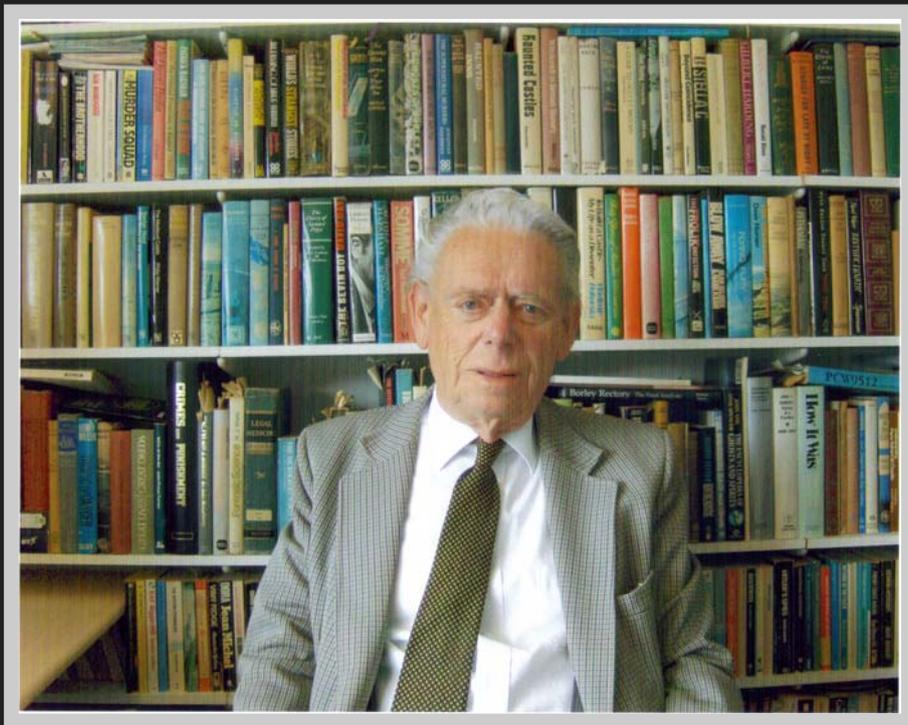


The Ghost Club Journal



Philip Paul
1922 - 2010

“Nasci, Laborare, Mori, Nasci”

Summer 2010

The Ghost Club

Journal

Summer 2010

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Chairman's letter



Welcome to the Summer issue of The Ghost Club Journal.

Writing the chairman's letter is usually a task undertaken with pleasure, but on this occasion it is tinged with some sadness. As you will see, this issue of the *Journal* records the passing of two of the great names in British ghost hunting of the last sixty years. These are Philip Paul and Tony Cornell, and tributes to them are included inside.

As with many others, I have personal reasons through the Ghost Club for remembering both. In 1997, Tony Cornell was the speaker at the first Ghost Club meeting I ever chaired (this was when the Ghost Club met at 6.30 pm, on Tuesday evenings at the Victory Services Club). Tony spoke on poltergeists, on which he was an acknowledged authority, not least from first-hand experience.

With Philip Paul, I was delighted first to correspond, and then meet him in person in 2001. Meeting Philip was to be put in touch with an important period from the Ghost Club's history. Between 1952-54, Philip was responsible for reviving our Club after it had ceased to meet, following the death of Harry Price in 1948. The Club we enjoy today is descended directly from that initiative. Sadly, it was straight after attending our Club meeting held on June 12th this year that I learned that Philip had died.

However, in one of those marvellous

pieces of synchronicity that sometimes occur, on the following Saturday, one week later, I was delighted to come across, quite unexpectedly, an article about Philip, published over fifty years ago and mentioning the Ghost Club.

Like many Ghost Club members, I love second hand bookshops, and I was browsing in one of my favourites, Lankester's Books and Antiques at Saffron Walden, in Essex. I have been to Lankester's many times over the last twenty years but on this occasion, I discovered a room stuffed with old books and magazines which I had never previously entered (I think it has recently been opened up to accommodate the burgeoning collections of old volumes gracing the shelves). Within it, I found a large pile of *Essex Countryside* magazines, dating from the mid-1950s through to the late 1980s. Flicking through the piles - about the sixth or seventh copy I picked up at random - I found the edition from the summer of 1957, Volume 5 number 2. Turning the pages, I found myself reading the following item under the heading "Most Haunted House":

"Peterborough" in the Daily Telegraph, recently had something to say about Borley. He mentioned Mr Phillip Paul, the vice-chairman of the Ghost Club, had told the Psychic and Literary Luncheon Club that "neither Price's inaccuracies nor the attempts to demolish his claims shook the strong evidence for ghostly phenomena". Disappointingly, though, Mr. Paul had to admit that though he had been to Borley on July 28 for the last seven years he had failed to see the famous woman in black who has appeared to so many others on that day....Harry Price believed the woman in black to be the ghost of a nun murdered 300 years ago. After extensive digging Mr Paul did in fact unearth parts of a

female skull - unfortunately 200 years too young. Nevertheless, strange manifestations still persist...."

Naturally, I bought the magazine (it was only 10p!). To come across this item, at such a time, was all at once meaningful, rather poignant and yet also a comfort. Of course, it is easy to assign such moments to coincidence. But the older I get, the more coincidence seems an over-worked word to describe the numerous events which seem to link up together at certain significant stages in the journey of life. At such times, I am also reminded of the minutes of a Victorian Ghost Club meeting held on March 1st 1889, recording the contribution of Mr Henry Hood on the occasion of the death of a fellow member, Stanhope Speer:

"Mr Hood emphasised the fact that death hid from mortal eye a separated brother, but was powerless to affect the concrete unity of the Club. The loss was only apparent when we happily change our condition that is the only change. We remain the same. Stanhope Speer is one of us still, as he has always been. The unity of the brotherhood is unbroken."

The following year on November 2nd 1890, the Ghost Club President Mr Paice spoke of how Club members were assured "of the continued existence of the so-called "Dead" and of the power enjoyed by them under veritable condition of a re-association with us conscious on both sides". On recalling the names of deceased Ghost Club members he "invited the Members present in the flesh to devote some moments of serious recollection and of affectionate association with these their departed friends and brethren - members still of this Club".

With best wishes

Alan Murdie

Philip Paul; A Tribute



It is with great regret we announce the passing of Philip Paul, author, journalist and authority on the paranormal who died on June 12th 2010. In the space available, I cannot attempt to do justice either to Philip or to his work but let it be recorded at the outset, that the Ghost Club owes him a great debt, since he was instrumental in reviving the Club as a functioning body between 1952 and 1954.

The Ghost Club had ceased meeting following the death of Harry Price in 1948 and Philip took a lead in re-establishing it as a place for believers and sceptics to meet in a convivial setting. The story of the successful re-launch is told in his book *Some Unseen Power* (1985) but unfortunately, Philip found his efforts hindered and hi-jacked shortly after the revival begun. The spirit of openness and enquiry he had hoped to engender was quashed by the personal agendas of certain members, and as a result he withdrew. Nonetheless, he continued to take an interest in the Club and its doings over the following years. After reforms of the Ghost Club in 1997, he was in touch with the then General Secretary, the late Commander Bill Bellars OBE and sent his best wishes. In 2002 we were delighted to formally welcome Philip back to the Club. In the years that followed he attended a number of meetings and events, until prevented from doing so by failing health in 2008. Even then he continued to contribute to the *Journal* with his last article appearing in the spring 2010 edition.

Philip drew upon a lifetime of experience investigating the paranormal. The starting point was a family tragedy in 1938 which occurred when Philip was 15 years old. This was the sudden death of his sister Iris, aged 22, in the bath at home. Simultaneous with her death, a relative three miles away heard an unexplained knocking on the window.

Philip puzzled about why his sister might have signalled thus, rather than alerting family members in the same house, and sought answers in psychical research. The phenomenon led him to the writings of Camille Flammarion, the French Astronomer and psychical researcher which are filled with similar cases of crisis manifestations, as are the records of the British Society for Psychical Research.

Following the tragedy, Philip went to stay with his mother's family in a remote Norfolk village, where the people still exhibited the mindset of the pre-modern era. They still looked at the world in stark and simple Biblical ways and at the same time populated their village with numerous spectres. (Growing up in East Anglia myself, I can remember the tail-end of this rural culture and such character from my own boyhood). Ghost stories told by candle light stimulated his mind yet further, and provided inspiration for his ambitions as an author.

His first writing job came as a reporter with the weekly *Newmarket Journal* and in June 1944 he achieved his first major scoop. An ammunition train blew up at Soham station causing large scale destruction just as the paper was going to press. At the time the paper was lacking an editor – he had died the week before – leaving Philip a free hand to send the story to Fleet Street. This provided an entry for Philip to national journalism (the story appeared belatedly in the *Newmarket Journal* the following week). Like the young Dickens he excelled in two subjects: crime and ghosts, about which he continued to write for the next sixty years.

An influence in Fleet Street was the famous editor Hannen Swaffer (known as the Pope of Fleet Street for both his magisterial manner and his spiritualist views). But Philip became a recognised authority in his own right.



**Philip with Alan Murdie at the Ghost Club
Christmas Lunch, 2005**

Photograph: Philip Hutchinson

After interviewing local people, Philip was convinced that there had been genuine manifestations at Borley, quite apart from any claimed evidence derived from the controversial investigations conducted by Harry Price between 1929 and 1939. Nor had the fire laid the ghosts. In particular, Philip was impressed by the testimony of the Revd Alfred Henning who reported hearing organ music emanating from the church whilst it was locked. Though he later doubted some

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s Philip investigated many cases of alleged haunting, both in London and the provinces. These included ghosts in City Churches, and poltergeists at Norwood, South London and Run-corn in Cheshire.

The late Andrew Green once remarked that every ghost hunter ought to visit Borley in Essex once in their lifetime. Philip Paul went further, holding seven successive vigils at Borley on the night of July 28th when the phantom nun traditionally 'walked'. In 1954, he went further, carrying out an excavation of the site of the infamous rectory, which was built in 1862 and burned down in a suitable 'Hammer Horror' style ending in 1938. During the excavation, he discovered traces of a seventeenth century building which confirmed the tradition that earlier structure had occupied the site. He also interviewed many local people about their experiences, and was responsible for a *Panorama* interview with the last surviving Bull sister broadcast on Hallowe'en night in 1955. (It would be interesting to know if this recording survived the BBC cull of taped programmes in later years).

of the paranormal nature of certain manifestations reported at Borley, Philip had serious criticisms of the treatment of evidence by the three authors of the *Haunting of Borley Rectory* [1956] who had sought to dismiss the case as fraud and misperception.

Then, as now, the Borley area was good for ghost stories. Philip investigated a small rural town hall at Clare, Suffolk, occupied by the Clare Rural District Council which was troubled by footsteps and minor physical manifestations. Another haunted site at Clare was the Half Moon Public House (converted in to an old peoples home in 2001) although Philip was sceptical of many haunted pub stories. At Abbas Hall at Great Cornard, Suffolk he investigated stories of another phantom nun which also gained wide publicity, and a visit by Robert Robinson, the broadcaster.

By this time Philip had come to prominence himself. In 1953 Philip took part in the popular BBC television show *What's My Line?* where a panel of personalities had to guess the occupation of a mystery guest. Philip successfully beat the collected wits of the panel with his choice of occupation "Ghost hunter". This led Gilbert Harding (an irascible panel

regular – the kind of man the audience “love to hate”) to haughtily declare, “You must be barmy!”. Harding’s outburst received national coverage, but he later apologised to Philip after the show and they became good friends. Ironically, Harding in the closing months of his life approached Philip for advice on his own personal ghost – the sound of his deceased sister’s voice he had heard calling him in his London flat.

Like many who work with people who undergo paranormal experiences, Philip was concerned at how charlatans and fake mediums could exploit the vulnerable and recently bereaved. Following the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951, and the repeal of the Witchcraft Acts the threat of prosecution for many spiritualist activities was lifted and frauds blossomed in this liberal climate. Philip encountered numerous cases of fake mediums preying on the gullible and took every opportunity to expose wrong-doing when he did so. In one case a vulnerable and pathetic woman had allowed fraudsters to hold séances in her home and been persuaded to give them £10 000 ‘to buy spirit children toys’. When the money disappeared she believed it had gone to the spirit world. In other cases the gullibility was with the mediums, as with a TV interview where a cynical interviewer used leading questions to provoke a prominent medium into casually proclaiming the survival of both cats and mice in the spirit world – with ghastly consequences in eternity for the mice! Philip believed that the bereaved deserved better and resolutely spoke out against fraud and nonsense in spiritualist circles. This stance actually gained the respect of serious spiritualists; by the end of the 1950s he was expounding his views at well-attended lectures at Marylebone Spiritualist Church in London. But he was not a complete sceptic and at a Ghost Club lectured in 2004, Philip vouched for one medium who had succeeded in healing him of a debilitating illness, an experience he refers to in *Some Unseen Power*. At the end of the 1970s on a trip to America he also took the opportunity to investigate the sensational story of *The Amityville Horror*. Like many later writers he concluded the story had little foundation in fact.

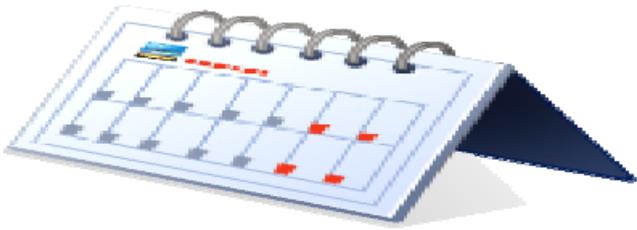
More mundane and down to earth wickedness came in the daily stories making up the post-War explosion in crime. During the 1950s Philip covered a number of notable murder trials at the Old Bailey, and witnessed how hardened killers would collapse in the dock when the death sentence was pronounced. His interest in crime and science developed into a study of forensic pathology and the way science could be used to obtain clues in murder cases. This was years before pathology was revolutionised by DNA testing and became a popular subject for TV crime dramas. Philip wrote *Murder Under the Microscope* (1990) about the work of the National Forensic Laboratory. The book was well received that Home Secretary David Blunkett endorsed its republication in 2004. In his later years, Philip continued to live life to the full in Sussex with his beloved wife Joan. In the last few years he underwent a number of major operations and hospital procedures but remained resolutely good humoured with his friends and contacts. Even when connected up to an oxygen tank he was a fount of humour and anecdotes, interspaced with serious reflections on life and death. One friend wrote at his passing: “In his later years Philip spread laughter, happiness and sunshine, not only to his ever-widening circle of friends, but also to those friends’ own contacts – like sparkling ripples spreading outwards from a pebble dropped in the ocean. He will indeed be greatly missed.” It was perhaps also typical of Philip that he prepared a message to be read out at his own funeral with his sense of humour persisting to the last. In it he said that as a reporter he had always had an aversion to attending funerals –

“and I certainly didn’t volunteer to attend this one... As you see they had to carry me in!”

It was a cheery message that greatly encouraged all those present to celebrate rather than mourn the passing of a truly memorable man, and one for whose life that we in the Ghost Club can all be grateful.

By Alan Murdie

DIARY DATES



September 11th

Jane Hunting

Title TBA

October 9th

AGM

Trevor Hamilton

FW Myers

November 20th

Melvyn Willin

Ghost Photography

December 4th

Ghost Club Christmas Lunch

Details TBA

All Ghost Club meetings
commence at 2pm, unless
otherwise indicated.

NEW MEMBERS

*A very warm welcome to the
following "Ghosts" who have
recently joined us.*

Confidential Content



N o t e b o o k



*Mark Salmon
reports on the
Ghost Club's recent
activities .*

Confidential Content

Confidential Content

Confidential Content

Haunting Scotland



Haunted Pubs and Inns of Scotland

By Derek Green

The Scots for many years now have been known world-wide to enjoy the wee dram. The question raised though is “Just how many Scots know if their local is subject to a haunting?”

Scotland is home to many inns and public houses and a number of these have been listed to contain the resident ghost. Here are some of my favourites.

The Clydesdale Inn, this Wetherspoon pub is the former Clydesdale Hotel, built, in 1791, by the Town Council and gentlemen of the county as a first-class coaching inn. In 1827, the elegant and spacious Assembly Rooms were added to the rear and by the mid 19th Century, the hotel had become an important staging post, with coaches departing for Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. The Inn had many important visitors, including William and Dorothy Wordsworth and Charles Dickens.

Many of the locals in

Lanark are acquainted with the tales of the haunted Inn. The first ghost locals have encountered is that of the Grey Abbot. It is said that the Inn was built on the site of a Monastery and that the apparition of a Monk has been seen walking from the area of the ladies’ toilets, across the lower floor, through the cellar and heading towards the car park at the rear of the pub. The kitchen manager recently had an encounter at 6 am. While he was stocktaking he felt someone brush past him and he described feeling the person touch him as they passed. He stopped what he was doing and looked up, only to realise that he was the only one in the cellar. Another manager in the Inn during the day reported hearing children’s voices on the stair outside the interior door into the pub. The manager came out into the hallway to investigate and heard two children’s voices and also footsteps on the floor above the



The Clydesdale Inn

pub. He described the footfalls running up and down and the children laughing. Thinking that two children should not be present in the building, the manager went on the warpath and climbed the stairs ready to remove the children. When, on the upper floor, he found all the rooms to be deserted — no voices, no footfalls, no children — all that remained was an icy chill in the air as it dawned on him that something was not normal.

Staff at the Clydesdale Inn currently hear voices and clearing of throats coming from within the main bar area a few hours before opening up for trade. The pub next door which is linked to the Clydesdale is also prone to activity. One night after closing and while clearing glasses the bar maid witnessed a man walk along the front of the bar and straight through the wall which would take him into the Clydesdale Inn. Last year a shift manager had a scary encounter in the Clydesdale. While cleaning tables in the family area, the manager looked up and standing in the corner of the room was a man in riding boots and a hat. Suddenly the apparition faded away and following this, the room became very cold to the point the manager's breath was visible in the air.

The Stag Inn near Falkland, Fyfe (pictured right), is said to be haunted by the noises of children's toys. Recently the bell in the bar was reported to start ringing on its own. Customers also report cold spots in the bar area.

The Globe Inn, Dumfries is one of Scotland's most historic and atmospheric pubs and is a shrine to Robert Burns. It is said that Burns was attracted to Anna Park, the barmaid and before her death, it was alleged that she gave birth to an illegitimate daughter.



The Globe

ter. The Globe is said to be haunted by Anna and she has been witnessed in daylight dressed in 18th Century clothes. In recent years a trend was reported, Anna would only appear when changes were taking place in the Globe.

In Stirling the **Albion Bar** and **Nicky-Tams Public House** are both alleged to harbour the odd ghost. The Albion is reputed to include

poltergeist phenomena with glasses being thrown from behind the bar. Nicky-Tams is said to be haunted by half-seen figures and shadows, people feeling themselves being touched and auditory phenomena of unexplained voices. Other manifestations in Nicky-Tams include glasses flying off the bar with force and gas cylinders switching off during opening hours.

The Black Bull Inn, Kirkintilloch has now been converted into the **Tantra Night Club** and is home to much more sinister activity. For quite a while there were regular reports of a misty apparition reported at the foot of the stairs at the rear of the building. Other manifestations were much more frightening, these included a sinister dark phantom that stood watching people on the dance floor, there were regular reports of this creepy spectre being seen by bar staff and bouncers in the club. However, when the security cameras were turned on the ghastly shape and yet on playback there was no evidence of the apparition. Other witnessed manifestations included disembodied groans and unexplained loud crashing sounds.



Cameron's Lounge in Aberdeen is said to be the city's longest established pub and it is said to be haunted by unexplained noises, lights switching on and off, large drops in temperature and beer taps being turned off.



A dark-coloured apparition has been witnessed in the area of the toilets and one recent account explains how a painter heard a series of knocks while doing some internal decorating. The painter for a laugh tapped out replies only to discover the knocks repeated exactly the same back to him. Still in Aberdeen, we come to the **Cocket Hat pub** which is alleged to retain the ghost of a former landlord who died in the 1950's. Manifestations have included the sightings of a tall man wearing an overcoat and brimmed hat. On one occasion, a barmaid tried to serve the apparition, only to see him fade away in front of her eyes whilst trying to ascertain what drink he wanted. Customers to the pub also talk of an uncomfortable presence in the lounge and one account also tells of a full whisky glass slide by itself from one end of the bar to the other.

In Edinburgh, **Nicol Edward's** pub in the old town boasts three floors. The Vaults bar



This Edinburgh pub features footsteps and shadowy figures in it's basement

in the basement is reputed to be the focus of activity which includes heavy temperature drops, voices, footsteps and shadows lurking in the darkness. **Whistle Binkies Pub** close by is said to be haunted by The Watcher, also known to many as Mr Boots, the alleged entity which is also responsible for haunting the Blair Street Vaults. The cellar of the pub is located on the other side of a large gate in the Blair Street Vaults. A very scary account came from a barmaid who one evening was sent down into the cellar to change a barrel and while attempting to carry out this task, she became aware of the cellar becoming extremely cold, then without warning, the cellar door slammed closed. What happened



next frightened the girl so much she will never forget it. While trying to open the door, she became aware of the strong smell of whisky breath, this was accompanied with the sounds of laboured breathing. The barmaid turned round to find herself facing the apparition of a man in a blue overcoat, large riding boots and a tri-cornered hat. The man had no facial features and black holes for eyes. The evil apparition advanced towards her. Screaming, she turned back to the door but found that it appeared to be locked and would not open. The girl now a gibbering wreck, could see this apparition getting closer to her and then all of a sudden, the door into the cellar opened and she escaped back upstairs severely shaken by her episode at the hands of Mr Boots. Other phenomena in Whistle Binkies include the pub clock stopping at the same time of 4.15 and oranges

being mysteriously cut in two when left whole on the bar.

Finally our journey takes us to some of Glasgow's Public Houses. **Sloans' Pub** located in Argyll Street is one of Glasgow's longest established pubs. The floor above Sloans' is a hidden gem. A large and beautifully decorated



Sloans' bar area

ballroom exists here. It is in this area that cold spots have been reported and heavy phantom footsteps have been heard walking across the ballroom floor. In the centre of Glasgow is the location of the **Saracen's Head Pub**, or known to Glaswegians as the "Sarrie Heid". This

is said to be one of Glasgow's oldest pubs, it is also the home to a skull which is displayed in a case and is reputed to belong to the last witch executed in Scotland. The "Sarrie Heid" is also said to be haunted by a former landlord. There has also been a string of strange events much of which according to one medium was caused by the large number of ghostly former customers who are said to still reside in the pub. In Glasgow's Salt market stands **O'Briens**, formerly Grahams Bar, a very small public house. Here the sad ghost of an old lady

wearing a tartan shawl covering her face has been seen sitting by the fireside. **The Scotia Bar** (pictured below) was founded at the end

of the 18th Century and has a long reputation of being haunted. Years ago a previous landlord is said to have been found hanging in the cellar and it is believed that he has never

left. Manifestations in the Scotia have included beer taps being switched off and objects moving around by themselves. The last pub is the **Oran Mor**, once the Kelvin-side Free and Parish Church, built in 1862 and turned into a pub/club in 2002. It is said that a

previous minister is buried within the walls and since opening in 2002, manifestations have included chairs moving by themselves and an office door being found open after having been closed and locked!!

Glasgow is the end of our pub crawl around

some of the most haunted public houses in Scotland. Next time you visit Scotland, make sure when standing at a bar, you ask for a spirit from the gantry and not one from the fabric of the building.



The Ixworth School Ghost Walk

By *****

Confidential Content

I'm not sure if this is a first or whether other schools may have something like this in their curriculum, but for the last three years, during 'activities week', I have been taking Year 6 pupils (10 to 11 year olds) on a ghost walk around our ancient village of Ixworth, near Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk.

I have lived here for 36 years and have been the Science Technician at the Middle School for the last 18; I am also a member of the Ghost Club and when the school was looking for new Ideas for activities week (before the May Spring Bank Holiday), I cautiously suggested that a combined history of the village and a visit to the over a dozen alleged haunted sites that I knew about might be of interest. This would be linked to creative writing, poetry and art. The idea was, of course, not to frighten the children but to have fun and make them think. The first year I ran this, I had 18 children and a couple of support staff and I was really surprised how much they all seemed to enjoy it. This year I had thirty-five children, two members of staff and a teaching assistant!

I start in the classroom by telling them about the history of Ixworth, which dates

back to Roman and Anglo Saxon times. We have the site of a Roman fort and villa here plus a Augustinian priory, twelfth-Century church and a coaching inn, The Pickerel, that dates from about 1500. The road through the village was on the original London to Great Yarmouth route and is still on the National Express coach route today.

Many of the ghost stories I tell them about are connected to these places so it all ties in. I then tell them about the Ghost Club and some of the investigations that I've been on and I show them some of the equipment I use, EMF meter, trigger objects, as well as my divining rods, which the D.T. teacher made up for me. I let them have a go with these and they really are surprised how well they work.

We then start our walk; this takes about an hour and a half as we stop and talk about the sites and the history. I include my own coach house that dates back to 1680 and tell them about the whispers we hear every time there is a change in the house and the 'lady' I saw on the stairs many years ago. I also show them the bones that were found in the wall and the gravestone we have beside the front

Confidential Content

What's on in London

Whether you're a London resident or up in town for a GC meeting you might like to spend some time enjoying the wealth of ghost-themed attractions the city has to offer. Philip Carr compiles a list, that are not necessarily recommendations!

As a relief from the endless stream of musical revivals in the West End, and testament to the enduring popularity of the subject of ghosts, now in its 21st year at the Fortune Theatre, Russell Street WC2, is *The Woman in Black*. This is the story of a young solicitor sent to deal with the house of an elderly widow who has just died but who keeps appearing to him. The producers claim it is 'The most terrifying live theatre experience in the

world'. Having seen the TV version at the Roxy Cinema when the GC visited earlier this year, in my view they are over-egging the pudding a bit but it is very enjoyable none the less. GC members who have seen the stage show, which is slightly different from the TV adaptation, have been enthusiastic about it. Again promising a 'truly terrifying theatrical experience, unlike anything else in the West End', (except the *Woman in Black* we assume) there's a new show called *Ghost Stories* at London's Duke of York's theatre. It comes direct from a sell-out season at the Lyric Hammersmith and is written and directed by *The League of Gentlemen's* Jeremy Dyson, and Andy Nyman, the co-creator and director of Derren Brown's television and stage shows and star of *Dead Set* and *Severance*. *The Daily Telegraph* reviewer said

'This ingenious, creepy and horribly enjoyable show deserves a life, or rather a living death, beyond its run in Hammersmith.' One of our members who saw the show in Hammersmith found it well done but far less scary than the producers claim.

The Necropolis Bus Company began in the 19th century as a private funeral bus service. The Necropolis vehicles or 'Carcass Coaches' as they were known to Londoners were able to convey the deceased, pall bearers and up to 50 mourners (no standing) to the final resting place. Each bus had an onboard conductor/chief mourner and a special siren or 'mourning whistle' to warn pedestrians of the bus's approach. The sound of the whistle prompted gentlemen to remove their



A scene from the show-stopping 'Woman in Black'



The Ghost Bus Tours run Thursday to Saturday

hats and bow their heads as a mark of passing respect. This has been revived by Ghost Bus Tours who run their black double-decker Necrobus on 7.30pm and 9pm tours, Thursday to Saturday. The conductor Sid Strangeways provides into a witty commentary highlighting the various haunted areas of London – Notting Hell, Bethnal Scare, Earls Corpse and Trafalgar Scare. The bus is also available for private hire for weddings, stag/hen parties and funerals. All in the best possible taste! Online reviews are generally favourable, it's undeniably tacky in places but great fun. For details see www.theghostbustours.com (2 for 1 offers for Southeastern Rail travelers are available in their brochure from rail stations.)

London Tombs are part of the London Bridge Experience, winners 2008 and 2009 of the Screebie Awards at ScareCon in Birmingham, (the annual trade show for the scare attractions industry, apparently growing fast, despite, or perhaps because of, the financial situation.) Myriad animatronic effects, aided by hordes of zombie luvvies aim to scare the living bejesus out of all and sundry

in the haunted walkthroughs. However the London Tombs, which boast a number of dark corridors and desolate tunnels, are claimed by the owners of the Attraction to be a genuinely haunted site. The spooky reputation of the Tombs has grown from the discovery of a plague pit filled with thirty skeletons, with regular sightings of 'Shadow Man' and Emily, said to be two of the many resident ghosts. The Tombs are also available to groups for overnight paranormal investigations (though it must be very difficult to be objective in such an environment).

The venue is a bit pricey for visitors. An adult ticket on the day is £21.95, but is a fiver cheaper booked online at www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com. 2 for 1 offers are also available for Southeastern Rail travelers in the brochure available from rail sta-



Left: One of the scary zombies from the London Tombs

tions.

As part of Halloween (which incidentally has doubled year on year in the UK for the last 7 years and in 2009 was worth £160m), the London Ghost Festival is now in its third year and runs from Friday 22nd October - Sunday 31st October, 'uniting spooky stories,



haunted locations and spectral characters in a week-long programme of themed original events, walks, talks, night vigils and performances'. See

<http://www.londonparanormal.com/lgf.htm> for more details.

There was an explosion of interest in spirit communication in the mid 19th Century, including *The Ghost Club*, involving many from the upper crust of society. After Albert died, Queen Victoria took part in many séances and its rumoured that the influence her servant John Brown had over her was due to his abilities as a medium.

In contrast to the commercialism of most of the previous entries, in the heart of plush Belgravia are the elegant and peaceful headquarters of the *Spiritualist Association of Great Britain* (SAGB) which had its origins in London in 1872. The SAGB offers to relieve suffering through spiritual healing as well as offering the evidence of an afterlife – providing private sittings with mediums, hypnotherapy, past-life regression, meditation, workshops, special events etc.

Conan Doyle and Sir William Crookes, both Ghost Club members were associated with the Association and the present building was opened in 1955 by another GC member, Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding. Private Sittings (£35) are available daily during opening

hours, last for 30 minutes and can only be booked in person, or by telephoning 020 7235 3351.

You can have your sitting recorded and cassette tapes are available from reception. Address: 33 Belgrave Square London SW1. (Satisfaction guaranteed. Refunds if you are not happy with the medium – see their conditions. When

my wife had a sitting at the SAGB, there was a long queue of people waiting to try to talk to her!) <http://www.spiritualistassociation.org.uk>

There are several ghost walks organized regularly in Central London and one of the best is led by Richard Jones, ghost author, researcher and authority on haunted London, His tour features good, old-fashioned storytelling and ventures into 'hidden alleyways, secluded courtyards, dark passageways and crumbling graveyards'. The walk lasts about two hours and takes place whatever the weather conditions. Booking is essential though. See

<http://www.london-ghost-walk.co.uk/> or call 020 8530 8443.

Or if you want to organize your own tour of London's haunted sites you could start by surfing to www.paranormaldatabase.com/london/lonpages/londdata.php

This site has a total of 534 entries covering almost every area of London.

Alternatively there is Walking Haunted London, featuring 25 self-guided walking ghost tours, again by Richard Jones. The book covers many parts of inner London and further afield too - Hampton Court, Greenwich, even Pluckley. (When I looked Amazon had bargain used copies for £0.01 – no reflection on the value of the content!)

Philip Carr

BOOK BOOK REVIEWS



GHOST HUNTING A SURVIVORS GUIDE

By John Fraser

Hardbacked, 184 pages

RRP: £12.99

ISBN: 978-0-7524-5414-6

Before I start this piece, I feel I should 'fess up' and admit that the author is a friend of mine. John Fraser is one of the longest standing Ghost Club members within the current membership (although to look at him, you would never think so!). He was also once Vice Chairman of the club, serving for several years on its Council.

When *Ghost Hunting, A Survivors Guide* was offered to The Ghost Club for review, I promised John that even though we were friends, my review of his book would be a fair account, completely honest and that I would show no favour. Of course, he agreed entirely, although he made sure that I could spell 'outstanding' and 'remarkable' beforehand!

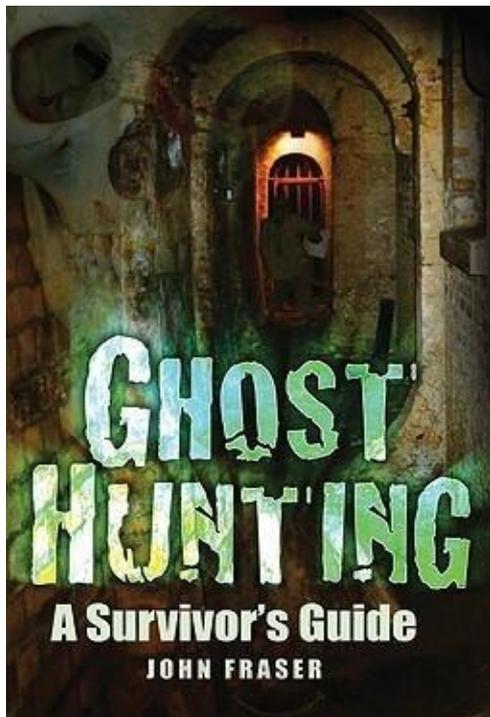
And so on to the review. Your initial impression is that the book is presented well. Hard backed with suitably eerie dust cover illustrations and photography showing the gloomy corridors of the Clerkenwell House of Detention, finished off with the shade of a spooky skull, there should be no confusion as to the subject matter covered within its pages.

Inside, the book is equally well presented with a tidy, uncomplicated lay-

out. I particularly liked the use of miniature skulls in place of bullet points! The text is extremely readable and flows with a steady stream of relevant and interesting information, regarding all aspects of paranormal investigation. It is split into ten chapters, covering everything a ghost hunter needs to know, whether they are just dabbling or are a seasoned ghost hunter. The book covers in depth, the history of ghost hunting; modern ghost hunting; the use of equipment on investigations, scientific and non, how it should be used and whether or not it is needed; academic parapsychology and how the subject is slowly becoming accepted by mainstream science. There is also a very good section on organising paranormal investigations with lots of tips and a checklist, which I shall certainly be referencing the next time I have to organise an investigation for The Ghost Club. Following this, there is a great chapter on analysing and making sense of your findings.

The centre of the book is fashioned with a small selection of black and white photographs with captions of places, phenomena and other subjects covered within it's pages and there is a useful list of respected paranormal organisations and their contact details at the back.

To conclude then, *Ghost Hunting, A Survivors Guide* is a beautifully presented, extremely well written source of reference for anyone interested in



Paranormal Brighton and Hove True Ghost Stories

By Janet Cameron

Paperback, 128 pages

RRP £12.99

ISBN: 978-1848687165

Janet Cameron is a recently retired lecturer in creative writing for the University of Kent. She has had several books published including Brighton and Hove Murders and Misdemeanours. She lives in Hove.....

It's usually a good sign when an author is based in the location in which they are writing about - in my opinion.

Janet Cameron is based in Hove and stretches the net a little wider than the usual suspects of Poltergeists, Nuns, Grey ladies, White ladies and Monks (although those favourites are still included) by adding such subjects as Witchcraft, UFO's/Crop Circles, Psychic Surgeons, Spiritualists and Exorcism, a section on Police matters of a Paranormal kind - and amongst other unworldly matters, there is even a story about a Magical Manga woman living in Newhaven!

As well as Brighton and Hove, the author covers smaller more obscure locations in the area and tells tales that have possibly never been told before, notably in her chapter on Personal Paranormal Experiences by local people.

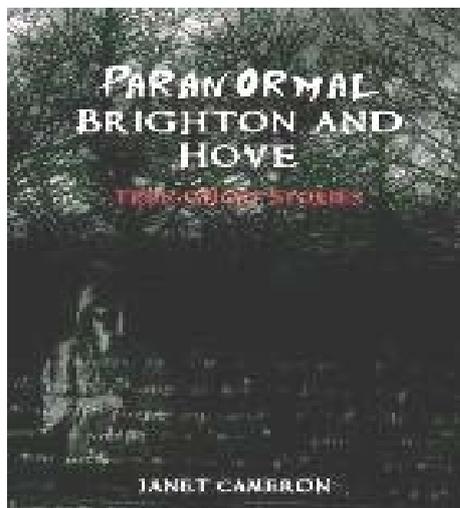
Cameron sources quite a lot of her material from the archives of the local rags, mainly the Brighton Argus and the Herald (amongst others).

As well as sinister tales of witchcraft and murder, there is an amusing chapter on Retail Spectres - like the friendly ghost who liked to do the washing up at the Zodiac coffee bar in Brighton and the cheeky poltergeist who liked to

participating in or organising a paranormal investigation. The only downside for me personally, and it is only very insignificant gripe on my part, is that the photographs aren't distributed throughout the book, rather than being in a block in the centre. It gives it a slightly more dated or old fashioned feel. Even so, I would not hesitate to recommend this book – in fact, I would go one step further and suggest it as required reading to anyone interested in attending or organising an investigation. So I have to say, on this occasion, I agree with the author. This book IS Outstanding and Remarkable and would make a welcome addition to any serious investigators book shelf.

Sarah Darnell





PARANORMAL CHELTENHAM

True Ghost Stories

By Ross Andrews

Paperback, 125 pages

ISBN: 978-1-84868-630-4

This interesting, all-too-brief book encompasses five ghost walks and ancillary chapters on other ghosts of Cheltenham, investigations by the Myers Paranormal Society of Gloucestershire, or PARASOC, a group of amateur ghost hunters who investigate paranormal phenomena in the South West and of which Ross Andrews is the chairman. There is also advice on how to conduct ghost hunts and details of the various pieces of equipment available to researchers.

Combining his ghost hunting activities with a career in entertainment Mr Andrews highlights a succession of accounts of ghostly activity either reported to him or experienced directly during his twenty years of conducting vigils in geographically diverse areas and particularly around the Cheltenham area. The book incorporates a delightful degree of chuckle-level humour and is lavishly illustrated with many photographs, many of them his own. His professed object is not to convince his readers of the reality of ghosts (who can do that?) but to relate his and his group's experience and experiments in the hope that results may be replicated or phenomena confirmed.

The book commences with a humorous drawing by Mr Andrews daughter Carrie (aged 8) of how he looks when ghost hunting – rather like many of us look first thing in the morning before the caffeine relief arrives! This notwithstanding a brief history of Cheltenham is given, noting that it was founded as a Saxon settlement and received an eventual mention in the Domesday

throw shampoo about and make a mess in a ladies hair salon!

The author says she has never seen a ghost herself but has had some weird experiences and keeps an open mind as to whether the stories are truly paranormal or scientific.

The author concludes with some spooky sayings and quotations from some very famous people - the likes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and JM Barrie being amongst them.

She adds that if you have been too spooked by the contents of the book, that perhaps you ought to seek out some 'Lucky Stones' from one of the many beaches in Sussex. If you place a lucky stone under your bed, it can stop witches from jumping on your stomach at night!

My only real criticism is that perhaps the book relies a little too much on the accuracy of the local rags. When detailing a story regarding one of the most important and prolific witches in Britain, they managed to spell her name incorrectly.

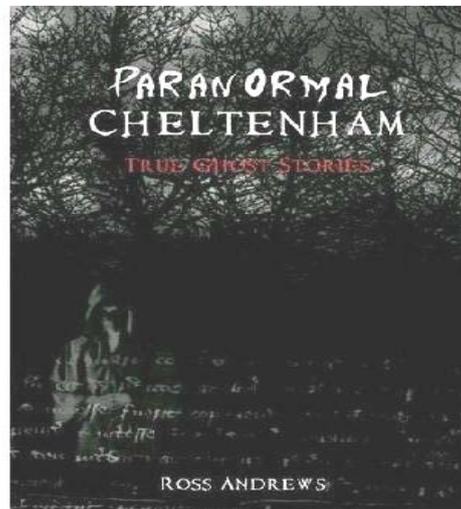
However, I enjoyed this publication and would recommend it as a guide and companion to the area. It is well illustrated with a mix of archive and current pictures, some of which have been taken by the author herself.

Anna Pearce

book (1086). Being in the centre of an agricultural area, it received its right to hold a fair and market from Henry III in 1226. Education was a speciality with various colleges being founded, along with the development of several spas in the early nineteenth century following a visit from George III in 1788. Nowadays it's famous for the races. This diversity of activity has given rise to a rich plethora of ghostly visitation including poltergeist phenomena, sightings at the town's theatres, an interesting selection of public houses (of course!) and an interesting explosion of the famous 'Morton Case' in Pittville Circus Road, first investigated for the Society of Psychical Research by FW Myers (a founding member of the SPR) in 1895.

There is also an interesting section on orbs, that fascinating topic with enlivens many a conversation on paranormal phenomena. Mr Andrews makes the pertinent observation that despite the many plausible explanations put forward by sceptics it is worth remembering that a true sceptic who refuses to believe in anything is as bad as a believer who believes everything uncritically. PARASOC had an interesting experience with orbs at the Playhouse where they were filmed in conjunction with an associated soundtrack demonstrating that they were visible to the naked eye and were not simply an artefact of the camera. To balance this, Mr Andrews notes that in an investigation an area contained much building material which precipitated a large volume of orb photographs, so dust was the preferred culprit here.

Mr Andrews concludes his eclectic collection of ghost stories by emphasising the necessity of questioning everything in the course of an investigation. No investigative group has the answer as to what the ghost is, and the best of these groups outline the theories that



could account for observed phenomena. He also warns of economically predatory groups of psychic researchers and psychics as the inclusion of money in the equation increases the likelihood of fraud with the high expectations generated. The best point about ghost hunting is that it is free and he stresses the need to share information so reputedly haunted sites can be cross-checked for data that may be replicated and incidents can be confirmed or questioned accordingly.

This is an interesting little volume and deserves a wide audience irrespective of whether one is visiting Cheltenham and its environs. The maps attached to each walk are useful for the psychic tourist. The author stresses the need to use equipment to corroborate incidents and to eschew the use of séances and Ouija boards as these are viewed as unreliable. However, one cannot help thinking that it is better to obtain a more holistic picture with an all avenues available to explore the psychic world being employed, even with doubts over their credibility. All in all this book I would recommend for its concise nature in providing an overview of the pleasures and frustrations of psychical research, enlivened by a gentle humour, and the projected second volume should be just as interesting!

John Barrett

Hauntings in Worth, near Sandwich, Kent



By Chris Huff

At Worth near to Sandwich, I discovered an account of a haunted churchyard and a haunted pub.

The churchyard was discovered almost by accident when chatting to someone (let's call him Arthur to maintain confidentiality) who was very interested in matters paranormal and had witnessed a number of occurrences during his life. He proceeded to tell me about his childhood encounter at Worth.

Back in the 1970s, young Arthur would indulge in all manner of boyish things including the ancient and noble game of conkers. To this end, and living on the outskirts of Sandwich at the time, he knew of the magnificent horse

chestnut tree in Worth Churchyard.

With his friend, they cycled over to Worth after school and began to engage in what was termed to me as "lobbing sticks up to knock the conkers down". This resulted in a certain amount of mess, leaves and small twigs and the occasional conker. Completely preoccupied with their task, they failed to notice the appearance of a clergyman but they were soon brought up short when he told them off for throwing sticks into the tree, adding "it takes a long time to clean all the mess up". Then Arthur and his friend realised something. They could partially see through the clergyman. The tale ended with my informant running for





**The picturesque Church at Worth pictured far left.
The Crispin Inn, left.**

his bicycle and pelting back for Sandwich.

I have been at Worth Churchyard on a couple of occasions, usually at dusk - but even then (as, unfortunately it is located on a busy corner) the atmosphere does not sufficiently restore for me to gain any insights. So, even though we have settled ourselves down for a quiet investigation inside the churchyard, nothing has been personally witnessed there during these visits - but if anyone has time on their hands it may be worth a look. Perhaps it might help if we started throwing sticks into the trees to get the conkers.

Also in Worth we find that The Crispin Inn, one of the two public houses in the small village has a haunted reputation. I had originally learnt about the haunting from the cuttings archive at Deal Public Library in 1995 and I followed the reports of witnessed phenomena from there as they had been subsequently forthcoming and visited the inn on many occasions.

This public house is situated in the village of Worth near Sandwich, and is believed to date from the 1530's. The building was formerly used for coroner's inquests in the area; the cellar used to serve the purpose of a mortuary, the kitchen where the inquest court was held. The ghost is called Georgina, and according to local folk-

lore is reputedly that of a girl who was brought in dead from the bay a few miles away some centuries ago, probably from one of the many shipwrecks that have frequently happened there.

Odd occurrences have taken place at the inn for a number of years, and it achieved a small measure of local fame when it was featured in *The East Kent Mercury* for April 24th 1980. In a small article the then landlords David and Christine Ellison-Allen, who were told about the ghost when they took possession of the pub in late 1979, recounted various aspects of the haunting. Mr Ellison-Allen commented in the article that

"It is not really a ghost - there's nothing to see. It's a poltergeist."

and his wife Christine added that

"There's nothing horrific about her. She's just full of mischief".

These paranormal manifestations included the owners witnessing vases of flowers being seen to move around (even from table to table), ashtrays on the bar have suddenly skidded across the bar, drinks have been moved when the customer had turned away, and doors have been found mysteriously locked. An employee at the time, Sue Copp, had also witnessed some phenomena when serving at the bar, articles have been observed to move on their own and once a dead fire is al-

leged to have spontaneously burst into flames.

An interesting occurrence of the above haunting took place on the 12th January 1995, witnessed by the author and friend Chester (C B), when they visited the inn for a social evening drink. The owners of the inn had, by this time, changed (owners A & B), but neither was keen to discuss any paranormal activity at the place and so the initial questioning was not pushed. On this rare occasion the bar was relatively quiet and there was little noise.

At 21.30 a wailing/howling noise emitted from a corner of the lounge room where we were seated, which can only be described as being similar to that of a distressed child. My companion wrote down the experience whilst it was still fresh in his mind.

" A whining whimpering noise, human in origin, emitted from the sofa/chair area sounding like a punished child crying."

We both agreed that the sound emanated from the same area, an empty chair some six feet away from us. A quick search confirmed that there was no one in the area, nor any obvious cause to the noise.

The Crispin at Worth was re-visited on the 8th June 1999, after my friend C B informed me of further developments in the haunting at this popular inn. He had visited the pub the week before and heard the new owners (owners C & D), talking about being touched on the shoulder.

In an interview with owner C at 20.00 on the 8th June I was informed of other paranormal occurrences that had been witnessed since the beginning of their ownership a few months earlier. Of the general phenomena witnessed, a chair has been noticed to move on its own, unaccountable noises have been heard and small objects are noticed to have moved. The lights have

also been observed to switch off for no apparent reason. C 's young daughter has exhibited fear of sleeping in her room upstairs because she was sure that there was something there.

One particular incident on Saturday night 29th May 1999, estimated to be between 11.30 & 12 (because it occurred after closing time and during the cleaning up), was witnessed by both owners. After the last customers had left the inn, they were cleaning up the bar area when they became aware of a feeling of dread, described by C & D as really nasty, which seemed to hold them fixed to the spot. C claims that she couldn't move for the time that the feeling persisted. Both of the ladies noticed that there was an amorphous dark shadow by the second of the doors (by the large central fireplace).

There was little chance amongst the noise and bustle on our visit the pub, a busy Tuesday night, for any paranormal activity to take place or even to notice it should any occur. Nonetheless, a cold spot developed at 21.00, as has been noticed at the place before, and one of the exterior lights, one of a pair from the same switch which illuminates the inn's sign, which was out for most of the evening whilst the other worked perfectly, spontaneously switched on at 21.40. This was probably not of paranormal origin and, not having inspected the wiring or the bulb, a normal explanation is probably the best fit.

No phenomena have been noticed in the pub since C B's visit on Thursday 3rd June 1999, and he had been jokingly accused by the owners of frightening away the ghost. The Crispin Inn has changed owners once more since the investigation above, and with the author no longer living in the Deal area, this avenue of research has closed. It is not known whether the haunting of the Crispin continues.

Chris Huff

Ghosts in the



I have pleasure in sharing the usual selection of strange stories which have appeared in the media in recent months. There have been a huge number of stories to choose from this quarter, and all make fascinating reading. Sorry I have not been able to include all of them but I have tried to incorporate what I can.

*We start this time in the west of the UK. On 5th May 2010, a local Paper, **The Western Telegraph**, reports the following:*

Pembrokeshire County Council to investigate ghostly events at Wintern Day Centre, Fishguard

Strange activity has been experienced at the Wintern Day Centre, in Fishguard, run by Pembrokeshire County Council. The problem has got so bad, the staff are believed to be afraid of working there after hours. Unexplained events include printers printing when not plugged in, keyboards turning upside down overnight, furniture being

moved, items flying off walls and a haunting smell of bluebells wafting through the rooms.

Rumour suggests the building is haunted by the spirits of two maids who lived in the attic. It is understood the girls hanged themselves after both became pregnant. The tragedy is said to have happened when the bluebells bloomed, and the building now smells eerily of the flowers.

One source who has been researching the building, said: "It's quite true, it's a very scary situation and staff are not willing to work there at night at all."

The Western Telegraph understands that Pembrokeshire County Council is investigating, and despite calls for an exorcist, is looking for other explanations before considering that course of action.

"Although there have been no further reports in the past month, the council has arranged for the building to be inspected in order to reassure the staff working there."

http://www.westerntelegraph.co.uk/news/8137808.EXCLUSIVE_Staff_spooked_by_haunted_day_centre/

*Next on the list is from **The Sun** newspaper, printed on 6th May 2010. It reads:*

The Inn Spectre

A TERRIFIED couple spotted this ghostly figure of a weeping girl in the mirror of their hotel room - and fled after managing to snap a picture.

The "hysterical" pair said she had curly locks and a check dress, and was "crying".

They checked straight out of the room which was **LOCKED** by hotel bosses after seeing the spine-tingling image, so no one else could stay there.

A guest at the Ramada Hotel in Watford, Herts, said: "The couple went to reception and were hysterical.

"The man said he wanted to get out of the room ASAP.



‘Ghost Girl’ in the mirror?

"When they were asked why they wanted to move, the man said he had seen a ghost. Staff didn't believe it but then they were shown the picture.

"They were upset and said the image of the child was crying and crying and it was moving in the mirror. The guest was properly shaken."

An investigation has been launched to find out if staff have witnessed spooky occurrences in room No 307. The couple in the room were staying on their own and had no children.

A spokesman for the hotel group said:

"We have to be careful because we do not want to upset people, so we have closed off the room to check that there is nothing untoward there.

"We have to investigate it. Anyone coming in is not given that room until we have done our full investigation.

Advertisement

"We are speaking to housekeeping to see if there is anything that would support what has been said by the guest."

The photograph was taken on Bank Holiday Monday. The spokesman said the hotel would give the room "a good clean out".

He added: "We are quite confident there is nothing untoward."

Read the full story at: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/2960673/Ghostly-figure-of-a-weeping-girl>

Next, on 18th May, **The Telegraph** claims to have solved a 15 year-old mystery, which is well known to those of us who study 'ghost photos'. It reads:

Ghost Picture Mystery Resolved

A 15-year-old mystery surrounding a photograph which supposedly showed the ghost of a schoolgirl standing in an inferno has been resolved, after a researcher found the image is copied from a postcard.

Amateur photographer Tony O'Rahilly took the snap while photographing a blaze which destroyed Wem Town Hall in Shropshire on November 19, 1995. After developing his film, Mr O'Rahilly claimed he had captured an image of a young girl wearing old fashioned clothes standing amid the flames staring into the camera lens.

Mr O'Rahilly, who died in 2005, always denied doctoring the photograph



The well known image of a girl in the inferno at Wem Town Hall



The postcard of Wem in 1922 appears to show the same girl in the doorway of a shop. Right, and enlargement of the girl from each photograph.

- nicknamed the 'Wem Ghost' - and the image made headlines around the world. Locals even claimed it was an apparition of 14-year-old Jane Churm who accidentally set fire to the town hall in 1677.

But eagle-eyed Brian Lear, 77, has finally put an end to the mystery after he noticed a striking similarity between the spooky shot and a girl in a postcard which appeared in his local paper. The postcard, printed in the Shropshire Star's Pictures from the Past section, shows a street view of Wem in 1922. A young girl standing in a shop doorway on the left hand side of the picture bares an uncanny resemblance to the Wem Ghost.

Mr Lear, a retired engineer and taxi driver, from Shrewsbury, Shropshire, said: "It is interesting to compare the two pictures.

"I was intrigued to find that she bore a striking likeness to the little girl featured as the Wem ghost. Her dress and headgear appear to be identical."

The 'Wem Ghost' led to a plaque being placed on the newly built town hall

and Wem was briefly renamed 'Ghost Town' attracting hundreds of tourists every year.

The full story can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/7736060/Ghost-picture-mystery-resolved.html>

On 28th May, The Sun ran with the following story:

Ghost Pushes Pint Off Table

A PINT of lager mysteriously crashes off a table — in the latest spooky incident at a haunted pub.

Sean Moore had left his drink unattended during the weekly quiz at the New Inn in Gloucester.

But as his back was turned the glass suddenly slid over the edge of the table — and the whole thing was caught on CCTV.

The 14th Century pub has been having problems with spirits for centuries, with people reporting a host of weird goings-on.

Paranormal investigators are now set to do a full probe at the pub.

Landlord Mark Cooke, 35, said: "I'd heard all these stories before we arrived and was pretty sceptical, like

most people.

"But the moving pint was something else. When I saw it on the CCTV it made the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

"You just can't explain it — the table's dead steady, the floor's not uneven, and no-one's near it."

Legend has it some children were killed in a fire at the pub centuries ago — and the corner where the pint was left is the place where their nanny used to watch over them from a rocking chair.

By coincidence, Lyn Cinderey from the Gloucester Active Paranormal Society was taking part in the quiz when the pint moved.

She said: "There were a few people in the bar, and four people saw this glass — a full pint — just lift up and fall on the floor. The glass didn't even break.

"The rest of us looked around and heard the thud. We just couldn't believe it. It was right there in the middle of the quiz."

Read the full article on: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/2991554/Ghost-pushes-pint-off-table.html>

And now to my personal favourite story of this issue. On 4th June, STV and The Daily Record in Scotland ran with the following:

Radio ghost mystery at former RAF station

A World War Two radio continues to pick up vintage broadcasts despite not having any power.

A 70-year-old radio at a Scottish heritage centre has been picking up vintage broadcasts featuring Winston Churchill and the music of Glen Miller. The Pye valve wireless at Montrose Air Station, a heritage centre that tells the story of the men and women who served there, has no power and is not connected to any source of electricity.



The Radio with Marie Paton, whose father once owned it

The aerodrome has been a source of paranormal sightings and sounds for almost a century, with reports of ghostly figures, eerie footsteps and door handles turning, but the mysterious wireless broadcasts have had even the most sceptical staff at the station searching for a rational explanation.

The vintage radio set is kept in a recreation of a 1940s room. Several people have heard Second World War era broadcasts including the big band sound of the Glenn Miller orchestra and speeches by Winston Churchill. The broadcasts come on at random and can last for up to half an hour.

Technicians who examined it removed the back, but found "nothing but cobwebs and spiders".

Read the full story on: <http://news.stv.tv/scotland/tayside/181127-radio-ghost-mystery-at-former-raf-station/>

On 2nd July, the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times reported the following story:

'Ghost' sighting at Nelson theatre being demolished

There are many stories of theatres supposedly having ghosts — but was the Palace Theatre in Nelson haunted?

That's the question posed by Nelson man Jack Sanderson after he took this photo of the partially demolished building on Sunday morning.

It clearly shows what appears to be a hooded figure in "the gods" of the thea-

tre – and Mr Sanderson, of Ripon Street, says it was not in sight when he lined up the shot.

"There was nobody around as it was a Sunday. I decided to take a few photos for posterity and when I downloaded them, I saw the shape there.

"I have no idea what it is and I could not see it when I took the photo. Many theatres have their ghosts and it makes you think whether the Palace has one," he said.

The full story can be read here: <http://www.clitheroeadvertiser.co.uk/strange-but-true/Ghost-sighting-at-Nelson-theatre.6397794.jp>

And we stay with Theatre Ghosts as the subject of our next story. On the 9th July, the BBC reported the following story from Bristol:

Spooky encounter for Bristol Old Vic architect

The architect leading the redevelopment of the Bristol Old Vic claims to have seen the theatre manager who worked there 200 years ago.

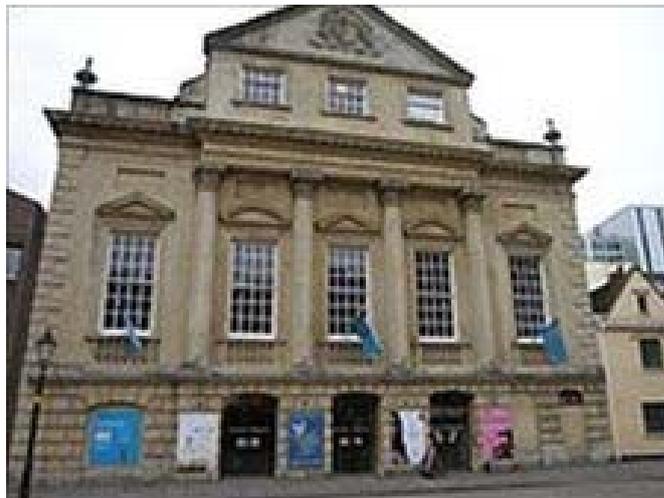
The ghost of Sarah Macready appeared to Andrzej Blonski as he climbed the back stairs at lunchtime. He says she was wearing a long, white crinoline dress, had black hair and a pretty face. When he tried to speak to her she vanished.

Mr Blonski told the BBC that he has never believed in ghosts and - prior to their meeting - was not aware of her legacy at the Bristol Old Vic.

"The thing that really got me was that she smiled like she was a friend and then she vanished," he said.

"But then I was really very, very happy - at the moment I'm quite emotional about it because I think that if there is a ghost, it's someone who cares about this building."

The architect believes that her smile is a sign that she approves of the current redevelopment work taking place



The Bristol Old Vic

in the theatre.

Andrzej Blonski says he has sensed ghostly presences on the stairs before, and caught a whiff of lavender perfume. This distinctive scent has also accompanied some of her previous appearances since her death.

A security guard in the 1980s smelled lavender in the air while on patrol along the passageways below the auditorium. The Alsatian dog by his side froze and started barking. The guard also says he heard a woman's voice tell him to "get out" and he felt her breath on his face.

Andrew Stocker, who gives tours of the Bristol Old Vic, said Sarah Macready's hard work was part of the key to the theatre's early success.

"She was an actress originally - she had an affair with William Charles Macready. He married her and he basically gave her the keys to the theatre and she worked here for over 10 years.

"She ran this building seven days a week and she was an incredible lady."

The project manager from the team re-designing the Bristol Old Vic had a more shocking experience. Mr Blonski says that the man was physically pushed. He ran away and now will not use the "haunted" staircase.

Mr Blonski says he feels the building is alive with its past: "It's got a very

strong spirit - the spirit of the people who have passed through it and I connect to that. Somehow this place has got to me."

Read the full account on: http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/bristol/hi/people_and_places/newsid_8803000/8803333.stm

On to our last story for this issue. Published by the news.scotsman.com, it goes something like this:

'Ghostly' figure is spotted lurking behind visitors

It is the underground street said to be haunted by ghosts and ghouls from the city's past. And if these images are anything to go by, visitors to the Real Mary King's Close may have good reason to be spooked.

Staff at the Royal Mile attraction, which provides tours of the underground closes where people lived, worked and died hundreds of years ago, claim a ghostly image has appeared in two photographs taken during two separate tours.

They were first alerted to the ghostly appearances last September when visitor Terence Halliwell pointed out that his souvenir photograph appeared to include an extra person who had not been on the tour.

The following month another visitor had a similar experience and after comparing the two pictures staff say the ghostly image in both appears to be the same woman.

Lisa Robshaw, spokeswoman for the Real Mary King's Close, said: "We've long been associated with supernatural and unexplained stories. We've had sightings of shadowy figures that lurk in the myriad passageways, rooms and corners, and reports of lots of strange noises. These images seem to give us even more evidence.

"In both these images there appears to be a blurry ghostly image of a blonde-haired lady which we cannot ex-

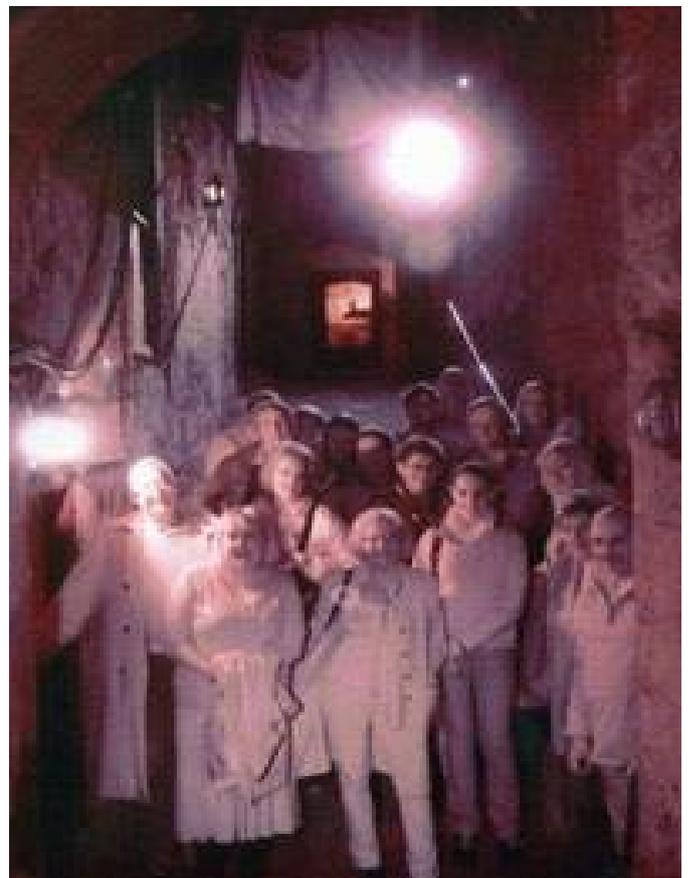
plain, and we hope that by making the images public someone might be able to help.

"We've tested the static camera we use and it appears to be working normally, so we really do not have an explanation."

Mr Halliwell, who lives in Wigan, visited the attraction in September last year and sent a scanned image of the infrared photograph he bought at the end of the tour to staff at the attraction, after spotting an extra member in the group.

In his accompanying letter, he said: "I was looking at the photo we had purchased and noted a shadowy figure at the back of the group, and found it difficult to make out any of the individual's features. Intrigue got the better of us and we tried to remember how many of us were in the photo that was taken at the end of the tour.

"My partner and I agreed the number



The original photo



Blown up, the image of a ghostly woman can clearly be seen

we remembered was 17, yet there are 18 in the picture. My partner rang the attraction, which confirmed that only 17 were admitted."

Mrs Robshaw denied the latest puzzler was simply a crafty publicity stunt.

It is not the first time a spooky image has been captured on camera at the attraction. In May 2008, the Evening News featured a photo taken at the close that appeared to show a spectral figure.

The image was captured just after midnight by the general manager, who was checking that the infrared camera had been switched off for the night.

That's it for this issue. If you find anything that you think may be of interest, please send them to me, Sarah Darnell at:

editor@ghostclub.org.uk

Please keep them coming! Until next time...



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Confidential Content





A Tribute to Tony Cornell

*By Alan
Murdie*

It is with great sadness that I record the death of Tony Cornell who died peacefully at his home in Cambridge in April. Anthony Donald Cornell ('Tony') was one of Britain's most active scientific ghost hunters, with a career spanning some seven decades from the late 1940s through to his retirement from psychical research in 2003. He investigated hundreds of reputedly haunted sites in the UK and abroad, conducted numerous tests with mediums and witnessed poltergeist phenomena in conditions he felt precluded any normal explanation.

I will always have a happy memory of Tony speaking to the Ghost Club in 1997, at the first meeting I ever chaired. Seeking to pay tribute to his tireless investigative work over so many years, I said in my introduction that he was one of the figures in psychical research who could be compared to King Priam in *The Iliad*: "Two generations they have seen rise and fall, and of the third they are rulers". At which point Tony lent over and cheerfully interrupted, declaring "All right! All right! Don't over do it!"

Such lively humour was typical of Tony, and enhanced his many achievements. A graduate of Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, he was a driving force behind the University's Society for Psychical Research for many years, inspiring many undergraduates who are still active in parapsychology today. He was also the expert treasurer of the Society for Psychical Research for 20 years and served as its vice-president. To both his re-

search and administrative activities, he brought a hard-headed, common sense attitude, derived from a daytime career in business, Naval service in India, and experience in the ring as a plucky amateur boxer in his youth. From 1964 to the 1980 he also served as a Cambridgeshire County Councillor. As chairman of the planning committee between 1970 and 1979, he was the instigator of the Cambridge Science Park and helped preserve many historic buildings in the city centre from demolition. He was celebrated in planning circles for once seeing off a pack of land-hungry developers by opening a meeting with the words, "Gentlemen, let me say at the beginning, my price is £1 million pounds!" effectively quashing the scheme and all associated duplicity at the outset.

As well as possessing a robust sense of humour (priceless assets in the rarefied and often abstruse world of psychical research) Tony also had an interest in many subjects including astronomy, archaeology, local history, palaeontology, photography and wildlife. His curiosity could be reckless at times, as when he went into the jungles of New Guinea in 1972 and suffered severe insect bites, and when he set off on an emerald-hunting expedition in Colombia in 1980. But it was in psychical research in which Tony excelled in practical experimentation and investigation. In 1961 he constructed an 'earthquake machine' to shake the walls of an abandoned house to test whether tremors might result in poltergeist-like incidents (then a fashionable

theory in scientific circles). His experiment demonstrated that it was not until severe structural damage was inflicted that displacement of household objects occurred, indicating that seismic shocks could not account for typical poltergeist manifestations. He also conducted tests exposing the fallibility of human observation, arranging for a man dressed as a monk to walk in front of the screen of a Cambridge cinema during the showing of a well-attended film. The resulting audience survey revealed only a third of viewers recalled seeing anything unusual, and a considerable number had not even been watching the screen!

Another revealing example of audience fallibility occurred in 1964 when Tony held a televised investigation into the haunting of Morley Hall, Norfolk which was broadcast by Anglia TV (this was years before *Ghostwatch* or *Most Haunted* graced TV screens). Following the transmission, a number of viewers telephoned or called into the studio, all stating they had seen a monk-like figure standing next to him in the broadcast. The footage was transmitted again in September 1964, with 27 viewers variously reporting seeing, a monk, a lady in a mantilla or a "hooded skull". A re-examination of the footage and the original site was undertaken by Tony and Alan Gauld, which concluded that viewers had misidentified a patch of discoloured stonework. Their report was later published in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* ('A Ghost on Television' JSPR 1969 Vol 45 p.75) but this has not prevented other writers passing it off as a genuine manifestation in the years since (see for example the books of Hans Holzer).

To overcome such fallibilities in witness testimony, Cornell tirelessly sought hard evidence of manifestations by instruments. A pioneer in equipment-based ghost hunting, he was willing to deploy an extensive array of gadgetry at the most isolated and far flung of locations.

In later years he deployed a multi-sensor device SPIDER (Spontaneous Psychophysical Incident Data Electronic Recorder). This combined a video camera, sound sensors and vibration and temperature recording apparatus. It was deployed at over a hundred

haunted sites in 20 years, including aboard the ship the *Queen Mary* docked in California in 1988. Results were negligible suggesting that either ghosts did not exist, that they could evade detection, or that they existed in a deeper level reality than the material world, a view he alluded to in his impressive semi-autobiographical book *Investigating the Paranormal* (2002). Like many ghost hunters Tony succeeded in finding natural explanations for many alleged hauntings, and his research debunked fanciful claims for a number of traditional ghosts such as the 'Green Lady' of the Golden Lion Hotel, Huntingdon (the legendary mistress of Oliver Cromwell), and the spectres who according to famous mediums supposedly prowled Sawston Hall near Cambridge. He also exposed a number of frauds, though inadvertently, one of Tony's early efforts in research actually created a ghost legend in Huntingdonshire. This was the legend of Juliet Tewslie, whose ghost supposedly haunted the Ferry Boat Inn in the village of Holywell. (You can read this story as a supposedly genuine haunting in numerous 'true' ghost guide books – so many it would be an embarrassment to list).

In March 1953 Tony and his University society colleagues investigated the claim that a ghost walked at the Ferry Boat Inn in Holywell, every St Patrick's Day; March 17th. No ghost materialised and so they light-heartedly conducted séances in which the spirit of an 11th century girl called Juliet Tewslie purportedly communicated. Juliet had supposedly committed suicide in 1050 after a hapless love affair with a woodcutter called Thomas Zoul. They were unconvinced by Ouija messages (the name Juliet was principally popularised by Shakespeare 500 years after the date obtained in the séance). Interestingly, many of the purported messages were not even received at the Ferry Boat Inn, but in a casual séance conducted at the Blue Boar Tavern in Cambridge, then an all night coffee house where the group stopped on the way home. Nonetheless, they decided to try again the following year. Word was leaked to the press and hundreds of newsmen and sightseers turned up. The Juliet Tewslie story was printed as though it was fact, and it has been endlessly recycled in popular ghost books

ever since as a genuine local tradition. The story has grown over the years, with Juliet's grave supposedly being under a flagstone uncovered in the public bar! On March 17th 2003 the Ghost Club was delighted to have him as guest of honour when we held a 50th anniversary commemoration of events at the Ferry Boat Inn. In a packed bar (people had come from as far away as Cornwall and Ireland), Tony Cornell told the whole story, much to the bemusement and disappointment of several locals who believed the story of Juliet's ghost to be a genuinely ancient legend handed down by their families. Tony then cheerfully encouraged us in a public séance experiment, and re-assured nervous observers that ghost hunting was a safe activity.

Such incidents might lead to sceptical dismissal of the credibility of all popular ghost stories. However, Tony remained convinced that psychical research was of great importance, since during his career he personally witnessed poltergeist phenomena in conditions which satisfied him no normal explanation was available. These included at Han-nath Hall, the home of Derek Page M.P. near Wisbech in 1957. Both Tony and Alan Gauld heard raps that could not be explained and witnessed objects being unaccountably moved. Even sceptics of poltergeist phenomena had to admit their testimony was impressive. These experiences were written up for the *Journal* of the Society for Psychical Research and for the book *Poltergeists* (1979) with Alan Gauld. Tony also had first-hand experience of stone-throwing and noisy poltergeists, detailed in his own writings. Sceptics seem to have resolutely shut their eyes to these detailed reports.

Credible testimony was also obtained for a number of hauntings in East Anglia, including a property Cornell identified as "the Old House" near Cambridge, and at the Bell Inn at Thetford, Norfolk (for which he provided leads which I have recently been following up).

A particularly puzzling incident occurred in 1967 when Cornell received a telephone call from a lady in a Cambridgeshire village who was convinced her house harboured a ghost. Tony did not take any details, but instead

called a colleague to attend with him immediately. Tony arrived first and heard an account from the lady that she was haunted by a ginger-haired man in a green smoking jacket. Suddenly, the lady maintained she could see the apparition in the living room with them. Tony could see nothing but at that point his colleague arrived. The young man knocked on the front door and on receiving no reply, stepped inside, the door being open. Seeing Tony and the lady on the other side of the hallway, he then noticed a ginger-haired man wearing a green jacket beckoning to him. Thinking it was the lady's husband, he walked in the direction of the figure. As Tony and the lady came forward, the man in the green jacket seemed to vanish away. This came to light when Tony took his young colleague aside to berate him for coming into the house and walking around uninvited. It seems both the lady and Tony's colleague had seen the same figure simultaneously in different positions.

Whilst he was convinced that a great many ghostly incidents could be explained in terms of the unconscious mind and the still-controversial powers of telepathy and psychokinesis, Tony was never dogmatic, and did not rule out the possibility of survival in some form. When speaking on ghosts at the *Fortean Times* Unconvention in 1995, he emphasised that as regards explanations, "We just don't know" and this remained his position.

A moving memorial service was held at Fitzwilliam College Chapel on June 20th 2010 (Tony's birthday) conducted by the Revd. Ian Morris. Many figures from psychical research paid public and personal tributes. Personally, I will always remain very grateful to Tony for the advice and encouragement he generously gave me in many discussions I enjoyed with him over the years. These took place at both at the offices of the Society for Psychical Research in London, and privately at his home in Cambridge, with his wife Alison to whom our sympathies go out, and also to his family and many friends.

Tony Cornell, psychical researcher, born Histon, Cambridgeshire 20 June 1923; died Cambridge 10 April 2010.

Help! Is it a ghost?

Confidential Content

From the Archive...

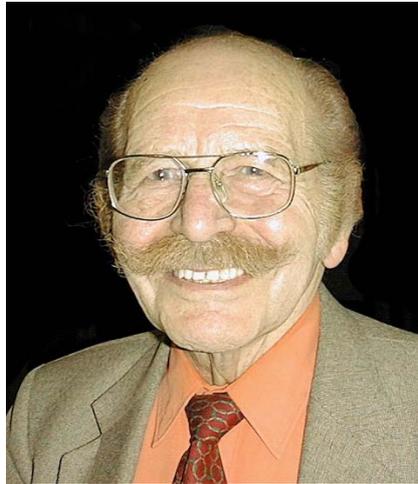
The Beginners Guide to Poltergeist Activity

By Maurice Grosse

There are two main theories relating to poltergeist type phenomena. The first, most popular with scientists, if they are interested at all, is that poltergeist activity is the exteriorisation of part of the human personality effecting physical surroundings. The second theory and the one I favour, is the combination of this exteriorisation linked to an outside force. Spiritualists usually interpret that exterior force as the spirit of a dead person. Others would say it is some sort of entity that is beyond our understanding.

When investigating a poltergeist type case, it is essential to establish whether it is a genuine manifestation or an aberration of the people involved. In the latter case, they may believe it's a poltergeist, but they are mistaken. It is something they are causing themselves – not paranormally, but normally – yet, they are unaware of the fact.

Good investigative techniques only come with experience, but the beginner should always try to establish a sympathetic rapport with the 'victims'. Once this is done it makes it easier to see the kind of case one is faced with, but if there is convinc-



ing evidence that the case is genuine, and not the result of mental instability or misguided deception, it is necessary to establish some facts. It is my experience that in the majority of poltergeist cases there is a high stress factor in the background. I cannot think

of a case where there has been genuine activity which has not included some element of stress, even when the victims deny it exists. It is the high stress situation which I believe precedes the manifestation of psychic activity. My belief in this stems from experience, I have no explanation why it should be so.

The main tools for an investigator should be a tape recorder, a camera, and if possible a video camera, but do not be obtrusive with any equipment. A pad and pencil will always suffice to begin with and the introduction of a tape recorder is not usually objected to after the preliminaries are dealt with. Providing there are no objections, cameras can be introduced at a later stage.

If you are called into an active and ongoing case, you might be lucky enough to experience some activity, in which case you will be extremely fortunate, specially if you manage to

record the activity, but in the majority of cases you will have to be content with the victims descriptions and evidence, if possible, of independent witnesses. It is very useful in understanding a case if you get the people involved to record and analyse their own experiences. Instead of approaching them with the attitude that you are the expert and you are going to sort it out, you say "I've come to help you, and we are going to sort it out together".

In some cases you will be faced with the victims genuine fear of the unknown, and you may even see signs of genuine terror. This is a most difficult situation to deal with and requires a very sympathetic approach. If on the other hand they take a very spiritualistic attitude to the phenomena, you may have great difficulty convincing them that there are alternative explanations to their predicament.

Don't try and give explanations from the word go, because it is fatal; the chances are that your explanations right at the start will be rejected if the witnesses are of a different frame of mind. As you progress you can explain what you think a poltergeist is, but never be adamant about it. With our present knowledge of the subject, there are no certainties. This is where I think the spiritualists often make mistakes when they investigate poltergeist type activity. If they say that it is definitely the spirit of a dead person interfering with their lives, it can cause extreme distress in certain cases. If you wish to be a scientific investigator you should present your theories as facts, only possible ex-

planations to what is happening. At all times be careful to say that it is very rare indeed for anyone to be hurt through the actions of a poltergeist. My experience is that fear of the unknown in any form, tends to prolong the activity.

Although I have used the word 'victim' here, I never use it to the people involved. I usually describe them as special people who are having a very special experience, which is in fact, the truth of the matter. I cannot emphasise too much the importance of building up confidence between investigators and all other parties. If it is a very active case, it should help you to obtain the evidence you are seeking and if it is a comparatively mild case, it will help you bring things back to normal in a short time. Be on your guard from sensation and publicity seekers and don't be surprised to find that if children are involved, they may be playing some tricks. This is quite common as children will imitate the real phenomena if it is taking place. However, do not make the mistake of immediately dismissing a case because you discover tricks, you may be turning your back on a genuine case. This is where perseverance is called for; not always an easy situation.

To sum up, if you want to be a good investigator, first and foremost know your subject. Be alert, tactful and objective. Try not to be influenced by your own and other people's prejudices and last but not least, don't forget that good old common sense shouldn't fly out of the window just because the poltergeist may have come in the door!

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