curving around the entire craft and into a wedge-shaped room lit with a bluish light. Laid out on a series of tables against one wall was what appeared to be a collection of medical instruments.

One of the creatures, whom Betty later described as "the Leader", used telepathic means to calm her fears and assure her that after being used as guinea pigs for a series of tests, the couple would be safely returned to their car.

True to their word, after conduct-



TV FILM: The UFO Incident with Estelle Getty and James Earl Jones

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to be abducted by aliens?



MYSTERY: Betty and Barney Hill struggled to understand what happened

Pictures: ALAMY, MOVIEZONE, CORBIS

ing a procedure that involved inserting a needle-like device through the Hills's navels, the beings escorted Betty and Barney from the UFO and back to their car. Still deep in a trance-like state, they remained sitting in their vehicle until the craft had left the area. Only then did they resume their journey home, dimly aware of the bizarre events.

WHEN details of their extraordinary encounter were leaked to a Boston newspaper, the media went into a feeding frenzy and their story generated countless column inches. The publicity culminated in the 1966 publication of John Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey*, the first book published on alien abductions and an instant bestseller.

Finding themselves in demand, the couple spent the years until Barney's death in 1969 travelling all over the United States, giving lectures on their experience to packed audiences of UFO watchers.

That was not all. The UFO Incident - a made for television film

starring Estelle Getty (of *The Golden Girls*) as Betty and James Earl Jones as Barney - followed in 1975, and even in her 70s Betty remained a regular fixture on the lecture circuit at UFO conferences. In 1995, she wrote her first book, *A Common Sense Approach To UFOs*, and donated the profits to charity.

The Hills's experience certainly had a dramatic effect on their lives, but was theirs a genuine encounter with creatures from another world, or a fantasy borne out of hypnosis? Today, opinion is sharply divided.

The US-based Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) urges great caution in accepting alien abduction accounts - particularly those obtained via hypnosis from people the committee considers might have "fantasy prone" personalities - as evidence that creatures from other worlds are among us.

To her credit, Betty Hill pointed

out a variety of problems with some alien abduction accounts and offered criticism when she felt it was warranted. Indeed, when in the Nineties she retired from lecturing, she said her decision was prompted by "too many people with flaky ideas, fantasies and imaginations who were claiming abduction by aliens".

She explained: "If you were to believe the numbers of people who are claiming this, it would figure out to 3,000 to 5,000 abductions in the United States alone every night. There wouldn't be room for planes to fly. In the beginning, people were looking for information. Now, it has turned commercial."

Britain's National Council for Hypnotherapy made its views clear in 2001 when it issued a policy statement concerning alien abductions of precisely the type described by Betty and Barney.

While not endorsing such claims, it did state that: "With the recent

interest in this phenomenon, the National Council for Hypnotherapy issues the following guidelines. Alien abduction clients are to be treated with the same respect and courtesy as any other client.

"We recommend that therapists should not introduce the subject of alien abductions unless the client refers to it in the first instance. Additionally, therapists should not engage in corroborating these incidents. Therapists should take a neutral stance on the existence of alien abductions.

"Because of the necessity of regression in AACs, it is essential that therapists ensure that clients' full medical and mental health history is taken before the commencement of treatment."

Nick Pope, who investigated UFO sightings for the Ministry of Defence from 1991 to 1994, states: "The NCH has taken a courageous step and has recognised that whatever the truth

behind claims of alien abduction, there are numerous people actively seeking advice and help on this issue, who genuinely believe that they have had an experience. Abduction reports, it seems to me, represent the cutting edge of ufology."

REGARDLESS of the truth surrounding the alien abduction puzzle, one thing is certain. With the death of Betty Hill, so ends an era in the annals of alien abduction research.

According to Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Sighting Registration Center in Seattle, Washington: "I consider Betty and her husband pioneers in the UFO movement.

"They were brave enough to step forward and make public the facts of their alleged interactions with aliens. But above all, she was a wonderful gal."

● Nick Redfern lives in Dallas, Texas and is the US editor of *Phenomena Magazine* (www.phenomenamagazine.com)

'One of the creatures, who Betty described as The Leader, used telepathic means to assure her they would be returned safely'



From [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
e-mail [REDACTED]



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date
19 October 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

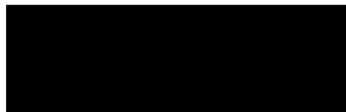
I am writing regarding your letter dated 1st October which was addressed to my colleague,
[REDACTED]

In your letter you comment about a number of issues including an application you have made to a magistrates court at Wortham County Hall, Iraq weapons of mass destruction, state education and your previous service in the Royal Artillery. Please note, that this Directorate does not have responsibility for any of these issues and we are therefore unable to comment or enter into correspondence about them.

With regard to your remark about "Alien occupation" you will be aware from our previous correspondence that the Ministry of Defence knows of no evidence of the existence of such phenomenon.

Your letter has been placed on our records.

Yours sincerely,



MOD
Whitehall
London

Ref D/Das/64/3/45

Dear [REDACTED]

1st Oct 2004

Thank you for acknowledgment but despite your insistence that you did reply of earlier correspondence I wrote to your Northumberland Street office I did not receive reply to content of gravity the subject was mentioned of letter I wrote to you I will again just inform your office of recent update of MOD mail that has been sent to me it has come from RAF Innesworth who may I state was in business of questions asked of me of MOD of which in still under signed to 1953 Official Secrets Act so sensitive in unable to fully set out application for magistrant application at Northampton County Hall especially acknowledge

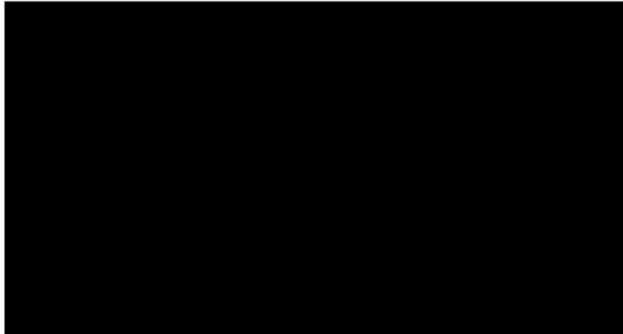
ments of HM the Queen acknowledgements of gratitude to MOP
 advising from myself. The letter headed letter you sent me today mentioned Freedom of information im sorry you've had this done as it reflects to copy to public you copy too much this as to beky and just a reason to not bother writing to your office especially now the governments stance on IRAC weapons of mass destruction of which MOP went to IRAC weapons of gravity never were found and men sacrificed these lives on false promises from start of entry to IRAC this is one mention of my questioning of my feelings of MOP having this mention to office to write to the real reason why we bothered to write to you is on back of letter i've written to Prime Minister

the letter I strongly believe can't
 be removed from their occupation
 of UFOs amongst public we
 told prime minister that the
 age of sexual intercourse
 be made at fifteen from six-
 teen this for compensation not to
 remove ablement of photo mobiles
 pornography of pictures and TV
 cinema sexual perversion the
 butt of my concern is of
 children naked at school
 amongst each other in
 changing room sport of
 showering I told the prime
 minister that I am indeed
 having appeal for war pensions
 of sexual perversion placed
 upon me whilst in training
 at Royal Artillery Woolwich
 London but the reason I
 feel there is public youth
 anti social behaviour is on level-
 lion from perversion from the

State education having no privacy of public in mind eyeing on upon of either sexes I feel the eyeing of big manhood generates thugery and crime stemmed from.

Altimas get to gether in clanging and slowness I personally has dropped in the clanging slowness whilst at college and this followed on to student of demand in playing field to take him in my mouth of his penis at 14 years of age

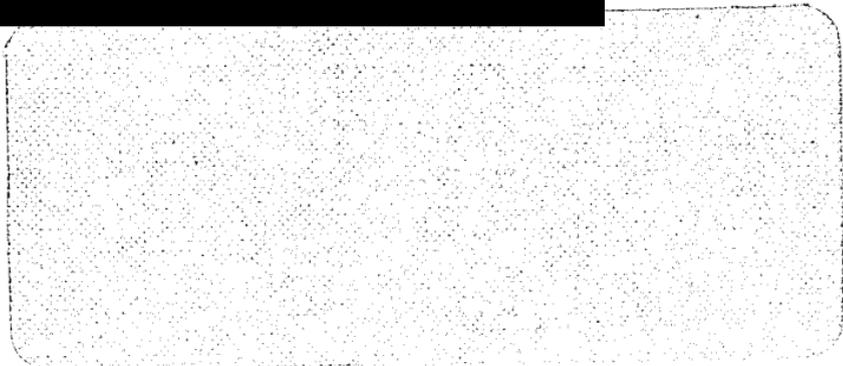
not unhinge its self I feel thugery could play its hand in military of slowness and clanging I feel adverts for RAF GAY applications ought be addressed to all results of MOD I feel these already successful are eviled by demons and Demonic Sirt can not be case of not being me to make wathy mode from challenged to



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 London
 SW1A 2HB



From [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:

D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:

28 September 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter in September 2004 and the newspaper article, with which we received today.

You mentioned about not receiving a reply for your last letter months ago. The last letter we received from you was on the 9 June 2004, for which I replied to you on the 23 June 2004.

Thank you for your comments on HRH Prince of Wales.

Your comments have been noted and your letter and newspaper article will be placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



Directorate of Air Staff (Comms, Airspace,
Operations + Policy /
Ministry of Defence.

Room 6/23 Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue London

Dear [REDACTED]

WC2N3BP/9/2004

I have received reply
from Buckingham Palace
courtesy of H R H Prince Charles
I've sent copies to RAF
Witbesing and Collesmore and
Royal Fusiliers at Farnes
RAF North Luffenham we
informed RAF IWS with
the reply from H R H was
for Army decision of his
son William it was on the
writing of his Royal Highness
By myself of media intrusion
of decisions of way H R H William
was decided and my informing
H R H Prince of Wales to allow
H R H Prince William to be
allowed to do his thing and
be allowed to make up his own decision
decision

we sent a Compact Disk of
Wishbone Ash to Buckingham
Palace to Home of H R H
Prince of Wales for my
friendship of my original
correspondence to H R H Prince
of Wales I felt I ought to
inform you as I have a
large file of UFO content
with you and request Captain
Holzzy the letter here to you
we decided to also let you
have House problem mention
in case this need to be
military eyed upon for your
building and Whitehall and
of all buildings of subjects
of Her Majesty the Queen.

I did not have reply from
you on my last letter to you
months ago I can't understand
why perhaps you will police
by RAF & Britains best
interest in this information sent
yours faithfully [redacted]

Home

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Home

An Evening Telegraph supplement
 Editorial: Colin George 01536 506153
 Advertising: Michelle Olivera, Wendy Molloy and Adam Couzens
 01536 506111/112

Property on front - in Ranelagh Road, Kingborough, is on the market for £330,000. Contact Martin Hawksby on 01933 224444.

Ignore the vapour tales at your peril

CONDENSATION may be a common sight in homes across the nation, but that doesn't mean we should underestimate the damage that it can do.

It can cause rot in the rafters, joists and window frames, and can also be responsible for mould and fungal growth on both walls and ceilings.

If left to worsen, it can even end up damaging your health.

All air contains water and the warmer the air, the more water it will hold. The minute warm air hits a cooler surface it will condense and the effects of this can be seen most easily on windows and wall tiles.

However, the process also occurs on walls and ceilings, although it isn't quite so obvious.

As moisture soaks into surfaces it provides the perfect conditions for fungicidal spores to develop into mould, which in turn can cause breathing problems, as well as long-term damage to walls and furniture.

There are many ways to deal with the effects of condensation, but the main way to stop it occurring is by ensuring your home is well ventilated.

Opening windows is always a good starting point.

Consider buying a new air ventilation system, which blows in fresh air while removing stale air, through a central

unit and a series of independent ducts.

A dehumidifier may also be a good investment and simply installing extractor fans in the kitchen and bathroom will also have a positive effect.

Installing trickle vents in windows is an easy DIY job that is sure to make a difference. The vents come in two halves, one bit for inside the window and one for outside.

Several holes are drilled through the top of the window head to allow air to pass in and out of the room and flaps are fitted so the vents can be closed.

Avoid hanging washing out to dry on radiators, but if there's no other option, confine it to one room and

make sure the door is kept closed. Ventilate tumble driers externally. Keep the door closed when cooking too, and open the windows.

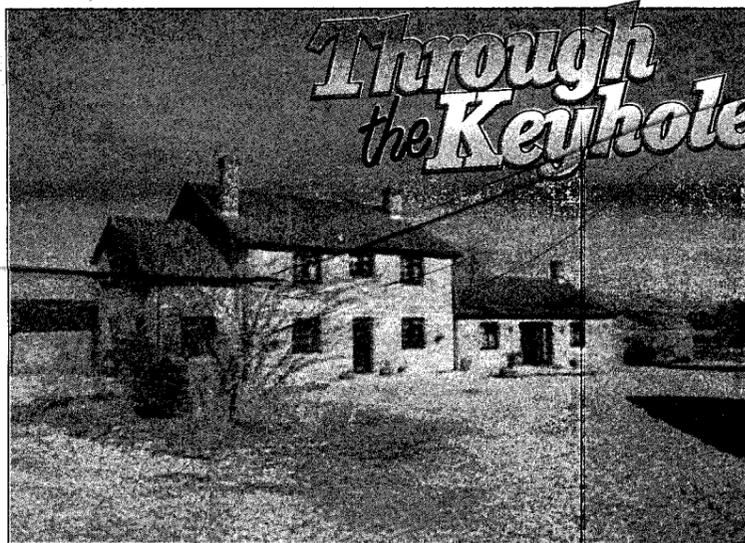
Keep furniture a little further away from the walls so the air has a free flow around the room.

Do not fill cupboards to bursting point as it will prevent air circulating.

Make sure the insulation in the loft is not blocking the ventilation provided by the gap between the fascia boards and the house wall, or in a lot of cases these days, purpose made vents.

If regulations allow it, get cavity wall insulation. A few simple changes to your home can make all the difference.

Loddington Lodge is on the market for £625,000 through Grahame Howard on 01536 418123

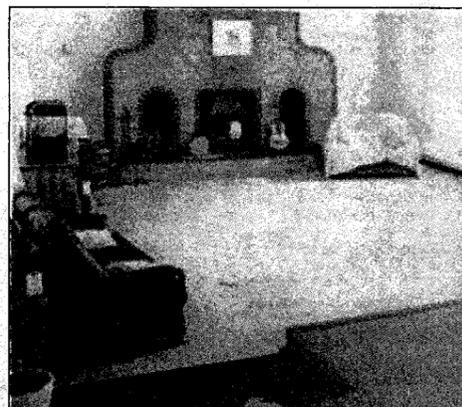
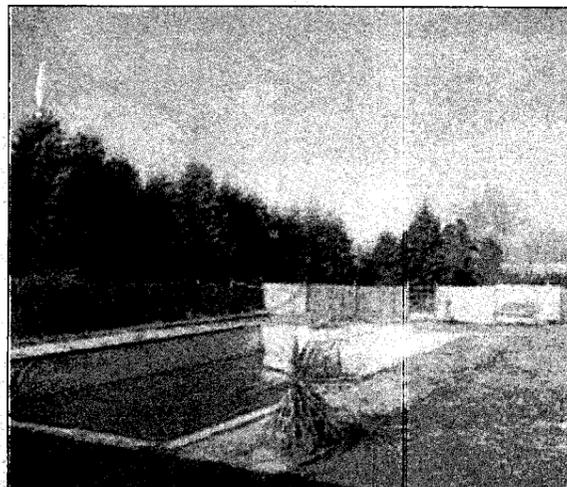


FEATURES of this period farmhouse on a three-acre site include a range of stables and outside swimming pool, four double bedrooms and an en-suite spa bathroom.

Occupying a very rural location about a mile outside Loddington and surrounded by open countryside is this predominantly stone built family residence standing in about three acres.

The house has four/five reception rooms in addition to a cloakroom, kitchen, utility and boiler room while to the first floor are four double bedrooms (master with en suite spa bathroom) and family bathroom.

Outside there are several railed paddocks, outdoor menage, several stables and a swimming pool in addition to further outbuildings.



Market wobble threat to policy

ALTHOUGH housing market experts are keen to reassure us the sudden 20 per cent drop in mortgage approvals in July need not inevitably mean a collapse in house prices, there must be concern that certain areas of our towns and cities are distinctly vulnerable to a sharp change in sentiment.

With Government policy directing builders to cram high density flats into urban centres to ease pressure on the Green Belt, parts of the country have seen a surge in residential development in recent years.

The Millennium Village in Greenwich is a symbol of this policy. Where development is made to happen rapidly, buyers cheerfully overlook the shortcomings of a locality to share in the general optimism which price rises bring.

But will attitudes change when prices stop rising?

We might find the answer in places like Basingstoke, Hampshire, which has seen extensive developments in recent years.

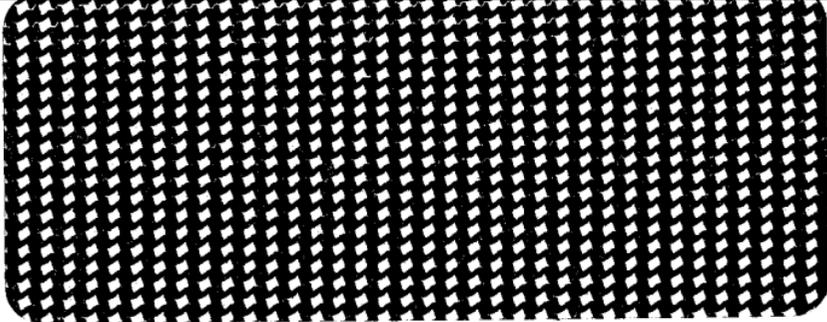
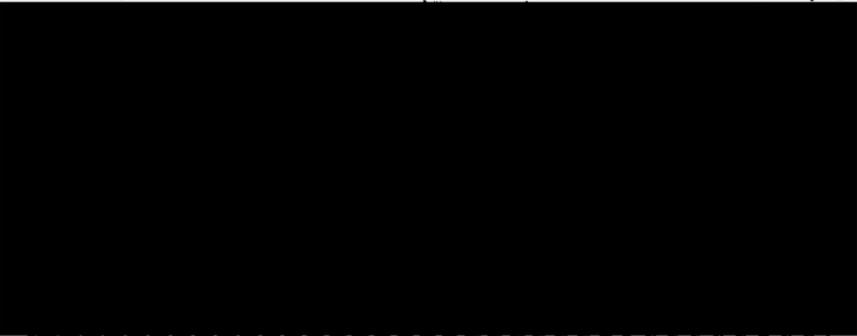
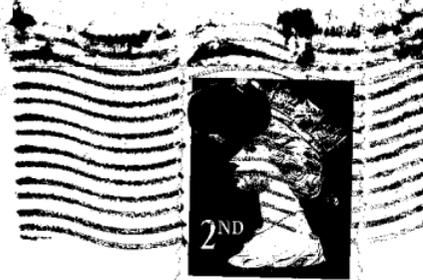
Demand was strong enough in a booming market - from investors, if not first-time buyers. But there are already hints from letting agents that some areas have too many flats available for rent, and not enough family houses.

As the supply of first-time buyers dwindled, investors have kept sales ticking over.

In the past 18 months, investors have been more important than owner-occupiers in underpinning progress on many new developments.

But six months - or quite conceivably, three years - of market slowdown could destabilise this situation.

~~Citizens Advice~~
~~119 to 53 out~~
~~Wellingborough~~
with friends



C/O



Directorate of Air Staff
(Corner Airspace)
Operations + Policy 1
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/23 Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BA



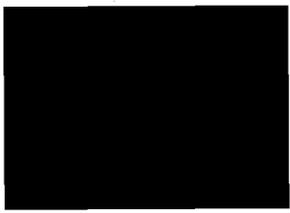
From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3a

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London WC2N 3BP



Telephone (Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

0171 218 2140
0171 218 9000
[REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date:
23 June 2004

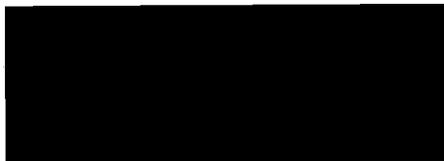
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June 2004.

You reported a black 'UFO' flying over the Kingsway area of Wellingborough. I can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 5 June 2004 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by any unauthorised aircraft.

With regard to the cats/panthers on Salisbury plain, this is not a matter for the MOD. Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



Dear

[REDACTED]

There is a free neutron
here just date 5/6/68. Black UFO
seen flying over Methodist church
highway. The UFO had a

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]



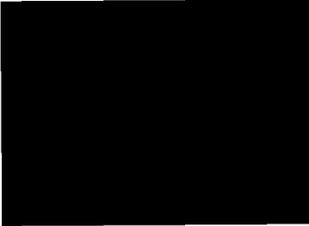


From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3a



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London WC2N 3BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15

Date:
23 June 2004

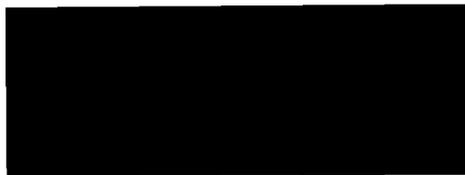
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June 2004.

You reported a 'UFO' over Wellingborough on 14 June 2004. I can confirm, we had one other sighting on that date and that was in Bridgend, Glamorgan. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by any unauthorised aircraft.

Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



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Main body of handwritten text, appearing as a list or series of entries.



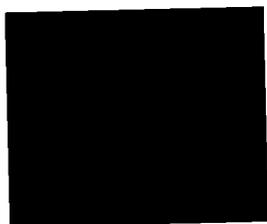


From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3a



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London WC2N 3BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date:
21 April 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 14 April 2004.

First, you mentioned the article that appeared on the 10th April in The Sun newspaper, regarding alien abduction/kidnap. The MOD is not aware of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial activity. The matter of abduction by alien lifeforms is therefore, a non-issue as far as the MOD is concerned. Abduction/kidnap in the general sense is, of course, a criminal offence and would be a matter for the civil police.

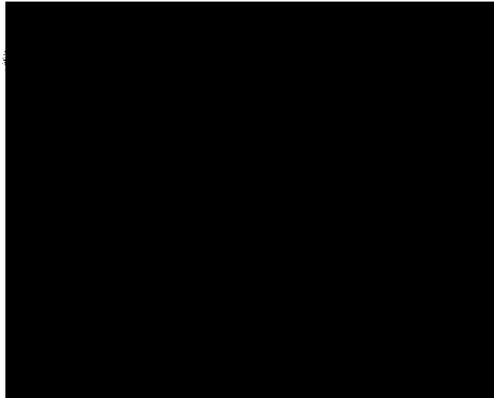
You also reported that you saw a round 'unidentified flying object' over the Kingsway area of Wellingborough on the 14 April. We have had two other sightings reported on that date, one in Essex and the other in Merseyside. We are however, satisfied that there was no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aerial activity.

In your letter you also refer to crop circles. There is no evidence that these phenomena are caused by anything of military concern and the MOD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them.

Finally, with regard to your letter to the Prime Minister's office about plans for new weapons that you believe maybe of interest to the Army or RAF, this is not a matter for this department and your letter will be passed on to the appropriate area for reply. As for the newspaper clipping about the cat scare at RAF St Mawgan, this has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely





Dear



I am writing to you regarding the information provided in your letter of the 15th of this month. I have reviewed the documents and find them to be in order. The information provided is accurate and complete. I am pleased to hear that you are satisfied with the results of the audit. I will continue to provide you with the necessary support and assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns. I am confident that we can resolve any issues that may arise. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. I look forward to your response.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



30-III
2004



To



1000 1st St
New York, NY 10001
1000 1st St
New York, NY 10001

WE'RE WORKING ON THE CHANGE GANG

Convicts' hard labour at shelter



Sweating it out... Colin, left, and Kasru in shelter

A GROUP of convicted criminals are doing hard labour by transforming a war-time bomb shelter into an educational museum.

The sweat-soaked "change gang" are rebuilding the derelict under-

EXCLUSIVE by JOHN KAY, Chief Reporter

ground children's refuge under community service orders.

The shelter, in the grounds of Whitehawk primary school, Brighton, was pealed up after World War Two.

But the offenders, working six at a time in five-hour shifts, have cleared it of rubbish and installed wooden seating.

And they have now begun decorating.

Project manager Veronica Bower-Feek said: "The shelter is a remarkable piece of 20th Century history and its refurbishment is important."

"It is hard labour for the offenders working on it and no easy number."

"But it is giving them a chance to put something back into society."

Criminals working on the project agreed it is hard graft.

STARTING TOMORROW NINJA TURTLES BOOK

THERE'S another turtle-y awesome giveaway starting only in tomorrow's Sun. You can snag up a fabulous FREE 10-page Ninja Turtles colouring and drawing book plus a poster - together worth nearly £4. Simply scratch two out of the three tickets you will print, starting with Ticket 1 in tomorrow's paper. Attach them to the voucher appearing on Thursday and send them off with 50p for postage. ©2004 Mirage Studios, Inc. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles™. Mirage Studios, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



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Deal 4 worth **£499**

Deal 5 worth **£499**

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2. DVD BURNER
Fast & speed multi-format DVD burner drive (also works as CD burner and DVD drive) allows you to create any DVDs and CDs with ease. This system also includes an additional DVD drive to make DVD/CD copying easy (for backup purposes).

3. 512MB RAM
Twice the amount of RAM memory as other systems in this price point makes your PC even faster and allows you to run many programs at the same time.

4. GEFORCE GRAPHICS
Media-n-Force motherboard and GeForce 4 128MB graphics provides ample power to handle fast games, video editing & image manipulation.

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- Yearly safety and performance check
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29.99

RAF CAT SCARE

A "big black cat" has been seen prowling round RAF St Mawgan, Cornwall.

Directorate of Air Staff
Lower Airspace

ENCLOSURE

Operations & Policy IA.
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/23 Meteorology Building

9/1/2004

Dear

[Redacted]

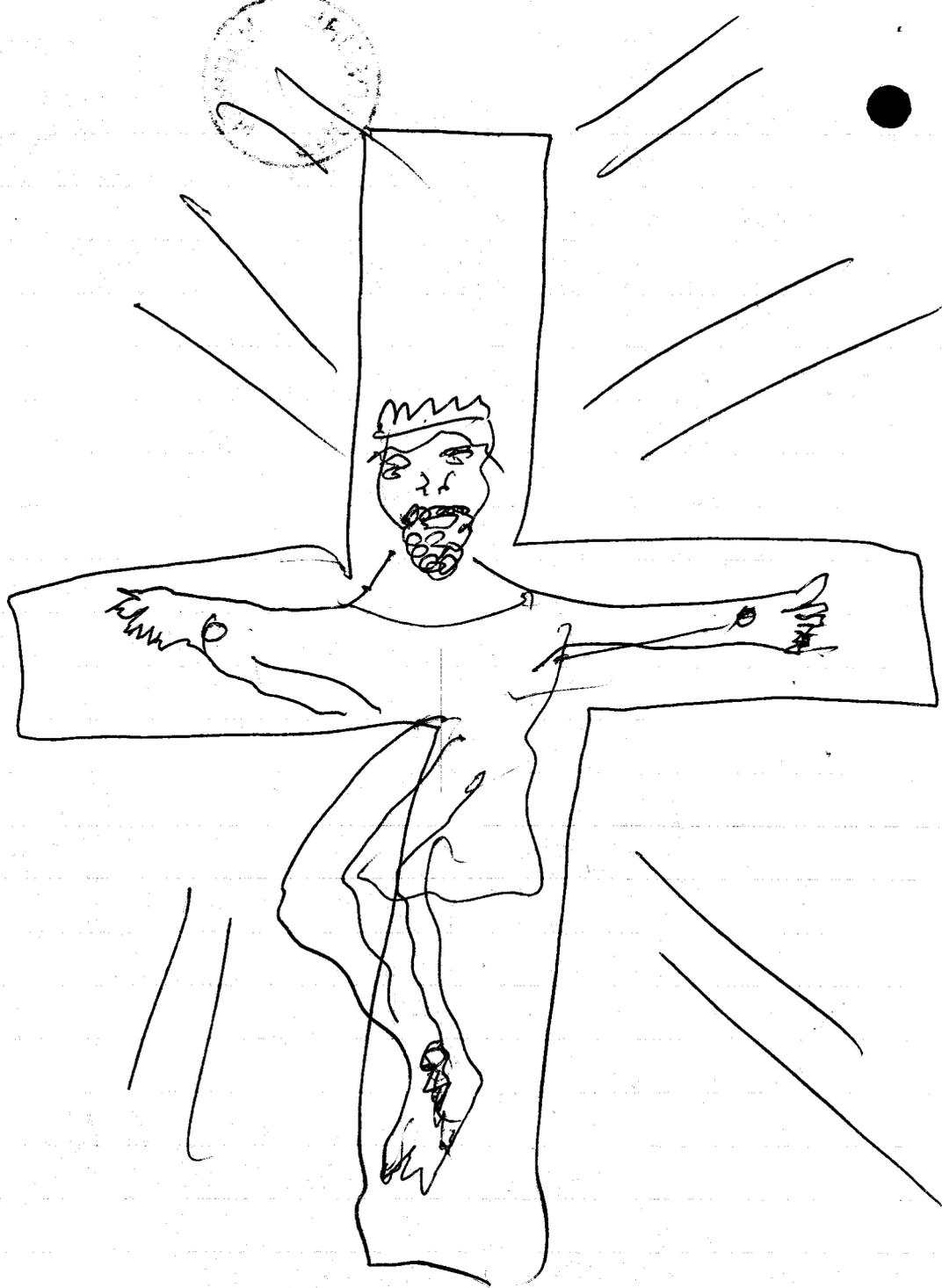
put this newspaper
TV piece in my VFO file.

Yours obliged

[Redacted]

Walthamstead Avenue
London.

Ref D/DAS/64/3/15 WC2N 5BP.



BBC2 9.00 TIMEWATCH ★★★

It's easy to dismiss UFOs as soppy sci-fi nonsense. But, as we learn in the first of a new series of *Timewatch*, the phenomenon has been taken more seriously over the years than you might expect. By people in high places. I mean Prime Ministers, Royals (including Prince Philip), Armed Forces chiefs, that sort of thing. And no doubt by the Supreme Commander of Planet Tharg. (Not Scotland)



To



Directorate of Air Staff (Section 40 Airfare)

DAS
FO2No. 12 JAN 2004
FILE

Operations & Policy 1A
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/T3

London W01 7UJ Metropole Building
and Avenue



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3

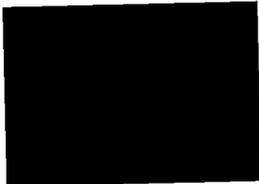
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15

Date
23 December 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th December, which has been placed on our files with your previous correspondence.

Thank you for your Christmas wishes. I hope you to, have a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Yours sincerely,



Ministry of Revenue

Ref D/Das/64/3/15

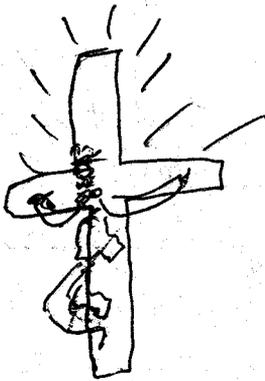
16th Dec 2003

Dear

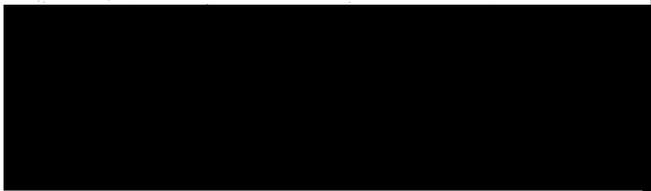
I received a note from your office and feel compelled to send piece from News paper the leading implies taken for research I hope you got the Draught of it ⁱⁿ decided to ~~ensure~~ ^{newspaper go with piece} with UFO magazines for sale I feel your office take note that perhaps a padre may say some prayers over my file as ^{we} recently had letter from Prime minister Mr Tony Blair and input from Home Secretary Mr David Blunket of Here regret they can not get

and respects to my Dad
involved with Disciplinary Action
of local member of Parliament
MR Paul Strickland who's wife
looked unsavoury help on my
action between Police interview
of Inspector [REDACTED] of
Wellingborough and my late
Father [REDACTED]

who I appreciated respect
wore from you I ask peace
in this world and may
I here end off sending my
Christmas wishes to you
and your office and best
for New Year 2004



Yours 'in JESUS CHRIST
name'



award



My David looks like Christ

VICTORIA Beckham and her mother reckon husband David's latest hairstyle is just like Christ. Posh told a magazine that her mum told her: "You know the only person who's had that haircut other than David? Jesus."



FACT

STRANGE BUT TRUE? TV, 8.30pm

MICHAEL ASPER goes in pursuit of alien spacecraft tonight.

Airline pilots tell their UFO tales. And there's an amazing film from a TV crew who followed a UFO for miles in New Zealand 20 years ago.

One visitor muttered: "stealth technology, satellite technology and microchips. And in exchange, they're taking our children."

● **SILVER** Cross carry cot/pushchair. Raincover, sun canopy. £30. Tel (01604) 761439.

● **SILVERCROSS** 2 in 1 pram, floral, includes footmuff, parasol and large shopping basket, excellent condition, £35, 01536 518472.

● **STAIR** gate, not walk through £15 01536 522061

● **STAIRGATES** (2) with fittings, colour white. £5 each. Tel (01933) 461325

● **TOMY** Plug in baby monitor. £6. 07717 000731

● **TOMY** baby listening monitors. £10. Tel 07929 378719.

● **TOMY** steam steriliser, as new, £15. Bottle drying tree, as new, £5. 01933 675226.

● **TOMY** steam steriliser, as new, £15. Bottle drying tree, as new, £5. 01933 675226.

● **TOMY** theme sterilizer, new £15. Bottled drying tree, new, £5. Bathing cradle seat £4. Tel (01933) 675226.

● **TOMY** rechargeable sound around monitor with night light still boxed, as new, only used twice £10. 01536 522072

● **TWIN** buggy - side by side with raincover. Good condition. £50. Tel (01604) 645560.

● **TWO** Britax car seats £30 each, as new 01536 500468 after 4pm

● **V-TEC** baby walk-around, plays tunes, teaches colours/sounds, 9mths plus, £10, 01536 512463.

BEDROOMS

● **AS** new white king-size metal bed head £25. 01933 318711

● **AS** new white single metal bed head £10. 01933 318711

● **DE-LUXE** folding single bed with headboard, vgc. £30. W'boro 01933 680087.

● **FOLDING** Z bed, no mattress £4 Tel (01327) 853708 or 07811928877.

● **MANCHESTER** Utd 3 x single duvet covers and pillow cases, curtains, table lamp, ceiling shade and rug for sale. £30 Tel 01536 724943.

● **MAPLE** bedroom suite, ladies wardrobe, tallboy & dressing table VGC £50 01933 228167

● **SINGLE** black metal bunk bed, tubular steal frame, excellent condition £40. Tel (01604) 720396.

● **THREE** floor to ceiling wardrobe doors, 1 mirror, as new £40 white 01933 318711

BEDROOM FURNITURE

● **MARKS & SPENCERS** solid 3ft pine bunk beds, makes 2 singles with new mattresses. Excellent condition. £125. Tel (01604) 767793.

★ **STAR BUY** ★

● **3 BEDS** two singles or one bunk bed Pine frame. £30. Tel 01604 454502.

● **ANTIQUE** brown dressing table, triple mirror, pine, £50. 01933 359609.

● **BED** single divan, excellent condition, £25. 01536 512463.

● **FOUR** drawer double divan, 4ft6ins with Ortho mattress, plus waxed old pine headboard, good condition, £80. 01780 450556.

● **HEADBOARD** blue dralon padded for double bed, ex cond £10 01604 587850

● **HIGH** sleeper bed with desk, silver steel frame. No mattress one year old. £110ono. Tel 01604 245851. Anytime.

● **IKEA** Visdalen bedroom suite. 2 bedside cabinets, 6 drawer chest. Blanket box. £150. Tel (01604) 761439.

● **KING** size cream velux blanket. Cost £45 new, will accept £15 ono. Tel: 01604 515599

● **MAPLE** bedroom suite, ladies wardrobe, tallboy & dressing table VGC £50 01933 228167

● **SINGLE** black metal bunk bed, tubular steal frame, excellent condition £40. Tel (01604) 720396.

● **THREE** floor to ceiling wardrobe doors, 1 mirror, as new £40 white 01933 318711

● **LARGE** old ottoman in dark wood on castors VGC £35 can deliver locally 07729 912726

● **LIGHT** wood bedside cabinet with drop-down cupboard and one drawer £10. 01536 523383.

● **MATCHING** brown and white chest of drawers £25. Also bedside cabinet £15. Wardrobe £30. Excellent condition. Tel (07743) 142665.

● **METAL** framed high sleeper with desk & portable futon 6 mths old can deliver £100 01536 745596

● **SINGLE** white metal 4 poster bed with Mickey Mouse drapes, duvet, pillowcase & blanket £75. 01933 277926.

● **SOLID** pine single bed + mattress VGC £45 ono can deliver locally 07729 912726

● **SOLID** Pine bed with headboard and mattress. £25. Tel (01604) 820531.

● **STAG** Minstrel double wardrobe, good condition, £70. 01832 734109.

● **STUDIO** bunk bed, 6 months old, cost £239 will except £100ono, MUST be collected, Corby, 079056 74820.

● **TWIN** pine beds, 3ft with sprung interior mattresses, excellent condition, £80. the pair: 01780 450556.

● **TWIN** pedestal dressing table, 8 drawers, as new, waxed old pine, £80. 01780 450556.

BICYCLES

● **CHILDS** electric quad bike, excellent condition. Ideal for xmas, cost £110, will accept £55. Tel (01604) 705177.

★ **STAR BUY** ★

● **CHILDS** electric trike, pink in colour. Excellent condition. Ideal for xmas. Cost £100, will accept £50. Tel (01604) 705177

★ **STAR BUY** ★

● **The Bike Doctor** Have you brought a boxed or used cycle for xmas? Have it set up by a qualified technician! Avail weekends. 07930 998670

● **BOYS** Raleigh Dirt Cross GS10 complete with mudguards, 14" frame, 24" wheels. £45 ono. 01933 651425.

● **BOYS** Scout mountain bike, suit 12 - 15. 16" Aluminium frame. Excellent condition, 2 years old. £100 ono. Tel (01604) 768439 (after 4:15pm).

● **CHILDS** Raleigh max bike, growing child forces sale. VGC. £30. Tel (01604) 766967.

● **CYCLE** carrier to fit 4x4 rear spare wheel. £25. 01933 226158.

● **DIAMOND** back Ignitor BMX, never used, still in box, ideal Xmas gift, excellent bike, unwanted gift, £100. 01536 412522 / 07941 360729.

● **FALCON** boys bike, for ages 12yrs plus, front and rear suspension, £70ono, 01536 521820 or 077455 29330.

● **FALCON** cloud butler bike, good condition with stand, water bottle and manual. £40 ono Tel (01604) 456521.

● **FALCON** Futura youths dual suspension mountain bike, excellent condition, ideal Xmas gift, £60 ono. 01536 412522 / 07941 360729.

● **GENTS** Mountain bike, nearly new. £40. 07903 014680

● **GENTS** bike, Claud Butler, Stone River, used once. £100. 01933 226158.

● **GENTS** 18 speed mountain bike, light alloy frame, 4 months old, £50 ono. 01536 356670, 07799 830043

● **GENTS** mountain bike, Marlborough, 18 speed, 24" Shimano shift gears, mudguards and rear battery lights, hardly used, excellent condition. £50, 01536 518472.

● **MANS** mountain bike, good condition £45. 07939 454489.

● **GIRLS** Raleigh Cassis 5 speed mountain bike, as new condition, suit age 8-12 years, £35. 01536 395508.

● **GIRLS** mountain bike, suit 10/12 years. Colour pink/grey, 5 gears, 26" wheels and stand. Very good condition. £25. Tel (01604) 638486

● **GIRLS** Raleigh "classic" bike. 5 Shimano gears. 16" / 26". Madison gel saddle. Mud guards Good condition. Suit 9-13 yrs £25 Tel 01933 226924.

● **HALFORDS** Wayfairer folding cycle, pale blue, unisex, with sturmeay archer, 3 speed gear, £15, 01572 822506.

● **LADIES** mountain bike, vgc. £40. 01933 226158.

● **LADIES** mountain bike, good condition £20 ono. 01933 384492.

● **LADIES** and Gents mountain bike, vgc, £25 each. 01536 506931.

● **LADIES** mountain bike, 18 speed, tyres as new, vgc, £35. 01536 373403.

● **LADIES** mountain bike, 15 speed, good condition, hardly used, first to see will buy, £50 ono. 01536 412522 / 07941 360729.

● **LADIES** dual suspension bike, 24 Shimano shift gears, mudguards and rear battery lights, hardly used, excellent condition. £50, 01536 518472.

● **MANS** mountain bike, good condition £45. 07939 454489.

● **MENS** bike, £10 01536 723226.

● **MENS** N frame mountain bike, good condition £45. 07939 454489.

● **TREK** professional mountain bike, top specification components, less than 12 months old, as new condition. £165. Tel (01604) 601693 or 07986 860062.

● **TWO** ready to ride Raleigh bikes, suitable for ages 4 - 6 years 1 with stabilisers £10 each. 01933 380259

● **TWO** scooters, BMX style forks/brakes. Colour pink, VGC. £12 each. Tel (01933) 461325

● **UNISEX** mountain bike, good condition £45. 07796 776847.

BOOKS

● **BIKE** mags eg b s heroes £5 lot Tel 01933228767.

● **BOOKS** RHS Encyclopedia of Garden Plants new cond £25 01933 317031

● **BOOKS** Point Horror, Murder Mystery etc, as new £1 each hardback or 50p each paperback. 01933 673595.

● **CHILDRENS** Farthing Wood magazines approx 54, GC £3 01536 520904

● **DELIA** Smith complete cookery course book, very good condition, sell for £5. 01933 356473

● **HIDDEN** box. Children's canal adventure story. Signed by Iris Bryce, award winning author. £2 including postage. Tel (01604) 858192.

● **LARGE** selection of UFO magazines, £10 ono for all. 01933 315685.

● **MILLS** & Boon women's books all in good condition. £10 ono. 01536 512463.

● **WOOL** Pile carpet. Grey with pattern. 11ft 8" x 7ft 6". Very good condition, bargain £20. 01604 410531

CLEANING SUPPLIES

● **BOSS** Stirmaster upright hoover, hardly used, 2 months old. Very good condition. £50. Tel (01604) 718965.

● **HOOVER**, as new. £30. Tel (01327) 340187).

COLLECTORS CORNER

● **1948** Monopoly set, real collectors item, £40. 01604 491528.

● **50** porcelain thimbles £30. 50 Elvis monthly magazines £30 01536 359870

● **CHAMBER** pots, 2 white, 1 flower pattern all VGC £25 the lot 01536 710121

● **DAVID** Winter cottage Spinners Cottage, no box, pristine condition, give away at £15 01536 520050, 07786 071632

● **DAVID** Winter Knight Castle, box & certificate, pristine condition, bargain at £25. 01536 520050, 07786 071632

● **DAVID** Winter Orchard Cottage, box & certificate, pristine condition, bargain at £60. 01536 520050, 07786 071632

● **DAVID** Winter Post Office cottage, box & certificate, pristine condition, bargain at £25. 01536 520050, 07786 071632

● **DAVID** Winter St Annes Well cottage, box & certificate, pristine condition, bargain at £25. 01536 520050, 07786 071632

● **REPRODUCTION** copper warming pan

● **HEREDITES** girl and foal £15 01536 205497 Corby

● **HORNSEA** Pottery 127 various pieces £80 ono 07780 872496

● **LEAD** crystal fruit bowls 2, would make nice Christmas present £5 each or the 2 for £8. 01536 205497 Corby

● **LILLIPUT** lane cottages, all with boxes and certificates, excellent condition from £20. Tel (01536) 507632.

● **MATCHBOX** yesteryears. £6 each. Limited editions £7 each. Boxes in pristine condition. Tel (01604) 406299.

● **MINIATURE** china handbells (14) wall rack included GC £10 01536 512450

● **MISTY** comics numbers 1 - 40 GC £1 each 07780 872496

● **NATWEST** piggy banks, original set of 5, good condition. £149. Tel (01933) 358559.

● **OLD** Football Annuals, dating 1960s-1980s, approx 50-60, £50 ono, 01536 263406.

● **OLD** arcade shooting machine, V.S. Marshal. Shilling play, good working order. £250. Tel (01604) 720124.

● **OVER** 100 cigarette card books with cards. Mostly old Brooke Bond and some Wills and Players £95 the lot. 01536 523430.

● **PICTURE** postcard of Mr. Bassett-Lowke. Christmas 1949, message & signature on back. £30 ono. Tel: 01604 890958

● **REPRODUCTION** copper warming pan



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
(GTN) [REDACTED]



Your Reference
Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date
18 November 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 8 October and 6 November 2003, both of which have recently arrived in this department.

In your letter of 8 October you referred to a newspaper cutting about residents of California who believe they have been abducted by aliens. Clearly, any concerns raised by Californian citizens are a matter for the US government. As for the UK, you will be aware from our previous correspondence, the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms, therefore we have no involvement with alleged alien abductions.

In your letter of 6 November you referred to a letter you have written to Stamford Police regarding a newspaper article which mentioned your Father's death. I understand they do not wish to pursue the matter and you believe the MOD is in some way responsible for this. I can assure you that the MOD has no interest in this matter and has not been contacted by Stamford Police.

Finally, with regard to your suggestion that the RAF should police the use of fireworks. As fireworks are not a threat to the integrity of UK airspace, this is not a matter for the RAF.

Yours sincerely,



RAF MOD. UFO section

Ref D/DAS/64/3/15

6/NOV 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

please accept this following Royal Air Force held in 2001 R I A T Air Show and in VFO magazine Air base was publicised for event I wrote to police Stamford to JNSP [REDACTED] Reply recent did not endorse my seeking prosecution of local paper that slagged my dad's death I feel you are responsible on this double reply wot of indygence to other recent letters you sent me you gave no respect to California VFO abduction paper piece I



of you of Daily Express.

I've sent recent Lincs
murder is police my Dad's
Death slapping of Great
Evil

Also I feel Judge Judiciary
Builds Queens money

Risky of misadventure unforgotten
of strings of mine submarine
also grave digger EX

Rod Steward coming to
Preston and Diamonds could
be a RISK Diamond eyed UFO
Aliens mortality association

Also Guy Jokers appeared to
me whilst watching TV.
I feel the Evil of fireworks
ought be policed by Aries.

RAF presence.

I hope you will respect me
and address why no prosecution

subde
Await Reply.



LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

Police Station
North Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 1AD

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Officer Dealing: Inspector [REDACTED]

21st October 2003



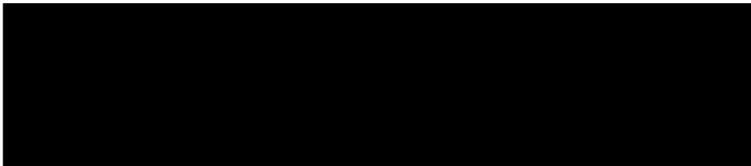
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 11th October.

I am sorry that you feel aggrieved by the reporting of the Stamford Mercury, however this does not constitute a criminal offence and it is therefore not appropriate for the Police to intervene.

I have returned all of your Press Complaints Commission correspondence should you require it in the future.

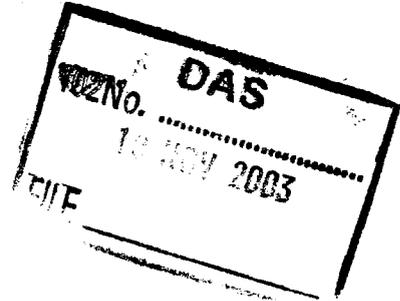
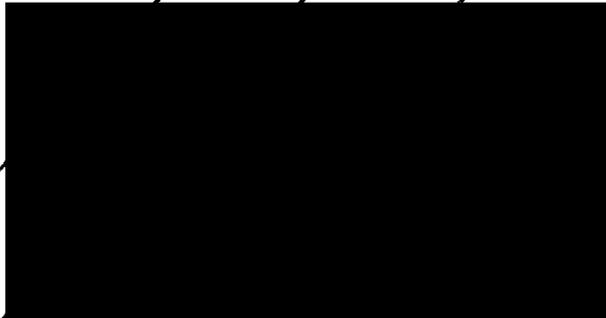
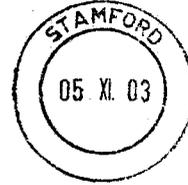
Yours sincerely



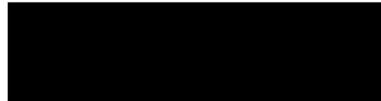
Inspector [REDACTED]



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C/o



Directorate of Air Staff (Comms Airspace
Operations & Policy) 1A,
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/23,
Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BA

LETTERS

Please write to:
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR,
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245 BLACKFRIARS ROAD,
LONDON SE1 9UX
 Fax: 020 7620 1643
 Email: expressletters@express.co.uk

Letters must include address and telephone number

BEACH



86 YEARS OLD AND STILL KNOCKING BACK DOUBLES...

THE Home Secretary made a curious comment at Labour's party conference last week.

"We are redoubling our efforts," he said, "that more officer time is spent on frontline policing."

Now I am sure that Mr Blunkett means well, and I know that he is a man who likes to choose his words carefully, so his choice of the word 'redoubling' set me thinking. You cannot redouble something unless you or someone else has already doubled it. But if we now have to redouble our efforts, clearly the first doubling did not have enough effect. Indeed, it must have been woefully inadequate if we now have to redouble. It should now be obvious to all that we should have quadrupled right from the start.

Yet Mr Blunkett is not the only one for whom doubling has had little effect. Last month, following a win by the BNP in a council election, a local Labour spokesman said: "We will now redouble our efforts in this community." Also, in June, Digby Jones of the CBI said that EU countries "should be redoubling their efforts to make the eurozone more globally competitive", while back in January, a 'senior Government source' was quoted as saying: "Asylum is one area we still have not got to grips with. It is a massive problem and we can only redouble our efforts."

The key to the whole problem lies in that word 'only'. Clearly there is more we can do than redouble our efforts. We could quadruple or octuple them, or multiply them a thousandfold.

Does a thousandfold increase sound like an overreaction? Let us just consider the figures. As a database of newspaper articles over the past three years reveals, there have been 173 instances of the phrase 'redouble our efforts' since the start of the new millennium and only 11 of 'double our efforts'. That is nearly 16 redoubles for every double; and if you redouble 16 times after the initial double, you are left with not just a thousandfold increase but 131,072 times what you started with. And there is still no evidence that the original 11 problems have been solved.

So if this is what is needed to tackle the average problem, why do we persist with this ineffective doubling and redoubling strategy? Remarkably neither 'quadruple our efforts' nor 'octuple our efforts' occurs even once in our database. Since almost every double needs redoubling, we could save a good deal of time and effort by quadrupling right at the beginning.

There is, however, another possible explanation. Is it possible, we must ask Mr Blunkett and the other redoubler, that you are attempting the impossible task of redoubling something that has not been doubled in the first place? Think of all the initiatives that may have foundered on such futile attempts to redouble the unredoubling.

It is time to bring the situation back under control. What is called for is a determined effort to lessen the gap between doubling and redoubling. When that effort is made can we then double it, and after that perhaps we can consider calling for our efforts to be redoubled.

GPs need to be able to spot breast cancer signs

In response to your front page article ("NHS in breast cancer scandal", October 6), if 25 per cent of GPs do not know how to identify breast cancer, how many know the six causes of breast cancer, four of which also cause prostate cancer?

Breast cancer and prostate cancer are caused by radioactivity, pesticides, cadmium and dioxins/PCBs.

Breast cancer is also triggered by artificial hormone manipulation and also by genetic hormone imbalance, the latter accounting for about three per cent of cases.

The highest rates of breast cancer and prostate cancer are in the same locations and health authority chiefs hope nobody will notice.

Michael Ryan,
 Bixton Heath, Shrewsbury

Let's pay cash to relieve flood of asylum seekers

YOUR report that asylum seekers cost the UK £18,000 ("£18,000 for each asylum seeker", October 7) is a very inefficient way of helping people from other countries.

I think Britain should come to an agreement with a poor but safe and democratic country, such as India, that any asylum seeker or illegal immigrant arriving in the UK would immediately be deported to India.

Britain would give India £18,000 per person and India would give that person citizenship. This would not be a breach of anyone's human rights as any individual not wanting to go to India could return to their own country.

Britain would then no longer have to decide who was a genuine asylum seeker and who was not. Any genuine asylum seeker escaping from persecution in their own country would be happy with the arrangement, whereas economic migrants would not bother to come here any more.

Fewer people would risk their lives being smuggled abroad by criminal gangs. No asylum seeker would have to be imprisoned in holding centres and local communities would not have the upheaval of absorbing large numbers of people who may initially speak little or no English.

The money Britain would pay is what is being spent anyway and the benefit to the people of a poor country would be enormous.

Andrew Roberts,
 Tonbridge, Kent

Raise pension rate and forget means testing

YOUR assertion that "this newspaper has no quarrel with means testing", ("Make sure needy do not miss out on pension credit", Express Editorial, October 7) shows your naivety and the success of the Treasury and civil servants in bamboozling people into believing this type.

The Treasury, by its own admission, believes that only 75 per cent of pensioners who should be getting pension credit are getting it. So much for the success of the means test. The Treasury says that £102.10 million is spent on pension credit for a single person who does not get the

Letter of the day

Censorship only way to stem tide of loose morals

I CONGRATULATE Vanessa Feltz on a superb observation concerning the modern-day morals of young girls ("Why no woman should submit to degrading, loveless sex", October 7).

At 52, and having had a number of stepdaughters, I am confounded by the morals of young females.

The media must take responsibility for much of this by their glorification of such standards, particularly with TV programmes like *Ibiza Uncovered* and *Prickly Heat*.

Many reality shows, soaps and sitcoms also glorify this behaviour. Maybe Vanessa feels, as I do, that a certain degree of censorship should be imposed, if not for the sake of today's teenagers, but for girls in primary schools who have time to develop a standard of decency.

Newspapers and magazines also encourage young women to live the sexual revolution without mention of true feelings... simply true lust. When will it all change?

Steve Humphrey,
 Stevenage, Hertfordshire



STANDARDS: Are young girls' morals slipping?

palaver of means testing? Then those 25 per cent missing out will all get it.

But it will say that all the rich pensioners will get it too and how can we afford to give this to all of the pensioners?

Income tax is paid by pensioners above the threshold and will even things out. Also, by getting rid of all the paperwork and civil servants who administer the pension credit, the extra can be covered.

Is this too simplistic a solution for even the most dullard of Ministers to understand?

Peter Binns,
 Glossop, Derbyshire

Blair railroaded from real educational needs

THERE is no need to increase council tax to fund schools ("Council tax rise fear to aid schools", October 6).

The solution is simply to spend the available money on fundamental educational needs. Tony Blair might have been sincere in his desire to improve state education but he has been railroaded by endless initiatives, all probably costing millions of pounds with little effect.

Our education system is a victim of this government's policy of 'spin'.

Want money for special projects? Anything linked to IT or how about administration systems? No problem, make a bid and there will be a fund somewhere for it.

Many schools are starved of money for textbooks and basic resources, but this government is too busy 'icing the cake' to satisfy its desire for quick publicity to realise most of the cake has crumbled.

It is a disgrace that pensioners could be asked to fund the extravagance. John Major's 'back to basics' plea was perhaps unfashionable but it is what needs to happen to spending in education.

Terry Hayes,
 St Helens, Lancashire

SHOULD ENGLAND HAVE DROPPED RIO FERDINAND?

Yes WELL done to the Football Association for withdrawing Rio Ferdinand from the England squad for his breach of regulations after not taking the compulsory drugs test within the one-hour time limit.

Players are paid more than enough money for them to obey the rules of the game and, with this breach of regulations, this is the correct decision.

N MacRae,
 Old Windsor, Slough

No WHILE Rio Ferdinand's claim that he 'forgot' to take the drugs test is unacceptable, so is the punishment from the media and the Football Association.

This player has not been found guilty of anything - his drug test was negative - and being hung out to dry by the media is unfair to the player and the rest of the England team.

Ted Bailey,
 Hounslow, Middlesex

Suicide bombers have murder in mind first

THE expression 'suicide bombers' creeps into our daily lives via the media. However, homicide is their first objective. Having committed murder, their suicide becomes a consequence of their actions.

Suicide is committed with pills, not bombs. The misuse of the word 'suicide' is an attempt to cover up their real intentions - murder.

Morris Mendoza,
 Westbourne, Bournemouth

Ten things you never knew about... California

WILLIAM HARTSTON

As the vote-counting finishes in the California election, here are some facts for the governor to think about.

1. Anyone molesting a Monarch butterfly in Pacific Grove, California, is liable to pay a \$500 fine.
2. A creosote bush called King Clone in the Mojave Desert in California may be the world's oldest living organism. Its age has been estimated as 11,700 years.
3. More than one Californian a day claims to have been abducted by aliens.
4. In 1972 the owner of a seven-year-old elephant named Bimbo was awarded \$4,500 damages by the Californian Supreme Court after a road accident caused the elephant to lose interest in dancing and water-skiing.

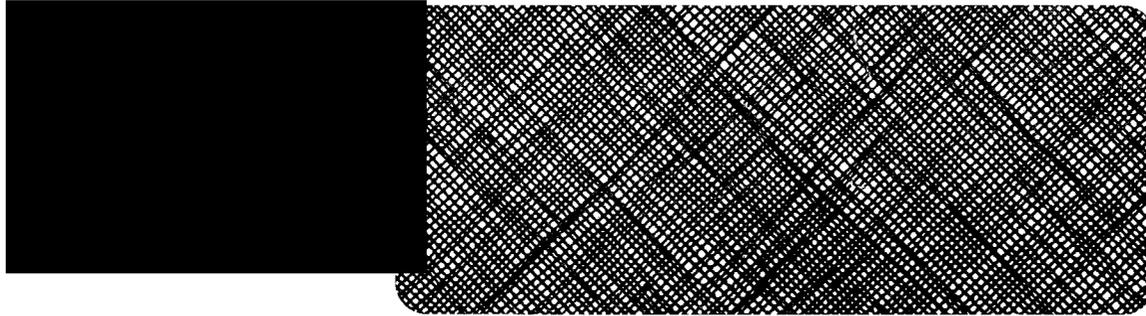
5. More turkeys are raised in California than in any other state in the United States.
6. One out of every eight United States residents lives in the state of California.
7. If California were a country, at its current rate of industrial performance, it would have the seventh-largest economy in the world.
8. The state motto of California is Eureka! (Greek for 'I have found it!') relating to the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada in the 1840s.
9. Castroville, California, calls itself the artichoke capital of the world.
10. The first Artichoke Queen of Castroville, crowned in 1947, was Marilyn Monroe.



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(Comes Airspace)
operations and policy
Ministry of Defence
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Worthing Road
London
WC2W 5BP*

051



Dear

2/10/2003

I've read that this state in USA is of quite regular of kidnap by UFO Aliens it is somewhat strange that you are fast to object to my report of ginger light in sky I feel perhaps that your reports i.e. jynjngales wld not pick up everything in Aero space of UK. I feel perhaps you ought to and USA by informing when RADAR could just gravity to risk of UFO's hence allowing innocent citizens to not be whoeked by UFO's I trust you won't Debunk UFO's As Nic did in (4 Hoax UFO screened on TV yesterday from





From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
E-Mail (Fax) [REDACTED]
das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15

Date
3 November 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2003, in which you report a sighting of an unidentified orange ball over Wellingborough on 4 August 2003.

With regard to your observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 4 August from anywhere in the United Kingdom. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised air activity, which as you will be aware from previous correspondence, is our only interest in these matters.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

M.O.D.

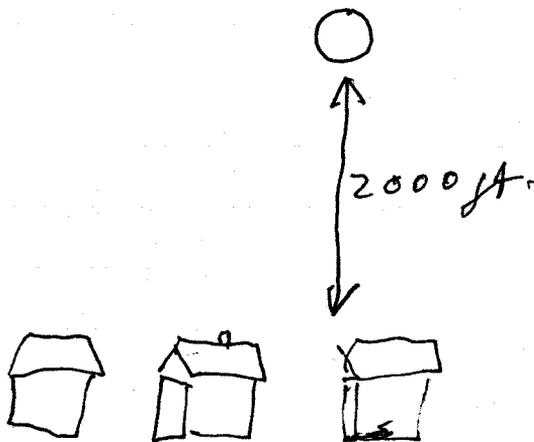


Ref D/Das/64/3/15 7/8/2002

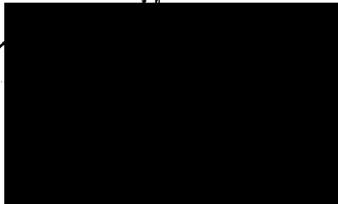
Dear



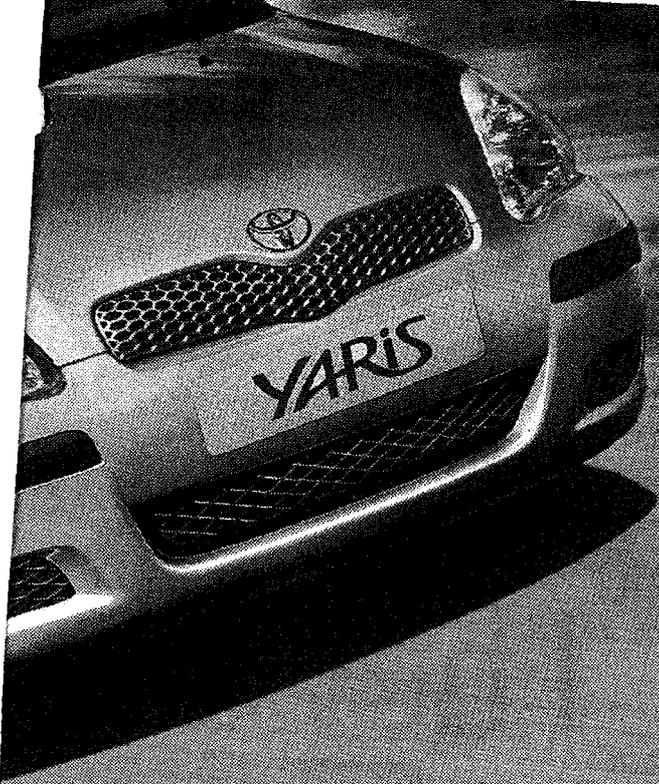
Bright orange ball of light
seen 2000ft over centre of Wellingborough
seen 20 past 9 pm again in a
Queensway taxi on mon 4/8/2002.



js



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Y, KT18 5UZ. ALL FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS TO OVER 18'S ONLY. INDEMNITIES MAY BE REQUIRED. †£500 TOWARDS
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is recycled.
Britain has the worst junk mail problem in Europe. The number of items posted has grown from two billion in 1990 to five billion last year. Currently only 13 per cent is recovered for recycling, these targets

Nasa probe will dig for life on Mars

By DAVID DERBYSHIRE
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

NASA is to send a probe to Mars in 2007 to dig for evidence of life beneath the surface, the agency announced yesterday.

The unmanned Phoenix lander will descend into the northern latitudes of Mars in 2008 and dig a trench up to three feet deep. Using a suite of instruments, it will study rock, soil and ice for complex organic molecules suggestive of present or past life.

If it proceeds according to plan, the Phoenix will be the first mission of Nasa's Mars Scout programme, a £540 million project to study the red planet.

Four probes will reach Mars over the next few months. Britain's Beagle 2 is scheduled to land on Christmas Day, while the Nasa landers Spirit and Opportunity will touch down in January. A Japanese orbiting craft will arrive in the New Year.

The Phoenix will land in a region of Mars where the surface is thought to consist of up to 80 per cent ice.

Dr Peter Smith, of the University of Arizona, said: "Variations in the Martian orbit allow a warmer climate every 50,000 years. The ice can melt, dormant organisms could come back to life, if there are indeed any, and evolution can proceed. Our mission will verify whether the northern plains are a last viable habitat on Mars."

Soldier found hanged at base

A 21-year-old soldier has been found hanged at his barracks, the Army said last night.

The body of L/Cpl Derek McGregor, a medical technician from Blackpool, Lancs, was discovered at Catterick Garrison, North Yorks. The police have held an investigation into his death on July 7 and will report their findings to the coroner.

£1 lottery ticket price may go up

By DAVID MILLWARD

THE PRICE of a lottery ticket could rise to meet the shortfall caused by the drop in sales and fall in Camelot's profits, it emerged yesterday.

The company, which is due to lose its monopoly when the third generation of licences are handed out, has opened talks with the National Lottery Commission, whose permission it will need before being allowed to increase the £1 price for a Lotto ticket.

A Camelot spokesman said that there were "no plans" to increase the price of a ticket and described press reports that the price could double as "untrue".

"I am not going to go into details about our discussion with the National Lottery Commission," the spokesman added, on being asked whether the talks included the future pricing of tickets.

The price has been the same since 1994, when the competition was launched. A new European lottery ticket is due to go on sale next year. Its price will be two euros or the sterling equivalent.

The lottery commission said any decision on a price increase would take into account the impact on sales and money raised for good causes.

To help the regeneration programme in Iraq

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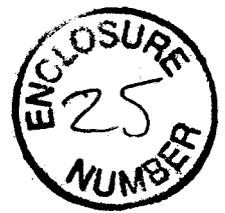
London Gatwick to Basra Iraq/Basra Iraq to Dubai
Dubai to Basra Iraq/Basra Iraq to London Gatwick

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Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15

Date
29 September 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter in which you report a sighting of an unidentified orange ball on 3 September.

With regard to your observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 3 September from anywhere in the United Kingdom. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised air activity, which as you will be aware from previous correspondence, is our only interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

3/ Sept 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

unidentified orange ball
2.5 to 10 3/9/2003 prot 2000 feet
size wood ke 250 radians



light lined Disk
1/2 moon -

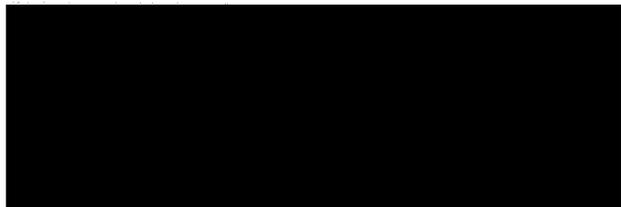
the object remained still

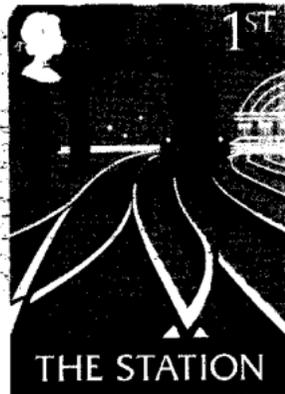
there is currently a program being
carried out in Northamptonshire
into Black Panther few wear
frightening experiences reported this
year by members of the public
last one reported person seeing Panther in

upstairs bedroom
while by use of

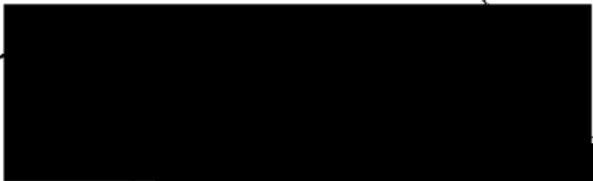
viewed cat for
binoculars.

Yours obliged -





To



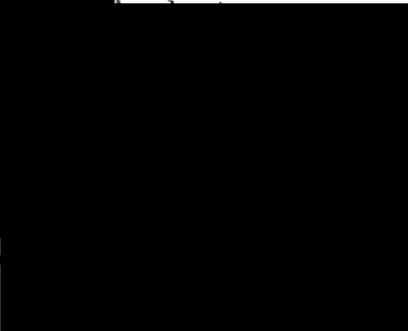
d



Director of Airspace ^{Control} ~~Control~~
Room 6/13



Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
Walthamstow House
London
W6 2W 5RD





From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000
[REDACTED]



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date
30 July 2003

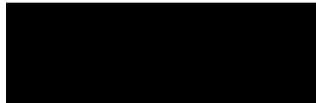
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 19 July.

I am sorry to hear you were unable to attend your Father's funeral, but as I have said in my previous correspondence, this Department is not responsible for Service pensions and I am therefore unable to assist you with your desire to obtain a pension.

Your suggestions as to how aircraft could achieve quicker response times has been noted and your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely,



Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)

Operations & Policy 1

Ministry of Defence

Room 6/73, Metropole Building

Ref D/Das/64/3/15

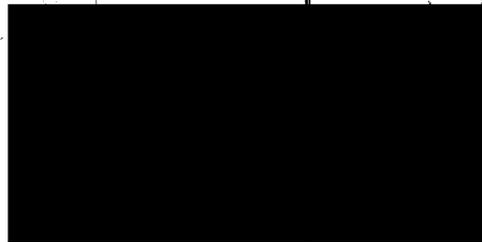


Wortham Road

Avenue

London

Dear



19/7/2002

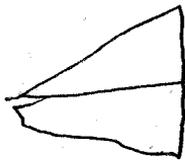
Thank you for sending warmth at my
father's passing in mention of my sad
current time I must ask you if there
any things that the ministry of defence
can do to allow me any hope of
achieving any thing positive to get a war
pension. had I a war pension I would
have been able to go to my father's
funeral but because W.H.S. couldn't lay on



transport despite police and clergy asking
N.H.S to do so I was left unable
get to funeral had I was pension
Royal British Legion would in some
with Ministry of Defence respect have
go + me to funeral. There is a letter
w/o perhaps you could enquire why the
Ministry of Defence have not gave me
respect by seeing that I got to my
father's funeral the distance of the funeral
was near a 70 mile round trip (see [redacted])
This is War pension High Const of [redacted]
Jell WOT [redacted] [redacted]

I have had a strange Return of letter
of yours the one before the last one that
I sent to RAF Cottesmore % AIR CORPANEWORKS
I had the whole content returned in a
Royal mail bag. though content opened the
content included suggestions of abatement
for aircraft to achieve that the speed of sound
can be achieved before 750 mph enabling
quicker response time on a back performance of

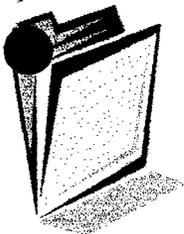
The Amplifiers generate
sufficient reduction of
punch to Aircraft of Atmosphere
condition to enable jet to fly
immediately to maximum speed
and destroy the sound barrier.
Requirement the shield of jet machine
to endure stresses on air frame



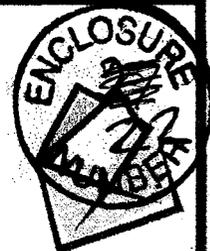
The force of Jet Air craft
is Atomically altered
By suck in amplifiers
(two) placed to

each
wing of
Aircraft

to destruct
the Atomic Atmosphere
sound shield of
envelope of Jet aircraft



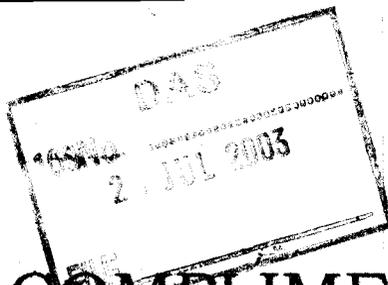
CENTRAL REGISTRY
ROYAL AIR FORCE WITTERING
PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
PE8 6HB



Telephone:
Fax:

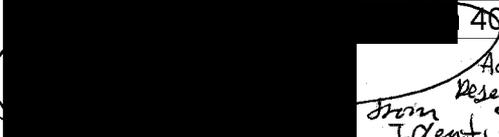


Returned to RAF Wittering
[Redacted]
22/07/03.



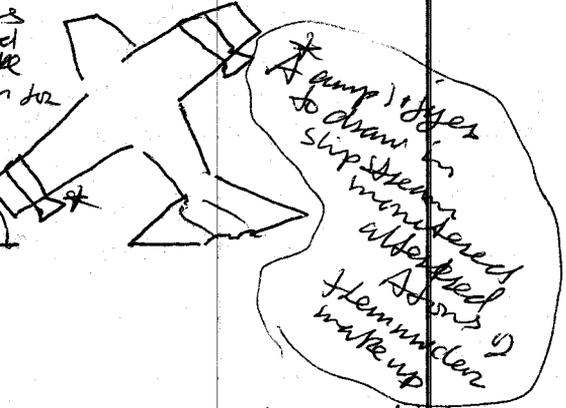
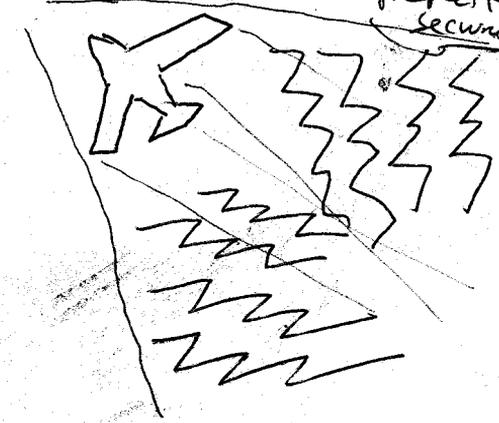
WITH COMPLIMENTS

Dem A VI CGL Dan & Walker
Please remove these notes



40 used

Action for
Reserve
from
Identity
prospective
Security

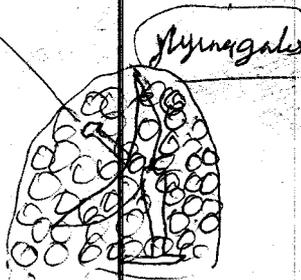


*amp) offes
to draw in
slip stream
monitored
altered
atoms
Hemunder
make up

invades possible
energy zone that
unidentified flying
objects could
invade thus aircraft
warned by ground
Radar scan that
unknown identity
in Air space

Could a batteries
positioned
on wings of Royal Air
Force jets suck in
Energy of Ion used
Nuclear Atoms ship stream
for jets of make up of physics of
Nuclear Plasma sphere for
seeing at 750 mph sonic boom could
be done prior to meeting 750 mph

is there any
reference to
pick up grades
before or after
sonic boom



if Air space could override known identified aircraft
in zone of Atomic structure of distorted air by
Force of aircraft monitors could be capable of knowing
unknown body in known mathematical Atomic structure

has the Royal Air Force the known mathematical Atomic calculation surrounding a aircraft the mathematical figure of Atomic particles calculated at maximum speed taking into calculation flows in Air by thunder and lightning or by saw spot calculations known by melanoma radiation risk in general parts of the world where full piece heat is risk to exposed human flesh

I have strong views that despite

Royal Air Force sending a jet to check on a possible UFO that UFOs are found in slip stream of Royal Air Force jets as UFO's in particular dark nights and when Royal Air Force jets pass through zone of UFOs when Royal Air Force jets have gone through zone UFOs have still remained in same position where Royal Air Force jets have passed I personally have witnessed this so the alteration of nuclear atoms alteration of slip stream of Royal Air Force jets has not disturbed lantern UFO one to jet



From: [REDACTED]
 Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
 Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
 WC2N 5BP

Telephone

(Direct dial)
 (Switchboard)
 (Fax)
 (GTN)

020 7218 2140
 020 7218 9000

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
 D/DAS/64/3/15
 Date
 3 July 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing with regard to your letter of 28 June 2003.

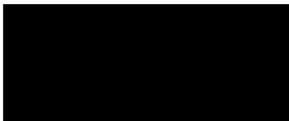
In your letter you say you believe we are suggesting you are lying about the UFO sightings you have reported to us because we have received no reports from other witnesses. This is not the case and it may help if I explain again why we examine UFO reports.

The Ministry of Defence does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). From this perspective, we examine any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' we receive solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to your claim for a war pension, as I have said in my previous letter, this Department does not deal with Service pensions and has not been contacted by anyone in the Veterans Agency regarding your claim. I am therefore returning your letter from the Veterans Agency which you may wish to keep for reference.

In view of the above, there is nothing more I can add and respectfully suggest that we bring this correspondence to a close.

Yours sincerely,



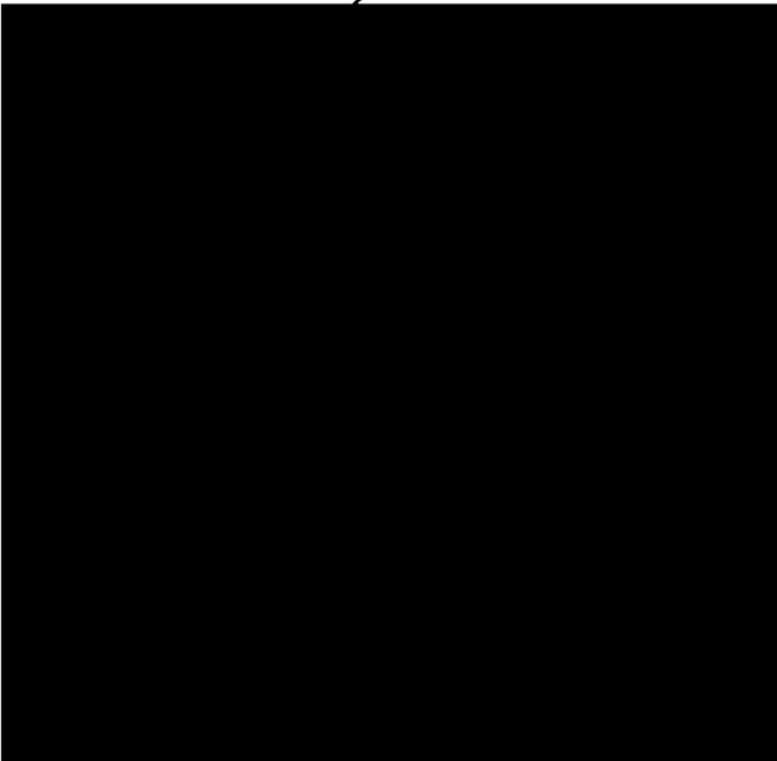


Royal Mail

1

Postal Service

16/7/03



C/O

Wing Commander

Royal Air Force

Admin

Wickhampton

NR Stamford

Lincoln

PC



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/15
Date
16 July 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing with reference to your letters of the 5th and 14th of July.

With your letter of 5th July you enclosed a tape of an interview you had with MOD Police in July 2002. I have listened to the tape but as the material it contains are not matters for this Department I am unable to comment. Please find enclosed with this letter your tape which I am returning as requested.

In your letter of 14 July, you told us that your Father had died last week. Please accept our sincere condolences. You also informed us of a ball of light you saw in the sky on 13 July. We are satisfied that there is no evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft on this occasion, which is, as you are aware from our previous correspondence, our only interest in this subject.

Yours sincerely,



ENCLOSURE

Directorate of Air Staff (Home Aspects)

Operations & Policy (1)

Ministry of Defence

Room 6/73 Metropole Building

Northumberland Avenue

London WC2N 3BA

14/7/2003

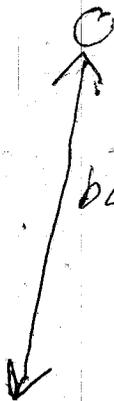
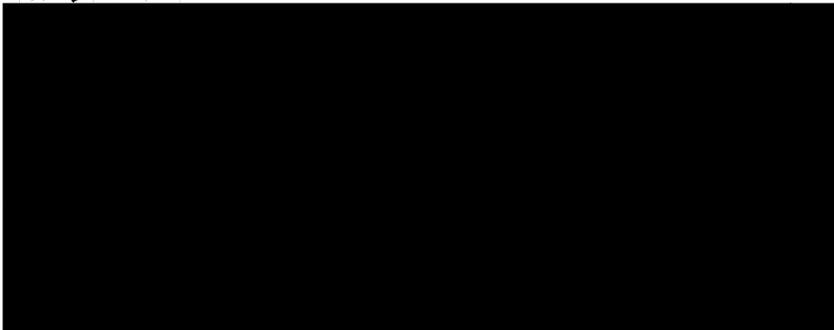
Dear [redacted]

my dad died last week and you keeping my tape is not respectable to my dad and to my parents in life notably my parents of was parents though Ministry of Defence. failed to appreciate me and especially no acknowledgement from RAF to Heron Air Commodore David Walker for advisory to air game speed of sound advisory scientific advisory last night [redacted] [redacted] called me to put of [redacted] Light ball in sky above town

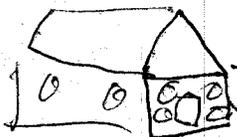
height
ball
in

3 to 4 thousand feet the
of light just hung
Air to EAST of town.

your subject

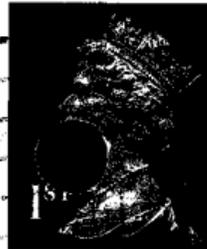
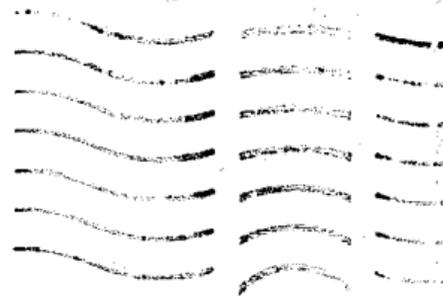


ball of different light
feet was VFO.



House

P.S. feet fairly irregular
downed in Air show
was caused by VFO
independence to
advice to
RAF
Catharine



To



Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy (1)
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73 Metropole Building
Worthington Avenue
London WC2W 5BP



FILE NOTE

[REDACTED] letter of 5/7/2003 included a cassette tape which arrived wrapped in an incontinence pad. For hygiene reasons this has been disposed of and not included in this file.

I have listened to the tape which is an interview between [REDACTED] and two MOD Police Officers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Colchester Garrison on Wednesday 24 July 2002. Also present was [REDACTED] Community Psychiatric Nurse, [REDACTED] gives his date of birth as [REDACTED]. The tape runs from 11.12 hrs to 1203 hrs.

[REDACTED] starts by listing several events which have occurred in his local area which he says caused him distress and mental illness. These include the anti-social behaviour of his neighbours, people driving through red traffic lights and crashing in to speed cameras. He also mentions a letter he received from a [REDACTED] at Argos Ltd which he says distressed him because of the association with the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in WWII. He also talks about a Major who allegedly told him he was subject to military law. The [REDACTED] interrupts [REDACTED] to remind him that he is not subject to military law, they are MOD Police and are there to talk to him about an allegation of a serious sexual nature.

[REDACTED] describes in some detail his severe bowel condition and his problems with Schizophrenia. He believes that his problems were caused when he was a young recruit in the [REDACTED]. He alleges that he was sexually assaulted by four other recruits. That one of them told him he had "murdered a black man in a Birmingham night club and raped a Woolwich woman. He said he would kill [REDACTED] if he did not leave the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also alleges that when he returned after a period of being AWOL his jumper had been stolen and the Army made him pay for it. [REDACTED] then shows the MOD Police Officers a number of letters from his Doctors, letters from when he wrote to HM the Queen and the Prime Minister. He also showed them his large collection of pornographic homosexual magazines which he admitted to purchasing himself over the last 7 years, but said they disgusted him. He says his "dishonourable discharge due to lewd behaviour" and his later "inappropriate health due to sexual depravity" is due to what happened to him during his time in the [REDACTED]. He believes he is entitled to compensation and/or a pension for this.

The tape ends with the [REDACTED] saying she would speak to her Detective Inspector and if they were going to take it any further they would contact [REDACTED].

It is not clear why [REDACTED] sent us this tape as there is only a brief mention of UFOs on it when he is listing the many people he has corresponded with.

██████████ requested that the tape be returned to him and it was enclosed with my letter of 16 July 2003.

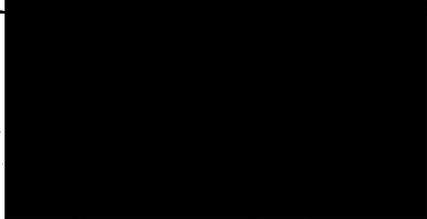
██████████
DAS-LA-Ops+Poll

SEWT TAPE

military police
please send back

ENCLOSURE

M O P
VFO office -



* U205 mentioned to

* your office in file with

5/7/2003
military police unreviewed

Dear



ITS a pity your
acknowledgement including shingales
tracking site came too late for
my credibility in file compiled post
by input of military police
of visit to centre for mental
health for application of credibility
of will to proceed for High Court
application I have decided to drop
application as acknowledgement from
War Pension Court office yesterday
informing me that my resignation
to High Court has been received

much obliged for participation
too late in possible hope for war pension
will though feel will to report other VFO's
of sightings in my whereabouts. I am
Yours obliged
Ew Y how

2

06 JUL 2005



Directorate of Air Staff
Operations & Policy
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73
London SW1A 2JF

File Note:



[REDACTED]

1. I have read through [REDACTED] numerous letters to this Directorate. In addition to his various "UFO sightings" [REDACTED] has often referred to other issues such as pensions, compensation, homosexuality (in the Armed Forces), re-enlistment and his own discharge from the Army. I thought it would be sensible, therefore, to establish whether or not [REDACTED] has ever been in touch with other areas of MOD as our replies have not included inputs on the other issues.

2. I therefore spoke to our Parliamentary Branch [REDACTED] about whether or not they have received any correspondence from [REDACTED]. They have two entries on their database - both dating back to 2000 - as follows:

a. "Wants to rejoin Woolwich Barracks now that the ban on homosexuality has been lifted in the Armed Forces."

Sent to: SP Pol-Service Conditions for reply.

Note: I telephoned Major [REDACTED] in SP Pol-SC. He informed me that they have had no correspondence on the subject of homosexuality for some time. He did not recognise [REDACTED] name.

b. "Complaints about his treatment at the hands of Northants police."

Sent to: APC Sec, Glasgow, for reply.

Note: I telephoned [REDACTED] APC Sec [REDACTED] who immediately recognised the name of [REDACTED]. She advised me that [REDACTED] had written to APC on numerous occasions from October 1998 to April 2001 - primarily on the subjects of re-enlistment, compensation or back-pay in respect of his "illegal" discharge in 1972 and a homosexual assault (also in 1972). [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was placed on the list of vexatious correspondents in May 2000. He ceased writing to them in April 2001.

3. In view of the above, it seems pretty clear that [REDACTED] has corresponded with the correct Directorates regarding his various subject matters. We seem pretty safe, therefore, in just acknowledging his future UFO sightings in the knowledge that the other issues appear to have been dealt with separately.

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Room 6/71 Metropole Building

[REDACTED]

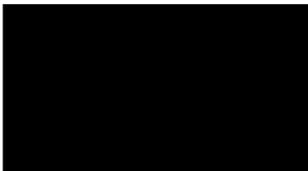
15 July 2003



From: [REDACTED]
 Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
 Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
 WC2N 5BP



Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	[REDACTED]
	(GTN)	



Your Reference
 Our Reference
 D/DAS/64/3/15
 Date
 3 July 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing with regard to your letter of 28 June 2003.

In your letter you say you believe we are suggesting you are lying about the UFO sightings you have reported to us because we have received no reports from other witnesses. This is not the case and it may help if I explain again why we examine UFO reports.

The Ministry of Defence does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which it remains totally open-minded. The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). From this perspective, we examine any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' we receive solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to your claim for a war pension, as I have said in my previous letter, this Department does not deal with Service pensions and has not been contacted by anyone in the Veterans Agency regarding your claim. I am therefore returning your letter from the Veterans Agency which you may wish to keep for reference.

In view of the above, there is nothing more I can add and respectfully suggest that we bring this correspondence to a close.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
Ministry of Defence

Ref D/DAS/64/3. Room 6/33

Metropole Building
Worthington
Avenue
London

[REDACTED]
28/6/2003

Dear [REDACTED]

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
I have returned your acknowledgement due to original response letter to write to me indicating disbelief in my information concerning a unidentified flying object giving full explanation of all particulars and in your reply you

included view to myself that I was

and of which made me feel that you viewed no debt a list due to your mention that my signing was safe witnessed

and not accompanied in to give you have annexed of other witnesses of your phenomenon you were one

have questioned had I had fellow witnesses to writings on to gravity of the original letter making me

feel your statement behave in me no decided to send back your letter as is not of gravity of such implying

as argued on strength of phrase as I issues you do credibility of my self and least to Governor

acknowledgment for my advisors do printing of before all Mr. T. and Blair

Prime minister record due acknowledge ment in gratitude for also advisory to Government and Country Policy

and possession please tell on your side of the line I trust not of the from the above



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000
[REDACTED]



Your Reference

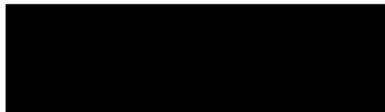
Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
26 June 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 18 June. We have explained the MOD's limited interest in 'UFO' sightings and I have nothing further to add.

Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely





Veterans Agency

An Executive Agency of the Ministry of Defence

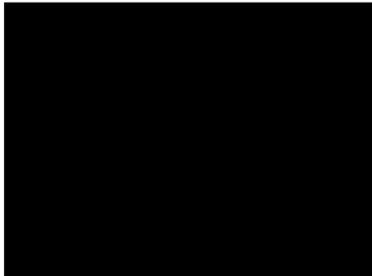
War Pensions Policy

Room 8102
Norcross, Blackpool
Lancs. FY5 3WP

Tel: Helpline 0800 169 22 77

Fax: (Direct) [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk



27 June 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Your Letter About Applying for Leave to Appeal to the High Court

Thank you for your letter of 22nd June which has now been passed to me for reply.

I am writing to advise you that the costs of bringing an appeal to the High Court are provided for by Rule 28 of the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT) Rules 1980. You should not have to pay any costs yourself. If you were to be granted leave to appeal, there would be no requirement for you to attend the High Court in person – your Barrister would present your case. The Royal British Legion (RBL) is experienced in assisting in bringing appeals to the High Court. Their officers rely on an experienced team of lawyers and barristers. Should you wish to contact them, the address to write to is:

The Royal British Legion
48 Pall Mall
LONDON
SW1Y 5JY

Yours sincerely



War Pensions Policy

Original returned to [REDACTED]

3 July 2003

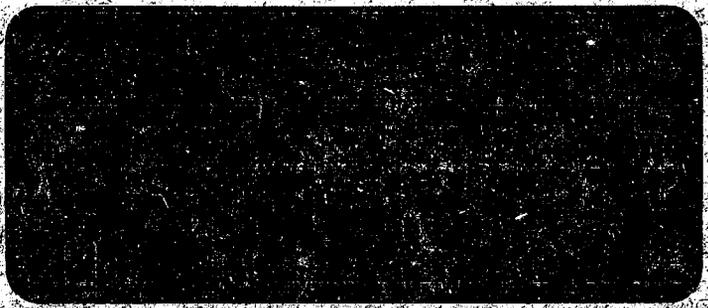
T51W

~~No persons
No other
No other
No other~~

ROYAL MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
1
HQ315

FILE
2003
DAS
ONE

C/O



Directorate of Air Staff
(Civil Airspace)
Operations & Policy
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/38 Whitehall Building
Whitehall Strand London
WC2N 5PP



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000

[REDACTED]



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 At A A
Date
26 June 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 18 June. We have explained the MOD's limited interest in 'UFO' sightings and I have nothing further to add.

Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely



Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations + Policy
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Wetherby Road
London

Dear [REDACTED]

I have written to Prime Minister MR Tony Blair and told him of UFO I saw and sent me Army tracked vehicles spalled over me with 5 Dead I told the prime minister the UFO I saw could not be discounted to UFO location.

I have written letters thank you from HM the Queen for MOD advisory and two recent thank you replies from Prime Minister MR Tony Blair.

I hope you will judge me to even as only person to report UFO not to be a liar also UFO office did procedure was pension claim one to be presented to High Court if you phone General Medical Council you will lead UFO office report and

c/o [REDACTED]

Military Police
Jell WC

Clompsbee

Military police tape and RAF
custody of A.R. CDR David Case
acknowledgements for views to
DFC.

my case wo Reg W¹⁵
and Jell Jos High Const is

Sect

A USA Prop circles are made
by UFO as we seen

years ago Bright light
in Air and a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a
small field res meet in
 $\frac{22}{7}$ or π pie

$\frac{1}{3}$ circle
the geometry of circumference was
 $\frac{22}{7}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ pie π

Again
said

DAS 7
102No.
20 JUN 2003
CIE

PS
Get RAF to patrol
WHTS

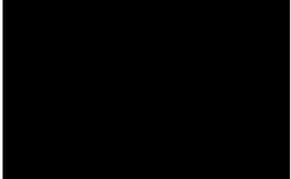
she has p...
completes
sign 40
of her phone

Returned
As not correct
to Holy Bible
JESUS GOD



From: [Redacted]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [Redacted]
(GTN) [Redacted]



Your Reference
Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
16 June 2003

Dear [Redacted]

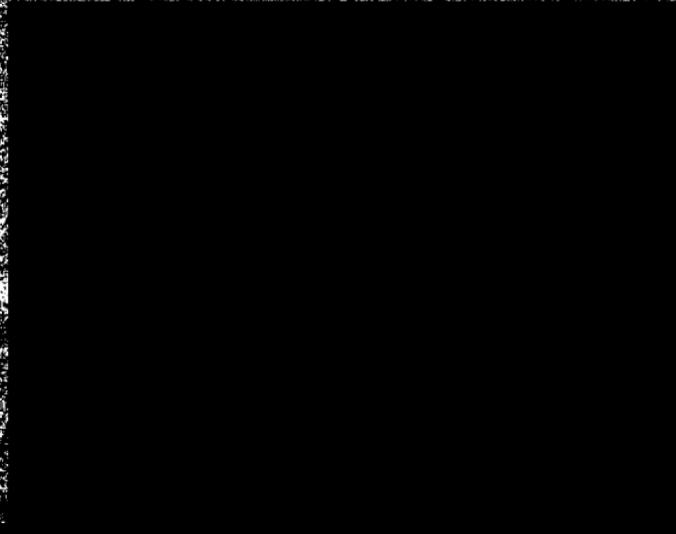
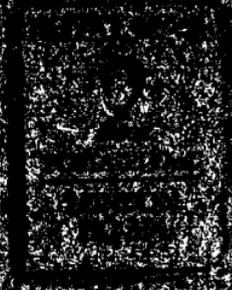
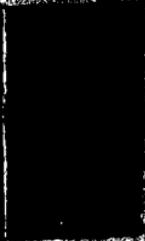
I am writing to acknowledge receipt to your letters dated 6 May, 29 May and your latest letter which is undated.

In your letter of 6 May, you mention your difficulties with your request for a war pension. This is not a matter for this Department, so I am unable to comment. You also talk about crop circles. There is no evidence to suggest that these phenomena are caused by anything of military concern and the MOD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them. Finally, in this letter you suggest aircraft from RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering should patrol the sky over Anglia. I can assure you that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. Any threat to the UK would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time.

In your letter of 29 May, you say that your claim for a war pension failed after you sent references to your correspondence on our files. I can inform you that we have not been contacted by any other government department regarding our correspondence with you. In this letter, you also reported a 'UFO' sighting on 11 March in Northampton Road., Wellingborough. I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 11 March from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

In your last letter you sent details of your 'UFO' sighting on 8 June near the A45. I can confirm that we received no other reports of this sighting and again we are satisfied that there is no evidence to suggest a breach of UK airspace.

Yours sincerely,
[Redacted]





From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000



Your Reference

Our Reference D/DAS/64/3 P+2
Date
16 June 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt to your letters dated 6 May, 29 May and your latest letter which is undated.

In your letter of 6 May, you mention your difficulties with your request for a war pension. This is not a matter for this Department, so I am unable to comment. You also talk about crop circles. There is no evidence to suggest that these phenomena are caused by anything of military concern and the MOD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them. Finally, in this letter you suggest aircraft from RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering should patrol the sky over Anglia. I can assure you that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. Any threat to the UK would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time.

In your letter of 29 May, you say that your claim for a war pension failed after you sent references to your correspondence on our files. I can inform you that we have not been contacted by any other government department regarding our correspondence with you. In this letter, you also reported a 'UFO' sighting on 11 March in Northampton Road., Wellingborough. I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 11 March from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

In your last letter you sent details of your 'UFO' sighting on 8 June near the A45. I can confirm that we received no other reports of this sighting and again we are satisfied that there is no evidence to suggest a breach of UK airspace.

Yours sincerely,



operations and policy / Board / 73

M.O.D
Metropole Building
W. or. Timberland, Torse
London.

Ref D/Des/64/3 6/5/2002

Dear [redacted]

Directorate of Air Staff.

I have decided to put these pieces of Daily Telegraph to you I feel seeing Chairman of Was pension has refused me a appeal due to his wording mental Health

tell
on [redacted]

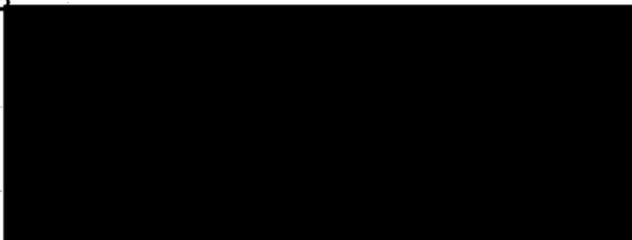
and seeing I've just spent £50 on Solicitors letter applying for High Court to apply my attempt to overturn Chairman of Was pension decision to allow appeal and keep on with current breach of Human Rights of mine I feel I should look at his view and respect captains of M.O.D to be with God not without as much

hope Daily Telegraph is needed
to put to world public
me sent crop circle mentions
I feel if every person in the
world eats corn with half
an hour of unconsciousness or
mental health then I may
have some address to my
wanderings in to jail. told
with you associated with UFO's
perhaps you could get
Cottermore/W. Denny
to patrol Anglia
Region 24 hrs a day
to stop babies
falling foul to
predators of locusts

from



House of Commons

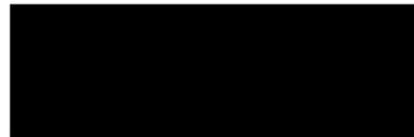


U6



POSTAGE?
1ST
45 111 222

C/O



Directorate of Air Staff
lower
airframe
operations and policy | Acorn 6/23
Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
Westminster
Condominium ERP

WC.2



Recycle

Features

Picture: CHRIS WATT



Lord Haddington devotes much of his time to his charity, Save Our Songbirds. He sends out cat collars with bells and has named this Wednesday National Keep Your Cat at Home Day. 'If all domestic cats stayed at home one day a year, we'd save a lot of birds'

'The only good alien is a dead alien'

Cheats, poltergeists, crop circles. Lord Haddington has time for them all. But there is one phenomenon he draws the line at, he tells Candida Crewe

The ghosts have been relatively quiet recently," says the Earl of Haddington of his more ethereal fellow residents at Mellerstain, the country house in Berwickshire where he was brought up. "Or, actually, no. We've had one or two amusing incidents. A friend came to stay from Dundee. It was his third stay-over and each time he said he'd heard someone coming into his bedroom and going out of the other door.

"This last time, he heard it again, but it was very late and he couldn't be bothered to sit up and see what it was. Then he heard childish giggling coming from the next room, but he ignored it and went back to sleep.

"The next morning, the false teeth that had been on the bedside table had gone. We turned the whole house upside down

but there was no sign of them. End of story. They never turned up again. They're still out there somewhere."

Mellerstain, one of the great houses built by William Adam, is famously haunted. Binning – as Lord Haddington is known to his friends – his wife, Jane, and their three teenage children, live in one wing. Guests sleep in the main house. Some of the late 18th-century bedrooms still have four-poster beds, their original flowery wallpaper, no central heating, and a certain chill in the air.

Binning, 61, has the jovial, shambolic air of a kindly character in a Quentin Blake illustration. He is a great bear of a man and exudes enormous warmth, vivacity and humour. You wouldn't put him down as a fellow who believes in ghosts or crop circles – he might even be the type to say "stuff and nonsense" to all that sort of

thing, but appearances are deceptive. He tells ghost stories with utter conviction, and has been a serious student of crop circles since 1986.

"Crop circles," he says, "first started in 1975 or thereabouts – or that's when they first started to be noticed, shall we say. Before that, they were probably only small because if there had been any on the same scale as today, the Victorians would have remarked on them.

"There's been only one incident recorded in history, the Mowing Devil of 1678. There were no combines or reapers then, but gangs of men with sickles. A Buckinghamshire farmer thought they were charging too much and said: 'I'd rather have the Devil himself do it!' Sure enough, that night, there were great flashes, and in the morning his crop was laid in a circle."

In the Eighties, Binning regularly used to go on nocturnal crop watches in Hampshire and Wiltshire, to contribute to the *Cereologist* (a magazine devoted to the phenomenon), and was, for a while, patron for the Centre for Crop Circle Studies. These days, he says, he's freelance, and studies on a more private basis, but he remains just as serious about his subject. He is not very happy about *Signs*, the recent film starring Mel Gibson.

"I thought it was very bad, he says. "It promotes the idea of fear and terror, and says crop circles are caused by aliens, which is errant nonsense. At the end, there's a shot of an alien holding an unconscious asthmatic boy in his arms. Out of his wrist a needle appears and, from it, a puff of white powder goes up the boy's nose.

"Whether this is a warning to children that aliens come when they're unconscious at night and stuff alien coke up their noses, or whether he was meant to be an alien doctor, I don't know. Certainly it wasn't appreciated by the boy's father, who went for him with a baseball bat and killed him. There was nothing going for that film at all. It was as historically true as Mel Gibson's film about Braveheart."

Binning is sitting at the table in his sunny dining-room. In front of him are a cup of coffee, a glass of white wine, some smoked salmon sandwiches and chocolate biscuits. But there is also an improbable spaghetti heap of red and yellow felt cat collars, complete with bells. As he talks of ghosts and poltergeists (of which he has come across a fair few), and crop circles, he is all the while conscientiously stuffing piles of A4 envelopes with the collars and copies of the bi-annual magazine that he produces, edits and writes almost entirely himself, called the *Bird Table*.

In 1998, Binning set up a charity, about which he is passionate, called Save Our Songbirds. He did so because, he says, one hundred million small birds are killed each year by the seven million or more domestic cats in this country. He has named this Wednesday National Keep Your Cat at Home Day. He has 300 members, but 500 copies of the magazine, "just in case I get another 200 members", he says, laughing.

"If all domestic cats stayed at home one day a year, theoretically we'd save a lot of birds. I'm sending all the members cat collars that are brightly coloured and have a bell to give the bird a certain amount of warning. They're also a symbolic gesture towards saving the birds. The RSPB has done nothing, or little, to inform people about their predation by cats because it's little old ladies with legacies who fund their organisation, and a lot are probably cat owners."

These days, it is the running of his 8,000-acre estate and SOS that take up most of Binning's time. He doesn't take photographs as much as he used to (in the Sixties, he lived in Beirut and Istanbul and was the photographer for the Lebanese Tourist Office), nor does he frequent Wiltshire hedgerows or go to London as often as he once did.

"I'm no longer let in [to the House of Lords]. I've gone into an upper, upper chamber, been elevated to the Turfed-Out Peers Association! I don't miss it, I never was a very good speaker and I found a lot of their work very technical and bureaucratic, and I'm not a bureaucrat. I'd describe myself as a Scot, a countryman, and disillusioned – disillusioned by everything, except my family."

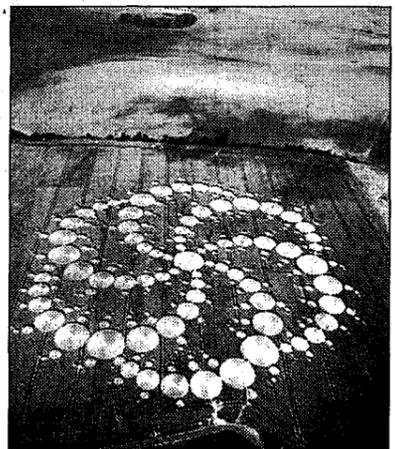
Could he not add to that description, "psychic"?

"No more than anyone else. I think it's about being in the right place at the right time. A lot of people will deny what they're experiencing because they don't want to believe it. I'm fascinated and welcome it – to a point.

"I don't like it following me around – I've had that happen to me before, a spirit followed me for six months, every day, till I avenged him."

Isn't he a bit of a hippy?
 "In the early Sixties, I went on a motorcycle down to Stonehenge and spent the night there; no one else bothered in those days, so I suppose I was a bit of a hippy. I just like the music and the whole good joke of that sort of madness."

It is tempting to wonder if Binning ever tried to convince his fellow peers, some of them perhaps less disposed than himself



Crop circles: 'My family don't tease me'

I'm no more psychic than anyone else... but a spirit followed me around for six months, till I avenged him'

to the idea of other-worldly phenomena, of the mysterious allure of crop circles?

"I never talked about crop circles in the House of Lords because there was never a suitable debate. There was once one on UFOs before I was there, and the transcript of that is in great demand because it's so funny, but that sort of debate will never happen again. The House of Lords has been taken over by pedants, and there are no jokes to be had in it these days.

"Crop circles aren't a joke, though circle-makers try to make it one; there's a conspiracy to make it a tabloid, silly-season thing."

Despite his other commitments, Binning manages to find time for crop circle study. His plans to write a book about ghosts and curious happenings – working title, *Tales from the Shadows* – are on hold because he's too busy.

Binning says his family take his interests seriously: he has taken his 16-year-old son George to see some of the good circles and he was intrigued. "They don't tease me,"

Binning says, "because I can demonstrate that there's a distinct possibility that the ones I think are real are real. The actual force involved is entirely mysterious. I don't know what it is, but my guess is that it's something to do with electromagnetic activity of some kind.

"It's definitely nothing to do with aliens; I don't actually believe in aliens. The only good alien is a dead alien. If they're coming here, they're not coming with benign intent."

The explanation for crop circles, according to Binning, depends on your belief system, whether you're a Croppy or a crop circle-maker, he says.

"Cropyps believe there's anomalous activity; circle-makers think they make everything. From looking at last year's activity, I'd say 100 per cent were hoaxed. The year before, I liked four of the formations out of 80 or so. Cropyps will tell you five per cent are man-made, circle-makers will tell you 100 per cent are. My position varies from year to year as the circles vary.

"I've never seen a circle being made and don't believe anybody has. People who say they have, made it up, and why not? It's a good story. I don't go on watches any more because nothing ever happens. But I did once do a meditation in a barn in Wiltshire with 15 other people and we heard a very fine, bell-like sound in the field and saw tiny red, yellow and green lights flashing on and off in the crop, as well as black, stick-like things jumping up and down. I definitely stayed this side of the fence, but one man went into the field, fell down, staggered back to the fence and made no sense for half an hour."

Binning says he thinks that there's a parallel existence on earth of a spiritual, not physical, nature and that is what causes the lights and the strange sounds that are captured on tape.

"Circles have changed in the past few years. The circle-makers' technology has got a lot more sophisticated, so they can now do perfect geometric things, but they're frankly dull and repetitive and, even if they were made by true phenomena, I'd say they were old hat and please stop it.

"The true ones always have an element of surprise and there are things to look for in the flattening technique that aren't present in the circle-makers' circles – more than that I'm not prepared to say, for obvious reasons. The circle-makers can't reproduce certain aspects of the true phenomena."

So as not to give the mischievous makers any ideas, Binning says he's not going to write anything about crop circles until 2012. He can't say why, but that's the year he predicts that they will finish, so it will no longer matter if he writes about them.

"They could stop for good, but the hoaxers can't stop because they say they're all man-made. If the hoaxers stop, they might be caught out!

"Something so huge and wonderful might happen and, if people knew they were no longer operating, there'd be a resurgence of belief in paranormal activity.

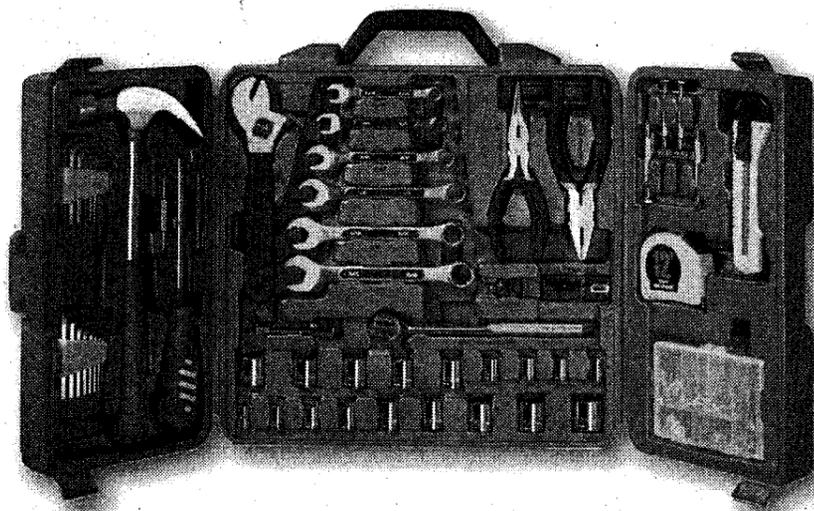
"This is exactly what they're trying to stop because circle-makers are scientists and if you're a scientist these days, you're not allowed to believe in the paranormal or the existence of God or anything like that. That's why we have such bad science."

So saying, Binning sticks his tongue out to lick another envelope that he has stuffed with a copy of the *Bird Table*, a cat collar and, with a huge laugh and great gusto, adds it to the ever-growing pile.

Telegraph Reader Offer

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Please use block capitals

Office for the State of Air Space
Operations & Policy (Comet)
Ministry of Defense
Room 8/73



Ref: D/DAS/64/13

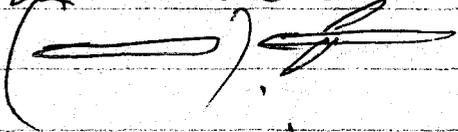
metropole Building,
151-152 Thames Road
Avenue
London.

Dear [Redacted]

Sunday 8/June 2003 4pm
17-47 Hours I was in

a taxi named Queensway taxis of
Wellingborough and I noticed a
white cylindrical object thinking
it was a jumbo 747 airliner
of aircraft that frequent over
Wellingborough en route to Canada.
I kept watching this white object
and when on A45 I had to
lose view of object due to
hedges when I was near
Aushden you coming from Wellingborough
I noticed that object had
exceeded altitude. discovering
a hot airstrip from Covington
Bedfordshire. which I know have
a new airstrip that has been known

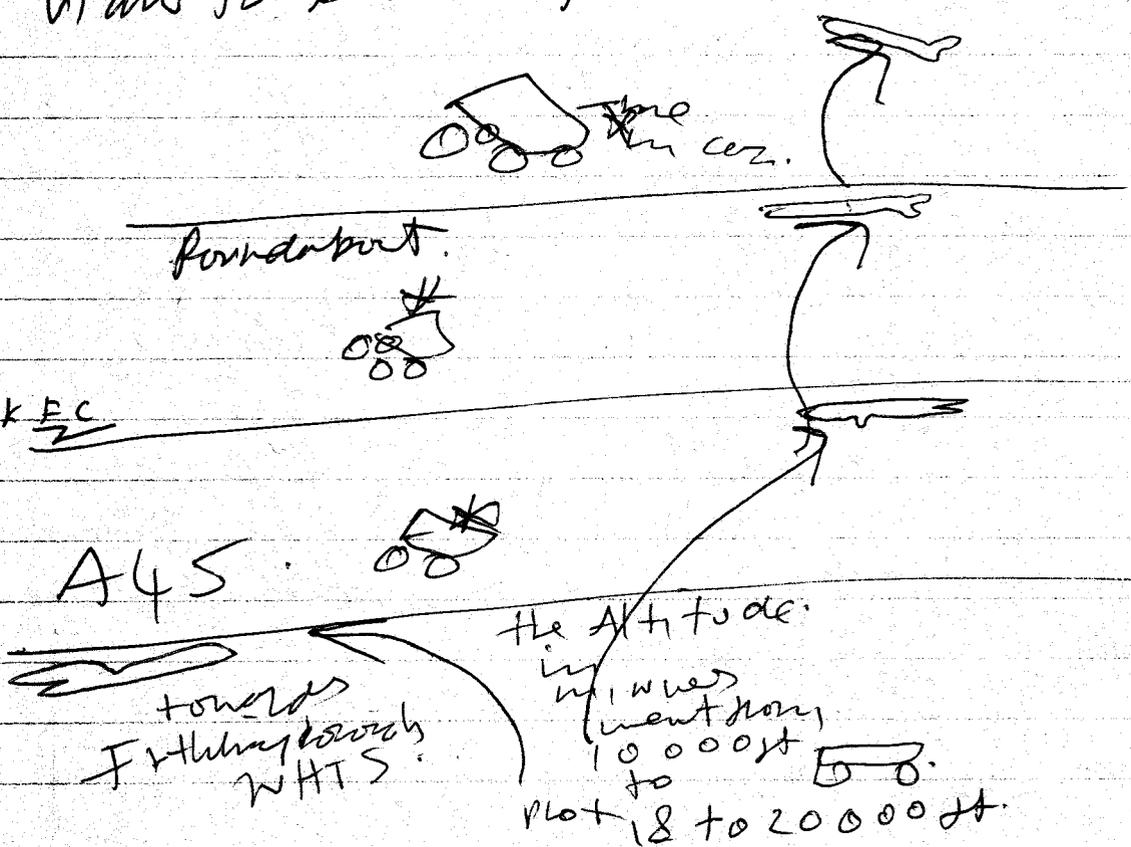
2

to myself knowledge in past few
weeks what was strange about
this object was that it had
like a tail fin and small
wings at rear I have not
seen anything so strange
since looking into UFO books
in the 70s when a journal
spontaneously opened to a class
slope in archives of UFOs
like 

I strongly believe that the
object was Alien and
certainly a unidentified flying
object I feel that an
object flying north
west east a speed of 10,000
feet then 18,000 feet must
be deemed terrestrial I feel
you must get Royal Air Force
to patrol A45 from region of
Drove in Kentucky need closer on

A45 on to Roundabout towards
Rusden and then on to
Fillingborough to Atomaria
Airspace. as I feel the
crop below and road could
be contaminated by gamma
radiation via SW winds
in above exact experience below.
in hands.

views to Kentucky. ~

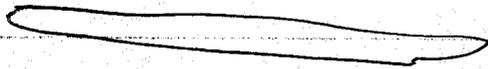


4

The object was ~~F~~ feet in distance
to light 500 ft long.

The object was white as snow
The object did seem to
develop a small wing-

from



to



The object was seen in
good weather wind 40 mph

DAS	
102No.	.....
13 JUN 2003	
FILE	.....

from





To



Directorate of Air Space
(London)
Operations and Policy
Ministry of Defence
Room 613
Whitehall Building
Avenue
London WC2N 5BP

Ministry of Defence
London

Dear [REDACTED]

29/3/2003

Tony Blair Prime Minister wrote to me week or so ago in acknowledgement of my idea to strengthen speed camera security considering in recent month or so vandals used actual explosive to destroy speed camera the person who signed 10 Downing Street has a [REDACTED] the very surname of Air Chief Dowding who masterminded Krupp's steel works industry on the Rhine Ruhr and Rossett in Germany and recently documentary evidence that Air Chief Dowding

KNEW completely of
UFO involvement of
destruction of Krupp

I from your Dept in past
few years have received
icy negative knowledge
from your Dept on UFO's

I was so upset I
have not recently
written to your Dept

Your recent acknowledgment

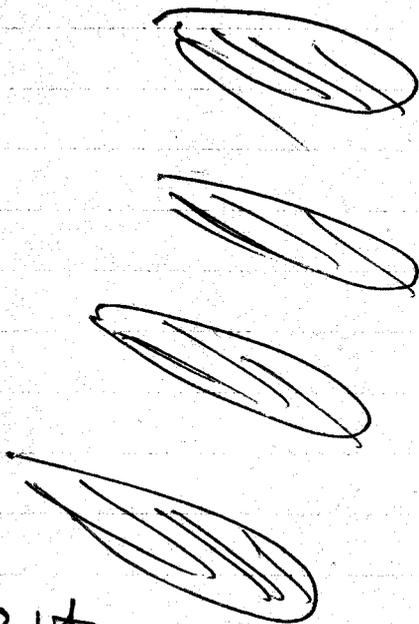
I feel was compassion as
to me not forwarding
recent update of UFO
activity. As your Dept
did acknowledge one
date in Feb and you
includes that date in
recent acknowledgment

I seek to inform you that
my claim for was pension
Failed at Manchester as

I sent them references you hold
on file and they feel I
did have a mental
health condition prior to
joining Royal Artillery but
I seek to inform you
that I swore on Holy
Bible allegiance to Sovereign
and Government when joining
Royal Artillery
may I add that Her Majesty
the Queen did acknowledge
suggestion I sent Her
Majesty for Ministry
of Defense and
now I'm deemed
of mental Health
prior to joining
Ministry of Defense

to be friendly I will
update you on
VFO activity

Never
seen
so many
FO's
before
all in
order of
steps



light.

1000 ft.

condition of day

Bright

Texico
garage

Northampton Rd
Wellingborough

10 to 10

11/25/2003

Jo

POSTAGE
UNPAID DEFICIENT
POSTAGE

19p

TO PAY

HANDLING FEE

80p

99p

REVENUE PROTECTION



From [redacted] Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations and Policy 1 Room 6/73

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Metropole Building, Northumberland House, London, WC2N 5BP



Telephone (Direct dial)
(Fax)

0207 218 2140
[redacted]



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 ✓ Pt2

Date
21 March 2003

Dear [redacted]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 4 & 7 February and 3 March 2003.

You will be aware from previous correspondence that the MOD has only a limited interest in UFO matters. Nevertheless, your letters and the associated newspaper cuttings have been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely
[redacted]

Operations & Policy 1
Ministry of Defense
Room 6/23 / Metrofile Building
Walthamstow London, Avenue
London
Ref D/DAS/64/3



3/3/2003

Dear [Redacted]

Directorate of Air Staff (Low Altitude)

I felt compelled to put this piece of newspaper in file - as it reads between the lines that Saddam Hussain has captured Aliens and is using them to support his terror on the world. Particular is the Roomday Bomb he could detonate of which it uses He saws wetinos to excolbrate explosive circumstances of which All presene is jied. Other words All matter including Oxygen hydrogen helium is FIRE.

I Don't think he will detonate it But who knows [Redacted]

Directorate of Air Staff

Operations + Policy
(Lower airspace)

Ministry of Defence

Room 6/73 Metropole Building
Worthington Avenue

Ref/ D/DAS/64/3 London 4/2/2003
WC2W 5BP

Dear [REDACTED]

President G Bush

addresses the American public
only days after seven

Columbia space aircraft
pilots present I feel
upset to talk of little green
men may be out there

Some where in space I feel
that the President ought to
have taken a at the moment
delay in talking of little
green men to give peace
to the souls of the questioned
explosion of Columbia space plane.

pilots I feel its not good
to hint of little green
men but one or the other

(A) YES these are Aliens

(B) NO there is not

perhaps you

may feel my
(A) and (B) there ought
to be silence if

only the President or
Eve of possible was
make such petty
involvement in such
God matters.

place in file for what
its worth
from

Pi Lee to date of Air staff,
operatives & policy (Comer. Airspace)

m, ministry of Defence.
Room 6/73 metropole Building
Wentworthland ~~Building~~
London
WC2N 5BP.

Ref D/DAS/64/3.

7/2/2003

Dear [redacted]

I strongly believe that the
Columbia ^(space shuttle) was destroyed as

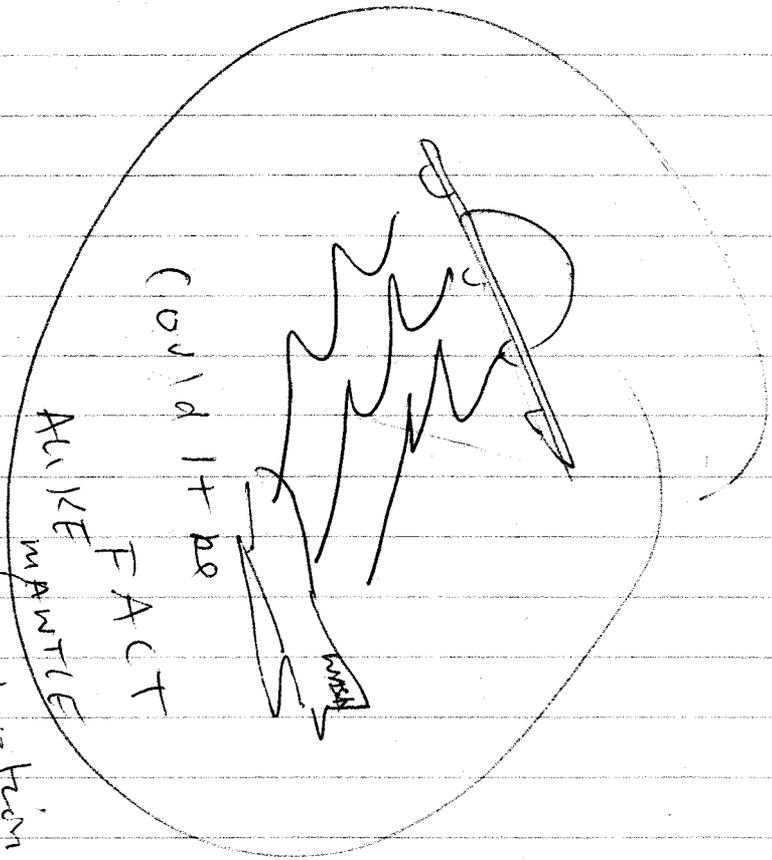
same as mantal UFO. ^{Archie & Gordon's public record office U.F.O. ECT.}

Evidence of purple lightning is
too strong to denounce as stated
in Daily Express.

As I told last letter from.

included UFO seen million miles,
to SW of which SW (is) 90 ~~was~~
further miles from UFO NASA
recorded. All humans and LIFE subject
to GAMMA Rays from UFOs.

Humans are at risk on gravity of world UFO
yours faithfully [redacted] ^{published evidence}



could it be

FACT

ALIKE
IMPAWTE

Posture from

D vs A

SDT

be very interesting

Vivaldi
Loose New Potatoes
99p/kg (45p/lb)
49p/kg (22p/lb)

half
price



Vivaldi. The great tasting
potato for all seasons.

Sainsbury's

making life taste better

For great offers every week, check out sainsburys.co.uk

OFFER ENDS 25TH FEBRUARY 2003. OFFER AVAILABLE IN SOME SAINSBURY'S 'LOCAL' AND 'CENTRAL' STORES. SOME LINES AVAILABLE AT LARGER STORES ONLY. WHILE STOCKS LAST.



BOOTED: Patricia Fields at the show

Stripe me, is it Catwoman?

WITH her coat of what looks like many cats, wellies, striped socks and strange hat, you'd think Patricia Fields was the last person to advise on style.

Yet she is responsible for making the stars of hit American TV show *Sex And The City* look stunning.

Yesterday she was at the Carlos Miele fashion show in New York after giving City's girls Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kristin Davies, below, the style treatment.



Romantics? Actor Brian Capron, who plays dastardly murderer Tricky Dicky, is, Hickey learns, best mates with former Ultravox warbler Midge Ure. Brian, 55, says: "We spend a lot of time with Midge and his family. My partner Jacqui has known him since the New Romantic movement years ago when she was in the music business - in fact she went out with Martin Kemp for a while."

WITH war looming, one would think George W Bush might be more preoccupied with matters on this planet than with the possibility of little green men but it appears not. For the US President has announced that space aliens

may be out there somewhere. In a brief passage entitled *Where Are the Real Space Aliens?*, Dubya's latest budget document



released this week reveals that several scientific discoveries in the past decade indicate that habitable worlds in outer space may be more prevalent than once thought. "Perhaps the notion that 'there's something out there' is closer to reality than we have imagined," the passage concludes.

IS THE highly-regarded, family-run London bookshop Foyles moving into a raunchier market? Hickey learns that one of its hottest titles is the bizarrely named *Lesbian Horse Stories*. "It's our best-seller in our mail order catalogue at the moment," reveals Hickey's mystified source.

E-mail me at: hickey@express.co.uk

is pressing
an attempt t
ontrol of it
f despite fal
the backin
ent.
's biggest
operator
ed an offer o
2460 million
the 22 per
'hat it does

by buy
market
e from
r cent
mpan
ise if
ent
mind
fem
usin
work
TA
TR
Tribu
Tribu
Trive
TrVest
Trust of
UK Sal
Underw
US Gwt
Value &
Welsh I
Wigmo
Wlan I
Yeoma
Yeoma
Yeoma
ZeroH
ZeroH
ZeroH

Arena
Aston
Belha
Burto
Celtic
City C
De Vi
Eldik
Euro
Euro
First
Fille
Fulle
Garr
Gow
Gre

Forget money, it's sheer animal attraction that accounts for...

Why women fall for an older man



VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

AS THEORIES go, it's a good one. We all know that many women go for older men but until now it was always assumed the size of his bank account made all the difference, rather than the innate manliness of the chap. Not any more. According to a new theory from a leading zoologist, the winning factor is age itself.

Way back in the dim and distant past, when men were cavemen and dinner was whatever had been caught that morning, the chances of making it in to old age were minute. That meant our ancestral senior citizens, simply by virtue of having made it to old age, clearly had such splendid genes to offer that cavewomen simply could not wait to get a piece of the action. And that explains why women, to this day, often opt for an older man.

Actually, what it fails to explain is how women tend to opt for your very rich older man - Michael Douglas clearly has an enormous amount to offer but it does include a portfolio of international properties and the means to adorn Catherine Zeta Jones with some of the best jewellery that money can buy but, anyway, who's surprised? Of course, women prefer older men and you don't need a degree in zoology to work that out. Older men are massively more attractive than their blundering young counterparts: unlike the twentysomethings, they know their way around a wine list, they are on good terms with all the best restaurants and they never, ever expect you to go Dutch.

In fact, the more you think about it, the more that theory holds water - by virtue of being older, men are more attractive. Men, like wine, mature with age. It has long been established that girls mature faster than boys; what is not so often explained is that this process continues well into the chap's 40s. Come on, honestly, who would you rather spend an evening with: a twenty-something chap who had spent the afternoon at the footie, rounding it off with a pint or 10 with his mates, or a fortysomething who had divided the day between his tailor and his stockbroker and was taking you out for a celebratory splash?

YOUNG men, to be frank, are a bit of a pain. They are so competitive: disagree with one word they say and it heralds the outbreak of the Third World War. If you earn more than they do, they say you're sleeping with your manager. And you are attempting to emasculate them should you ask for help with the washing-up. If you have any sense, you will be sleeping with your manager rather than your spotty and frankly unappealing contemporary - he at least will know that there is a big difference between flowers from florists and petals from petrol stations and that presents are for every day and not just twice a year.

But there are limits. Twenty years would seem to be the best age gap - anything more and it looks a bit grotesque - and then it depends on the man.

Rod Stewart has had more than his share of young women but these days he all too often looks as if he is escorting his daughter around town. Harrison Ford, on the other



DO YOU THINK I'M SEXY? Penny Lancaster is currently enjoying the attentions of wrinkly rocker Rod Stewart

hand, looks even better than as a youngster and there is even talk of another Indiana Jones movie.

Now, there will be those who carp about matters nocturnal: an older man can give you a big diamond, they say, but not that big a thrill at night. What nonsense. Yes, energy levels might not be what they once were but years of practice more than make up for that. We're talking quality here, not quantity - it's like a pianist who has spent decades practising and is now at his peak.

An hour or so of bliss beats a night-time of saying "No, not quite there" and "Yes, of course you were wonderful, darling". Have you ever noticed how young men combine arrogance with being seriously insecure?

Older men are also so much better company. Michael Douglas talks fondly about how he can enjoy Catherine's career

because he's been there, done that and these days can relax and take it easy. How many young men do you hear saying that?

Older men have worked out what is really important in life: young men really do not understand the importance of families and children - even if they have them, they often take second place to work. Older men have seen a bit of life, they know that what you gain on the swings you lose on the roundabout, that bad things happen and that life is not fair. They are more philosophical... they have to be. They are facing what we all must face - mortality.

There is the only downside: they are going to go before you. But take heart. The world is changing and by that time you will know your way around a wine list and be on nodding terms with the maitre d'.

That means it's time to take on a toy boy - and train him up for a younger woman. It's the 21st-century cycle of life.



John Ingham
The Express
Victor Meldrew

I DON'T BELIEVE IT

THE big bear of a man put his paw round his pint, took a huge swig and showed what talent the British have for talking bull. "Of course, the reason Blair wants a war is because he's part of the Bruvverhood." "What's that, then?" asked his tattooed pal, in between swigs. "It's an international secret society what rules the world, mate. And they're out to get Saddam because he knows too much." "Blimey. I thought it was all about oil." "Nah, it's the Bruvverhood, mate. They're all in it - Bush, Blair and, er, well, you name 'em, they're in it. It's a global conspiracy."

"Well, if it's a secret society, how come you know about it?" "Exactly, mate. They let just enough info out, not too much, not too little, to keep us in our place."

A man in a Yankees baseball cap couldn't resist chipping in. "Well, I'd heard that it's because Saddam's been visited by a UFO. This mate of mine, yeah, well his second cousin's husband, yeah, used to be a Para. And he says, yeah, that one year ago there was loads of bright lights over Baghdad, yeah."

"Aliens came down and Saddam captured them. And, yeah, he's getting all their powers. That's why they gotta stop him. Fancy another pint?"

Just along the bar were two middle-aged men, one in a Seventies-style motor racing jacket and the other a front-runner for beer drinker of the year.

The slimmer, balding one said: "You see, I just have to win. At everything. Take squash. Now, I'm not exactly superfit, am I?"

Mr Tetley declined to give him the boost he obviously wanted.

"Well, OK, I admit, I'm not exactly superfit but I did beat old Jason - and he's 15 years younger than me and an ex-Marine." "Yeah, well, sport ain't about fitness, is it? I mean, I've made a study of this. It's not by chance that teams like Man U win. It's because they have a game plan."

"Look at Man U. Do they win because they're fitter or have superior players? Nah, it's because they've worked out the other side's weaknesses. And they stick to their game plan."

As this pair continued not having a conversation, the bear was still away with the fairies in the barney corner.

"Of course, the big mistake the Yanks made in Vietnam was not using their secret weapon. They had a top secret plane that could sniff out Viet Cong. But they didn't use it. Madness."

"How come you know about it?" "Contacts, mate, contacts. In the last Gulf War, the SAS had Saddam cornered. They tracked him down and were about to pull the trigger but they got a message ordering them to pull out. The politicians bottled it."

"Yeah. You know, the Americans have satellites so sophisticated that they can read the small print in a newspaper - through concrete. They've got smart weapons so smart they can be programmed to take out named people. They actually hunt men down. My round, mate."

If only talking complete clap-trap was an Olympic sport. Britain would win gold, silver and bronze every time.

● What drives you crazy? E-mail me at victor@express.co.uk

'Aliens came down, Saddam captured them and he's getting all their powers'

WAR ON TERROR Britain's plans for battle move up a gear as Hoon orders 100

A third of the

Weapons inspector prepares to declare Iraq is defying UN

By **John Ingham**
Defence Editor

Blix is set to trigger blitz on Saddam

THE United Nations' chief weapons inspector Hans Blix is preparing to support military action against Iraq by declaring it in clear "material breach" of resolutions calling for it to disarm.

The verdict, to be delivered to the United Nations Security Council a week today, will place Russia, France and China under immense pressure to agree to a military onslaught against Saddam Hussein.

Ministerial sources last night predicted that a damaging split between the United States and Britain on one side and the other three veto-wielding members of the Security Council could now be averted.

Last night an Iraqi official also appeared to break the deadlock by claiming that a weapons scientist had agreed to meet UN inspectors on his own - a key demand of November's Security Council resolution 1441.

Iraqi minders have been present at all meetings since inspectors returned last year.

There was no immediate confirmation from the UN of key Saddam adviser Lt Gen Amer al-Saadi's announcement, which came during a lengthy rebuttal of US claims about Iraq's terror arsenal.

News of Dr Blix's harder line on Iraq leaked in Whitehall as he and his deputy, Mohamed ElBaradei, briefed Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw about the progress of inspections 24 hours after US Secretary of State Colin Powell made the case for war.

By **Patrick O'Flynn**
Political Editor

Dr Blix was said to be "deeply frustrated" with the lack of cooperation from Iraq, leading to a surge in confidence in Whitehall that he will "throw the book" at Saddam next week.

A Government source said: "Countries which have called on Britain and America to take their lead from Hans Blix will be honour-bound to do the same."

"Barring some drastic breakthrough over the next seven days, we believe that Dr Blix's report will build on the case delivered by Colin Powell rather than weaken it."

On Tuesday French President Jacques Chirac said he was reluctant to go to war because of his determination to trust the verdict of Dr Blix and his inspectors.

If Dr Blix does label Iraq inspections a lost cause, that will put France under enormous pressure not to block a new UN resolution endorsing military action.

Meanwhile Downing Street appeared to set an absolute outer limit for military action of the end of March.

Mr Blair was said to believe disarmament must begin within weeks because Saddam may be on the brink of a new breakthrough in the development of his weapons.

● In a special edition of BBC's Newsnight last night, Mr Blair revealed: "Some people wanted to go to war last year. I said no, go down the UN path."



BRIEFING: Weapons inspector Hans Blix with Tony Blair yesterday

BRITAIN yesterday accelerated the countdown to war by ordering one third of the RAF's planes to the Gulf.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon committed 100 aircraft - including about 75 bombers and fighters - and 8,100 men and women to the Middle East. This takes the number of British men and women set for Gulf operations to around 42,000 - on a par with the last Gulf War.

The RAF force includes Tornado bombers and fighters, Harrier bombers and Jaguar reconnaissance planes. They will be armed predominantly with precision "smart" bombs and missiles.

And they will be accompanied by Awacs spy-in-the-sky planes as well as VC-10 and Tristar tankers to provide air-to-air refuelling for the RAF and US Navy warplanes flying from carriers.

There will also be 27 Puma and Chinook helicopters, while RAF Hercules and C-17 transporters are expected to ferry men and equipment to bases in Kuwait, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

The planes are being drawn from around the country, including Tornado GR4 bombers from RAF Lossiemouth in Moray, Tornado F3 fighters from RAF Leuchars in Fife, Tristars and VC-10s from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, and Chinooks from RAF Odiham in Hampshire. The force is due in the Gulf "in a matter of days, not weeks".

The British force will join 600 American warplanes based in and around the Gulf and on four US aircraft carriers within striking distance of Iraq.

Britain has already committed one quarter of its Army, 4,000 Royal Marine Commandos and a 17-ship Task Force.

Mr Hoon told MPs the British air package, which includes 25 Tornados, Jaguars and tankers already in the Middle East, would contribute to the "building of a credible threat of force".

He added: "Time is running out. The Iraqi people must decide whether it will comply with its obligations or face the consequences."

The Allies are counting on a devastating blitz by their warplanes to destroy Saddam's military infrastructure and turn the Iraqi people against him.

Allied intelligence believes that he can only rely on a small force of the Republican Guard. They are described as "like Nazi blackshirts" who cruelly put down any dissent. This force may fight to the last because it knows that it is doomed if Saddam falls.

But one senior source said: "We believe they will be sorted by their own people long before we get near them."

The blitz, more powerful and precise than in the 1991 Gulf War, will pave the way for troops to invade Iraq.

Seven held in nationwide raids

SEVEN people were arrested yesterday as the nationwide police operation against suspected Al Qaeda terrorist cells was stepped up.

Six men and one woman were being questioned after a series of early-morning raids in Edinburgh, London, Manchester and Glasgow. Suspects arrested in England were taken to Scottish police stations.

Security sources said the raids were connected to the discovery

By **John Twomey**

of traces of the deadly poison ricin at a flat in Wood Green, north London.

Police officers and forensic experts wore protective body armour as a precaution.

Lothian and Borders Police led the operation, assisted by Greater Manchester Police, the Anti-Terrorist Branch of the Metropolitan Police and the Strathclyde Police. Lothian

Deputy Chief Constable Tom Wood said the raids had been "carefully co-ordinated" and "executed successfully".

He added: "Although searches of the addresses are continuing, it is important to stress that there has been no discovery of dangerous substances."

Two men were arrested in Edinburgh, two in London, one in Greater Manchester, and a man

and a British woman in Glasgow. The suspects - believed to be

mostly Algerian asylum seekers - were detained under the Terrorism Act 2000. The search of the flats was expected to last for around two days.

Yesterday's arrests are likely to be followed up by similar operations in the coming weeks.

The investigation into the alleged ricin plot has claimed the life of one police officer - Special Branch Detective Constable Stephen Oake, who was stabbed in Manchester last month.

Powell's Middle East peace hope

US Secretary of State Colin Powell last night outlined his high hopes for a Middle East free of Saddam Hussein.

Mr Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington that American interests in the region would be bolstered, while progress could be made in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr Powell said he expected attacking Iraq could cause "some difficulties", particularly in the months after a war, but added: "There is also the possibility that success could fundamentally reshape that region in a powerful, positive way."

Tornados and Harriers to Gulf to join thousands of troops ready to take on tyran

RAF off to war

OUR AIR POWER

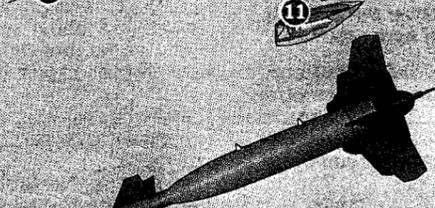
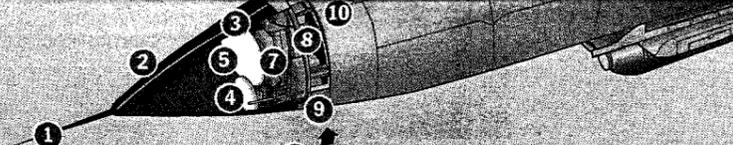
ONE third of the RAF's planes were yesterday committed to possible war with Iraq. The 100 warplanes will provide a potent force to back up the huge air armada being built up in and around the Gulf by the United States. There will be about 75 combat aircraft, with about 25 support planes including transporters, tankers and spy planes.

TORNADO GR4 Length: 54ft 10in
Wingspan: Up to 45ft 7in

Upgraded version of the RAF's main attack plane from the 1991 Gulf War. Currently enforcing the No Fly Zone over southern Iraq. Has recon (GR4A) and bomber (GR4) versions. Two-man crew of pilot and navigator who also "paints" targets with laser for laser-guided bombs to home in on.

The nose, eyes and ears

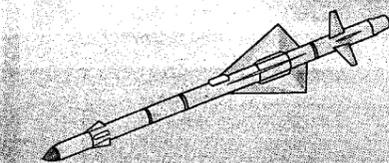
- 1 Air data probe
- 2 Radome - houses radar
- 3 Lightning conductor
- 4 Terrain-following radar - vital for low-level flying at heights as low as 50ft
- 5 Ground mapping radar antenna
- 6 Identification Friend or Foe aerial - sends out a bleep which Allies recognise as "friendly"
- 7 Radar antenna tracking mechanism
- 8 Radar equipment bay
- 9 Ultra High Frequency aerial
- 10 Avionics equipment bay
- 11 Laser range finder and marked target seeker



PAVEWAY Length: Up to 14ft 5in
Upgraded 1,000lb version of the heat-seeking Thermal Imaging Airborne Laser Designation bombs used in the Gulf War and Kosovo but which struggled to work through clouds. Paveway can operate in all weather and day and night thanks to Global Positioning Systems which let its on-board navigation kit to steer it to the target.

CLUSTER BOMBS
Length: 8ft
Each weapon sprays 147 bomblets over an area of about 9,000 sq yds. Each bomblet releases a plasma jet on hitting the target that can pierce armour. The casing shatters on impact and can destroy soft-skinned vehicles. Controversial as unexploded bomblets are picked up by children.

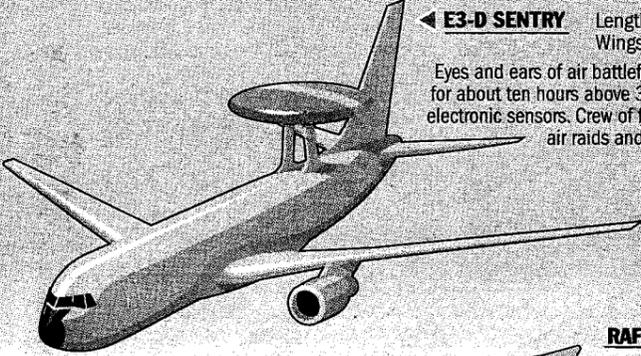
AIM-9 SIDEWINDER Length: 9ft 3in
Dog fight weapon: Heat-seeking short-range air-to-air missile. Its infra-red seeker lets the pilot "fire and forget" and leave it to home in on the engine exhaust of the enemy plane.



ALARM Length: 14ft 1in
The Air Launched Anti-Radiation Missile destroys enemy anti-aircraft weapons by locking onto radar. It can loiter in the area until the ground-based radar is switched on again and then home in on the target. Used in 1991. Up to seven can be carried on the GR4.

E3-D SENTRY Length: 152ft 11in
Wingspan: 147ft

Eyes and ears of air battlefield, used for airborne early warning. Cruises for about ten hours above 30,000 ft at 530mph. Packed with radar and electronic sensors. Crew of four and 13 systems operators. Can direct air raids and warn planes of attack.



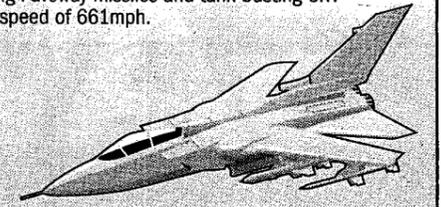
RAF HARRIER GR7 Length: 46ft 4in Wingspan: 30ft 4in

Single-seater bomber. Can fly from air bases, aircraft carriers or short air strips just behind front line. Carries Sidewinder missiles for self defence. Bombs include RAF's latest weapon, the heat-seeking 630lb Maverick, the bunker-busting Paveway missiles and tank-busting CRV-7 rockets. Top speed of 661mph.



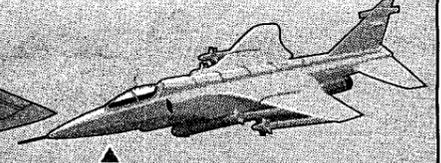
TORNADO F3 Length: 54ft 9in
Wingspan: Up to 45ft 7in

RAF fighter. Fought in 1991 Gulf War. Carries 4 Sky Flash radar-guided missiles and 4 Sidewinder infra-red missiles. Can also carry updated advanced medium range and advanced short range air-to-air missiles. Top speed of 1,480mph.



RAF JAGUAR GR3 Length: 55ft 2in
Wingspan: 28ft 6in

Single-seater veteran of enforcing Iraq's Northern No-Fly Zone. Recon version, which can operate at medium or low level, being sent out for intelligence gathering. Bomber version can carry Paveway, CRV-7 rockets and 1,000 lb freefall bombs. Top speed: 1,056mph.



CHINOOK HELICOPTER
Length: 51ft

Twin rotor helicopter can transport up to 54 troops or carry up to ten tonnes of freight in a sling underneath. Can ferry artillery and equipment to the battlefield or carry out medical evacuation, aircraft recovery, parachute drops and search and rescue. Carries three machine guns. Top speed: 185mph.



Express Graphic: MORENO MICHINI, MARC JENNINGS

North Korea steps up the threats

NORTH Korea has warned that it will unleash a devastating assault if America sends more troops to the region. The secretive Stalinist regime run by dictator Kim Jong-il is believed to be developing missiles which can already reach Hawaii and could soon hit California. Foreign ministry spokesman Kim Pyong-gap said North Korea was "fully ready to have a war" with the US unless the troops were withdrawn. North Korea's

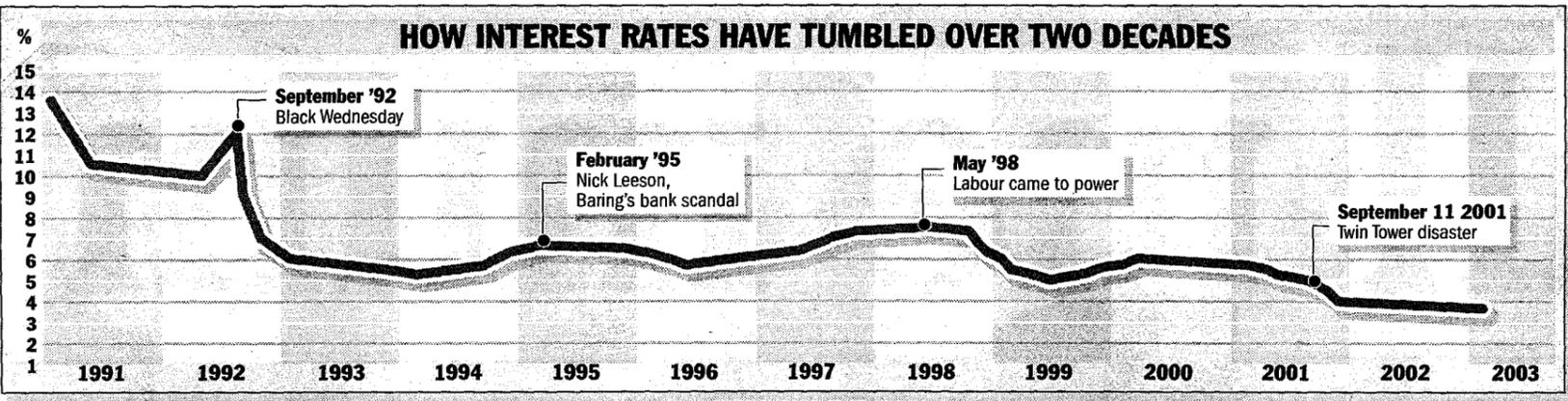
By **Greg Swift**
declaration last year that it would resume missile testing and reactivate its nuclear programme increased tension in the area. It has since kicked out International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors and stepped up work on a nuclear reactor, which is said to be capable of producing enough plutonium for two bombs within months. As well as its intercontinental

missiles, North Korea is known to have hundreds of missiles capable of reaching Japan. Thousands of artillery pieces would be capable of destroying the South Korean capital Seoul in just hours using conventional weapons alone. In an act of brinkmanship, Mr Kim issued his threat while at the same time insisting that the country was ready for talks with President Bush's administration. Speaking through an interpreter,

Mr Kim told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "The situation is very tense. "A very dangerous situation has been created where the security and sovereignty of our state has been severely endangered by the hostile policies of the United States towards North Korea. "The Bush administration called our country an axis of evil and they adopted their national policy that they will not recognise our system."



STALINIST: Leader Kim Jong-il



DYNAMITE: Brown is critical of France

Brown's broadside crushes euro fight

EXCLUSIVE
By Patrick O'Flynn
Political Editor

GORDON Brown is about to give a blow to pro-single currency campaigners by issuing a damning report on the Eurozone economy.

The report takes eurozone economies to task for failing to move fast enough towards free market principles.

The indictment of eurozone red tape stifling employers, investors and retail competition is "dynamite", a Government insider said last night.

"This is the final nail in the coffin of a euro referendum any time soon."

"It is a forensic dissection of economic under-performance and complacency in mainland Europe."

The report will make clear the economies must be more dynamic and flexible before it would be in Britain's interests to sign up to the single currency.

Mr Brown's report will criticise countries such as France for failing to open up their energy and telecommunications industries to competition from Britain.

Slow progress in liberalising labour, product and capital markets will be linked to the poor overall performance of the eurozone economies.

The report is so critical that it will leave no doubt that Mr Brown has decided to rule his five economic tests for joining the single currency have been failed.

There was growing speculation that the Chancellor could use next month's Budget speech to announce he does not believe it is yet in Britain's economic interests to scrap the pound.

Boom or bust

FROM PAGE ONE

debts. Two lenders - Sainsbury's Bank and the One account, formerly Virgin One - immediately cut their mortgage rates, while the Halifax and Nationwide said they would make an announcement in due course.

Other lenders appeared to have been caught by surprise, with the majority saying they had no immediate plans to cut rates.

John Butler, UK economist at HSBC, said: "This is one of the biggest

gambles any central bank has taken - cutting rates when house price inflation is close to 30 per cent and inflation is already above the target.

"They are being a global player and taking their eye off the domestic economy. This could have terrible consequences for the UK.

"The risk of a housing market bubble and rising consumer indebtedness have now been exacerbated and it's true to say the Bank is playing with fire." Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said:

"There is no doubt that economic clouds are gathering. A possible war with Iraq is draining confidence, the markets are very jittery and the manufacturing sector has been in recession for nearly two years."

Paula John, editor of Your Mortgage magazine, warned: "The housing market is truly overheated in some areas and price increases continue unabated. This rate cut could add further fuel to an already raging fire." If lenders pass on the latest cut, home owners will see their monthly repayments on a £60,000 loan fall from £377.46 to £368.45.

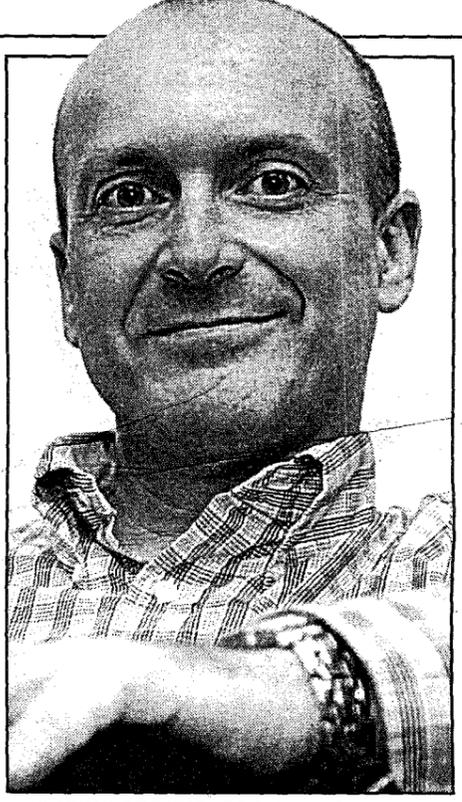
Michael Coogan, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "The decision to cut rates has been triggered by a desire to sustain confidence in the economy at a time of political uncertainty.

"But it's unlikely to herald a further round of aggressive interest rates cuts. The cut may be a short-term bonus for borrowers, but the uncertain longer term outlook reinforces the message that they should avoid over-commitment."

Shadow Chancellor Michael Howard said the decision to cut rates was a measure of the Bank's concern about the state of the economy. "This gives the lie to the complacency of the Chancellor and the Prime Minister and shows there are serious causes for concern."

But the cut was welcomed by industry. Roger Lyons, of union Amicus, said: "We don't believe it is enough, but at least it will relieve some of the pressure on thousands of manufacturing jobs."

In a statement, the Bank of England said the decision was necessary to keep inflation on track.



SHOPPING AROUND: Dick Hutchings

I'll switch loans to get a cheaper deal

HOUSEHOLDER Dick Hutchings will aim to take advantage of a cheaper mortgage following the latest base rate cut.

"I've remortgaged many times to get a cheaper deal," says Dick, a 40-year-old IT professional with a house in west London.

Two years ago he moved to a two-year, fixed-rate loan which slashed the cost of his monthly repayments. Now he's keen to move his loan again. He said: "I'll be looking for better-value deals from other lenders by comparing the monthly payments I would have to make.

"It is worth putting in an initial search, especially when base rates change."

OPINION: PAGE 12
CITY: PAGE 56

Mortgage	Monthly repayments (£) at 5.75%	Monthly repayments (£) at 5.50%	Saving (£)
30,000	188.73	184.22	4.51
50,000	314.55	307.04	7.51
60,000	377.46	368.45	9.01
70,000	440.37	429.86	10.51
80,000	503.28	491.26	12.02
90,000	566.19	552.67	13.52
100,000	629.10	614.08	15.02
150,000	943.65	921.13	22.52
200,000	1258.21	1228.17	30.04
250,000	1572.76	1535.21	37.55
300,000	1887.31	1842.26	45.05
350,000	2201.87	2149.30	52.57

Based on a repayment mortgage at typical mortgage prices

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"The only trouble is I've forgotten what we were manufacturing"

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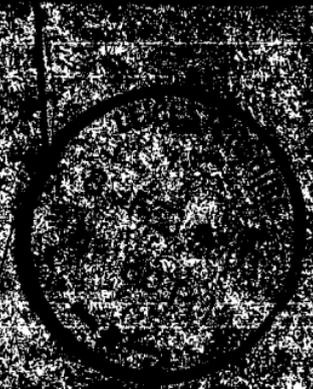
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*Savings based on maintaining a balance of £2,000 from 01/02/03 and take account of fees where applied and interest charges on the average daily balance for a full year inclusive of the introductory rate until 01/10/03 and thereafter 14.9% APR (variable). The savings shown assume that the current rates will remain constant for the full year. Cash advances 17.3% APR (variable). There will be a handling charge for advances of 2% (variable) minimum £2. Note: Existing RBS Advanta Cardholders are not eligible for this offer. Written quotations available. Subject to status. Classic Card available to over 18s, income £10,000 pa, Gold Card to over 21s, income £20,000 pa. Minimum monthly payment is 3% of outstanding balance (minimum £5). APRs based on a £1,000 credit limit. APRs for other cards are their standard published rates and exclude any short-term special offers. Rates as at 01/12/02. Source: Moneyfacts. †Typical APR according to Barclaycard leaflet BC1 September 2002. Alternative rates may be offered. An APR of 17.9% has been used to calculate the possible savings that a current holder on that rate could achieve. The amounts that you could save are for illustrative purposes only. The actual amount you may save depends on when your account is opened, the balance transferred, the order in which your repayments are allocated to outstanding balances (please see conditions of use) and how you operate the account. RBS Advanta is registered in Scotland No. 157256. Registered Office: 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE. Calls may be recorded or monitored.



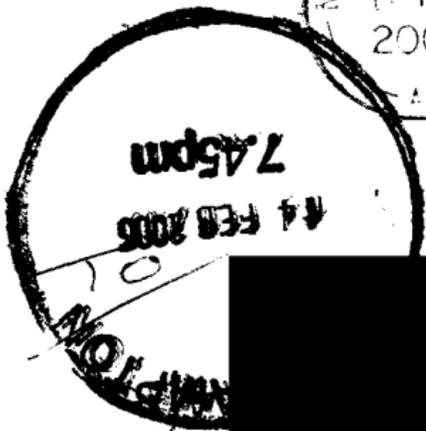


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Directorate of Air Staff
Operations & Policy (Long Range)

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Mum Lynn is back on patrol

A POLICE officer is looking forward to getting back on the beat.

Lynn Duguid joined the Corby division in 1987 as a teenager after leaving school in Inverness.

She started doing general duties and later moved to the control room. After the birth of son Connor she became a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator.

In 1997 PC Duguid, 34, took a career break when husband

Duggie, an RAF engineer, was posted to Germany.

After two years there, two years in Northern Ireland, and the birth of second son Gavin, she returned to Corby in July and started back at work this week.

She said: "I'm happy to be back. Everybody is so friendly."

PC Duguid will become community beat officer for the Hazel Leys and Exeter estates in a month's time.



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[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 *ptz*
Date
3 February 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 13 December 2002 and 16 January 2003.

You will be aware from our previous correspondence that the MOD has only a limited interest in UFO matters. Nevertheless, your letters and the associated newspaper cuttings have been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

VFO m.o.D.
DESK.
Whitehall
London

13/12/2002

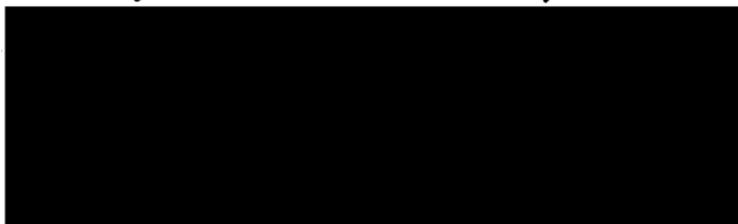
Could you include this in my
VFO file also would you
be kind enough to phone
Nottingham Police Headquarters
and obtain full File fax
of war pension appeal as it
includes my references
incidentally unidentified flying
object mention.

I've sent it in the Queen's
acknowledgement for minutes
of Defence letter to
RAF Wittering [redacted]
was killed whilst ejecting
from Hunter jump jet perhaps

you could place any information
also in file.

The file for war pensions
could be extracted from
war pensions working
Blackpool Council.

Yours obliged



CITY & FINANCE

News
in briefDiageo close to
Burger King deal

DIAGEO, down 1½p to 665p, is close to selling Burger King for less than £1bn. An end to the agonisingly slow sale to a US private equity group led by Texas Pacific will be a big relief, even though the price tag has slumped by a third since the original agreement five months ago. BK has been hit by a price war with McDonald's, and Texas Pacific has struggled to raise the money.

Gold soars

GOLD leapt to a three-year high on war and US economy fears, rising \$6 in New York to \$332 an ounce.

Shake-up costs

UPMARKET brand Mulberry said the recent boardroom struggle, when founder Roger Saul stepped aside, will cost £900,000 in fees and payoff. First-half pretax losses rose from £959,000 to £1.1m.

Read all about it

THE OFT is to liberalise the wholesale market for distribution of newspapers, giving retailers greater freedom to sell papers on to other shops in a move that may encourage new firms to enter the market.

Downward swing

ENGINEER WS Atkins (down 11p to 94p) swung into a £32.8m pretax loss from a £14.6m profit last year and scrapped the interim dividend. It is working on new bank facilities.

£42m gushes in

OIL and gas production group Paladin Resources raised £42m in a heavily backed rights issue at 66p to help pay for the £97m acquisition of a portfolio of North Sea assets from BP and Amerada Hess.

'Safe as houses'

CHANCELLOR Gordon Brown dismissed concerns that Britain's booming housing market could destabilise the economy because of the large mortgage debt burden.

Called to account

TOM Dales, auditor of failed finance group Versailles was thrown out of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Dales, partner in the Nunn Hayward practice, was expelled after admitting breaches of professional ethics and standards.

Pensions worry

US and UK utilities saw their pension fund deficits balloon by 55pc to £43bn, says UBS. National Grid, Centrica, Scottish Power and AWG are among the 10 most exposed.

Wall Street

IN New York the Dow Jones index closed 50.53 points down at 8538.61.

Warning may cause
aggro at Aggregate

DEALERS should be prepared for some aggro at Aggregate Industries. A man in a hard hat tells me that shares of the sand and gravel giant could soon be demolished by a profit warning. They came under selling pressure as rumours of an imminent trading statement swept the market, falling to 70p before closing 4p lower at 71p.

AI has been hit by the very same thing that caused RMC (30½p down at 354p) to warn the market yesterday that full-year pretax profits will fall around £25m short of expectations. Bad weather!

Aggregate should repeat RMC's sorry tale that extremely poor weather conditions in eastern US and especially wet weather in Europe during October and November has crushed profits. Chief executive Peter Tom should warn too that uncertainty in its major markets will continue well into next year.

Tom is hugely ambitious, with a good record on corporate deals. Rumours have been rife in recent weeks that he has Ennstone (½p dearer at 36p) on his radar screen. But that is unlikely now because he appears to have more fundamental things on his mind.

Reflecting growing concerns that the housing market is slowing after Berkeley Group (22½p easier at 525½p) confirmed that demand for large luxury apartments and detached houses in the South East is waning, investors slammed the door on housebuilders.

Barratt Developments lost 18½p to 360p, Bovis Homes 8p to 333½p, Countryside Properties 6½p to 151½p, Persimmon 30p to 357½p, Westbury 17p to 257½p and George Wimpey 18½p to 214½p. Banks were dragged lower by worries that a deteriorating housing market increases risks that customers will renege on loans. Abbey National fell 28p to 520p, Alliance & Leicester

MARKET REPORT

by Geoff
Foster

23½p to 755p, Lloyds TSB 14p to 449½p, Northern Rock 24½p to 626p and Royal Bank of Scotland 37p to 1483p.

Weak financials put the boot into the Footsie, which lost 39.6 points to 3935.3. Despite better-than-expected US November retail sales, Iraqi war jitters got the better of Wall Street. It lost an early 26-point gain to trade 78 lower. Sterling hardened to \$1.581, with the euro at 64.4p and \$1.02.

Water company Severn Trent gushed 20p to 679p after regulator Ofwat said it would allow it to charge customers more next year, reversing an earlier preliminary decision. Charges will now rise by 2pc from 2003 to 2004 and 2.2pc thereafter. Merrill Lynch upgraded to neutral from sell.

Almost 20m shares in computer games retailer Game Group were

traded. The close was 17½p down at 83½p after Evolution Beeson Gregory repeated its sell recommendation. Analyst Peter Read, who advised clients to unload at 108p in October, repeated that competitive retail pressure is growing in the run-up to Christmas. This increases the risk of erosion of margins and probable future earnings disappointments. The average price of a computer game is about £45 while Argos and Dixons are now selling at below £30. Read says that in the last price war, Game's gross margins dropped from 33pc to 31pc. This fed through to a 6pc fall in EBITDA margins from 11pc to 5pc.

As defence giant BAE Systems crashed a further 27p to 104p after its house broker ABN Amro downgraded to sell after Wednesday's disastrous trading statement, Rolls-Royce succumbed to nervous selling and lost 3½p to 112½p.

A fund manager said a pension fund deficit of £700m to £800m, exposure to the commercial aerospace downturn (45pc of sales) and debt of £1.2bn were good reasons to sell.

Specialist magazine publisher Wilmington rose 4½p to 66p. Chief executive Charles Brady bought 500,000 and finance director Basil Brookes 150,000, both at 63p.

Madisons Coffee edged up ½p to 5½p after chairman Nigel Whittaker said sales since year-end have been 3pc higher on a like-for-like basis. Christmas trading is ahead of last year.

Cluff Mining gained 1p to 171p on an Investec Securities strong buy recommendation after a better-than-expected resource upgrade at Blue Ridge and Sheba's Ridge projects in South Africa.

■ HUNGRY punters were licking their lips at the prospect of corporate activity at AIM-listed Bank Restaurant, ½p better at 4½p. Hopes that a bid could be on the menu came after investor John Moxon bought a further 2.9m shares giving him 6.4m, or 14.99pc, and sparking heavy speculative buying. Moxon could even increase his stake to 29.9pc in the hope it flushes out another interested party.

BE fortunes 'bleak'
as its losses mount

STRICKEN nuclear power generator British Energy slumped £337m into the red at the half-way stage. The loss, swollen by huge writedowns, was even worse than expected.

Government fixer Adrian Montague, the banker drafted in to save BE from insolvency, warned its fortunes were 'bleak'.

He said: 'The combination of high fixed costs for our nuclear stations and low power prices, coupled with our lack of tied retail outlets and a high level of unscheduled outages, has inflicted terrible damage.'

Montague has until February 14 to persuade banks and bondholders to agree a last-ditch rescue plan.

Early signs show the two

By Stephanie Bentley

sides are far apart. One source close to the creditors said: 'It is too early to say if a deal can be reached. BE has its ideas and we have ours.'

BE has survived so far thanks to a £650m government lifeline. But the final bill to the taxpayer for keeping BE afloat, including paying massive nuclear clean-up costs, could top £3bn.

Energy Minister Brian Wilson denied a government bail-out yesterday and added: 'This is not a great outcome for anyone - but the alternatives are worse.'

However, environment group Friends of the Earth slammed the government for wasting vast sums of

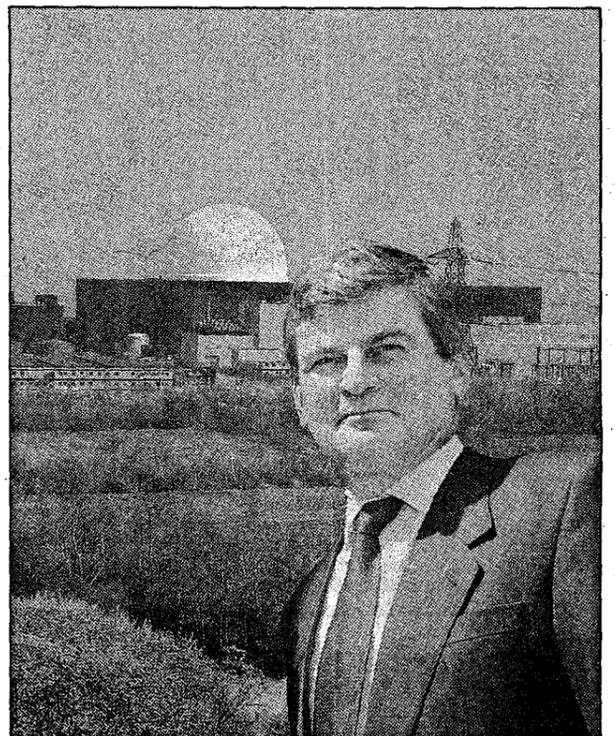
public money and branded the nuclear industry 'a complete liability'.

BE shares fell 0.9p to 6.95p as its deficit ballooned from £15m losses previously.

It also warned of further big writedowns in the £5bn value of its nuclear power stations. Before exceptional operating losses were £38m against £70m profits previously. Jens Jantzen, analyst at Bear Stearns, branded the figures 'particularly disappointing'.

Poorer trade was blamed on unplanned shutdowns at two plants and falling electricity prices, down 35pc in the past two years.

BE said talks were 'progressing well' on the sale of its stake in Canadian generator Bruce Power.



Power failure: Montague warns of further writedowns

Boots starts hunt for new head

BOOTS has hired headhunters to find a replacement for chief executive Steve Russell.

The 57-year-old, who took over in 2000, is due to retire at 60, but he could be gone within a year.

Though core retail trading is relatively strong, international setbacks and

By Lucy Farndon

strategy U-turns have frustrated the City.

Russell joined Boots in 1967. It is felt that fresh blood from outside could revitalise the group, and outgoing Arcadia boss Stuart Rose is in the frame.

Strong sales in the run-up to Christmas may buy Russell some breathing space. Indications are that the retailer will beat forecasts for 5pc growth.

However, the OFT review of pharmacy licences, due next Tuesday, is likely to result in greater competition for Boots.

Shops feel the pinch

SHOPPERS are tightening their belts this year amid concerns about the economic outlook, says Deloitte & Touche. Its Christmas survey says retail sales may grow just 3pc, compared with 7pc so far this year. Head of consumer business Richard Lloyd-Owen says: 'It would be a major disappointment for retailers.'

But analysts are fairly sanguine since the uplift comes on top of strong growth last year. Peter Jones at broker Peel Hunt says: 'Sales are not going to romp away, but most retailers will do OK.' Clothes shops are faring the worst since the mild November weather hit sales of winter coats.

New alerts
deepen
the gloom

A SERIES of profit warnings from all sections of industry yesterday underlined the deepening woes of the UK economy.

Gifts retailer Kleeneze slumped 45½p to 59½p as investors were disgusted by its fourth profit warning in two years. RMC and Robotic Technology Systems also disappointed.

Kleeneze's door-to-door catalogue arm is doing well, but Christmas book and gift stands in office buildings are making a loss. The group made a £22m pretax loss during the first half against a £2m profit last year. It surprised investors by scrapping the dividend due to the 'unclear outlook'.

Analysts slashed full-year estimates from £10m to £6m. Concrete group RMC, down 30½p to 354p, warned profits were hit by the wet November in Europe and poor weather in the eastern US. It expects profits before exceptional will not exceed £145m, compared with forecasts for £170m.

Ken Rumph at Merrill Lynch said: 'Although the group's record of underachievement and self-inflicted problems make the claims of weaker markets and bad weather seem like excuses, we believe the recession is finally catching up with the construction sector.' Rivals such as Hanson and Aggregates Industries could also suffer.

Automated machinery group Robotic Technology, down 6½p to 59½p, blames tough markets in the US industrial division for missing forecasts.

'Contracts culture' at the heart of BAE's misfortunes



by Richard Inder

BAE SYSTEMS lost more than a fifth of its market value yesterday amid fears that its latest shock profit warning heralded a return to the troubled past for Europe's largest defence contractor.

Its broker ABN Amro ducked for cover, switching its advice to investors from 'buy' to 'sell'. It said BAE's warning late on Wednesday of 'substantial' cost overruns and delays on £4.8bn of aircraft and submarine contracts had created uncertainty throughout the business.

The broker said: 'When [defence] contracts go wrong, they sadly tend to go more wrong.'

However, ABN Amro was simply adding its voice to a growing consensus about BAE's prospects. The 27p plunge to 104p yesterday underscored four years of decline that have seen its value shredded by £13bn to just £3bn.

Investors believe the latest warnings over the Nimrod maritime surveillance aircraft and the Astute nuclear submarine show management has lost its grip on the business.

They suspect the root is in a culture that promotes executives - who are adept at securing large defence contracts - rather than people who are expert at implementing projects, meeting fierce deadlines and dealing with cutting-edge technologies prone to failure.

Chief executive Mike Turner put his name on the radar screen by making big strides in securing the £19bn order for Eurofighter combat aircraft.

Chairman Sir Richard Evans played a major role in securing the key Al Yamamah deal with the Saudi government in the late 1980s. This is expected to last for 30 years and generates £2bn a year for BAE.

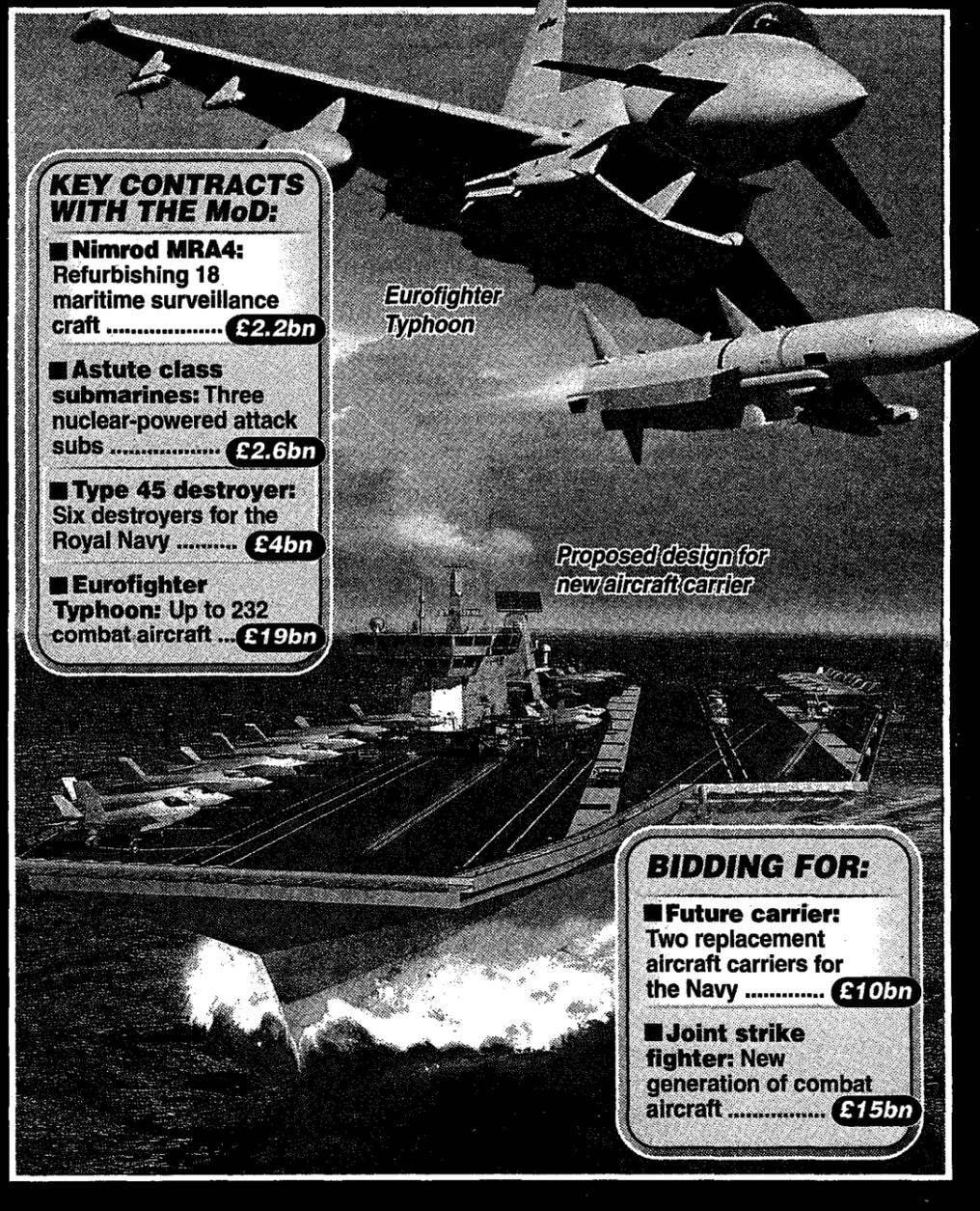
The problems have been brewing for some time and observers say BAE should have warned of the impending problems - at the very least - at its annual update in Sep-

tember. The company first revealed in 2001 it was not making any money from the Nimrod when it took a £300m loss on the contract.

Then last month, it said the first of the upgraded aircraft, originally

due in August this year, would not fly until late 2003. Difficulties with the Astute submarine project first surfaced in July when BAE told the Ministry of Defence that the first vessel - due in 2005 - would not be

delivered before late 2006. Finally, the group should have provided some guidance on the likely cost of the problems. Pessimistic analysts believe the Nimrod and Astute setbacks could cost as much as £1bn,



KEY CONTRACTS WITH THE MoD:

■ **Nimrod MRA4:** Refurbishing 18 maritime surveillance craft **£2.2bn**

■ **Astute class submarines:** Three nuclear-powered attack subs **£2.6bn**

■ **Type 45 destroyer:** Six destroyers for the Royal Navy **£4bn**

■ **Eurofighter Typhoon:** Up to 232 combat aircraft ... **£1.9bn**

Eurofighter Typhoon

Proposed design for new aircraft carrier

BIDDING FOR:

■ **Future carrier:** Two replacement aircraft carriers for the Navy **£10bn**

■ **Joint strike fighter:** New generation of combat aircraft **£15bn**

potentially wiping out all of this year's profits, threatening its dividend and taking its net debt from £1.6bn to £3.6bn.

This is an ominous echo of BAE's predecessor, British Aerospace, which was driven to the edge in the early 1990s after a sharp decline at its commercial aerospace arm saw losses mount to £1.9bn.

One shareholder said: 'The market has stopped looking at the valuation. It is not relevant - because if you cannot trust the management, you cannot have a view on the value.'

Finance director George Rose, appointed in 1998, should go. Turner - who took over from ousted John Weston in March - should undertake a thorough review of the people running the troubled programmes to avoid similar failures. He is thought to be largely protected from the fallout because he has not been in the top job long enough.

BAE dismissed the criticism of the culture as nonsense and said it had kept the market properly informed. It added: 'Managers are promoted because they understand the whole operation.'

IT ARGUES that the problems lie with flawed contracts. The Astute and Nimrod contracts have locked BAE into a fixed price for the design, development and construction. They were negotiated in the early 1990s when the outlook was fundamentally different. As a result, the MoD should show some flexibility.

But the future remains murky, especially since the dispute with the MoD comes just as BAE is in the final stages of a £10bn tendering competition against France's Thales to build and maintain two aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy and for other contracts worth a further £15bn.

The MoD is also playing hardball. It said: 'We have made it clear to the company that the ministry cannot protect it from cost overruns arising from its failure to perform.'

Still, some analysts believe the group's fortunes cannot get any worse. Furthermore, BAE has confirmed orders worth £45bn and a has big stake in the US - the world's biggest and fastest-growing defence market.

Berkeley 'well placed to cope' as it warns of a housing downturn

By Cliff Feltham

LUXURY housebuilder Berkeley issued the clearest warning yet that prices at the top of the market are falling.

The firm, which has built its reputation on developing stockbroker estates in the Home Counties, says it is building fewer single detached houses and large apartments in London.

Chief executive Tony Pidgley says demand for new homes has been strong except at the 'top end of the market'.

As a result the group will

concentrate on 'more affordable, lower-priced houses and flats' - that suggests a price band of between £250,000 and £350,000.

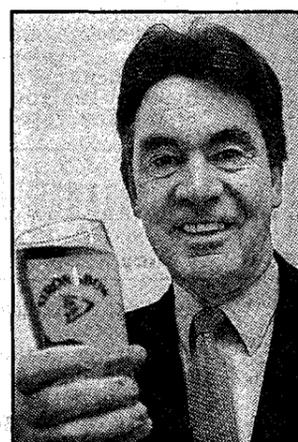
Berkeley lifted first-half profits 24pc to £112m and raised the dividend a confident 20pc to 4.8p.

The average selling price of its houses was £285,000, up from £243,000. But concern over the market's strength left

the shares 22½p lower at 525½p. One analyst said: 'I am negative on the whole sector, which is likely to underperform next year.'

However, Berkeley is better placed than most to cope with any downturn. It has 23,000 plots of land, enough for seven years' work, and modest levels of debt. It also has a forward order book going into the next six months worth £1bn.

Pidgley added: 'If there is any uncertainty, we are ready for it.'



Templeman: Taking charge

The cider insider

DRINKS industry veteran Miles Templeman is taking control at ailing cider-maker HP Bulmer.

The former boss of Whitbread's brewing business, best known for developing Stella Artois lager's 'reassuringly expensive' image, starts in a fortnight.

Templeman, 55, takes charge after a string of problems at Bulmer (107½p, up 6p).

These include an accounting black hole, ill-fated international

expansion and rows with Herefordshire apple growers.

He replaces interim boss Colin Brown, a non-executive.

Previous chief executive Mike Hughes was ousted from his £438,000-a-year job.

Finance director Alan Flockhart also went and is yet to be replaced.

Templeman said: 'Clearly the focus will be on the UK and recapturing the strength of brands such as Strongbow.'

Rocket clue to spaceman

QUESTION Has it ever been established if the Solway Firth spaceman photo (a picture of a little girl with what looks like an astronaut in the background) of 1964 was real or fake?

AS AN amateur photographer on a day-trip with my family, I took the photograph on Burgh Marsh on May 23, 1964, using an SLR camera loaded with the new Kodacolor film which was processed by Kodak.

I took three pictures of my daughter, Elizabeth, in a similar pose — and was shocked when the middle picture came back from Kodak displaying what looks like a spaceman in the background.

I took the picture to the police in Carlisle who, after many doubts, examined it and stated there was nothing suspicious about it.

The local newspaper, the Cumberland News, picked up the story and within hours it was all over the world.

The picture is certainly not a fake, and I am as bemused as anyone else as to how this image appeared in the background.

Over the four decades the photo has been in the public domain, I have had many thousands of letters from people all over the world with various ideas or possibilities — most of which make little sense to me.

It should also be noted that I have received no payment for taking this picture.

The only suggestion that struck a chord with me was a letter from Woomera in Australia which came a month after the picture was shown around the world.

The people there were keen to see a good colour copy of the photo, as they had stopped a countdown of the Blue Streak rocket within hours of my photo being taken.

Apparently, two similar looking 'spacemen' had been seen close to the rocket.

Only later did I find out that part of the Blue Streak rocket was made



Mystery: James Templeton (inset below) who took this baffling 1964 photo (left) of his daughter Elizabeth with a spaceman visible in the background

and tested within sight of Burgh Marsh.

James Templeton, Carlisle, Cumbria.

QUESTION Which newspaper has the biggest circulation in the world?

THE latest figures we had earlier in the year from the World Association of Newspapers showed five Japanese

daily newspapers with circulations higher than any UK ones — led by Yomiuri Shimbun, on an average of 14,407,000 a day, and Asahi Shimbun, on 12,393,000.

By comparison, the latest UK figures (November 2002) show the Sun on 3,541,198, followed by the Daily Mail on 2,420,301. For Sundays, the News of the World led

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

with 3,979,216 and the Mail on Sunday was second on 2,400,007. These are also the highest circulation English-language papers, since the U.S. market tends to focus on regional and local newspapers, and national papers such as USA Today have lower circulations than these combined.

Russell Ash, author, Top Ten Of Everything, London.

QUESTION Has any couple cast aside superstition and married on Friday the 13th?

FURTHER to earlier replies, my husband Jeff and I celebrated 13 years of marriage this year. He proposed to me on Valentine's Day, we were engaged on St Patrick's Day and married on Friday the 13th, in October 1989.

I had wanted to hold our wedding reception at a popular hotel and, when making inquiries about dates available that year, I was told the only day available was Friday the 13th.

Not being in the least superstitious, we went ahead and had no problems booking anything else relating to our wedding.

I take great satisfaction when filling in forms which ask for information regarding marital status, and always insert 'happily' before the married option.

Sheena Ballantine, Bangor, Co Down.

OUR ages were 23 and 17 when we married on Friday the 13th, in June, 1941. We celebrated our Diamond Anniversary last year, at which our two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren were present. Our marriage survived despite numerous Army service separations and two years' PoW experience.

But despite being married in St

George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, neither the bride's nor the bridegroom's family were present. Even the best man got lost.

Douglas George Arthur, Wrexham.

MY PARENTS, Katharina (known as Kitty) and Ernest (known as Sam) Wilson will have been married for 56 years on December 13 (their marriage date was Friday the 13th, in December, 1946).

They met and married in Austria while my father was in the Army. They have two children and have been happy together throughout the years. They have always considered 13 to be their lucky number.

Margaret Green, Reading, Berks.

GETTING married on Friday 13th was very unlucky for me. I had no luck until I got my divorce seven years later.

Jill Wainman, Bolton.

QUESTIONS

Q: Are those of earlier generations who received a smallpox jab in infancy still regarded as immune?

Ros Mallard, Little Chalfont, Bucks.

Q: Who makes windsocks, and is there a worldwide design specification?

Chris Thompson, Hull.

Q: Is the @ sign known in certain languages by a word that means the little snail?

Graeme Steed, Kilmarnock.

■ IS THERE a question to which you have always wanted to know the answer? Or do you know the answer to a question raised here? Send your questions and answers to: James Black, Answers To Correspondents, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT. You can also fax them to 01270 821016 or you can e-mail them to james.black@dailymail.co.uk

A selection will be published but we are not able to enter into individual correspondence.



Newspapers Support Recycling. Recycled paper made up 63.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2001.

LEITH'S RECIPE OF THE DAY

Mussels with lemon grass and ginger



Preparation time: 15 minutes. Cooking time: 15 minutes. Serves 4

THIS recipe calls for live mussels — scrub them well to remove any barnacles, and pull away the beards (seaweed-like threads).

Throw away any mussels that remain open when tapped or are cracked and feel particularly heavy, and any that remain closed after cooking. Serve

with lots of bread to soak up any juices. We have found the easiest way to peel root ginger is with a teaspoon, as it gets around all the knobbles.

Lemongrass is available in the fresh vegetable sections of supermarkets, or from oriental food stores.

INGREDIENTS

- 100ml/3 fl oz dry white wine
- 100ml/3 fl oz fish stock
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 5cm/2in piece of fresh root ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 4 sticks of lemongrass, finely chopped
- 900g/2lb mussels, prepared
- 85g/3oz unsalted butter
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- lemon juice

To serve: Plenty of fresh bread

METHOD

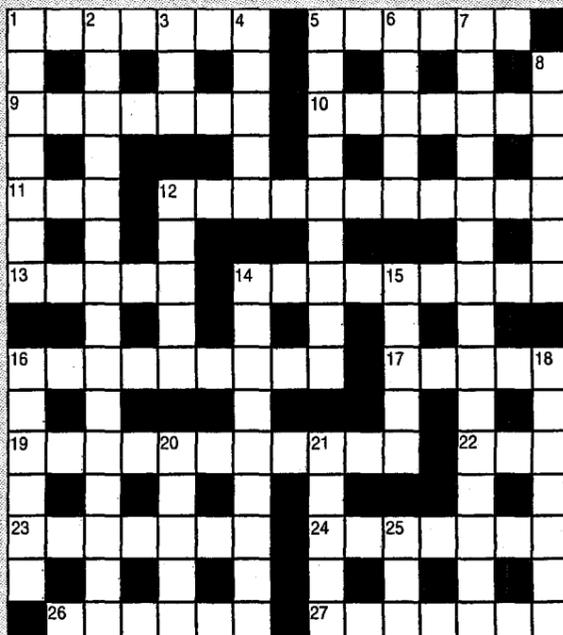
1. Put the wine, stock, shallots, ginger and lemongrass into a large saucepan. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 3-4 minutes until the liquid is reduced by half.
2. Add the mussels to the saucepan, cover with a lid and cook over a high heat until all the mussel shells have opened fully. Lift the mussels into a soup tureen, discarding closed ones. Set aside.
3. Reduce the mussel cooking liquid in the saucepan by boiling rapidly to about 4 tablespoons.
4. Remove the saucepan from the heat and whisk in the butter, a small piece at a time. Season the sauce to taste with salt, pepper and lemon juice.
5. Pour the butter sauce over the mussels and serve very hot.

C.J. JACKSON e-mail info@leiths.com

THE DAILY MAIL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Rock turn among the more daring (7)
- 5 Take away the rating channel (6)
- 9 Man finally sick getting in a fix (7)
- 10 Plant a word a girl can latch on to (7)
- 11 Something to pay for short measures (3)
- 12 Good enough to deal with irritation? (2,2,7)
- 13 Try a little discrimination (5)
- 14 One whose clients may be brought to book (9)
- 16 Man with sound character shows a mark of progress (9)
- 17 Anxious to agree to differ (5)
- 19 Damn pointer in a ruling position (11)
- 22 Round of drink (3)
- 23 Cry when we leave new green ornament on the table (7)
- 24 Sympathise with many on minimal income (7)
- 26 Small seal said to be young swimmer (6)
- 27 People in office can be touching characters (7)



DOWN

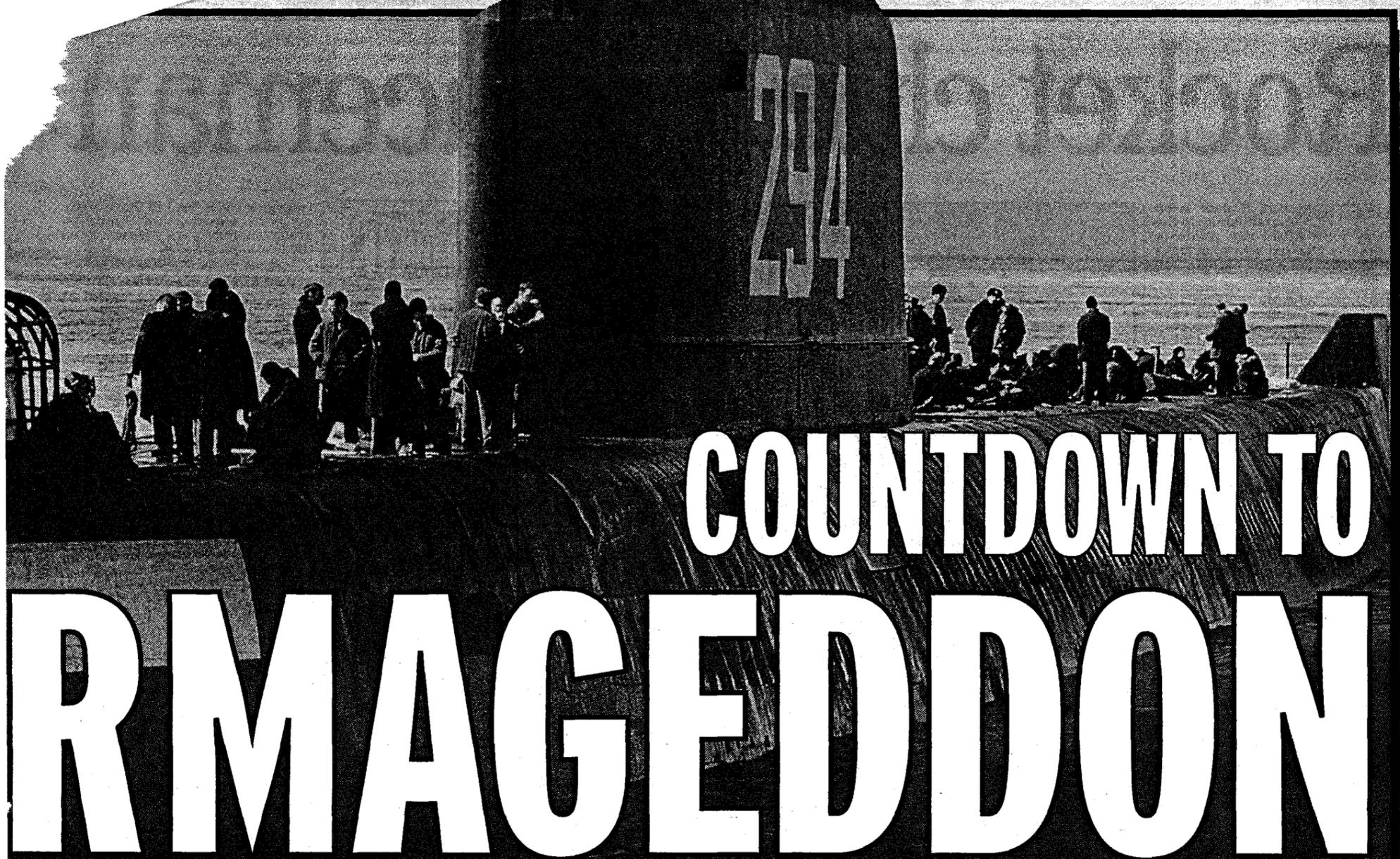
- 1 What you gain from having been turned out in good condition (7)
- 2 Means to put the world to rights and cure everything? (9,6)
- 3 Welshman providing milk not taking a line (3)
- 4 Don't start being clever, okay? (5)
- 5 After David's endless outing fur is recommended (9)
- 6 Great artist and doctor taking river in (5)
- 7 Escape suspension when lethal watch goes wrong (5,3,7)
- 8 Somewhat unpleasant creature to the lady (6)
- 12 Cats have no time for people who provide work (5)
- 14 Easily seen to dig in at once and ring off (9)
- 15 Not very good write-up in the article (5)
- 16 Little girl needed to clean dog maybe (6)
- 18 Hold back for another push (7)
- 20 Buccaneer losing his head making music (5)
- 21 Races away from the coast (5)
- 25 Be quick to offer a drink (3)

PRIZES of £20 will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct solutions checked. Solutions to: Daily Mail Prize Crossword No 11,783, PO Box 593, Norwich NR6 5DY. Entries may be submitted by second-class post. Envelopes must be postmarked no later than tomorrow. Please make sure you enclose your name and address.

SOLUTION TO PRIZE CROSSWORD No 11,781

ACROSS: 1 Cataract. 5 Tropic. 9 Bathrobe. 10 Stream. 12 Shed. 13 Broadsheet. 15 Road to success. 19 Suspender-belt. 23 Adulterate. 25 Faro. 28 Differ. 29 Argument. 30 Rheims. 31 Addendum. DOWN: 1 Cubist. 2 Title. 3 Rare. 4 Cabaret. 6 Rates. 7 Precident. 8 Comatose. 11 Dais. 14 Cake. 15 Reshuffle. 16 Ode. 17 Crew. 18 Islander. 20 Dark. 21 Retired. 22 Bottom. 24 Therm. 26 Ahead. 27 Muse.

■ THE Daily Mail Crossword Book Vol 6 (Headline, £4.99) is available from all good bookshops or call 0870 161 0870



COUNTDOWN TO RMAGEDDON

It was the pride of the Soviet fleet, but when a nuclear reactor on K-19 caught fire the whole world was at risk. Only the astonishing bravery of the crew could avert catastrophe... at a horrific price

equally true of both the ones who send others to their deaths and the ones who go.'

The young officer in command of Compartment Six, Lt Boris Korchilov, asked permission to join the engineers already toiling there.

'Do you know what you are asking?' said his captain. 'I know, Comrade Commander,' Korchilov answered firmly, and off he went.

To the already terrifying conditions in Compartment Six was now added an outbreak of fire — but fire such as no one had ever seen before. Violet flames blazed over the reactor lid. They were extinguished, then broke out again.

AT LAST the debilitated men reported that an emergency pipeline had been welded into place. Immediately, water was pumped into the reactor. Meltdown had been averted — but at a ghastly price.

When the bulkhead door opened and Korchilov emerged, he tore desperately at his face mask. As soon as he had ripped it off, he began vomiting white and yellow foam.

The rest of the men followed, gasping and exhausted, their faces grotesquely red and swollen.

Zateyev was in a dilemma. Radiation was now seeping throughout

the submarine. He already knew full well that the men who had been in Compartment Six were doomed to die. But if he attempted to make for home on just the one surviving reactor, the 1,500-mile journey would take at least six or seven days.

By that stage, K-19 would be radioactive from stem to stern, which meant everyone else aboard would also perish.

Then he recalled that, according to the plans for the fleet exercise, a group of diesel submarines was supposed to be somewhere to the south. If he reversed course, there was a slim chance he might find one of them. He issued the order: 'Right rudder, course 180 degrees.'

It was at this juncture that several officers questioned his decision.

Terrified of radiation sickness, they wanted to head for the nearest land, the Norwegian island of Jan Mayen, and beach the submarine, heedless that such a course would not only contaminate the island and its inhabitants, but that the place also housed a Nato radar surveillance post.

Zateyev's reaction to this potential mutiny was typically cool-headed. First he ordered generous tots of alcohol. Then he had all the small-arms dumped into the sea except for five pistols, which he kept for himself and four trusted officers.

Meanwhile, K-19 kept to her

bearing, emitting regular encrypted messages on her back-up transmitter. It had a range of just 50 miles. For hour after hour there was no response. Faced with this deafening silence, Zateyev judged that his gamble had failed.

With Moscow unlikely to raise the alarm for many hours, possibly days even, he ordered the helmsman to reverse course. He and his whole crew would have to resign themselves to a lingering death. Then, just two minutes later, a cry came through the intercom: 'Silhouette bearing 270 degrees!'

It was the diesel-powered submarine S-270. 'I will not describe the emotions I felt,' remembered K-19's commander. 'The gamble had paid off. The crew were saved.'

Gingerly, S-270 approached the stricken nuclear submarine, noting the rising radiation count. When the eight most seriously irradiated men were transferred to the diesel boat, her own radiation level shot up alarmingly.

Even when their contaminated clothing was thrown overboard, the reading remained high. The heroes of Compartment Six had themselves become radioactive.

Soon other Soviet submarines reached the scene to rescue the remaining crewmen, while K-19 was taken back to Russia, where she was decontaminated and recommissioned.

Captain Zateyev, who had handled the horrifying emergency with such remarkable courage, was the last man off the ill-fated vessel.

What happened next does no credit to Russian naval tradition.

The secretiveness shrouding the sinking of the giant submarine Kursk two years ago, with the loss of 118 lives, was if anything even more enveloping 40 years earlier in the Soviet era. The near-catastrophic disaster aboard K-19 went unreported, as did the heroism of those whose actions had contained it.

WITHIN hours of their return to Russian soil, all the men from Compartment Six were diagnosed as critically ill. Captain Zateyev bade them farewell before their final journey to a Moscow hospital. In his memoirs he remembered especially his last meeting with the brave Lt Boris Korchilov.

'My God, what a toll the radiation had taken! His face was red, his lips swollen, his tongue so thick he could barely talk, his eyes swollen shut.'

'In a whisper he asked me to help him open one of his eyes so he could have a look at me. He also asked for some juice. I did as he asked: held one eye open and poured some juice from a teapot into his mouth, which he could hardly open. I barely

managed to restrain my sobs as I said goodbye.'

Korchilov died on July 10. One by one, in quick succession, the comrades who had worked alongside him and been fatally roasted by the reactor's poisonous rays met similar, extremely painful ends.

Within the next two years, a further 14 members of the crew suffered early deaths, earning K-19 its other name: The Widowmaker.

In the West, among seafaring nations especially, such exceptional courage would have been widely celebrated. But in the Soviet Union of the day, the whole episode was shamefully hushed up. The dead men were discreetly given posthumous decorations. Captain Zateyev himself won the Order of the Red Banner.

But at the awards ceremony an admiral, seeking to downplay the humiliation of the Kremlin top brass, contemptuously compared the whole, horrifying emergency to a mundane streetcar accident.

Accident it certainly was, but one whose origins lay in the short-sighted incompetence of the Soviet leadership and whose consequences might have shaken the whole world, but for the exceptional courage of the captain and crew of K-19.

■ *K-19: The Widowmaker* by Peter Huchthausen is published by National Geographic at £9.99.

M.O.D

Whitehall.

London.

VFO Desk.

Ref D/DAS/64/3. 16/Jan 2003

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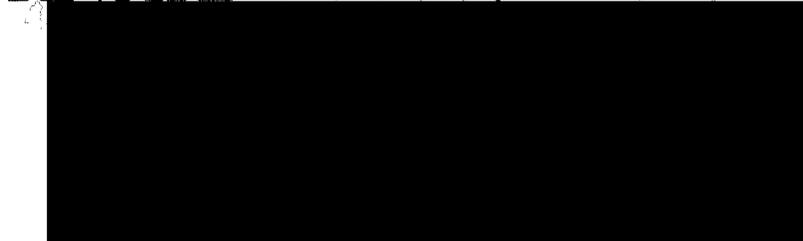
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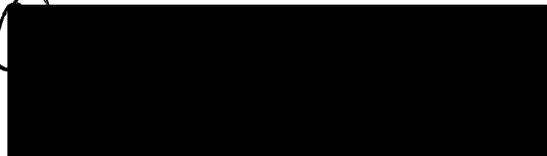
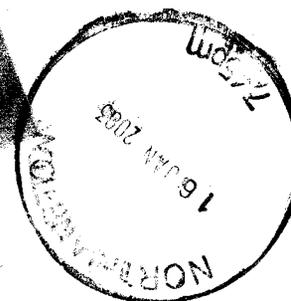
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Melanie Foley: Family rift

Landowner's son sues his

MILLIONAIRE landowner Andrew Foley upset his eldest son Rupert by leaving his wife for a blonde nearly half his age.

The rift deepened when Mr Foley, 65, married his mistress, moved her into his 7,500-acre estate and made her a trustee of Rupert's trust fund.

Now, nine years after the affair with Melanie Westall-Reece was first exposed, Rupert Foley is suing her for mismanaging the trust.

In a writ served at the High Court

in London, Mr Foley, 32, alleges that his father is earning thousands a year which should go into the trust.

He claims his 40-year-old step-mother's actions have cost him up to £500,000 and he wants to replace her, and two other trustees, Richard Underwood, the family solicitor, and David Taylor.

The trust centres on 900 acres of woodland on the Stoke Edith Park estate, near Hereford, and includes lucrative shooting rights. Rupert

Foley claims that money raised from shooting parties is going straight into his father's pocket and that the new Mrs Foley, as a trustee, should have prevented this.

Melanie Westall-Reece met the landowner after she left her promotions job at Hereford United football club to administer his estate in 1993. By 1995 they had a daughter, Emily, and Mr Foley divorced his wife of 25 years, Gillian.

The writ says that since then,

Ru. been trustfu.

Foley perce. quently prefer. (his father) to his

Andrew and Mela. night refused to commea.

As well as Rupert, Mr Foley's son Ian, 30. His brother, Major-General Sir John Foley, is a former head of the SAS and commander of British forces in Hong Kong.

Page 18

Mary Celeste, 2003

From **Richard Shears** in Sydney

THE fate of the crew aboard a modern-day Mary Celeste has baffled investigators.

Naval officers who boarded a 60ft fishing vessel which had run out of fuel found food and drink laid out on the cabin table - but no sign of life.

It was an eerie reminder of the two-masted sailing ship discovered drifting between the Azores and the Portuguese coast in 1872 with breakfast laid, clothes neatly folded on bunks - and not a soul on board.

Last night a major international investigation was launched to find out what had happened to the crew of the Indonesian boat High Aim 6 in what was shaping up as a chilling mystery.

The vessel had sailed the high seas off the north-west coast of Australia with its engines running until it ran out of fuel.

But the crew had disappeared long before then, leaving a cargo of rotting fish.

An air-sea search covering some 7,300 square nautical miles of ocean has failed to find any trace of the lifeboat which had apparently been launched amid some panic, or of the crew, thought to number a dozen men.

Governments in South East Asia have been asked for help with any information.

'The boat was well-equipped'

The boat, which was registered in Indonesia, is believed to have left port at Taiwan.

It was spotted by the crew of a surveillance aircraft as it sailed in the general direction of the Australian coast from Indonesia.

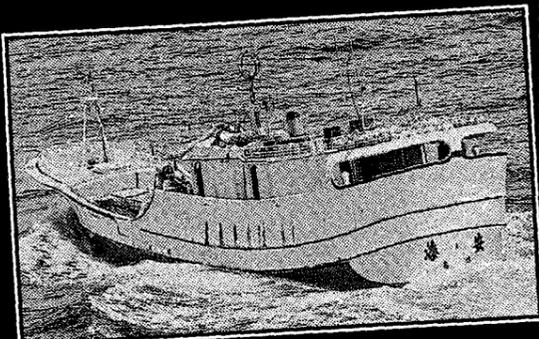
There were immediate fears that it was the first people-smuggling vessel to have tried to reach Australia in more than a year.

The fact that it was not keeping to any direct course added to suspicions that it was carrying illegal human cargo. Its propellers could be seen running, but there was no sign of life on board even then.

The Australian naval frigate Stuart intercepted the vessel approximately 90 miles off the coast of Broome, in north-west Australia.

The unfinished food and abandoned items of clothing implied that the crew had suddenly fled. But there was no indication of why.

What caused a fishing boat crew to abandon ship and disappear without trace?



Deep mysteries: The scene on board the abandoned fishing boat, left, was reminiscent of that on the Mary Celeste in 1872



If it had been attacked by pirates, they would have taken control of the vessel - or their presence would have been detected by the Australian sailors who came on board.

Investigators cannot fathom why the vessel should have been abandoned, because it appeared to be in no danger.

Even if the crew had been fishing illegally in Australian waters, there was nothing to be gained by abandoning the boat when it ran out of fuel. They had no hope of escaping the authorities or getting home in a lifeboat. Police have refused to spec-

ulate on the fate of the crew, but admit they are baffled by the case.

'There weren't any indications on board that anything untoward had happened,' said a spokesman for the Australian Federal Police in Western Australia.

'The fishing boat was well equipped and seaworthy and the weather has been calm for weeks.'

Mr Geoff Rohan, of the Australian Fisheries Management, said there was a chance the vessel had been set on auto-pilot before it was abandoned.

But no one can explain why. He

said: 'There's a lot of strange things associated with this boat and all I can say is what we've seen.'

'I can't give the answer to what's actually happened. We don't know.'

Late last night it was revealed that the last known contact with the High Aim 6 was more than a month ago.

On December 13, the boat's owners in Taiwan were contacted in a routine call by the captain from the Marshall Islands, which are halfway between Papua New Guinea and Hawaii.

The owners reported the vessel

missing after that date when attempts to make further contact failed.

The U.S. coastguard searched for the vessel in the Pacific Ocean, but failed to find it.

So who sailed it westwards towards Australia and Indonesia?

If the crew remained on board - as all the signs indicate - why did they break off communications?

Mr Bill Graham, Australian Federal Police co-ordinator, admitted last night: 'We might never learn what happened to the crew.'

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UFO investigators claim this

A super

THE object is certainly unidentified and appears to be flying.

Whether the enlarged image on the right really shows a UFO piloted by aliens remains to be seen.

But, according to the people who released it, this photo - and hundreds like it - is the best evidence yet of the existence of spacecraft from other worlds.

UFO investigators say the image was captured by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho), a Nasa satellite which was launched in 1996 to observe the sun.

Since then, it is said, the satellite has beamed back hundreds of images of UFOs travelling along a kind of alien super-highway.

A variety of 'spacecraft' can apparently be seen against the background of deep space.

They fail to navigate a straight course, which observers believe is evidence they are being steered by some sort of intelligent life form.

The satellite is stationed in space one million miles from Earth with its camera trained towards the sun. The objects photographed are likely to be only hundreds of miles from the satellite's lenses, say experts.

The images from Soho - a joint project by Nasa and the European Space Agency - are due to be made public at the National Space Centre in Leicester in a presentation by Mike Murray, 54, the owner of an electronics company in Manchester.

The images were shown to him by a Spanish businessman who picked them up from Soho through a huge satellite at his home outside

By **Tim Utton**
Science Reporter

Barcelona. Mr Murray said: 'I thought these pictures were astounding. The photos appear to show spacecraft passing in front of the sun.'

'When we asked Nasa about it they originally said it might be a fault on the camera, but by digitally enhancing the images we proved this wasn't the case.'

'Nasa then told us it could be asteroids or comets, but when we pointed out that the objects appeared to move independently and make turns they stopped answering our questions.'

'The very fact these crafts appear to be the same shape as other UFOs spotted in our stratosphere is very exciting.'

Nasa has refused to comment, but Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, said he was excited by the images.

'The images are irrefutable in that they are from official satellites owned by Nasa,' he said. 'They resemble the kind of spacecraft we used to see in sci-fi films like Star Trek.'

'To all intents and purposes here is evidence of anomalous objects in space that appear structured and seem to have intelligently controlled movements.'

'I'm excited at the prospect of seeing authenticated images coming into the public domain that have taxed a considerable number of people at Nasa.'

t.utton@dailymail.co.uk

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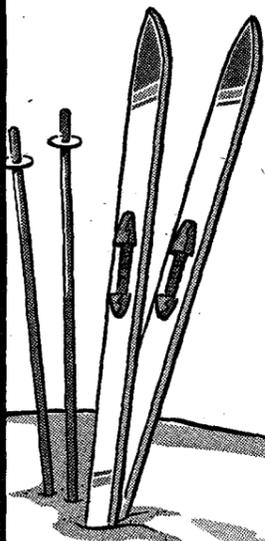
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Straw squirms as the Israelis mock his peace summit

JACK STRAW last night struggled to put a brave face on Labour's latest bid to kick-start the stalled Middle East peace process.

The Foreign Secretary insisted a mini-summit in London had been a success - even though Israel stopped the Palestinian delegation from attending.

As Israeli premier Ariel Sharon poured scorn on the event, Mr Straw was left claiming that the main achievement of the talks was to 'increase momentum towards reform of the Palestinian Authority'.

While the Palestinians offered 'commitments' to halt violence, the Foreign Secretary admitted that these did not amount to guarantees that the suicide bombings would stop.

And he conceded that Tony Blair's pledge to restart 'final status' talks between Israel and the Palestinians by the start of this year had 'not proved possible'.

There were even problems with the video link with officials in Gaza and Ramallah. Initial attempts to make contact failed because the Palestinians failed to answer.

Israel launched a fresh attack on the event, attended by officials from the U.S., the United Nations, the EU, Russia, Jordan and Egypt.

Israel stopped the Palestinian delegation from travelling following the murder of 22 people in a Tel Aviv sui-

By **Graeme Wilson**
Political Correspondent

cide bombing earlier this month. And Mr Sharon dismissed claims yesterday that the Palestinians were ready to reform their much-criticised government and security apparatus.

'Yasser Arafat cannot be trusted to carry out reforms which need to be performed in the Palestinian territories and not in London,' he said.

Mr Straw insisted the conference had made progress towards reform of the Authority.

He said the Palestinians had complained that the restrictions imposed by Israel undermined their attempts to push through changes.

But he added: 'They have responsibilities, prime responsibilities, to improve the security situation. That is acknowledged.'

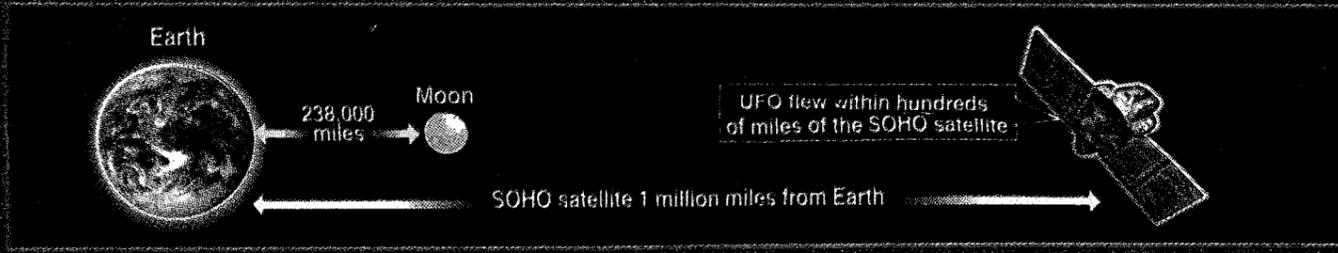
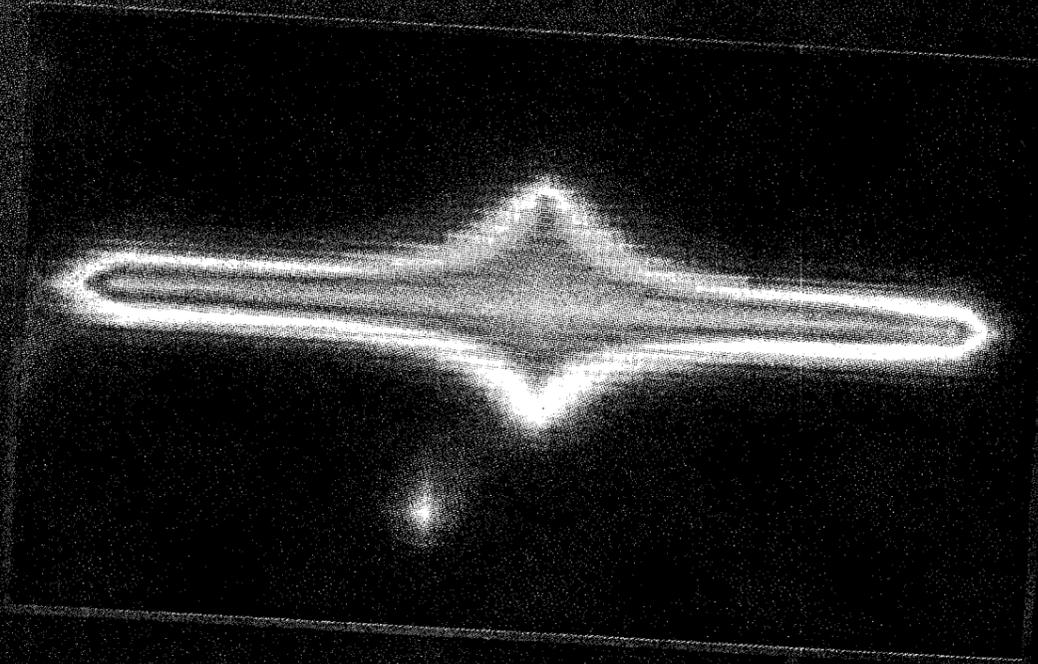
The Palestinian representative in London, Afif Safieh, said Mr Arafat was ready to reform but demanded concessions from Israel as well.

'The issue of reform should not be the tree that hides the forest (of occupation), and the forest in this case is an ugly sight,' he added.

Earlier, Israel's Labour party declared that it would not join a government led by Mr Sharon if he won the country's general election on January 28.

image, from a Nasa satellite, is the best evidence yet of flying saucers

highway for aliens?



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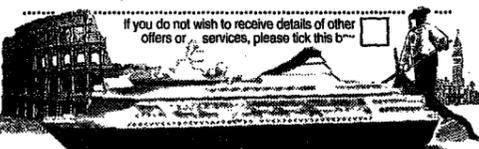
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Blair is poised to let U.S. base nuclear shield system in Britain

By **Paul Eastham**
Deputy Political Editor

BRITAIN has agreed to become a base for America's controversial 'Son of Star Wars' defence system.

In a move certain to infuriate Labour Left-wingers, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon will indicate today that Tony Blair is to allow the U.S. to use radar facilities here.

America will also be permitted to base missiles here.

It means that the Fylingdales early warning station in North Yorkshire will become an intimate part of President Bush's expensive military

shield, designed to shoot down enemy nuclear missiles.

The timing of the announcement could trigger a backbench rebellion. The majority of Labour MPs are already unhappy at the possibility of Britain's forces taking part in strikes on Iraq.

Tories, meanwhile, have accused Mr Blair of kowtowing to unilateralists on his backbenches by delaying a decision. After dithering over

the project for at least two years, Mr Blair appears to have decided that, as far as his Labour critics are concerned, he may as well get all the bad news over in one go.

The Prime Minister's decision will prove unpopular with some of Britain's leading EU allies, especially the French.

He also risks a CND backlash. Peace campaigners have pledged to make Fylingdales the next Greenham Common.

Mr Hoon is due to make a statement to the Commons today in advance of an appearance before the

Defence Select Committee. He will say that while consultations continue and no final decision has been taken, he is 'minded' to accept the American request.

Critics regard the Son of Star Wars project an absurdly expensive, dangerous and unproven experiment. It is likely to cost hundreds of billions of dollars over the coming decades.

Shadow Defence Secretary Bernard Jenkin said: 'It is about time that the Government made up its mind about this crucial project.'

I am sick and tired of Saddam. Time is running out

By **David Hughes** and **Matthew Hickley**

far I haven't seen any evidence that he is disarming.'

Mr Bush's spokesman Ari Fleischer hammered home the message, telling reporters: 'This is a question of not letting Saddam string the world along forever.'

'We've seen no evidence that he's made a strategic choice to disarm and therefore time is running out.'

In an interview with the BBC, the chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said his teams in Iraq have uncovered smuggling but it was too early to say if it was linked to weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, sources in Washington said last night that 200 U.S. soldiers have arrived in Israel for joint

George Bush: 'Saddam must disarm'

military exercises as the country prepares to go on high alert ahead of a possible war with Iraq.

The U.S. troops brought three Patriot anti-missile batteries with them for the joint manoeuvres code-named Juniper Cobra.

During the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq responded to U.S. strikes by lobbing 39 Scud missiles at Israel.

Britain has also chartered a fleet of 50 merchant ships to move heavy military equipment to the Gulf.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon yesterday announced

the dispatch of hundreds of Army vehicles from bases in the UK and Germany in the coming days.

The first wave of vehicles will include equipment needed to build bases for 20,000 or more British troops.

More than 200 military trucks, jeeps, diggers and ambulances converged on Marchwood Military Port in Hampshire yesterday, freshly painted in desert camouflage, ready to set sail.

The MOD said it was also preparing to charter commercial aircraft to carry personnel and equipment.

But there was outright defiance from Baghdad in the face of the military build-up.

'Saddam Hussein is a courageous leader and will stay in Iraq for a very long time and fight until the last Iraqi bullet,' deputy prime minister Tareq Aziz told the BBC.

Underscoring the divergent opinions across Europe, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said: 'War is not a foregone conclusion, it's up to us to prevent it.'

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he was in favour of a new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq.

d.hughes@daily.co.uk

Brown breaks his silence

GORDON Brown burst into the Iraq debate yesterday after months of silence with a warning that Saddam Hussein cannot go 'unpunished'.

He became the first Cabinet Minister to raise the idea that the Iraqi dictator must be 'punished', suggesting the UK wants a regime change in Baghdad, and not just disarmament.

Mr Brown's silence on Iraq had led to speculation he did not support military action.

But yesterday, after being asked about a GMTV poll showing 80 per cent of voters against war, Mr Brown said: 'I think people would agree that if the whole of the international community says disarm and a country and a dictator refuses to do so, you cannot just leave that dictator unpunished.'

Tony Blair today confronts his backbench critics when he addresses the Parliamentary Labour Party.

'That's the question: Is Saddam Hussein disarming? So



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I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3rd September regarding 'unidentified flying objects'.

You will be aware of the limited interest the Ministry of Defence has in these matters, from my previous letters, and there is nothing further I can add. Your letter has, however, been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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3/Sept 2002

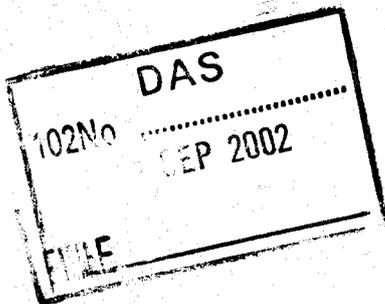
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page 13

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Cameras bid to capture black panther



County big cat sightings top 30

CAMERAS could soon be set up across the county in a bid to capture the elusive black panther on film.

ET readers have reported more than 30 sightings of the mysterious big cat, thought to prowl the countryside between Corby and Wellingborough. But so far nobody has been able to provide proof of its existence, despite this newspaper's offer of a £500 reward.

Now the British Black Cat Society is planning to set up cameras at sighting hotspots across the county, including Northamptonshire, after a record 800 reported sightings in the UK in the last 12 months.

Secretary and founder of the society Danny Bamping appealed for sightings of the creature.

He said: "I myself have dealt with a number of sightings in Northamptonshire and it has been quite a hotspot."

"We have some cameras already and we are planning to set up more in the hotspots, which could include Northamptonshire, depending on the number of sightings we have reported. It is a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

"We can only do so much with the money we have so in the next few weeks we will be trying to form as a registered charity, which means we could be eligible for grants and donations."

The last known sighting of the county's black panther was in July when John and Mary Smith, of Carlton Mews, Higham Ferrers, spotted the beast outside their home near the Griffin pub.

The couple said it was about 3ft long and 2ft high with a long tail.



AMAZED - Mary and John Smith stand where they spotted the big black creature from their window

The day we spotted the black panther

THE infamous black panther, said to have been spotted more than 30 times across the county, has been seen again in Higham Ferrers.

Mary and John Smith, of Carlton Mews, said they spotted the creature outside their home near the Griffin pub.

Pair startled as 'big cat' surfaces in

disappeared behind the bins and then it sprang down Carlton Mews. The light shone up it from the streetlights outside our house and you could see its eyes shining. We try to look through the bushes but I couldn't believe what I'd seen.



HOTSPOT - above and below, recent county sightings reported in the ET

Mum claims latest sighting of panther

A BLACK panther said to have been spotted more than 30 times across the county, has been seen again near Corby.

The cat was seen on Saturday morning near the recycling centre and landfill site in Widdow.

Trish Hunter contacted the Evening Telegraph after seeing what she was convinced was the legendary county black panther.

Mrs Hunter, 44, from Scatter-

Giant black cat spotted in fields near waste site

She said: "It was definitely not just a black cat, I thought 'am I losing my mind?'"

"But by the way it walked I don't think it could have been anything other than a panther."

"It was far bigger than a cat and its walk was much more unnatural."

"I didn't tell my daughter about it because I didn't want to scare her."

The first time the panther was seen in the area was in July 1999 in a field near Husbands Bosworth, between Rutland and Northampton.

Sightings were reported last year near Southwell School in Kettering and near Leighton.

In 1999 the Evening Telegraph even offered an award of £500 to anyone who could prove a sighting of it.

She watched it walk around for over a minute over the fields before it disappeared out of sight.

She said: "It was definitely not just a black cat, I thought 'am I losing my mind?'"

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DAY & NIGHT

BRITAIN'S TOP GOSSIP COLUMN: WITH KATHRYN SPENCER, JULIE CARPENTER & KATE BOHDANOWICZ

e-mail us at diary@express.co.uk



A red card for football fashion show

A CANCELLED charity fashion event featuring leading footballers – including England and Manchester United defender Wes Brown – is at the centre of a £16,000 High Court legal dispute.

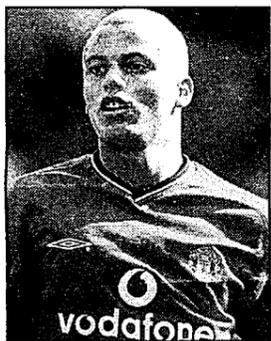
Tony Lewis, a fashion consultant, is suing the Professional Footballers Association for damages and unpaid fees of £16,240, after a players' fashion and photography exhibition and show, which he was helping to organise, was axed.

Lewis, who describes himself as "a respected figure in the fashion industry", claims his reputation was damaged when the association pulled out of the event.

He says the players' body agreed to pay him £25,000 to oversee fashion, photography and publicity for the exhibition, hosted by the association.

This included, he says, arranging a "successful" photoshoot with Wes Brown, commitment from 10 fashion houses and the design and production of jackets to be worn by footballers for portrait photographs.

While the PFA – a trade union which acts for professional footballers – paid him almost half of his fee, totalling £12,500, back in December last year, it has allegedly refused to pay the remainder of £16,240 or



SENT OFF: A charity fashion event, including Wes Brown, was scrapped

his expenses of just under £1,000. Lewis claims the association cancelled the exhibition "without any good cause", says it didn't tell him until late February this year and refused to cough up for costs incurred by third parties – mainly his contacts in the fashion industry.

The result has suffered "a loss of reputation" in the fashion industry.

The PFA is polishing its studs in anticipation of a bruising legal shoot-out and vigorously defends its position. "We are in dispute with Mr Lewis about this and the matter is in the hands of our lawyers," says PFA boss Gordon Taylor.

"We were going to have a footballers' fashion show with various players to raise money for charity but, in the end, the costs were cranking up left, right and centre and no money was going to charity, so we pulled the plug on it."

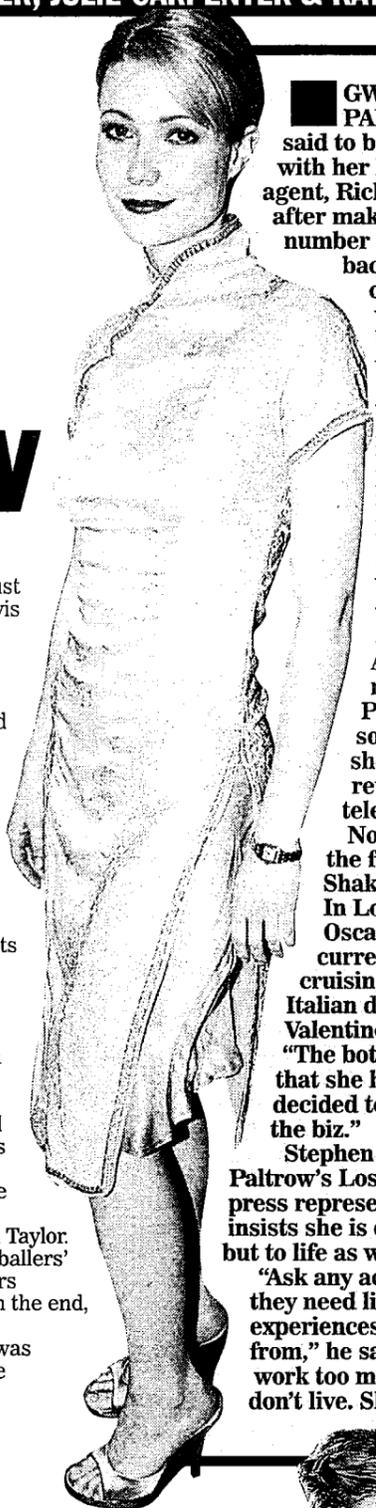
GWYNETH PALTROW is said to be furious with her Hollywood agent, Rick Kurtzman, after making a number of back-to-back films with only one weekend off between them.

"She was burned out, furious with Kurtzman for pushing her into all these films," says a New York friend, who claims, according to American reports, that Paltrow grew so angry that she stopped returning his telephone calls. Now, claims

the friend of the Shakespeare In Love Oscar-winner, currently cruising on Italian designer Valentino's yacht: "The bottom line is that she hasn't yet decided to return to the biz."

Stephen Huvane, Paltrow's Los Angeles press representative, insists she is committed – but to life as well as film.

"Ask any actor – they need life experiences to pull from," he says. "If you work too much, you don't live. She's living!"



Picture: PETER JORDAN

JULIA ROBERTS, famed for turning up at the London premiere of her film Notting Hill with as-nature-intended unshaven armpits, is, we hear, shaving her face these days. It is not so much that she has excessive facial hair – perish the thought – but she apparently just feels that nothing quite makes her skin glow more than a trendy beauty treatment known as "dermaplaning".

Julia, 34, newly married to cameraman Danny Moder, is seeing a specialist in Manhattan who gives her regular scrapings. The clandestine shaving sessions cost £100 each time.



UNLUCKY-IN-LOVE former newsreader Jan Leeming is not faring well in selling the former matrimonial home in Kent. Jan, 60, who has parted from her latest hubby, a Dover headteacher, had the detached period cottage in Finglesham on the market for almost £400,000. But she has had to slash the amount by £15,000 to £385,000. The sales blurb in the local newspaper outlines a "beautiful countryside location" and boasts such features as 3-4 bedrooms, hall/study, galley-style kitchen and swimming pool.



IS Mick Jagger an alien babe magnet as well as a specialist UFO? Mike Luckman seems to think so. "UFOs seem to follow Mick," says Luckman, author of Close Encounters Of A Musical Kind. "Not only did he and Marianne Faithful see a rare, cigar-shaped mother ship while camping at Glastonbury in 1968 but, during that period, Mick kept setting off a UFO alarm

whenever he left one of his estates in England." At the Rolling Stones' notorious 1969 concert in Altamont, California, one UFO was even caught on tape, says Luckman. "You can see the crowd turning away from the stage and looking at the sky... and I have quite a few reports of UFOs showing up at other concerts. "The music seems to attract them."

Claire does Full Monty



SALES of the Full Monty film soundtrack should soar because former Casualty actress Claire Goose has revealed that hearing the music magically makes her lose her clothes.

Claire, back as DC Mel Silver in the BBC crime drama Waking The Dead, split from boyfriend and fellow Casualty actor Jonathan Kerrigan in July last year.

Since then, the 27-year-old confesses to lads' glossy FHM Magazine (where she poses in a skimpy bikini) that she has been enjoying singledom and twitters: "I think I must have been hypnotised in the past, because whenever the Full Monty music comes on I seem to strip."

Wonder if Robert Carlyle suffers with the same problems?

AMERICAN Twit girl Paris Hilton would turn up at the opening of an envelope. But has the 21-year-old "model and actress" – an heiress to the multi-million pound Hilton Hotels fortune – turned over a new leaf?

Paris, who lives in Beverly Hills but has recently been in London filming the horror movie Nine Lives, has announced she is bored with the never-ending number of parties she gets invited to.

"It's the same crowd every night, mostly losers with no jobs," she tells Arena magazine, without a hint of irony. "No one's your real friend. It's just, like, really boring. I went out to The Standard in LA the other night for 20 minutes and was like, 'This sucks'. It used to be fun."

Oh, the hardship.



A model business

IF YOU'VE ever fancied meeting Naomi Campbell at a glitzy fashion party, you could be in luck. We hear that the stropky supermodel from Streatham is setting up a company that will plan parties and trips for those willing to fork out a lot of cash for the privilege.

Campbell and her skinny chums will make sure you attend the same affairs as models, designers and luvvies from her address book.

But, sadly, Naomi appears to have forgotten a minor detail in setting up her new business – the service does not yet have a phone number.

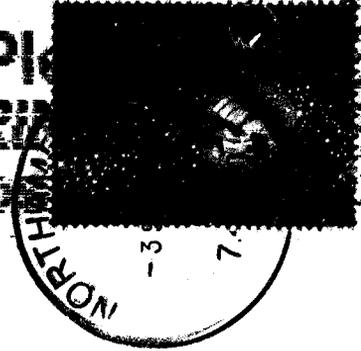
Who said models are stupid?





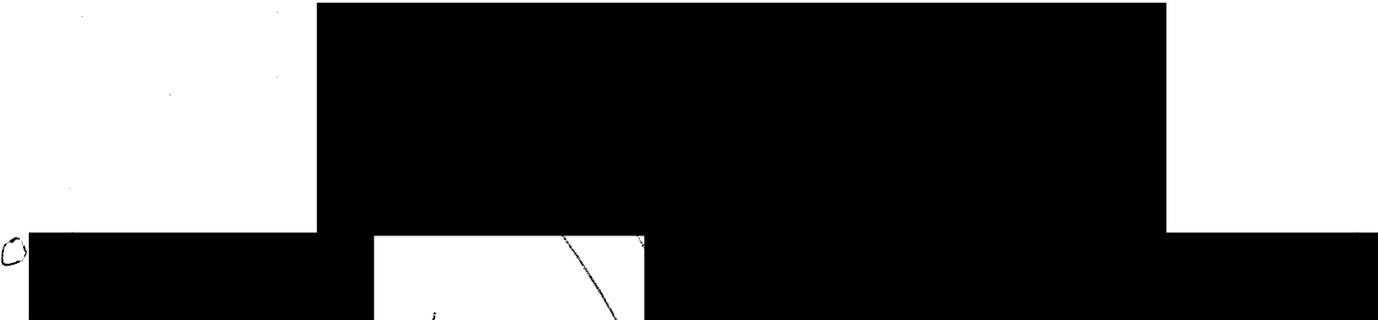
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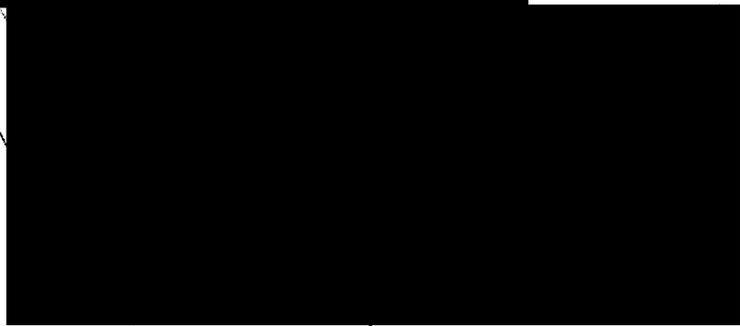


DAS
102No.
SEP 2002
FILE _____

C/O



Directorate of Air Staff (A1)
Ministry of Defence
Room 2245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB





From [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

28/8

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 PLY
Date
30 August 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter addressed to my colleague, [REDACTED] concerning Ministry of Defence policy with regard to 'unidentified flying objects'.

I am sorry that you believe we do not treat these matters as seriously as you may wish. As you will be aware from our previous correspondence, the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. Our only concern is whether the 'UFO' reports we receive present any evidence of a threat to the UK Air Policing Area by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

You also mentioned you saw a Chinook helicopter flying within 1000 feet of a 'UFO' and question whether we have put the accident on the Mull of Kintyre out of our minds. I can assure you that the Mull of Kintyre accident has not been forgotten and work continues on this matter. As for the helicopter you saw, I can confirm that we have not received any recent 'UFO' reports from military helicopter crew.

Finally, you enclosed a newspaper article about a paw print thought to be from a black panther. This is not of defence concern and therefore not a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

from

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
operations & Policy 1A

Ministry of Defence

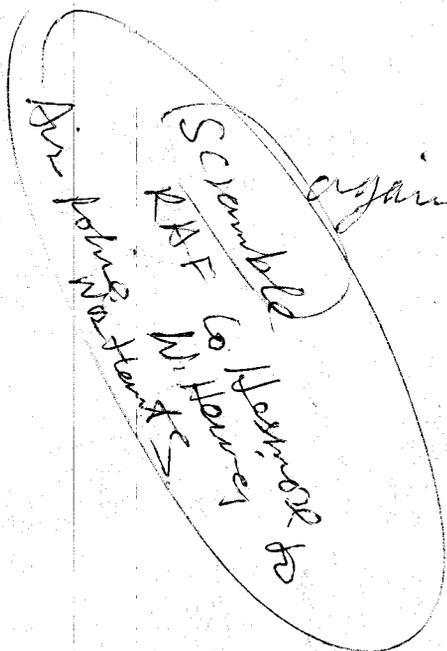
Room 6/73 Metropole Building
Ref/DAS/64/2. Northumberland Avenue
London

WC2N 5B

Dear

Your comments are always too negative concerning the Ministry of Defence has limited interest in unidentified flying objects I definitely do not agree with you I suggest you take the subject much more seriously concerning this matter I'm informing that I recently told person in charge of former Royal Air Force Camp North Luffenham Rutland now Army Royal Engineers the matter concerned a Canuck double rotor helicopter I witnessed coming to a thousand feet of disk (Block).

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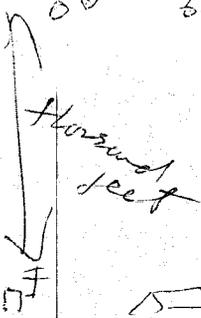
again expect some
reply'

Yours



going to RAF
Hastings
with
troops
on board?

time
5:30



Widowers in line for windfall

THE East Midlands War Pensions Committee is now helping war widowers in an important change to their pensions.

Thousands of widowers could be due up to £9,500 a year tax-free.

To claim a man must have been married to a woman whose death was caused by her service in the armed forces or a civil defence volunteer who died in the Second World War as a result of enemy action.

War widowers who had a claim for a pension rejected under the old rules prior to April 8 are not prevented from making a fresh claim under the new rules.

Widowers who believe they may qualify should call the Veterans Agency freeline on 0800 169 2277 or the local War Pensioners' Welfare office on 0115 942 8125.

Lucky numbers for threesome

WINNERS of August's Kettering Liberal Democrats 100 club draw have been announced.

First prize went to Tom Bowker of Kettering, who picked up £10 with ticket number 83, Edna Tyrer of Brixworth, with ticket number 2, won the second prize of £6 and the third prize of £3 went to Geoff Toseland, of Overstone.

Mystery panther leaves its mark



■ PRINT - Roy Lacey measures the giant paw ET picture: 130802.17.1

Roy asks:
Is this a
paw print
from a
big cat?



DOES this paw print belong to the legendary black panther?

A couple in Irchester say they found the paw print - 13cm long and 10cm wide - which they think must come from a big cat.

Roy Lacey, 69, of Higham Road, and his wife Hilary, 57, came across the print outside their home on Sunday.

Mr Lacey said: "There was a torrential downpour on Saturday night which washed a lot of silt and dust on to our driveway. When we got up on Sunday morning we found a large paw print.

"Where we live there is only two houses - my wife and I and our next-door neighbours. We have a cat and our neighbours have a little Jack Russell

BY JONI AGER

here but they have cloven hooves and the print is too round to be that of a fox.

"The funny thing is there is only one print so at first we thought someone must have been playing a joke. But there is no other logical explanation."

A creature resembling a black panther has been sighted more than 30 times across the county.

Sightings began in 1994 between Bulwick and Southwick, near Corby, and it was most recently reported at Higham Ferrers last month.

In 1996 the ET

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C/o



Directorate of Air Staff (Commercial)
Operations & Policy 1A

Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73 Metropole Building
Worthumberland Avenue
London

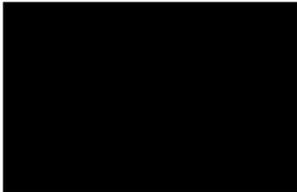
WC2N5B



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/6413 ✓ FY

Date
9 August 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July. As you will be aware from previous correspondence, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and I am therefore afraid that I have nothing to add to our earlier statements. Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

DAS
102No. [REDACTED]
22 JUL 2002
FILE



mt 0 D
London

Ref D / Das / 64 / 2

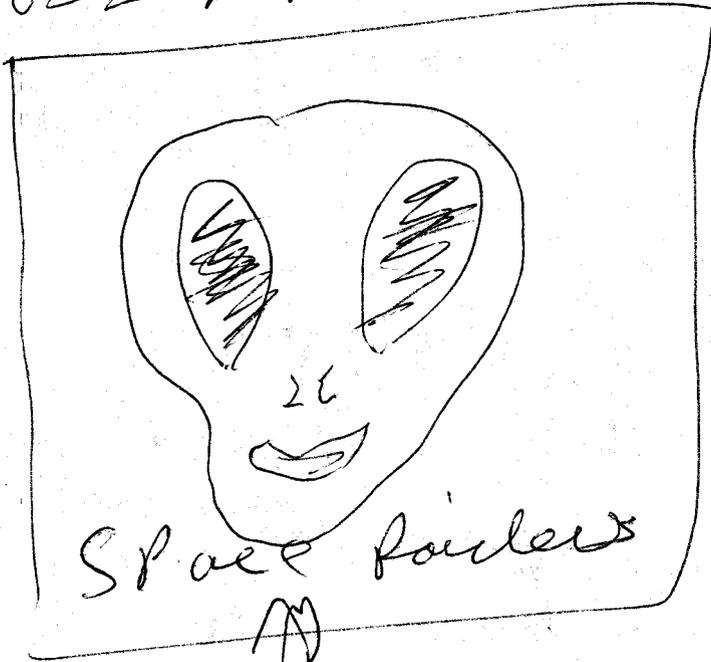
21 / 7 / 2002

Dens



I've sent these newspaper pieces one Black Panther seen in Wotlampsore also man in Black seen I feel all of UFO. Kids snacks Space Raiders packets empty were placed out of garden and disappeared before Connors could clear away. I put litters of neighbors deliberately who dumped them in James bed. I put them in a plastic bag for dustbin men they look like

Get RAF TO
Do lots of sorties
over WNTS



I believe
man in Black

is sinister
and real

he is cleaning up
his self only

put in file -

TOMORROW

PROPERTY FOR SALE



DON'T MAKE A MOVE BEFORE LOOKING AT OUR BUMPER HOMES SECTION

PLUS

WIN a pair of rail tickets to London

Mum claims latest sighting of panther

A BLACK panther said to have been spotted more than 30 times across the county, has been seen again near Corby.

The cat was seen on Saturday morning near the recycling centre and landfill site in Weldon.

Trish Pointer contacted the Evening Telegraph after seeing what she was convinced was the legendary county black panther.

Mrs Pointer, 34, from Scotter Walk, Corby, saw a large black

Giant black cat spotted in fields near waste site

cat near the landfill site while she was sitting in the car with her nine-year-old daughter Amy outside B&L Caravans in the village.

She watched it walk around for over a minute over the fields, before it disappeared out of sight over a dip in the land.

She said: "It was definitely not just a black cat. I thought 'am I losing my mind?'"

"But by the way it walked I don't think it could have been anything other than a panther."

"It was far bigger than a cat and its walk was much more purposeful."

"I didn't tell my daughter about it because I didn't want to scare her."

The first time the panther was seen in the area was in July 1994 in a field near Blackmore Thick Farm, between Bulwick and Southwick.

Sightings were reported last year near Southfield School in Kettering and near Loddington.

In 1996 the Evening Telegraph even offered an award of £500 to anyone who could prove a sighting of it.

Churches net cash boost for county repair work

CHURCHES throughout the county have received a financial boost to help with repair work.

The Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust has announced 11 grants totalling £18,000 to mend roofs, build disabled facilities and carry out a host of other work.

The grants include:

- £500 to St John the Baptist Church, Corby Old Village, for repairs to the roof, rewiring, new lighting and cleaning the stonework.
- £100 to St Michael's Church, Great Oakley, for lighting and rewiring.
- £2,000 to St Michael and All Angels, Wadenhoe, repairs to the roof.
- £1,500 to All Saints Church, Lamport, for repairs to the roof and floor, new guttering and downpipes.
- £1,500 to St Andrew's Church, Broughton, to build a toilet with disabled facilities.

Much of the money was raised through an annual sponsored bike ride in September. Nearly 300 churches opened for the day and were visited by more than 2,000 cyclists who raised more than £34,000, the highest amount the event has ever raised.

This year's bike ride will take place on Saturday, September 14, and organisers are hoping even more people will take part.

Anyone interested should ask at their local church for details.

Trust chairman Peter Haddon said: "We are delighted to be able to help 11 churches with these grants."

"Our grants are relatively small when considering the total cost of the repairs that these churches are undertaking - about £300,000.

However, this is an important role for the trust."



■ **CLEANING UP** - from left, Tom Sadler, Lee Munton and Jason Sadler who are hoping to join Scouts from all over the world in Thailand at the end of December for the 20th World Scout Jamboree.

ET picture: CJL73439.22

Scouts close in on trip target

SCOUTS washed cars outside a Kettering gym in a bid to raise money for a trip to Thailand.

Three Kettering teenagers have been given the opportunity to join Scouts from all over the world in Thailand at the end of December for the 20th World Scout Jamboree. But they have to raise £2,500 each.

Lee Munton, 14, and Tom Sadler, 15, and his brother Jason, 14, got busy with sponges outside Hunter fitness centre at Kettering.

They hope to join about 20,000 other Scouts at the jamboree.

Lee's dad Kevin said: "They have done really well and are on the home straight now. They already have

more than £7,000 of the £7,500 they need.

"We would like to thank the fitness centre for letting us use its forecourt to wash people's cars and everyone who has helped us raise the money."

The car washing session raised £64.

TILES

over 25,000 designs to choose from!






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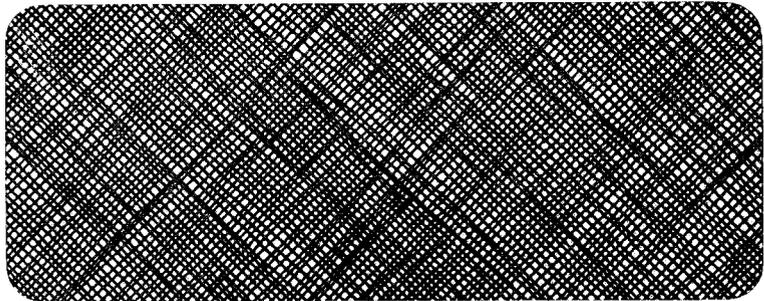
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C/O



Director of Air Staff
(Comes Air Support)

Operations
and policy
1 Room

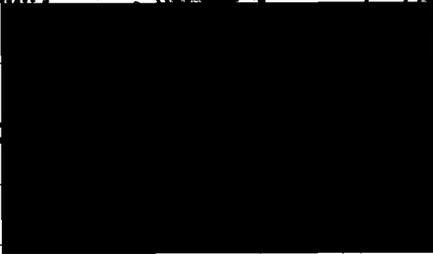
Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
Worthington House
London WC2N 5BA
6/23

MOD

White Hall
London.

DAS	
102No.	
21 MAY 2002	
FILE	

ENCLOSURE 9



19/5/2002

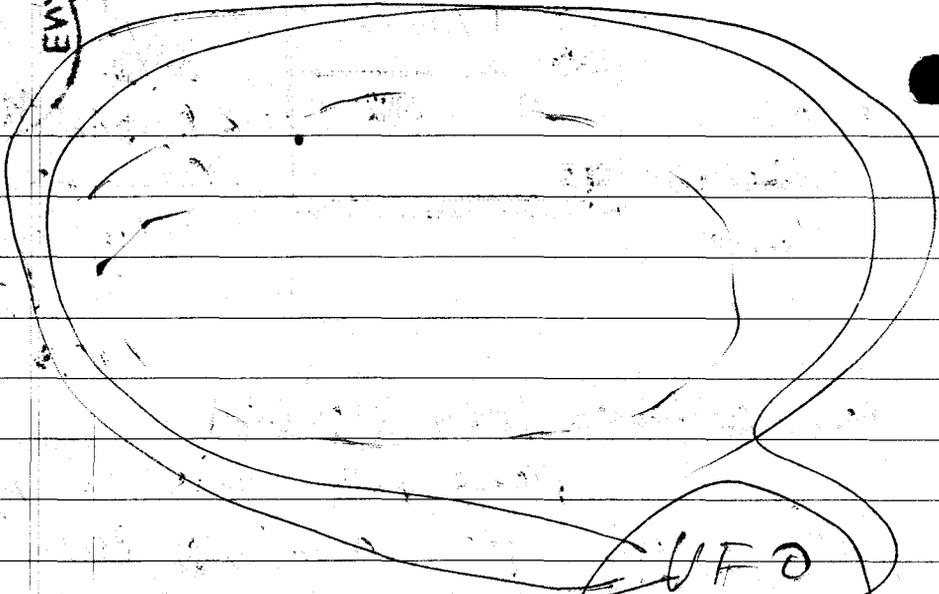
Dear [redacted]



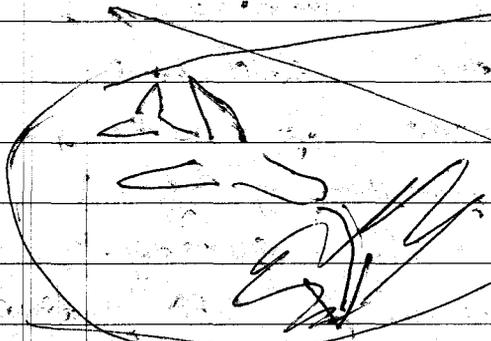
Please put this in my file with the drawing of tornado in Bruff Yorkshire instances of magnetic wave could have applied to tornado to waves of size and sleep accompanying $\frac{22}{2} \frac{1}{3}$ p.e. mathematical gravity possible phenomenon of UFO instances AS instances not that enlargement to Bruff in Yorkshire from [redacted]



CONFIDENTIAL



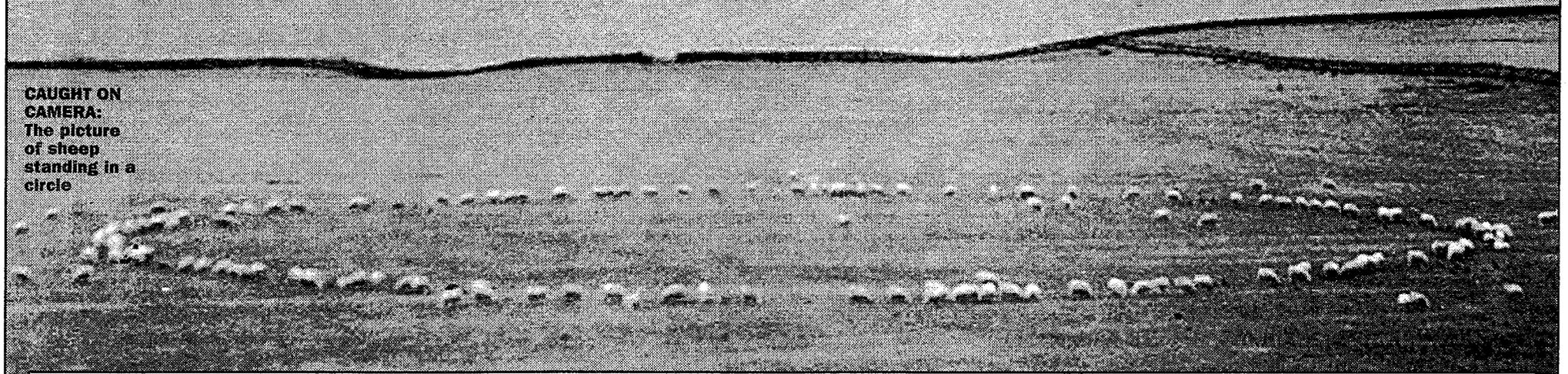
UFO



River
current

What's cropped up? A sheep circle

CAUGHT ON CAMERA:
The picture of sheep standing in a circle



ONCE upon a time crop circles could be guaranteed to pull in a huge audience of those convinced of the existence of a mystical world beyond our knowledge.

But these days they have become rather corny. Seekers of bizarre phenomena have come up with a new and even stranger craze for the summer – sheep circles.

This is the picture, believed to be the only one of its kind in the world, which has caused the frenzy. Taken by Pam Penfold, from Rainham, Kent, it shows 107 sheep

By Greg Swift

standing or lying in a distinct circle about 170ft in diameter. Mrs Penfold, 40, took the photograph from a lay-by on the A9 near Inverness.

Yesterday she said: "We were driving back from the Highlands and wanted to change drivers because it is a such a long journey.

"We stopped to have a picnic as well and I noticed that a flock of sheep in a nearby

field were standing in what looked like a circle.

"It was a bit ragged at first and there were a few strays but after about 25 minutes they had all formed into a circle and were standing almost exactly the same distance from each other.

"It was so unusual that I took a photograph which I subsequently passed on to a friend who is into crop circles.

"He wrote about it in a magazine and put it on the Internet and the whole thing took

off. I have had people contacting me wanting to know more about the picture, it is being discussed in online chat rooms and an American author, Neil Olsen, has asked me if he can use it in his next book."

Mrs Penfold's sheep circle is already being mentioned in scientific journals but as yet no explanation for the strange formation has suggested a coherent cause.

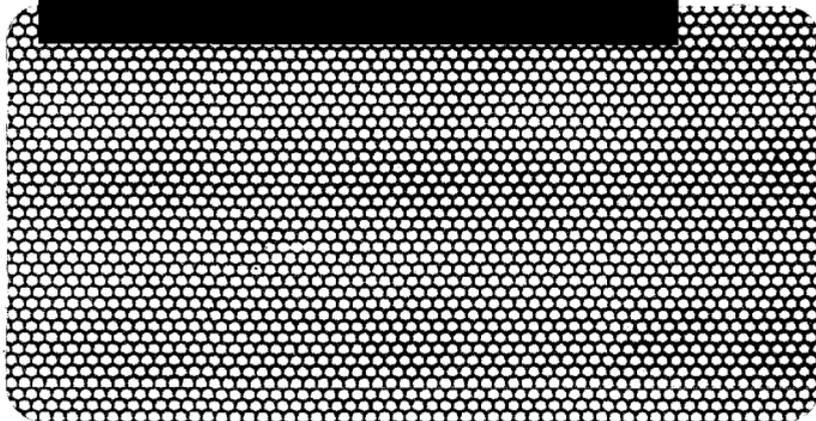
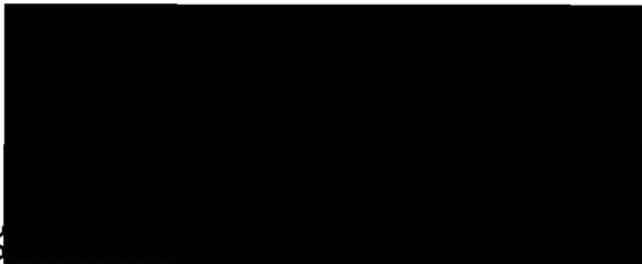
One theory, taken from the crop circle world, is that small, circular winds force the sheep to gather in this way.

~~1777~~
FIRST CLASS

HSA



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E 027
HT 91369 N



C/O


Directorate of Air Staff
Ministry of Defence
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HG



From: [redacted] Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace) 8 *[initials]*
Operations and Policy 1 Room 6/73
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Metropole Building, Northumberland House, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 0207 218 2140
(Fax) [redacted]

[redacted]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 ←

Date
29 August 2001

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2001. As you will be aware from previous correspondence, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and I am therefore afraid that I have nothing to add to our earlier statements. Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely
[redacted]

Air we go.. thanks to AA

AA mechanic Terry Kirton, 47, was a highlight of RAF Cottesmore's air show yesterday - after helping a pilot locked out of his PLANE.

the
1 se

Headquarters of Air Staff LA1
Ministry of Defence
Room 8245

Main Building
Whitehall London.

29/July 2001

Dear [REDACTED]

I put this in file As I strongly believe in being joined to day Sunday 29th July 2001 By my reflections to MOD on Stealth at today's RIAT at RAF Cosford.

8-30 Am took Corgi pet dog out and was though myself taking great care pet dog didn't involve other loose dogs was chased on by large black stray dog that (could have torn Corgi to pieces) I was on relief to escape potential attack problem by juster errant dog owner who let his large dog loose off claim for me to run for my life and near jump holding Corgi a stream forced to

Climb a steep bank from station
amidst stinking toilet
had killed by pest control
in the afternoon subjected to
Lead Aches and need to visit
toilet often whilst watching
Grand Prix at Hockenheim
At night at local pub
was refused a 4 pint jug of
beer because I had to visit toilet
and lost time on special offer
was 2 pm I got to bar at 7:05
then joined to lose a gift token
As I'd failed to notice small
print on voucher expiring week ago
but I'd got the right date but
failed to notice expiration date to
register week advance

to top it all I read RAF
had to get AA to break into
his tornado aircraft perhaps

The junk of stealth ought be
encouraged and Royal Air Force College
by a Royal Air Force
yard quite

JOIN TODAY

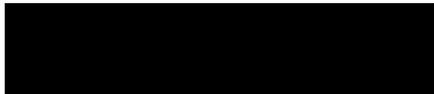
ANDOVER
27.VII.01
HANTS.

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NV

c/o



SP423041 FAC TSB

Directorate of Air Staff
Ministry of Defence
~~Room 2245~~
~~main building~~
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

6/24
M/T



From: [redacted] Directorate of Air Staff 4a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

~~7~~
7

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) [redacted]

[redacted]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 ← P+V
Date
24 July 2001

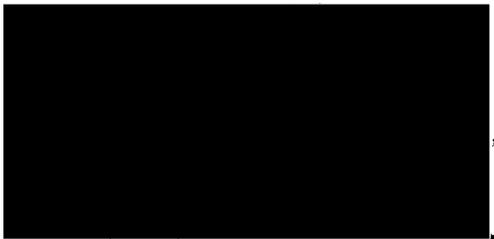
Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letters dated 13 & 21 July 2001. As you will be aware from previous correspondence, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and I am therefore afraid that I have nothing to add to our earlier statements. Your letters have been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely
[redacted]

hold this letter on my file of answers to yours
11/7/2001 reply please

Ministry of Defence
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London



Dear [redacted]

13th July 2001

Your ^{Directorate of Air Staff 4A1} confirmation of NO evidence on Royal Estates I must ^{re-highlight} the record ^{alike Sandringham} Balmoral ^{though NO evidence of UFO sightings} featured ^{being} scanned and seeing of sightings of unidentified flying object in SUN newspapers I can remember seeing several years ago So if Balmoral Royal Palace Estate be targeted by extraterrestrial unidentified flying objects on concern of Balmoral staff and local residents Why in God's Name cannot Sandringham Royal Estate ^{be targeted by UFOs dropping of black panthers} of which SUN newspaper ^{invoiced} Front page cover of which you hold on file of my inputs to Ministry of Defence on Black panthers being ^{seen} ^{flown} on Sandringham Royal Estate and may I add the

sightings of black panthers at Rutland
and evidence of mutilated corpses
of pets wildlife corresponded with
my private sightings ^{witness} of heavy
Alien noise and lights ^{at the time of} Rutland
Wellingborough at nighttime the ^{Black Panther} sightings
Rutland times for weeks
perused references of sightings
of Black panthers and Police
endorsements to public to be on
awareness NOT to ~~write in~~
to fields located to sightings
of Black panthers.

Newly knighted Doctor Patrick
Moore sent me card endorsing

NO Faith in Aliens
and he being knighted by
Regender of the Faith Sovereign
Her Majesty the Queen.

So BBC Astronomer wanted Royales
knighted NO Faith in UFOs Black Panther

Aliens Ask Grp. (pt Resome at RAF Wittering magaz)
sent advertisement of ^{Rutland} RIFM last year endorsed for my
cases of UFO ect done to reintegrate

- be abusive;
- interrupt other speakers or the Committee debate.

◆ ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Councillors will always give equal weight to views received from members of the public in writing so as not to disadvantage those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend a meeting, or who are unable to speak in public.
- The right to speak does not apply to formal consultees like the County Council, English Heritage, the Ramblers' Association etc. There is already a procedure for involving these organisations in the planning decision making process.
- A list of the dates of Development Committee meetings for the year is available from the Committee Clerk on 01832 742109.
- The agenda for each Development Committee is available for public inspection at East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston, the Rushden Centre, Rushden and the Tourist Information Centre in Oundle on the Friday preceding the meeting.

- If English is not your first language and you would like help with interpretation or translation please contact the Committee Clerk on 01832 742109.

- Nothing in these arrangements shall supersede the Council's Standing Orders for the proper conduct of the meeting.
- The Chairman's authority at a meeting is final.

This leaflet explains the arrangements for applicants, objectors and local Councils to speak on **planning applications** at meetings of the Development Committee. There are similar arrangements if you want to speak to the Committee about other agenda items – in which case please read the companion leaflet "HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS"

If you need further information -

Telephone 01832 742109

Fax 01832 734839

DX 701611 Thrapston.

*Sent this as window
to letter to endorse
in no easy put over by Ligned
answered
on*

Published by
East Northamptonshire Council

NO evidence

VFO & Black Panthers

BID/KD 1996/2



**EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
COUNCIL**

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**How to speak to the
Development Committee about
Planning applications**

◆ TALKING TO THE COMMITTEE ABOUT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are written consultation and notification procedures for planning applications. Now you can also speak directly to Councillors at the meeting of the Development Committee dealing with the application.

◆ *How do I arrange to speak?*

Anyone who wants to speak at a meeting of the Development Committee must inform the Council beforehand. You should write to or telephone the Committee Clerk (01832 742109) **before 5.00 p.m. on the last working day before the meeting.**

If you have written to us with your objections on a planning application you will be sent a letter telling you the date of the Development Committee which will consider the application.

◆ *Where are meetings held?*

Development Committee meetings are held on Wednesdays at intervals of 3 to 4 weeks in the Council Chamber at East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston, starting at 7.30 p.m.

◆ *Who can speak?*

A maximum of 3 speakers will be allowed per application. One person is allowed to speak on behalf of the Parish or Town Council; one on behalf of objectors, and the applicant or their representative or supporter. If several people wish to speak for or against the same

application they will be asked to choose a spokesperson to represent them. Otherwise requests will be dealt with on a "first to ask, first served" basis. Professional agents eg lawyers or consultants will not be allowed to speak.

◆ *How long can I speak?*

You may speak for up to 2 minutes, after which you will be asked to stop.

A microphone is provided in the public gallery for you to use. The end of the 2 minutes will be signalled automatically by means of a red light.

Speakers should make a statement with their views and comments. They should not ask questions. Objections must relate to how you think the proposed development will affect you and should be confined to "material planning considerations".

◆ *What are "material planning considerations"?*

This means things like residential amenity, highway safety and traffic; noise, disturbance and smell; design and appearance; the effect on the character or amenity of an area; the effect on historic buildings or on trees; the planning policies of the Council, the local plan, the Structure Plan and Government planning guidance.

Things which the Committee cannot take into account and which are not planning issues include private property rights, loss of view, the effect on property values, and the applicant's morals or motives.

◆ *How will I know when to speak?*

The Chairman of the Committee will invite you to speak.

◆ *Will I be asked questions?*

At the discretion of the Chairman you may be asked to expand or clarify something you have said.

◆ *What happens then?*

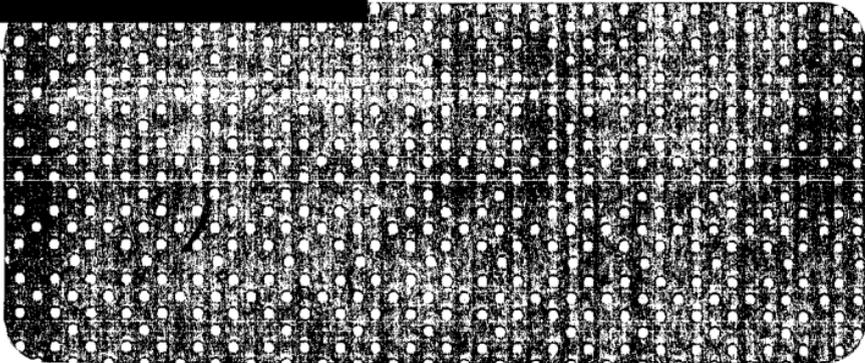
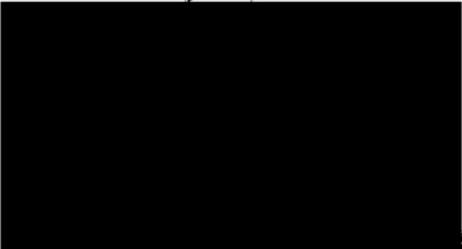
The Committee will discuss the application and decide either to permit or refuse it. Sometimes a decision will be deferred to a future meeting, to give the applicant an opportunity to amend the proposal or for further information to be obtained.

If the application you are interested in is deferred, it will be brought forward to a future meeting. You will have an opportunity to address that meeting too.

◆ PLEASE DO NOT

- ask individual Councillors or Officers direct questions;
- show maps, plans or photographs to illustrate your comments (plans are already displayed for Councillors in the Council Chamber);
- make statements of a personal or defamatory nature (which could result in legal action against you);

FIRST CLASS



EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
East Northamptonshire House
Cedar Drive
Wrapston NN14 4LZ

KETTERING
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C/O Ministry of Defence



Directorate of Busby
Room 8 245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Planners put brakes on raceway expansion

BY MIKE LAUGHTON

Decision deferred on new speedway grandstands

PLANNING permission to build two new grandstands at Rockingham Speedway has been blocked.

East Northamptonshire Council's planning committee deferred a decision on the application after listening to objections from residents living in villages near the new raceway.

One of the strongest critics of the scheme was the county councillor for the Oundle area, Priscilla Padley, who represents the villages of Laxton,

Harringworth and Bulwick. She spoke at the start of the meeting of the committee in the slot reserved for members of the public to voice their opinions on applications.

She said: "The view that because the Rockingham Building and Corby Power Station already exist to offend the eye is no justification to build an even uglier eyesore in what is an other-

wise beautiful rural area."

After the meeting Mrs Padley said: "I am very pleased planning permission has been deferred."

Rockingham Motor Speedway is already building the two additional grandstands, which would bring the total seating capacity up to 50,000, so the planning permission being sought is retrospective.

Developers who start building work before permission is granted do so at their own risk. There is always a possibility planning permission can be refused. In such an event the construction would have to be demolished.

Several members of the East Northamptonshire development committee expressed the view that Rockingham Motor Speedway should be forced to comply with existing planning conditions before any additional permission is granted.

Speedway spokesman Steve Slater said: "The council's own planning officers recommended that permission be granted and we shall continue to build as we are entitled to do."

TV films

10.40 **FILM PURE COUNTRY (1992)**
Drama. George Strait and Isabel
Glasser star. (T) 29164594
12.30 **ITV NEWS, LOCAL NEWS,**
"WAT"

THURSDAY

PAPER TIGER (1975): An English tutor seeks to impress the kidnapped son of a Japanese ambassador by acting out the many tales of heroism that have impressed the youngster - but his plan soon backfires. (ITV, 10.40am)

FIRE! TRAPPED ON THE 37TH FLOOR (1991): Lee Majors stars as one of a group of dedicated firefighters who struggle to save the lives of two employees trapped inside a Los Angeles skyscraper engulfed by a raging fire. (CHANNEL 5, 3.35pm)

THE LAST DON II (1998): Based on a novel by Godfather author Mario Puzo, this sequel takes a look at what happens when the original Don's son takes over his father's empire. (CHANNEL 5, 9pm)

MOTHER TRUCKER: THE DIANA KILMURY STORY (1996): Interesting drama based on the true story of a woman who was injured in a car crash with her son, prompting her to tackle corrupt union bosses to get the disability payments she deserved. (BBC1, 11.30pm)

FRIDAY

PURE COUNTRY (1992): George Strait stars as a country music star who abandons his glamorous life and returns to his simple roots. (ITV, 10.40am)

VideoPlus+: Just enter the VideoPlus+ number(s) for the relevant programme(s) into your video recorder for easy taping. For more details call VideoPlus on 09062 750710. All calls charged at 25p per minute. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of Gemstar Development Corporation. © 2001.



ANGLIA

6.00 GMTV. 5821223; **9.25** Trisha. 9133117; **10.30** ITV News Headlines. 3520136; **10.35** Anglia News and Weather. 3529407; **10.40** FILM: Pure Country (1992). 29164594; **12.30**

A MYSTERIOUS corn circle measuring 50 feet in diameter appeared in a corn field outside Wellingborough.

● A mysterious corn circle measuring 50 feet in diameter appeared near Wellingborough.

Directorate of Air Staff 4A

Room 8245

Ministry of Defence

Main Building

Whitehall

London.

MINISTRY

23

FILE

21/July 2001

Dear [REDACTED]

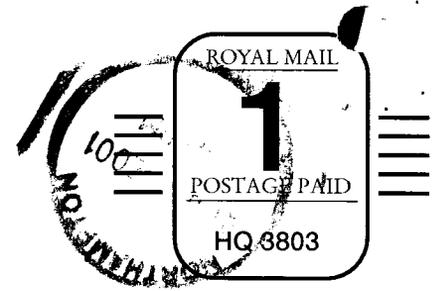
Her Majesty the Queen opened
Rockingham Speedway and sequences of recent
opening by Sovereign of the Crown are not
consistent of Royal Warrant being
Council in demolition mode of Grandstand
this seasons I write is reminiscent of
instant demolition of South African Space
Telescope believed to be by intelligences
of unidentified flying objects I feel on
my recent eye opened to you of
Balmoral scambling of Harrier Jump Jets
by intrusion of actual media report
by MOD of unidentified flying objects
I suggest prior to secret of recent
stealth fighter arrival to RIAT at
RAF Cottesmore of 28 29 July date you
police Air space and clean recent Royal Warrant

What with my recent input of brooch
gifted to Sovereign of Panther and
of my concerns of its party image
of unidentified flying objects
A crop circle was recorded of 50 (approx)
just few miles from my residence
The occurrence occurred on field within
5 minutes of James passing his field
on road and returning driving cycle
A film yesterday screened on TV
depicted unidentified flying object.
The exact time recorded on run of film
The film be of Warner Bros perhaps
TV network allow you to scrutinise
American film and again police for
safety and security of recipients of
viewing British public my recent
leaked reply to [redacted] was
Honest and accompanied by my public
speaker platform of East Wiltshire
Council who actually Her Majesty I sent
request to speak letter from Chief planner Mr Fred BA

Yours obliged [redacted]

P.S. RAH Ranson PTI Post
on 6/5/81 burnt need
twice count 3 to [redacted] (out)

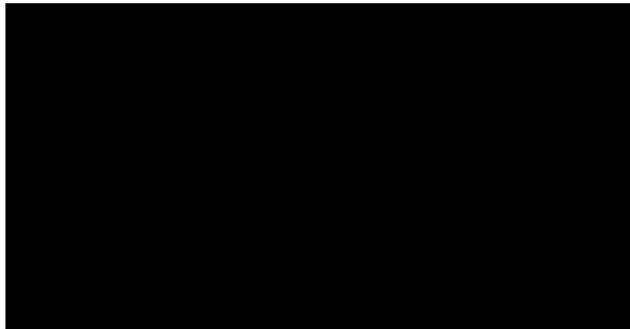
IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED



C/o



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(GTN) [REDACTED]

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Your Reference

Our Reference D/DAS/64/3 *AN*
Date 4 July 2001

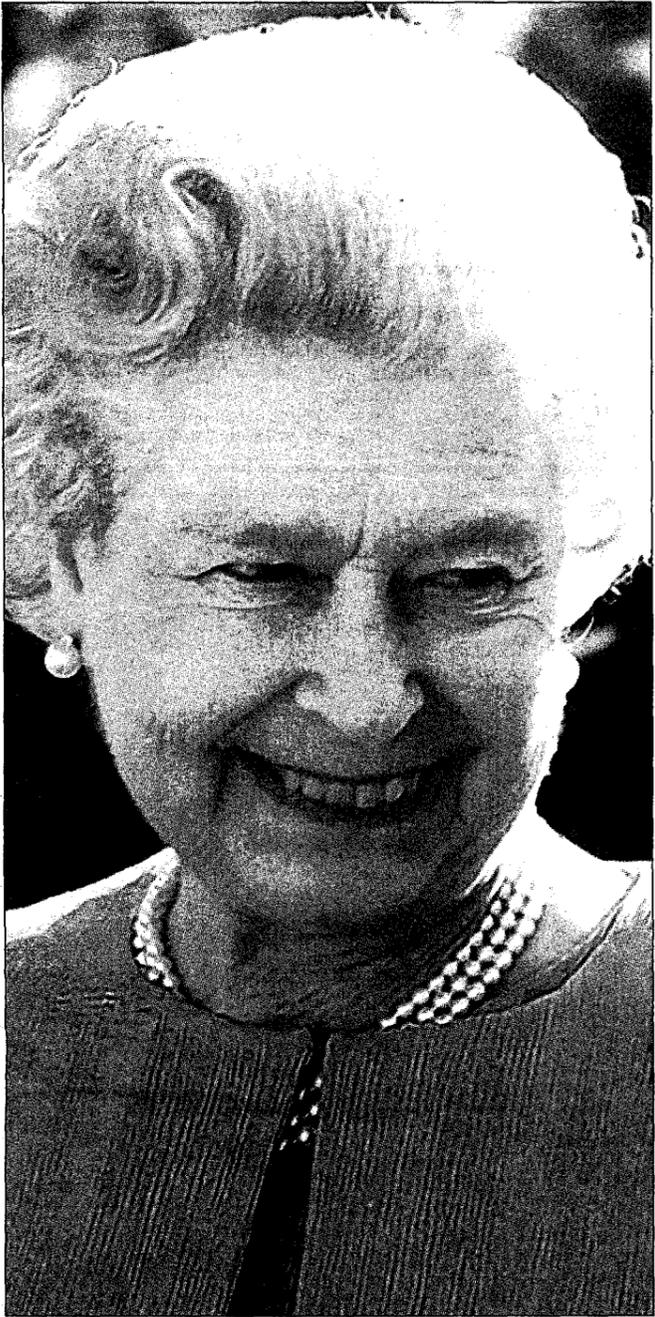
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter in which you enclosed a newspaper cutting from the Evening Telegraph.

You will be aware from our previous correspondence that this Department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects'. The newspaper cutting you sent gives details of a local Jeweller who has made a commemorative brooch for the Queen and your letter is not clear as to why you have sent this to us. I have however, placed your letter on our files as requested.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Jeweller creates a gift fit for royalty

JEWELLER Les Kemp was busy yesterday putting the finishing touches to the brooch he has made for the Queen.

Mr Kemp, of LeSandra in the Kettering Business Exchange, Rockingham Road, has created an 18 carat gold leopard's head brooch, with tiny brown diamonds for spots, set in mopani wood from Zimbabwe.

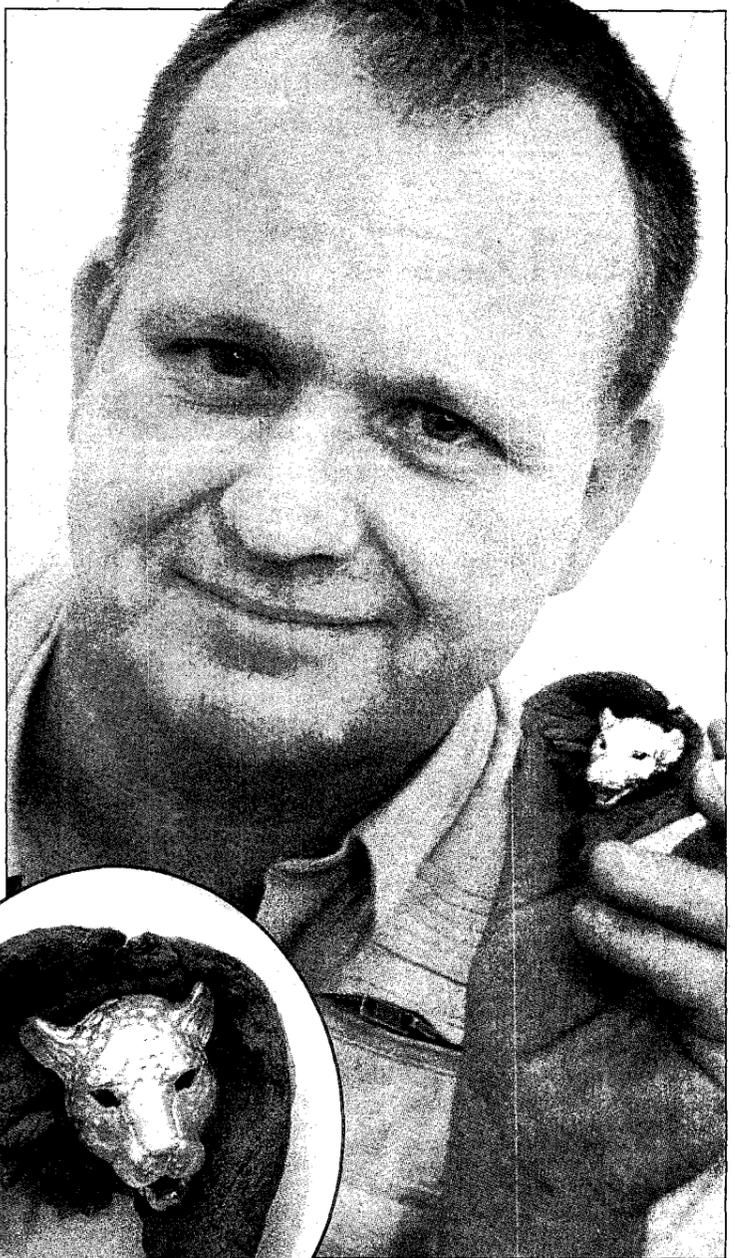
It was to be presented this morning in a wooden box, inlaid with commemorative silver plates and topped with a silver leopard with sapphires for spots and peridot beads for eyes.

The whole lot would cost about £6,000 to buy.

And it has been no mean feat for Mr Kemp, who was born in Zimbabwe, to finish the brooch in time. He has spent about four days working on the piece and has made five trips to Birmingham in the last week to get it hallmarked.

Yesterday, with 72 tiny diamonds to set, he still faced hours of work. But he said it had all been worth it.

"For the most famous and most powerful woman in the world to come to our business is a great honour," he said. Mr Kemp will be making a limited number of copies for sale.



■ ROYAL GIFT - Les Kemp and the brooch he has made for the Queen

ET picture: CJN15470.5

500 children to greet the queen

HUNDREDS of schoolchildren will become part of history when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit the county today.

About 500 children from 19 schools across the town have been invited to see the Royal party at Rockingham Motor Speedway.

Rockingham Speedway spokesman Steve Slater said: "It's a great opportunity for them. We are delighted to host them and it gives them a chance to see Her Majesty close up and see a little bit about what we do at Rockingham."

"It may also inspire some to get involved in the motor racing industry."

Studfall Junior head Paul Rangecroft, who has helped co-ordinate the children's involvement, said: "It is an opportunity for children in the town to take part in the Queen's visit. They will also get chance to look around Rockingham Speedway."

The infant, junior and

primary schools will take 25 children from years two and six. They will have access to the top of the pit garages and will see the Royals below as they are shown around the pit lane.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince Philip, will formally

open the Rockingham Building, tour the new facilities and have lunch. The Royal party will be greeted by Corby Pipe Band. The Queen will inspect displays by the emergency services and St John Ambulance.

The Duke of Edinburgh will

tour the pits area where British companies including Reynard, Cosworth, Silverstone and British American Racing will have exhibits.

The Queen will unveil a plaque commemorating the visit after lunch.

The places they will visit

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were due to start their visit this morning with a walkabout in Gold Street, Kettering.

The Queen was then expected at the Kettering Business Exchange, in Rockingham Road, where she was to meet four companies and officially open the building.

Meanwhile, the duke was to visit

CRP Print and Packaging in Corby, before rejoining the Queen for a tour of Rockingham Motor Speedway, where she was to perform the official opening.

During the afternoon the Queen was to visit Uppingham and Oakham while Prince Philip was to visit a new birdwatching centre at Rutland Water.

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NEWSBRIEF

London

Jury still out

THE Old Bailey jurors in the Jill Dando murder trial were sent to a hotel last night after a day considering their verdict.

Mr Justice Gage warned the members of the jury not to discuss the case with anyone or even among themselves overnight, and told them to return to the Old Bailey this morning.

The five men and seven women, have been told not to think they are under any pressure.

Barry George, 41, unemployed, from Crookham Road, Fulham, south-west London, has denied murdering Miss Dando on April 26, 1999.

Northern Ireland

PM's Trimble bid

PRIME Minister Tony Blair and Irish Premier Bertie Ahern are expected back in Northern Ireland today in a last-ditch bid to prevent David Trimble quitting as First Minister of the power-sharing executive.

Sources say talks have been arranged at Hillsborough Castle, Co Down. It is believed the two leaders will meet Mr Trimble as well as the Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon.

Oxford

Knife lodged in head

A WOMAN was undergoing emergency surgery today to remove a 14-inch knife embedded in her head, Thames Valley police said.

The 41-year-old woman was in a serious condition in hospital after the knife was lodged in the back of her head during an incident at a home in Oxford.

Police and ambulance crews were called to the flat in Field Avenue, Blackbird Leys. The woman was taken to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford where she was undergoing surgery to remove the knife, a police spokesman said.

National

Archer to stay silent

LORD Archer will not be called to give evidence at his Old Bailey trial, the jury was told.

Archer, 61, and his former friend Ted Francis, 67, are accused of dishonesty over a 1987 High Court libel case in which Archer was accused of having sex with a prostitute.

Archer - will not give evidence.

National Lottery

Jackpot of £17 million

WINNING numbers in the National Lottery midweek draw last night were 45,12,49,39,18,43. The bonus number was 33.

The estimated jackpot this week was £17,100,000, and machine used in the draw was Merlin.



Radio DJ Chris Evans.

Virgin to make Evans announcement

VIRGIN Radio was today expected to make an announcement about the future of its absent DJ Chris Evans.

The station said yesterday it was "examining all options" to tie up the ongoing saga after the 35-year-old presenter missed a fifth successive show.

Evans himself was keeping tight-lipped about his broadcasting future as he holed up at his country mansion after missing his latest programme.

The presenter has failed to turn up for

his Breakfast Show slot at Virgin Radio since last Wednesday with the station still insisting he is "unwell".

Evans has been spotted repeatedly out drinking and was on Tuesday seen stocking up on alcohol at a supermarket near his Surrey home.

There has been speculation that Evans has no intention of returning to the show after his programme team left and he failed to see eye to eye with a new station boss.

But Evans would not answer questions when he left his home near Godalming yesterday with his teenage bride Billie Piper to head off to the pub.

An ITN camera crew spotted the couple leaving The White Horse in Hascombe, but Evans - unshaven and wearing a red and white floral shirt - refused to comment.

The presenter and his wife later arrived home and swept into their mansion in a black Mercedes.

Union leaders' meeting with Blair

Talks 'clear the air' on private role in services

TALKS between union leaders and the Prime Minister last night helped "clear the air" over a growing row about controversial plans to use more private sector management in the running of public services.

Leaders of the country's biggest unions had dinner with Tony Blair in Downing Street, making it clear they would resist plans to "privatise" the National Health Service or schools.

TUC general secretary John Monks described the meeting as "friendly and useful" and had given both sides a chance to explain their positions.

"The Prime Minister was able to reassure unions that the Government's priority was to improve the quality of public services.

"He clearly recognises the importance of winning the support of public sector staff in any programme to improve services."

Mr Monks said unions supported the Government's drive to improve public services, adding: "We want to be part of the solution."

Union leaders at the dinner said

By Alan Jones
PA REPORTER

the meeting had been a good opportunity to start a dialogue with the Government over how to improve public services.

One said: "The atmosphere is a lot calmer after tonight."

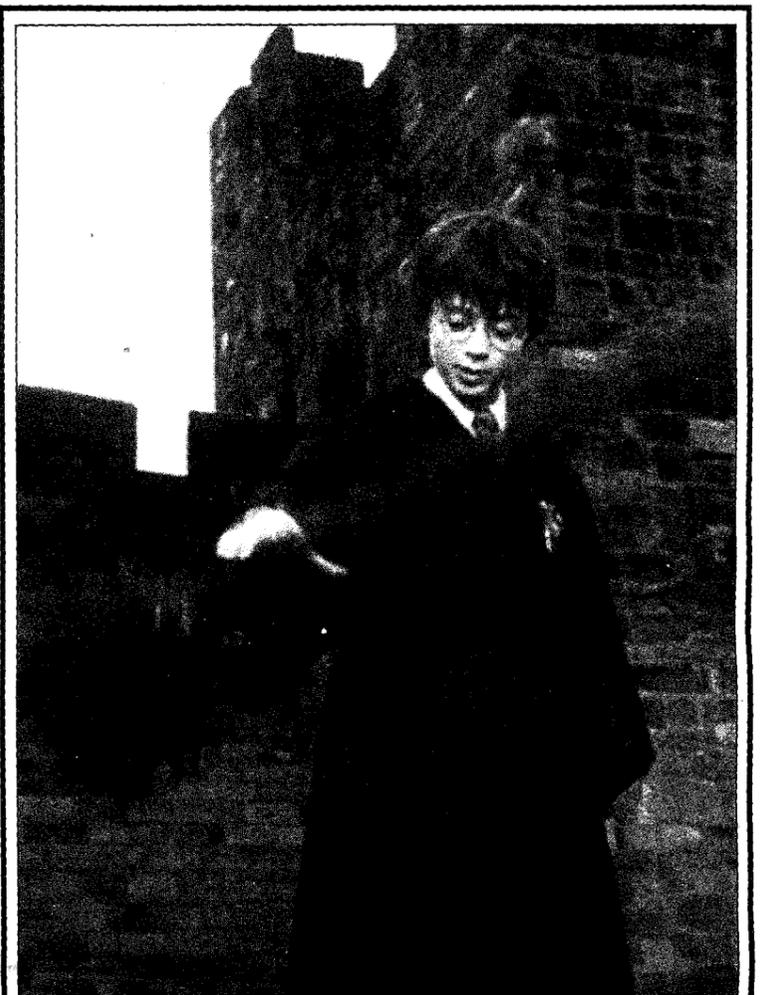
But unions will continue to campaign against any moves they regard as "creeping privatisation" and the issue could still dominate the TUC and Labour Party conferences later in the year.

A Downing Street spokesman described the dinner as "a constructive meeting" and a "useful dialogue which will continue".

The spokesman added: "Both sides are clearly committed to public services, and to reform of the public services, and renewed investment in the public services."

"There was agreement that we are not talking about privatisation."

"There was also agreement that both the Government and unions place great value on the people who staff public services."



FIRST FRAMES - Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) controls his broomstick

Potter pictures released

HARRY Potter fans were being given a preview of the long-awaited film version today with the Internet launch of a new trailer.

The two-and-a-half minute trailer, released on the Harry Potter website, shows the eponymous hero learning to fly.

It gives the first full glimpse of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where Harry goes

to study magic, and some of the film's stunning special effects, including Fluffy, the three-headed guard dog which guards the Philosopher's Stone.

The trailer for Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone shows students sailing in darkness to Hogwarts for their first day at the school and Harry narrowly averting disaster in the school's Forbidden Forest.

On This Day

- 1838 Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey, aged just 19. During the ceremony, Austrian waltz king Johann Strauss conducted his orchestra outside the London Reform Club, playing God Save The Queen.
- 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated with his wife in the Bosnian town of Sarajevo by terrorist Gavrillo Princip, precipitating World War One.
- 1919 A Peace Treaty

German representatives and Allied powers was signed in the Palace of Versailles in northern France, officially ending World War One.

● 1950 The United States humbled England 1-0 in a World Cup match in Brazil.

● 1984 After 104 years, the British magazine Tit Bits stopped publishing.

● 1990 Prince Charles was detained in hospital overnight after breaking his right arm.

Thu 28 Jun

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

John Cusak, actor, 35; Kathy Bates, left, actress, 53; Mel Brooks, actor/writer/producer, 75; John Inman, comedy actor, 66; Mary Stuart Masterson, actress, 35.



THE BRIGHTER SIDE

Male MOT tests

TV STAR Denise Van Outen urged men to "whack 'em out and check 'em out" as she launched a campaign to raise awareness of male cancer.

The star of the West End hit musical *Chicago* joined TV comic Julian Clary to help launch today's National MOT day - Male Only Testing - aimed at encouraging men to "check their tackle".

ANGLING - ALL THE LATEST NEWS WITH GHS

JOHN ROBERTS travelled from Gwynedd in Wales to land a superbly conditioned 9lb 13oz rainbow trout at Rutland Water.

The monster proved to be the best from the 3,100 acre venue this year and it was taken from the South Arm. Completing the Welsh connection, it was taken on a diawl bach lure with a floating line.

Other long distance travellers to enjoy the fun while visiting Rutland were Michael Souter and Keith Malcolm from Ayrshire.

In two-and-a-half days of boat fishing they took 49 trout and these included both rainbows and browns to 4lb 8oz. Also with a 3-12 brown was M Watson from Barnsley.

Other good fish from Anglian Water venues: (Grafham) Peter Hartley, Hitchen, 6-4 rainbow. (Pitsford) Richard Holmes, 3lb rainbow. (Ravensthorpe) Tony Gilbert, Lutterworth, 6-2 rainbow.

Despite thundery downpours

Roberts lands Rutland record rainbow

three anglers had ten-fish limit bags when they competed in the European Individual Open Trout Fisherman competition at Eyebrook Reservoir. The event attracted 39 anglers and they ended with an excellent 205 trout averaging 5.26 per rod.

Best fish for the week at the popular Welland Valley lake was an 8lb 10z rainbow by Joe Graham from Corby who caught with a damselfly booby from the dam wall.

Other notable catches: Arthur Cullingworth, Sandy (5-9 rainbow), John Penny, Corby (8 fish for 17-3), Charlie Barnett, Corby 6-3 rainbow and M Bennett (6-12 rainbow).

Ray Malyon from Northaw in Herts took the best fish of the week at Ringstead Grange when 119 anglers landed 392 trout, 123 of them being returned. Another good rain-

bow at 4-8 went to Michael Panter from Northampton.

Higham Ferrers FF continued their brilliant season of events with a match at Grafham Water - the Howard Walding Pairs Trophies going to the winning double act. Oddly enough the top pair had not caught a fish before 1pm.

Result: Jim Ginter (6 fish) 14lb 10z, Basil Peat (7) 17-9, total 31lb 10oz. Steve Fisher (1) 3-3, Paul Hillyard (8), total 23-12. Mark Frost (3) 8-11, Nigel Childs (3) 7-11, total 16-6. Richard Kirk (4) 10-11, R. Hunt 4-2, total 15-14, total 15-14. Martin Peat (1) 2-6, Ken Plowright (3) 6-14, total 9-4. Nick Montali (1) 2-0, Phil Waples (1) 2-10, total 4-10. Fred Raitt (1) 3-3, Roger Attley (blank), total 3-3. The 14 anglers landed 40 fish weighing 102lb 15oz.

Seven anglers landed rainbow trout at 5lb-plus when they visited Elinor Trout Fishery - a superb

seven days that saw 158 anglers take 792 fish at over five per rod, fortunately 446 of them were returned.

Topping the list was Danny Richardson from Upper Benefield (9-6, black buzzer, boat).

Others went to Ray Goodfellow, Kettering (9-3, diawl bach, boat), Ron Bailey, Kettering (daddy, bank), Peter Edwards, Thrapston (6-2, damselfly, bank), Don Kores, Bedford (6-0, damselfly, bank), Jim Sheehan, Oundle (5-12, bank), Doug Whibley, Wollaston (5-4, black suspender buzzer, boat).

TROUT RETURNS IN BRIEF

RUTLAND: Rods 753, fish 2,530. Best areas: Sykes Lane, Normanton, Old Hall Bay, Barnsdale, Whitwell, Fantasy Island and the bottom end of each arm. Best flies: buzzers, diawl bach, hares ear, pheasant tail and pin fry

imitations.

GRAFHAM: Rods 228, fish 626. Best areas: G-marker, Sanctuary Bay, Gaynes Cove, Seat, Stumps, Hedge End and Hill Farm. Best flies: gold ribbed hares ear, gold tubes, buzzer and diawl bach.

PITSFORD: Rods 221, fish 564. Best areas: Sermans, Holly Bush, Pines small half and dam wall. Best flies: black buzzer, pheasant tail and hares ear.

RAVENSTHORPE: Rods 68, fish 212. Best area is the dam wall. Best flies: damselfly, orange lure and buzzer.

EYEBROOK: Rods 235, fish 997. Best areas: Sam's Dyke, Robbo's Cabin, Norris Dyke and dam wall. Best flies: black buzzer, damselfly booby, duck fly and pheasant tail.

RINGSTEAD GRANGE: Best area from the bank is the lodge and Caravan Corner. From boats it is the Willows and Addington Road. Best flies: fritz damselfly, montana, soldier palmer, hares ear, orange tinhead. Dries: sedge, cul-de-cunard and black gnat.

ELINOR: Fish are now being caught in all areas on such flies as: wet and dry damselfly, diawl bach, daddies, wickhams and silver invicta.

BOOKINGS

TONIGHT (and every Thursday): The Dam (Earls Barton Evening match), Lynn Pool (Corby Tackle Centre evening match), Castle Ashby Brickyard Pond (Colin Matthews evening open).

SATURDAY: Peatling Parva Lake (Corby Rangers), Lynn Pool (Weet-axbi).

SUNDAY: Boddington Reservoir (Osprey), Bevington Trinity Lake (Earls Barton), Sywell Pond (Little Harrowden), Castlethorpe Canal (Northampton Britannia Roberts Cup), C. J. Fisheries (Kettering RAFA), Sharman Road Pits at Northampton (Royal Oak), Oundle Cherryme Bridge upstream (Corby Silver Band), Rushon Lake (Desborough & Rothwell Silver Jubilee), Crockwell Farm (Finndon Bob Webster Shield), Old Nene at March (Kettering Mobbs Miller), Wing Lake (Corby Tubemasters & Uppingham AC sweepstake).

MONDAY: Rushton Lake (Desborough & Rothwell juniors evening match).

TUESDAY: Ringstead Island (Malc Silvester evening open).

WEDNESDAY: GU Canal at Gayton Arm (Britannia evening members match), River Nene (Irthingborough evening open match), Sywell Pond (Little Harrowden evening open).

NOTE: Kevin Andrews (01933 726489) from Airwair AC is running an all-day charity match (8am-6pm) at Darwen Lake near Rothwell on Sunday September 9. Half the lake will still be available for members of the syndicate.

All sections of Kettering, Thrapston and District AA waters along the River Nene are now open to members and match bookings are being taken. At the request of farmers and landowners all anglers are being asked to disinfect footwear before entering any adjoining land.

Handy catch by Allenden

ANDY ALLENDEN of Wollaston had more than 40lb to spare in winning the local club match at Crockwell Farm Fishery.

He landed carp to 4lb on a pole rig with maggot and meat on the hook.

Result: Andy Allenden 72lb 4oz, Graham Williams 28-4, Neil Tidmarsh 25-0, Ken Taylor 21-10, John Pearce 20-8, Mick Riddle 14-10, Malc Hale 14-3, Peter Layram 14-0, Jim Richardson 13-12, Ernie Turner 13-7, Julie Demonti 13-2, Graham Bradley 10-14, Andy Robinson 10-10, Steve Partridge 10-3. **Next match:** July 7, Towcester Lakeside.

All members are invited to Wollaston Nene AC's annual meeting at the Working Men's Club in Wollaston on Saturday (8pm). New club cards cost £7 adults and £4 concessions.

□ Matt Bell landed more than 85lb of carp on marshmallows and a long pole to win the Uppingham AC match at Decoy Fishery Horseshoe Lake.

Result: Matt Bell (Tubemasters) 85lb 13oz, Roy Bartram 80-10, Pat O'Halloran 70-2, Michael O'Halloran 69-12, Keith Baines 60-14, Peter Woolley 54-10.

□ Corby Tackle Centre owner Mark Goodsir won the Lynn Pool evening open - landing carp to 10lb.

Result: Mark Goodsir 44lb 6oz, Michael O'Halloran 28-9, Dave Owen 19-12, Bruce Raftery 18-5.

□ More than half the anglers finished with a dry net when Corby AC visited Drayton Reservoir (pegs 63-88).

Result: Colin Ray 41lb 4oz, Sean Farrell junior 40-12, Simon Rowsell 17-0, Andy Duncan 14-8, Matt Ross 13-8. **Next match:** July 8, Yoke Hill.

□ With the help of bonus 5lb 9oz bream

caught on pole with chopped worm and caster, Alan Mills took top spot in the Cotterstock opening match at Church End.

Result: Alan Mills 7lb 11oz, Mark Cunnington 1-4, Pip Baines 0-13, Jeff Bright 0-8. **Next match:** July 8, Church End, draw 9am, fish 10-3.

□ With Dingley Lake closed Corby Silver Band switched their event to Oundle's Ashton Footbridge with 20 pegs split either side of the Nene crossing.

Result: Mervyn Wilson-Benn 2lb 9oz (bits, waggler), Chris Bailey 2-7 (perch, bits, weir pool), Donald Munro 2-0 (2 eels), David Hulme 1-12, Neil Tarbotton (1-2 perch) and Richard Mills both 1-11. **Next match:** Sunday, Colin Wilson-Benn Memorial Cup, Cherryme upstream at Oundle.

□ An 8lb 3oz carp proved to be handy when Malc Cunnington doubled the weight of anyone else to win the Oundle AS Branfoot Cup match at Cherryme upstream.

Result: Malc Cunnington 14lb 8oz, Ron Cunnington 6-3, Fred Prior 5-12, Brian Tyrrell 5-2.

□ The winning catch included a 1½lb bream, three skimmers and a 1lb 8oz eel when Kettering Association held the Essex Cup match on the River Nene at Woodford Orchard.

Result: Vic Moisey 4lb 9½oz, Mark Perkins 2-3½ (bleak), Martyn Owen 1-15, Brian Garrett 1-9, Colin Dorks 1-0½, Martin Colver 13½oz. **Next match:** July 15, Sismore Cup and Thompson Shield.

□ Chris Barley doubled the weight of his nearest rival to win the Woodford WMC AC first round points match at

Castle Ashby's Brickyard Lake.

Result: Chris Barley (Barton Seagrave) 23lb 4oz, Dave Mayell 10-2, Robbie Charlton 6-9, Andy Gamblen 6-0, George Lyons 4-14, Kirk Howe 4-4.

□ Wollaston's Lee Banner got a brace of skimmer bream in the closing minutes to win the Earls Barton evening match at Castle Ashby Brickyard Pond with more than 4lb to spare.

Result: Lee Banner 7lb 5oz, John Butler 2-12, Malcolm Perkins 2-12, Ron Collins 2-1, Mark Kearns 8oz, Thomas Clarke 6oz. The rest of the series will be at the Dam, Earls Barton.

□ Northampton Britannia's cup match on the River Nene at Cotterstock Perio Mill was a small fish affair.

Result: Drew Adams 4lb 1oz (mainly one bream on the lead), Tom Newbury 4-0 (3 skimmers, bits), Dave Griffiths 3-9 (bleak), Bob Eales 3-7, Mark Tottenham 2-12, Ron Collins 2-1. **Next match:** GU Canal at Castlethorpe, Roberts Cup.

□ A brace of chub made up the bulk of Graham Andrews' winning catch on the River Nene at Islip in the Earls Barton Webber Cup match.

Result: Graham Andrews 2lb 10oz, John Butler 1-6, Thomas Clarke 14oz. **Next match:** Sunday, Bevington Trinity Lake, President's Cup. Match secretary Mark Kearns says that the cost of club cards, now on sale at Malc Perkins shop in Earls Barton, have been reduced from £20 to £15 (adults) and to £7.50 for concessions.

□ Mark Tottenham was the clear winner of the second round evening match run by Northampton Britannia at the GU Canal at Gayton Arm, landing tench and skimmer bream.

Result: Mark Tottenham 8lb 8oz, John Watts 6-1, Dave Griffiths 4-14, Tom Griffiths 4-13.

Organiser John Watts says he surprised so many members tip fish back before they can be weighed, especially with a £60 prize for the winner at the end of the series.

□ It took more than 20lb of bream to win the latest round of the Colin Matthews Thursday evening series at Castle Ashby Brickyard Lake.

Result: P Jordan 20lb 10oz (bream, pole, pellet), Chris Barley 20-4 (bream, tench), Colin Matthews 14-8 (bream), Grant Howie 11-0, Andy Ison 8-4.

□ Round three of the Northampton Britannia evening series at Gayton Arm saw the winner catch three tench with the best weighing 4lb 3oz.

Result: Dave Griffiths 10lb 3oz, Chris Camplin 6-6, Paul Cowern 6-0, Mark Tottenham 4-8.

□ The Opening Match Shield is always up for grabs whenever Oundle AS begin their new season and this event was pegged along the Nene at Riverside Bridge.

Result: Alan Smith 7lb 6oz (including a 4lb 9oz tench), Malcolm Cunnington 4-13½, Peter Lee 2-2.

□ Carp to 13lb made up the winning weight when Kettering Wayfarers AC visited Corby Tackle Centre's Lynn Pool.

Result: Chris Clarke 26lb 3oz (pole), Shaun Humphries 18-15 (bream, carp and tench), Dave Bream 10-8, Steve Jones 6-14½, Rich Moisey 3-12. **Next match:** July 8, Islip Nature Trail Lake.

□ Kettering RAFA AC held the second round of their summer points series on Swan Lake at Bevington's Fishery.

Result: Peter Elmore 3lb 2oz, Bob Clark 2-8, Dick Payne 2-6, Dave Mann 2-4, Kevin Turnbull 2-0. **Next match:** Sunday, CJ Fisheries.



Simply the best!

AFTER his best ever year with Oundle AC Mark Cunnington collected more trophies than everyone else put together at the annual dinner held at the King's Arms pub in Polebrook, leading the way home with the much sought after Season Points award.

Cunnington was also pleased with his performance to win the Knockout series and the prize for the Largest Fish - a 7lb 14oz carp. He also added the Cole Cup, Laxton Cup, Mason Shield, Charity Shield and three cash awards.

Other winners to collect awards from special guest George Sheppard were Malcolm Cunnington (Opening Match Shield), Jeff Bright (Branfoot Cup and Roach Cup), Roger Lee (Curtis Cup), Brian Tyrrell (Size Limit Cup), Alan Smith (Ingram Cup) and Ron Cunnington (Cunnington Shield).

With the top three in each match collecting cash awards, those not already mentioned are Paul Whiteman and Chris Shepherd.

■ **WINNERS** - lining up with their trophies are, back from left: Malc Cunnington, Brian Tyrrell, Mark Cunnington, Roger Lee; front: Ron Cunnington, Alan Smith and Jeff Bright.

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Wimbledon Diary ○○○○ Now Cowan will never walk alone

IT WAS one of the most sensational performances by a Briton that has ever been seen at Wimbledon – but before the tournament the name Barry Cowan would have drawn blank expressions even in his native Lancashire.

Cowan, 26, has endured many years in tennis' wilderness. But last night he gave seven-time champion Pete Sampras the biggest fright of his professional career.

From two sets down Cowan, ranked 265th in the world, suddenly pulled one back and then stunned Court One by breaking the great man's serve to take the fourth set too.

That top seed Sampras imposed his authority in the decider – though he was broken once more before finally winning it 6-3 – was almost irrelevant.

It will not have escaped Great Britain Davis Cup captain Roger Taylor either, who witnessed both Cowan's opening-round romp against Mark Hilton and last night's excitement.

Places are up for grabs for September's match with Ecuador and Cowan must now have guaranteed himself one of those.

THE Liverpool fan, who listens to 'You'll Never Walk Alone' in breaks between games, said: "Hopefully, this is the start of some better things to come and this week will stand me in good stead for the summer.

"I have to be pleased with the way I handled myself out there and I have always believed I could live with these guys.

"I always felt I've had the ability but certain things have held me back.

"One of those has been physically but I've worked really hard in the last two-and-a-half years on that and I've seen improvement over time.

"But I felt this year I was losing matches not because of tennis or fitness but because of my mind.

"Now I'm more relaxed and I believe in myself more."

Sampras admitted to relief at coming through the match.

He said: "Give him the credit, he played very well. There were some tense moments out there and it could have been the upset of the century.

"That's the closest it has

BY MARTYN ZIEGLER

been for me in the opening rounds at Wimbledon, and given the way he was playing and that it was on grass anything could have happened."

THERE is to be another 'British minnow v American giant' contest today with Jamie Delgado coming face to face with his idol Andre Agassi, the world's best all-round player, on Centre Court.

Delgado insisted he was not scared of the prospect of facing Agassi.

"I am not frightened, no," said Delgado, 24, from Maidenhed.

"I'm aware of how he good he is and what he has achieved.

"But it's a good chance for me to show what sort of player I am on the big stage.

"I used to watch Andre when I was 13 or 14 and he is a legend. He brings something different, a lot of excitement.

"He's had a great career and it's a massive opportunity to play him at Wimbledon – one that doesn't come around too often.

"I'll be trying to express myself against him."

ANOTHER Briton due to play today was Arvind Parmar, the 23-year-old who defied cramp to beat Brazil's Andre Sa in the first round to set up a clash with another household name in the form of Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

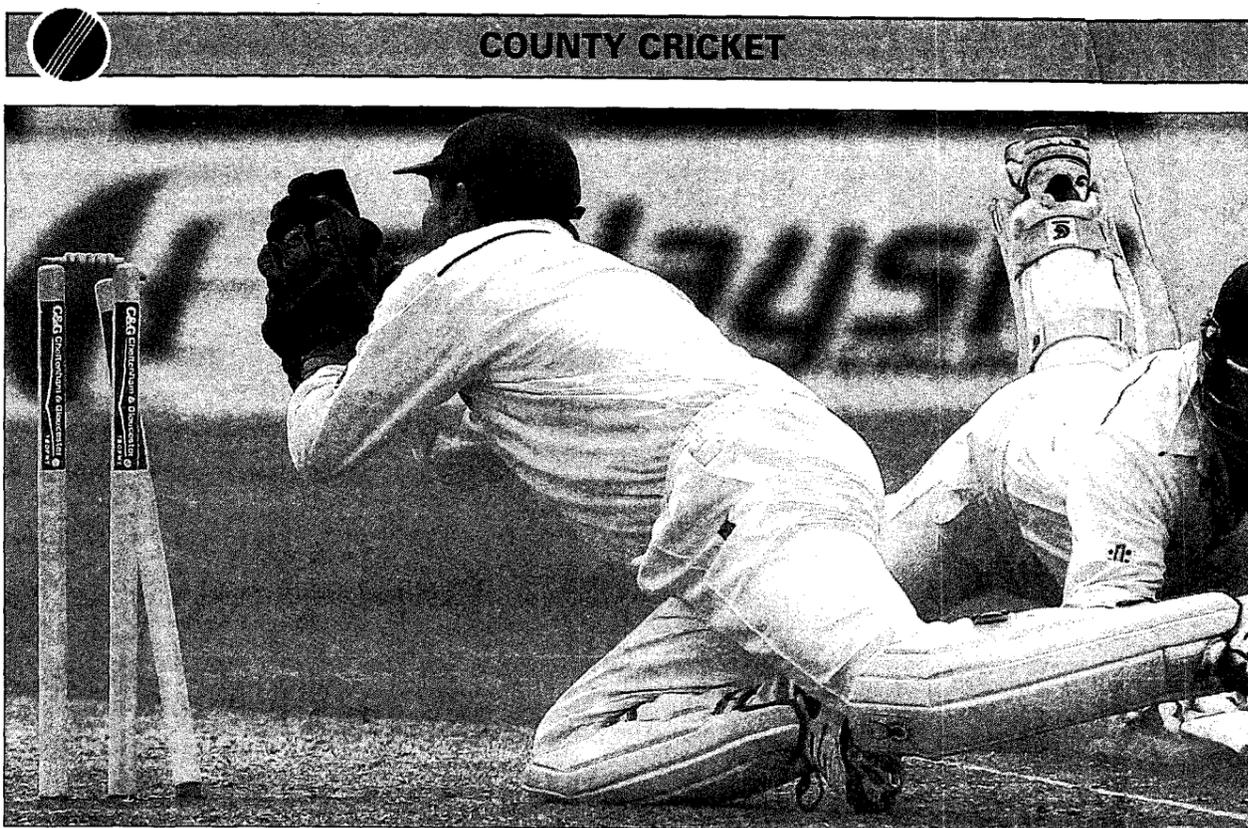
"If I want to fulfil my potential I'm going to have to beat players like this on the way," said Parmar.

Kafelnikov may have won the French Open in 1996 and the Australian Open two years ago but he is by no means guaranteed victory and has only reached one quarter-final at Wimbledon, back in 1995.

Fifth seed Australian Lleyton Hewitt should proceed to the third round against American Taylor Dent, as should third seed Pat Rafter against Czech Slava Dosedel.

Already in the third round is British number one Tim Henman who saw off Worthing 23-year-old Martin Lee with a ruthlessly efficient display.

Henman won 6-2 6-3 6-4 and said: "It was a little bit awkward but I knew I had to put in a good performance."



■ RUN OUT – County skipper David Ripley whips off the bails to dismiss Martyn Dobson yesterday.

Picture by Mick Cheney

Loye to the rescue

BY ASHLEY POTTER

NORTHANTS cruised to a nine-wicket win over their own Board XI to go through to the fourth round of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy thanks to a superb century from Mal Loye.

But the County were given something to think about at lunch after opener David Paynter smashed 104 in 106 balls to embarrass the Northants bowlers as the Board XI made 277-6.

Northamptonshire were never in any danger once Mike Hussey and Loye had put on 125 for the opening wicket and reached their target with nearly nine overs to spare.

Paynter joined Northamptonshire's academy during the winter after playing for Worcestershire second XI last season.

And the great-grandson of Eddie Paynter, who famously rose from his hospital bed to win the Ashes in 1932, showed he could be a star of the future for the County.

But yesterday he was more concerned with thrashing Northants all around the field as his last 50 came off just 33 balls.

Paynter put on 159 for the first wicket with Tim Coleman, a prolific run scorer for Northants Championship side Finedon Dolben.

After starting carefully, he signalled his intent by lifting Darren Cousins over the infield for four and then smacking Tony Penberthy over the boundary rope in successive balls.

Two fours off Graeme Swann brought up Paynter's 50 off 67 balls and a sumptuous drive off Jason Brown brought up the Board XI's hundred in the 24th over.

TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT

Bulawayo: Zimbabwe 234-6 (Whittall 58no, Khan 4-42), India 237-6 (Ganguly 85, David 72no, G Flower 4-44), India beat Zimbabwe by four wickets.

CHELTHENHAM & GLOUCESTER TROPHY

Third round
Luton: Bedfordshire 211-9 (Sidebottom 4-39), Yorkshire 212-6 (Lehmann 88, Rashid 4-54), Yorkshire beat Bedfordshire by four wickets.

Reading: Essex 218-9 (Irani 55), Berkshire 149 (Wood 54), Essex beat Berkshire by 69 runs.

March Town: Somerset 271-9 (Lathwell 101), Cambridgeshire 221 (Akhter 78, Kellett 67, Grove 4-36),

Somerset beat Cambridgeshire by 50 runs.

Truro: Sussex 253-6 (Adams 89no, Goodwin 66), Cornwall 220-8. Sussex beat Cornwall by 33 runs.

Barrow: Cumberland 72 (Trott 5-18), Kent 74-1. Kent beat Cumberland by nine wickets.

Riverside: Hampshire 262-5 (Johnson 113no), Durham 263-3 (Peng 119, Collingwood 59no, Love 51), Durham beat Hampshire by seven wickets.

Cardiff: Derbyshire 195-9 (Cork 50), Glamorgan 199-7 (Cork 4-35), Glamorgan beat Derbyshire by three wickets.

Luctonians: Middlesex 278-6 (Nash 58), Herefordshire 279-7 (Patel

68, Round 66). Herefordshire beat Middlesex by three wickets.

Hertford: Worcestershire 336-8 (Hick 155, Singh 79), Hertfordshire 69. Worcestershire beat Hertfordshire by 267 runs.

Canterbury: Kent CB 237-2 (Lazenbury 88no, Tredwell 57), Warwickshire 238-3 (Ostler 82no, Brown 70). Warwickshire beat Kent CB by seven wickets.

Mildenhall: Suffolk 87 (Logan 5-24, Smith 4-25), Nottinghamshire 89-1. Nottinghamshire beat Suffolk by nine wickets.

Guildford: Surrey CB 158, Surrey 160-0 (Butcher 73no, Ward 70no). Surrey beat Surrey CB by ten wickets.
Horsham: Gloucestershire 238-9

night and didn't get much sleep with it being so hot as well. I really wanted to impress and it worked out pretty well.

"Bob Carter was pretty straight-faced after my innings but he said well done. He recognised that I played well which was important.

"It was quite weird having experienced players like Penberthy running after your shots to the boundary. It didn't feel right but I got used to it. It's good that I'm getting a bit of respect, a lot of people in the first team haven't seen me bat – but they know I can now.

"I would like to get a go in the first team this season and make a bit of a mark so it was a good to get a century."

Coleman's 50 arrived off 99 balls and Jamie Wade piled in with a useful 38 before he was run out.

Hussey and Loye quickly dispelled any fears of an upset by reaching 50 in ten overs and then putting their foot down.

Loye came down the wicket at every opportunity to hit Mark Wolstenholme through the covers and Hussey did the same to lift the youngster over mid-off for six.

Another six off spinner Martyn Dobson brought up Hussey's 50 in 56 balls. But going for another six cost him as Wolstenholme ran in to take a catch at long-off.

Warren kept up the high tempo to club 50 in just 45 balls with five fours and one six. And it was a crashing cross-bat swipe through the covers from Warren that finished the game and gave Northants victory.

After gaining their first competitive win since May 7 Northamptonshire return to the scene of that victory for their Cricinfo County Championship Division One clash with Glamorgan in Cardiff starting tomorrow.

(Windows 82), Sussex CB 143. Gloucestershire beat Sussex CB by 95 runs.

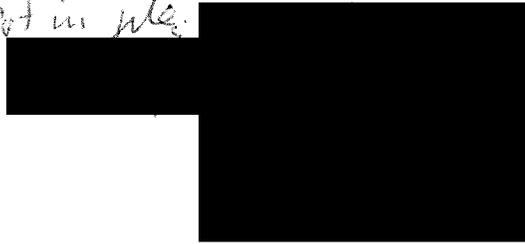
Swansea: Leicestershire 332-4 (Dakin 179, Smith 64no), Wales 199-8 (Sylvester 73). Leicestershire beat Wales by 133 runs.

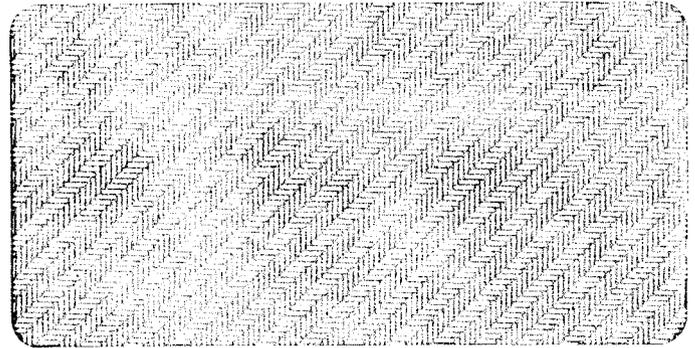
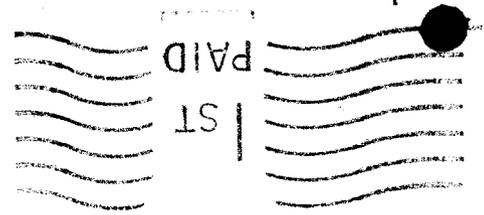
Blackpool: Warwickshire CB 163 (Shepherd 73no, Martin 5-16), Lancashire 165-3 (Haynes 59no). Lancashire beat Warwickshire CB by seven wickets.

TOURIST MATCH

Arundel: Australia 390 (Kitch 168no, Warne 69, Dawes 4-74) & 294-8 dec (S Waugh 105, Martyn 80), MCC 124 (Richardson 64no, Miller 4-41) & 280 (Adams 81no, Ward 57). Australia beat MCC by 280 runs.

(UFO) Queen African wood
Black pants AS SW
pot in wls. newspaper





c/o



Room 8265
main building
Whitehall
London SW1A2HE



From: [redacted] Directorate of Air Staff 4a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

ES

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) [redacted]

[redacted]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3 ← P + J
Date
8 June 2001

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letters dated 7 & 15 May 2001. As you will be aware from previous correspondence, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and I am therefore afraid that I have nothing to add to our earlier statements. Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

~~Police Station
North Street
Stamford~~

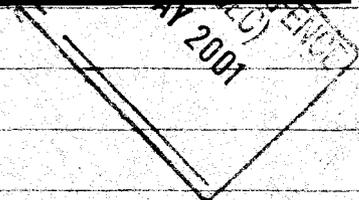
MOD Building
Whitehall

7/5/2001

Dear [REDACTED]

please put this copy in my
VFO file and explain how
the MOD has in long
explanations to me in post
devoted any such work
VFO associated to MOD
particular on gravity to RAF

Yours
[REDACTED]



credible £600 MILLION - which will be unveiled in the election manifesto - aimed to help people on low incomes save for their, and their children's, futures.

That any family earning £16,000 a year will be able to salt away a nest-egg of up to £5,000 - with HALF of it provided by the Government.

The radical savings plan - drawn up by Chancellor Gordon Brown - will allow people to invest in tax-free ISAs, stakeholder pensions, employee share schemes or the Government's new baby bonds giving children a lump sum from birth.

Mr Brown said last night: "Our new Savings Gateway will guarantee to match savings that individuals make with matching Government funds."

"It will be a pound paid for every pound saved. Our aim is to open up saving and wealth ownership to all."

The Chancellor was stung by recent figures which revealed that a staggering 16 MILLION families in Britain have no savings at all, while

12 MILLION have less than £1,500 stashed away.

The Government is determined to help people on lower incomes get into the habit of saving to end the blight of child poverty.

The double-your-money savings plan follows hard on the heels of the Government's announcement of a new Child Trust Fund.

This will give EVERY new-born baby £250 and double that for the poorest families. Extra Government cash will be provided when kids reach the ages of five, 11 and 16.

Comfort

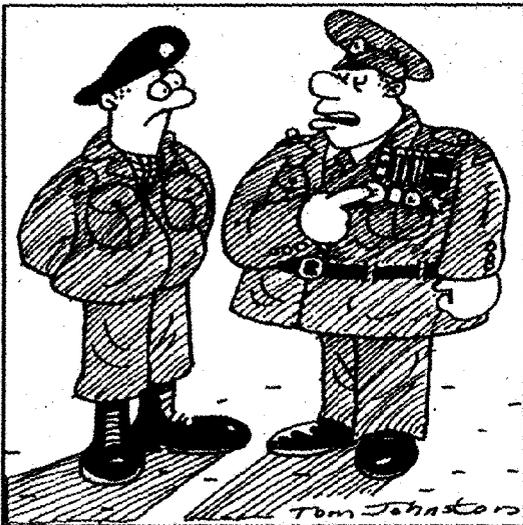
Social Security Secretary Alistair Darling said last night: "We are determined to build a new savings culture in this country."

"Savings give people independence as well as providing security in difficult times and comfort in old age."

Mr Brown intends to thrash out a savings deal with banks and building societies if Labour wins the next election.

He said: "This will create a democracy where wealth ownership is genuinely open to all."

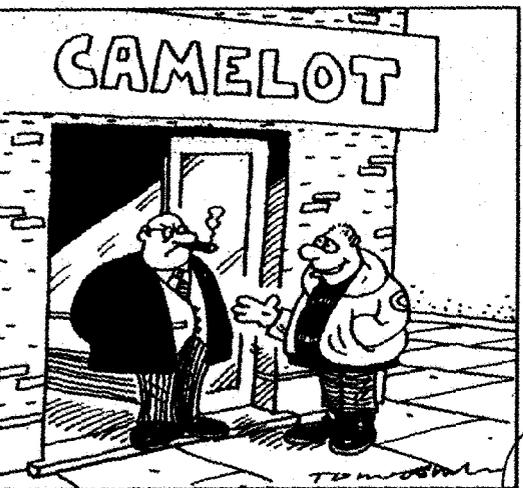
...BIGGS AT 3 O'CLOCK...OPEN FIRE!"



"AND I GOT THIS ONE FOR BREAKING INTO A DEFENCELESS WOMAN'S COTTAGE AND KILLING HER PET SHEEP!"



"IT SAY 'QUICK, HIDE YOUR COMPUTERS, SATELLITE DISHES AND MOBILE PHONES... PRINCE CHARLES ABOUT TO PAY VISIT!'"



"UNFORTUNATELY, I LOST THE POUND COIN I WAS ABOUT TO BUY A LOTTERY TICKET WITH...SO I'VE COME FOR MY WINNINGS!"

www.tomjohnstoncartoons.co.uk

...they went to court. He... certificate it doesn't... you've never been born... Mr Smith has... Lottery chiefs should... up the cash. Camelot... not prepared to comment

Are YOU a winner?

ARE you a lucky Lottery winner? Here are the numbers for last night's draw, with an estimated jackpot of £6.8 million.

The Lottery Extra jackpot was worth £13.4 million.

● CALL June Penn for lucky numbers on 0901 563 8256. Our recap line 0901 562 8514 lets you catch up on numbers from the last few weeks.

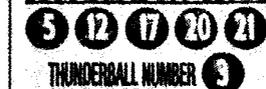
Calls cost 60p per min



LOTTERY EXTRA



THUNDERBALL



Hunt for tot of the pops

KIDS as young as four are to get the chance to copy TV's Popstars and become tot stars.

Education Secretary David Blunkett plans to equip school nurseries with musical instruments so infants can form bands.

The £1.5 million scheme will be unveiled this week. It will help nurseries to buy or rent gear ranging from xylophones to keyboards.

Mr Blunkett believes it will help pupils learn counting and listening skills.

ET loves the UK

MORE than 600 UFOs have been spotted in Britain over the past three years, according to Ministry of Defence figures.

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY?
Call our News Desk on **020 7510 3201**
Or e-mail us at peoplenews@mgn.co.uk
SUNDAY PEOPLE, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP

Cashing in on a Labour cert

HIGH stakes gamblers are betting a fortune on red-hot favourites Labour to win the General Election in the near certainty of getting their money back. The odds at bookies Liam Hill are 20-1 on yesterday they took a 1000 bet.

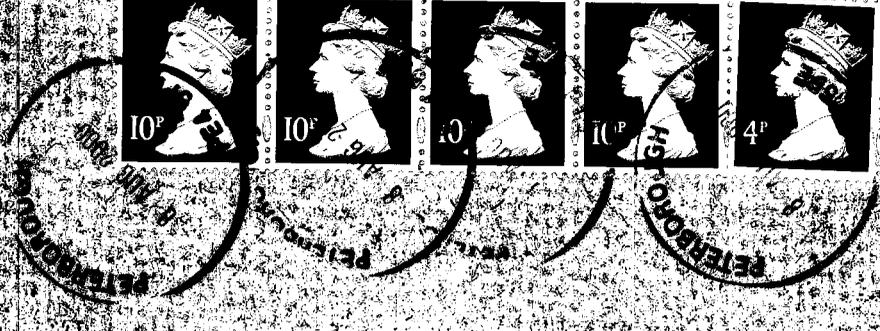
Yes, Minister it will cost you

JUNIOR ministers fear that promotion after the election could seriously damage their wealth. In the Cabinet they should earn £116,000. But this falls to £93,000 under Tony Blair's pay-cut policy - and ministers below them could end up earning more.

OFF OUR WEBSITE

ANIMAL rights campaigners were last night blasted for setting up a rogue foot and mouth website. The Ministry of Agriculture bosses say the activists' site maff.co.uk - promotes the extremist Animal Liberation Front and could be confused with the official aff.gov.uk. A spokesman said: "This is a hijack."
● Helpline scandal - see Pages 6 and 7





9/0



RAF UFO Desk
MOD Main Building
White Hall

London



~~RAF UFO DESK~~

~~3/D~~

Try 8245

RAF Ministry of Defence.
Main Building

15/5/2001

Dear [REDACTED]

I was sending a letter with
papers concerning UFO I seriously believe
behind breaking bridge and killing
2WW Royal Navy aeroplane pilot of F1 Force
A youth grappled with me and tore up
letter I've decided to send to place
in my unidentified flying object
file.

Yours obliged
[REDACTED]

P.S.

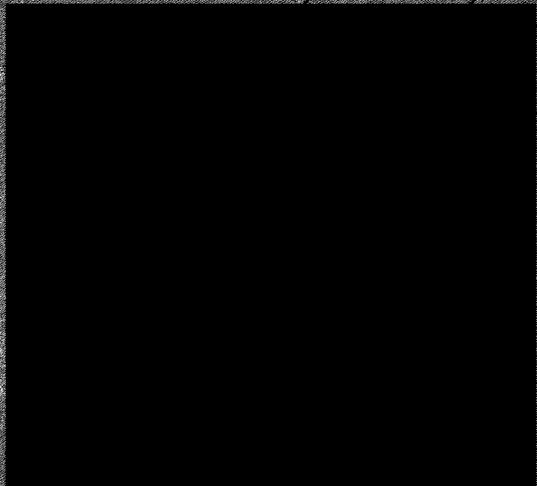
incident was reported to police
of threatened assault and
destroying mail to Royal Air Force
letterman from holder of Her Majesty
The Queen letter matter of
Ministry of Defence.

THE LAW SOCIETY
on line
<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk>



GREAT BRITAIN
044
PB902561

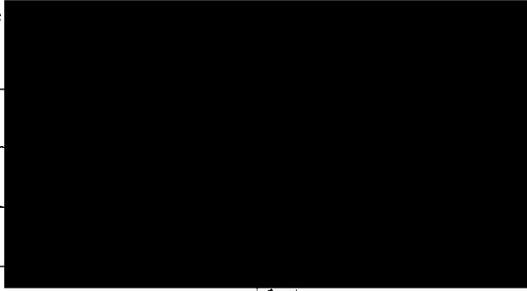
697



↓
C/O Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
[Redacted]
RAF - UFA West
main building
Whitehall
London

COPY OF TORN UP LETTER

TR/Watford base
Royal Air Force
Cottesmore
Oakham
Rutland



14/5/2001

Air Controller

David Walker

Police Inspector [redacted] at Stungford

Police has received confirmation of
ministry of Defence issuing

Facts of over 600 unexplained flying
objects being reported to

trust you will Police

myself on evidence of
recent unexplained weird
occurrences

WO (1) Wang plane

glow over house Saturday
afternoon I wanted to

deceased [redacted] he wanted

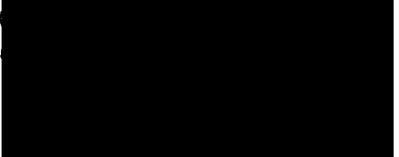
back I used by high vision
binoculars

And WO (2) 100: 400 to Break
my story of bridge being overtaxed
A 100 people to break a bridge
not likely

It was I assume

The ministry of Defence
guilt of giving UFO credit
and be at UFO that committed

from covered [redacted]



of both WO (1) WO (2)
were Defence
associates

MOD

Whitehall.

252

4

3/2/2001

Ref P/DAS (see) 64/3. P+V

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Police inspector [Redacted] Stamped
Police sent letter to in return of
UFO involvement book advertising RIAT
RAF Collesmore Air show last year
Whole UFO book sent to Cap Cpt
[Redacted] at RAF W. Hersey. I complained
to police due to Rutland local paper
showing Air Commodore David Walker
standing behind small boy
named [Redacted] sent to
all Huntingdon Police Actual photo

Your denial of UFO and Hostility
I totally refuse to believe I
believe a cover up on MATI mum
attempt.

I trust you place this
advertisement to my file.

Yours disappointed in your reply
[Redacted]



LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

Stamford Sector Station
North Street
Stamford
PE9 1AD
Fax: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
Ext No:
Officer Dealing:

Your Ref:

Our Ref: [REDACTED] 40

7th August 2000



Dear Sir

With reference to correspondence received from yourself today. I return it as I see no evidence of anything of police interest in my area.

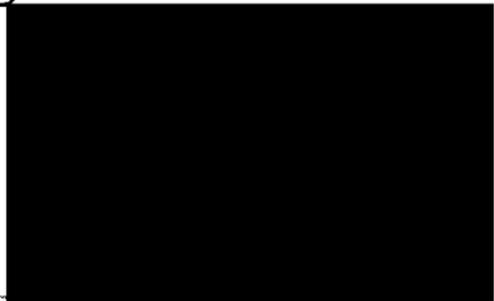
I trust you will not find it discourteous if I do not correspond with you again on this matter.

Yours faithfully



~~Wm. W. K. R. M. E.~~
Wm. W. K. R. M. E.

TO



8245



e/



DAS 4AK (see)
Room 8245 (RAF)
main building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2H B



From: [REDACTED] DAS 4a1(Sec)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8245, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

~~SECRET~~ B

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
(GTN) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)64/3
Date
31 January 2001

ptu

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 4 January concerning 'unidentified flying objects'.

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, the Ministry of Defence's interest in 'UFO' sightings is limited to whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

no 10 main building
Whitehall
London

FILE
- 3 JAN 2001
DAS 4 (SEC)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

11/1/2001

Dear Air Royal Marshall
Take as pleasure

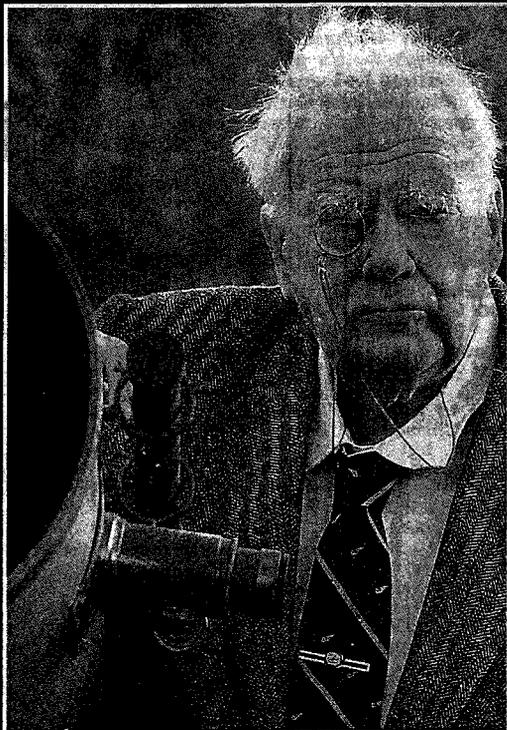
we informed RAF Cottesmore
AIR Commodore David Walker to contact
to Black Panthers Sandringham
and Royal Family.

Aid to prevent recent sightings
of Black Panthers in local media
to area of RAF Wittering / Cottesmore
we been recently in correspondence
to police at Cambridge as to control
of mystery series enquiry to Steven
Hawking and now aware of
SIR Patrick Moore unable to
view ~~stars~~ stars due to
mystery Black Panther.

myself getting into Bed causing
2 weeks of Agony to double
size foot which instantly
swelled. double getting into bed

I believe anomaly of UFOs are
to blame I'm concerned your
lessen view to topic
I trust you will (AIR) Police
Cambridge Steven Hawking SIR Patrick Moore
at Solsea Sussex and myself at
Wittering
RAF. to UFO
ATTACK

Golden girl . . . Denise Lewis gets an OBE after winning the heptathlon event at the Olympics



Sky at knight . . . astronomer Patrick Moore becomes a Sir and said: 'Why on Earth me?'

Panther . . . Royals scare

Royals warned: Beware big cat

By JOHN TROUP

THE Royals have been warned to beware of a huge wild cat stalking their Sandringham estate.

The black beast, which looks like a panther, was spotted less than two miles from Sandringham House where the Queen and her family are spending the Christmas holiday.

It is thought to have been attracted by the large number of pheasants shot on the 20,000-acre estate in Norfolk.

Baker Richard Briscos, 35, who saw the creature while cycling, said last night: "It was a big black

Continued on Page Seven

Mask of Zara . . . Princess Anne's girl hides behind scarf at Sandringham yesterday Picture: ROB HOWARTH

BEWARE OF BIG CAT



Shooting . . . Prince Philip

Continued from Page One
cat the size of a labrador. I could tell it was a cat because of its movements, its tail and the way the ears pricked up.

"I was about 60ft away and when I moved a little closer the animal crouched in long grass until just the tips of its ears were visible.

"I made a whistling sound and it suddenly

darted towards a hedge." Richard spotted the animal licking its paws in a field at Dersingham — an area where Prince Philip and other royals shoot.

Members of the family also find the animal on the nearby estate almost every day during the festive season.

The latest sighting follows a series of reports of big cats in the district. A

Sandringham worker said: "Some areas are remote and there are lots of places where the Royals could come into contact with this animal."

A police spokeswoman said: "We should not approach the creatures because they could be dangerous."

Everything's Coming Down
The Harrods — Page

Mercury OBITUARY

Mr A Kingwell

THE funeral service for retired RAF technician, Mr Anthony Eric Horton Kingwell (known as Charlie), of Pinfold Close, North Luffenham, took place on October 24 at North Luffenham Parish Church, the Rev Brian Nichols officiating.

Mr Kingwell died on October 13 at his home, aged 68.

He joined the RAF as an apprentice and became a technician, retiring as chief tech-

nician after 22 years service.

He was a member of RAFA and enjoyed playing ten pin bowling, gardening, and working with computers. He also attended many air shows and was a member of an organ association.

Bereaved are his widow Valerie Kingwell and children Desmond, Beverley, Carol and Nicholas.

Mourners included: Val Kingwell (widow), Desmond Sainsbury, Beverley Walton, Carol Brotherton, Nicholas Sainsbury, Mark Brotherton, Gordon Lilley, Clair Walton, Martin and Judy Haris, Jill and Dave Manley, Ralph and Dedrie Kingwell, Jean Manley, Steven Kingwell, Tracey Spaceman, Sandra

Dyke, Joe and Iris

Bryers, Wng

Cdr Rob Toy

and Diana

Toy (representing

RAFA Rut-

land

branch,

and Mr

and Mrs

Ben Hun-

nissett), Les

and Bar-

bara Green

(RAFA Rut-

land branch),

Ken and

Mavis Noble

(Oval Close),

Taff, Geoff Sewell

(Marg Sewell), John

King, Alec Rose, Bert Fitches (Keyboard

Club), Eric Snowdon, Keith Wright, Brian

and Rita Thompson, Jean and Pete Rowley,

Lorraine Corral (Linda Martindale), G

Turner (family), Tony Baker (58th entry

RAF apprentices 1948), Mary and John

Skellett (Michael Skellett and family), Jean

Beasley and family, Muriel Elder and fam-

ily, Ms C Notley, Ken and Jen Bannister

(Martin, Julie, Tracy), Mrs E Rose, Mrs M

McDonald, Audrey and George Berridge,

Jackie Rowsell (Granada Defence Services,

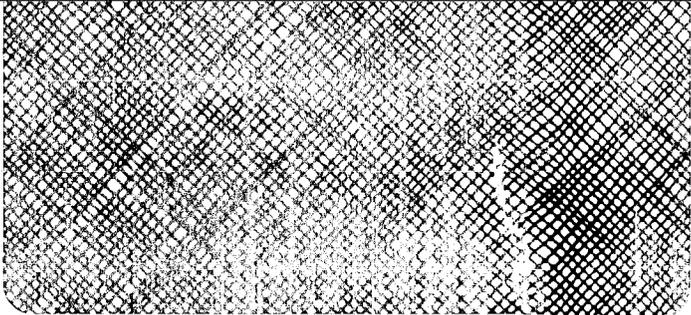
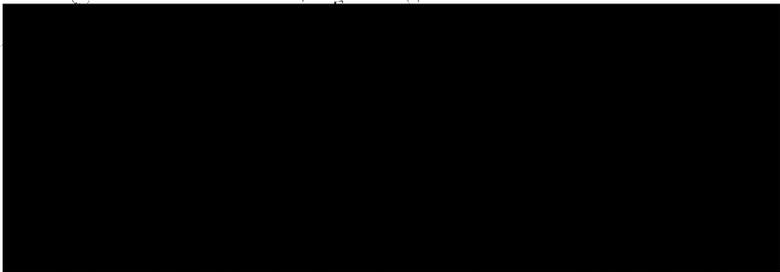
St Georges Barracks) Mr and Mrs John

Bland and family, Phil Armstrong, Miss

Myra Rose.



150.



	ROYAL MAIL
	POSTAGE PAID
	HQ1159

C/O (Royal ) vto deck
 (Monstall) AIR FORCE

m o o main building
 4A Room 8245
 Whitehall

London
 SW1A2HB

21



From: [redacted] Directorate of Air Staff (Sec) 4a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial)
(Fax)

0207 218 2140
[redacted]

[redacted]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)/64/3 ← f+u

Date
21 November 2000

Dear [redacted]

I am writing with reference to your letter dated 9 November 2000. My predecessors and I have frequently explained to you in previous correspondence, the limited interest the Ministry of Defence has in matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been placed on our files.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

RAF

Whitehall

London

VFO Desk

Dear [REDACTED]

9/11/2000

And Her Majesty the Queen's
Royal Air Force Chief Air Marshall

I have written to Air Commodore
David Walker at Royal Air Force
Cottesmore and expressed my concern
that since (RIAT) Air show
throughout the region of Lincolnshire
Rutland and Northamptonshire

there has been an average concerning
healthy [REDACTED] and other
matters of rail barriers coming
wrong on sequencing of coming into
risk of death of pedestrians
and motorists with barriers
going up when train actually
passing.

And cats (Panthers) half eaten

dear [redacted] a scotch man
disappearing for 3 days in [redacted]
low media coverage odd report
cancelling out Major Police search
judging man. Story media
in odd outcome.

3 young cadets of RAF dipping
in Spanish dinner crush-
jet spinning out of control
of lowick associated of knowledge
to me of psychiatric Hospital of same
name of lowick.

to be honest. I sent Gp Cpt
[redacted] at RAF W. [redacted] a
magazine full of UFOs

And full color advert of
RIAT Air show at RAF [redacted]

I hope I indirectly did not
plant [redacted] on to
the RAF and region.

[redacted] used to serve at RAF [redacted]

with me he served 22 years in RAF

he also worked aside to me at [redacted]

He did attend RIAT Air show

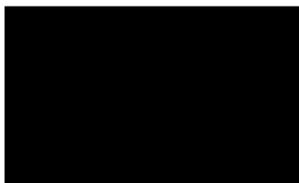
I ask you to contact RAF [redacted] to [redacted] please



From: [REDACTED] Directorate of Air Staff (Sec) 4a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial)
(Fax)

0207 218 2140
[REDACTED]



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)/64/3

← P+U

Date
15 November 2000

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October 2000 concerning "unidentified flying objects". You will be aware from previous correspondence that the MOD has only a limited interest in these matters; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. The content of your letter has been noted and placed on one of our departmental files.

Yours sincerely



Greenock Telegraph

Inverclyde
DOUBLE GLAZING

AMAZING GLAZING!
Showhouse and Garden: 18 Pottery Street, Greenock
TELEPHONE **744744**

No. 43,513

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 2000

30p

UNISON to hit council 'where it hurts'

Taxing time as staff call strike

Candlesticks stolen



A THIEF sneaked into a Greenock church and stole two candlesticks worth around £1,500 from the altar.

They were taken from St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church at Orangefield while it was open to members of the public.

Father Andrew Coleman expressed dismay at the loss.

He said: "It is very disappointing. Whoever took them won't be able to sell them for much and we would like them back."

"There was a constant stream of people coming into the church that day."

The brass candlesticks, part of a set of four, were always on display.

Their disappearance was

discovered on Tuesday afternoon by the woman who spends three hours every week polishing them.

Anyone with information about the theft should call police on 492500.

They are particularly keen to speak to a man in his mid 20s with black hair and dark clothing who was seen entering the church on the afternoon of the theft.

By CATRIONA WATT

FRESH industrial action by UNISON members will shut down Inverclyde's council tax office indefinitely.

The move to force a bigger pay deal is a departure from earlier industrial action when UNISON urged all members to down tools in single day strikes.

The dispute centres on a pay offer that would give Scottish council workers only half of their five per cent pay demand — half a per cent less than their English and Welsh counterparts.

The new tactic will involve a walk out on Wednesday by all 15 staff working in the council tax office within Greenock's Municipal Buildings.

They are expected to remain on strike until an improved pay deal is negotiated. Their wages will be paid by their union for the duration.

Robin Taggart, service conditions officer for the Inverclyde branch of UNISON, said the action would be mirrored nationally. Local decisions would determine which local authority department was affected.

The pressure will be cranked up with a single day all-out strike, a fortnight later, on Thursday 16 November, throughout the country.

"The plan is to hit the council where it hurts — by thwarting its ability to collect council tax payments," Mr Taggart said.

"Pay talks have broken down. There is an impasse. We're really trying to force the employers nationally to come up with an offer that meets the claim for five per cent."

"We are disappointed at the lack of progress. We had two very successful days of action. Now we are entering a new phase with indefinite industrial action for designated departments."

He acknowledged some people might derive a perverse sense of pleasure knowing the council tax department was affected.

'Morton owes us £26,500' claim Harriers

By ROGER GRAHAM

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers claim they are owed £26,500 from Morton — the transfer fee for midfielder Andy Brownrigg.

The English club's secretary, Roger Barrow, told the *Telegraph* that the matter was now in the hands of their solicitors.

"The national bodies are aware of the situation," commented Mr Barrow. "The money was to be paid in five equal monthly payments, beginning in August."

It included a transfer fee of £25,000 plus £1,500 to cover a loan period to another club.

Asked who specifically owed the money, Mr Barrow replied: "The agreement was with Greenock Morton."

Andy Brownrigg appeared in front of the media after last Saturday's match at Cappielow claiming that he was owed eight weeks' wages by Mike Peden, an allegation the latter has refuted.

The *Telegraph* tried to contact Mike Peden yesterday at his Chaddington Property Company for comment. He was not available and we left a message for him to return our call. That call was not returned.

Nice car - no sounds?

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Reaching out to the heart of the community

Intimations

Births

McALIECE — John and Nicola (nee Walls) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son John Edward on 24th October 2000, at Rankin Maternity Unit, Inverclyde Royal Hospital. A first grandchild for John and Bernadette McAliece and Eddie and Marilyn Walls. Thanks to all in attendance.

STAAL — On 22nd October, 2000 to Jonathan and Jane (nee MacKenzie). A son Benjamin Douglas. All well.

Deaths

CAMPBELL — Suddenly at home on Sunday 22nd October 2000, Elizabeth (Liz) Green, loving mother of Daniel and Timothy, loving grandmother of Connor Lewis, beloved partner of Jim and much missed sister of the family. Funeral service to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend will take place at Greenock crematorium on Tuesday 31st October at 11 a.m.

CATENA — Suddenly, at home, on 24th October, 2000, Iolanda Belloni, beloved wife of Aroldo Catena, much loved mum of Angelo and Anna Maria, and a dearly loved nonna of Antonio. Sadly missed. R.I.P. Reception into St. Colum's R.C. Church, Kilmacolm, on Tuesday 31st October at 10 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass, thereafter an interment in Italy.

Deaths

JOHNSTON — Suddenly, at home, on 20th October, 2000, Edmund Johnston, loving father of Lee and Nadine, much loved son of Jean and a dear brother of Ian. Funeral service will be held at Greenock Crematorium on Tuesday 31st October at 2 p.m. to which all friends are respectfully invited.

LEPICK — Suddenly, at Inverclyde Royal Hospital, on Friday 27th October, 2000, Sarah (Sadie) Barbour, beloved wife of the late Thomas Lepick, mother of Thomas and the late May and William, grandmother of Andrea, Brian, Angela and Linda, a loving great grandmother and sister of Frances. Funeral service at Greenock Crematorium on Tuesday 31st October at 3 p.m. to which all friends are invited.

MAGUIRE — Peacefully at Ardgowan Hospice on Wednesday 25th October 2000, Ann Kelly (retired bus inspector), beloved wife of Bob, dear mother of Robert and David, a dear mother-in-law of Joyce and Jeanette and a loving grandmother of Rachel and David. Family Service at James Wright, West Quay, Port Glasgow on Tuesday 31st October at 12.30 p.m. and thereafter to Greenock Crematorium for service at 1 p.m. to which all friends are respectfully invited.

Deaths

NEWBIGGIN — Isabella Craig Newbiggin (formerly Dunbar) passed away peacefully in her sleep on 20th October 2000. Cremation at Portchester Crematorium on 30th October 2000 at 1.30 p.m. Flowers and enquiries to J. Edwards and Son, 13 St. George's Walk, Waterlooville, Hampshire. Telephone 023 9226 2194.

In Memoriam

CHESNUTT — In loving memory of my mother, Matilda, died 29th October 1993.

Sadly missed.

— Daughter Tillie and Family.

MARSHALL — In loving memory of my sister, Elsie, died 28th October 1988. Also loved ones gone before and after.

Sadly missed.

Always remembered.

— Margaret and Dougie.

McFADDEN — Sadie. 29th October, 1998.

Time slips by but memories stay, Quietly remembered every day.

— Raymond, Jenny, Claire, Christopher.

McFADDEN — Sadie. Second anniversary.

Now in God's safe keeping. May she rest in peace.

— Love from Big Sis Mandy, Paddy, Michael, Stephanie, Tami and Paula. xxx

NICOLSON — Morag and Samantha.

Sadly missed.

— May.

WARD — In loving memory of our dear mother and granny, Bridget Burnside, died 29th October 1990.

To live in the hearts of those you love is not to die.

— The Family.

Acknowledgements

STEWART — The Family of the late Thomas Stewart, 94 Selkirk Court, Greenock, wish to thank the Reverend Father Byres of St. Laurence's Church, Reverend Father Freeny of St. Andrew's Church, all staff in Ward J North, Inverclyde Royal Hospital for their care and attention, Co-operative Funeral Service, Tontine Hotel, Mrs Anne Cameron (Homehelp) and all relatives and friends for their many cards and floral tributes in our recent sad bereavement.



SEA Witch Richelle Ramos seems to cast a spell on dolphins in SeaWorld, Orlando, in preparation for the park's Hallowe'en festivities this weekend in Orlando. This is part of an ongoing enrichment programme established by SeaWorld's animal care experts to keep the dolphins' environment interesting.

Sikhs charged with Air India bombings

CANADIAN police have arrested two Sikh men and charged them with killing 331 people in two 1985 bombings targeting Air India planes, including one that downed a jumbo jet off the coast of Ireland.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police announced the charges in Canada's biggest mass murder case after a 15-year investigation that was the nation's largest and cost millions of dollars.

Air India Flight 182 from Montreal to New Delhi, with a planned stopover in London, went down off the coast of Ireland on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people aboard. It is believed to be the most deadly terrorist bombing of an airliner.

On the same day, an attempt to sabotage another Air India flight in Tokyo failed when a bomb exploded prematurely, killing two baggage handlers.

Canadian investigators have long said they believed Sikh terrorists seeking revenge for India's 1984 raid on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the seat of faith for the Sikh minority in India, planted a bomb aboard Flight 182.

A Sikh man is serving a 10-year sentence in

Canada for his involvement in the Tokyo blast.

Police identified the two men arrested last night as Ripudaman Singh Malik, 53, and Ajai Singh Bagri, 51. They are charged with first-degree murder; conspiracy to commit murder; attempted murder; conspiring to cause bombs to be put on aircraft; and causing a bomb to be placed on an aircraft.

The charges accuse them of conspiring to kill all 329 passengers on Flight 182 and more than 170 on the plane in Tokyo.

Malik was arrested in

Surrey, just outside Vancouver, while Bagri was taken into custody in Kamloops, about 75 miles north east of Vancouver.

Malik, who came to Canada from India in 1972 and built up major business holdings in Vancouver, headed a credit union and school where relatives of Sikh militant Talwinder Singh Parmar have worked.

Parmar was the founder and leader of the Babbar Khalsa or Tigers of True Faith, a group dedicated to the creation of Khalistan from India's Punjab state. He was killed in a 1992 shootout with

Indian police, and was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in Friday's charges.

Investigators said both bombs originated or were placed on flights originating from Vancouver, and the conspiracy took place in the province of British Columbia, assistant police commander Beverly Busson said.

"We're anticipating future arrests," said Constable Cate Galliford, an RCMP spokeswoman for the Air India Task Force set up to investigate the case. She later added: "After 15 years of investigation, the task force is feeling very relieved today."

Yes, a pig really flew — first class

NOBODY'S telling porkies... a pig did fly.

It flew with US Airways — and red-faced airline chiefs say they're never going to let it happen again.

On October 17, the six-hour flight from Philadelphia to Seattle carried 201 passengers — 200 people and a pig — which sat on the floor in the first row of first class.

"We can confirm that the pig travelled, and we can confirm that it will never happen again," US Airways spokesman David Castelveter said. "Let me stress that. It will never happen again."

Sources familiar with the incident told the Philadelphia Daily News that the pig's owners convinced the airline the animal was a "therapeutic companion pet", like a guide dog for the blind.

The pig was travelling with two women who claimed they had a doctor's note that allowed them to fly with the animal, according to an internal airline report. US Airways and Federal Aviation Administration rules allow passengers to fly with service animals.

But the pig became unruly as the plane taxied toward the Seattle terminal, the report said, running through the jet, squealing and trying to get into the cockpit.

"Many people on board the aircraft were quite upset that there was a large uncontrollable pig on board, especially those in the first-class cabin," the incident report stated.

The pig made it off the plane but continued squealing inside the Seattle airport.

FAA officials in Seattle promised to investigate.

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INTIMATIONS
Copy for Births, Engagements, Marriages, In Memoriams and Acknowledgements should be in our office by 3 p.m. on the day prior to publication.
Saturday — 10 a.m. for Monday

Mystery of the rubbish dump

Council face £83,000 bill

By MELVYN BURKE

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched to track down the source of 3,000 tons of rubbish which has landed Inverclyde Council with an £83,000 bill.

The authority pays a contractor to take all its refuse away from a dump in Pottery Street.

But the quantity has mysteriously risen by 3,000 tons to 45,000 tons — and officials are baffled by the expensive increase.

At a meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee, cleansing bosses were reluctant to point fingers but said a detailed probe is under-way.

One line of enquiry is that commercial firms who should pay for dumping are doing so illegally at evenings and weekends when weighbridge staff are off duty.

A private contractor removes the refuse to a land-fill site at Dumbarton at a cost to the council of £27 a ton.

Community and Protective Services Director Neil Graham said: "There appears to be no logical explanation for this increase and we are determined to track it down."

"For the last five years we have disposed of 42,000 tons each year and suddenly it has jumped to 45,000. It is a mystery."

"There will be weekend weigh-bridge staff for the next few weeks to see if business people are dumping without paying their way."

"There are also other lines of enquiry."

A report is expected at a meeting of the committee next month.



TUCKING into those champion pies are, from left, production director George Wallace, production manager Hugh Paton and managing director Alan Marr... with the hand-carved Scotch pie wooden replica trophy.

Auld's
Scotch
pies
named
'Best in
the
World'

AULD'S of Greenock are the world champions at making Scotch pies!

They were named by the Scotch Pie Club after judging by a team of food trade experts who assessed more than 200 pies, brides and speciality products from 60 of Scotland's top bakers and butchers.

Auld's also got the top award for brides — a 'diamond' certificate — and a silver medal for their speciality pasta pie.

And their 'triple crown' at the award ceremony will be featured on BBC Television's 'Ex-S' programme on Hogmanay.

Auld's managing director Alan Marr said: "We are thrilled. As a family business, we pride ourselves on the quality of our products. The world championship and the other awards are an endorsement of our standards."

By ERIC BAXTER

He added: "Our customers can be assured that they're eating the best!"

Auld's are also still the Club's 'diamond' sausage roll makers. They won that award last year and retain the title because it wasn't part of the competition this year.

This was the second competition staged by the Scotch Pie Club. A spokesman for it said: "The club was established two years ago to raise the image of the Scotch pie and to clear up a few misconceptions surrounding this traditional fare."

He added: "The world championship is the crowning glory for Auld's, which this year is celebrating its centenary."

NEW BRIEFS

Junction work

A JUNCTION on Gourock's Barrhill Road will close next week while British Telecom carry out essential maintenance work. The junction where Hillside Road and Victoria Road meet may be closed every evening between 8pm and 5 am, Monday to Friday. Contractors are hopeful, however, that the work will be completed in the first night to minimise disruption. The alternative route is Tower Drive, Drumshantie Road, Broomberry Drive, to Barrhill Road and vice versa.

Time change



DON'T forget to put your clocks and watches back an hour from 2am tomorrow as British Summer Time comes to an end.

N'ice one

NEARLY 1,000 One 2 One call centre staff are to attend a Christmas bash at the Waterfront Leisure Centre in Greenock on 22 December. The communications giant is planning a party with a circus theme and has been given permission to floor the ice rink for the event.

Donations plea

FINNART Hostel in Greenock will use the West Station charity shop from 27 November to 1 December, and would appreciate donations of bric-a-brac, clothing and toys. They can be handed in at any time to the hostel at 70 Finnart Street.

Party animals?

HOLDING a Hallowe'en party? Let us know and we'll try to come along and take a picture. Call the news desk on 558808.

Teenager charged with serious assault

A BOY (16) appeared in private at the sheriff court charged with seriously assaulting another, also 16, by striking him on the head and body with a metal bar.

Stephen Gallacher of 11 Garvald Street, Greenock, was released on bail after a brief appearance without plea before Sheriff John Herald.

The offence was alleged to have happened in an electrical goods store at Container Way, Greenock, on 25 October.

Gallacher, who was represented by Alasdair Hendry, was further charged with shouting and swearing and causing a breach of the peace in Westburn Street and possession of an offensive weapon, a metal bar.

Clumps of hair found on carpet

SUSPICIOUS Francis Curran beat up his live-in girlfriend when she stayed out all night, the sheriff court heard.

He had waited up for her to return and was late for his work when she appeared just after seven in the morning.

There was a row and he shouted and swore at her then dragged her by the hair round the living room and punched her on the head, the court was told.

She tried to telephone police, but he pulled the

phone from the socket on the wall, said deputy fiscal Dan Kelly.

Clumps of her hair were later found about the carpet and she had a cut elbow and bruising to her face and nose. There was dried blood around her mouth and she had carpet burns to her forearm, he said.

Alasdair Hendry, defending, said his client and the woman had been in a relationship for four years and planned to marry.

There was a "backlog of suspicion" and this was not

the first time she had stayed out, he said.

There had been a scrap between them and she had given almost as good as she got and his client's shirt had been torn off.

The woman did not want the matter to go to court and, despite all that had happened, there were hopes that the relationship would be repaired, said Mr Hendry.

Curran (31), who admitted assault at the home they shared at 2 Leven Place, Greenock, on 26 October, had sentence deferred for reports.

Mums given lease of community hall

THE local mothers and toddlers group is to be allowed to carry on meeting in Upper Bow Community Hall in Greenock.

Inverclyde Council has been concerned that the hall has no management team and there were fears for the future of the group.

The Community and Protective Services Committee have agreed, however, that the mums can lease the hall indefinitely.

The organisation gets cash help from Enterprise Childcare and the committee was told the rent they pay means the council is breaking even on the deal.

They were also told that the mum and toddler group has expansion plans for the future which would mean increasing use of the hall.

Saturday Sidelight

Going green?

LOOKING after the environment was much in the news this week, and quite right, too.

We were delighted to see Prime Minister Tony Blair, at long last, nailing his environmental colours to the mast by calling for a "constructive partnership" among business, the public, and green lobby groups.

And Inverclyde Council's roads director, Ronnie Small, also made a valuable contribution to the issue by appealing to local people to stop dumping rubbish in burns, streams and gullies.

The *Telegraph's* report of Mr Small's eminently sensible comments ran beside a picture of Ladyburn culvert absolutely choked with rubbish. And who deposited the said garbage? That's right, some of the fine citizens of Inverclyde.

What is wrong with these people that they can't leave their old mattresses, furniture and 'white goods' (that's superstore rubbish for fridges and freezers, by the way) in the proper places?

Hundreds of bags of household waste are also tossed away rather than disposing of them suitably. It makes you wonder what sort of homes these people live in.

And, of course, the bottom line is that they're not only mucking up the countryside, but also blocking water courses and leading to the roads being flooded almost every time there's heavy rain.

Come on you people. Get your act together or you might find thousands of stranded motorists forming a campaign group to hunt you down and drag you to the nearest court. Meanwhile, Tony Blair should think about highlighting this sort of problem as he pursues his green agenda.

Hopefully, he will also get real about putting some serious money into alternative sources of energy like wind and wave power. With all due respect, he and many other politicians could contribute no end of hot air to the cause!

Do you care about the welfare of children?

By KRISSEY LOTHIAN

THE Children's Panel in Inverclyde is urgently appealing for volunteers.

The service is looking for ordinary men and women from all walks of life, married or unmarried, with or without children, to become panel members. The one qualification they must have is an interest in the welfare of youngsters.

John Smith, chairman of Inverclyde's Children's Panel, spoke of the important service. "Children are referred to us for all sorts of reasons.

They may have committed offences or had offences committed against them. They may not be cared for by their parents and be needing help. The panel has a whole range of options to look at before making a decision on what to do for the child's best interests."

Volunteers sit on a panel of three lay members at children's hearings. They work

on a rotational basis and can expect to serve on one or two hearings per month.

Becoming a panel member requires a long term commitment as there is a lot of training involved. New members will need to do six Saturday training days and six evenings between January and May next year before they start to serve on hearings from the end of May onwards. Ongoing training meetings are held one evening a month.

"The service is unique in

the world with the focus being on the needs of the child," said Mr Smith. It is good to be involved in a process that cares for children, doing your best to make the right decision for youngsters suffering from a large breadth of problems."

Interviewing will start early in December so volunteers should apply as soon as possible. Travelling and training expenses will be provided. Anyone interested should phone Inverclyde Council on 712111.

TOM JOHNSONE

Hi ya, Mum! Aah on the choo-choo!

BBC PLANS RELAUNCH OF 1960'S CHILDREN'S FAVOURITES BILL & BEN.

THAE TWO ARE POSTHEADS AN' THEY'RE TRYIN' TAE SCORE SOME WEED!!

WAINAILL GOLF CLUB ANNUAL DANCE

AH THINK WE PICKED THE WRONG DAY TAE COME UP TAE THE BEITH DAM, SHUG... AH FORGOT IT WAS THEIR ANNUAL DANCE LAST NIGHT!

Super Cyprus

CYPRUS was one of the smallest nations taking part in the Olympiad but their open team defeated one of the biggest, France, in the opening round robin.

This deal helped them on their way.

NORTH

♠ J 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 7 3 2
♦ K Q 5 3
♣ K Q 5 3

WEST

♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 5 3
♥ K 10
♦ Q 8
♣ A

EAST

♠ J 6
♥ Q 9 7 4 3
♦ J 5
♣ J 10 6 4

SOUTH

♠ K 4 2
♥ A 8
♦ A K 6 4
♣ 9 8 7 2

Dealer East. NS Game.

The play

In the closed room, Cyprus (EW) went one down in their contract of 4 Spades. France + 50.

However, in the replay, Cyprus (now NS) bid up to 5 Diamonds after West had overcalled with an innocuous 1 Spade.

Paul Chemla (West) led the ♠A and switched to a low Spade. Declarer ruffed and drew two rounds of trumps followed by Ace and another Heart.

Chemla had to win his ♥K — even if he throws this card away, South can duck when his ten appears to leave him on lead.

Endedplayed, Chemla again underled the ♠A but this time Declarer pitched the losing Club from dummy, duly winning with his King.

BRIDGE

by Martin Gordon

A simple cross-ruff did the rest and that was + 600 to Cyprus and a big step towards their eventual 18-12 victory over the French giants.

Wouldn't happen in football?

Fort Matilda Club results

Monday 16 October: Section A: NS — 1, Mrs C. Baird & Mrs B. Wilson; 2, Mrs B. Foster & Mrs J. Ritchie; 3, Ms A. Reynolds & Mrs J. Huxtable.

EW — 1, Mrs M. Brown & Mrs J. McGuffin; 2, Mrs J. Bowie & Mrs F. Thomson; 3, Ms S. Fleming & Mrs M. Allison.

Section B: NS — 1, Mrs E. McGinn & G. Falkner; 2, Mr & Mrs D. Chapman; 3, Mr & Mrs R. May.

EW — 1, Mrs P. Quigley & Mrs M. Arthur; 2, Mrs M. McMunn & Mrs S. Farmer; 3, M. Tannock & C. Lennox.

Tuesday 17 October: 1, A. Wilson & M. Gordon; 2, Mrs I. Stewart & Mrs A. May; 3, I. Liddell & H. Kane.

Friday 20 October: NS — 1, Mrs J. Muir & R. Brodie; 2, Mr & Mrs A. Harvie; 3, Mr & Mrs A. Finch.

● Renfrewshire Division 1: Greenock 4, Greenlaw 8.

Western District Division 1: Inverclyde 10, Kenmuir 6.

Latest positions: Lansteel 3/34, Inverclyde 3/33, Phoenix 4/32.5, Stirling 3/32, St Andrews 3/30, Gilmorehill 3/28.5, St Mungo 3/27 (top seven).

This week's news in 1900

Trial trip of liner

THE Furness Liner *Evangeline*, built by Messrs Stephen & Sons, Lint-house, for Messrs Furness, Withy & Co (Ltd), West Hartlepool, ran her trial trip on the Clyde yesterday with satisfactory results, the mean of four runs over the measured mile at Skelmorlie giving 14¾ knots. She is designed to carry 5,000 tons of cargo. She is a very fine model, and, together with cutwater stem and carved figurehead, is a vessel of very handsome appearance. The steam steering gear, of splendid make, is by Messrs John Hastie & Co, Greenock. Another local firm Messrs J.G. Rowan & Co, Cathcart Square, supplied the upholstery work and bedding and napery outfit. (27 October)

Charge against a twelve-year-old

AT Greenock Police Court today — Bailie Cameron on the bench — a slender-looking girl of twelve years of age was charged with the crime of theft by housebreaking, and on the motion of the Fiscal she was remitted to the Sheriff.

The charge against her is of a serious nature.

It is alleged that she broke into a

lockfast chest and stole from it a lady's gold ring; broke into a lockfast chest and stole a pair of trousers; broke into a house and stole a lady's silver watch, a brass chain, a silver albert and badge, and 21 magazines; and broke into a house and stole a lady's gold ring and a purse containing 1½d in money. (22 October)

Man drowned at Gourock

SHORTLY before seven o'clock yesterday morning, as Constable Grierison was going his rounds along the Esplanade he observed the body of a man in about three feet of water opposite the foot of Fox Street. With the assistance of another constable, he had the body removed to the Police Mortuary in Dalrymple Street, where it was subsequently identified as that of David Merrick, (22 October)

coachman, residing in lodgings at 86 Eldon Street. Deceased, who had been out of his usual employment for the past four months, was about thirty-five years of age and unmarried. He was last seen in the West-end at a late hour on Saturday night, and it is supposed that he accidentally fell over the Esplanade wall and was drowned. (22 October)

Local footballers suspended

THE Scottish Association Committee met last night in Glasgow — Mr A.R. Kirkwood presiding — when the case of Long (Clyde) and Robert (Port Glasgow Athletic), continued since the last meeting on account of the non-appearance of the referee, was again gone into.

Mr Dickson, the referee, confirmed his report to the secretary.

Both players had been ordered off for fighting on the field, and Robertson had been cautioned earlier in the match. Discussion followed. Mr Davie (Perth) moved that both players be suspended for a month, and Mr Lawrence (Dumbarton) an amendment for censure only.

The Chairman, in closing the

discussions, said that the case seemed a very clear one, and that unless the Association supported their referees it would be impossible to put a stop to rough play and a riot might occur in the future. He strongly supported the motion, which ultimately was carried by a considerable majority. (24 October)

Patient slams waiting time

PATIENTS are facing an agonising wait to get their homes fitted with special aids and adaptations when they come out of hospital, it has been claimed.

Jim MacLeod, secretary of Inverclyde Council on Disability, says the length of time before people are assessed has increased.

He said: "If people get discharged from hospital, they might need adaptations to their house like a grab rail or a wheelchair ramp.

"It used to take a week to get assessed then it went up to 12 weeks, now it's up to 16.

"If they are not getting an assessment done they are in real trouble."

Those seeking an adaptation

By GRAEME MURRAY

to their home first have to inform the social work department who in turn will authorise an assessment from Glenburn Resource Centre in Greenock.

Archie Langan (69) has been waiting more than four months for an assessment at his home in Gourcock.

He said: "I have difficulty getting into the bath and have applied for a shower. I would do it myself but it would cost £650 to get it installed.

"I've been waiting for 17 weeks. If you've got to wait that length of time, you could

actually die before they assess you.

"There's an ageing population in Inverclyde and there's a dire need for a shake up in the social work department."

But social work director, Tom Keenan, said: "The occupational therapy service within Inverclyde Council deals with 250 cases per month. Many are very complex cases and we target our resources on individuals who are terminally ill, those who have been in hospital and those who need assistance getting in and out of bed."

Mr Keenan said he could "not comment on specific cases" but said he was assured Mr Langan's case did not fall into one of the priority categories.



Helen's holiday surprise

A LUCKY Gourcock woman will be able to escape the dreary autumn rain after winning £500 worth of holiday vouchers.

Helen Paul, of Staffa Street, thought there was a catch when she found out she had won the Inverclyde Taxis autumn lottery draw.

The draw was launched by the

company as part of their customer reward scheme.

Helen will now be able to book any holiday of her choice through Geddes Travel Centre in Newton Street.

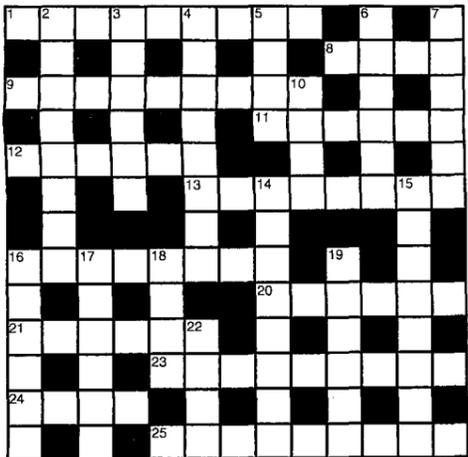
Delighted Helen is pictured with Jim McCulloch, director of Inverclyde Taxis, left, and David Geddes of Geddes Travel.

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. Firmly established a place quickly (9)
8. No ties to deliver (4)
9. But he might not be well-mannered (9)
11. Tail-less yak, very quietly 'e'd barked (6)
12. Address with haste endlessly at church (6)
13. A hormone perhaps for the space traveller (8)
16. In the Alps now dropping a bloomer (8)
20. No help replacing disinfectant (6)
21. Two cleaners returned a ball of fluff (6)
23. Shopkeepers who are perhaps not extremists (9)
24. Our responsibility (4)
25. Encourages at home with gin and whisky perhaps (9)



Down

2. Player using various paths in east (8)
3. Hymn the man composed (6)
4. Another strain found outside (5,3)
5. Rock the supremacy of the government? (4)
6. Excessively musical (6)
7. What the nurse did was apt (6)
10. Rascal, say, in church (4)
14. Brought one's glass to a satisfactory level? (6,2)
15. I nod off for 40 days, being slothful (8)
16. Bent tube in shop exchanged (6)
17. Rising so quietly, I go in for metal (6)
18. Monk accepts nothing as fate (4)
19. Strangely remote body (6)
22. Bearing east in half a minute (4)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Aggressive (9)
8. Extremely small (4)
9. Wading bird (9)
11. Hate (6)
12. Carnival (6)
13. Practice (5,3)
16. American politician (8)
20. Obliterated (6)

Down

2. Relief (8)
3. Fastidious (6)
4. Sporting dog (8)
5. Of no legal force (4)
6. Winner (6)
7. Fictitious winged monster (6)
10. Type of soil (4)
14. Motherly (8)
15. Short-arm blow (5,3)
16. Swindle (6)
17. Submissively (6)
18. Site for tents (4)
19. Empty space (6)
22. Jog (4)

ANSWERS to No. 3607

CRYPTIC: Across - 1 After-effect; 9 Ruled; 10 Convict; 11 Cool; 12 Villager; 14 Option; 15 Knight; 18 Saboteur; 20 Bowl; 22 England; 23 Marie; 24 Venturesome. Down - 2 Fall out; 3 Eddy; 4 Euclid; 5 Fondling; 6 Cling; 7 Precious few; 8 Storyteller; 13 Contrast; 16 Grogam; 17 Sunder; 19 Bugle; 21 Amis. QUICK: Across - 1 Informative; 9 Occur; 10 Aspirin; 11 Tied; 12 Dissolve; 14 Career; 15 Primer; 18 Mastodon; 20 Snag; 22 Nothing; 23 Hoist; 24 Down payment. Down - 2 Nuclear; 3 Ogre; 4 Mealie; 5 Tapestry; 6 Viral; 7 Forthcoming; 8 Interrogate; 13 Devotion; 16 Mention; 17 Loggia; 19 Set to; 21 Sham.

Church reading

INVERKIP church are to take part in a Bible readathon to celebrate the Millennium.

An evening service in the church hall, led by the congregation's praise band tomorrow at 6.30, will be followed by readings from designated passages.

On Sunday 5 November, the final sections of the Bible will be read following an evening service in the church at 6.30.

Coffee and tea will be served on both evenings.

The readathon is organised by the Greenock Branch of the Bible Society of Scotland.

Two-car collision

TWO drivers had a lucky escape after a head-on collision on Kilmaccolm Road in Port Glasgow.

The cars ended up in an nearby field and were extensively damaged.

A Kilmaccolm man and a woman driver were involved in the accident just beyond the Burmah Garage at 7 o'clock on Thursday evening. No-one was injured.

Police are appealing for witnesses to help with their inquiries.

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SIGNING the register after their wedding in St Andrew's Church, Larkfield, are Yvonne Hughes of Inverkip and John Trainor of Barrhead.



KAY Fleming and John Meehan after their wedding in Greenock Register Office. (Photo: Simpson Photographers).



AILEEN McMunn of Gourock and Craig Smith of Greenock, after their wedding in St Patrick's Church, Greenock. (Photo: MCM Studios).



JOYCE Bell and Jim Docherty, both of Fort Matilda Place, Greenock, who married in Agios Athanasios, Cyprus.



Brides and grooms



NATHALIE and David McCrae after the consecration of their marriage at Bridge House Hotel, Ardrishaig.



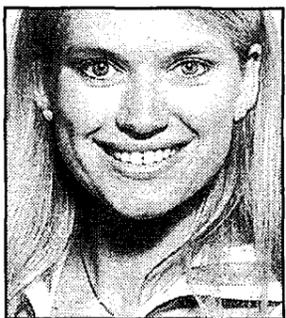
MARRIED in St Joseph's Church, Greenock, were Julie McGlone and John Mullan, both Greenock. (Photo: Simpson Photographers).



KAY Murray of Greenock and Alan Wilson of West Kilbride who married in St Joseph's Church, Greenock. (Photo: Simpson Photographers).



GREENOCK couple Russell Phelan and Alison Reach after their wedding in the Blacksmith's Cottage, Gretna Green.



Profile

Name: Annela Rice
Image: Gung-ho, game for a laugh girl.
Best Known For: Running around in a jump suit.
Early Life: She was born Annie Rice in mid-Glamorgan, went to Croydon High School for girls and then went on to work for the BBC.
Career: She started her career as a newsreader in Hong Kong. She returned to Britain and after the success of Treasure Hunt she went on to present Challenge Annela.
Love Life: Currently single after splitting from boyfriend Tom Gutteridge. She was married to producer Nick Allott but they split in 1993.
Don't Mention: Those day-glo jump suits.
Tomorrow: Holiday Guide to The Winter Sun, BBC1, 7.30pm.

TV Choice

SCREAM AND SCREAM AGAIN: A HISTORY OF THE SLASHER FILM, TONIGHT (C4, 10.35PM) — It's one of the most popular and innovative forms of cinema and now, in time for Hallowe'en, Mark Kermode traces the evolution of the slasher film.

From the first Psycho, to the post-modern irony of Scream, the documentary looks at how horror films scare us, entertain us and — occasionally — make us laugh.

The programme features interviews with directors Wes Craven, who was in charge of Nightmare On Elm Street and Scream 1, 2 and 3, Sean Cunningham, responsible for Friday the 13th, John Carpenter, who directed Halloween and Tobe Hooper, the man who conceived The Texas Chain Saw Massacre.

It also includes some famous faces — although you may not recognise them immediately. Gunnar Hansen — or Leatherface — and Robert Englund, otherwise known as Freddie Krueger, out of their movie incarnations, talk about the impact of the films they starred in.

The programme looks at how urban legends fed the appetite and storylines for slasher films and how the genre blossomed as studios realised just how much money they could make from attracting high-spending adolescents to the cinema.

The real horror that lies behind these tales is that some of the films have their roots in real life. Both Psycho and Texas Chain Saw Massacre both took their inspiration from true events.



COURTENEY Cox stars in Scream (Channel 4, tomorrow 10.10pm)

Pick of the

Films

Saturday

THE FRIGHTENERS (ITV, 11.35pm)

A **SUITABLY** scary affair for Halloween which may not have you actually hiding your face in your hands but maybe nibbling the odd nail now and then. Michael J. Fox takes the lead as a down at heel psychic investigator who is in league with a trio of spooks. But when a series of strange murders plague a small town he suddenly finds himself in a struggle with death itself. A unique blend of black comedy, supernatural and horror, and the slasher-movie elements are not merely gratuitous. Filmed on location in New Zealand, homeland of director Peter Jackson, it also stars Trini Alvarado, Peter Dobson, John Astin, Jeffrey Combs, Dee Wallace Stone and Jeff Busey.

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (Channel 4, 11.45pm)

IF you haven't got a sofa to hide behind, go out immediately and get one. This is seriously grisly stuff and caused a storm of controversy when it was released. But forget the hype, it's actually a very claustrophobic thriller which turned director Tobe Hooper into a force to be reckoned with. The gruesome plot focuses on a family of psychopathic cannibals — and we've all lived next door to one of those — including chainsaw-wielding maniac Leatherface.

Sunday

BABY'S DAY OUT (Channel 5, 5.10pm)

A **LOW** budget Home Alone which has its entertaining moments. The largely unbelievable plot follows the plight of a Chicago baby who manages to outwit a band of crooks led by Joe Mantegna and proceeds to embark on a parentless adventure around the city, ultimately ending up on the top of a skyscraper. This was a box office flop but had it not scampered hot on the heels of the smash hit Home Alone it would probably have gained more credit.

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (BBC2, 9.00pm)

THE story is based on the real life experiences of Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic, who joined the Marines as a gung-ho recruit in the 1960s and came home paralysed from the chest down. Tom Cruise stars.

SCREAM (Channel 4, 10.10pm)

WHAT better to peep at from behind your fingers during Halloween weekend than this definitive horror movie from Wes Craven. It's a terrific tongue-in-cheek slasher which pumped new life into the tired horror genre and paved the way for two sequels. Courteney Cox stars along with her hubby David Arquette, Neve Campbell and Drew Barrymore.

The WEEKENDER

Compiled by **MATT LYNCH**

Our 4-page pullout starts here

Insight

ALONG with estate agents, politicians and second hand car dealers, lawyers work in a profession that is generally reviled.

They are often stereotyped as being money-grabbing, scheming and manipulative and are treated with suspicion.

And yet, television viewers seem to be fascinated by programmes about lawyers. The new Channel 4 series North Square is just the latest drama to focus on the antics of a group of ambitious barristers.

The cast, which includes Helen McCrory, Kevin McKidd and Rupert Penry-Jones, is young and photogenic. The characters they portray are arrogant, thrusting upstarts who have formed their own break-away chamber. The camera work is, of course, jerky.

North Square fits perfectly into the current vogue for drama series about slick legal types, which began with the high-flying

characters in Ally McBeal and the drinking, smoking, drug-taking heroes of This Life.

Lawyers — particularly flawed ones — may soon spawn as many programmes as gritty detectives or square-jawed doctors.

But why are barristers inspiring TV dramas? John McLeod, a spokesman for the Bar Council, says his organisation receives endless calls from programme-makers researching the area.

He speculates that barristers have the advantages of wearing wigs, which makes them instantly recognisable, and of performing in the emotionally charged atmosphere of the court room.

He says: "People like court room dramas because there is always a lot at stake. Anyone who has been to court knows it is one of the most stressful experiences you can go through."

"Barristers are also among the senior ranks of the legal profession. They tend to be highly individualistic and because they are self-employed, they are often extremely opinionated."

Suzan Harrison, the executive producer of North Square, says lawyers have always inspired dramas but a different spin is now being put on the subject.

She says of North Square: "The way they are conducting their law isn't as champions of justice like Perry Mason and Kavanagh QC were — in those shows, the truth would out."

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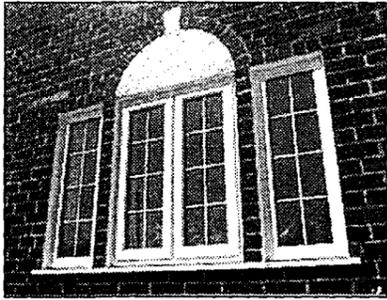
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BBC One

12.15 GRANDSTAND
12.20 Football Focus.
1.15 Racing from Ascot.
1.40 Cycling. 1.55
Racing from Ascot. 2.10
Rugby League. 2.20
Around the Grounds.
2.30 Racing from Ascot.
2.45 Rugby League.
3.45 Football Half-Times.
4.00 Rugby League.
4.45 Sportscene.
Times may vary. (s)

5.35 BBC NEWS

5.50 REPORTING SCOTLAND

5.55 JIM DAVIDSON'S GENERATION GAME
Including a belly dancing challenge. (s)

6.50 FRIENDS LIKE THESE
New series of Ant and Dec's game show. (s)

7.45 THE NATIONAL LOTTERY STARS
With Tom Jones and Heather Small. (s)

8.05 CASUALTY
Patrick spends the day in the ambulance with Josh and Finlay; (s) National Lottery Update

8.55 PARKINSON
The king of chat talks to guests David Beckham, Tracey Ullman and Sacha Distel. (s)

9.55 ALISTAIR MCGOWAN'S BIG IMPRESSION
A compilation of the best moments from the funnyman's series. (s)

10.15 BBC NEWS

10.30 SPORTSCENE: MATCH OF THE DAY
Highlights of Rangers v Kilmarnock. (s)

11.40 SNOOKER
The Scottish Masters at Motherwell Civic Centre.

12.45 THE STAND-UP SHOW
1.15 A Question of Sport (R) (s) 1.45 Top of the Pops (R) (s) 1.15 (GMT) BBC News 24

television Saturday

BBC Two

12.15 THUNDERBIRDS

1.05 STAR TREK (R)

1.55 SNOOKER
The Scottish Masters from Motherwell.

3.50 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY (s)

4.00 TODAY AT THE PARALYMPICS
The final day of competition Down Under.

4.50 LIVE HEINEKEN CUP RUGBY UNION
Bath v Munster (Kick-off 5.00pm). Commentary by Nigel Starmer-Smith. (s)

6.50 CORRESPONDENT
The rise to power of Austria's Jorg Haider. (s)

7.35 MEET THE ANCESTORS
The remains of three men on an island off the coast of Guernsey. (R) (s)

8.05 FINEST HOUR
Documentary featuring an account of the Blitz. Last in series; (R) (s) Viking Stories.

9.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU
With Lauren Booth and Andrew Rawnsley. (s)

9.30 BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 70TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT
Presented from London's Barbican Centre. (s)

11.20 LATER WITH JOOLS HOLLAND
With Blur, Babyface and The Go-Betweens. (s)

12.20 ROBOT WARS (R)

1.05 FILM: MY NEW GUN (1992)
Comedy, with Diane Lane and Tess Harper.

1.40 (GMT) CLOSE 3.00 BBC Learning Zone 5.00 Close

Channel 4

1.00 LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE (R)

2.00 RACING FROM NEWMARKET AND WETHERBY
Including races at 2.15, 2.45, 3.05, 3.20, 3.35, 4.05, 4.25 and 4.40.

5.05 BROOKSIDE
Omnibus. Lindsey seeks support from Shelley.

6.30 NEWS; Weather (s)

7.05 THE LINERS
How the dawn of the jet aircraft signalled the end of an era for the liners. Last in series. (R)

8.05 UNTOLD: WORDS OF FIRE
Examination of the controversy generated by Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses, published in 1988.

9.05 TOP TEN: 1977
Phill Jupitus presents a trawl through the top acts and news headlines of 1977, when Jim Callaghan was in power and John Travolta strutted his stuff.

10.35 SCREAM AND SCREAM AGAIN
Investigation into the appeal of horror films, from Psycho to The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, which follows.

11.45 FILM: THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (1974)
Premiere. Horror about a family of cannibals who kill a group of youngsters in various grisly ways. Gunnar Hansen stars.

1.20 4LATER: DOGMA TV
1.50 4Later: Digital Sex 1.20 (GMT) 4Later: Slam 1.45 4Later: Treasure 2.00 4Later: The Trip 2.30 4Later: Exploítica Rides Again 3.30 The Ticket 4.00 For Your Love 4.30 Countdown (R) (s) 5.00 Sesame Street

Channel 5

12.05 FILM: RADIANT CITY (1996)
Drama, starring Kirstie Alley and Clancy Brown. (s)

1.45 5 NEWS AT LUNCHTIME (s)

1.55 THE CORE: The Wonder Years

2.25 HARRY AND COSH (s)

2.50 USA HIGH (R) (s)

3.20 THE PEPSI CHART
The new Top 20. (R) (s)

3.50 DARIA (R) (s)

4.20 RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

4.50 SINGLED OUT

5.20 ZOE, DUNCAN, JACK AND JANE (R) (s)

5.50 5 NEWS AND SPORT

5.55 IT'S A KNOCKOUT (s)

6.55 NIGHT FEVER
Special Halloween edition with Mystic Meg scoring and music by Doctor and the Medics. (s)

7.50 5 NEWS AND SPORT

8.05 GHOSTS CAUGHT ON TAPE
Jonathan Frakes introduces evidence some claim supports the existence of ghosts; (s) 5 News at Nine

9.00 FILM: FRIGHT NIGHT (1985)
Comical vampire horror, starring Chris Sarandon; (s) 5 News Late

11.05 FILM: MURDER 101 (TVM 1992)
Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan and Dey Young.

12.55 FILM: COURAGE (TVM 1986)
Fact-based drama, starring Sophia Loren. 1.30 (GMT) Monsters 1.55 Prisoner: Cell Block H 2.45 Moto GP (s) 5.30 You Again? (R) (s)

Scottish TV

1.00 ITV NEWS

1.05 SCOTLAND TO

1.10 ON THE BALL

1.55 TELEFIOS NA SEACHDAINN

2.25 SPLAOID

3.25 INSIDE OUT

4.25 MOVIES, GAME AND VIDEOS

4.55 APPEAL

5.00 SCOTLAND TO

5.15 ITV NEWS

5.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (s)

6.00 CILLA'S MOMENT OF TRUTH
Synchronised swimmers compete in the quiz. (s)

7.00 STARS IN THEIR EYES
Singing contest, hosted by Matthew Kelly. (s)

7.50 ITV NEWS (s)

8.05 WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?
Chris Tarrant hosts the big-prize game show. (s)

9.05 THE KNOCK
The team investigate a brother and sister suspected of supplying lethal ecstasy tablets to club-goers in Ibiza. (s)

10.35 THE VAMPIRE HUNTER WITH NIGEL MARVEN
The animal kingdom's bloodsuckers, from vampire bats to fleas.

11.35 FILM: THE FRIGHTENERS (1996)
Premiere. Comic horror, starring Michael J Fox.

1.35 FILM: THE TRAP (1966)
Drama. Oliver Reed and Rex Sevenoaks star.

2.30 (GMT) BOX-OFFICE AMERICA 3.00 Dial-a-Date (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen 4.30 Scotland This Week (s)

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television Sunday

One

8.30 MATCH OF THE DAY (s) 8.30 Football
 (s) 9.00 Breakfast
 (s) 10.00 The
 Heaven and Earth Show
 (s) 11.00 Three Up, Two
 Down 11.30 Landward

10.00 ON THE RECORD

10.00 TOM AND JERRY

10.05 EASTENDERS (s)

10.00 SNOOKER
 The Scottish Masters
 from Motherwell. (s)

10.45 POINTS OF VIEW

10.00 BBC NEWS

10.20 REPORTING
SCOTLAND

10.25 SONGS OF
PRaise: AN EVENING
WITH SIR HARRY
 Celebrity tribute to Sir
 Harry Secombe. (s)

10.15 BROTHERLY LOVE
 Frank helps relaunch
 the Robertsons' Bar. (s)

10.45 ANTIQUES
ROADSHOW
 The experts return to
 Glamis Castle. (s)

10.30 HOLIDAY GUIDE
TO WINTER SUN
 Tenerife, the Gambia
 and Morocco. (s)

8.10 BORN TO BE WILD
 Report on a black bear
 rescue in Idaho. (s)

9.10 SUPERHUMAN
 Robert Winston
 examines the body's
 regenerative powers. (s)

10.00 BBC NEWS

10.15 PANORAMA
 A look at muggings
 among children. (s)

10.55 THE SINS
 Drama, starring Pete
 Postlethwaite. (R) (s)

11.45 A HISTORY OF
BRITAIN (R) (s)

12.50 FILM: NEVER
FORGET (1991)
 Holocaust drama,
 starring Leonard Nimoy.

12.20 BBC News 24

BBC Two

7.00 CHILDREN'S BBC:
 Pingu 7.10 Teletubbies
 (R) (s) 7.50 Noah's Island
 (R) (s) 8.15 Dennis the
 Menace (R) (s) 8.40 The
 Genie from Down Under
 (s) 9.10 Ocean Odyssey
 (R) (s) 9.35 Big Kids (R)
 (s) 10.00 Roswell
 Conspiracies (s) 10.25
 Charlie Brown and
 Snoopy Show (R) 10.50
 See You In Court (s)
 11.15 Robot Wars (R) (s)

12.00 TOP OF THE
POPS+PLUS (s)

1.00 HOLYROOD (s)

1.30 SUNDAY
GRANDSTAND
 1.35 Rugby League. 2.00
 Rally Driving. 2.30
 Cycling. 2.45 Rugby
 League. 4.45 Cycling.
 5.00 Rugby Union. (s)

5.10 WILD:
WILDLIFE SHOWCASE

5.40 WILD:
POLAR BEAR DIARY (s)

5.50 WILD:
NATURAL WORLD (s)

6.40 TODAY AT THE
PARALYMPICS
 The closing ceremony. (s)

7.30 AARON COPLAND:
AMERICAN COMPOSER
 Centenary celebration of
 the great composer. (s)

8.30 ART ZONE: REVIEW
 Andrew O'Hagan
 discusses this year's
 Turner Prize. (s)

9.00 SNOOKER
 Coverage of the Scottish
 Masters final from
 Motherwell Civic Centre.

11.15 FILM: BORN ON
THE FOURTH
OF JULY (1989)
 True-life Vietnam War
 drama. Tom Cruise stars.

1.30 CLOSE 2.00 BBC
 Learning Zone

Channel 4

5.55 DOG CITY (R) 6.20
 The Magic School Bus
 (R) 6.45 Trumpton (R)
 7.00 Max Bear 7.15
 Home to Rent (R) 7.40
 Bug Alert (R) 8.05 The
 Investigators 8.30 The
 Kids from Room 402
 9.00 T4: Planet Pop
 9.30 Blunt atp 10.00
 Hollyoaks Casting Special
 11.00 Hollyoaks

1.30 GERI HALLIWELL

2.00 MAKING THE BAND

2.30 2000 MTV VIDEO
MUSIC AWARDS
 Highlights of the awards.

3.45 WORLD
WRESTLING
FEDERATION: HEAT

4.45 MYSTERY OF
THE MUMMIES (R)

5.45 SCRAPHEAP
CHALLENGE
 The teams build
 steam-powered cars.

6.45 THE SCIENCE
OF SECRECY
 An unbreakable code.
 Last in series.

7.15 NEWS; Weather

7.45 STRESSED OUT
 Report into stressful
 working conditions.

9.10 WITNESS
 Children claiming to have
 been reincarnated.

10.10 FILM:
SCREAM (1996)
 Premiere. Horror romp,
 starring Neve Campbell.

12.15 DAWSON'S
CREEK (R)

1.10 FILM: DEATH
2000 (1975)
 Black comedy, starring
 David Carradine.

2.35 4LATER 3.05 4 Later:
 Belfast All Nighter 3.35
 4Later: Vids (R) 4.05
 4Later: Fist of the North
 Star 4.30 4Later:
 Codename Eternity 5.20
 Countdown (R) (s)

Channel 5

6.00 BAMBOO BEARS 6.25
 Russell Grant's Postcards
 (s) 6.30 Dappledown Farm
 (R) (s) 7.00 Beachcomber
 Bay (R) (s) 7.30 Milkshake!
 (s) 7.35 Tickle, Patch and
 Friends (s) 8.00 Adventures
 from the Book of Virtues (s)
 8.30 Tiger, Tiger (s) 9.00
 It's a Knockout (R) (s) 10.00
 Core News (s) 10.05
 Miracles of Faith (s) 10.35
 Burke's Law (R) (s) 11.30
 The Movie Chart Show (s)

12.00 ICONS OF THE
20TH CENTURY (s)

12.30 5 NEWS (s)

12.40 MOTO GP (R) (s)

2.25 EXCLUSIVE (s)

2.55 FAMILY AFFAIRS (s)

5.10 FILM: BABY'S
DAY OUT (1994)
 Comedy, starring Brian
 Haley and Joe Mantegna.

7.00 5 NEWS (s)

7.30 WHAT
WENT WRONG?
 A six-storey building which
 was ripped apart and a
 yachting disaster. (s)

8.00 MARTIAL LAW
 An ambulance carrying an
 urgently needed heart for
 transplant is hijacked. (s)

8.55 5 NEWS (s)

9.00 FILM: DRIVE (1996)
 Thriller, starring Mark
 Dacascos and Kadeem
 Hardison; 5 News Late

10.55 MURDER
DETECTIVES:
CASE FILES
 Photographic forensic
 evidence. Last in series. (s)

11.55 EUROPEAN
BLUE REVIEW (R) (s)

12.25 RECORDED
SPORTS PROGRAMME
 (s) 4.00 NHL Ice Hockey (s)

Scottish TV

5.30 ITV NEWS 6.00
 GMTV 9.25 CITY: S Club
 TV 9.55 Angry Beavers
 10.10 Power Rangers (s)
 10.30 Spiorad Dhe 10.45
 Gloraich Ainm 11.30
 Testimony (R)

12.30 PARISHES OF
POLPERRO

12.55 SCOTLAND
TODAY (s)

1.00 JONATHAN
DIMBLEBY (s)

2.00 SEVEN DAYS (s)

3.00 SCOTSPORT

4.05 FOOTBALL FIRST

4.35 INSIDE OUT

5.35 OBAIR NAN
AINGLEAN (s)

6.05 A LORG ALBA (s)

6.35 ITV NEWS

6.50 SCOTLAND TODAY

7.00 HIGH ROAD

7.30 CORONATION
STREET
 Fred stuns Audrey with a
 strange proposition.

8.00 HEARTBEAT
 Mike and Jackie are
 terrorised by a stalker.

9.00 WITHOUT MOTIVE
 The killer strikes, leaving
 his victim in a coma. (s)

10.00 TARRANT ON TV
 A look at America's most
 extreme comedian. (R)

10.30 ITV NEWS (s)

10.45 SCOTSPORT
PLUS (s)

11.30 THE SOUTH
BANK SHOW (s)

12.30 JESUS 2000 (s)
 12.35 Ultimate
 Questions (s) 1.35
 Planet Rock Profiles (s)
 2.05 Cybernet (s) 2.35
 Seven Days (R) (s) 3.35
 ITV Nightscreen 5.00
 Coronation Street (R)
 5.25 Scotland Today

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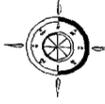
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Green Scene

Rudolph — the friendly vampire

THE LITTLE VAMPIRE (Cert U, 95 mins). Family. Jonathan Lipnicki, Rollo Weeks, Richard E Grant, Alice Krige, Jim Carter, John Wood, Pamela Gidley, Tommy Hinkley, Dean Cook, Anna Popplewell.

YOU have to feel sorry for vampires. Ever since that nasty Bram Stoker injected blood into the literary veins of Dracula, the creatures of the night have been portrayed as sadistic and emotionless demons, silently stalking human prey (buxom wenches preferred) and gorging themselves on our life-force.

So it's completely understandable that when nine-year-old Tony Thompson (Jonathan Lipnicki) comes face-to-face with a real live vampire, his first impulse is to run screaming in the other direction.

Luckily for Tony, the vampire in question is Rudolph (Rollo Weeks), a good and friendly soul belonging to a long line of nocturnal wanderers who only drink the blood of cows.

Rudolph and his



family are desperately searching for a legendary ruby amulet which can help them regain their mortality. But only if they find the stone before the comet Attamon crosses the moon, a spectacular celestial event which takes place every 300 years.

In a stranger twist of fate, Tony has been having strange dreams about the amulet and knows that the stone is located somewhere within the castle of squire Lord McAshton (John Wood). Sensitive to Rudolph's plight, Tony vows to help, and the two boys embark on an exciting mission

to find and retrieve the missing gem.

Danger looms large, however, in the form of tenacious vampire hunter Rookery (Jim Carter) who has tracked Rudolph and his family to the area with his antiquated home-made detection system, and plans to stake the entire fanged clan at the first available opportunity.

Based on the best-selling children's book by Angela Sommer-Bodenburg, *The Little Vampire* is a charming family film with plenty of gentle thrills and spills for younger audiences: flying vampire cows, several close scrapes with Rookery

and a tense, edge-of-seat finale.

The film transposes the roles of heroes and villains, placing the audience's affections firmly on the side of the vampires. Rudolph and his kin do nothing to threaten the humans in the community (the cattle might have cause for complaint though), yet they are persecuted mercilessly by Rookery and the scheming Lord McAshton.

Amidst the action and horror, there is plenty of humour too, such as Tony getting

sweet revenge on Lord McAshton's obnoxious grandsons who have been bullying him at school, or a farmer's look of disbelief when his whole herd comes down with a nasty case of Vlad Cow Disease.

Pint-sized Lipnicki, who played the cute card so well in *Jerry Maguire*, gets top billing but his performance is slightly flat. By comparison, relative newcomer Weeks is an absolute delight, bringing out the warmth in his juvenile bloodsucker, learning the true value of friendship, even with a mortal.

Considering the relatively tight budget, special effects are effective without ever being jaw-dropping, including scenes of Rudolph and Tony flying over the Scottish countryside, and fun and games with the bovine undead hanging upside down in their barn.

Next to some of the more glossy, star-laden fare on the Hollywood conveyor belt, *The Little Vampire* fares surprisingly well and should be a firm favourite with the little ones over the Hallowe'en season.

Showing now

MEMENTO (Cert 15, 113 mins).

GUY Pearce plays former insurance investigator Leonard Shelby who spends the film hunting down the person who raped and murdered his wife and left him for dead. The problem is that he has lost his memory as a result of the brutal attack he suffered and any important details are tattooed across his body, including the initials of the assailant and a car licence plate. It is a challenging film which tells the tale in different time frames but ultimately it works.

COYOTE UGLY (Cert 12, 100 mins)

ONE of New York's most infamous nightspots sees the flirtatious bar staff, known as Coyotes, tantalise with their outrageous antics. Aspiring songwriter Violet reluctantly joins the Coyote ranks to pay the rent. At first, Violet is horrified by the exploits of the Coyotes, but soon seizes the spotlight from the other girls. This is an exploitative piece of glossy nonsense that peddles visual wet dream under the token banner of girl power.

DINOSAUR (Cert PG, 82 mins)

SET 65 million years ago during the late Cretaceous period, the picture follows the adventures of a plucky Iguanodon called Aladar who is separated from his kin as a hatchling, and raised by a family of lemurs on an idyllic remote island. From a technical viewpoint, *Dinosaur* is a marvel, seamlessly blending live-action photography, computer-animated characters and special effects wizardry. But the underlying story of triumph against adversity is pretty simplistic.

NUTTY PROFESSOR II: THE KLUMPS (Cert 12, 106 mins)

VERY little has changed since we last visited lovable science professor Sherman Klump (Eddie Murphy) and his dysfunctional kin. The portly prof is now involved in the hush-hush development of a revolutionary youth serum. And when his villainous alter-ego Buddy Love begins to resurface from his subconscious, he tries to get rid of him by extracting Buddy's DNA from his system. But familiarity breeds contempt, and the film is a crushing disappointment.

BILLY ELLIOT (Cert 15, 111 mins)

BILLY Elliot (Jamie Bell) is an shy 11-year-old living with his proud miner father (Gary Lewis) and older brother Tony (Jamie Draven) during the political and social unrest of the 1984 miner's strike. Determined to forge his son in his own image, Billy's father sends him for boxing lessons but Billy is much more taken with ballet. This is a heart-warming tale full of superb acting as we see Billy battle to overcome the prejudices of his father in a film full of brilliant choreography. A triumph.

TOP 10 MOVIES

- 1 (-) What Lies Beneath
- 2 (1) Dinosaur
- 3 (2) Road Trip
- 4 (3) Billy Elliot
- 5 (-) The Little Vampire
- 6 (4) Nutty Professor 2: The Klumps
- 7 (-) Coyote Ugly
- 8 (5) Hollow Man
- 9 (6) Romeo Must Die
- 10 (-) Bring It On

• Supplied by UCI Cinema

LOVE, Honour and Obey (18) is a film with huge potential but sadly it doesn't quite reach the honourable heights that it should.

Packed with great actors, you would imagine it could not go far wrong, however, much of the film was improvised. While this adds to the realism, the lack of definite script means that many great lines get lost in the background as people talk over each other.

Another unusual aspect of the film is that the characters



are named after the actors who play them. This is lucky for Denise Van Outen, as it means that, playing herself, no great

acting talent is required. Thankfully her input is minimal.

Ray Winston plays Ray Winston as he usually does. However, he is perfect as the tough gangster leader of North London with a passion for Karaoke.

Jonny Lee Millar is a wide-eyed young man fed up of his dead-end job as a courier. His best friend, Jude Law, introduces him to his uncle Ray and soon he becomes embroiled in the toughest gang in North London.

Over-keen Jonny, obsessed with conflict and desperate for

action, soon leads the gang into a tit for tat war with Sean Pertwee's South London gang which soon gets out of hand.

Dominic Anciano and Ray Burdis who wrote, produced and directed the film also feature as a comic element, playing off each other.

The action is interspersed with Karaoke performances from each of the main actors including the brilliant Kathy Burke. The appropriate 'Avenues and Alleyways' will ring in your ears for days afterwards.

The film has the

makings of something really great. Sadly it only seems to meet its potential half way, wasting superb ideas and acting talent.

The actors obviously had a good time filming and their frequent smirks at each other makes you feel you are sitting in on a private joke. At other times the mumbling lines make you feel as if you are watching a docu-soap.

It's definitely worth watching, just don't expect too much.

Video supplied by Blockbuster.

Video View By Krissy Lothian

Variorum

Appeal for car youths

TWO youths in a gold-coloured Nissan Micra hit a parked car in Pleasantside Avenue, Port Glasgow, on Thursday at 5.10pm. No-one was injured. The youths made off. Police suspect that the Micra is a stolen vehicle and are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 492500.

Art show's final week

ART enthusiasts have until Saturday 4 November to view paintings done by an artists' group in Braeside. The group's work is on show until that date at Gourock Library.

Grand win for entrant

A GREENOCK resident is celebrating this week after winning the £1,000 first prize in the Ardgowan Hospice Lottery. The winning ticket is numbered 19841.



CONGESTION in Staffa Street, Gourock, as children arrive at St Ninian's Primary.

Safety walk for kids

TRAFFIC problems at a Gourock primary school could be alleviated if children walked to school, according to a council boss.

Concerned residents around St Ninian's Primary school have put forward suggestions to tackle long-standing congestion, including the creation of parking bays or a car park and a one-way system.

Upper Gourock Community Council's public meeting heard from residents who feel there is an

accident waiting to happen.

They want something done to ease grid-lock in Staffa Street and Kirn Drive when parents drop off and collect children.

Their suggestions have been sent to Inverclyde Council who are carrying out a public consultation exercise on how to spend £93,000 allocated under a Government Safer Routes to School initiative.

Ronnie Small, Inverclyde Council's Head of Transportation

and Roads Service, said: "The initiative is really about improving the walking and cycling environment which, in turn, will tackle congestion as well.

"We want to encourage children to walk and cycle and discourage parents from taking them by car.

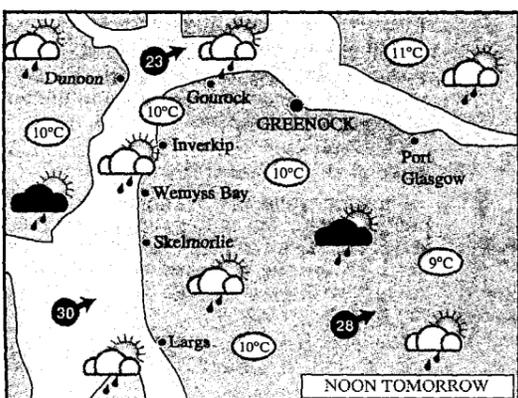
"I am trying to urge parents, if they must drive their children, to park a few streets away and walk the rest of the way with them."

He added: "Walking improves the

health of children and makes them mentally sharper in the morning. It will also improve their awareness of traffic and roads. Many children do not have knowledge of road safety because they are never allowed out on the roads.

"We will also be looking at congestion and we are asking for suggestions for improvements. But we have a very limited amount of money available to go round 40 schools."

Noticeboard



Forecast for the Greenock area and the Tail of the Bank until noon Sunday

A bright start to the afternoon but cloud and rain will arrive by evening. A moderate south-easterly wind. Max temp 11-12C (52-54F). A wet and windy night with some heavy rain for a time. The north-westerly wind will increase to gale force later. Min temp 8C (46F). After a cloudy start with further rain tomorrow, it will be a bright and windy day with sunny spells and showers.

Ferry crossings—Gourock, McInroy's Point, Wemyss Bay
South-easterly wind gale force 8. Rough seas.

Outlook until noon Monday
Sunday afternoon will have showers. The showers will continue into Monday. The strong winds will ease.

Holiday Pound

Australia	.....2.66 dollars
Austria	.....23.0 schillings
Belgium	.....64.6 francs
Canada	.....2.12 dollars
Denmark	.....12.5 kroner
France	.....10.93 francs
Germany	.....3.28 marks
Greece	.....569.0 drachma
Holland	.....3.68 guilders
Ireland	.....1.31 pints
Italy	.....3265.0 lira
Japan	.....152.65 yen
Malta	.....0.64 lira
Portugal	.....335.0 escudo
Spain	.....276.0 pesetas
Sweden	.....14.33 krona
Switzerland	.....2.54 francs
Turkey	.....953000.0 lira
USA	.....1.401 dollars

Holiday Weather

	C	F	Weather
Athens	.....21	70	Cloudy
Baden	.....13	55	Rain
Copenhagen	.....11	52	Cloudy
Cyprus	.....23	73	Fair
Kos	.....23	73	Cloudy
Madrid	.....18	64	Sunny
Palma	.....23	73	Fair
Paris	.....13	55	Dull
Rome	.....21	70	Cloudy
Tenerife	.....25	77	Sunny

Information supplied by
PA WEATHERCENTRE

Clyde Shipping Gazette

EXPECTED movements this weekend:
ARRIVALS: Friday — **Loch Nevis**, light to James Watt Dock. Today — **Tinnes**, light to Hunterston. **Mostrum**, gas oil to Rothesay Dock. **Heereborg**, containers to Greenock Ocean Terminal. **Christopher Meeder**, containers to GOT. **Trapper**, light to Finnart. Sunday — **Clonlee**, urea to Shieldhall. Monday — **Sullberg**, light to S'Hall.
SAILINGS: Friday — **Pelayo**, GOT containers. **Cervantes**, GOT containers. **Stina**, Shieldhall, animal feed. Today — **BRO Traveller**, Finnart grades. **Tinnes**, Hunterston coal. **Heereborg**, GOT containers. **Gerrita**, Finnart light. Sunday — **Christopher Meeder**, GOT containers. **Mostrum**, Rothesay Dock light. **Trapper**, Finnart grades.



FROM the past . . . The 6,736grt cargo liner **Linguist** was the second of three sisters built by Lithgow's at Port Glasgow for T. & J. Harrison of Liverpool, and she entered service towards the end of 1947. Designed to serve on Harrison's services to Southern Africa, the US and Caribbean, the ship remained with the company until 1966 when she went to the Liberian flag as the **Jade Venture**. On 8 November 1969 she arrived at Taiwan along with one of her sister ships for scrapping. Photograph supplied by Capt. Murray Paterson.

Tide Times

HIGH water at 2.17pm and at 1.14am and 1.49pm on Sunday. Vehicles light up from 5.47pm and from 4.45pm on Sunday.

On the Waterfront

LIBRARIES could have an exciting future under plans by Inverclyde Council to make them dynamic civic centres. Already, old cardboard tickets are on the way out with computerised cards taking their place. The *Telegraph* took to the streets to find out what the people think about their library service and how it could be improved.

I TAKE my wee boy Andrew (9) to the library. He uses it to borrow books and to research for school projects. I would like to see classes teaching youngsters how to use computers to get information. **Carol Morrison (35), Greenock.**

I KNOW the library already has videos and CDs but I only borrow books. But I might borrow CDs now as you don't have to join the music library. **Mrs Stewart (62), Greenock.**

I'M very happy with the library. I borrow books twice a week. I've been coming to the library since my father told me to get a library ticket when I was seven. **Robert Simpson (75), Greenock.**

I THINK the computerisation will be a good thing. It means I can extend my book loan without bringing them down to the library; I can just call them. I usually borrow talking books because I'm visually disabled and they have a good selection. **Betty Stirling (69), Greenock.**

I USE the library for studying and assessments, although there isn't a good selection of nursing textbooks. I think it's great the library has Internet access but I wish it was more comfortable with a better atmosphere for studying. **Student nurse Linda Boag (20), Greenock.**

Hot Rods

Freshwater and Saltwater angling 2000

Newark Angling Club outing

NEWARK Angling Club held their outing to Lochs Long and Eck recently

With the Freshwater Champion decided, it was going to the wire for the overall club champion, between Allan Sneddon and Jim Mills.

The Junior Sea Trout Championship was just as close with Thomas Sneddon and George Gemmell going into the last outing dead even, followed by young Stephen Taylor.

When the bus reached Loch Long the tide was reaching its high point. First off was George Gemmell snr who fished down the roadside of the Loch. George was to return the heaviest sea trout of the day.

Next off at the top of the Loch were Billy Gault, Jim McEwan and George Gemmell jnr with his sons Paul and George to fish their favourite marks.

They reported good sport on the float and sand eel but Jim McEwan came out tops with a good sea trout on the spinner.

The last stop at Loch Long saw Jim Mills and Neill McDowell, along with Stan Ferguson, make their way down to the big bay at the youth hostel.

The trio tried various methods but sized fish were hard to come by.

The bus then continued up over the Rest and Be Thankful, down round Creggans at Loch Fyne.

On reaching Loch Eck, John O'Donnell was first off for his favourite mark at Glenbranter. John was to find the going tough when he was landing mostly eels.

The bus then reached the loch with the River Curr flowing hard into the loch. There were plenty of salmon on the rise.

George Love was to fish that area, again plenty of sport returned a nice fish to the scales.

Next stop further up the loch, Sandy Hall and John McNiece fished their usual marks. Sandy landed a nice salmon at the same mark earlier on in the season. No such luck this time round. Plenty of sport but he could not get the size sea trout.

It was the same story for John Miller and Robert Wylie who fished their usual marks with Robert landing plenty of undersize fish at the Whistfield Hotel mark.

Big Allan Beaton had good end of the season form continue when he landed a cracking sea trout from the area.

The final stop saw the last of the anglers leave at the bottom of the loch.

John Sneddon and grandson Thomas had another good day when both landed good sea trout. Last of all Allan Sneddon tried his luck on the opposite bank. Allan had success with two nice sea trout returned to the scales.

Results: Seniors — 1, George Gemmell snr; 2, Jim McEwan; 3, Allan Sneddon 4, Allan Beaton.

Juniors — 1, Thomas Sneddon; 2, George Gemmell; 3, Paul Gemmell.

The club thanks Sense of Style for their excellent sponsorship of the outing.

Old 'salts' take it again on Daff

IBM club challenge

IT was IBM Club angling section challenge time again and for the second year in a row the two teams battled it out at the Daff Reservoir with once again the Saltwater section being victorious.

On a cold damp morning the 2 x 5 man teams set out to their favoured marks with most making their way to the northern edge of the reservoir and the balance initially opting for the reservoir wall where there had been reports of some better sized fish being landed.

With only the lightest of breezes and a late hatch of insects a few fish could be seen rising which augured well for the freshwater section, but unfortunately for them most fish were out-with casting range and the few which did rise close seemed uninterested in the flies being offered.

With many of the freshwater section chasing these rises they began to cover a wide area of the reservoir and it wasn't long before

reports began to filter through to the saltwater section that four or five fish had been landed, fortunately for them it was by members of a visiting club from Clydebank.

By mid-day both teams had nothing to report, other than an undersized brown trout, and as the weather began to close in most anglers changed from fly or float fishing to spinning or bottom fishing and slow but surely the reservoir began to yield one or two fish.

With the wind freshening from the south most anglers made for the more sheltered marks and Saltwater section member Tam McCracken, fishing close to the reservoir wall, soon made contact with a nice rainbow trout of around the 2lb mark and 20 minutes later landed a second of 2lb 4oz which was the heaviest of the day.

As the fishing was slow and many anglers on the move, Tam opted to remain at the same

mark and took a third for a total weight of 6lb 3oz, and heaviest overall weight on the day.

This mark was probably the "hot spot" on a day when fish were unco-operative and saltwater section members John Crowther and Dougie Henry fishing close to Tam changed from float and spinning to bottom fishing to land two fish and one respectively.

In all a total of 11 for 20lb were brought to the scales by the 10 anglers participating.

Results:

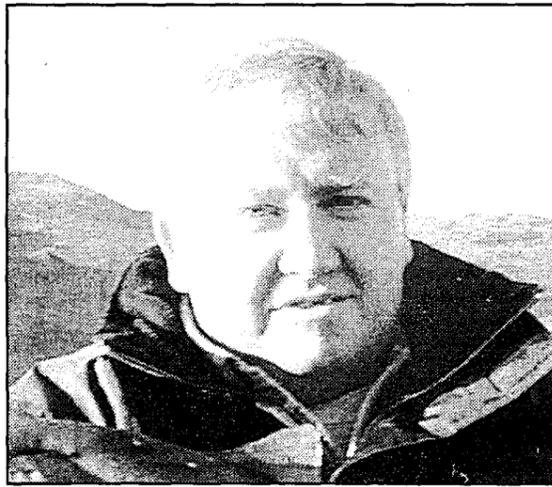
Freshwater

Keith Immison (Capt) 0
Gordon Newlands 1 for 2lb
Mick Kershaw 1 for 1lb 15oz
Ken MacIntosh 1 for 1lb 1oz
Robert Swift 1 for 1lb 1oz

Individuals:

1 — Tam McCracken 6lb 3oz;
2 — John Crowther 3lb 10oz;
3 — Alistair Douglas 2lb 3oz;
4 — Gordon Newlands 2lb 0oz;
5eq — Dougie Henry 1lb 15oz, Mick Kershaw 1lb 15oz.

The saltwater leg is being fished out from Stranraer today and the



TAM McCracken — Saltwater man with three trout and top weight of the match.

Saltwater

Dougie Henry (Capt) 1 fish 1lb 15oz;
Tam McCracken 3 for 6lb 3oz;
John Crowther 2 for 3lb 10oz;
Alistair Douglas 1 for 2lb 3oz;
Gordon McGhee 0.

freshwater section have reminded their saltwater colleagues that the competition is far from over as they (freshwater) won the saltwater leg and the overall competition last year.

On the local shore scene Inverclyde SAC treasurer Rab Kane has landed a conger eel of 28 lb. 1 oz. from Greenock Esplanade. (See Fish of the Week).

Fish of the Week

INVERCLYDE AC treasurer Robert Kane cashed-in when fishing off Greenock Esplanade last week.

The former Fish of the Year winner smashed the club record with this 28lb 1oz conger eel while fishing from the shore and targeting dogfish.

Robert, of 16 Pembroke Road, Greenock, was using a 14lb mane-line when he took the big fish which wins him this week's title and a Masterline body pouch from co-sponsors The Fishing Shop, Union Street, Greenock.



Bairns go free!

THE SFSA Clyde & Western Region Open Roving Shore Sweepstake & Junior Open Shore Competition takes place tomorrow from Erskine Bridge (Old Kilpatrick) to Roseneath.

Fishing is from 10am to 4pm with a junior table packed with prizes worth over £600 and for youngsters the competition is free to enter with a participating adult.

Entry fees are £10 for seniors and £2 for the super pool. The senior sweepstake payout is 1, (40%), 2, (20%), 3, (12%), 4, (8%) and 5, (5%) with the heaviest junior catch getting pick of the table. There will be additional junior prizes for heaviest flat fish and heaviest round fish.

Registration is between 8 and 9.30 at The Cardross Inn, Main Road, Cardross and weigh-in is between 4 to 5.00pm back at the Inn.

In cod we trust

SWEDEN'S 22nd Cod Festival takes place from 12 to 14 January at Helsingborg, billed as the greatest three-day sea angling competition in the world, and an event fished by two Inverclyde anglers just two years ago. More details in next issue of Hot Rods.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Clyde Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Members of the public are welcome to attend a public meeting of the Board at 10.00am on Tuesday, 31 October 2000 in the Lecture Room at Lorn & Islands D G Hospital, Oban.

Further information can be obtained from the Board Secretary, Trust Headquarters, Vale of Leven D G Hospital, Alexandria, G83 0UA. Tel: 01389 603916.

O.E.S. Auchmountain Chapter No. 209 REGULAR MEETING
1st November 2000 7.15 p.m.
Business: Mins. Corrs, N/E of O/Bearers
Sister G. Williams P.W.M. Sec.

PROPERTY MARKET

Greenock

Drumillan Hill
Seldom available, attractive DETACHED VILLA in this well established location. Accommodation comprises lounge, 3 bedrooms, breakfasting kitchen, utility room, shower room, gardens back and front, detached garage, full D/G, GCH. Viewing recommended.
For further particulars contact: W.W. & J. McClure, Estate Agents. Telephone 888222.

ACCOMMODATION TO LET

ONE bedroom furnished flat, Greenock central. Telephone 521640.

PROFESSIONAL person to share flat. Wemyss Bay. Sea view. £235 per month inc. Telephone 01475 522254.

HOUSE EXCHANGES

FOUR apartment, back and front door, lots of extras. For same anywhere considered. Telephone 791351.

WEDDING CAR HIRE

ASHTON Vintage and Classic cars. Telephone 5 2 9 1 5 6 . (www.ashtoncars.com.)

KILMACOLM chauffer drive. Telephone 01505 874227.

DRIVING TUITION

JOHN Gallagher A.D.I. Ex BSM 9 years. Telephone 674718.

SITUATIONS VACANT

MANUFACTURING OPERATORS

Manufacturing Operators required for various shifts. Our client is a major computer manufacturing company located in Inverclyde.

Candidates should have an eye for detail, a flexible approach to supporting Manufacturing requirements and a mature outlook.

In return you can expect:

- £4.93 for Early/Back Shifts
- £5.56 for Nightshift
- 5 x 12 hour shifts may be available
- A minimum contract until the year end
- Overtime opportunities exist
- Excellent working conditions
- Full training provided

All candidates must be able to provide satisfactory references.

To apply, please telephone our recruitment hotline on **01475 794427**

CLAIREMONT ELECTRONICS



ADECCO HAS IMMEDIATE VACANCIES FOR OPERATORS WORKING FOR A MAJOR COMPUTER MANUFACTURING COMPANY WITHIN THE GREENOCK AREA.

Previous experience is preferred although not essential, as training will be given. Successful candidates will take pride in their work and will form part of a flexible and motivated team.
Successful candidates can expect:
• A competitive hourly rate
• Either rotating early/back shifts or night shift
• Additional hours on an on-going basis
• Minimum contract until year end.

To apply, please telephone our recruitment desk:

01475 883406

This is a temporary vacancy.

Emp Agy www.adecco.co.uk A new world at work.

REMOVALS

DC Removals. Telephone 706808 or 078556 25804.

BRENNANS Removals/single items Telephone 630564.

CHEAP removals, any distance. Telephone: 792647.

RLG Consultant, small removals. Telephone 742698 (07930 522817).

TUITION

TUITION offered. Maths, Physics, Chemistry. Telephone 635619.

The publishers of the Greenock Telegraph take such reasonable steps as are necessary to ensure that advertisements intended for insertion in this newspaper meet legal requirements, are neither misleading nor offensive, and comply with the terms of the British Code of Advertising Practice as laid down by the Advertising Standards Authority.

Belleaire House Greenock

Full or Part time RGN required for Night Duty

Rate of pay - £8.75 per hour

For application form please contact Alison or Joyce between 9am and 5pm, Mon - Fri on 01475 784607

FINNART Playgroup, 2 part-time playleader posts. Qualifications essential. Closing date, 6th November, 2000. Reply with CV to Box No. 577.

PERSON required as maternity leave cover for Sales Ledger/Telephonist duties in local Garden Centre. Full-time, Monday-Friday. Knowledge of Sage required, experience of job costing and Word would be an advantage. Please telephone 01475 521536 for an application form.

QUALITY GAS SERVICES LTD. APPROVED PLUMBER

Applicants are invited for the above position. Candidates will possess a final City & Guilds equivalent.

NVQ Acops 1-15 desirable and a clean current driving licence essential. Must be a good all round tradesman, able to work on own initiative and as part of a team.

For an interview contact 01475 720865 or 5 South Street, Greenock PA16 5TY.

FULL TIME CHEF/COOK REQUIRED

40 Hours. Must have experience. Excellent wages and working conditions.

For interview contact LINDA or LINDSEY on 734734.

CHRISTMAS STAFF required at

McNeill's Jewellers
Reply in writing to: The Manager 10-12 Hamilton Gate Greenock PA15 1JW

WANTED. Dependable people. Earn £50-£500 per month. Part-time hours. Interested? Telephone 716954 or 07971 328712.

FOR SALE

Rose Lee Blinds

THREE for £89 Vertical or Roller

FREE FITTING • 24 hour DELIVERY 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Telephone 744905 or 744906

BEDROOM suite; £60. 4 Parker Knoll chairs £15 each. Location Greenock. Telephone 01505 613470.

CLOSING down sale, everything must go! Final week. The Carpet Company Warehouse, next to the Tele office.

DINING room table and six chairs; £150. Telephone 722314.

EXTENDING mahogany dining table, six chairs (2 carvers) matching two drawer hall table; £180. Telephone 728025.

DON'T clutter up your cupboard with unwanted articles. Sell them through the Telegraph and Clyde Post for as little as £4.30 inc. v.a.t. per night (private advertisers only). Telephone 722205.

GENTS Raleigh Activator mountain bike, 21 speed £90. Telephone 635787.

GREEN three piece suite, suede/leather; £300. Living room unit/display cabinet, limed oak; £150. Mahogany dining room table with four chairs; £100. All in excellent condition. Telephone 716810.

CLASSIFIED Sells it fast!

£1.50 SATURDAY SPECIALS

Articles of £25 and under can be advertised for just £1.50, only in Saturday Specials!

Your advertisement will appear on the first available Saturday and following Wednesday's Clyde Post

HOW TO ADVERTISE

Fill in the coupon above. Use ONE word per box, including address and/or telephone number. Exact price must be included. One item per coupon.

Name

Address

.....

Tel. No.

Post to Saturday Specials, Greenock Telegraph, 2 Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 1LH or hand in at reception.

Note: Offer applies to household articles for sale only, and excludes dogs, pets, livestock, cars, caravans, etc.

PHOTOCOPIED COUPONS NOT ACCEPTED

ONE COUPON PER HOUSEHOLD PER WEEK

XXPRESS BLINDS VERTICALS

Replacement Slats from 75p each
NEW RANGE OF WOODEN VENETIAN RING NOW FOR FREE ESTIMATE
TELEPHONE: 726729

REDOM APPLIANCES

6 HAIG STREET GREENOCK
Cookers from £99 Automatics from £120
Vacuums £59 Guaranteed and delivered
TELEPHONE 888219

GREY dining room, table and four chairs plus wall unit; £300. Telephone 633426

HOTPOINT Aquarius Ultima 1000 washing machine; £150. Telephone 722314.

LAMINATE flooring, carpets, rugs and vinyls, all at crazy prices. Credit facilities available. Unemployed welcome. Carpet Company, West Stewart Street. Telephone 888876.

LEATHER suite, 3+1+1, dark grey; £300. Solid teak coffee table. Reclining chair. Telephone 783468.

MAHOGANY coffee table. Excellent condition. £50. Telephone: 798452.

MAHOGANY dining room furniture, 2 sideboards, 1 cabinet table and 6 chairs; £400. Telephone 713618.

MAMAS and Papas, 3-in-1 pram, navy/terracotta, as new including raincover, cosytoes; £175. Telephone 728951.

MOTOR CARS FOR SALE

AUDI A6 Estate, M reg, full service history, good condition, one owner; £4000. Telephone 631740.

GUARANTEED credit, no credit checks, no deposit, easy payments. Clune Brae Car Sales. Telephone 791662. Open seven nights til 10.00p.m.

MAZDA 626 1.8 GLXi. Black, 1995 M registration, alloys, sunroof, CD, full electric pack, FSH, 77k. Immaculate condition, £2,750. Telephone 01475 540770, Mobile 07977 444596.

MERCEDES 190, F reg, black, taxed, Mot'd, excellent condition; £1900. Telephone 798265.

PINE bunk beds including mattress, good condition; £85. Telephone 722788.

QUALITY laminate flooring. Free immediate delivery. Largest stock locally. All rock bottom prices. Carpetite, Lyndoch Street. ROSELLE quality 2nd hand furniture bought and sold, 27 Lower Hope Street, Greenock. Telephone 01475 787651.

SILENTNIGHT sideboard, mahogany effect; accept £60. Telephone 719384.

STONE garden ornaments, various types and sizes. Telephone 790296.

THREE piece suite, blue multi-colour; £150 for quick sale. Telephone 805847.

WARDROBES built in with sliding mirror or wood panel doors, made to measure, at factory prices. Wardrobe Mirror Door People. Telephone 673304.

SATURDAY SPECIALS

DINING table. Dark wood, oval. 5 ft. x 3 ft. £25. Telephone 520056.

ELECTRIC sewing machine, excellent condition, suit beginner; £25. Telephone 792762.

GIRLS bike, suit 4-7 years, good condition £20. Telephone 797291.

HALF size violin with case, beautiful condition; £20. Telephone 633969.

SILVER Cross 2 in 1, good condition; £25. Telephone 745254.

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL A CLASSIFIED ADVERT
Telephone 01475 722205
DISPLAY: Call by 3 p.m. two days PRIOR to publication. LINEAGE: Call by 8.30 a.m. on day of publication (excludes coupon advertisements)
Greenock Telegraph CLASSIFIED

Call 722205 **CLASSIFIED** Call 722205

HEALTH & BEAUTY

KIRBY LANE
63 Nicolson Street
GREENOCK
☎ 730382

Wendy & Jackie would like to welcome you to their new Hairdressing Salon.

Opening **MONDAY 30th OCTOBER**
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Saturday

Avanti
Hair Company
14 HAMILTON GATE,
GREENOCK
Telephone us on 722158

Highlights/Colours from £19.50

Perming from £21.95

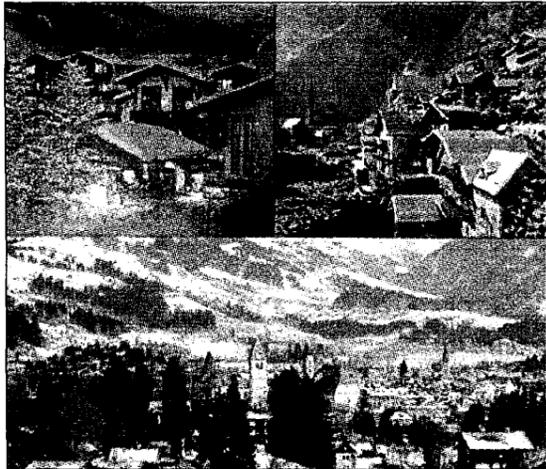
O.A.P. Perming from £10.95

Long Hair Perms from £29.50

CLASSIFIED Sells it fast!

Reader Holidays

Christmas in the Austrian Tyrol



22nd - 28th December 2000

7 Days For Only £349

Fully inclusive of all Sightseeing Excursions

- All tours have full ABTA Security
- Local departure points
- Coaches are non-smoking
- Services of "Mistral Courier"

For reservations, further details or brochures telephone 01244 537700. Our Tour Operator is Mistral European Holidays, Wellington House, Airfield View, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3QW or collect a brochure from the Telegraph Office. ABTA No. V0669

Greenock Telegraph

HOME SERVICES

ABACUS
Professional Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning.
13 years experience
522123

A CARPETFITTER tradesman. Call Bob 795186.

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Doctor
Home PC Support
Upgrades, Repairs
Tuition, New Systems
Internet
8am - 9pm 7 days
792194

SUPPORT IT, complete economic computer support. Repairs, upgrades, internet, tuition. Telephone Stephen 798905.

S.G. PLUMBING SERVICES
All types of plumbing work undertaken. Competitive prices. Work guaranteed. Telephone 01475 632111 or 07990 621 292.

MIRROR WARDROBES
Guaranteed lowest prices. Sliding mirror or panel. Doors made to measure. **TELEPHONE 01475 687199**

AERIAL, satellites. Telephone Port Glasgow 716134.

AERIAL/Satellites. Telephone 888788/(0589 438103).

AERIALS, satellites. Telephone 633804 (0771 8417817).

CHEM-DRY of Inverclyde, carpet and upholstery cleaning. Free estimates. Telephone 521569.

JOINERY tradesman. Telephone Callum MacNish on 713522. Free estimates.

PREMIER BUILDING CONTRACTS
PVCU, Cladding, Facias, Soffits, Guttering. Bathrooms and Kitchens, supplied and fitted. FREE QUOTATIONS **Tel/Fax: 744767 (0374 101011) 24 hours**

CARPETS & SUITES
Steam cleaned
Call Sandra on **732113**

DOMESTIC AERIALS
FITTED FROM **£20.00**
SATELLITE SYSTEMS INSTALLED
REPAIRS AND EXTENSIONS
0500 091009

PLUMBER. All types undertaken, 24 hours. W. McLeilan. Telephone 792264/07930 146408.

ROGANCARE Domestic Cleaning and Home Help Service. Telephone 521233.

SLATER and Builder. Telephone Peter 635934.

SLATER, plasterer. Free estimates. Telephone 805762.

WASHING machine, dishwasher repairs. Inverclyde Domestic. Telephone 786232/744443.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

NO PETROL? CONVERT YOUR CAR TO L.P.G. 38p PER LITRE
BOOK NOW TO AVOID THE RUSH
Tel: 791662

THANK YOU

BRABENDER
Billy and Sadie would like to thank most sincerely their many friends and relations for all the lovely cards, flowers, telephone calls and visits, and to Inverclyde Royal Hospital for their excellent care and attention given to Billy during his stay in hospital; it was very much appreciated.
*Yours sincerely
The Brabender Family*

COACH SERVICES

CLARKES Buses, 16, 25, 33 seaters. For hire telephone 794334.

LAMBS. 6 - 16 Seaters. Telephone 520811.

ROADRUNNER coaches, 6-33 seats. Telephone 787721.

RAYMONDS Chinese food. Home deliveries Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Telephone 784444.

PERSONAL

The Samaritans
Lonely, in despair, suicidal?
Telephone **The Samaritans 721212**
65 Cathcart St., Greenock

WANTED. Building trade worker seeks lift to Edinburgh city centre from Greenock for a 7.30 a.m. start. Contact Stephen 01475 796868 or 07818 477529.

GARDENING SERVICES

TREES and gardens, fencing, insured. Telephone 522406.

ENTERTAINMENT



Registered with the BCCMA, The Sports Council's Recognised Governing Body for Chinese Martial Arts

Beginners enrolling on Monday 30 October
You have what it takes, so why not give it a try?
First lesson Free
Former members welcome
Male and female Instructors



Classes:
Monday 7pm-8pm
JC's Fitness Studio
210 Dalrymple St
Greenock

Thursday 7pm-8pm
Sports Centre
Nelson St
Greenock

HARWOODS Bar

Food now served 12/8pm

PARTY NIGHTS

Now available - Tel 888595

HOW TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

IT'S SIMPLE!

BY PHONE 01475 722205
Lines open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-12 noon Saturday — for friendly advice on how to get the best response.

BY POST
Send your advertisement, as you would like it to appear including name, address and telephone number, to: **The Advertising Department, Greenock Telegraph, 2 Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 1LH**, arriving 2 days prior to publication.

BY FAX
It's so much easier to fax your advertisement, by ringing our "fax line" on **01475 783734**. Be sure to include your telephone number, enabling us to confirm details and cost.

BY PERSON
We are always pleased to see you in the Telegraph office. You can place your advertisement, pay accounts, leave box number replies, obtain back copies or order photographs, at our office: **Greenock Telegraph, 2 Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 1LH**

TO WRITE IT
1. Start it with the item you are selling.
2. Include make, model, colour, size, age, condition, extras, etc.
3. Remember to include the price.
4. Include your STD code and telephone number.
5. Refer to Classified column for further ideas, or call us on **01475 722205** for details.

TO PAY
All private advertisements are pre-paid. Credit Cards — quote your card name, number, expiry date. Cheques with Banker's Card and Postal Orders welcome.
01475 722205
By 3 p.m. two days PRIOR to publication for Display Advertisements. By 8.30 a.m. day of publication for Lineage Advertisements (excludes all coupon advertisements).

TO CANCEL
X

DEADLINES
Situations Vacant, Property, Public Notices, Birthday Greetings and Lineage: 3 p.m. two days prior to publication. Entertainments: 3 p.m. two days prior to publication. Intimations: 3 p.m. day prior to publication.

AGENCY
If you live in Port Glasgow, why not place your intimation at:
Perviez, John Wood Street.

Greenock Telegraph ... simply the best

CHURCH NOTICES

Ardgowan Parish Church
 Rev. JOHN HARVEY
 B.A. B.D.
 11a.m. Morning Worship
 Creche and Sunday School
 Visitors warmly welcomed
 Kirk Session
 Thursday 2nd November
 7.30 p.m.

Cartsdyke Parish Church
 Rev. PETER WEBSTER
 Sunday 11 a.m.
 Morning Worship
 Visitors very welcome
 Creche available
 Coffee after service.
 N.B. Kirk Session
 Wednesday 1st November
 7.30 p.m.

Finnart St. Paul's Church
 Newark Street
 Rev. DAVID MILL
 K.S.J., M.A., B.D.
 Sunday 29th October
 10.15 a.m. Choir practice
 11 a.m. All-age Worship
 conducted by Mr Leon M
 Marshall
 Sunday School and
 Pathfinders in church
 throughout
 Creche
 Coffee after Service
 All welcome

Gourock St. John's
 Rev. JILL CLANCY
 B.D., Dip. Min.
 10 a.m. Choir practice
 11 a.m. Morning Worship &
 Sacrament of Baptism
 Creche available
 Sunday School and
 Discovery Group
 Visitors always welcome

Old Gourock & Ashton Parish Church
 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
 The Sacrament of Holy
 Communion -
 Members of any Branch of
 the church are invited to join
 with us at the
 Table of our Lord
 Preacher: REV. FRANK J.
 GARDNER, M.A.
 Easy Access, creche, loop
 system, church bus service
 You are always
 welcome here.

The Old West Kirk
 Esplanade
 Rev. IAN JOHNSON
 11.15 a.m. Morning Worship
 Gibshill in the
 Community Centre
 Rev. EILEEN MANSON
 11.15 a.m. Morning Worship
 Strone/Maukinhill in the
 Tenants' Hall
 Rev. IAN JOHNSON
 9.45 a.m. Morning Worship
 Activities for young people
 and creche at all services
 Wednesday 1st 7.30 p.m.
 Kirk Session in Lounge
 Saturday 4th 2.00 - 4.00
 Guild Devonshire Tea in
 Pirrie Hall.

St Andrew Square U.F. Church
 Preacher: Mr. R. Ralston
 Service 10 a.m.
 Sunday School 10 a.m.
 Visitors very welcome.

The Mount Kirk
 Rev. JAMES H. SIMPSON
 B.D. L.L.B.
 11 a.m. Morning Worship
 Sunday School and Creche
 All welcome

St. George's North Church
 George Square, Greenock.
 Rev DOUGLAS
 HAMILTON B.D.
 11.00 a.m. Family Service
 Creche available
 All welcome
 3.00 p.m. Royal Court
 Service

St. Luke's Church
 Nelson Street, Greenock
 Rev. WILLIAM C. HEWITT
 B.D., Dip P.S.
 10.15 a.m. Choir Practice
 11 a.m. Morning Worship
 Creche, Sunday School
 and Bible Class
 All visitors warmly welcomed
 Wednesday 1st November
 Kirk Session 7.30 p.m.
 Friday 3rd November
 First Friday Group 7.30 p.m.

St. Margaret's Church
 Rev. ISOBEL J.M. KELLY
 M.A. B.D., Dip.Ed.
 11 a.m. Morning Worship
 Duty Team 3
 6.30 p.m. Evening Worship
 Sacrament of Holy
 Communion
 A warm welcome
 awaits you.

St. Ninian's Church
 Larkfield
 Rev. ALAN G. McINTYRE
 11 a.m. Sacrament of
 Baptism
 Creche available
 Duty Elders Team 1
 A warm welcome to all.

George Square Baptist Church
 Rev. M.R. PUDSEY
 11.00 a.m. Morning Service
 and Communion
 Creche/Sunday School/
 Bible Class
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service
 All welcome

United Reformed Church
 George Square
 Rev. Principal JOHN W.
 DYCE, B.A., L.L.B.,
 M.A., B.S.c.
 Dedication Service and
 Sunday School Promotion
 Duty Deacons - Team No. 1
 All visitors most welcome

Greenock East
 Rev. ELIZA ARMSTRONG
 B.D., M.Th.
 11 a.m. Morning Worship
 Sunday School and Creche
 All welcome

Nelson Street
 Rev. J.A. YOUNG
 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
 including the Sacrament of
 Holy Communion
 Nursery, Sunday Schools
 and Seekers meet
 Visitors most welcome

Port Glasgow
 Rev. K. FORBES, B.A., B.D.
 Morning Worship conducted
 by REVEREND F. DIXON,
 BD
 JUNIOR CHURCH
 Visitors welcome

Gourock Baptist Church
 King Street
 Gourock
 Speaker: Jim Weir
 10 a.m. Prayer Meeting
 11 a.m. Family Service
 Creche available
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service
 All welcome

Ardgowan Square Evangelical Church
 Ardgowan Square
 Sunday
 10.15 a.m. Breaking of Bread
 11.15 a.m. Family Service
 Sunday School and Creche
 Speaker: Ian Smith
 Subject: "Glasgow City
 Mission"
 Jesus feeds 5000
 (Mark 6: 30-44)
 (Tea and coffee after the
 service)
 6.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
 6.30 p.m. Bible Hour
 Subject: "Life in the Church"
 (1 Peters:1-14)
 Speaker: Ken Cunningham
 Tuesday
 10.15 a.m. Mothers and
 Toddlers
 7.30 p.m. Missionary Prayer
 Meeting
 Wednesday
 6.00 p.m. Trailblazers
 Thursday
 10.45 a.m. Men's Fellowship
 Speaker: William Fullerton
 2.15 p.m. Ladies' Fellowship
 Speaker: Christine Galloway
 (Dumbarton)
 6.30 p.m. Junior Youth Club
 Friday
 7.30 p.m. Senior Youth Club
 Our aim is
 "To proclaim the
 word of God"
 A very warm welcome to all

Greenock Methodist Church
 Ardgowan Street
 Rev. PETER LEE B.Sc.
 Sunday 11.00 a.m.
 Rev. J.E. STANTON B.A.
 Monday 2.00 p.m.
 Women's Own
 Saturday 4th November
 10 - 12 noon
 Coffee Morning
 A warm welcome to all

Princes Street Gospel Mission
 Port Glasgow
 Sunday 11 a.m.
 Morning Worship
 Sunday 6.30 p.m.
 Gospel Service
 Mr Alistair McKinnon
 (Greenock)
 Wednesday 7.30 p.m.
 Bible Study
 Thursday 7.15 p.m.
 Gospel Service
 Mr Jack Boyd and
 Gospel Quartet, Airdrie
 Saturday 4th November
 11 a.m. Coffee Morning
 A warm welcome awaits you

Bethany Hall
 Drumshantie Road, Gourock
 Sunday
 10.30 a.m. Breaking of Bread
 2.30 p.m. Sunday School
 7.00 p.m. Gospel Meeting
 Preacher: Mr H. Welsh
 (Kilwinning)
 Tuesday
 6.35 p.m. Children's Meeting
 7.45 p.m. Bible Class
 Wednesday
 7.45 p.m. Prayer Meeting
 Meadowlark Community Hall
 Friday 7.00 p.m. Gospel
 Meeting
 Saturday 11.00 a.m.
 Activity Bible Class
 All are invited to these
 services

Assemblies of God
 Watt Street, Greenock
 Pastor Matthew Collins
 Sunday 2.00 p.m.
 Celebration of Praise
 Breaking of Bread
 & Ministry Meeting
 Thursday 7.30 p.m. Prayer
 and Bible Study
 All welcome.

Struthers Memorial Churches
 West Stewart Street
 Sunday
 11 a.m. Morning Service
 6.30 p.m. Family Gathering
 Monday
 7.45 p.m. Bible Study &
 Prayer
 Tuesday
 8 p.m. Prayer Meeting
 Friday
 7 p.m. Youth Meeting
 Saturday
 6.40 p.m. Transport from
 church for Glasgow meeting
 Services in branch churches
 as intimated in each venue:
 Gourock - Tower Drive
 Port Glasgow - Arran Avenue
 Skelmorlie - The Lane
 All welcome

City Church
 (An Elim Pentecostal Church)
 Come and join us this
 Sunday
 10.30 a.m. Worship &
 Communion
 6.30 p.m. Family Gospel
 Service
 Speaker: Ian Campbell
 (Creche available)
 at Craigend Resource
 Centre,
 McLeod Street, Greenock
 1 p.m.-2 p.m. Sunday School
 at Auchmountain Halls
 Burnhead Street, Greenock

Barnard's Court Mission
 40 East Hamilton Street
 Tonight at 7.30 p.m.
 Mr Jim Weir
 (Qua Iboe Fellowship)
 Sunday at 7 p.m.
 Mr Jim Brown
 Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.
 Bible Study and Prayer.
 Friday at 6.30 p.m.
 Children and Teens

Orangefield Baptist Church
 Rev. A. M. MURRAY, B.D.
 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
 6.00 p.m. Evening Service
 All will be made welcome

Kirk to give up its hall

THE Church of Scotland has announced it will hold its General Assembly in May 2001 at Edinburgh's Usher Hall, allowing the Scottish Parliament to remain in its temporary home on The Mound.

This year, the Parliament moved to the former Strathclyde Regional Council facilities in Glasgow for three weeks while the Kirk had its annual decision-making get-together.

The Rev David Lacy, convener of the church's board of practice and procedure, said: "As a gesture of support and goodwill we are happy to comply with the request to move."

Sir David Steel, the parliament's presiding officer, praised church authorities for their co-operation.

He said: "We have been working very closely with the Church of Scotland, as owners of the Assembly Hall, on the arrangements for the General Assembly during the next two years before we move to our permanent home at Holyrood."

"Thanks to their co-operation and goodwill, the Parliament will be able to remain on site next year, avoiding disruption and providing a considerable cost saving."

He added: "We are



SIR David Steel.

By JEREMY BURROWS

conscious that we need to balance convenience and cost with our desire to take Parliamentary business out-with Edinburgh where appropriate.

"We also appreciate the need to minimise disruption to the General Assembly."

Therefore, the church would remain in the Assembly Hall in 2002. Work will start soon to identify suitable venues for the Parliament to meet in

during that period.

Next year's arrangement is expected to save the Parliament £150,000 compared with what happened this year.

Moving to Glasgow cost £420,000. The Parliament are legally obliged to pay only for costs above those the church would incur using the Assembly Hall. These are expected to come to £250,000.

Last year, the church used the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

Thought for Today

I'VE BEEN listening to a lot of words over these past few days. I seem to have been inundated by telephone calls from companies offering cheaper gas or electricity; I've also been to a few places where there has been non-stop chatting, and to some presentations where one presenter after another offered words of information, explanation and encouragement.

Mind you, those who know me well will tell you that I am not above being able to offer words myself, and not a few of them, when the occasion warrants it or even when it doesn't.

I would be interested to know how many words on average we have to listen to over a lifetime, and how many we speak ourselves. Some of us will have spoken a lot more than we have listened to!

The English language has many lovely words, others most expressive, and some all too regularly used which would be better left unspoken. Words spoken can be as damaging as the sharpest rapier, wounding for a lifetime. Others can be soothing to a troubled heart.

But the most electric of words are the words which bring us life. Jesus spoke these kinds of words. His words literally brought the dead back to life, they healed people of all kinds of dreadful diseases, they had the authority to remove the guilt and stain of sinfulness and the power to comfort those who mourned.

I wonder how many words of this power and authority you will hear over the next week or two. Will the words of Jesus come into your heart and bring forth new life in you? I wonder too through how many of us who are God's children will come His words of life to others over the same period. These are the words that matter. They bring life and hope and happiness and health.

Roadshow's travel plans

A GREENOCK church is hosting next month a roadshow promoting Christian-based holidays across Europe.

Superb Choice Holidays will bring details of their trips to the event at Elim Pentecostal Church in Kelly Street on Saturday 11 November.

The organisation was until recently an arm of Scripture Union but is now run by Gartmore House, a Christian Conference Centre near Aberfoyle.

Spokesman David Jack said: "The holidays tend to attract people over 35 and that didn't really tie in with Scripture Union who deal more with young people."

Founders Andrew and Elizabeth Mackie are still involved in running the firm.

The holidays feature short times of prayer and worship in the morning and evening each day. Destinations next year include Scarborough, Orkney, Iceland, Poland, Prague and Rome. Travel is by coach or plane.

The evening at Elim will offer the chance to talk about the trips over refreshments and starts at 7.30.

gardening with ian walls

Stella's Top Ten in apples

AFTER I had expressed delight at the beautiful exhibit of fruit entered by Mrs Stella Binnie at Gourrock Horticultural Society's Annual Show she invited me to visit her garden in Cowal View, Gourrock. It extends to nearly half an acre, unusual in suburban housing. Mrs Binnie said she inherited the garden from her parents and she and her husband Blair keep it in good order.

The garden houses a unique collection of fruit trees, especially apples, and Mrs Binnie knows all the varieties and is able to give them marks out of ten according to their general qualities. (C = Cooking, E = Eating).

Grenadier C (10 out of 10); Laxton's Superb E (3); Bramley Seedling C (5); Howgate Wonder C (7); James Grieve E (No mark — eaten by deer!); Ashmead Kernel E (6); Tydeman's Early Worcester E (10); Charles Ross C (4); Laxton's Epicure E (10); Greensleeves E (3); Goldilocks E (1); Egremont Russet E (5); Golden Spire C (6); George Cave E (8); Discovery E (10); Lane's Prince Albert C (8); Laxton's Fortune E (8); Norfolk Royal Russett E (6).

Pear: Conference, Hesse, Laxton's Improved Fertility are reasonable croppers.

Plums: Victoria and Warwickshire. Drooper cropped very intermittently according to weather.

Cherries: Stella — eaten by the birds!

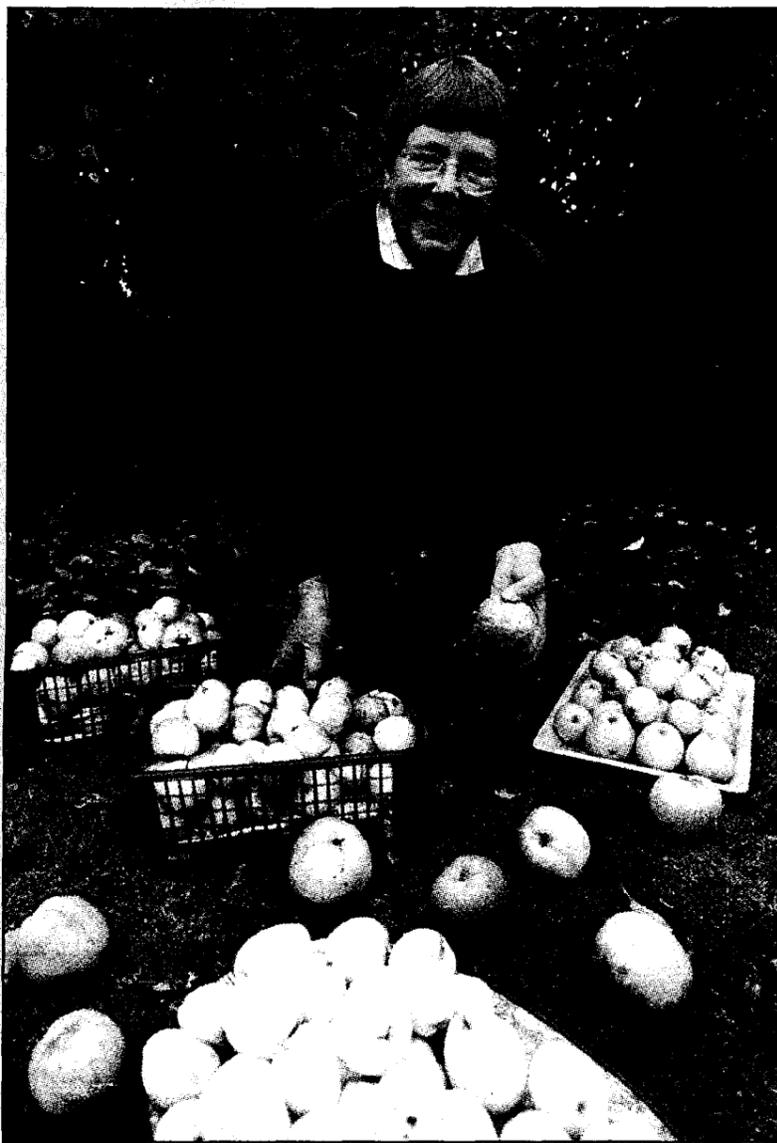
All the trees are pruned mainly on a thinning system rather than formal pruning.

There is no pest and disease control whatsoever yet the quality of a lot of the fruit is remarkably high.

The garden is reasonably sheltered but still catches a lot of wind which can cause some of the trees to lean if staking is not too efficient.

Altogether, this is a garden of a completely different nature to the usual run of suburban gardens and Mrs Binnie and husband Blair enjoy the challenge of looking after it.

If you want to know whether a particular variety of apple performs in Inverclyde there is no better person to consult than Mrs Binnie.



SNIPPETS

DAHLIAS have given a magnificent show this year and, any time now, named varieties should be lifted and the foliage cut down to about nine or 10 inches. Much is made about standing the tubers upside down so that the sap drains out of the stems but I do not think this is a vital procedure. Once the stems are wizened, they should be completely removed and the tubers stored in a dry spot, free from frost. Many gardeners store the tubers in dryish peat. Do not bring them in to a too-warm atmosphere such as a boiler-house or a cellar with a boiler in it because this can often cause the tubers to lose moisture and become wizened. There is often advice given about not watering the tubers because this makes them susceptible to a disease. I do not know whether this is true or not but, in any case, if the soil is knocked off the tubers and dried this will do the tubers no harm at all.

FOR the true sweet pea enthusiast, sowing seed now is common practice, bringing the plants through the winter in an unheated greenhouse so that you have sturdy plants ready to set out by April or May next year. Remember that sweet peas are very deep rooting plants and, once the seed is well germinated, the little plants should be potted in really deep containers. If you do not want the bother of bringing the sweet peas through the winter, you can sow in January or February or even a bit later. Once spring is nigh, sweet peas growth can be very rapid and you may need to pinch out the growing tips.

IHAVE received the new 2001 Suttons catalogue which, apart from listing seeds, gives a comprehensive range of items. It is superbly illustrated and there are lots of novelties. Ring Suttons at 01803 696300.

SPARE a thought for your faithful garden tools.

A few minutes with an oily rag can make all the difference to your tools and stop them rusting over the winter months.

Do not forget your lawn mower, particularly the cylinder type. I gave mine a good clean with a high pressure host pipe, followed by a spray with a lubrication aerosol. The cylinder mower may not be idle all winter because the grass may still need to be cut again and will certainly be used when I convert the cassette type lawn mower to the role of scarifier.

The right mix in composting

COMPOSTING organic waste is big news.

Douglas Boyle, a colleague and one of the foremost authorities on composting in Scotland, says the average household in Scotland should be able to collect around three kilos of waste every week.

With large scale composting schemes in which I am involved with Douglas and farmer Alan Bell, the break down of a large variety of organic waste on commercial scales involves fairly high temperatures around 50 or 60 degrees C being achieved by the heat of the composting.

Douglas, who has been involved with quite a few home

composting schemes, says it is difficult to get high temperatures to encourage break-down in a domestic composting bin.

The material put in to the bins tends to rot down more slowly.

With some types of materials, the bacterial organisms may raise the temperature but this is the exception rather than the rule. You could specifically mix the material and add compost makers to the material to encourage bacterial break down.

Composting on a garden scale with garden refuse can be remarkably successful if you get the mix right — and you have

large enough composting bins to generate high temperatures.

In a wet area such as Inverclyde, it is important to site the compost heap in a part of the garden where it gets a bit of shelter. Better still, put a cover over the compost bin.

Recent excessive rain has saturated a lot of compost heaps and this has the effect of reducing temperature and slowing up the whole composting break down procedure.

If you have any queries regarding composting drop me a note. I will pass them on to Douglas Boyle who will be happy to help.

• If there are any groups in Inverclyde who would be interested in a lecture by Douglas I am sure I could prevail upon him to make himself available at a mutually convenient date.

The average household in Scotland should be able to collect around three kilos of waste every week



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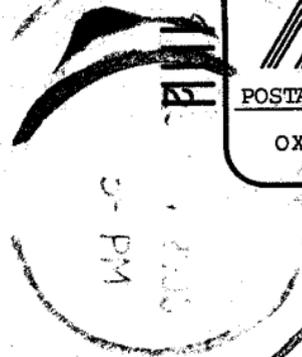
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2000 NO 14,993

THE TATTOO WILL RETURN

Rutland will host Europe's biggest airshow for the second year running

EUROPE'S biggest airshow is to set to lift off from RAF Cottesmore for the second year running.

The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), which will celebrate its 30th birthday, will return to the airbase on July 28 and 29, 2001. More than 120,000 visitors arrived in Rutland last July to experience the two-day air spectacular which included dramatic air displays and more than 200 static aircraft.

Runway resurfacing work at RIAT's traditional home, RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, is not due for completion until late spring 2002, so Cottesmore has again been chosen as an alternative venue.

Gp Capt David Walker, station commander at RAF Cottesmore, said: "Following the success of RIAT in July

By Jamila Farooqi

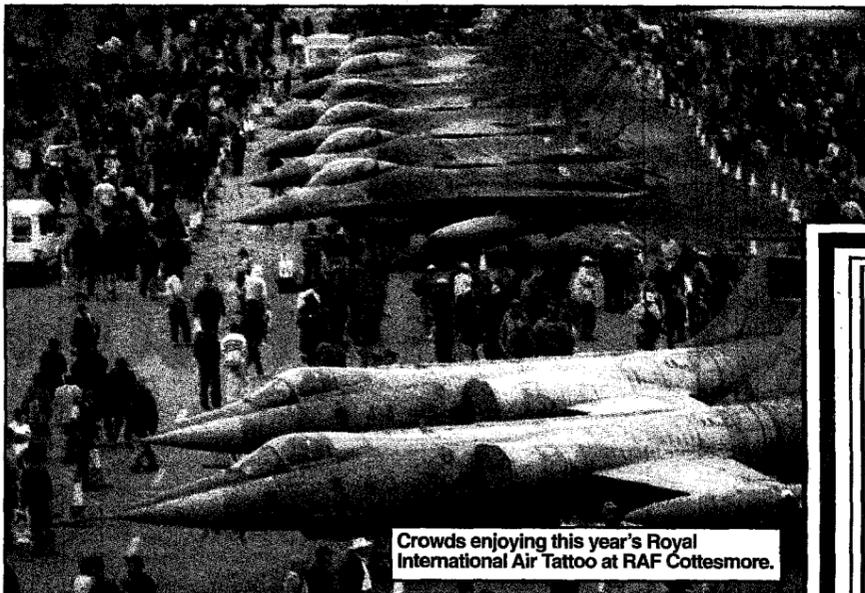
this year, I am delighted this prestigious military airshow will return to the station in 2001.

"We look forward greatly to once again working as a team with the RIAT organisation, the emergency services, county and parish councils and the many other agencies that come together to stage a spectacular weekend of aviation."

Organisers expect to limit hold-ups on surrounding roads, repeating the success of this year's traffic plan.

RIAT director Paul Bowen said: "RAF Cottesmore is an excellent venue and 2001 will be a classic Tattoo featuring all-time stars from the Lancaster bomber that first flew 60 years ago to 21st century Stealth Technology."

● Full report: Turn to page 3



Crowds enjoying this year's Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Cottesmore.

WIN



DISNEY TICKETS

TURN TO PAGE 13

DON'T FORGET



CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR AT 2AM ON SUNDAY

New England manager lives in Rutland

(and guess which top local newspaper he reads)



RUTLAND'S most famous resident, new England soccer manager Peter Taylor, has been reflecting on his remarkable rise to fame.

He fell in love with Oakham when he came for an interview for the Leicester City manager's post in the summer and after getting the job he moved with his family to a village on the shores of Rutland Water. After taking City to the top of the Premiership this month, Taylor became England's caretaker boss on Sunday following the resignation of Kevin Keegan.

The 47-year-old has hardly had a moment to himself in the last week, with constant media demands, but he hopes his tranquil home surroundings will relieve the pressure.

In an exclusive interview this week with Mercury sports editor Nick Rennie, Taylor said: "I had heard a lot about Oakham and we stayed at the Whipper Inn when I came to meet the directors for the Leicester job."

"I went for a walk in the town while I was staying here and we really loved it so we decided to move to Rutland."

Taylor is in charge, with his assistant from Manchester United, Steve McLaren, initially just for the friendly against Italy in Rome on November 15. But it could be for longer if the Football Association cannot immediately find a long-term manager. He was wary of the pressures of being England supremo, albeit for a short period, but was convinced he should take the post after talking it over with wife Jenny and daughters Chloe and Lauren.

"My wife said if you are manager of your country for one game and it never happens again then you will still be a very lucky man," Taylor said. ● Find out more about Taylor's international ambitions on the back page.

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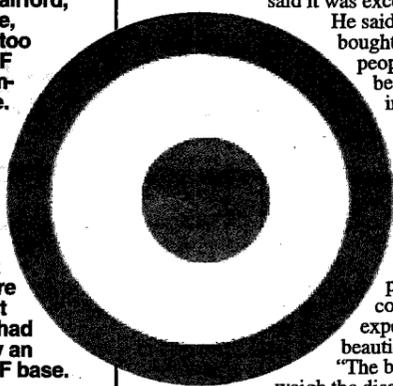
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The airshow crowds will be coming back

HISTORY OF THE TATTOO

- The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) 2001 is the 30th to be staged — the first Air Tattoo was held at North Weald aerodrome on May 31, 1971. The three-hour flying programme started at 2pm.
- In 1976, under the presidency of the World War II fighter ace Gp Capt Sir Douglas Bader, the event was renamed the International Air Tattoo to reflect increasing support from overseas air arms.
- From 1973, until its move to RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, in 1985, the Tattoo was held at RAF Greenham Common, Berkshire.
- In 1996 the Tattoo became the only airshow to be awarded Royal Status.
- The staging of RIAT 2000 at RAF Cottesmore marked the first time the event had been hosted by an operational RAF base.



By Jamila Farooqi

HOURS of preparation work for next year's Royal International Air Tattoo will begin immediately.

Hundreds of people are involved in co-ordinating the spectacular two-day event at RAF Cottesmore from the emergency services to Rutland County Council.

More than 120,000 people converged on Rutland last year for Europe's biggest military show, bringing huge tourism and commercial benefits.

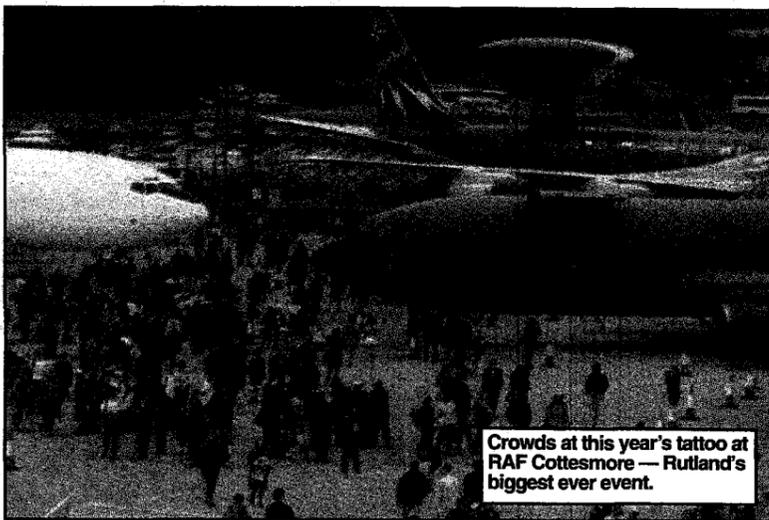
Guest houses and hotels were fully booked as aviation fans from across the globe converged on the county for the two-day spectacle.

This week's announcement has been welcomed across Mercury County and preparations have already begun.

Rutland Tourism Association's membership services officer Brian Montgomery said it was excellent news.

He said: "Last year it bought 100,000 people and the benefits including the economic advantages that it accrues is splendid."

"If people have been once more and more people will come back to experience the beauties of Rutland. The benefits outweigh the disadvantages



Crowds at this year's tattoo at RAF Cottesmore — Rutland's biggest ever event.

and we are delighted."

Roger Begy, chairman of neighbouring Greetham Parish Council, said it was great news. "We were absolutely delighted it came to Cottesmore last year especially for the trade it brought to the village. It did a lot for us and we hoped it would come back so we are very pleased."

Insp Paul Smith, of Rutland Police, said preparations would start for next year's event straightaway, with officers working alongside RIAT organisers, the RAF, army and other emergency services.

He said: "We will enter into negotiations with the other agencies to plan for the event and will learn from last year."

Next year RIAT will celebrate its 30th birthday and will look back three decades to the first Tattoo at North Weald in 1971.

The event will also pay tribute to Women in Aviation. On August 29, 1911, Mrs Hilda Hewlett became Britain's first aviatrix, a feat that will be commemorated by women pilots, flight and ground crews at the Tattoo. The operational theme for participating air crew from around the world is Training 2001, giving prominence to hi-tech training as the driving force behind modern air power.

Chairman of Rutland County Council Rob Toy said playing host to RIAT for the second year running was good news for the whole of Rutland. He said: "I'm pleased with the news. As it is a repeat from last year it will be very much easier this time."

"It should also cost less than last year as a lot of the planning has already been done."

German students' taste of Rutland life

EXCHANGE students from Germany have tasted life in Mercury Country.

Two teachers from the KGS Kirchweyhe, Frau Erika Piltz-Hergent and Frau Christine Kalweit, joined a group of students on the visit to Rutland.

The students stayed with year 10 students and staff at the Vale of Catmose College.

Activities included trips around the area and also gave the students the chance to sample the English education system.

The purpose of the exchange, which is the eighth visit, is not only to visit Germany and practise the language but also to experience something of the everyday life, culture and education.

The big sounds of Youth Brass 2000

IF YOU don't like fireworks then Uppingham maybe the place to head on Bonfire Night.

The Youth Brass 2000 Band, the current BBC Radio 2 Youth Band of the Year, will be creating their very own musical extravaganza at the town's theatre.

The band includes musicians aged between nine and 19 years of age, who play a cross section of music from classical to pop.

Tickets are priced £8 and are available from Uppingham Sports and Books (01572 822211), Paul Nurse and Sons (01572 823397) or Brian Kirby (01572 747897).

Doors open from 6.45pm, with the concert beginning at 7.30pm.

Can you volunteer to fight leukaemia?

THE Leicester and Rutland Branch of Leukaemia Research Fund is looking for volunteers to help beat the disease.

The branch was founded in 1962 and has raised a lot of money to fund research into the causes and treatment of leukaemia.

A spokesman for the branch said: "Even if the battle is successful the impact of leukaemia can be long-lasting and uncertain."

"We are looking for volunteers who can help us either on a one-off or regular basis, by using their talents, time and willingness."

Anyone who can help should contact David Scott on 0116 2715847.

Awards for outstanding Rutlanders



Council chairman Rob Toy hands over the awards to Peter Gover, Teresa Thompson, Charlie Underwood and Rob Folwell.

Photo: H7236/2a

FOUR people have had their outstanding contribution to the community acknowledged with the first-ever Rutland County Council commendation.

Council chairman Rob Toy personally selected the people put awarded for the commendations.

The chairman's commendations went to:

● Charlie Underwood in recognition of his outstanding work for the benefit of the youth of Rutland, in

particular the Scout Association, for the last 46 years.

● Rob Folwell in appreciation of his meritorious service to Rutland whilst in command of the local policing unit.

● Representatives of the Oakham in Bloom committee in appreciation of the hard work and dedication in maintaining the high floral standards in Oakham and the associated success in the East Midlands in Bloom competition for the

last three years.

● Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR) in recognition of the wide variety of voluntary work readily given for the benefit of the people of Rutland since the formation in 1983 of the Rutland Volunteer Bureau as it was then called.

Coun Toy said: "The chairman's commendation is a new award which I have introduced to recognise the outstanding contribution that the recipients have made to

the local community.

"It is designed to give a message to everyone that their work for the benefit of the people of Rutland is both valued and appreciated."

"On this occasion, I personally selected all of the recipients from people or organisations that I have a good knowledge about."

"In future, to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity, suggestions from the community would be welcomed."

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Retailers told: please attend

Oakham's retailers are being "strongly urged" to attend a meeting on Wednesday night to air their views concerning the imminent arrival of supermarket giants, Tesco.

"Tesco's arrival in the town will affect traders and retailers - but there's no reason why it should not be beneficial," said Oakham and District Chamber of Trade chairman Peter Jones.

In a letter to chamber members, Mr Jones writes: "The whole question of Tesco, from the initial application has aroused strong feelings, both pro and con, so now there is an opportunity for members to air their views and get answers to their questions."

Mr Jones, who took over the chairman's role six weeks ago, continued: "I therefore strongly urge every member to both attend themselves and to bring one or two other local business people, who are not members of the Chamber, as guests."

The meeting will be held at the Victoria Hall on Oakham's High Street on Wednesday at 5.45pm.

The Chamber of Trade currently has around 60 members - "the highest it has been for years," said Mr Jones - but there are still another 60 or 70 businesses in Oakham who are not.

He finished: "It's your town and Tesco's opening will affect you."

Tattoo to return

Europe's biggest airshow, the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), is coming back to Rutland at RAF Cottesmore on July 28/29 of next year.

The RAF has endorsed the decision, which will see the front-line Joint Force Harrier base playing host to the event for the second year running.

Runway resurfacing work at RIAT's traditional home, RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, is not due for completion until late spring 2002.

Station commander at RAF Cottesmore Group Captain David Walker said: "Following the success of RIAT in July this year, I am delighted that this prestigious military airshow is returning to the station in 2001.

"We look forward greatly to once again working as a team with the RIAT organisation, the emergency services, county and parish councils and the many other agencies that come together to stage a spectacular weekend of aviation."

In conjunction with Leicestershire Constabulary the organisers expect to limit any hold-ups on surrounding roads, repeating the success of the traffic plan put in place for RIAT 2000.

RIAT 2001 will celebrate its 30th birthday, looking back three decades to the first tattoo at North Weald in 1971, and will also pay tribute to Women in Aviation.

The operational theme for participating aircrew from around the world is Training 2001, giving prominence to hi-tech training as the driving force behind modern power.

RIAT director Paul Bowen said: "RAF Cottesmore is an excellent venue and 2001 will be a classic tattoo, featuring all-time stars from the Lancaster bomber that first flew 60 years ago to 21st century Stealth technology."

Detector test plea

Jailed GP Dr Peter Green from Oakham, currently serving an eight year sentence for indecently assaulting patients, wants to undergo a lie detector test to clear his name.

Dr Green's wife Jane Green said her husband is arranging to take the test, which she says will be conducted by the country's leading expert in polygraph tests, even though it will not be admissible in court.

Dr Green was found guilty of indecent assault by a jury despite maintaining his innocence throughout his trial.

Ex-magistrate Jane Green told the Rutland Times that the objective of the test was to prove that there has been a miscarriage of justice. She said: "It will confirm to the many patients that still offer support to us, that there has been a miscarriage of justice."

Mrs Green added he had been wrongfully convicted because of "exaggerations".

Dr Green has allegedly asked prison psychiatrists if he could undergo the test, and a private investigator has located a specialist in polygraphs who is willing to carry it out.

Whissendine couple join 'Italian Job'



Minis from Rutland set off for an 'Italian Job' on Tuesday, to help raise £1 million for various charities, including Action for Children and Society of Stars.

A total of 120 teams in 120 minis from across England set off for Imola in Italy, but unlike in the Michael Caine film they hope to bring back wine instead of gold.

The aim of the trip is to relieve Italian vineyards of their wine, which is loaded into the teams' minis and then auction it off for charity, a percentage of the money raised going to Italian charities.

Whissendine couple Roger and Barbara Burnish are amongst the teams taking part in the event, which is in its 11th year, and by now they should be in Italy making a fast getaway with lots of Italian wine.

The minis plan to return to England - the finishing point is at Longbridge, where minis were made - by Saturday November 4.

● Roger and Barbara Burnish, from Whissendine, and Sarah McGregor and Raymond Troop before setting off in their minis on an 'Italian Job' for charity. Photo: R1320/4A

Cupid's arrow to double in cost

The cost of getting married in Oakham is doubling thanks to the council's decision to charge people for the use of their wedding room.

You can still do it for half price however, if you and your beloved don't mind tying the knot in the waiting room - "the wedding party will be able to squeeze in and kiss the bride without moving from their 'standing only' position," as one councillor commented (see letters, page 10).

The move follows Rutland County Council's decision to rename their Registry Office wedding room an "approved premise" and to charge couples between £75 and £100 for the pleasure of using it (including the registrars £37.50 set fee that couples prepared to make do with the waiting room will pay).

As Rutland tops the national league tables on weddings taking place in approved premises (40 per cent of all weddings) the council may recoup more than £3,000 from the change.

'Policy wrong'

Coun Richard Gale attended the committee meeting (policy and resources) that made the change, and said he totally disagrees with the new policy: "People are paying a hell of a lot now. It's wrong to ask young couples and newly weds to fork out an extra £75-100 depending on the day of the week they want to get married."

Given that local taxpayers money is already funding the wedding room, the change amounts to people effectively paying twice for a council service, says Coun Gale.

Rutland County Council said the approved premise (renamed Catmose Cottage) will cost £75 from Monday to Friday, £85 on Saturday, and £100 on Sunday, which "compares favourably with other approved

premises". The council are also designating their Summerhouse approved premise which, a council statement said, "gives couples more flexibility as to the format of the wedding" such as "more say on both the music and what is actually said during the service" and to wed outside the Register Office's normal working hours.

Justifying the charges, Coun Edward Baines, chairman of the policy and resources committee and

leader of the council, said: "The agreed fees for these premises reflect the fact that the marriage rooms at Catmose Cottage are of such a high standard."

Also, the revenue will recover some of the costs in providing the facility and help maximise the benefit of a council asset.

He added: "A survey of other local authorities show the average fees for Approved Premises are between £60 and £100, which does not include the registrar's set fee."

Cash surplus of £80,000

It emerged at a stormy Uppingham Town Council meeting last Wednesday that their long-delayed accounts showed a cash surplus of £80,000.

The money is held in two separate accounts, with £65,000 in a capital resource account which can only be used for major capital expenditure, and £20,000 in the council's current account which is interest earned from the money in the capital account.

Coun Ron Simpson who had called for a motion of no confidence in the council's leadership because the 99/2000 accounts, which should have been presented and balanced six months' ago, are only now ready for adoption, commented:

"I regret to move a vote of no confidence in the council leadership. I call upon them to resign and help restore public confidence in the manner in which the council serves its citizens."

Councillors will vote on the motion at their next full meeting.

Finance committee chairman Christine Edwards also became involved, tendering her resignation because the accounts had not balanced when they were sent to the auditor - and she had not been told of the situation.

Her vice chairman, Coun Marc Oxley, added that in two and a half years in that position he had never been consulted about anything to do with finance.

Coun Toon responded that the auditor had not regarded the fact that the

accounts did not balance as a problem.

He also revealed that the auditor's concern lay with the fact that the council was holding too much cash.

Said Coun Simpson: "To be frank I am unhappy for a number of reasons. I share the concerns of my colleagues. "Money in our pockets is money not in out citizens' pockets. It is important that the accounts balance."

He continued: "The auditor has a responsibility to say this council is running in a proper manner. In my opinion, it is not.

"There are a number of decisions that have not been implemented including one for the formation of a working party. That has never been invited to meet."

Coun Simpson brought an angry response from the mayor when he said that responsibility for the situation lay ultimately with the mayor.

Retorted Coun Toon: "I am not a liar whatever else I may be. The auditor has no problem with this council and the way it is run."

Coun Simpson said after the meeting: "It is a pity that Coun Edwards has resigned but she made a valid point."

He continued: "Uppingham town council are famous for taking a lot of money and not doing something with it.

"I am trying to push this council into doing positive things."

Members voted 7 - 3 to adopt the accounts following a ballot.

Action is needed on A43 speed signs

Residents from Easton-on-the-Hill and Collyweston are demanding action to reduce the confusion caused by speed limit signs on the A43.

A meeting has been held recently to discuss their options after a string of accidents on the road, including the death of a three-year-old girl in May.

Campaigners say one of the options is to move the speed limit signs several yards closer to Stamford so that motorists approaching Easton have

more time to slow down before the bend in the road at Madeleines corner.

Another option is to change the speed limit along the stretch of road through the two villages.

The closed public safety meeting was held in Collyweston Village Hall on Wednesday October 18, and was attended by MP Phil Hope, members of the Highways Agency, police, county and district councillors, and local parish councils.

Collyweston Parish councillor Dave Wilkinson, who attended the meeting, said it was felt that there was an element of confusion caused by the speed limit signs, which resulted in drivers speeding through either or both Collyweston and Easton-on-the-Hill.

Local residents have been requested to write to their local MP Phil Hope before the end of October, so the matter can be dealt with when Parliament reopens.

Still in intensive care

A Seaton man, who was struck down with suspected Legionnaires' disease, is still in intensive care.

He was taken ill while on a trip to Blackpool. A spokesman for the hospital said he was still poorly but stable but would not confirm that he was suffering from Legionnaires disease. However, Leicestershire Health Authority did last week confirm a case of the disease in Rutland.

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HAPPY LANDINGS

RAF crew bale out safely as jet misses village

By ROBIN PERRIE

RESCUERS tend two RAF air- men moments after their jet crashed yards from a village.

The crew parachuted to safety and landed in a ploughed field as their Hawk trainer exploded.

Onlooker John Dunn rushed to the scene and snapped this picture as medics arrived by helicopter.

The pilot and co-pilot of the trainer escaped serious injury.

Parachutes

John, 47, who lives in remote Lowick, Northumberland, said: "The pilots ejected right above our house and the seat landed 100 yards from our front door."

Another witness Darren Curry, 37, said: "I heard an almighty crack and saw the plane going up vertically. It came back down and was spinning around."

Last night the RAF was probing the crash, which follows a series of low-level flying accidents last year. Local MP Alan Beith said: "The RAF must reduce the intense level of low-flying in the area."



Accident . . . Hawk trainer exploded

Down to earth . . . parachute lines can be seen as medics tend to the crew of the crashed jet in this dramatic picture taken by a villager

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Hundreds of young people from Rutland and Northamptonshire attended a talk given by the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey at Uppingham Community College, last Saturday.

After the successful event, the Archbishop commented: "We were with stacks of young people at Uppingham, I am totally deaf as a result but it was great fun!"

The talk was attended by over 250 young people, and 100 youth leaders, who listened to Dr Carey talk about what it meant to be a Christian in the wider world, and was organised as a result of the successful Rutland Youth Praise event.

The event was called IT - Initiative 2000 - and also featured 30 workshops and two concerts, it enabled the Archbishop to talk to scattered groups across the area who are small in number but very keen, said Diocesan communications officer Derek Williams.

The Archbishop was also joined by his wife Eileen, and by the Bishop of Peterborough Ian Cundy with his wife Jo.

Councillor at Rutland County Council Mrs Eileen Ray, and the council's member on the Rutland Youth Partnership, attended the Archbishop's talk, she said:

"It



● The Archbishop of Canterbury chats to Rutland County councillor Mrs Eileen Ray during his visit to Uppingham Community College. Photo: R1319/9A

Archbishop has 'fun' at college

went very well, I was there because I am lead member for youth for Rutland County Council.

"I felt what he said to the young people was very encouraging, he encouraged them to go back to their various churches and continue the work they are doing."

Mrs Ray also chatted to Dr Carey after the talk and found that he had been out and about while in Rutland and liked what he saw, she added: "He was very pleased to meet me and hear about the work that was going on in Rutland."

"He liked

Rutland very much, he thought it was a lovely place to be."

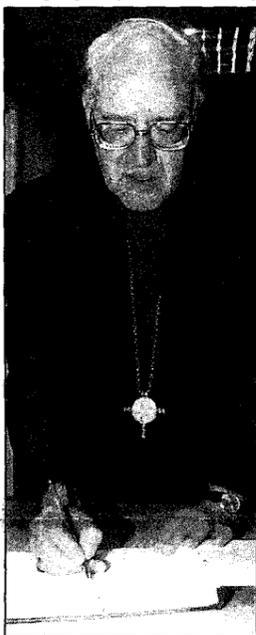
Organiser and diocesan youth officer Paul Niemic said: "It was a wonderful event, the Archbishop said it was one of the highlights of his whole trip."

"Our hope is that on the back of this, young people will be inspired and encouraged to live christian lives in a daily fashion."

Mr Niemic stressed that the event was led by and held for young people, he said all of those on the stage were under 20 years old, and many of the workshops were led by young people.

He added that the college had been "fantastic", with three

of the school's governors acting as stewards, and the head of English Kathy Wilkins was "absolutely brilliant", with Gail Rudge from Braunston doing a great job co-ordinating



● Dr Carey signs the visitors' book at the college. Photo: R1317/35



● Workshop leaders John and Sue Ritter talk to the Archbishop - Sue is related to Dr Carey and they had not met for a long time. Photo: R1319/6A

Burglaries linked

Two burglaries, one at Uppingham and one near Leicester, have been linked by detectives who are appealing for public help after the two homes were broken into.

Both burglaries took place last Wednesday, and electrical items and jewellery were amongst items stolen.

One incident took place between 7.30am and 11.20am at a house in Ayston Road, Uppingham, and the other between 3.30am and 3pm in Freer Close, Houghton-on-the-Hill.

Detective Sergeant Alan Worth of Hamilton local policing unit said: "Traces of glass were found at both incidents and we believe the glass is from a rear window of a new Ford vehicle."

"We are linking both incidents and are appealing to anyone who saw or heard any activity in the areas to contact us. I am also appealing to anyone who has seen a vehicle with its rear window missing being parked or driven to contact us."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact DS Worth at Hamilton local policing unit on 0116 222222 ext 5775, or Crimestoppers, which is free and anonymous, on 0800 555111.

Carcass reveals a big cat's presence

The carcass of a deer believed to have been mauled by the Rutland panther was discovered at Barnsdale Avenue recently.

The person who found the deer said it could only have been eaten by a big cat, and he had never seen anything like it. The witness did not want to be named.

All that was left of the carcass was the rib cage which had been stripped of flesh and licked clean - typical of big cats.

There was damage to the neck where it had been

attacked.

There has been a record number of sightings recorded by Rutland Panther Watch so far this year, with over 130 sightings reported to date.

The group's Nigel Spencer said: "It's incredible how many people have seen the animal now. I do not think there is anybody in the village of Somerby who hasn't seen it."

"The animals are obviously breeding and they are being seen more and more frequently. Experts say we haven't got anything to worry about until we

have a problem with food."

Nigel added that sightings of the panther reported on the group's website may have encouraged two gangs of men from Manchester who were rumoured to be in the area trying to kill the animal.

Sgt Stuart Brotherton of Rutland police had no knowledge of such rumours, but added: "We would not shoot the animal or sanction a shooting unless it was endangering people's lives. A farmer would have the right to do so if it was endangering his livestock."

School setting for MBE ceremony

Molly Hooker is to receive her MBE at Cottesmore St Nicholas CE Primary School at 9 am on Wednesday November 1.

The Lord Lieutenant of Rutland Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Kennedy, will present the award from the Queen's birthday honours list for services to education.

Headmaster of St Nicholas CE Primary School Nick Bason nominated Molly for the MBE two years ago.

She has been a governor, voluntary helper and 'honorary grandmother to the children' of the school since 1985.

Not wanting to travel all the way to Buckingham Palace to receive the award, Molly asked to receive it in Rutland.

As a result, it was agreed that Molly would receive her award from the Lord Lieutenant at the school where all her good work took place.

Molly said: "I am thrilled to be on the honours list. I felt it would be so much more meaningful if it were to take place in the actual school."

"The children all know me so well and it will be a wonderful experience for them to see the presentation as it is unlikely

they will have the opportunity to see the ceremony again."

Molly was made a foundation governor of the school from the church in 1985 and continued to become more involved with the school as time went on.

Initially she began helping in cooking classes for children in class one, baking biscuits and buns, she later helped reception children and started playing piano for assembly and school shows.

She will receive the award at the assembly, followed by a song and a blessing from the rector.

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