

# MORE CHILDREN AND UFOs

*Martin Keatman and Stephen Banks*

This account has been specially prepared for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review.

THIS is a report on two sightings that occurred in December 1977 in the vicinity of Clifton Campville, a small village lying to the north of Tamworth, in Staffordshire. The first sighting involves the observation of an oval light source by four percipients. An orange light was seen at close quarters whilst "manoeuvring" over some fields. After being observed for about two minutes it suddenly disappeared.

The main encounter also involved four witnesses, a group of young girls who watched an apparently metallic object pass over them as if observing. During the event they were able to note several distinct features and colours on the object, and after it had descended into a nearby wood it shot up into the sky and disappeared at great speed.

## The location

Clifton Campville is situated some eight kilometres to the north-north-east of Tamworth in Staffordshire, almost on the county borders with Leicestershire and Derbyshire. The area is predominantly low lying agricultural land, with the River Mease flowing roughly east to west across the district.

The village is mixed, comprising of a mixture of old farm dwellings and modern housing estates. Lullington Woods, the location of the initial sighting, are two kilometres to the north of the village and just inside Derbyshire. These are typical of the densely vegetated woodlands in the locale, and have an overall area of some 2 square kilometres. Fig. 1 outlines the general setting.

## The first sighting

This took place on Wednesday, December 7, 1977, and



Looking north beyond Clifton Campville towards the woodlands where the first incident took place.

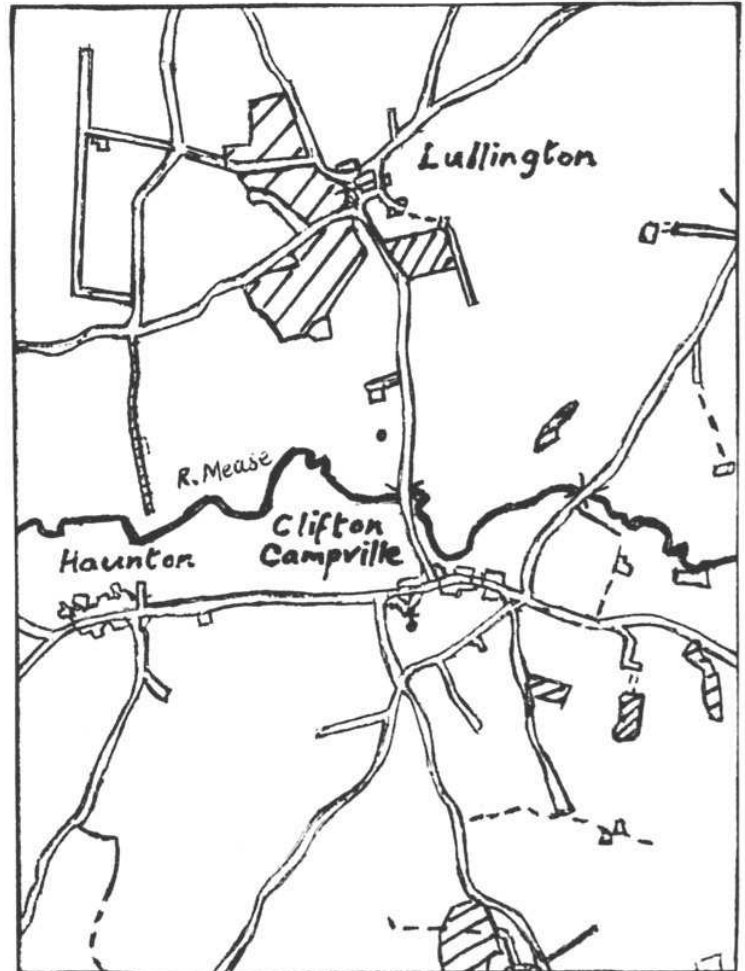


Figure 1: Author's sketch map of the country around the village.

was brought to our attention when Mrs. Pauline Broadhurst, mother of one of the witnesses to the main event, informed us that she and three of her other children had seen a "strange thing" some time ago. On checking in her diary she was able to establish the aforementioned date.

On the day in question they were returning from a Christmas shopping trip to Lullington. Along with Allison, Wendy and Peter — three of her children all aged under ten years — she walked down the quiet class C road that connects the two villages. The time was 16.00 hours GMT and darkness was approaching as they made their way along the unlit road. As they walked Mrs. Broadhurst suddenly noticed an orange light to the east. She pointed it out to the children, and they continued on their way as it descended from 30 degrees elevation on a south-westerly path. It was a cadmium orange oval of light that looked solid but with a peripheral haze. Subtending 0.75 degrees of arc it appeared slightly brighter than the full moon when seen under ideal conditions.

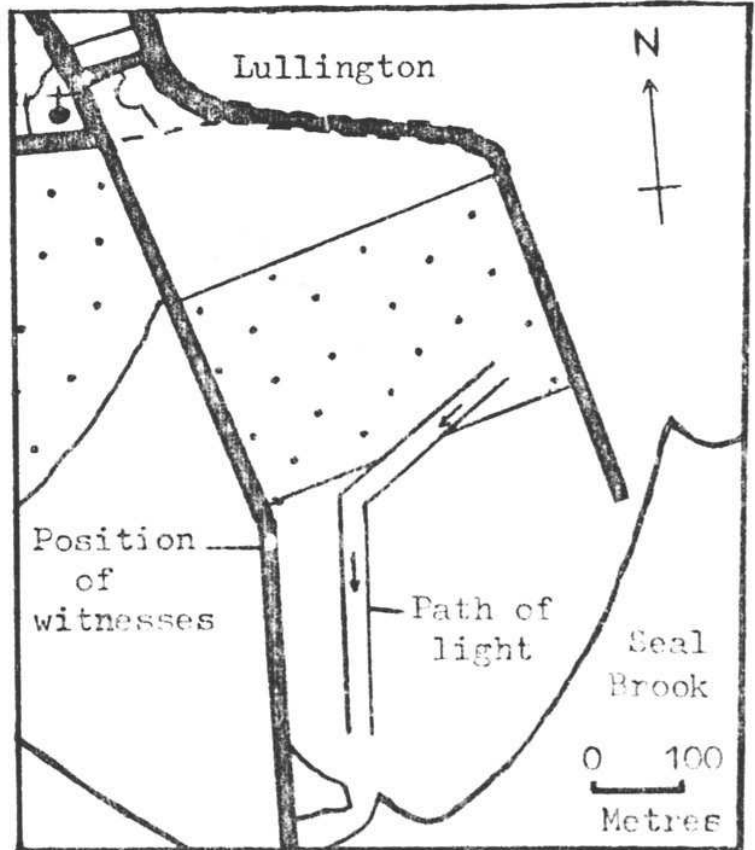
Maintaining a steady speed estimated as 4 kph, it

suddenly swerved through 60 degrees to assume a new course parallel to the road. This took it over a hedge some 90 cm high, and it proceeded to follow this, a mere 20 cm above it. The light gave the hedge a faint illumination.

As it changed direction the witnesses stopped to watch, and they now saw it travel along the hedge for 100 metres before disappearing instantaneously. Mrs. Broadhurst described this as "like a light being switched off." No sound was heard throughout the sighting, and no effects were felt or observed. The greatest cause for concern the witnesses felt, was the uncanny lack of sound.

It was a typically cold December day, with temperatures near zero and a slight but noticeable breeze. There had been a mild ground frost and several stars were visible during the sighting.

Fig. 2 shows the path of the light in relation to the position of the witnesses and the village of Lullington.



**Figure 2: The sighting location on the way home from Lullington. Sketch by authors.**



**The four children involved in the main encounter: from left to right: Linda Broadhurst, Sally Johnson, Gina Ward, and Lynne Watkins.**

### The main encounter

This occurred on Monday, December 12, at 16.30 GMT, whilst four young girls — Sally Johnson, Linda Broadhurst, Gina Ward, and Lynne Watkins — were tending Sally's pony in Wards' field. This lies just to the south of Clifton Campville's main street.

Sally had been on the animal for only a short time, when Lynne pointed out a mysterious metallic looking object approaching their position from the north. On catching sight of it Sally was so surprised that she fell backwards off the pony and onto the grass. Fortunately she was unhurt, and her three friends managed to stop 'Blackey' from bolting.

By now the object was very close, its physical attributes being plainly visible in the fading light. It was shaped like

a convex lens, perfectly symmetrical about a central horizontal axis. The strange craft was rotating slowly in an anti-clockwise direction as they looked up at it. The diameter was some 2.5 metres, and it appeared to be made of a dull white metal. About the central axis were two coloured bands, one red and one blue (see fig. 3). On the underside was a small curved protrusion, this being the same dull white as the main body of the craft. Surrounding this were four metal protrusions, these the girls likened to 'landing legs.' Atop the object were two flashing lights on silver cylinders. These were the same blue and red colour as the bands already described.

As it approached they heard a quiet buzzing/humming noise. They all said this was like the humming of a swarm of bees. It passed directly overhead, and was later estimated to be about 6 metres from the girls. They watched spellbound as it circled over them and headed back the way it had arrived. As it moved away the humming noise decreased, and the object slowly descended into Lullington Woods some two kilometres distant. After a few seconds it suddenly shot up from the wood and disappeared into the sky in a near vertical ascent.

The total duration of the sighting was found difficult to estimate, although a figure of 30 seconds to 200 seconds would seem most accurate.

As it descended into the woods the girls became very frightened and rushed off down the field. Lynne and Linda went to Lynne's house, and Sally and Gina hurried to Sally's.

### After effects

The only discernible effects of the sighting were

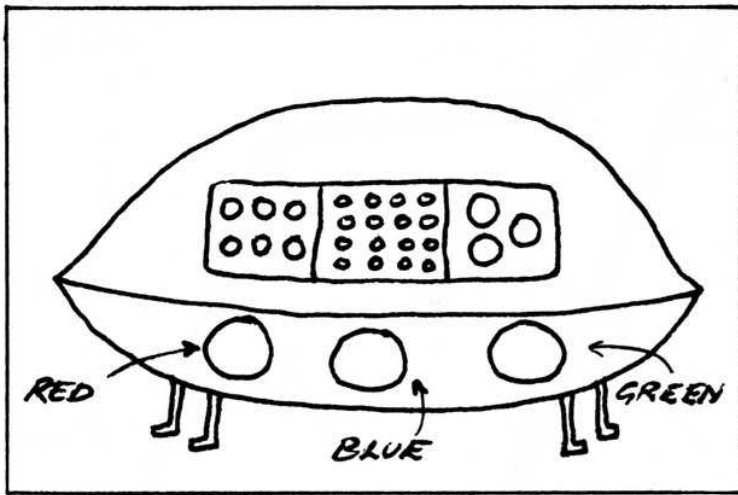


Figure 3: The object, as drawn by Linda Broadhurst.

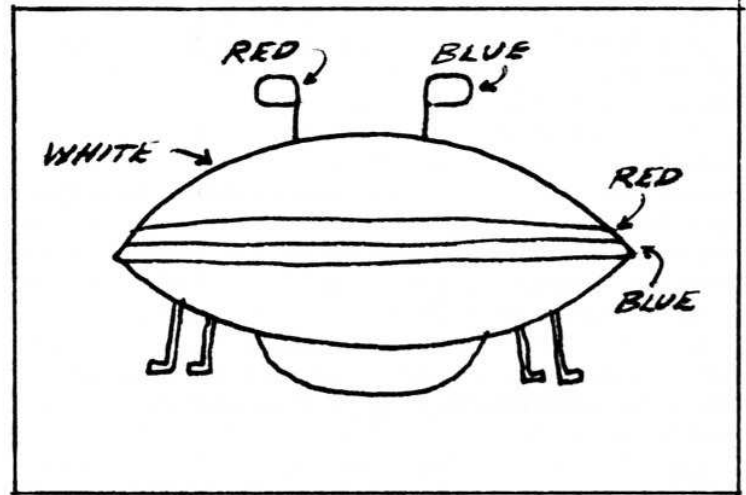


Figure 4: The object, as drawn by Sally Johnson.

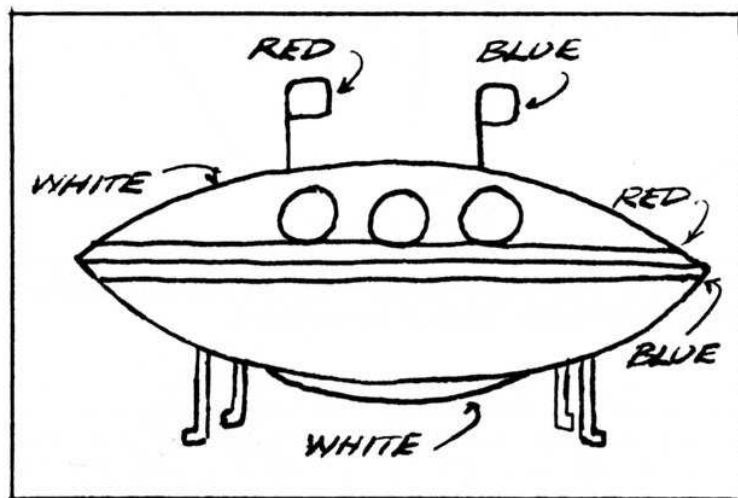


Figure 5: The object, as drawn by Gina Ward.

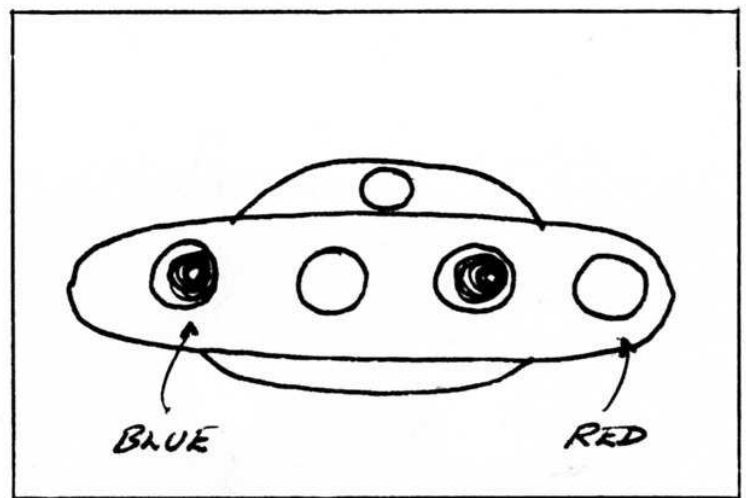


Figure 6: The object, as drawn by Lynne Watkins.

psychological upset. Sally was very worried and her mother had to call the Police at Tamworth. Later that day one of their constables arrived and took a statement from both Sally and Gina. Sally slept with her mother that night as she was still upset by the presence of this unusual object. Linda claims she felt ill after the encounter, but since this could not be verified with her mother, little significance is attached to it.

### The investigation

All witnesses were interviewed independently to assure the greatest degree of objectivity. Statements and drawings were obtained from the girls, and their parents were spoken to concerning the events. An on-site re-enactment was made, with numerous site photographs being taken of the relevant area.

We made a thorough search of a local wood, only to find later — much to our dismay — that it was the wrong wood! This illustrates some of the difficulties involved in field investigations. However, all the woods in the area was virtually impenetrable, and any marks etc. that may have been left by the object, would have been destroyed by the elements or covered by wind-blown material from the trees.

A check was made with the gas board to ascertain whether they had their pipeline checking helicopter in the area on the day and time in question. This line of enquiry proved negative. The girls added that they have seen this aircraft many times, and it was most definitely not the one observed on this occasion. A door-to-door survey was made, but nobody else appeared to have seen the object.

### Conclusions

This case is particularly detailed, and is certainly one of the best 'object' cases the authors have investigated. Considering the registered detail, the proximity and totally alien appearance of the object, it would appear that it was not a known form such as an aircraft or a gross misidentification of a natural phenomenon. All the evidence suggests that this unusual object was a true UFO, an object that currently defies explanation within current scientific disciplines.

Some may say that young girls — aged nine in this case — do not make the best witnesses. We would contend that this is not so, however, having found genuine reports, as this one certainly seems to be, far more easy to document and investigate when coming from young children and

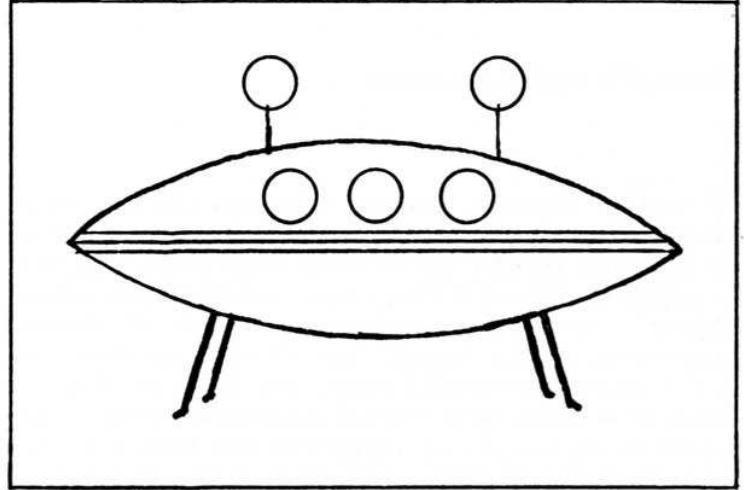
teenagers. This is because little social conditioning and preconceptions exist in such people.

It is, of course, difficult to pass objective comment on the geographical connotations within these two reports. The temporal link is undeniable, and is recorded for future research.

The possibility exists that the initial sighting was of some sort of electrical phenomenon, but whatever it was it definitely confused the witnesses. The description does not appear compatible with known forms, but future research may well yield an explanation. It is interesting to note that this orange sphere seemed to act in a totally controlled manner.

Many questions arise from these two cases. Are young children more prone to UFO encounters? Are there temporal and/or geographical links in their appearances? Do some areas have a higher incidence of UFO events? Only by careful and objective study can we ever hope to find the answers to these most important questions. The UFO phenomenon would seem not to be here for no purpose, and there must be some motivation behind it. It

is time we realised this and attempted to fathom the problem.



**Martin Keatman's drawing of the object, based on the girls' sketches and testimonies.**

## UFO INTERCEPTIONS ATTEMPTED

### Austrian Air Force fighter planes scrambled twice in one day

*Terry Hooper*

ON two occasions during the same day in May of this year, planes of the Austrian Air Force attempted to intercept Unidentified Flying Objects. The first I heard of this was in a translated report from my colleague in Austria, Herr Rainer Scheiblberger.

As far as we know this report has not been published beyond the bounds of Austria, and to make sure it gets the attention it deserves we decided that details — however brief — should be sent to FSR.

On 7 May 1980, the pilot of a KLM (Dutch) airliner was flying at 10,000 metres over the Dachstein Mountains. The time was approximately 3.50 p.m. Suddenly, the pilot saw a grey, spherical object flying over him, and he immediately reported this to the Air Control Centre in Vienna.

In turn the ACC contacted the military HQ of the Austrian Air Force (AAF). The officer in command at that time, Major Karl Schwarz, ordered three Saab-Draken 105s to take off and intercept. Once visual contact was made, two of the 105s attempted the intercept while the third had the task of taking as much footage on film of the UFO as was possible. The UFO's erratic manoeuvres and speed made it impossible for the aircraft to follow, and it was soon out of sight.

An interesting point is that as soon as the Saab-Draken took off, Oberst (Colonel) Karl Schaffer had the task of informing the office of the Austrian President. So far as we know no one expected a return visit that evening.

Approximately two hours later (5.50p.m.), a German aircraft belonging to the Lufthansa airline came into close contact with the object — or at least one that was very

similar. Although there was no radar contact Major Schwarz ordered two Saab-Draken to scramble, and another attempted intercept was under way.

The comments and impression made on one of the experienced pilots is very striking.

“We were operating at a height of 12,000 metres. The ‘thing’ was flying very fast, and then very slow. *It seemed to be playing with us.* The UFO was flying 3,000 metres over us, and although we tried all possible manoeuvres, we couldn't catch it.”

As far as the film taken during the first intercept is concerned, the only comment on this came from a Major Wolfgang Brauner, at military HQ, “. . .the films are useless.” What was his explanation for the object that out-maneuvred experienced pilots and these excellent aircraft? Major Brauner believes it was a . . . balloon!

If he is to be taken seriously then it is suggested the Austrian Air Force should replace their aircraft, and their pilots as well!

Until a reporter got to hear of the story the case was kept “hushed up” but, under pressure, the few details above were given to the Press.

What with the Spanish Caravelle airliner incident of 11 November, 1979, the Aero-Mexico sighting of 28 December, 1979, and then the Olympic Airways case of 14 February, 1980, might one see a renewed interest on the part of UFOs in our aircraft? However, before drawing any conclusion we should be careful — UFOs are not the most predictable of phenomena.