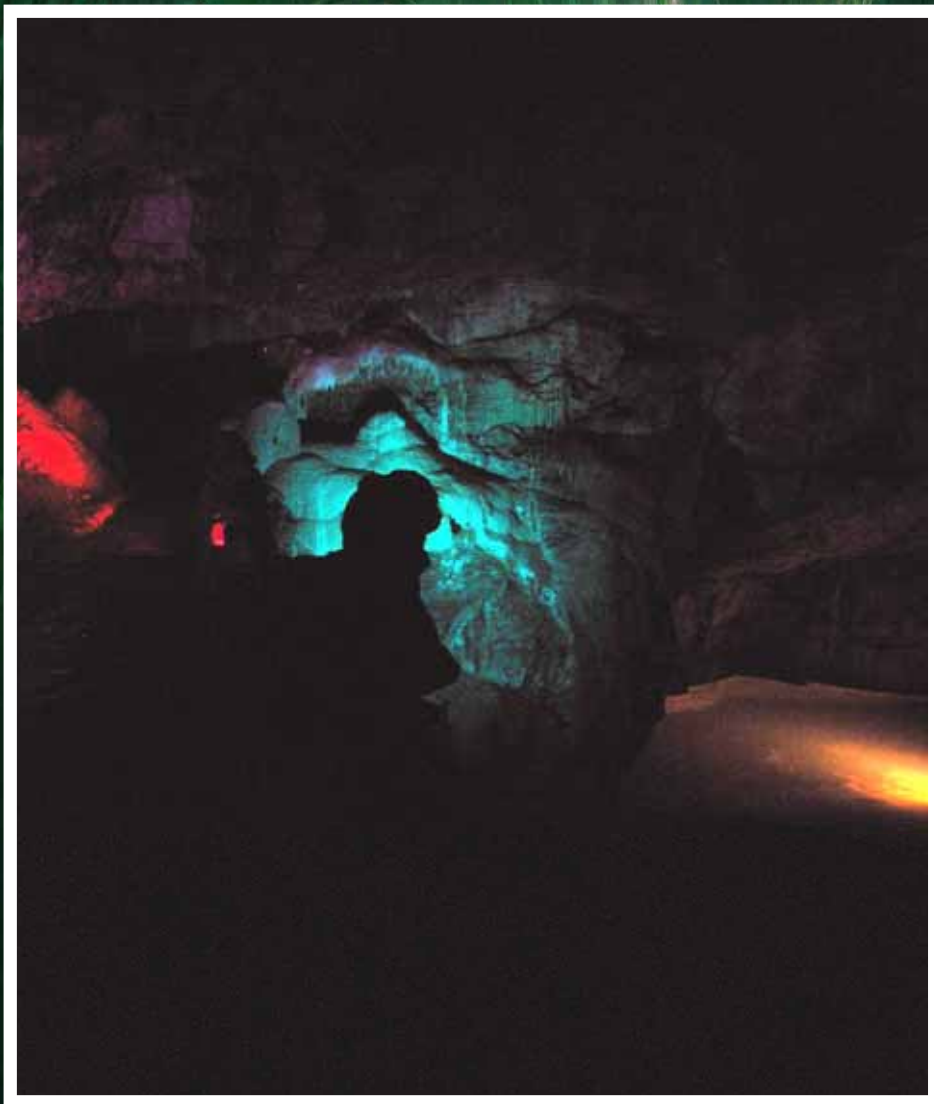


# The Ghost Club

Founded 1862

## *Newsletter*

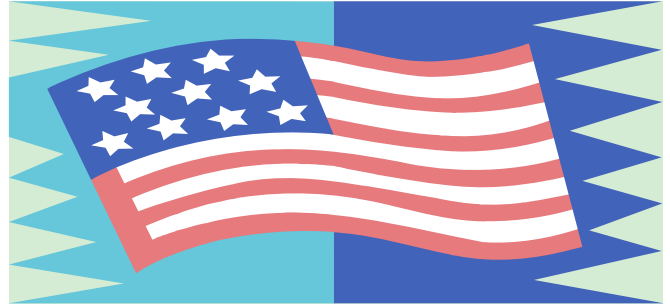


**AUTUMN 2009**

**"Nasci, Laborare, Mori, Nasci"**

# The Ghost Club

Newsletter Autumn 2009



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Front Cover: The Stone Witch of Wookey Hole

Would you be interested in a Ghost Club trip to the Pacific Northwest coast of the United States for a spooky Tour? Ghost Club friend Jeff Davis has offered to put together a Ghost Tour exclusively for Ghost Club members. He writes:

"To Ghost Club members visiting the Pacific Northwest, I can offer a free ghost walk of Old-Towne Portland, Oregon. A haunted walk around Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver Barracks, what was the last bastion of the British Empire below the 54th Parallel.

Depending on itineraries and the desires of my friends across the water, I can certainly put them in touch with other paranormal groups here in the US. Together, I am sure we can plan many day trips to many locales, and arrange guest invitations at different properties, other ghost walks and aid in finding food and lodgings in haunted venues.

I also worked for our National Forest system for several years. Depending on the time of year, I can also act as guide to some locales in the Pacific Northwest. Possibly to Native American vision quest sites, certainly to some wild woodlands."

If anyone is interested and would like to know more, please e-mail [events@ghostclub.org.uk](mailto:events@ghostclub.org.uk) or [editor@ghostclub.org.uk](mailto:editor@ghostclub.org.uk) and we will put you in touch with Jeff, and each other.

# **N o t e b o o k**



## *Mark Salmon reports on the Ghost Club's activities over the summer months.*

### *The Law And The Supernatural*

*By David Allen Green*

Lecture 11-07-09

Something of a thespian theme emerged this month, what with Philip Hutchinson excusing himself to tread the boards, as did our previously planned speaker, Emma-Louise Roberts. (Plus, Paul and I met an old actor called Jeff, down at the bar, who told Paul the tale of when he stayed in Ludlow Castle with the resident spook--but I digress...) Anyway, our replacement speaker was the barrister and skeptic-with-a-K, David Allen Green, who brought the drama of the courtroom into the VSC.

Picking three cases to concentrate on; the Jane Wenham witch trial, the obligatory Helen Duncan war-

time prosecution and the spiritual photography of William Mumler; David talked us through the ramifications of each. As was to be expected from a barrister, he came prepared with an argument and set out to prove his premise that: 'the law is inefficient at establishing truth of claim.' Rather worryingly for our justice system, I think he succeeded. He did confine his talk to those three cases which he had researched, but Alan Murdie offered plenty of other examples, afterwards. At any rate, David provoked plenty of debate within the audience and continued the arguments afterwards at the bar, which he plainly relished. Although I, for one, found it refreshing to have a speaker who was prepared to challenge my views and theories, quite understandably, some did not. But hey, law is about influencing people, not winning friends, isn't it?



# *Farnham Ghost Walk*

*By Tony Rayer*

15-08-09

Ah, Farnham, the perfect place for a Ghost Tour! The history, the hauntings, the... desperate need for a bypass. Tour guide Tony Rayer did warn us to gather around whenever we stopped around the route, as he speaks quietly to avoid the attentions of drunks. Which is fair enough. However, whilst we British are constantly informed by the 'latest poll' that we're the fattest/stupidest/most violent/drug-addicted/snaggle-toothed litter-louts in Europe, we generally don't get drunk before seven-thirty. And at

five o'clock on a Saturday, the nutter-repelling techniques of a low-key delivery just meant that only about half of us heard anything at any one time. Thus I would love to tell you about the spooks of Farnham, but what I actually heard was: "This pub the... THRUUUMMMM!!! BRRRRRRRRRUMMMM!! ... said to be the home of... (police sirens) ... Ghost of Lady... (more police sirens) ... interesting thing I shall tell you about... BRRRRRMMMMM!! BRRRRR-RRRRR-RRRRR!!!"

What I can say is that Farnham, beyond the choking pollution and noise, is a pleasant, urbane, expensive town with a very nice Parisian-style café and a hugely disappointing castle. Also, it has some ghost stories. Very quiet ones. From



what I could make out, the usual fare of monks, white ladies, dead nobles, locked rooms and staff who 'refuse to work there on their own'. If you decide to take the tour yourself, brave the freaks, drunks and mutants and book a night-time slot, when the atmosphere is a bit better, (and more breathable,) and you might actually hear something.

## *Psychics in Crime Detection*

*By Tom Johnston*

12-09-09

Funny the things that get you interested in the paranormal; a spectre, a disembodied voice, a visit from a departed relative. For our speaker Tom Johnson, it was a stopped clock, UFOs and a dead whippet named Sherry. These three things led him on a journey into Spiritualism and eventually into the world of psychic detection, where he has helped to solve crimes across his part of Scotland.

After establishing that, the talk got a little jumbled and tended to jump back and forth between his own experiences and those of other psychics. Things weren't helped by his sometimes thick Scottish brogue, although I did get a nervous shudder every time he said the word '*mur-r-r-der*', (a condition medically known as '*the Taggart Tingle*'). Regardless, his talk enlightened us about the work of psychic detectives and the attitudes of the police to mediumistic help. Unfortunately,

the first *mur-r-r-der* he worked upon remains unsolved and the second, he actually knew the culprit from work, but failed to link him to any wrongdoing. Tom said that he didn't think psychics would ever give 100% proof, but could nevertheless supply crucial details to the investigation. Understandably, the cops blow hot and cold on the issue, some shunning the idea whilst others embrace it.

Tip: if you get the opportunity, it's actually a good idea to sound out many of our speakers in the bar afterwards. Here, where everyone is relaxed and conversation is a two-way process, you can hear all kinds of fascinating things and opinions. The eponymous notebook is firmly closed at that point, but very often it's worth turning up for these conversations alone.



# Haunting Scotland

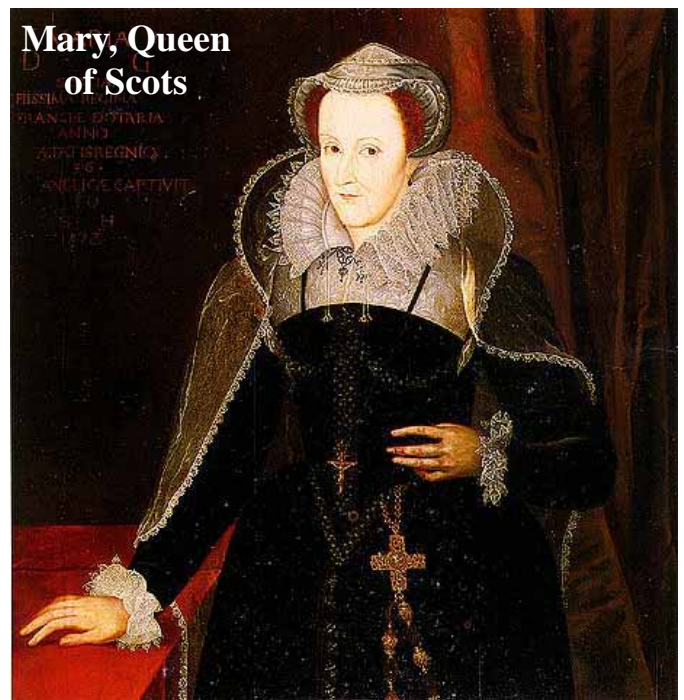


## THE GHOSTLY TRAIL OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

By Derek Green

Mary Stuart, known to everyone as Mary, Queen of Scots was born at Linlithgow Palace on 7 December 1542. She was the daughter of King James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise. Sadly six days after her birth, King James V died and Mary became Queen of Scots. During her infancy the Pro-English and Pro-French factions plotted to gain full control of Mary. Her Mother who was French was chosen as Regent and Mary was sent to France. In 1560 at 18 years of age and widowed after 2 years of marriage to the Dauphin of France, Mary returned to her beloved Scotland. From there on Mary lead a turbulent life, in 1565, she married Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, her first cousin. The marriage was frowned upon due to religious differences

and then soured because Mary refused Darnley the right to succeed her on the throne if she died. Mary now facing a marriage in ruins turned her affections to David Rizzio, her Italian Secretary. An angered Darnley ordered Rizzio to be murdered and this was carried out on the back stair of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh in 1566. Three months later Mary gave birth to her son James VI (later King James I of Eng-







**Borthwick Castle, where an attempt was made to besiege Mary in 1567**

land) Mary then fell in love with James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell and shortly after their love blossomed Darnley was mysteriously murdered. It was believed that Bothwell instigated this. Later in life, Mary was forced to surrender the throne and she was moved to England for safety near her cousin Queen Elizabeth I of England. Elizabeth, feeling threatened by Mary, ordered her to spend the next nineteen years of her life in captivity in England. Later, Mary was named in the Babington Plot which called for the assassination of Elizabeth I. Through this, Mary although claiming innocence, was found guilty of complicity and was beheaded in Fotheringhay Castle on 8 February 1587. In 1612, James I requested that his Mother be interred in Westminster Abbey.

In life, Mary was a far travelled Queen and visited many grand properties. In death, she continues to keep up her active lifestyle and there are numerous accounts of her apparition being sighted in over 12 properties in Scotland. Here are some more important ones.

Borthwick Castle, Midlothian was built in 1430. Mary and James Hepburn, Earl Of Bothwell stayed at the castle in 1567 and during their stay, an attempt was made to besiege Mary. It was recorded that the Queen fled the castle dressed as a page boy. Borthwick Castle, now an hotel, has regular reports of the apparition of a page boy being witnessed in different areas of the castle. The ghost is also said to bear a striking resemblance to Mary herself and her apparition has been reported in different rooms in the hotel. The former Covenanter Hotel in Falkland is now Luigino's Italian Restaurant and is said to be haunted by the apparition of Mary. Her ghost is said to be regularly spotted in the upper part of the building and one sighting is reputed to have Mary being seen to fly through an upper chamber!

Craignethan Castle, a grand and imposing ruin near Lanark, is said to be haunted by a sinister Mary. In 1568, the Queen spent a number of nights in Craignethan prior to the Battle of Langside. Craignethan, now owned by Historic Scotland, have received reports of a headless apparition dressed identically to Mary. The ghost has been witnessed in one of the chambers in the castle that would have housed



**Craignethan Castle**

the Queen's Room. Other reports of Poltergeist phenomena have also been reported at Craignethan and it is believed that Mary is behind this activity.

Dalkeith House, Midlothian, also is said to house a headless apparition of Mary. A recent account described a student claiming to have been awakened out of sleep to find a headless apparition at the foot of his bed with the head tucked under the arm. The student claimed that the facial features bore a resemblance to Mary. This apparition has been reported on a few occasions. On the banks of the River Teith, stands the impressive Doune Castle, once a Royal Hunting Lodge and a favourite haunt of Mary in life. It is said that

a suite of rooms in the Kitchen Tower are haunted by Mary. Her apparition has been reported in recent years in the area of her bedroom and the Queen's Chamber. Falkland Palace, a magnificent Renaissance building, is located in Fife. The Palace was a favourite of the Stuart Monarchs and it's here where the ghostly apparition of Mary has been witnessed in the Tapestry Gallery. Her Phantom form is seen gliding down the corridor and disappearing through a walled up doorway. There are also reports of Mary appearing in the form of a Grey Lady in the Chapel Royal. In a different way, the Queen is also sighted in the form of a White Lady in Hermitage Castle near the Scot-



tish Borders.

Linlithgow Palace, Birthplace of Mary, is haunted in two areas by the Queen of Scots. The first area sees Mary as a Blue Lady who walks from the former entrance of the Palace to the Parish Church of St Michael which is very near by. This sighting takes place in the morning around 9 am and in the month of April. It is also said that she is seen at similar times in the month of September. The sound of her rustling dress has also been heard in the area of the Church. The second sighting sees Mary in a kneeling position in the ruined Palace Chapel. In 2004, A paranormal group claimed to have photographs of the ghost of Mary in the Chapel. In the photographs they described seeing a blue ball of light. Linlithgow Palace however does not have the photographs and also claims not to have seen them.

In 1567, Mary was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle, it was here where she signed her Abdication, miscarried a child and today haunts the castle walls as though in search of something.

Melville Castle, Midlothian, is now a hotel and was built in the early 18th century, on the site of a former castle which was visited by Mary during her "world tour" of Scotland. The hotel claims to have Mary as a guest and it is said that during renovations her spirit was regularly witnessed walking down a corridor and simply vanishing into a brick wall. Research carried out seemed to prove that the area was indeed once the castle entrance.

Mary's final Scottish sighting lies in Stirling Castle. It is here where her ghost has been sighted in three locations. Visitors and staff have re-



**Linlithgow Palace—  
Mary's Birthplace**

## Melville Castle



ported her appearance as a young and beautiful lady wearing a pink dress. Her ghost has been witnessed in the Queen's Bed Chamber of the Royal Apartments, in the Church of the Holy Rude and most commonly, at Ladies Rock between the Castle and the Church. There are a few other sightings documented and at present, Mary is said

to haunt over twelve locations in Scotland and at least eight in England including Tutbury Castle, Bolton Castle, Nappa Hall, Turret House in Sheffield and on the Oak staircase of the Talbot Hotel in Oundle. It is said that the staircase came from Fotheringhay Castle, her place of execution.

When you are in any historic castle, remember to check the guide book to see if Mary has a connection to the building. If you're lucky, be prepared to bow or curtsy to her Majesty as you never know she could just be lurking around the corner!



## Stirling Castle



# SENSING GHOSTS OR SENSING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE?

By Alan Murdie

**One of most oft-told popular ghost stories is the tale of the dream house. I don't know the original source for it but I am sure many people will know a version. It goes something like this:**

A lady dreamed regularly of visiting a certain house she did not know. As her children grew up "Mama's dream house" became a family joke. The time came for the father to retire (in one version he was a Navy Lieutenant) and so they began to look for a house in the country. Sure enough, as they approached one place on the house agent's list, the mother said excitedly "But we're coming to my dream house". The family laughed until she began to tell the route they would take and on reaching the property she at once recognised the interior. As they went round the house with the agent, she would remark on changes. "But surely, the stairs used to come down here? Oh yes, I remember when we were away it changed, about 15 years ago" she observed and so on, with the agent confirming her description and the changes. She was right every time and the children were thrilled. As it was an old house, they asked if there was a ghost and was told that there was. Of course they had to buy it and soon after they moved in. Later the lady met the house agent who asked if they were happy. She replied they were perfectly

happy, but the children were disappointed that they had not seen the ghost."I did not think they would," replied the agent "you are the ghost. I have seen you here many times".(1)

This is a great story but has all the hallmarks of a contemporary oral legend. Certainly, it is frustratingly vague, and should undoubtedly be dismissed if we are to take (as several contributors to our newsletter have urged recently) a scientific approach to ghost hunting. I quite agree we should take a scientific approach, but I also find myself thinking what if science is not up to the job? How would we investigate such a story, and what sense could we make of it, if the events were as is claimed?

What if ghost and poltergeist phenomena are actually quite different to what we believe them to be, be they ideas of discarnate spirits, or theories based on scientific understanding? Indeed to paraphrase one famous scientific quote of the early 20th century, 'what if they are stranger than we can imagine'? (2)

The point is often made that 'normal' explanations may lay behind supposedly paranormal incidents, such as misperception of figures in the open at night and hearing strange noises which have a mundane cause. The problem has been recognised for hundreds of years and the late Andrew Green gave some amusing examples of these in his *Ghost Hunting: A Popular Guide* (1973). But we ought to remember that every time a "normal explanation" is postulated, we are also avoiding the fact that we do not understand ordinary processes of consciousness and that and we are wholly at a loss when we try to apply many scientific and mathematical concepts to many everyday sensory experiences.



Although scientific explanations may account for many experiences on one level, they cannot account for the actual fundamental processes of experience themselves. They cannot explain how a mechanism of matter yields consciousness, or any personal sense of self or the experiences of which we are aware, within our heads.



### **WHAT GOES ON IN DREAMS ?**

A good example are our dreams, which in many ways are comparable with ghost experiences. There is actually no scientific evidence for the content of our dreams as we each individually experience them. We may be able to say there is neurological activity in your brain at night, but there is no way of proving by instrumentation what you are having your dream about. If you dream of meeting the Prime Minister the only way this can be established is by your testimony on awakening. Yet no-one doubts the existence of dreams.

I think that ghost experiences are similar in this respect, and we have only witness reports to study. A number of researchers such as G.N.M Tyrrell and Andrew MacKenzie considered that there is a link between dreams and many ghost experiences (3). However, the difference between them is that ghosts appear to more than one person at a time, can be seen success-

fully by different witnesses (including it would appear animals) and follow certain patterns. Ghosts may even belong to another dimension or even the popular idea of "a spirit world". If so, our current technology is not sensitive enough to register them, as would be expected if are actually occurring on a different level of reality altogether. Like many sensory experiences they cannot be registered or even described by science or mathematics.

Whilst scientific concepts work brilliantly on a material level, they flounder when applied to perception and consciousness itself. Scientific and logical methods and systems such as mathematics, geometry and even words themselves that we use to measure the physical universe are wholly inadequate to convey our experience of it, when considered in terms of colour, smell, taste, thought, feelings and emotions. These experiences cannot be wholly or partially expressed in words, nor in graphic form or in symbols. For example, try drawing a picture of a smell. Similarly, how would you try to quantify the power of imagination, except by results? Indeed, the very process of inspiration is a mystery - ask any original and decent creative artist, writer, poet, composer where their inspiration comes from, and they usually say they have no idea how the process works, it just comes from somewhere within themselves.

### **'TIS A PART WE SEE AND NOT A WHOLE – RECENT EVIDENCE FROM PARAPSYCHOLOGY**

Meanwhile, intriguing evidence is being accumulated that our everyday notions of time and space are at best incomplete. This has been accepted by physics at the quantum level for decades, but there has been marked reluctance to extend it beyond the realm of

atomic and sub-atomic physics.

Thus, the findings of parapsychology over the last seventy years, and particularly since the 1990s have not been fitted into the picture at all. For a concise summary of just how far the field has developed, the books of Dean Radin, *The Conscious Universe* (1997) and *The Entangled Mind* (2008) which I recommend as a summary of the evidence obtained in the last two decades.

Precognition is one such phenomenon. One recently published study suggests that your heart rate may alter in anticipation of events which have yet to happen. This staggering possibility has been the subject of experiments by researchers at the University of Padova, Italy.

In a paper entitled 'Implicit Intuition: How Heart Rate Can Contribute to prediction of future events' published recently in the *Journal of the Society for Psychological Research*, four researchers, Patrizio E. Tressoldi, Massimiliano Martinelli, Eliza Zaccaria and Stefano Masciaccesi, set out results from their experiments to determine whether a person's heart may show anticipatory changes to approaching sounds, but before the sounds have actually been generated.(4)

Twenty six volunteers from among staff and students of the Department of General Psychology of the University participated in a series of controlled tests which monitored pulse rates by way of an optoelectric sensor applied to the index finger of the left hand. The sounds were stored on a PC and delivered by way of headphones to the volunteer over a period of approximately 6 minutes. One category of sounds was labelled pleasant and a second set unpleasant. The heart rates of volunteers were continuously measured before and after a warning signal was given that a sound was about to be played.

Statistical analysis of the results

showed that the heart rates of participants responded to both pleasant and unpleasant sounds in a five second run-up period, but prior to the warning signal and the sound actually being generated. Effectively, the hearts rates of participants were showing an effect of anticipating the sounds before they were delivered, suggesting the existence of what the authors term 'a pre-alerting effect'.

Further experiments also suggested that the anticipatory effect could be used to permit pleasant sounds to be delivered more often than unpleasant ones in tests.

The researchers are cautious about their findings, stating, "Further studies are obviously necessary to confirm the main results obtained". Stopping short of calling the phenomenon precognition (a term which implies some kind of mental perception), preferring to adopt the term 'presentience'. Consider a relaxed state coupled with a positive emotional attitude could enhance the effect in ensuring the perception of pleasant stimuli.

The results add to an intriguing body of evidence gathered by experiments since the late 1990s suggesting that parts of the human body may show physiological responses to future events. Presentiment experiments involving skin conductance, heart rate and EEG measurements have previously been published, including a study reported in *The Journal of Alternative and Complimentary Medicine* by Rollin McCraty in 2004. This found that heart rates slowed down before the subject was exposed to emotional pictures, suggesting that the heart played a role in perceiving future events.(5)

Another researcher in the field, Dean Radin at the Institute of Neotic Sciences has described the idea behind presentience as being "that we constantly and unconsciously scanning our

future, and preparing to respond to it."

## **TIME AND SPACE ARE NOT AS THEY SEEM**

If this research stands up and is replicated then we really have to begin to realise that we're living in a fundamentally different universe to the one suggested by everyday commonsense and purely materialist science. However, sceptics towards the paranormal should not see this as a horrifying vista, since both philosophy and other branches of science are partly prepared for it.

Over two hundred years ago, Immanuel Kant proposed that time and space could be radically different from our built-in perceptions of them. (6). Kant maintains that our perceptions of invisible time and invisible space are actually programmed into us – we could not perceive or imagine any object if they were absent. However, time and space may be wholly different in character to our own limited experience of them. If one stops to think about it, we realise that we cannot actually conceive the nature of universe fully in terms of time or space, since we cannot comprehend the infinity of either. Instinctively, we ask what came before time, and where does space end, since we cannot understand the concept of something without limit.

Such philosophical insights have been confirmed by physics since 1900 – as mentioned, time and space on the quantum level are interpreted and understood in wholly differently ways from everyday experience. Altogether the universe is far stranger place than we consciously perceive.

## **THE FEELING OF A PRESENCE**

The possibility of a pre-sentient body – which seems to have access to a different zone of time than our waking

consciousness – raises interesting questions for the experience of the feeling of a presence which is reported at so many haunted properties.

Many members of the Ghost Club claim to have had this experience along with so many others. Such sensations frequently occur in the context of other manifestations. To give one example, the Court House at Monmouth is reputedly haunted and visitors often feel as though they are being watched. Coldness on the stairs and the smell of perfume has been experienced and doors are reported to close by themselves. Tony Lambert, 61 has been caretaker at the Shire Hall for ten years and is convinced it is haunted. Last year he was on the top floor when he heard a door close on the landing below. He turned and saw the bottom of a black cloak and a man's legs disappearing behind a pillar. Clairvoyant Debbie Gilbert says she senses a figure in black robes and a wig, a phantom judge (pretty obvious guesses a sceptic might say!) and smelt a burning smell, although she allegedly did not know that an earlier building on the site had burned down. (7)

On occasion the experience of a presence may even include the physical sensations of being touched. Sceptics maintain these sensations are caused by auto-suggestion, or alternatively by the body reacting to stimuli not perceived on a conscious level. Possible culprits include infra-sound or electromagnetic fields; Dr Richard Wiseman's experiments at the haunted gallery at Hampton Court and in the Edinburgh vaults in 2003 also suggested that features of the environment contribute to such impressions. A good play or film, music or poetry in the right conditions can also spook you. Telling or reading ghost stories by candlelight is another effective way of inducing such sensations!



However, we may also note Dr Rupert Sheldrake's experiments which suggest that people know when they are being observed and stared at, beyond what chance guessing would allow (8). Sheldrake argues this is a genuine paranormal effect – people somehow know when they are being observed.

Despite being mentioned in many reports, it is rare for the sensation of a presence to be described in detail. In an account given by a servant at the allegedly haunted Ballechin House in Perthshire ('The most haunted house in Scotland') in the 1890s, the description given was a feeling of going into a room in which someone is about to speak to you (9). Joan Forman describes it differently in her book *Haunted Royal Homes* (1987) in an entry on Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. At the spot where Rizzio, lover of Mary Queen of Scots was murdered, she writes "The sensation is so intense that it almost seems to have weight – as though the very air were thicker at that spot."

For myself, I would endorse Joan Forman's description. In some haunted locations, the air seems to be too heavy or too thick. It seems to have a concentrated quality, as though you would be able to feel something invisible within it. Again this is an entirely personal perception, and we lack a language to properly express such sensations.

### **GLIMPSES OF THE FUTURE?**

The possibility that ghost experiences have some precognitive element is one that is seldom examined in any depth, despite the popularity of such stories as *The Signalman* by Charles Dickens. There is a whole popular tradition of second sight, ghosts-as-warnings and visions, but such reports have seldom



been subject to analysis (only two serious studies of Scottish second sight reports have been undertaken by psychical researchers, a century apart). Claims of intuitions and feelings affecting the body prior to significant events have been reported by people for centuries, but have hitherto remained firmly in the realm of anecdote and folklore.

Certainly, in many cases, what we don't know is whether a person who experiences a presence is experiencing something to do with a past, present or future event or mental state, either of someone else (living or dead), or even themselves in the future ('dèjà vu' feelings). Many people have experienced this. What if ghost experiences are an aspect of the same phenomenon, or conversely, the unconscious scanning of the past or the future?

Although it can be flawed, the human organism remains the best detecting mechanism known for many purposes, not least ghost hunting. Technology deployed on ghost hunts seems to yield little useful information, not least because we have no idea of what is being measured – if anything. Indeed, equipment breakdown is frequently encount-

ered when investigating haunted places! Perhaps this is a mechanical response to some kind of energy (one interpretation) or could be the reaction of the material world to the operation of a deeper level of the self or mind. But in the meantime, we have only witness accounts, coupled with our own personal experiences if we are lucky, to study. Perhaps with the sense of a presence, we are experiencing a human intuitive faculty scanning the past and the future (including our own future). In one sense, and certainly the material sense, "there is nothing there" as a sceptic will claim. But what if you are sensing something that was there, or will be there, existing in a different time?

In collecting witness accounts and investigating hauntings, we should not overlook the possibility that there could be a whole new dimension to such experiences, as yet unrecognised. The sense of a presence could indicate the operation of our own presentience powers, or even an example of the 'dream house' phenomenon, rather than a response to a deceased spirit manifesting in our time and space, or a reaction triggered by some purely material stimulus.

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# BOOK REVIEW



## *The Force Is With Us (The Higher Consciousness That Science Refuses To Accept)*

**AUTHOR:** Thomas Walker.

**PUBLISHER:** Quest Books, Theosophical Publishing House P.O. Box 270 Wheaton IL 60187-0270  
[www.questbooks.net](http://www.questbooks.net)

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It only took a few paragraphs and I knew that I had a cracker of a book in my hands. The style, the information and the way that the author was putting it into layman's terms, was enough to convince me that I was going to enjoy this one. As I progressed reading this book, it soon became apparent to me, that it would quite easily be in my top six books that I have ever read, and for me, that's a **BIG** statement. No matter what words follow, this book review can never do the book's contents justice but I'll sure as hell try.

What this book is trying to put over to the reader is the many scientific findings of our age and how they came into being, and at that point of being, being lambasted and discounted by the peers of the day. The book then goes into the numerous un-accepted scientific ideas that get such a hard time today but what the main thrust of this book is all about, is 'the force', 'the energy' this seemingly untapped

cosmic energy that is all around us, and has been since time, immemorial. When we talk about belief what do we mean, take for instance this statement from the author.

A small boy finds a dead squirrel in the street, he is an animal lover and holds the dead squirrel up into the sky and says, "God, if you really exist and everything that I have read and heard about you is true, please bring this squirrel back to life"

Nothing happens.

Now, does this 'PROVE' that God does not exist?

The author tells us that our experience of the world is tightly constrained by the limits of our physical senses, that 93% of the universe consists of dark matter, that there are realities beyond our known realities that exist somewhere 'out there'. However, it's with 'blind die hard' scepticism that some, not all scientists, view these fringe sciences which infuriate those with an open mind. We all know that many fringe sciences are not accepted within the frame work of science, but we still have this arrogance of mind that '**it can't be so therefore it isn't**'. When oh when will we ever get away from this way of thinking?

The author then discusses the amazing return from the grave of his 25 year old son Clint who passed away with cancer last year (2008) Clint came back to prove to his father (through various ways) that he was still very much alive, albeit in a different environment, this brought much comfort to the author.

The author states that the ancients knew that we are living in a spiritual universe and brings to bear a number of examples in this book. In the main though, the author continually states that here in our modern world, the truth of these ancient sciences are being ignored, and in some cases, are being suppressed.

We know that many things cannot be detected



by the human eye, but due to Newtonian physics and modern technology, new findings are exploring and uncovering the once hidden sub atomic world and some amazing discoveries are taking place which clearly show us humans that the world is indeed a far stranger place than we ever can imagine. Modern physics would seem to show us that there are 'other dimensions' other worlds but sadly here in today's world not a lot of people are taking notice.

The book goes into some of our scientific greats the likes of Albert Einstein. But we start with William Tiller who looked at Einstein's world but in a different way. Tiller believed that human consciousness is a force, or an 'energy'. Tiller developed his own scientific model which clearly showed that Einstein great though he was, still had a way to go and should have been thinking 'out of the box' as Tiller has done.

The book also takes us into the worlds of Near Death Experiences, Remote Viewing and how the American Military were quick to get in on the act when they learned that the Russians had been using it for years, Life After Death (where do we go after death), Alternative medicine, past lives and OOB cases.

The author looks at Cellular Memory and how other parts of the human body, not just the brain, retain 'memory'. I've written before where people have had heart transplants and who hated motorcycles but then suddenly after they get the heart of someone who died in a motor bike accident, they want to get on a motor bike and start buying all the motor bike magazines etc. Why/How can someone else's heart being put into your body suddenly give you memories of the person you got it from?

He then looks at the church and Christianity and how they perceived 'psychic phenomena'. What I will say it this, I didn't know how extensive the Church's views and hatred of psychic phenomena was and how much destruction they did of psychic books and to the reputation of gifted psychics. That old saying comes back to me again. **"It can't be, so therefore it isn't"**. More people have seen ghosts and UFOs than Jesus. Scientists want proof of a God, of a ghost, of a UFO; we don't believe willy nilly.

The amazing ability of Scottish medium Daniel D. Home is looked at very closely by the author and if Daniel could do but half of what he was said to have done, then believe you me psychic phenomena is indeed very very real. Home managed to make an accordion float around the room in front of startled witnesses playing a tune, this and more can be found in this book. No book would be complete without the amazing abilities (or showmanship) of one

Uri Geller. Geller takes a lot of stick from not only scientists and Joe Public alike but sometimes from his own fellow psychics. Nonetheless, there is no denying when you look at Geller's track record and his workings with scientists and researchers alike, he has done some amazing things, no doubt about it and the author is happy to go into great detail of just some of Geller's successes.

The author then looks at the power of prayer and what the power of thought has done in recorded studies of animals and plants and also the dramatic affect that prayer has had in reducing bacteria growth etc, amazing stuff, read it all here.

There is so much in this book that I loved, even the part about WHY do people, even when presented with the evidence before their very own eyes, still **REFUSE** to believe what they are looking at!

In the Afterword, the author nails his colours to the mast about what he believes about all the aforementioned, all I'll say is, he is a man after my own heart.

Look the simple fact of the matter is, this is a 'blinder' of a book it's a terrific work that deserves to be in every single home on the planet from Bombay to Blackpool. I just cannot speak highly enough of this book. No book in twenty years has moved me, has tested me, has taught me, has introduced me to the fact that wherever man's ingenuity in science brings forth new paradigms they should be looked at studied with compassion and a sense of honesty, not hostility. It beggars belief that we, humankind can be so narrow minded to new adventures in science. Are we still using the same mobile phone that we did back in 1998? No, of course we're not, science has progressed pushing boundaries beyond the ken. Don't get me wrong folks; I'm not so naïve to accept that all inventors and forward thinkers are the real deal, of course not. But to put all these wonderfully free thinking men and women into the same category of quacks and fools, well that is not being scientific.

This then is a classic book; a book that I'm proud to say is definitely in my top six books that I have ever read. I could easily lose my voice in shouting how good this book is. All I'll say is this, you owe it to yourself to buy and read this book, and when you do, sit back and be prepared to be catapulted into a world where not everything is so plain and simple as it seems. Enjoy.

**Reviewed by Malcolm Robinson,  
Strange Phenomena Investigations.**



I have pleasure in sharing the usual selection of strange stories which have appeared in the media in recent months. Many thanks this time go to Paul Collins, Mark Salmon and Milton Edwards for their contributions.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, The Sun, among others, ran the story that Jacko's ghost was seen parading the corridors of his Neverland Ranch, a week after his death. It reported: **MICHAEL Jackson fans are in a frenzy over a possible sighting of the star's GHOST at Neverland.**

An eerie shadow resembling Jacko's figure appeared on a wall in the singer's former home during a live television programme and walked across the corridor. It moved quickly from left to right before disappearing.

The spooky sighting came during CNN's 'Inside Neverland'.

Neither the presenter nor the cameraman noticed the spectre. But after it was posted on YouTube fans picked up the shadow and rumours spread across the internet like wildfire.

At one point their camera is pointed down a long hall-way when the shadowy figure appears at its far end. Chat forums were flooded with messages from fans who insisted the shadow was Michael's ghost.

The full story can be found at: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/2518485/Fans-claim-that-Michael-Jacksons-ghost-has-been-spotted-at-Neverland.html>

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the BBC reported on Wookey Hole Caves in Somerset, advertising for a Witch. The position came with a £50,000 per annum salary to be paid to the successful applicant!

### **The witch job that pays £50,000**

A job centre is advertising a "witch" vacancy with tourist site Wookey Hole, in Somerset, for £50,000 a year. The witch, who has to live in the site's caves, is expected to teach witchcraft and magic. Wookey Hole staff say the role is straightforward: live in the cave, be a witch and do the things witches do.

The advert for the post, placed in the local press as well as job centres, says applicants must be able to cackle and cannot be allergic to cats. The job has come up after the previous witch retired from the role.

Wookey Hole want the appointee to go about her everyday business as a hag, so that people passing through the caves can get a sense of what the place was like in the Dark Ages. This was when an old woman lived in the caves with some goats and a dog, causing a variety of social ills, including crop failures and disease.

The £50,000-a-year salary is pro rata, and based on work done as needed, largely in the summer holidays, but also at Halloween and at Christmas.



Wookey Hole's famous Witch, who it is claimed, was turned to stone by a Monk

It said ambitious witches looking for a "key career move" should arrive dressed for work armed with any "essential witch accoutrements". Interviews, which will involve on-site assessment incorporating a range of standard tasks, will take place on 28 July at 1100, stipulates the advert.

The full story can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8138665.stm>

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, The BBC website reported that a **Genie** in Saudi Arabia was to be sued for harassment.

It goes on to say:

The family accuses the spirit of threatening them, throwing stones and stealing mobile phones, Al Watan newspaper said. They have lived in the same house near the city of Medina for 15 years but say they only recently became aware of the spirit. They have now moved out.

The family are reported to have said that the children got scared when the genie started to throw stones, and then

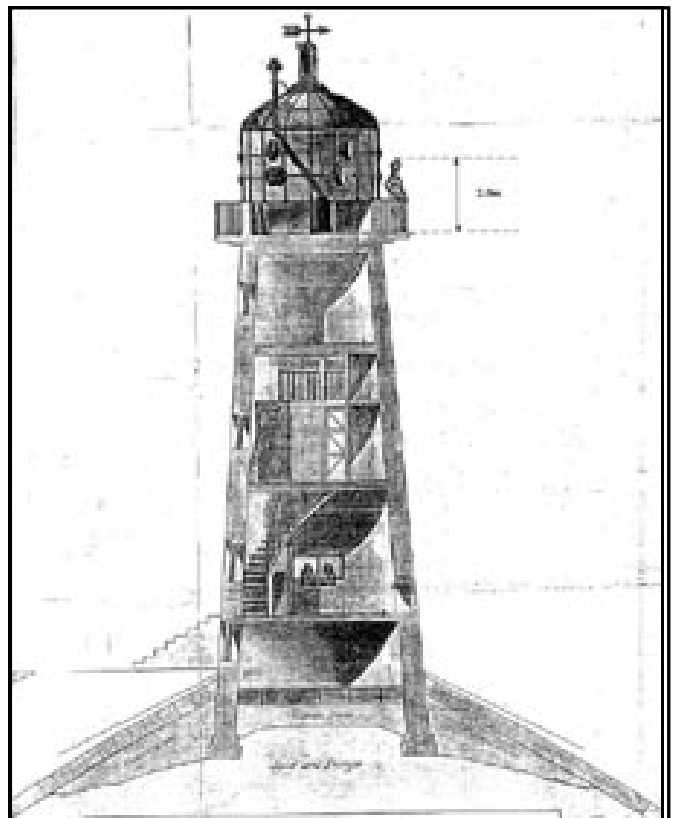
it started to speak. It told them to get out of the house.

A local court says it is trying to verify the truthfulness of the claims "despite the difficulty" of doing so. Many Westerners know the term genie from the tale of Aladdin and the magic lamp. But genies, or jinn, in Islamic theology can be a lot more sinister. They are believed to be normally invisible but with the ability to assume human or animal form, and are often said to be motivated by revenge or jealousy. There is a lingering belief in genies in the Muslim world that predates Islam.

The full story can be seen at: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/8145862.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/8145862.stm)

On 5th August, BBC Wales reported that there will be a **Permanent 'ghost' for lighthouse** on the Flintshire coast.

The owners of Point of Ayr lighthouse off the Flintshire coast have applied to erect a "human sculpture" inspired by



Plans, with sketches of the ghostly figure, have been submitted.

sightings of a ghostly figure.

The idea for the 2m (6ft 5in) stainless steel statue came after repeated reports of a man wearing an old-fashioned keeper's coat.

The lighthouse has been locked and out of service for more than a century.

Flintshire-based owners, Talacre Beach Leisure Group, said it would be a "serious art installation".

In recent years, several people have reported seeing the figure at the lighthouse, which is known locally as Talacre Lighthouse.

He is reported to wear an old-fashioned dark worsted lighthouse keeper's coat and hat.

The company is seeking planning permission which would need to be renewed every five years.

A local artist approached the lighthouse's owner, James McAllister, who agreed to commission a sculpture.

The agent for the owners has said: "There's been anecdotal evidence over the years of people having seen some sort of figure.

But this will not just be something quirky and short-term, it's a serious art installation off the back of those sightings."

The full story can be found at: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north\\_east/8183123.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north_east/8183123.stm)

On 25th August, Stephen Adams of the Telegraph wrote

**Patrick Stewart saw ghost performing *Waiting for Godot*.**

Patrick Stewart has told fellow actors that he saw a ghost in what is reputed to be one of Britain's most

haunted theatres. He saw the apparition while performing *Waiting for Godot* with Sir Ian McKellen.

Stage hands believe he saw the ghost of John Baldwin Buckstone, who was actor-manager of the Theatre Royal Haymarket in the mid 19th century and a friend of Charles Dickens.

Upon coming offstage for the interval, Stewart told his co-star that he saw a man standing in the wings wearing what looked like a beige coat and twill trousers.

Sir Ian asked him: "What happened, what threw you?"

"I just saw a ghost. On stage, during Act One," Stewart replied.

The episode was related in a documentary about the Theatre Royal Haymarket, produced by television channel Sky Arts.

However, it appears cameramen failed to capture images of the ghost itself.

Buckstone had a long association with the Theatre Royal, first as a comic actor, then as a playwright and finally as its actor-manager from 1853 to 1877, during which time it put on some 200 productions. The house became the leading comic theatre of the day.

He did not die in the building, passing away peacefully at home in Sydenham,



Patrick Stewart, along with his co-star, Sir Ian McKellen



Kent, after a long illness in 1879 aged 77. But theatre lore professes that he nevertheless haunts the place to the present day.

Nigel Everett, a director of the theatre, said: "Patrick told us all about it. He was stunned. I would not say frightened, but I would say impressed."

Appearances of Buckstone were not that frequent, Mr Everett said, with the last being by a stage hand about three or four years ago.

He added: "The last time an actor saw him would have been I think Fiona Fullerton, playing in an Oscar Wilde, 10 or 12 years ago.

"The ghost tends to appear when a comedy is playing."

While he said he did not consider *Waiting for Godot* to be a comedy, he thought their production did have comic aspects.

"I think Buckstone appears when he appreciates things," he added. "We view it as a positive thing."

The full story can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/theatre/theatre-news/6087811/Patrick-Stewart-saw-ghost-performing-Waiting-for-Godot.html#>

On the 8th September 2009, Yahoo News ran with the following headline:

### **Robbie Williams Haunted By Royalty.**

Robbie Williams is being haunted by the ghost of King Henry VIII's last wife. The 'Bodies' singer is convinced the £7 million mansion he shares with his girlfriend Ayda Field is inhabited by the spirit of Catherine Parr, the infamous British monarch's sixth and final spouse.

But while he often "feels the presence" of Catherine - who once lived on the estate in Wiltshire, South West England - the 35-year-old singer is never frightened.

He explained: "I think there are ghosts. I haven't seen or heard anything. I've definitely felt something but

it's



not scary. I'm very, very pleased to say.

"It's Catherine's Parr's old house. In fact, we're actually not in the old house, we're in her barn."

Robbie and Ayda moved from Los Angeles to Britain earlier this year to prepare for his musical comeback.

The former Take That star is enjoying his new lifestyle, but admits he wouldn't have ever imagined himself living in the countryside a few years ago.

Robbie said: "I can't even believe that a 35-year old me has bought a 500-year-old place. Because at 26 or 27 there's no way that I would have chosen to be there or go anywhere near it.

"But it's lovely and the people have been great with us."

It's not the first time Robbie's house has been linked to paranormal activity.

The star reportedly purchased the property because it is crossed with 'ley lines' - invisible energy routes believed to attract aliens.

Robbie is "obsessed" with extraterrestrials, and claims to have seen three UFOs during his lifetime.

# The Dangers of Dastardly Digital



**By Paul Brown**

Throughout the history of modern paranormal research, the 'Holy Grail' of evidence sought to try and silence the sceptics and academics who continually echo the voice of "Prove it!" is a definitive photograph of a ghost. One of the best known earlier photographs using conventional photography that appears to show a ghost is 'The Brown Lady of Rainham Hall', taken in 1936 by Indre Shira and Captain Hubert Provand. As paranormal research has grown in popularity in recent years, undoubtedly largely due to the increase in 'reality' television programs on the subject, so has the thirst for people to make their mark and capture their own bit of evidence.

When I first joined The Ghost Club, on the first investigation I went on I took my trusty old Canon AE1 Program 35mm SLR camera. While this led to many lovely photographs of the interior of Michelham Priory, the cost of film and develop-

ment and the frustration at not being able to see the results of my photographic skills until days later when the film was developed I'm sure many can relate to. And of course once developed, even though they were photographs of such a widely haunted building as Michelham, that's all they were, not a mist, an orb or any other corporeal apparition in sight.

While purists insist that standard 35mm film cameras should still be used for investigative work (and perhaps for good reason), on most investigations I've been to in recent years there's been a plethora of digital cameras, strobing through the haunted site enough to make the place look like a 1970's disco. The simple advantage of course of digital photography is the ability to take as many photos as you like without incurring the additional cost of film and developing. And the other main advantage is the ability to see the image taken immediately after. However the very nature of digital cameras has also spawned its own problems in serious paranormal investigation.

Such freely available multiple photograph capability has started

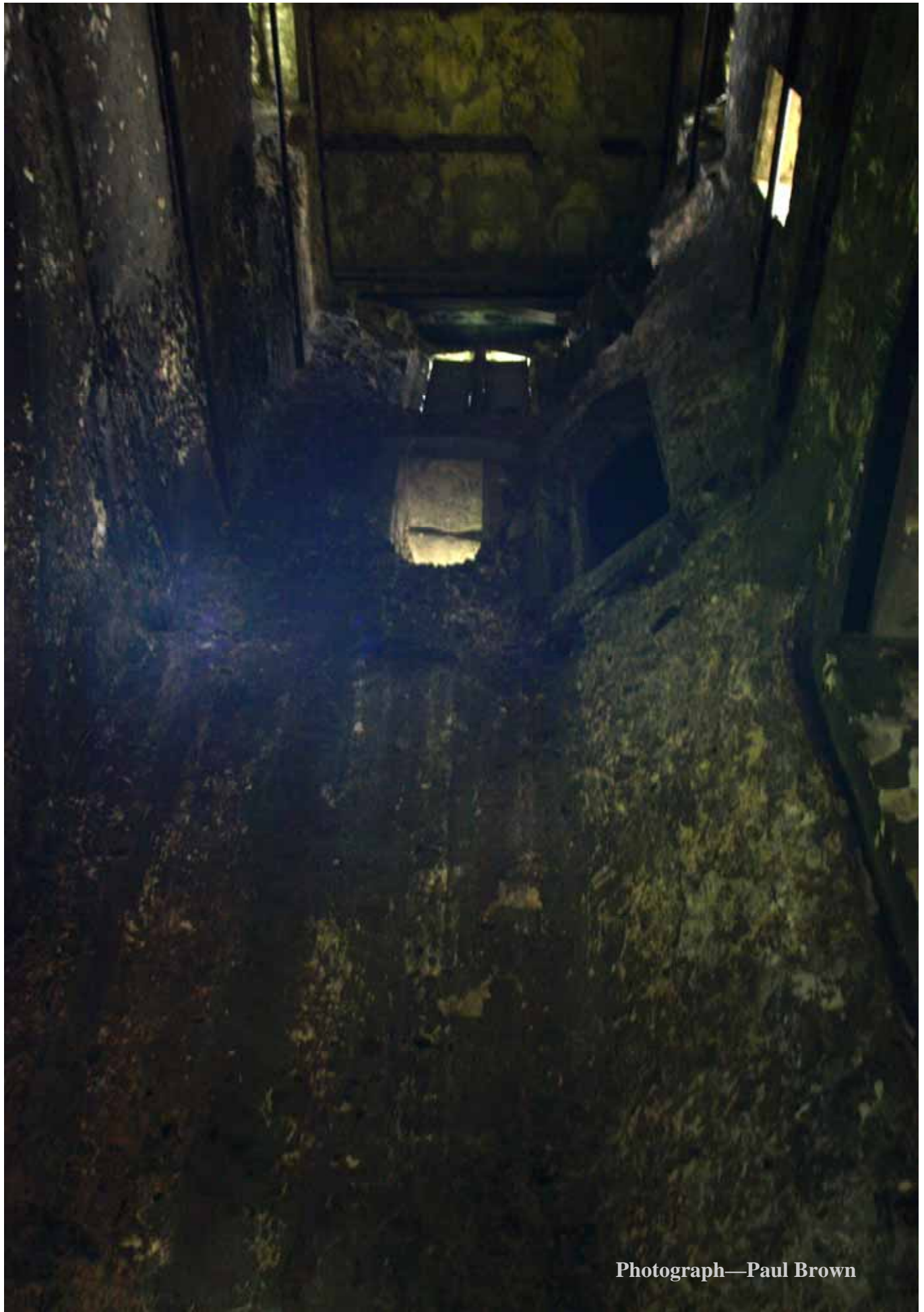
to blight investigations. How many of us have been sat there in the dark, trying to listen to every creak of an ancient building, trying to 'sense' every change in atmosphere and trying to pick out in the dark any ethereal glow of an orb? And then, when there is a faint noise or somebody senses something, all digital cameras point in that direction and the room lights up with multiple flashes and all of a sudden the only thing that's really been shot is your night vision... for the most part. There are many, many digital photographs showing dust orbs or insects and these in themselves have caused much debate and articles of their own. However, I won't deny that occasionally, just occasionally such frantic point and shot-in-the-dark hopes pick out something really unusual. Such a case is the blue 'plasma' orb, taken by Justin Cooper in the Long Gallery at Ham House. I was there on that vigil with Justin and clearly remember how unusual compared to other orb photographs that was. Indeed, on other another investigation vigil in the same room, several people including myself witnessed an orange-red orb at the end of the Gallery but as luck would have it, nobody on that occasion got out a camera to capture the moment!

Please don't misunderstand this article, I'm not against digital photography at all. The availability and convenience of digital photography has in recent years yielded some very interesting pictures and enabled the easy distribution of such images for us all to analyse and make our own minds up about. But

apart from over illuminating investigations with multiple flashes, perhaps the biggest danger is misinterpretation of the results, and not just on dust orbs. With the small LCD screen at the back of many digital cameras giving an instant, if small, review of the shot, excitement at something possibly captured doesn't always stand up to close scrutiny on a bigger screen. On two recent investigations I've thought I had something unusual only to be later disappointed.

The first was at a recent Ghost Club investigation to Broxbourne and Hoddesdon Conservative Club. I had my camera mounted on a tripod and was taking photos without the flash and with the picture exposure set over several seconds in a semi darkened room. The idea was to try and pick out any subtle images that might be destroyed by the camera flash. During the 12 second picture exposure, other GC members who were not aware of what camera settings I had, used their own camera flashes several times, whilst another GC member was stood still in the middle of the room. The result on the small screen of my camera was of a still image of the GC member in the middle of the room, but a 'sinister' dark shadow over to one side of the picture where nobody had been standing. I gathered people around and others agreed that something did indeed look weird. With the excitement of possibly having captured something I couldn't wait to download the picture and view it on the screen of my PC. Sadly, on the 'big screen' it appeared all too evident that it was





Photograph—Paul Brown

just a 'super shadow' of the GC member stood in the middle of the room caused by the multiple camera flashes of the other GC members cameras.

On another occasion this summer on a private investigation to the remains of St Mary's Church, Cold Christmas, Hertfordshire, I had entered the tower of the church and again, pointing my camera upwards I took several photos without using the flash. The only light was coming in from the side through some broken panels on the boarded up windows. About half way up the tower on two separate pictures at about the level an upper floor would have been in times gone by, I could see on the screen of my camera a blue mist. Even when I transferred these pictures to my PC they still appeared to be a strange blue mist. Finally! Finally I thought after years of investigations and hundreds of pictures I had got something really unusual. I sent the photos off to Philip Carr, Philip Hutchinson and Sarah Darnell to see what they thought. Now I love taking photo's with my digital camera and try and keep the lenses spotlessly clean, but I'm not so good at playing with Photoshop PC software for picture manipulation. However, the results that came back after the images had been lightened seemed to show strange parallel blue lines amongst the blue mist. And on zooming in on the images I was faced with the truth... the blue lines were partial fingerprints, obviously on the lens. And why blue? Well, the oil of a fingerprint on the lens, combined with the curvature of the lens and the

strange angle the light was coming in to the tower had combined to cause a light refraction that gave such a strange effect.

So now I'm back to square one, still with my digital camera and still trying to get something truly unique and unexplainable.

So, the dangers of dastardly digital? For me just the frequency of shots taken during an investigation can take the edge off the investigation, spoil the night vision if taken in the dark and at other times just detract from the atmosphere. But of the photographs themselves I think the real danger is of people, including myself, being too eager to see things that just perhaps are not really there under closer scrutiny. And the end result is instead of creating 'proof' for the sceptics, we end up giving them more ammunition with which to pour scorn.

**Do you have a story you  
could share with us?  
Either a personal ghostly  
encounter or an opinion you  
would like to air?  
Then please get in touch  
with Sarah at  
editor@ghostclub.org.uk**

# DOCTOR JOHN DEE

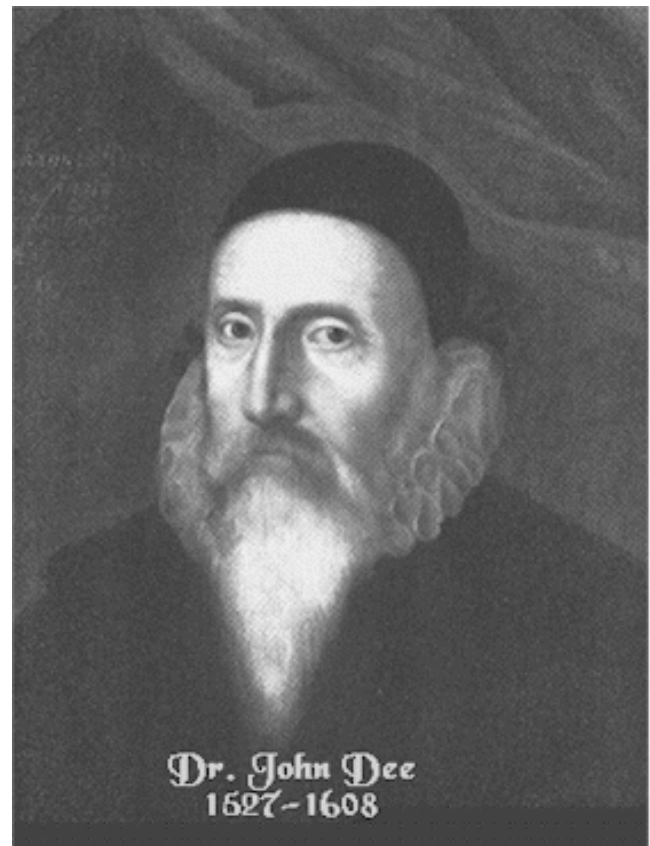
By Robert Snow

Dr John Dee, the alchemist, was born in London on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1527. He was educated in London and at Chelmsford. In 142 he was sent to St John's College, Cambridge, where for three years, he studied hard for eighteen hours every day. He was one of the original in 1546 and earned himself the reputation of being a sorcerer by displaying his mechanical beetle. The next year he obtained, from the Low Countries, various astronomical instruments. This was the first of many visits that he made abroad, lecturing in Louvain, Paris, between 1548 and 1551.

Dee was imprisoned under Queen Mary on suspicion encompassing her death by magic in 1555. However Edward VI had granted him two church livings and Queen Elizabeth I showed him favour and visited him twice at his house in Mortlake. In 1595 she made him a Warden of Manchester College. John Dee was constantly in difficulties, although he claimed to have found in the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey a quantity of the Elixir, one grain of which was sufficient to transmute into gold a piece of a cast iron cooking pot.

He appears to have been both a cheat and a deceiver of his own personal assistant, Edward Kelly between 1589 and 1591. Kelly lost both his ears when sentenced to a spell in the pillory for, his crime was confessing to communicate with Angels when using John Dee's magic crystal.

In 1605 Dr Dee petitioned James I to let him clear his name of slander by a public trial. He had been accused of "CALLING UP DIVELS". Six months later Dee was back at his old tricks with the occult. In December 1608 Dr John Dee



died in great poverty and was buried in Mortlake Church. Aubrey described him as a very good man who was a peace maker with a clear sanguine complexion and a long white beard as white as milk. Dr Dee's eldest son, Arthur (1579-1651) was also an alchemist, following in his father's footsteps. Dr John Dee wrote seventy nine works but only thirteen have ever been published.

These works were on such subjects as logic, mathematics, astrology, alchemy, navigation, geography and the reformation of the calendar. Dee was certainly well ahead of most of his fellow countryman in many subjects.

I am fortunate to know a direct descendant of Dr John Dee and am very grateful for all the information that he has given to me about his notorious ancestor.



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