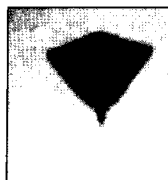


Farnborough in my time, I am no stranger to aircraft but this object looked liked nothing I have seen before."

A strikingly similar UFO was photographed by reader Rob Baker from his backyard in Regent's Park three weeks ago. "We were out in the garden when my oldest son pointed it out. It was a long way away so I got my camera out to zoom in on it," he said. "From the zoomed image it looks like a powered hang glider. It was more of a square shape than a triangle and there was a dull humming sound, but I cannot be sure that wasn't coming from the road."

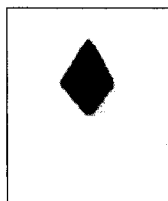


The X-Files-style mystery has left UFO enthusiasts baffled and an investigation was even launched by Southampton Airport after a worried member of the public alerted bosses. Possible explanations include Chinese lanterns, micro-lights, model aircraft,

kites or even a secret military project. Recruitment consultant Gavin Chapman also came forward with another mysterious photograph, which he took in the city last summer. "I was taking a photograph of a rainbow at the time, but I didn't notice there was also an object in the picture," he said. "Then, about three weeks ago, I was deleting pictures from my mobile phone when I spotted it. After reading about the other recent UFO sightings on the Echo website I decided to send it in because I hope somebody can tell me what it is." Mr Chapman added: "If you zoom in you can see that there are clearly three corners of a triangle. I honestly don't know what it is. I suppose it could be a helicopter or maybe just dirt on the lens. "I believe there is something out there. There has to be, but whether this is it, I don't know."

Mysterious object seen flying over Southampton

by Peter Law. Southampton Echo.



The Daily Echo needs help in solving Hampshire's latest UFO mystery. Just a day after it was revealed 42 UFOs have been spotted in the county in the past ten years, a new video has emerged of a strange object in our skies. The footage was captured by company director Will Campbell on Monday,

May 5, and shows a cube shaped object floating high above houses in Shirley.

"I was at home when my housemates Mina and Simon spotted the object out the window. We could barely see it with the naked eye, so I got my video camera out to zoom in to get a clearer picture of the object," the 28-year-old said. "It appeared to be a black, almost cube shaped. At first it was slowly rising, but then seemed to stabilise at an altitude and move away into the distance. We could see it for about 15 minutes, before it eventually got too far away." Mr Campbell was confident the object wasn't a kite as there was "absolutely" no wind that day. "Its large arc across the sky also means that it was not tethered to the ground in the way an advertising blimp would be. The shape of the object wasn't round like a weather balloon. "I rather hope that one of the readers of the Daily Echo might be able to shed some light on what the object was."

Mr Campbell said he believed extra-terrestrial life was out there, but that he was very sceptical of most UFO claims. "I don't believe that there is a great deal of UFO activity and I think that the vast majority of sightings can be explained. There are however a few sightings which are very difficult to explain."

Posted by: Sceptic, Southampton: I was playing football at Goals in Millbrook and we all saw this too. Its obviously not aliens but would be interested to know what the hell it was? The reason why it was odd is because it was stationary for so long just hovering. It did look like a kite but it was too high for that and seemed to have a white light on it. It looked more triangular from where I was but also 3D.

Posted by: James Western, Southampton: I have seen this too a few times over the past three to four months. I have seen something in the sky very similar once in the evening, I tracked it to Rownhams then lost it in the atmosphere, once in millbrook on the main road I saw one again heading across Marchwood military base area. Its weird maybe some sort of British Military experiment but who knows what it is its self propelled I think it moves on its own anyway any ideas let me know.

Police Helicopter intercepts UFO near Cardiff



The Helicopter was an EC 135 (police configuration)

they could not see it with night vision goggles yet it was clearly visible to the naked eye. All three crew described the object as "flying saucer-shaped" and circled by flashing lights.

The helicopter was above St Athan, which is home to an RAF base close to Cardiff International Airport. The three-man crew

the Bristol Channel on 8th June. South Wales Police said the helicopter did not give chase and described the crew as very experienced. The sighting has been reported for investigation.

Meanwhile a Cardiff pensioner says he also saw something peculiar with lots of flashing lights on the same day. George Witherington of St Mellons said he reported the sighting to police and was given an incident number. The ex-RAF glider pilot said he was sitting in his garden reading a book on 8th June when he spotted the object at around 16.20hrs. "I was looking at an aeroplane overhead when I spotted this thing was in the corner of my eye. It shifted direction very quickly, in the blink of an eye. I looked at it for quite a while, at least 10 minutes: it flew off towards the East towards Newport

A close encounter with Romanian ufology.

As mentioned in FSR 52.4, there is currently no coherent way of monitoring UFO reports on a Europe-wide basis. In this issue we take a closer look at the Romanian UFO story, another Eastern European nation in the new Europe, that has overcome the legacy of systematic vicious repression of all forms of expression and intellectual freedom in the communist era. Today its people concern themselves with practicalities of modern life rather than burden themselves with elusive mysteries of the UFO question, however, they appear to be an open minded people, even in their academic institutions. They were among the newest entrants to the European Union in 2007, which may well lead to a return to common media censorship for example among their armed forces.



Members of UFO Scientific Circle on a trip to Brasov in 1973 Left, Calin Turcu. Centre Ion Hobana

Public interest in UFOs in Romania began with the 1968 flap, when several interesting reports reached the mass media, among them one of the crew of the commercial airline TAROM in August 17, and several other encounters in the next time period, until the end of September. The first Romanian books about UFOs were written by the SF writer and critic Ion Hobana (Bucharest, 1971) and the engineer Florin Gheorghita (Iasi, 1973), both of them involved in the investigation of the 1968 cases. Ion Hobana, together with Julien Weverbergh, also published several UFO books abroad, among them the *Ufo's from behind the iron curtain* (1974), translated in several languages. In the early seventies, some UFO research groups were organised, the most important, established in 1971, at the Cultural House of the University Students in Bucharest, was lead by Ion Hobana himself.. Within this "UFO Scientific Circle," were many professionals from the university environment, interested in studying the phenomenon, conducting field research and archived reports and organised numerous meetings to inform the general public.

In 1977, one of the members of this group, Calin Turcu (1942-2006), living in the small town of Valenii de Munte (100 km north of Bucharest), organised an informal, nationwide team named "*Romanian UFO Researchers (RUFOR)*", that published a *samizdat* UFO bulletin (27 numbers, 1979-86). Turcu established, in time, in his house, the greatest archive of written records, photos and films about Romanian cases, as well as the greatest UFO book library in Romania. The same team published later the only printed UFO periodical in Romania, named "RUFOR" (1994-1996). It had 21 issues, the first 8 in a tabloid form, and the rest as an A4 magazine. The chief editor was Peter Leb from the Transylvanian city of Targu Mures. All important Romanian UFO researchers contributed to this magazine. Presently, there is no printed UFO periodical in Romania.

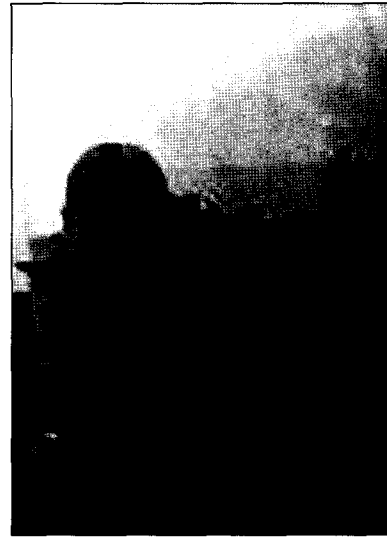
A dozen UFO books, translated or original, were published in



Roberto Pinotti president CUN with Ion Hobana, president ASFAN.

increased dramatically after 1990. Among the authors were Ion Hobana, Calin Turcu, Florin Gheorghita, Dan Farcas, Doru Davidovici (fighter pilot 1945-1989), Gyorgy Mandics (now living mainly in Hungary), Dan Apostol and Adrian Patrut (President of the Romanian Society of Parapsychology; he also wrote about some other strange phenomena in the Hoiu-Baciu forest near Cluj-Napoca). Unfortunately, an inadequate dissemination of books in the past 15 years, made many titles very restricted in their circulation. Also because of superficial editorial policies, books have emerged whose content does not meet minimum standards of the scientific process necessary to address the scope of the UFO. The Romanian UFO network (RUFON) has its headquarters in Coventry, Strada No Berzei, 16, headed by Paul Dorneanu and Florin Sirbu. In 1998 they established a database which increases day by day (www.rufon.org).

The Association for the Study of Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (ASFAN) Romania was set up in 1998 by a group of people connected with the UFO phenomenon and was conceived as an organisation of well established specialists working in various directions relevant to UFO research. Currently ASFAN is the only organisation with legal status for studying unidentified aerial phenomena. ASFAN is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation recognised by the Bucharest City Court decision of 28 September 1998 and the approval of the Minister of Research and Technology and Mayor of Bucharest. ASFAN headquarters is at the Municipality



Astronomical Observatory "Admiral Vasile Ursianu", in Bucharest, bul. Lascar Catargiu 21. For three years (2000-2003) ASFAN held monthly public meetings at the Military Circle and for National Cultural Students. Among the guests, besides members of Bucharest were Gheorghe Mandics of Timisoara, Adrian Patrut in Cluj-Napoca, or John Adam ASFAN branch chief of Batam. ASFAN members were present in these years to

virtually all the TV channels and radio stations with national coverage, in debates on UFO issues