

# CEI, responsive to language & thought?

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## Lights in the sky bring back sighting memory

by Greig Tindall

SIGHTINGS of unidentified lights in the night sky has brought back vivid memories for one Littlebeck man.

Michael Berkley decided to contact the Whitby Gazette after seeing the spate of sightings and reveal his experience of almost 20 years ago.

He was walking his dogs in a nearby field just off Littlebeck Lane in 1983 when his sighting happened.

"What I saw that night was one of the best sightings I've ever heard about," said Mr Berkley, who is recounting his experiences in public for the first time.

As the dogs were chasing around, Mr Berkley saw a small "blueish green" coloured "flare" hanging in the sky in the east which he thought was a distress flare.

"It was about a mile away and I was below the trees standing perfectly still," explained Mr Berkley.

"The light travelled closer and closer in my direction in a perfect, straight line. It came right over the field and I could see that it was 18 to 20 feet across, seven feet in the middle and shaped like a disc.

"It was so surreal, it appeared to be some sort of mechanism. I know it sounds stupid but I shouted at the thing to stop. It did, about twenty feet above the ground. It started to move off very slowly above the lane and I was literally walking with it for ten minutes.

"My only hope of continuing the observation was to ask it to stop again, and it did. I couldn't see anything except for the dense lights.

At this point Mr Berkley realised his dogs had vanished out of sight. He later found them at home.

"I was of the opinion that it (the object) was able to control itself," he said "I told it to land and the thing pulled away - it changed direction 45 degrees and moved away from me ever so slowly.

"The thing started to come down and it got to about five feet from the ground. It was then that I decided that I must somehow get some kind of evidence.

"I got myself really worked up. My mental faculties were frozen. The way it was landing was so controlled. But I started thinking about what I would do if it came down and how I would get evidence of it."

Mr Berkley has come to think that the object "sensed" his increased state of anxiety, and he believes this led it to abort the landing.

"It went back up to the original height and disappeared," he said.

Mr Berkley was worried at the time he may have been exposed to radiation. "I went back to our house 50 yards away and told my wife about it. She didn't believe me. I also told my children and I swore them all to secrecy.

"But after reading about these recent sightings I just had to tell someone. I didn't want people to think I was a crank, I didn't want to be ridiculed."

Mr Berkley has since tried to rationalise

what he witnessed. But his efforts to produce a logical explanation have left him far from convinced.

"The object could have been some unknown natural phenomena," he proffered. "But I spoke to this object three times and it obeyed my commands.

"I'm also certain it wasn't ball lightning because I was experiencing this for 15 to 20 minutes. If I hadn't got angry it would have landed because it was doing everything I said. I regret that I ever thought of being aggressive towards it. I've regretted for 15 years that I became hostile to whatever it was."

Following his encounter, an advert appeared in the Whitby Gazette asking people to call a number about sightings of lights that same night. He telephoned this number and he spoke to a UFO investigator who asked him about his sighting and said a woman living on the other side of the valley witnessed a similar light.

Mr Berkley said he never attempted to locate this woman and never had any more dealings with the UFO investigator.

But his research led him to discover that a fighter plane in the Belgium air force "locked on" to a UFO and asked for permission to fire before it got away.

"I'm not a crank, I know what I saw," said Mr Berkley.

"I just hope that by coming forward it might help other people who are serious about these things to gain information. If everybody keeps quiet then we will never know for certain that UFOs exist."