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THE H FILES

'Suddenly, the whole thing wasn't funny'

IT WAS early evening when the first UFOs gathered in the skies above Harston. Bemused villagers left the Old English Gentleman pub to watch a bizarre light show, a display of white and coloured points which danced madly, some pulsing, others in formations, all in complete silence.

But curiosity turned to consternation when a huge "ship" glided into view and appeared to hover over the rooftops.

Soon afterwards, pub landlord Michael Bradford told *News* reporter Paul Markillie: "Then something with the shape of an airship, dead silent, with a white light at each end and a yellowy glow from what appeared to be a row of windows, came across from the back of the pub towards Cambridge.

"Suddenly, the whole thing wasn't funny any more."

Faced with this eerie apparition, some hid inside their homes, motorists fled roads which looked to be on the craft's flight-path, and a fearful call was made to the police.

Eventually the lights, which rocked a

small rural community, went without incident.

It was a week before news of that night leaked out and a handful of villagers agreed to risk ridicule and tell the world about their terrifying experience.

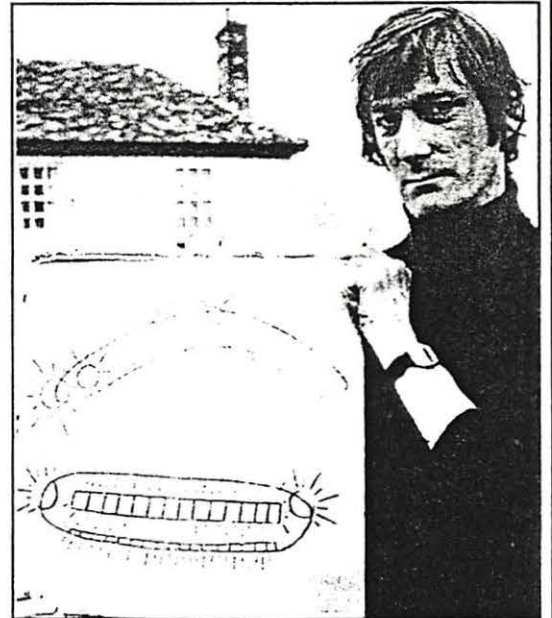
Mr Markillie, now with *The Economist*, recalled: "It seemed to be very genuine - so many level-headed people had seen it."

No-one could explain exactly what "it" was, but the suggestion that Harston had for some reason been targeted by extra-terrestrials was whispered.

Jeremy Hooper, a 54-year-old solicitors' managing clerk from Hawthorn Way, Hauxton, said: "I can still remember that particular evening - the way those objects were darting about in the sky."

David Flood, a laboratory technician who now lives in Great Barley, encountered the large "ship" as he drove towards Harston, and then watched it from outside the Old English Gentleman.

He described it as a huge fuselage with illuminated windows down each side, like a square-ended airship or a railway carriage.



Mystery . . . Michael Bradford with sketches of two UFOs he saw flying over Harston.