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# ON LIVINGSTON LETTERS

**CONTENTS**

Physical assault by Unidentified Objects at Livingston — Pt. III  
 Martin Keatman & Andrew Collins.....2

Four young men and a UFO  
 Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall.....5

Paranormal features in UFO phenomenology  
 Oscar Uriondo.....8

Contact from the Pleiades?  
 Janet & Colin Bord.....11

The Chemiluminescent connection  
 Gordon Creighton.....13

The continuing story of the Imjärvi skiers  
 Anders Liljegren.....15

FSR Bookshelf — 5  
 Janet & Colin Bord.....17

Mail Bag.....19

Introductory comments on the Rizzi case  
 Gordon Creighton.....21

Close Encounter in the Dolomites  
 Walter Rizzi.....22

Frightening late night drive  
 Brian Fishwick.....28

Research Report — No. 3  
 Jenny Randles.....29

Three oddities from Alberta, Canada  
 W. K. Allan.....31

UFO with light beams in Kent  
 Timothy Good.....32

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OUR Mail Bag columns in this issue feature two readers' letters on topics which invite editorial comment. The first, from Dr. Robert Morrell of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society, and editor of that society's journal, *UFO Research Review*, complains about the copyright claim made by the investigators/authors of the article "Physical Assault by Unidentified Objects at Livingston," the final part of which appears elsewhere in these pages.

We feel we must agree with Dr. Morrell over what seems to be exaggerated fears on the part of the authors, especially as the Livingston case was already clearly in the public domain thanks to reports of varying quality about the case which had appeared in both provincial and national newspapers, as well as on television and radio. Nevertheless we understand the feelings and frustrations of authors in our subject, for there is little doubt that a degree of near paranoia can be instilled in the minds of those who do all the ground work, only to find that work being pirated by others without so much as a by-your-leave or an acknowledgement. (Even a book as well-known as *The Humanoids* has been accorded such treatment; thanks to an alert Japanese reader we were able to halt in its tracks a clandestine project concerning the book in Japan, but only after the first printing had been sold to the public.) So it is hardly surprising that some writers ask for the copyright sign to be displayed over and above the blanket coverage already accorded by FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

However we do feel that Dr. Morrell goes a little too far when asserting that Messrs Keatman and Collins wish to halt all public discussion about their work; again we suspect they had in mind the tribe of "professional lecturers" some of whom are inclined similarly to pass off the work of others as their own. We cannot think they wish to inhibit public debate. Such would be a futile and pointless ploy, for this case has been investigated by others and anyway, this REVIEW is a platform for *bona fide* public debate, and free discussion of all work — subject to the limitations of space — is welcomed; full credit is always given in our pages to the sources of work consulted or quoted.

The second letter, from Mr. Stuart Campbell, was typed on official BUFORA notepaper with the writer's address added. It is noted that the writer complains of "... unwarranted interference of so-called investigators from south of the Border."

The despatch of an independent investigator, M. Keatman, was suggested to UFOIN by the Editor of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW on the Sunday after the event; it was considered such a course was necessary following the appearance of the "space craft" or "ball lightning" explanation attributed to Mr. Campbell in the pages of the mass-circulation *Sunday Express*. \* It is apparent that this explanation only appeared because Mr. Campbell gave it to the *Sunday Express* reporter in the first place — in which case he has little cause for complaint. When UFO researchers and investigators are questioned by representatives of the media, it is a prerequisite that they keep personal ideas and views out of the conversation, regardless of the fact that some of them may sound "scientific."

\* See *World Round-up* feature in FSR Vol. 25, No. 5.

As for the rest of our correspondent's letter, we are confident that any further "warnings-off" or suggestions of the "Divine Right of BUFORA investigators" of the

kind made by the abrasive Mr. Campbell will be duly ignored by independent investigators.

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# PHYSICAL ASSAULT BY UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS AT LIVINGSTON — Part III

*Martin Keatman & Andrew Collins*

**This report has been specially prepared for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review**

**F**ORESTRY foreman Bob Taylor of the Livingston Development Corporation of West Lothian, Scotland, claimed that, on December 9, 1979, he encountered a domed object in a forest clearing. Two spheres with protruding "spikes" emerged from the object and struck him, one on each side. Full details of his experience were given in Part I of this article.

In Part II, which appeared in FSR Vol. 26, No. 1, we described the on-site investigations, the involvement of the police in the case, forensic investigations, medical considerations and so on. We will continue with other reported events in the locality.

## **Other sightings**

With a case that has gained so much publicity one can expect a dramatic increase in local sightings reported. We have been able to locate a number of incidents during this period, some of which are quite interesting in themselves.

On November 8, 1979, at 17.20 hrs, a Mrs. Sarah Johnson, aged 43, of Ash Grove, Craigshill, Livingston, was on her way home from work when she caught sight of three lights motionless and silent in the sky. They looked like aircraft lights, and were in a straight line configuration of white, red, white. Eventually they were obscured from view as the witness passed beneath them.

On November 9, at 10.00 hrs, at almost exactly the same time of Bob Taylor's encounter, a Mrs. Violet Connor and her sister Mrs. Lilian Black were driving from Bathgate to the small town of Armadale. Glancing skywards Mrs. Connor noticed a white cigar-shaped, or bar-shaped, light hanging motionless in the north-east. She pointed it out to Mrs. Black, and both watched it remain stationary in this position for over five minutes as they drove. Eventually it was lost to sight behind buildings on the outskirts of Armadale. No noise or effects were noted.

At 17.50 hrs on the same day, Mrs. Josephine Quigley, aged 30, and four of her friends, observed a ring of lights rotating silently. No definite features could be made out as it was dark, but the lights appeared to be lower than normal aircraft height. The object remained in the same position throughout the sighting, and was lost to view when the witness had to move away and take her son home from school. The sighting lasted about two minutes.

Two hours after Mrs. Quigley's sighting, Steven Little aged 14 and his brother Alan aged 17, from Bellsquarry, Livingston, watched a dome-shaped object suspended motionless over a main road some 400 metres behind their home. It was at a height estimated by the boys as about 150 metres. It was a glowing bright white dome, with a large red light on its left-hand side, and a similarly shaped blue light on the right. Both lights were pulsating simultaneously at one second intervals. After some eight minutes the white glow discontinued, leaving the two side lights. After a further two minutes both remaining lights also disappeared. No sound was heard, or effects noted.

On October 10, 1979, a man and wife living in Dedridge, Livingston, had observed a strange object that caused physiological effects on the woman, a Mrs. Stewart. She had gone to bed at about 00.45 hrs, and as she went to close the bedroom curtains she heard an unusual noise like a "muffled helicopter." In the North-North-East she saw a large, greyish-coloured, dome-shaped object with six red lights that rotated in an anti-clockwise direction. It seemed to "hover on the spot for about 20 or 30 seconds" while still making the muffled sound. After this the noise became like a high pitched "diesel engine" as the object rose upwards into the sky. It was eventually lost from view as it moved away, and the noise diminished with the increasing distance. Mrs. Stewart had a great thirst for about two weeks after the sighting, especially in the early hours of the morning. To quench this she drank a lot of tea and lemonade, the latter not normally to her liking. She also felt extremely tired and "...rather heavy all the time as if weighted." The last noticeable effect was that her weight seemed to go up from 7 st. 7 lbs. to 8 st. 3 lbs. After a short time it returned to normal as suddenly as it had risen. Mrs. Stewart had also had several psychic experiences, including pre-cognitive dreams and a bedroom sighting of her grandmother.

On November 12 at 17.45 hrs, Mr. Barney Gallagher, father of the well-known golfer Bernard Gallagher of Bathgate, was out walking his dog when he caught sight of a circular shape a mere 60 metres above his head. This has red and white blinking lights. He rushed back to his home, and his wife Millie was also able to observe this aerial spectacle before it disappeared. Attempts to obtain further information on this sighting have proved fruitless.

On November 14 at 17.15 hrs, a time when the authors were at Bob Taylor's home, Sheila Robertson, aged 38, and Ruth Carnegie, aged 22, both of Livingston, were returning home from the LDC Forestry Commission where they work. They suddenly noticed, at an elevation of about 20°, an intense white glow. Ruth was not wearing her glasses and saw the phenomenon as an intense hazy mass, but Sheila could clearly make out a shape which she likened to a light bulb. The object was stationary throughout the five minutes it was seen. As the witnesses entered a built-up area it was obscured from their view.

All the above sightings have been officially recorded and, in addition, two "rumours" that have come to our attention are certainly worthy of mention.

While at the site of Bob's alleged encounter, three teachers from a local school approached us. They mentioned that on Thursday, November 8, several boys said they had seen a strange object (of unknown description) descend into the forests around Deer Hill. The children decided to report the event to their local police station. We were told that at first they were not believed, but after much persistence, statements were taken. Unfortunately, the teachers were not willing to give the names of those involved, and despite checking with the police we were unable to confirm or deny the occurrence.

### **Animal mutilation?**

Another rumour that came to our attention was of a rather more horrific encounter that occurred "west of Edinburgh." This is currently being followed up by UFOIN investigator Alan Price and the authors. Alan said that while at a social function during the evening of Bob Taylor's experience, he was approached by a former policeman who had been told of a police investigation involving an object encountered by a young boy and his dog "a few days previously." It would seem that the dog broke away from its lead and ran towards a landed craft. The object evidently shot up into the air, and no trace of the dog could be found. The incident was reported to the police, and during a search of the area the following morning a severed hind leg of the dog was found! Nothing more was known of the incident, other than it caused temporary hysteria in the area.

The authors located the police station involved. Although no statement could be given, a woman constable confirmed the incident, saying that a senior officer was handling the case. She suggested we speak to this person regarding the matter. Despite several attempts we were unable to track down the officer concerned, but we do know, however, that Alan Price eventually managed to speak to him, and that he denied all knowledge of the incident. For obvious reasons the name of the police station is withheld pending further investigation.

With the knowledge that local hysteria had resulted from the incident, the authors tried to substantiate the claim via other sources in the area. After a number of enquiries a headmaster of a local school confirmed that a police search had taken place as stated, although as far as he was aware no direct UFO involvement was indicated from the rumours that had circulated. He believed that the date concerned was either Tuesday, November 6, or November 13. Despite further enquiries on his part no

more information was forthcoming. However, he did add that one of the pupils at the school had claimed to have encountered a strange object on the ground in the same area on November 6, three days before Bob Taylor's encounter. Investigations are being made into this claim.

### **A further remarkable claim**

Two weeks after Bob Taylor's claim, another intriguing UFO experience came to our attention. Through the *Sunday Mail*, a Scottish national newspaper, we learned that a Miss Susan Devenney, aged 23, of Drumchapel, Glasgow, while waiting for a taxi home in the early hours of Sunday, December 8, 1979, suddenly heard a mysterious noise. Almost immediately a shaft of light hit the pavement, whereupon the head and shoulders of an entity appeared through the pavement! Miss Devenney was stricken with a great fear.

Realising the potential of the claim, the authors, accompanied by fully trained psychologist, Mr. Graham Philips, travelled to Scotland to interview the witness on December 20, 1979. We were unable to arrange a meeting, however, and suspect that this was the result of overreaction by the UFO media after the publication of the newspaper article.

### **Comparisons with other cases**

The way in which Bob Taylor's encounter occurred, the description of the domed object and its strange blending in with the background, reminds us of Trevor P's encounter near Machynlleth, North Wales, in 1975<sup>2</sup>. In this case the young witness also encountered a silent, motionless domed object with a flange. This too was in a remote area. He described the manner of disappearance as though the object was "blending" or "merging" with the background. Unfortunately the Machynlleth witness suffered considerable unfortunate after-effects. Luckily, these are not apparent with Bob Taylor.

The spheres, although seemingly unique in this country, may have been encountered elsewhere in the world. The most obvious case was featured in *Flying Saucer Review*<sup>3</sup> under the heading "Mystery flying object rolls along a German road." Here, a sphere with six spikes, encompassed by a bluish transparent spherical mass, rolled along a road, turned 45° to the right, and snaked backwards before shooting vertically into the air. The similarity between the two objects is remarkable, especially since Mr. Taylor had no knowledge (as far as is known) of this particular event. We are also aware of further reports of "spiked balls" in South America, but these are not so clearly comparable as the German case.

The physiological effects on both the witness and the dog are by no means uncommon, and have been noted in several close encounters.

### **A second visit to Bob Taylor**

On December 24, 1979, the authors again visited the Taylor residence, this time with psychologist Graham Philips, to interview the percipient concerning possible further developments.

It became apparent that no further physiological or psychological effects had been noted. Bob was still very puzzled by his experience, and still maintained his

nonchalant attitude towards it. No further UFO or related incidents had occurred, and the witness had not experienced any strange dreams.

The latest media attention had come from Yorkshire television and the BBC programme *Nationwide*.

It would appear that during December Bob Taylor was hypnotized by a leading Edinburgh hypnotherapist, in accordance with the request of an American newspaper. It seemed that the experience was fully recalled under hypnosis and that it tallied exactly with his conscious account. No hint of time loss or an abduction experience was found.

Right through December 1979 Bob Taylor received considerable coverage in local and national newspapers. He has had a great many letters and much attention from investigators, buffs, and curiosity seekers. The site of the encounter has been devastated, and no signs of the depressions and indentations are now visible.

### Conclusion

To analyse such a complex series of events is extremely difficult, yet in essence we are left with only two reasonable explanations. First, that the encounter was a physically objective experience as described in the percipient's account and evidenced by the physical traces, the damaged apparel, the physiological effects on the percipient, independent and disinterested accounts of the series surrounding the situation, and the many other UFO sightings.

Secondly, that it was fabricated by the percipient and/or the employees of the LDC Forestry Commission. Let us first consider this hoax theory. Livingston is an expanding new town, and the possibility of attracting industry to the area would be gladly accepted by the LDC. UFO encounters of a bizarre nature usually draw adverse publicity, but even so could it not be that the possibility of attention being drawn to the area was the motive for an elaborate hoax?

Mr. Malcolm Drummond is the publicity officer for the Livingston Rotary Club. This helps attract industry to the area. It was he who took the majority of the calls from the media during the first three days subsequently to the encounter. Bob Taylor conveniently left the area the day of the incident to visit relatives, returning two days later.

To analyse this we must take a closer look at the percipient. The authors are confident with regard to both his and his family's account of the events, and accept them as true and correct for a number of reasons. Certainly Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were not of a kind who could have perpetrated a hoax and then stuck to the story throughout the constant bombardment by the media, UFO buffs, and investigators, and with those around them in their daily lives. Bob Taylor would have required an extensive knowledge of both UFO literature and investigation procedures to have been able to "fox" all concerned. This too, in the light of our investigations, seems totally ridiculous because of the nature of the witness involved.

Therefore, if a hoax is still to be considered, we must look towards the LDC Forestry Commission. Could it not be that Mr. Drummond and at least a dozen of his employees concocted the hoax in collusion with Bob Taylor? We think not, as no indication from our interviews with all concerned seemed to suggest any such

collusion. All the stories remained the same, and when considered as individual pieces of a jigsaw, fitted well to form a consistent and overall picture. Nor must we forget that the police were involved from the moment the story broke; the possibility of that happening would surely have been considered by would-be hoaxers intent on bringing publicity to the area.

It is considered that the only possible way a hoax could have been perpetrated was by hypnotic induction. Bob Taylor could have been found to be auto-suggestive by a trained hypnotist (without any kind of hypnotic application), and consented to being hypnotised for the purpose of "seeing what happened" or maybe of "giving up smoking" (Mr. Taylor smokes a fair number of cigarettes a day). Hypnosis could then have been undertaken, with a post hypnotic suggestion that on the date and time concerned he would act out the encounter, including falling unconscious, ripping his trousers, and scratching himself. He would then be told that when he came out of the hypnotic state he would not recall ever discussing hypnosis, ever knowing anyone that could apply it, and that he would not be able to recall the session.

Hence he would have been able to have a complete and seemingly physical encounter. The traces would have been made some time during the morning concerned. Again, though, we must consider that if it backfired there would be very serious consequences for those involved.

Thus the chances of a hoax having been perpetrated seem virtually non-existent. Others indirectly associated with the case have claimed the object and marks could have been caused by ball lightning. In view of the facts of the matter this seems preposterous to say the least.

Our conclusion is that an encounter did take place, and that the accounts of all concerned are true and, within normal reason when accepting witness evidence, correct. Bob Taylor experienced something that has certainly caught the public imagination. This time, however, unlike so many good cases that "get away," this one was caught and recorded immediately and accurately.

Bob Taylor said that had the spheres not come towards him he would have approached the object with the aim of investigating it. Perhaps he was stopped from attempting this for fear of what may have happened. Bob does not think so; he feels "they wanted me inside," yet actually wonders if "they had enough power."

As to whether he had any thoughts on where "they" may have come from his view was ". . . not really, I don't know whether they come from outer space. . . or whether they're some sort of military thing. . . I just don't know."

This case must surely make us sit up and think seriously about UFO events in general. Why should a hard working Scotsman have such a fantastic experience? Is it possible that such encounters have far deeper implications for mankind? Only time will tell.

### References

2. *Flying Saucer Review* Volume 24, No. 4: "Jelly-like entities at Machynlleth," by Andrew Collins.
3. *Flying Saucer Review* Volume 18, No. 4 (July-August 1972). "Mystery flying object rolls along a German road," by Hubert Malthaner.

# FOUR YOUNG MEN AND A UFO

## Terrifying ordeal beside a Cheshire river

*Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall*

A UFOIN report specially prepared for Flying Saucer Review  
January 27, 1978. Frodsham, Cheshire. CE3 (L) Physio. Level B.

AT times being a UFO investigator can be quite frustrating. There will be tantalising hints that one has come across a classic case, and then suddenly all hope of progress will be snatched from one's grasp. This was certainly true of this investigation, which in many senses proved to be a ufologist's nightmare. It is only thanks to some good fortune and sheer persistence that we are able to provide you with any kind of a report at all. Yet the details of this amazing story do justify publication, particularly in view of some rather bizarre and erroneous comment on the affair that appeared about nine months later in the *Toronto Sun*. . . in Canada!

The case came to our attention thanks to researcher Peter Rogerson of *Magonia* magazine. At the time he worked in Runcorn and picked up a very short piece in the *Runcorn Weekly News* which described an apparent CE3 contact at the nearby town of Frodsham. He asked if UFOIN could look into it, and since Paul Whetnall worked in Chester (just ten miles from the location) he was best placed to do so.

At first we presumed that we had struck lucky. The newspaper reporter responsible for the item turned out, on checking, to be one Sue McTurk, and she was an old childhood friend of Paul's. With a rapport thus opened up she promised to do what she could to assist our investigations.

Unfortunately, she had received the story second-hand, via a friend, although she was positive that the source was valid. She had not spoken directly to the witnesses but promised to attempt to do so for us. Meanwhile we checked out the alleged site, finding it to be an isolated and lovely spot, and we also went through local sources such as the police, who had no knowledge whatsoever of any sightings. In view of what we later discovered this was hardly surprising.

It was now several weeks after the events, and when the response came from Sue McTurk it was not encouraging. The witnesses did not wish to be interviewed. Indeed they preferred to try to forget the whole thing. We did find that instead of three witnesses, as mentioned in the press report, there were in fact four, and the fourth (who was the son of a respected official in the local community) was one of the main stumbling blocks. Because of his father's position he was extremely wary of talking, and had persuaded the other three to "pretend" he had not been there originally. However, Sue believed that the tale was genuine (using her reporter's instinct and knowledge of the sources involved), and therefore we were not willing to drop the matter. We asked her to try again — which she did. This time it took some while for a reply, but again it was negative.

### Press accounts

While all of this was going on Jenny Randles was approached by a reporter from the *Daily Mirror* newspaper. He had picked up on a reprint of the original short item in the local paper (although almost everyone else — including ufologists — had missed it, proving how easy it can be to miss out on something significant). We were unable to add anything of importance to the details in the initial statement, and simply pointed out that we were endeavouring to carry out an investigation. The *Mirror* article, just a few lines long, was headlined "Close Encounter of a Moo-ving kind" (cows were involved in the case). Subsequently the *Daily Express* featured the story as a "Close En-cow-nter", with similarly scanty details. Even in these few lines there were some significant factual errors, or errors of interpretation (the aliens became spacemen, for example, although at that stage we had had no description of them at all from the witnesses).

By the beginning of April 1978 the media had forgotten about the affair, but we persisted. Eventually a breakthrough did come in the summer. Sue McTurk persuaded the four men to write out a detailed account of what had happened. While her paper itself was no longer interested in the case, Sue kindly turned over to us a copy

