

SCOTTISH AREA



FOUNDED 1862

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION
REPORT

**FORFAR DISPATCH,
117 – 119 CASTLE STREET, FORFAR**

SATURDAY 9 JUNE 2012

OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT INTO ALLEGED HAUNTINGS
FORFAR DISPATCH, ForFar, angus.



INVESTIGATION TEAM

INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER -
TEAM LEADER/ FIRST AIDER -
INVESTIGATORS -

MACDONALD

GUEST -
STAFF -

DEREK GREEN
JOAN GREEN
BILL GREEN
LYNN ROBERTSON
STEPHANIE

MARCO PIVA
ANDY GLANVILLE
BARRY MCCRACKEN
DAVE MCINTYRE
TRACY MCINTYRE
FORBES INGLIS
SARAH MCLEAN
TRUDY LINDSAY

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Investigative Night Visit to **Forfar Dispatch**, Saturday 9 June 2012.

Owners and Occupants: **Johnston Press.**

**Address: The Forfar Dispatch
 117 – 119 Castle Street
 Forfar
 Angus
 DD8 3AH**



Forfar Dispatch Office – Photograph by kind courtesy of Sarah McLean

HISTORY

Forfar Dispatch Newspaper Offices.

The building has been in the Centre of Forfar for over 100 years and has been used by different businesses for the same length of time. Further details of the building at present are not being disclosed.

ALLEGED ACTIVITY

Since the building has become the Forfar Dispatch and is being used on a regular basis, staff and reporters have experienced a number of unexplained occurrences in this very old building. There have been a lot of auditory phenomena reported and temperature fluctuations.

Ghost Club Investigation notes

Official Report compiled by Derek Green from notes of the Investigators

The following information has been taken from the notes of the investigators present and where possible

**notes have been copied verbatim and listed by location.
PRIOR TO FORFAR INVESTIGATION.**

ANDY GLANVILLE

The evening before the investigation and on the journey up, the number 39 kept coming into my head, rather bizarrely. At around 1745 the team walked around the premises which roughly consisted of three floors: Two open plan rooms and a smaller meeting room on ground floor, then there were some stairs leading to the second floor and these passed the first floor which was open and to the right as one ascended the stairs. On this open floor, there was an open area as one walked from the stairs, and two(?) small rooms directly ahead, one of which was a toilet and washroom. Neither of these rooms were in use, and there were various bits and pieces deposited inside, apparently having been dumped there some considerable time previously. The open area, too, was a bit of a dumping ground with various items seemingly fairly randomly left there. To the right of the two small rooms was an open door leading to two small storerooms. One was directly through the door and the other to the left. Lynn did not want to go near this store room as she did not like the atmosphere and I admit to feeling concerned myself – a feeling of dread and foreboding. Up the stairs to the second floor were a landing and a room on the right, where we were warned not to shut the door as we would not be able to open it again. The number on the door was 39. There was another room on this floor at the end of the landing that we visited in which I felt that the atmosphere was very heavy, seemingly full of foreboding.

BARRY McCracken

On the walk around before investigation, top floor, top of the stairs, a feeling of being dizzy and then as I was the last to walk down, a loud auditory psst or hiss in my left ear as I was descending. It seemed to come from the box store.

MARCO PIVA

Marco noted that in the dark room on the first floor there was a dark shape moving about. During walk round Room 42 had something very uncomfortable in it.

LYNN ROBERTSON

Lynn noted at first floor area and small room with double doors that she felt she was being stopped from going in and Lynn felt her hair being touched. At 18:30 hrs, Lynn noted a strong smell of cigarette smoke at the reception and she felt the presence of a very glamorous female in her 60's laughing at something she was finding funny.

OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

VIGIL ONE

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM

TIME: 18:45 HRS

TEMPERATURE: 62.5.F

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

OUTSIDE WEATHER CONDITIONS: CLOUDY AND DRY.

At 18:45 hrs, Tracy noted *"I sense a man, black hair and goatee beard. He has brown suede tallish hat. He is wearing black on his top half and there seems to be a white collar. I have a cold feeling on the back of my neck but I'm sitting under a window. I feel this man is from a few centuries ago and I'm sensing the names Charles."*

Derek asked out for spirit communication and Lynn sensed a presence and explained that she felt there had been machinery in the room, which had a wheel or a belt. Lynn said she was going back to early 1900's. The belt was broad, at a slope and the machinery was turning in some way. The staff all seemed to be male with short sleeves rolled up and flat caps on their heads. Lynn added that there was an accident to the hand of one of the males and due to this he had suffered a mental illness and went about with a strange expression on his face. Lynn said he had

just shouted “Over here Naismith” Lynn said he then started laughing, he had teeth missing and he was smelling of tobacco. The trousers he was wearing had a rough texture and were dark grey in colour. Lynn then described the front of the machine with a plaque with writing on it – a brass maker’s plate. Lynn now was feeling uncomfortable and she said all the other staff at the time were aware of him but kept away from him. Lynn then said that after the accident he could not work the machine and seemed to be allowed to just wander about.

Stephanie then stated that she had the feelings of cobwebs or something similar around her. Marco noted the name Richie and that he had problems with the left eye and left side of his head. Richie had got seriously hurt. A year 1837. Marco then sensed Dave and someone saying because of Dave. (spirit of Dave was not present). Marco explained that Dave Allan/Alan had a ginger goatee beard. Marco then said it was Richie who had the ginger goatee and that he was also hyperactive. Marco also sensed the name Mr Nelson. Marco added this man had to be called Mister. Marco added Richie had bad teeth and felt it was the same man Lynn had sensed.

Stephanie now noted she felt something dangling about her head and neck. At 18:45 a loud thud was heard from above. Andy noted at 18:45 *“There were two newspapers in a pile, each folded in half, in the middle of the table. The top paper was entitled ‘Kirriemuir Herald. The fold of the papers was on the left and the page corners on the right from my view. The top page corners lifted up and fanned down as I watched. There was no person within reach of the papers. I looked around the other people there and was disappointed that nobody apparently witnessed this”*

Derek then started to get a strange spiking reading on the Gauss meter from 0.1mG to 6mG at 18:55 hrs. The spiking moved round the table before dropping back to 0mG.

Time was now recorded at 19:01 hrs and Marco noted a warm puff of wind but all windows and doors were closed. At 19:05 hrs, Lynn was not receiving any more communication and Joan decided to do a knock and rap experiment. Joan then carried out a series of knocks and slight responses were being heard although they sounded as if they were coming from Room 39. Joan kept knocking on the table and faint replies were heard coming from the room above. At 19:10 hrs, Marco noted it was hard to keep his balance and at 19:13 hrs, Marco noted someone in spirit saying “You don’t want to go up there!”. Derek then decided to place the Trifield Meter on the table. There were then two very distinct knocks from the room above. Joan then asked out and another two distinct knocks were heard. Joan then asked spirit to try and approach the box on the table and make the dial move. Joan also reported having a sore head now. Stephanie then commented that she had a headache and a sore neck as though she had been scratched. Derek checked her neck but there was no visible mark. Lynn then said she was sensing a vicious guard dog on a chain. Stephanie now uncomfortable said she was being touched and felt her clothing being tugged a few times (Trudy observed this movement). Stephanie asked Andy if she could move seats with him to the other side of the room. Joan asked out again and two distinct knocks were heard. Andy reported no feelings of being touched while sitting on the seat. Stephanie then said she was being touched again but was now seated on the other chair. A series of knocks were now heard from above in Room 39. The team then decided to move to room 39. Marco noted he had the feeling of cobwebs on his forehead and a numb feeling on the left side of his head. Tracy noted that she was sensing the name Boswell then Boswell and Sons from 1900.

PRIOR TO VIGIL TWO

As Dave McIntyre was ascending the last few steps onto the top landing, Dave felt someone grab him just under the back of his knees. Nobody was on the stair behind Dave and he described to Derek that fingers grabbed either side of both legs. Dave did admit he got a bit of a fright.

VIGIL TWO

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – ROOM 39 AND CORRIDOR SECOND FLOOR

TIME: 19:30 HRS

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

As Joan stood on the landing between Rooms 39 and 42. she was convinced she saw a black human outline move from the direction of Room 42 and enter the smaller room next to the toilet. When Joan checked it out there was nobody in the room.

Derek asked out from the corridor and Lynn stated while standing in Room 39 that she had the strong feeling that something had been shifted or thrown about in the room and she felt it was to do with newspapers. Lynn added that this had been happening around the present time. Lynn then said she could see acetates lying around and she could see an electric fire with no guard. Lynn felt there may have been a minor fire at some time.

Joan stood on the landing and knocks and sounds were starting to come from the first floor below. Derek joined Joan and they both heard feet shuffling and Derek, Joan and Andy went down to the first floor of the two-door cupboard to investigate. As soon as Derek went to step in the two-door cupboard he stopped abruptly as he felt a firm full hand on his chest pushing him back.

Andy noted *“Derek Green moved quickly downstairs from Room 39. I followed to a small store room, hereafter to be known as the Little Room, which had been discovered comparatively recently by newspaper employees. There was a doorway in and a small narrow room was directly through, about 10 feet or so deep. Immediately to the left, through this doorway, was another doorway into a larger storeroom, possibly around 15 to 20 feet square. One could not see into this room unless one went through the first doorway, because of the angle. I tried several times to take a photo of this storeroom but although the flash worked, no photo was taken. I thought I saw the figure of a man when the camera flashed but cannot be sure. The camera eventually took two frames.”*

In Room 39 Lynn also felt that archives had been kept in the room and not for public scrutiny. Marco noted that the cobweb feeling again was on his head. Marco then noted there was something important in the cupboard and John/Jack knew it, so it was his fault. It was something to do with the sink at a corner of the room. Tracy noted getting very warm and a pain on her left side. As she stood by Montrose review 1957, she noticed a smell of bread baking and then she experienced the heat and pain again but it was away by 19:37 hrs.

VIGIL THREE

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – ROOM 42 SECOND FLOOR

TIME: 19:45 HRS

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

Derek asked out and Stephanie said she was sensing the name Banbury. At 19:50 hrs, Derek's Gauss meter registered 10mG and went off scale with a siren noise coming from the meter. It would not stop and Marco reported his torch had gone out and would not switch back on. Marco had put fresh batteries in it. Derek then took the meter out in to the corridor where the siren sound continued and the sound intensified. As Derek approached room 39 the meter went dead and back to 0mG. Derek scanned the corridor and was reading 0.1mG. Marco's torch then came back on and Joan started asking out for further communication. Derek came back into Room 42 and scanned the room at 0.2mG and then all of a sudden it spiked to 10mG again and the siren sound. The door to the room which was closed, was then seen to open by a few members of the team and then the meter went dead back to 0.1mG and as this happened Dave heard a loud sigh. Joan then asked out again and at 19:52 hrs, Sarah and Trudy from the Forfar Despatch became very nervous as they were hearing dragging sounds from below. Lynn and Andy agreed to join them on the top landing and then went down to the first floor.

Andy then noted *“With Lynn (medium) standing close to entrance. I felt someone was inside and I think Lynn thought the same. When I tried to approach the doorway, I felt a force of some sort pushing me back. This was quite strong and was not concentrated in one place like a hand, but seemed to be applied to the whole of my chest equally. I asked for some sign and said that I knew someone was inside. A very audible ‘mmmmm’ came from inside the room. Lynn immediately backed away to the stairs, where two female employees of the newspaper were standing. I felt very cold with goose bumps all over my neck and shoulders in spite of the mild temperature. I asked again for a sign, or to repeat the sound and there was no reply. I asked twice more and the same ‘mmmmm’, again, unmistakable but at a lower pitch, came from inside the room. I am not sure if Lynn was with me and heard this utterance. She came back to stand by me and I continued to talk and ask questions of whoever might be in the room and suddenly the feeling of dread, the goose bumps etc., went away. I said to Lynn that I did not think there was anything in the Little Room anymore and at that moment one of the employees standing on the stairs gave an exclamation and when asked what had happened said that she saw the figure of a man looking around the doorway of one of the small rooms behind us, looking towards us. I felt that this, then, could have been the same presence we had detected in the Little Room, as I had felt that it had gone from there”*.

Sarah and Trudy both spoke to me later and said they had seen the figure of a man who ended up seeming to dive out the cupboard to the side of them.

While on first floor all four of them heard a loud door bang and thought it was from Room 42. Lynn checked with Derek and Derek confirmed no doors had been banged closed. At 20:16 hrs Andy noted *“I heard a third ‘mmmmm’, similar to the first which came from the vicinity of the Little Room, but not from inside.”*

During the above in Room 42, Joan asked out and Stephanie had an odd image of a Nazi uniform and a Bi-Plane. Joan asked out again and Derek’s Gauss meter started spiking again. Stephanie then said she could sense a small boy with fair hair and aged between 9 and 10 years. He was trying to touch or stroke Stephanie’s hair. Stephanie and Barry then noted hearing muffled laughter in the room. Dave then asked if room had once been used a school. The name of John was given and Forbes said a medium had sensed the same name. Stephanie then said she was sure the birth name was not John. Barry, Marco and Dave then heard a long sigh. Stephanie also said she sensed horses on cobbles and the name Ethel.

Marco made his own notes during the vigil and noted the following.

19:47 hrs, “I was just hiding here”

19:52 hrs, Young man, brown moustache, longish hair. Nervous, unhappy.

19:57 hrs, 20:01 hrs, Sharp pain top of my head.

20:01 hrs, Someone died in this room? In the 1950’s? An accident?

20:04hrs, Black spot moving in corner of room near right hand door. Very high near ceiling.

20:08 hrs, Jack? There is an elderly Priest, tall. Father, real name Tony Higgins.

20:15hrs, The name GRUNDSCHULE (Primary School in German)

Before the vigil ended, Stephanie said the boy came to building but did not stay there. He also did not like the man who came to the building. Barry then heard three faint knocks and Tracy sensed two brown dustcoats on two pegs on a wall. Tracy then sensed Charles again and a feeling of gentry, but Tracy did not like the feeling of the man.

VIGIL FOUR

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – FIRST FLOOR – DOUBLE DOOR CUPBOARD

TIME: 20:20 HRS

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

A Communication circle was conducted with the following sitters inside the cupboard:

Marco

Lynn

Andy

Derek

Joan

Barry observing.

Lynn said she was feeling strong vibrations coming through her chair. Joan asked out and cold feelings were experienced. It was agreed there was an energy building behind Derek, a tall skinny man with a top hat and a long beard. A bad person and he was leaning over Lynn. He did not like women and was hissing.

Andy noted: *“Derek organised a vigil (circle) in the Little Room. There was, I think, some apprehension at the prospect of this as we all felt that something quite dark was associated with the room. Circle comprised of Marco, Lynn, me, Derek and Joan in order, clockwise. We all sat on chairs and took up most of the space of the room. Marco was hearing a voice of the presence in the room and he repeated what he heard - ‘That’s right boss’ and those words came into my thoughts a fraction before he said them. Hard to explain, but was if Marco immediately repeated what I thought. I had an impression of a tall figure leaning over Derek, to my left, and shortly after over*

Lynn, to my right. Again, difficult to explain, I had my eyes closed and it was as if I was observing a scene but being part of it at the same time, but rather than seeing a clear picture like watching a film, it was an impression. The figure seemed to pay most attention to Lynn and I felt that she was not liked. I felt the figure was a tall thin man, wearing a dark suit of clothes, which included a long jacket, which reached down towards the floor. Joan became uncomfortable and a little distressed and I said to her: ' You are quite safe, Joan' and immediately on saying this the figure snapped his head round – that's the best way to describe it, it gave me a bit of a start – and I felt him glare at me and hiss in a rather disturbing way. I knew then that I was not imagining anything, this was real. I felt very cold with the goose bumps back around my neck and shoulders. Joan then closed the circle".

Joan announced she was not comfortable and Marco said he was sarcastic and said "Right Boss!". Marco added he was not from Scotland and may have been English or Irish. Joan again re-iterated how she was feeling and Derek decided to close the circle down and said the group would return after a cup of Coffee. Stephanie while sitting outside, noted the name Matthew and she saw the image of a paper being set on fire like an arson attack and she felt her nose was going to bleed. Tracy was sitting away from the door and noted hearing a whining sound like a radio, but she could hear a voice, but was not sure if it was male or female but it was high pitched. Tracy also felt that the group were being watched by something half way up the stair. Tracy also sensed Charles again possibly with the small boy and tugging the boys clothes around the neck.

In fact during the circle, Joan was gripped by severe spasms in the stomach, which on closure of the circle, vanished completely and did not return

BREAK

During the break Stephanie went to the toilet and when she came back out she saw the door handle of the door next to the Gents' toilet turn. Nobody was behind this door.

VIGIL FIVE

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – FIRST FLOOR – DOUBLE DOOR CUPBOARD

TIME: 21:25 HRS

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

A Communication circle was conducted with the following sitters inside the cupboard:

Marco
Lynn
Andy
Derek

Barry and Joan observing.

Andy noted the following:

"Resumed the circle, this time Marco, Lynn, me, Derek; same as before but without Joan. During this time, I kept experiencing cold blasts of air down the back of my neck and also down the front, down my chest. I also heard a lot more hissing which felt malicious to me, though I wondered if it was the man saying things and that I could not make out the words. It felt as if this was the same man and that he was getting more active, moving around more. Then at one point my chair moved forward a couple of inches. This startled everyone in the circle, all witnessed it. It was a peculiar experience. Although sudden, I did not feel as if I was jerked forward i.e. my whole body moved at the same time with the chair, neither was it as if somebody had kicked the chair – no noise of this and no reverberation of a sudden shock felt in the chair. The whole chair moved at the same time, all the legs moved forward equally. That is the best way to describe it."

Derek asked out and Lynn said she had a feeling of weepy eyes. Andy said there was a draught down his neck. Derek asked out "Who are You". Marco said "No bloody chance" Derek said he could sense a black shape in the corner, it was male and in late 40's and tall. Lynn reported feeling not too well. Marco said not to do with circle

and something about taking a souvenir home. Andy said he could again hear hissing and it was not friendly (Andy's account above)

At 21:30 hrs, Stephanie was sitting outside the cupboard and heard dragging sounds coming from above, Stephanie and Forbes went to investigate, as they ascended the stairs, Stephanie could hear a chink like metal being thrown on the floor. As Stephanie explained this to Forbes, she heard it again while both were on the second floor facing Room 39. Stephanie heard the noise again and they both checked out the area but could find no reason for the sounds.

Stephanie then noted in her book that she was being given the word "Brothel"

Tracy noted sounds like musical chimes during the vigil. She described a chord being struck and the sounds of the chords kept changing.. Tracy then heard the noise, which seemed to get louder and she moved over beside Forbes and then Forbes. This was when Forbes and Stephanie went to investigate the noises above.

Back at the circle, Lynn said she could see a male arm between Andy and Marco showing a ballerina box. Lynn then could sense a man who had a wound with a dressing on it as he was in pain. Derek then said he was sensing coaches and horses. Derek said there was women and children walking about and one character, a male whom he described as outstanding from the rest, but this was due to his sinister appearance. Derek described him as being of tall appearance, a dark suit, a cloak and seemingly wealthy. Derek added the local children knew him and that he always walked on the same side of the street. He had a moustache, good quality clothes, and bow tie. Lynn then said that there was what she described as a dark veil go through the circle. Andy then said that the man would not like this as Derek was starting to give information he would not like. It was at this point that Andy's chair moved. Lynn then said she could sense a man who was perspiring with beads of sweat on his forehead. Both Lynn and Marco said they had sore shoulders. Derek then commented that he could sense a rocking horse moving back and forward. Lynn then added that she could see a man taking out a pack of playing cards and the name Mark Stevenson. Derek then said he could sense skull like features. Joan then noted while standing at the back of the circle, she could see a black shaped hand between Andy and Derek and it hovered above the centre of the circle. At the same time at 21:40 hrs, Barry noted sensing a black shape between Derek and Andy hover. Barry noted it was there for a few minutes. Derek then closed the circle and as he did, Lynn saw a man behind Derek's head laughing. Andy and Marco both felt somebody was saying "nobody can beat me".

VIGIL SIX

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – SECOND FLOOR CORRIDOR

TIME: 21:55 HRS

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

Barry recorded that there was a cold spot by Room 41, which disappeared after a few seconds. Derek asked out and it followed with three knocks from somewhere on the first floor. Marco sensed a voice saying "you have no stories". Derek then decided to start a question and answer experiment. As Derek started asking out, Marco started coughing for no reason. Marco did wonder if this was to disturb Derek. Derek used his MP3 to record the questions and leave a gap. The questions were:

1. WHAT WAS THE BUILDING USED FOR?
2. WHAT AGE IS THE BUILDING?
3. WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF SOME PEOPLE WHO WORKED HERE?

The next set of questions received some knocking responses:

1. WHAT IS YOUR NAME? – 3 KNOCKS
2. DO YOU HEAR ME? – 1 KNOCK
3. ARE YOU MALE, ONE KNOCK FOR YES TWO FOR NO – NO RESPONSE
4. IF SOMEONE IS ON THE FLOOR BELOW PLEASE KNOCK – 1 KNOCK
5. IS THERE CHILDREN HERE, PLEASE KNOCK. – 1 KNOCK

Derek then held up a small tin, which had a butterfly on the front. Derek asked if children recognised the design to

knock – no knock recorded.

Lynn then sensed she was sitting in a post office and stamping away. Derek then addressed the tall gentleman with the moustache and asked he could see the team to knock. Derek again mentioned about the man who frightened children and Derek then held out an old Victorian coin and asked if the spirit of the man could take the coin from Derek's hand. Derek followed by asking for more information about the man and he asked if something was hidden. Marco noted "there is, me!". Marco then noted that he had the impression that the tall man was afraid Derek would possibly find out too much.

A few of the team then moved into Room 42 and Dave said something was very depressing in the room. Joan then started to ring the bell and asked out and she followed with more bell ringing. Dave then said he felt there was some kind of connection to a Pastor or Minister. Lynn then said she sensed a gentleman who was looking at Art prints, he was wearing a long sleeve shirt with a pullover with a diamond pattern. Lynn said he was flicking through them and the time period was the 1970's. Lynn added that she felt that he worked with documents, was a stenographer and she added that he had blocks 18 inch square with writing on them. They were like printing blocks and appeared to be wooden. The name Rushford came forward. The atmosphere now seemed lighter than before. Lynn then said the wooden blocks had something written on them and it looked a bit like Braille, but she did not think that this was what it was. It did have something to do with newspapers or a possible teaching aid. Lynn said the man now had a spring in his step as he made his way out the door. Lynn then added that she felt the blocks were something to do with translation to another language and the man now seemed satisfied. Stephanie said that she had dark feelings about the room and this was possibly going back to a time before the current building. Stephanie then said she felt there had been some kind of death or murder and she wondered if it had something to do with water. (In actual fact there was a loch on the site and it was drained prior to building.)

On descending the stairs back to the ground floor, Joan as she turned the corner saw a black human shape go into the meeting room. Joan almost followed the shape automatically thinking it was one of the team. Joan then realised all the team were a head of her and she asked Forbes to take a photograph but nothing unusual was in photograph.

VIGIL SEVEN

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH – RECEPTION AREA

TIME: 22:55 HRS

INVESTIGATORS – FULL TEAM

The temperature was recorded at 68F. Marco sensed that someone had been sentenced to death but got away with it and the name Jude (male)

Derek asked out and Stephanie said she was sensing the name John Rice Davies. Lynn said she had two conflicting things like a pub with men and women, then an old fashioned sweet shop and the name Sally Rushton. Derek, heard a bang coming from upstairs. Tracy noted the feeling of a Bakery and the pounding out of dough. Women with long white aprons with white cap like hats on their heads. Tracy could picture rolling pins, pats of butter, and brown bowls from years ago.

VIGIL EIGHT

LOCATION: FORFAR DISPATCH - THE UPPER STAIRS

TIME: 23:10 HRS

INVESTIGATORS: FULL TEAM

Marco noted a Priest or Pastor/Minister who was firm but fair and a man being ejected because he had cheated on his wife. Marco thinks the Priest/Pastor/Minister may have had the surname Macintyre. Marco then sensed someone speaking German Zu Spat (Too late) Marco added he sensed a man showing his closed hand with his thumb sticking out between his index and middle finger. He is angry against God. Then he seemed to think, "If you can't beat them, you can not join them."

Tracy noted sensing a lady she described like Mary Poppins walking up and down a few stairs carrying a baby in her arms. She had a yellow skirt and she was rocking the baby to stop it crying and Tracy felt this part of the building

may have been a home at one time.

Derek asked out on the stairs and Barry heard shuffling sounds from inside the half landing cupboard. Derek asked out for a noise and light footsteps were heard but the team were not sure if it was outside interference. Derek then sensed the name Arnold Wallace. Joan then started knocking on doors but no response was recorded on the top landing. Barry then reported that he was seeing moving black shapes in the cupboard but not caused by passing cars. Derek then had a look and caught a glimpse of a dark colour to the left of the glass window inside the long cupboard. Various other team members had a look but not everyone could see this but some also said they could see small white pinpricks of light appear and disappear.

END OF INVESTIGATION

SUMMING UP

Firstly on behalf of the Ghost Club Council, our investigation team and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Ms Sarah McLean and Trudy Lindsay from the Forfar Dispatch, for all their help and kindness in making this investigation possible for members of the Ghost Club. I would also like to express our grateful thanks to Mr Forbes Inglis of Montrose Air Station Museum for very kindly passing my contact details onto Sarah at the Forfar Dispatch.

The Investigation was a very interesting one indeed as it had Auditory Phenomena, Physical Phenomena, possible sightings and good Clairvoyance from our mediums. There are quite a number of points that I would like to mention.

Room 42 Vigil three, on entering this room at the beginning there was an EMF reading of 0-0mG. I was informed that on this floor there was basically very little electricity if any, as no lights worked. The second floor had Room 39 at one end and Room 42 at the other with a landing and a stair in the middle. It was in the bottom end room that the meter went off scale registering 10mG and the noise from it could only be described as sounding like a siren. I have never experienced this before and to be honest the reading was constant but moving around the room. I have no idea what caused this, but the meter reading died as mysteriously as it started.

I also have to mention the experiences of members of the team being touched. Stephanie and Dave both felt different areas of their bodies being touched by something to the extent that Dave felt his legs near the knee being grabbed. I also would like to mention when I myself was stopped from entering the double door cupboard. I very clearly felt a hand on my chest stopping me from entering the cupboard. Interestingly enough, Lynn also felt she could not enter the same cupboard much earlier in the evening. I would now like to mention the second circle after the break in Vigil 3. I was sitting in the circle and could clearly see Andy's chair move. Andy was sitting firmly in the chair and his hands were linked with the rest of the circle sitters including myself. The movement of the chair seemed to be a sideways move but enough for me that it was beyond explanation as to how and why it happened.

I also find the possible sightings of interest as well. At different times during the night there does appear to have been sightings of what we will call Shadow people. Sarah and Trudy witnessed one sighting in particular.

Dave during the night said he sensed a Pastor/Minister and Marco sensed a Pastor/Priest/Minister. It is a known fact that at one time the building was used by Jehovah Witnesses as their Hall. There also has been an additional report of some problems reported by Jehovah Witnesses while they had the hall and a lady who spoke to the newspaper, said that they were pestered by a nasty entity.

I would like to conclude this report by saying that I do believe that there is something in the building and I know that the staff have experienced the following:

- Feelings of breathlessness.
- Feelings of being touched on the back of the neck.
- Sightings of Shadow people.

- A door at the foot of the stairs being slammed shut.
- Dorr handles being moved.
- Camera equipment not working
- Music from a child's toy heard.

From our investigation on the evening, we also experienced quite a few occurrences from the list above.

I would like to return to The Forfar Dispatch to conduct further research into the alleged haunting. In truth Paranormal Investigators will always remain fairly sceptical regarding alleged hauntings and we always want to see more and more and more before we will agree to the subject of the existence of ghosts. I will bite the bullet though and say I am fairly convinced that there is something strange at 117 – 119 Castle Street, Forfar, home of the offices of the Forfar Dispatch and worth further investigation.

Once again, many thanks to Sarah McLean, Trudy Lindsay and Forbes Inglis for all their help in making this a successful investigation for the Ghost Club as we approach our 150th year.

Derek Green
Investigations Officer
Friday 20 July 2012.

Sarah Mclean of the Forfar Dispatch compiled the following article after our visit. The Article was published in the edition of the newspaper on Thursday 21 June 2012. This article has been placed at the end of this report by kind courtesy of Sarah McLean of the Forfar Dispatch.

‘Just when we started to think it was all over’

LAST October we brought you the story of our “haunted” office with a promise to update you on what has been happening. Since moving into the current premises in late 2007, Dispatch staff have felt as if they are not the only ones occupying the old Post Office building on Castle Street.

Any paranormal activity seemed to be focused on the archive area towards the back of the building and most people have complained of feelings of uneasiness while spending time there. Members of staff have reported feelings of being watched, cold spots, unexplained noises and at least four people have independently seen a shadowy figure on the first floor. While it was previously thought the second floor had the most oppressive atmosphere a new development has shown that it is in fact the first floor which staff members should be worried about. In March this year two members of staff uncovered hidden rooms. Accessed via double doors the room opens up into two separate chambers. Prior to moving the filing cabinet, which had blocked off the double doors nobody was even aware that these rooms existed! Coincidentally it was when this room was opened up that the paranormal activity picked up the pace considerably.

One of the most notable incidents happened on the second floor just a few weeks after the “new” rooms were found. ‘Room 39’ known to staff as the ‘Montrose Archive’ has a tricky door as it has no door handle. Once it is closed the lock essentially has to be picked to get it open again. After going up to the room to check on something, two members of staff accidentally let the door close shut behind them and with no time to pick the lock the door remained closed for over two weeks before the archive was required again. Upon opening the door it was discovered that a number of files and boxes had been strewn across the floor. The room was a tip and although never exactly neat and tidy it was certainly not left in that state before the door had been accidentally closed. As it turns out the mess became quite significant following the words of one of the mediums from The Ghost Club who paid us a visit recently (see story on page 19).

Staff members have also claimed that the atmosphere in the archive has become increasingly more “angry” and “unsettled” in recent weeks. Rarely does someone venture up there alone. One of the more sinister encounters happened on an ordinary afternoon when two members of staff had gone to collect something from the upstairs area.

By the time they had gone just halfway up the staircase the heavy door at the bottom (and only exit apart from the fire escape). slammed shut behind them. Understandably shaken a very quick exit was made through the fire escape. Some readers may recall that we had previously had help from a local medium in clearing the building from spirits. Although the good effects of this lasted into the new year things began to turn strange again by the end of January and we realised we would have to call on outside help once again..

Contact with The Ghost Club (see page 19 for more information) started right back at the beginning of our ghostly troubles. We have kept in touch with investigation leader Derek Green in the months since and so the decision was taken to hold a full investigation into our building. The full account of the night itself is detailed on the next page and we would love to hear your thoughts. Get in touch via Facebook at www.facebook.com/forfar_dispatch, Twitter @forfar_dispatch or e-mail news@forfardispatch.com.

Ghost Investigation uncovers more than we bargained for'

The archive area of the Forfar Dispatch office in Castle Street has always had a spooky atmosphere but, with activity seemingly on the increase, members of staff began to look for help with the problem. Local author Forbes Inglis, whose book *Phantoms and Fairies* deals with paranormal activity throughout Angus and Dundee, suggested a reputable ghost investigation group from the Ghost Club. Forbes had dealt with the group before when they investigated the Montrose Air Base and the House of Dun a few years ago and he gave them a high recommendation for taking their role seriously while maintaining a healthy dose of scepticism.

The Ghost Club, which was founded in 1862, is the oldest organisation in the world associated with psychical research and aims to investigate paranormal phenomena. Celebrating its 150th year The Ghost Club began its life in London with Charles Dickens among its early members. The group began as it meant to go on by undertaking investigations of the paranormal and discussing ghosts and other matters.

In the following years many better-known names came to be associated with the club such as W. B. Yeats and Frederick Bligh Bond. However, it was not until the 1930s when Harry Price, a world famous psychic researcher, joined that the Ghost Club began to adopt the scientific methods it uses today.

The investigation group, which joined us at the Dispatch office on the night of Saturday, June 9, is based in Scotland but members came from as far afield as Cumbria to witness the phenomena. Arriving at around 5.30pm the group chose our editorial department as their base room and investigation team leader Derek Green took a quick tour of the building to have a look at the areas most in need of investigation.

While the back of the building including our meeting room and archives is where most people have experienced some form of paranormal activity the reception area has also experienced some phenomena. Ten investigators made up the group and were joined by Forbes and Dispatch staff Trudy Lindsay and myself, Sarah McLean. It was decided by Derek that they would all stick together for the initial part of the evening.

The investigation began at 6.30pm in the meeting room where a number of base readings were taken including temperature and the electromagnetic field (EMF). After just a few minutes it was clear that this was going to be an eventful meeting. While sitting quietly group member Stephanie felt the sensation of cobwebs covering her face and shoulders and she spent a good few minutes trying to get rid of the feeling. This was not to be the end of her troubles as, just moments later, she felt the back of her T-shirt being pulled not once, not twice, but three times. On the third time staff member Trudy actually saw the fabric being tugged. In this room group medium Lynn began to pick up on some shadows of the past. Without knowing anything about the history of the building previous to the visit Lynn began to accurately describe the kind of environment, machinery and uniform that may have been present in the early 1900s Post Office. Lynn also picked up on a man who she described as an "absolute menace". She said that he was present among the other workers even though he was no longer a part of the workforce and there was something manic in the way he was laughing. It was at this time the first of the ghostly knocks of the evening were heard. Group member Joan asked for the spirits to give some form of indication they were there and, although her request

went unheeded a number of times, there soon came some sort of response from directly above the meeting room in 'Room 39'.

Derek then took this opportunity to suggest that the group make their way upstairs to 'Room 39' as this was where the noises seemed to be coming from. Upon reaching the room some group members complained of a breathlessness in the area, which has also been felt by some staff members. Here Lynn picked up on the feeling that things were thrown around the floor in this room (see story on page 18) and it had been going on for some time. She also wondered if perhaps there had been a small fire in that area of the building at some point. It was at this point that Derek, who was making observations of the entire second floor, rushed down to the first level. He said that he had heard a shuffling coming from directly below where he was standing. Team member Andy who said that he had tried to take a picture but his camera had failed to work near where the noise originated joined Derek downstairs. It was interesting to note that this has also happened to staff members attempting to take pictures in the same area.

Upon going back up stairs to the investigation staff member Trudy and I opted to stay in the corridor outside of 'Room 42' to wait for the investigators to finish. It was while we were waiting we both heard the noise of something being dragged across the floor on the level below. Not brave enough to venture downstairs ourselves we called out to Andy and Lynn who were quick to have a look. Both investigators were drawn to the small room which was recently uncovered and it here Andy felt a forceful hand pushing him back. It was decided by Derek that they should try a 'circle' in the room and conduct a séance to see if any contact could be made. Unfortunately the séance had to be cut short at this point as an unseen force overwhelmed Joan. All agreed that it was time for a break.

By the time the investigation re-started darkness had started to fall and the archive was even creepier than usual. Derek took the opportunity to take some EVP recordings by asking a series of questions of the spirits. Although we don't know if there were any replies yet it is hoped that something will come of this in Derek's official report. During the recordings the knocking and other unexplained noises continued to come from all around, mostly in the downstairs area and the small box rooms in the upstairs corridor. At this point Derek and fellow investigator Marco took the opportunity to tell Trudy, Forbes and I what they had discovered from their second séance. It seems that the entity that dominates the once hidden room on the first level is not a pleasant one. He doesn't like people - especially women and children - which could go some way to explaining why it is women who feel so unwelcome in the archive area. Marco had also picked up that he felt the man had some sort of disfigurement, which had caused children to laugh at him while he was alive. It should be noted at this point that some group members had heard a child's laughter in the upstairs rooms. They had also picked up on the fact that something had happened in the area even before the building was even there - something which had also been noted by Laurie, the medium who had visited last year.

The investigation was rounded off with a vigil at the front of the building, first in the reception and then on the staircase leading to the first floor. Although nothing of note happened in the reception area, spirit lights were noted by group member Bob inside a cupboard on the staircase. The investigation confirmed many of the things, which staff members have suspected for some time and it was fascinating to watch the team at work.

In fact Derek claims that our offices provided them with one of their most interesting investigations yet - and they have conducted over 50 in Scotland alone!

We are hoping to receive the official report from Derek in the near future and we will be sure to let readers know the findings. If you have any ghostly tales to share let us know via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/forfar_dispatch

Spirits lifted for 'Dispatch' staff

Published on **Wednesday 26 October 2011** BY **Sarah McLean**

Things that go bump in the night, a creak on the stair with nobody there, a fleeting shadow disappearing through a solid wall. We've encountered them all here at the Forfar Dispatch office in recent months, so we've done some digging to find out - is our office haunted? Since moving into the former Post Office building in December 2007, some staff members have felt that they are not the only ones present in the building.

Although the office areas where staff spend their working day are light and spacious some have felt that there is something lurking unseen, and many have not felt comfortable being alone anywhere in the office. In recent months things seem to have become spookier. Members of staff have reported feelings of being watched, cold spots, unexplained noises and at least two people have independently seen a shadow-like figure moving out of the corner of their eye. With most activity seemingly centred on our archive area to the rear of the building and hardly anyone feeling able to go up there alone it was decided that something had to be done.

First things first and we needed to find out some more about the history of our office building which sits at 117-119 Castle Street. In recent years the building was used as the meeting place and halls of the Jehovah's Witnesses but before that it housed the Post Office - the lettering for which can still be seen carved into the masonry at the front. Alik Whyte, local historian, filled us in with some more details, he said: "The building you now occupy was opened on May 22, 1899 after the closure of the then Post Office at 10, East High Street. "From around 1880, there had been on-going attempts to find suitable new premises – including where the Clydesdale Bank now stands. "There was much opposition to the eventual site selected, and by 1914, relocation to East High Street or North Street was considered, but put on hold because of World War One. "Proposals surfaced again in 1919, but it would be 1971 before the present Post Office in West High Street was opened."

Although there are no so-called documented cases about the old Post Office building being haunted, it has been suggested that ghosts from elsewhere in the town have been known to move from one location to the other.

Laurie Rogers, local author and historian, told us of one spirit of note in our area which "flies around". Apparently it has been spotted in the flats above the dental surgery in Castle Street but there have been no reported sightings of it in our office building. He also told us that spirits often roam around an area and are not necessarily confined to one building or location. So, if they are not necessarily tied to our building then who could these spirits be? In his book *Phantoms and Fairies*, local author Forbes Inglis, has a few suggestions from nearby hotels. He said: "The Royal Hotel is thought to be haunted. Footsteps are regularly heard, doors slam and telephones ring in empty rooms. "Some of the strange happenings there are thought to be linked to the suicide of a maid servant in the old stables during the early part of the 20th century. "Over at the Stag Hotel it is believed that there may be a poltergeist in residence as beer barrels, tables and chairs are regularly overturned, with no logical explanation as to why this should happen. "One former owner had two large Alsatian dogs but even they would not enter certain parts of the building."

Finally, Mr Whyte also mentioned a potential spook, he said: "A postman by the name of Murray was drowned in the Chapel Street pond in 1901. "The site of the open-air pond is now a car park next to the old St. James' Church and was used for swimming before the Baths in the Vennel opened. However, he added: "I have not read anywhere that he might haunt his old workplace!"

Whether the spirits were visitors or 'residents' in the building, activity was increasing and so help was sought from healer and energy worker Neil Tilley and his daughter Laurie, a complementary therapist who can sense energy and communicate with spirit, helping them to move over. Neil and Laurie visited our offices last Tuesday for an initial assessment of the spirit activity in the building. A number of 'hotspots' were identified, mostly towards the rear offices and the archive area, and Neil and Laurie did some energy work to begin the clearing of the building. Laurie has placed crystals in strategic points including the stairs to the upper front offices and in the archive area itself.

Neil and Laurie have picked up on two spirits so far, an elderly gentleman named 'Thomas' who is ready to move on and a mischievous joker who is thought to be a young boy. It is hoped that we will have more information about these spirits and the others - Laurie thought we might have as many as twelve - in the coming weeks. Although the building has not yet been cleared completely, staff agree that the atmosphere in the office has been made considerably lighter.

Watch this space for more updates in the near future.