

The Ghost Club

Founded 1862



Newsletter – Spring 2008

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“Nasci, Laborare, Mori, Nasci”

The Ghost Club

NEWSLETTER Spring 2008

Cover: The Viaduct Tavern
(Photo Paul Brown)

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Club Business.

I hope by now you have all visited the "Members Area" of our website. This will be continually updated with history, news, investigations and other important club business, so do keep checking back. Furthermore, subscription fees can now be paid and merchandise purchased through the website via Paypal. This means that there is a safe and immediate way of making payment using Credit Cards or Debit Cards, via Paypal. Full instructions are available on the website. Thank you to our Webmaster, Philip Carr, who has worked very hard to make all this possible.

Due to ever-rising costs, it is necessary to make some changes to annual subscriptions for the first time in some years. Fees

are now as follows:

Single UK Membership	£25.00
Joint UK Membership	£37.50
Overseas Single/Joint Membership	£15.00

(Joint membership is available to any two persons and they do not necessarily have to reside at the same address. Only one newsletter is provided however, and is sent to the address elected on application).

There are no longer any concessions.

A "Boring" road in East Sussex.

I live on a seemingly normal, busy and rather nondescript road. It forms part of the main A259 coast road, which is the link road travelling from Brighton all the way to Dover. I live on the section between Bexhill and Hastings called the Bulverhythe. The road comprises of a mixture of bungalows and terraced and detached houses mainly dating back to between the 1920s and the 1940s. At the rear, our gardens are only protected from the sea by the Southern Railway line. Not much in the way of interesting history you might think - until you delve a little deeper!

Evidence shows that iguanodons roamed this land millions of years ago, possibly on the very spot that our house was built. Footprints and fossilised remains have been found on the beach, many of which are now exhibited in the Bexhill Museum. Smuggling was rife in this area. From the Bulverhythe, right through to Pevensy, (to our west), the beaches were popular landing sites for smugglers and their contraband. The Groombridge Gang, (formed in 1733) were the dominant gang in the area and were known to work with the infamous Hawkhurst Gang. The remains of smuggling tunnels from the Bull Inn across the road are still visible in the cliffs if you



The Bull Inn. The remains of tunnels used by smugglers and monks can still be found.

know where to look. The Landlord plans to reopen the old tunnels under the pub by removing a wall erected by a past Landlord. It was originally built as his daughter used to play in the old tunnels, which was naturally considered dangerous because of the risk of collapse. Behind the pub stand the ruins of the medieval church of St Mary Bulverhythe. It is said that the monks also used the tunnels when they fancied a "tickle" (drink).

The Ghost of the Bowling Alley

Last year I read a very interesting story in our local newspaper about a Bowling Alley, which has been built on a retail complex further down the road on the St Leonards-On-Sea and Bexhill-On-Sea border. Naturally, I was keen to find out more.

I met with the Manager who told me that dark figures have been spotted on many occasions by staff and patrons alike. An investigation was conducted by friends of one of the employees and apparently, the

figure of a man lurking near the main door was caught on camera. (Unfortunately the owners of the site have ruled against further investigation). All involved were at a loss to explain why this would be happening in a relatively new building, and as far as anyone could tell, the building was the first structure to be built on this piece of land. There had been a Gas Works nearby, where an explosion was said to have taken place many years ago killing a couple of workers. The history is pretty sketchy; I did find evidence of a Gas Works but this would have been further away than originally thought, and I could find no record of such an explosion.

I tried to find out a little more about the local history and made a very interesting discovery! The eastern part of the Bull Inn was once used as a Court House and in the basement directly under the bar, prisoners were kept who would eventually be taken up to Gally Hill where they were hung (Gallows Hill). The route from the pub to

the Gallows would have taken the grim procession directly over the ground where the Bowling Alley now stands.

Phantom Soldiers.

Naturally, being 1066 country, we have had our fair share of battles too. A few hundred feet to the west of the pub lies Glyne Gap field; low-lying and marshy, the area is very atmospheric on a cold night with mist hovering over the field, but not seemingly the nearby houses. Occasionally ghostly soldiers have been seen marching through the field, which lies between Hastings and Battle.

The Amsterdam

On Sunday the 26th January 1749, a few hundred feet away from our house, disaster struck. The 54-gun merchantman *Amsterdam* was run ashore in a severe gale. Newspapers reported "as violent a storm of wind as has been known in the memory of man". All along the coast the people endured the "violent storm of wind" together with thunder, lightning and hail.

On board this large Dutch East Indiaman, fifty of her crew of 333, had already died of a plague (sometimes referred to as Yellow Fever). Forty more were dying as she beached at high tide. The whole event from beginning to end seems to have been comprised of a catalogue of misjudgement, disaster and misfortune.

With the storm upon them, Captain Klump had attempted to edge his vessel into Pevensey Bay, but unable to escape the winds, the *Amsterdam* settled in a trough between the waves. There was a tremendous bump followed by a terrifying rending sound. Her rudder had been torn off after striking the seabed. Completely at the mercy of the elements, the ship began to drift north-east.

It is thought that the crew had mutinied at this time, as shooting had definitely occurred before they broke into the cargo and became drunk on the wine.

The decision to beach the stricken vessel would not have been taken lightly but in view of the damage already incurred which paralysed the ship, the men dying at an alarming rate and with the storm still raging, it probably seemed the only course of action available to Captain Klump. The ship's bell tolled and cannons fired as the able-bodied struggled ashore with the dying sick and wounded, thus alerting the smugglers and fishermen of Hastings who were intent on relieving the stricken ship of her cargo of treasure. The local Customs Officer Thomas Smith and the mayor of Hastings William Thorpe were quick to arrive at the scene and at Klump's request, arrangements were made to get the chests off the ship to a place of safety the next day. In the meantime, troops would guard the wreck overnight. Relieved of the problem of the treasure, Klump could now concentrate on getting his sick crew members attended to.

When Klump arrived with Smith and Thorpe in the morning, they found when entering the ship's cabin, that even during the raging storm, the ship had been boarded and one of the chests containing fifty silver ingots had been stolen. It is thought that the raid was carried out by a band of Hastings smugglers during the confusion of the night before. Efforts were made to manhandle some of the vast amount of treasure to the Hastings Customs House, but again Captain Klump's efforts were thwarted; the ship had beached on quicksand! The majority was saved but as the bad weather continued the ship sank further into the sand taking the remains of treasure with her.

The Bull Inn was used to house survivors from the wreck many of whom died over the ensuing days. Many of the dead were buried in anonymity in the ruins of the medieval church of St Marys behind the

pub. More bodies were buried in St Andrews Church in Hastings, where previously only suicides were interred.

The drama did not end there. Over the next few days, records show that at least



The Amsterdam



On certain days of the year the gnarled and blackened ribs of the wreck of the Amsterdam can be seen exposed in the sand and peaty clay.

two men were shot dead at the site presumably when fights broke out over the cargo.

At certain days during the year, when the tide is exceptionally low, the gnarled and blackened ribs of the wreck of the Amsterdam can be seen exposed in the sand and peaty clay of the prehistoric forest. Every now and then, at the end of January, the ghostly tolling of the ship's bell is reportedly heard throughout the area. Needless to say, with its rich history, the Bull Inn too occasionally experiences what the Landlord describes as ghostly activity.

In the summer of 2004, I was walking my dog on the beach and was thrilled to see a large ornate masted ship travelling from west to east quite close to shore. I excitedly phoned my husband to look out of the

bedroom window, so that he could see it too. Unfortunately a large sycamore tree in our garden obstructed his view and he could not see anything.

I watch transfixed for a good ten minutes. It was truly an incredible sight and with nothing else in view but for the sea and sky, it was almost as if I had travelled back in time. I clearly remember at least one other person on the beach; a man sitting on the rocks watching the ship with his bicycle beside him.

I was quite excited when I got home and I was keen for my husband to see this amazing ship on the local news. I assumed that the media would track this beautiful replica vessel and that it was some sort of charity event or publicity stunt. I remember being very disappointed that there was no mention of it.

I didn't really think anymore about this event until I started to write this article and obtained the picture of the *Amsterdam* - a reconstruction of the original ship in Holland. I was astounded to see that this was the exact same type of vessel I had seen a few years ago. On the day of the sighting, I knew very little about the *Amsterdam*, I knew the name of the ship and that it had sunk nearby, but was not

like this had occurred that summer. Naturally, there have been some events over the last few years, all of which were subject to media coverage, but not that summer; and certainly not this type of vessel!

So, did I witness a magnificent replica ship that sailed its way along the coast in obscurity unnoticed by the media and was the rest coincidence? Did I witness something



even aware of the exact location. (As it turned out, I had been standing on the shingle just above where it had run ashore). Of course, I was aware that in all likelihood the ship I saw was completely unrelated to the *Amsterdam*. I have however, been assured by the Hastings Shipwreck Centre / Hastings Heritage Centre that no events

paranormal and totally misjudge the situation until now? Sadly I will probably never know.

260 Year Anniversary.

Monday, the 26th January 2009 is the 260th anniversary of the *Amsterdam* shipwreck. I intend to spend some time on the

beach listening for that ghostly bell. Anybody who fancies a cold and windy outing is more than welcome to join me! Perhaps it would be fitting to follow the route of the survivors and finish of the evening with a meal in The Bull Inn.

I can safely say that I will never consider my road boring again. I would urge all of you to try and find out a little more about your local area, because these more obscure and relatively unknown sites are just the sorts of places we should be documenting and with a little luck, investigating too.

Best wishes to you all,



If anybody would like to join me in January, please e-mail me at chairman@ghostclub.org.uk or telephone 01424 719924.



The following stories are all extracts of articles that have found their way into the news in recent months. If you come across anything that you think our readers will enjoy, then please send them to me at the Ghost Club PO Box address, or to editor@ghostclub.org.uk. Huge thanks for providing me with interesting articles this time around, go to Milton Edwards, Monica Tandy, Derek Green and Rosie Murdie.



The ghostly face of a child or a case of pareidolia?

Ghostly Guest Caught on Pic

On 25th January, The Sun Newspaper ran a story about an image captured on the mobile phone of a teenager. The photo, allegedly showing the ghostly face of a child, was taken by 17-year-old Matthew Summers whilst snapping a group of friends in his sisters sitting room in Billingham, Teeside, before they embarked on a night out. Matthew, who claims he was cynical about ghosts before

he took this photo and was shocked to see a small face peeping out between the knees of two of his friends.

He is reported as saying: "I zoomed in to my sister's mate's little sister who was crying and I saw a face. You can see all the facial expressions and everything. I was really shocked because I don't believe in that stuff."

However, parapsychologist Dr Ciarán O'Keeffe gave the newspaper a more down-to-earth explanation for the ghostly image in Matthew's photograph. Dr O'Keeffe said: "As human beings we're very good at finding a pattern in randomness and related to that we're good at finding faces in randomness. The term for this is pareidolia. First it was ink blots, then things like clouds in the sky and now mobile phone pictures. There

is no ghost in this picture, just the coincidental effect of pixelation and darkness and light which combine together."

The full story can be found at: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/article726271.ece>



Sabrina Fallon; "Banging" from the attic terrified her children.

Council pays psychic for exorcism

Psychic, Suzanne Hadwin was paid £60 by Easington Council to rid a County Durham home of a "poltergeist" after tenant Sabrina Fallon reported paranormal

activity, including moving objects.

When Miss Fallon heard bangs coming from the attic which terrified her children Shannon, nine, and Amie, one, she understandably called the police. The officers found no sign of a break in and even joked that it could have been a ghost! Unfortunately Miss Fallon did not see the funny side. She said: "It all started before Christmas. We were away and my sister's husband had the keys. He let himself in one night and heard whispering and banging from upstairs. He shouted out: 'You better get out or I'm calling the police.' He said my dressing gown then came floating down the stairs and landed at his feet. He ran out and rang me crying like a girl saying something awful had happened - I thought he was drunk, but when we came back we heard the bangs and whispering."

Council spokesman Andrew Burnip said it paid half the psychic's fee as it was the most cost-effective solution. He added that the family had been left traumatized by the strange goings on and had wanted to leave the house. Re-homing the family in temporary accommodation was considered but would have cost up to £40 per night.

Miss Fallon said the spirit had now gone and the house had a "lovely atmosphere". Mr Burnip said: "This family was absolutely distraught and believed what was happening - that is not to say that the council believed. What we saw was a relatively small amount to pay for an outcome which in effect saved the taxpayer many hundreds, if not thousands of pounds."

Medium Ms Hadwin said she used her "gift" to isolate the spirit in one room and then exorcise it from the house. "I went into the house and there was a horrible atmosphere," she said. "I could feel the entity around all the time. He was bombarding the house and the whole family - they were terrified. I put down a circle of salt, asked the family to be present and I have now sent him on his way." The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7240405.stm>

Essex property sale includes ghost.

Colchester Council is about to sell off two of the town's most historic buildings, both Grade One listed and said to come with a ghost.

According to Colchester Gazette, the council was expected to clinch a deal for the two properties with Knight Developments.

It is twenty years since the two buildings, East Lodge and the Gate House, next to Colchester Castle, first went on the market

at an asking price of £400,000. The council withdrew them when the only offer received was about half the amount. The new price has not been stated, but five years ago the council decided it could no longer afford to maintain the rapidly decaying buildings. Both houses, dating back to around 1680, are important Jacobean building and were originally commissioned by the then Mayor and Mayoress William and Susan Boyes.

East Lodge is said to be haunted by a Grey Lady who roams around the corridors at night and a cleaner was petrified at seeing the figure in old-fashioned clothes, gliding across normally creaky floorboards without making a sound. The Grey Lady has not been seen for some years, but as Knight Developments aim to restore the buildings as houses, it is always possible that she may decide to take up residence again and live in comfort.

Article published by the Psychic News.

Kenyan hand back 'cursed' loot

The threat of witchcraft has scared looters into returning goods they stole during unrest which followed December's disputed Kenyan elections. TV stations broadcast pictures of people returning to places they'd robbed in the coastal city of Mombasa carrying beds, sofas and other items.

The widespread looting followed a breakdown in law and order after President Mwai Kibaki was sworn in after being declared the winner of the disputed poll, but word soon spread around Mombasa that a timber merchant had brought in a community elder to place a curse on the thieves.

"He gave us 10 days to return the timber. I will return them at night because people

really laugh at us when we do so during the day," an unidentified man told the TV station.

John Joash confessed to stealing a bed during the mayhem. "I am fearful for my life because of the ghosts, that is why I decided to return the property," the AFP news agency quotes him as saying.

A police commander confirmed the reports and said the rumours of witchcraft had made his job easy. "Whether ghosts exist or not, our work has been made easy. I wish there were ghosts all over the country," he said. The full story can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7176673.stm>

Singer sees ghost in Tube Station!

Musician Gary Numan confessed to The Independent that he can't watch supernatural films as it unsettles him, especially as he has moved to an old house surrounded by woods in Tunbridge Wells.

"I have a strong belief in ghosts, and I don't want those fears encouraged", says Gary. "I saw a real ghost as clear as day at Piccadilly Circus Underground Station when I was 17. I'm fascinated by haunted stuff, but not in my own house."



Gary Newman: "I saw a real ghost as clear as day".

Apology to 'ghost' scares patient.

A hospital has apologised to a patient after a nurse claiming to be a medium said she had seen a ghost on a ward.

Gillian Davies, 48, of Flintshire, who was recovering from surgery, complained about the incident and the level of care she received at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Denbighshire.

Mrs Davies said she was still suffering the effects of anaesthetic and thought it was a sign she was going to die. She added: "I know it sounds silly now but I thought the ghost had come to get me. I was very vulnerable at the time." Mrs Davies said she told another nurse in the morning what had happened and was told to ignore her. However, she made a formal complaint against Conwy and Denbighshire NHS trust about the ghost allegation incident and other issues concerning her treatment.

An independent review ruled that the hospital "skirted over" the ghost incident and

the nursing care given to Mrs Davies fell below standard. The review, conducted by a senior clinical advisor from another health authority said "There is very little doubt that the nursing care experienced by Mrs Davies fell well below an acceptable standard". The case of a nurse being a medium and seeing a ghost on the ward was "a rather strange issue", but it had been "completely skirted over" by the trust, the advisor said.

The report recommends the trust hold a meeting with Mrs Davies, chaired independently, to discuss the issues and give her a "fulsome apology". Jill Galvani, director of nursing, said: "We can confirm that a complaint made by Mrs Davies was referred for an independent review and this was referred back to the trust with a number of recommendations."

The hospital said the nurse at the centre of the ghost allegation had been spoken to.

The full article can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north_east/7317190.stm

COUNTY GHOSTS

by

KEITH MORBEY

A

South Shields

Ghost Story

One of the most famous haunted mansions is "Old Hall", in West Holborne, South Shields, formerly the residence of some rich shipowner, who's name at present is forgotten. It has long lost its aristocratic standing and been let out in tenements, part of it being now

occupied as a public house, but the most incredulous teetotaler may well believe it to be a rendezvous of evil spirits.

A lady whom I knew, lived there for some time and she and all her family used to see and hear strange things in it. Dreadful deeds must have been perpetrated some time or other in its spacious and once splendid but now ghostly rooms. On one of the grand mantlepieces, she tells me, are the marks of two bloody fingers and a thumb, which no chemical art known to her mother, who was a notable housewife, up to all points of domestic economy, could efface. Scrubbing and scouring had no effect and even through successive coats of paint the marks reappeared. So is it true that the stains of murder are indelible and that when everything else is silent the very walls cry out. The finger-marks are doubtless those of some female victim of lawless brutality, for the shade of she who impressed them is sometimes seen.

One night Mrs C----- could not sleep, so was sat up in bed reading. At about midnight she saw, to her astonishment, a tall handsome lady dressed in white with a scarlet waistband, glide across the room, from a door which was always shut, towards one of the windows on the opposite side, where she disappeared. She made no sign, however, nor intimated any wish to disclose her secret. But the spot where she disappeared might have afforded some clue had it been searched; for beneath the sill of that window - a huge old-fashioned affair - there was a recess that nobody thought of prying into. Through a knot having dropped out of the wood there was a hole in this place, down which small articles, such as thimbles, cotton-balls, etc, were constantly falling. Though often stuffed up in various ways, it always got open again. One of the family undertook

one day to fish the things up with a hooked wire. In this way he drew up lots of beetles and other vermin, such as those that infest graves; an indication, one would think, of what was below. Mrs C----- regrets to this day that she did not cause the sill to be raised.

However it was not that room alone that gave the house a bad name. My informant once saw what she fancied to be the apparition of a soldier standing on the landing at the head of the stair and other members of the family at different times saw him likewise. There was one apartment in the house which no soul ever entered, barring, of course, disembodied souls, for of such it was deemed to be the favourite haunt. No earthly tenant would have it for nothing, let alone payment for it; so it remained shut up from year end to year end. What was in it besides the ghosts nobody ever knew, or dared investigate; for even to peep into it through a keyhole would have needed more courage than most people possess. Strange noises were heard in it occasionally, as if the ghosts were kicking up a racket amongst themselves. Perhaps a hidden treasure lay under the floor, with the mouldering bones of murdered men. The elements had free entrance into it, for not a pane of glass was left in the window, the door was nailed up fast and the window so situated that it would have been difficult to get a glimpse through it into the interior.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings are held at the
Victory Services Club,
63, Seymour St London, W2,
commencing at 2pm.
(Nearest tube, Marble Arch).

MAY 17th
Committee Room
Mike Hallowell
The South Shields
poltergeist

JUNE 7th
Committee Room
TBA

JULY 12th
Committee Room
Martin Wood
Haunted
Shrewsbury

JULY 26th
Barbeque, TBA

Where the Soul Goes After Death

by

**ROGER J. WOOLGER
PH.D**

**For in that sleep of
death
what dreams may come
When we have shuffled
off
this mortal coil
Must give us pause.
Shakespeare *Hamlet*.**

What I have observed after conducting or observing many, many regressions is that there are roughly three places that the departing spirit or soul will go as it leaves the body. There are therefore, broadly speaking, three states of evolution or devolution for the departing spirit :

-Earthbound spirits: the departing spirit may stay on the earth, either fixed or wandering;

-Unfinished or Troubled spirits: the spirit may go to a higher realm or "bardo"* but in a state of confusion still obsessed with the life just departed; in most cases this confusion does not clear and is re-cycled into a subsequent re-birth;

-Completed or Enlightened spirits: the spirit may be fully freed from the dross of

earthly memories and go peacefully to an even "higher" level of bardo or pure realm of light.

The greater part of the work I do as a therapist working with past lives naturally concerns the first two of these categories. This is simply because it is the traumatic and tragic stories, with their fears, failures and stuckness that most clearly show us exactly where and how deep karmic patterns were established and how they are troubling us still today as unconscious patterns or complexes. We certainly meet many moving cases of transition in the third category of Completed or Enlightened Spirits but as a rule they tend to emerge only after much preliminary work has been done in clearing the more difficult past lives, after working, as the shamans would say, with the lost parts of the soul. Examples of the third type of transition will be given in the next chapter.

Earthbound Spirits

Earthbound spirits account for roughly a third of the past life death scenarios I and my colleagues have encountered. Here the spirit leaves the body at death, but does not leave the earth at all. It may literally hang around the dead body, cling to it, sometimes try to get back into it. This is frequently encountered in regressions with people who have past life memories of being killed suddenly or violently, the worst cases being bombing attacks or being killed from behind or in one's sleep. When a death is either extremely sudden or unperceived like this, the person dying does not realise that they are in fact dead. The confused departing spirit is left running whatever predominant mental tape was operating at the moment of death; not surprisingly such spirits will continue to reiterate the same thoughts after death as if

it still had a body. "I've got to find my buddy," says the soldier on the battle field who is blown up with a bomb. "I've got to find my child," says the mother who is killed when separated from her child in the confusion of an attack on her village. "I'll get him for killing me" says the spirit of the woman murdered by her jealous husband. And so her spirit clings to the house she had lived in, an angry, restless presence unaware that she is dead.

Many spirits like this literally wander. They may be looking for someone on the earth that they were previously deeply or passionately attached to. This is why in some traditions they are called wandering or hungry ghosts. Indeed there are also thirsty ghosts, those spirits whose attachment to the earth is the result of heavy alcohol or drug consumption which leaves that same craving for the substance that the person enjoyed so much when in body. So there are spirits of addicted beings that hover around the earth, sometimes around restaurants or bars!

From the perspective of working in the bardo it is actually very easy to see how ghosts "haunt" people on earth. It is not that they necessarily have any malevolent intent; some do, but usually it will be for someone also long dead - but more commonly it is the case that in their confusion they are continuing to do the things most strongly on their minds just before they died. Unfortunately since there is no body to carry out the task they are caught in a kind of endless repeating psychic tape loop. When we encounter a part of the soul that is lost like this during regression work we can usually see very precisely how the person died and quickly ascertain what it is they're still looking for. We can even talk to the spirit and say, "are you aware that this body is dead and you can't get back into it?" Or, to the spirit of a soldier still wandering a battlefield: "your body is dead now and so are your comrades' bodies. It's no use looking for your comrades here. They've moved on". Often the departing consciousness is immediately enlightened



Scroll of the Hungry Ghosts (Gaki-zoshi), Late 12th Century

by such a question. "Oh, it's no use for me trying to get back into this body. There's nothing I can do with it." At that point the soldier's spirit might start to journey upwards and leave this lower realm. Or else we may help the spirit of a bereaved mother see that the spirits of her children are now in a higher realm and have actually fully recovered from the trauma of sudden death - children actually die much more easily than adults in most cases, because there is less mental or ego attachment (or what Freud would call "reality sense").

Attached Spirits.

Another reason why a spirit remains attached to the earth, is that it may come from a traditional or tribal culture, where there are extremely important and revered rituals for burial or cremation that actually are designed to allow the soul to complete and separate from its earthly experiences. Thus if a certain person dies prematurely or in situations where there is no proper burial given to his or her body - after a battle, say, their spirit may hang around the place of death wanting something done, waiting for the funeral to happen and unhappy that it never happens. Like the others we have described, this kind of spirit also becomes what we call a ghost, a fragment of the total soul that hasn't been able to ascend yet either to the realms of the ancestors or to higher realms of spirit where it may ultimately be reintegrated with its totality.

Often a newly dead spirit stays attached to a place like a temple or a forest or sometimes it attaches to a person that it knew on the earth as a friend or helper. Sometimes a spirit simply wants solace, to be taken care of. This is the case of the spirits of young children. When young children die panic stricken in bombings, massacres and simi-

lar disasters, they most frequently don't know where their mother is so they look for their mother on the earth plane. Often the spirit of such a child will cling to a person who looks friendly or motherly. It may go inside or attach to their energy field. Many people walking around today on this earth, do not know that they have spirits attached to them that they picked up either in hospitals, or in cemeteries and sometimes from touristic visits to battlefields or old castles! The lost spirits see us as a sympathetic kind of energy which they can easily hook into. If we become aware of them there are easy ways to release them, in very much the same way that we help a soul fragment in regression move on to a higher awareness. In fact, the strategy that works best in helping any spirit or soul fragment that is in any way earthbound is simply to talk him or her and quietly remind them that their life is over and that they don't need to stay on the earth any longer.

Where there has been mass killing on battlefields, or by bombings or earthquakes, there will also be masses of spirits that are still confusedly attached to the earth. A person in regression may find he or she was one of many who died together. A striking aspect of this work is that as well as releasing the soul fragment of the person being regressed we can also release whole groups of earthbound spirits who are similarly stuck. For instance, we may begin to release a soldier who was unable to leave his post during a battle and who is still miserable because he let down his buddies. In releasing him we ask him to talk to his buddies and tell them too that it is all over. In doing so there is a mass lifting off from this particular battlefield followed often by a joyful reunion in the higher planes.

This then is the first bardo level. It has elements of a hell, though it's not hellish in

the traditional sense of a place of punishment; it is more correctly seen as a state where the soul is lost or out of place and thus needs conscious intervention to help him or her move on, either towards reintegration or rebirth.

Unfinished or Troubled Spirits

*My soul,
there is a country
far beyond the stars*

Henry Vaughan

The most common regression experience of dying in a past life is where a person finds themselves leaving their body and simply floating upwards. This is true of both peaceful and violent deaths. Sometimes the departed spirit hovers over their body taking in that they have died and that it is all over; some-

times they may stay looking down over their body until it is buried or cremated then leave. What distinguishes this from the first category of spirits I called "earth-bound" is that here there is conscious awareness that one is dead. This clearly frees the soul to travel "upwards" in to the higher dimensions of the bardo. This transition

can actually be quite beautiful; one sees the earth from above, is shown a panoramic visionary overview of one's life and is sometimes shown the progress of those loved ones left on earth. Eventually there is a feeling of having arrived in another dimension, another realm.

But if the circumstances of death have been at all difficult or the person was emo-

tionally disturbed in any way before they died - resentful, vengeful, guilty, lonely, or fearful, for instance, it is the intensity of those emotions and corresponding thoughts that will go with them, obscuring the potentially uplifting and reassuring aspects of the transition. In his well known commentary and translation of the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* W. Y. Evans-Wentz, tells us that "Buddhists and Hindus alike believe that the last thought at the moment of death determines the character of the next incarnation". The great spiritualist and visionary Emmanuel Swedenborg, who visited the bardo realms many times in his visionary journeys, declared something very similar in his treatise on *The World of Spirits*: "After death, a person is engaged in every sense, memory, thought and affection he was engaged in, in the world: he leaves nothing behind except his earthly body."

This principle is of paramount importance for our understanding of the death transition as it occurs in not only our past lives but also as it is anticipated in our present lives. It lies at the very heart of what we have discovered from regression work about "unfinished business"; any psychological state or complex that is unresolved in

one lifetime will simply continue in the bardo and be reprogrammed into the unconscious mind in a future incarnation until it is brought to conscious awareness and altered. Once we understand this principle, however, we are in a strong position to consciously break the recycling of negative and debilitating psychological pat-



terns. And in fact, nowhere are these old repetitive scripts to be found so clearly running as old repetitive scripts as in the bardo. Working in the bardo state is therefore a particularly direct and effective way to clear these patterns or samskaras.

But this is not always so easy. Contrary to the rather simplistic pictures of the after-death state derived from popular Near Death Experience (NDE) literature and superficial regression experiences, it is simply not true that there is an automatic "life review" after death when the Higher Self explains the "meaning" of that life and helps us correct our mistakes. This only occurs in relatively peaceful deaths where the person is not mentally or emotionally obsessed by some unfinished issue.

**Bardo. The word Bardo comes from Tibetan Buddhism. It is found in the Tibetan Book of the Dead and refers to those states between death and rebirth.*

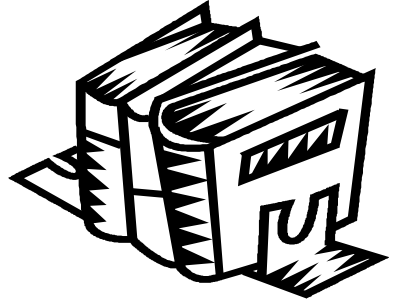
ROGER J. WOOLGER, PH.D., is a Jungian analyst, regression therapist and professional lecturer with degrees in psychology, religion and philosophy from Oxford and London Universities. He trained as an analyst at the C.G. Jung Institute, Zurich. The article here is reproduced with his kind permission. For the full text and much more visit <http://www.rogerwoolger.com>

NEW MEMBERS

**A warm welcome to
these members who
have recently joined us.**

Lorraine Holt
Mrs Mary Gallagher
Jonty Stern
Ms Amy Barker
Kevin Martin
Jakob Kaye
Jamie Hill
Marcia Petterson
James Thurgill
Gary Britten
Demian Allan
Craig McDonald
David Slesoritis
Ian Porter
Sally Eyden
Matthew Franks

BOOK REVIEW



Philip Paul

looks at a new book on the
work of his friend

Andrew Green:

Andrew Green

Updated

Antipodean Writer

Cases the Cases

Most writings describing allegedly paranormal happenings are soon forgotten and fade into oblivion. Few achieve reincarnation in updated form. But now, exceptionally, the perspicacity of an Australian-born writer has won that distinction for some of the work penned by the late "ghost hunter" Andrew Green.

The pace of modern life being what it is, there will be some, perhaps young people newly interested in the subject who know nothing of Andrew or his accomplishments. It may, therefore, be apposite to describe the individual and the circumstances that surrounded and followed him before commenting on the new work that is based on his endeavours.

Andrew Malcolm Green was a gentle-



mannered man. His lean and hungry, varyingly bearded look resembled the persona of a Shakespearean actor. There was certainly something of the thespian about him and, in common with professional performers, he preferred some roles to others. He told me he disliked his two years of conscripted soldiering. But a photograph taken some time later shows him as a happy, handsome figure, uniformed as a captain and acting as commanding officer of a local unit of army cadets - small boys with military inclinations. Although it was a "fun-time" function, he bore no resemblance to the comically ferocious Captain Mainwaring of Dad's Army fame. Indeed, he must have been one of the least militaristic captains ever. Loud, declamatory speeches were not his style. In more than three decades of friendship I never heard him shout. His expressions of irritation or annoyance came couched in sardonic phrases, uttered sotto voce.

Sadly his natural quietness was

inescapably exacerbated in the closing years of his life. He was stricken by emphysema, an appalling malady of the lungs. In the years before medical science had learned enough to warrant the issuing of anti-smoking advice, Andrew had habitually "rolled his own." Unhappily, his physical illness was accompanied by another affliction - acute nervousness about modes of travel, which confined him within severely restrictive parameters. Nevertheless, he welcomed visitors with a cheerful grin and never refused to aid anyone he was in a position to help. Deplorably his kindness was misused by an outrageous deceiver who treated him (and others) shamefully. But there was no evident "eye for an eye" about Andrew; "turning the other cheek" seemed to be part of his philosophy.

When he was wrong.

I can recall no disagreement arising during our numerous discussions, but was surprised to learn, recently, that he is said to have declared that the world famous (or infamous) Borley "wasn't haunted." Had he made that remark in my presence I would have challenged it instantly. As a trained investigative journalist who spent much time conducting inquiries (and excavations extending over two springs, summers and autumns) in that unique place, I staked my professional reputation, in print and in BBC TV's Panorama programme, on a categorical assertion that Borley was visited by inexplicable occurrences. The witnesses I interviewed whose accounts I unreservedly believed, included an alert and intelligent lady who was one of the three sisters who first saw the "nun" apparition; the rector (a devoutly truthful "man of God") and a local medical practitioner. All were responsible, sensible people. They were

certainly not publicity-seekers. In fact, because of their fear of ridicule, it took much pleading to get them to appear in the television programme or agree to be named in print. So, if Andrew did make the pronouncement that is attributed to him, I must at once declare "Sorry, old friend, but I feel sure that you were wrong about Borley!"

Andrew's primary interest was the written recording of reported paranormality, especially the reputed "haunting" of buildings. This occupied him part-time during his working years (having gained a BSc degree at the London School of Economics, he held, successively, a range of creative, administrative and other appointments) and more so after retirement. Inevitably, this activity brought him into contact with Spiritualism. His reactions to those encounters were encapsulated by his oft-repeated statement that, in his opinion, death is finality - that the spirit and/or soul perish with the body.

Spiritualism retains a place in the community because its exponents ("mediums") claim to have the ability to effect communication between living mortals and their loved ones who have died. Bereavement is a woeful experience that befalls most people during the journey through life. Some seem to endure that trauma with little disturbance of their cerebral equilibrium. Others are reduced to the depths of distress and despair. It follows, logically, that the more profound the emotional attachment that exists between closely-linked people the more grievous will be the hurt of the final parting. "The Great Reaper" often inflicts crippling mental anguish in addition to imposing biological termination.

Norah's Heartache

Nowhere can there have been more inten-

sive love between husband and wife than that which prevailed between Andrew and his wife, Norah. It would be no exaggeration to say that her adoration of him and his works bordered on worship. Consequently, his death devastated her. For more than two years she pined unremittingly, expressing over and over again her yearning for some sign that he was still with her in spirit. Trying to ameliorate her desperate longing, I reminded her of what Andrew had said about his belief in the totality of death. But still her life was blighted by her overwhelming mourning. In unoccupied minutes one afternoon I scribbled a few lines of simple verse, clumsily expressing what I felt sure Andrew would have wished her to do. Somehow they appeared to sooth her grief, released her pent-up tears and relieved at least some of her pain. She has told me she still cries when she re-reads my anxious words.

This seemed to contribute towards a turning-point for the lonely lady. Among other things it encouraged her to set about the task of assembling documents and photographs for a book on Andrew's activities that was being planned by a friend, freelance writer Bowen Pearse.

It is unlikely that the project could have succeeded without her active co-operation and copyright generosity. Published in March this year (2008) the end product - entitled *Ghost Hunter's Casebook* - is being marketed by its producers, Tempus Publishing, at £12.99 but is available online from Amazon at £8.57.

When I asked the author what percentage of the contents were Andrew's work and what proportion his, he told me "It's 90 per cent mine." A notice to that effect is included in the book. It states "All entries have been newly researched and brought up to date. The nucleus of each entry remains,



Andrew Green; an able thinker, writer, lecturer...

but because some thirty or forty years have elapsed since the works were originally published, often only a sentence or two of Andrew's original remains. Some ninety percent is entirely new material, researched and written in the two years preceding publication."

Covering a total of 67 cases of alleged haunting, in Scotland, Northern Ireland, 32 English counties and the isles of Man and Wight, the chronicles include 47 where claims of ghostly phenomena could bring financial benefit to the owners or occupiers - 19 "open to the public" stately homes, castles and museums; 13 hotels, eight pubs, seven ecclesiastical properties and four theatres - all places that a seriously selective investigator would promptly earmark as "suspect." But fairness necessitates recognition that the publication does not profess to be an opus for the scientifically preoccupied inquirer. Its makeup - details of location, telephone number(s) and (where appropriate) hours of opening are appended to each account and a display

resembling an advertisement occupies half of page 50 - indicates that, fundamentally, its aim is simply to a) tell entertaining ghost stories and/or b) act as a gazetteer for thrill-seekers with a taste for "creepy" tales and willingness to travel to satisfy it. As a relevant side-issue it may be pertinent to observe that, if advertising sponsorship were allowed to become a routine accompaniment of ghost-hunters' treatises it would add no gloss to their intellectual credibility. Surprisingly, the Principality of Wales, that evocative, legendary Celtic place of "mystical" events and beliefs, receives no mention in this territorial magnum opus. It is important to realize that the book is an update of Andrew's case histories, not a biography.

Medical Ethics

An honest review demands honesty. The material is nicely written and interestingly presented. In view of the widespread distribution of the places covered and the amount of new material said to have been contributed, it is understandable that the research and writing occupied two years of effort.

There is, however, a point worth making for the guidance of any up-coming ghost-hunter who might, like Andrew, wish to aid a person suffering from delusion or hallucination. Having long-standing connections with medical journalism and being a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, I was intrigued to read that, twice during efforts to alleviate the effects on individuals of supposedly paranormal intrusions, Andrew is reported to have approached the family doctors concerned and asked for and been supplied with details of the disorders being experienced by, and treatment being given to, the sufferers.

As the necessary "patient's consent"

(essential before information about an individual's illness and/or the remedial treatment being applied, may be disclosed) apparently came from people said to have been "hearing voices" and experiencing "hallucinations and hysteria," it would seem that Andrew must have employed some remarkably persuasive technique to have gained such ready medical co-operation. I make this comment only because there can be little doubt that, had either affair subsequently "turned nasty" (ie, led to a formal complaint being made to the General Medical Council, a claim for damages or other legal action) the practitioner concerned could have been placed in peril of losing his/her livelihood. Perhaps, for the information of anyone who is unacquainted with the regulations governing medical practice in Britain, I should explain.

The terms of the Hippocratic Oath (which every doctor working in the UK and most civilized countries has to sign before they are permitted to practice) and the stringent regulations rigorously enforced by the General Medical Council (with which every medical practitioner in the UK has to be registered) demand that all details of patients' conditions and any treatment they are receiving must at all times be dealt with on a strictly confidential basis. Any proven breach of these rules, particularly improper disclosure to a medically unqualified person, would automatically put the guilty doctor at risk of being "struck off" the medical register, with consequential loss of the right to practice. Clearly, it was fortunate for the medical folk (and Andrew!) that matters didn't "go awry."

The book contains 190 pages, printed (unfortunately in the indistinct grey that seems to have become fashionable among publishers) on good quality paper. In con-

trast, the cover has been designed to resemble that of a well-worn old tome. The contents include a perceptive three-page foreword by barrister and former Ghost Club chairman Alan Murdie, a detailed 11-page introduction by the author, a basic three-page index and 75 monochrome illustrations in sundry shapes and sizes.

Ghost Hunter's Casebook will revive memories of a man who is being profoundly missed.

This is an excerpt from the new book, 'Ghost-Hunters Casebook - the investigations of Andrew Green revisited', written by his friend Bowen Pearse and reproduced here with his kind permission.

THE GHOST OF ANDREW GREEN

This story really begins in Andrew Green's garden, shortly before his 1971 divorce. He became obsessed with the potential of his one-acre garden and had decided to make a large rockery. Every spare moment went into its creation and he wondered in later years if paying more attention to his rockery rather than to his wife might well have hastened the divorce. Hazel never liked gardening.

After Hazel left him, Andrew sold the house to an engineer and his family from Harrow. They had a twelve-year-old daughter whom Andrew had never met. Some months later, the engineer and his family came round to visit Andrew in his new house at Iden. They were not prepared for what happened next. Nobody was. As they gathered around the door, the daughter stood at the back and had not yet seen Andrew. But, as it turned out, she had seen him - many times. More often than she realised. More often than she would have liked.

After her parents had made their introductions, it was her turn and she came forward. One look at Andrew and she fainted. Clean out. Andrew was



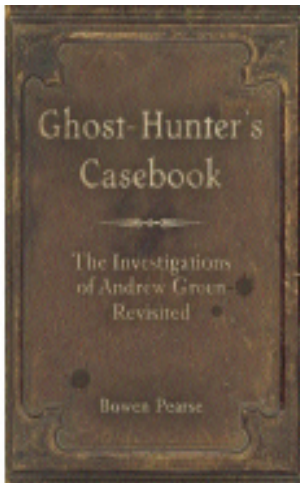
**Norah Green with the author
Bowen Pearse**

If, contrary to his conviction, Andrew is surviving in spirit and able to continue observing the ways of this world, I believe he would be amused to note, from the subtitle of this book - The Investigations of Andrew Green Revisited - that anyone mischievously choosing to take a pedantic view might ask whether it was Andrew who'd been investigated - the biter bit, the hunter hunted! Andrew enjoyed jokes of that kind.

Andrew Green was intelligent, an able thinker, writer, lecturer and public speaker, a devoted husband and a loyal friend.

much puzzled. "I've seen you many times Mr Green", she said on recovering. "On the rockery in the garden - your rockery that you sold us". It was Andrew's ghost she had seen - a live ghost. And she had not been ready to greet him in the flesh.

She fainted a second time and when she came round, she pinched Andrew's arm to make sure 'this one' this time was real. Andrew's comment was that the incident confirmed his theory that a mental image of a ghost can be created by someone's strong desire to be in another location. He dearly missed working in his rockery.



You can order a copy direct from the author.

Send a cheque made out to 'Bowen Pearce'

at Steddenden Cottage, Hazelden Farm Lane, Cranbrook TN17 2LP.

The cost is £15.49 (£12.99 + £2.50 p&p)

Published by Tempus Publishing in soft-back, 192 pages,

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SPECTRAL HIGHWAYS OF SCOTLAND

by

Derek Green

For a number of years now there have been numerous reports from drivers of ghostly apparitions which have been witnessed on many of the UK's road networks. Many of these sightings result in very bemused and frightened drivers entering a local Police Station to make statements. Some examples of these have included the famous road sightings in the village of Pluckley, Bluebell Hill and the well documented Phantom of the Stocksbridge Bypass. Scotland can also claim a fair number of well documented cases which have attracted great interest from Scotland's Ghost Hunting Drivers. Some of these stories are well documented but others not so well known.

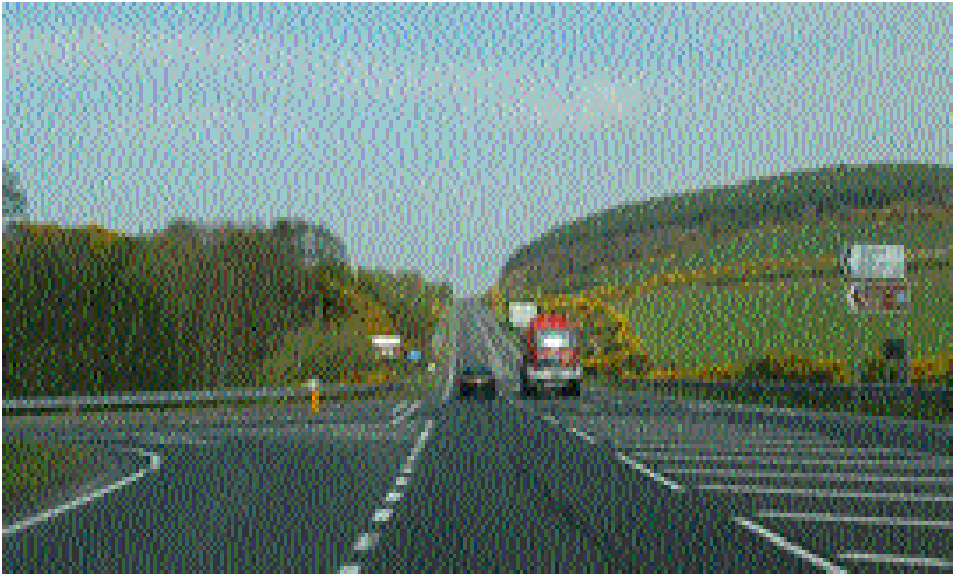
The first case has been covered in many of Scotland's ghostly publications although

there is no great evidence for the first part of the story but ask any Paranormal Investigator in Scotland about the A75 and they should be able to relate the story in some form. One night in April 1962 two brothers called Derek and Norman had a very strange experience which left them very scared and bemused whilst travelling on a stretch of the A75 between Dumfries and Annan near the Scottish Borders. Earlier in the evening the brothers filled their car with petrol and laughed and joked about all different things as close brothers do. The night was clear and calm and Derek and Norman left Dumfries and joined the A75 to Annan, a simple 15 mile journey - a journey they would never forget. As the brothers travelled along the road, they both remarked on how calm, quiet and peaceful the journey was and as they enjoyed this very pleasurable drive, they were both very surprised to see what resembled a large hen fly towards the car only to simply disappear when it seemed likely that it was about to hit the wind-screen. The vision shocked the two lads but having gathered themselves together and agreeing that the hen must have flown over the roof of the car, they continued their journey to Annan. Further on only a short distance had been travelled when they witnessed through their car headlights what resembled the figure of an elderly woman walking towards the car with her arms outstretched. Derek and Norman, agitated by the sight of a lonely lady on the road quickly approaching them, swerved the car to avoid hitting her but as this was done they realised to their horror that the woman had disappeared into thin air. What then followed was described by the brothers as being completely bizarre, frightening and confusing as streams of figures formed from nowhere. These apparitions included

large cats, wild looking dogs, hens, geese and strange sightings which included a man with long hair who appeared to be screaming. Derek and Norman now very very scared, swerved to avoid the oncoming and frightening apparitions and brought their car to a halt. It was at this point that they became aware of the temperature in the car drop quite significantly.

The brothers, now very frightened by their experience, realised they had both witnessed the same apparitions and decided to flee the area and head for Annan as quickly as possible. However before Derek could drive away they became aware of high pitched laughter and cackling coming from somewhere inside the car. Thinking for a split second that this was a nightmare Derek and Norman tried to compose themselves when suddenly a powerful force seemed to attack the car. In their testimony the two brothers described the car bonnet being banged violently and the car being rocked by some force. Derek, feeling very sick forced the car door open and leapt out of the car while his brother cowered in terror in the passenger seat terrified as to the consequences that might follow. Once out of the car, Derek immediately realised that everything outside was calm and peaceful and still. Confused but feeling better, he got back into the car and closed the door, only to discover to his horror that after closing the door the violent bangs on the bonnet and the car being rocked with force started again. The whole experience was repeated with evil cackling and high pitched laughter from the interior of the car.

Very frightened by their experiences, Derek and Norman, now at the end of their tether, decided they must flee the area. Derek started the car engine again and while continuing to drive, both brothers testified that as they travelled along they



The A75, the scene of a terrifying ordeal for two men in 1962

were still witnessing apparitions and phantoms which kept emerging from nowhere but clearly stood in the path of the oncoming car and as Derek was about to hit each one they simply disappeared.

Eventually, this journey which seemed to last for an eternity finally looked as though it was coming to an end, as the brothers viewed what looked like help ahead. They could see in front of them red tail lights drawing closer and to their great relief they saw a furniture van trundle along the road ahead. Things were not what they appeared to be however and their joy soon turned to terror as they realised that they were approaching the rear of the van far too quickly. Derek slammed on his brakes only to discover to his horror that the car would not slow down. The brothers quickly prepared themselves for impact but as they were about to hit the van, it completely disappeared in front of them.

The men were now so scared and disorientated that it was to their joy that they now

saw the lights of a nearby petrol station come into view on the outskirts of Annan.

Their terrifying journey had lasted thirty minutes and indeed it was a journey they would never forget. In later years Derek spoke to a friend who had been stationed near Annan while doing Military Service. Derek learned that many of the men had heard stories of witchcraft being practised in the area and there had also been sightings of a ghostly furniture van trundling along the road.

Initially, the story of Derek and Norman's experiences seem quite far fetched and similar to an episode from the Hammer House of Horror Mysteries! It is however possible that their final sighting of the furniture van could have been possible confirmation of other reported sightings over the years from other drivers.

Scotland is host to many allegedly haunted road stories and some of these include the A832 between Muir of Ord and Gorston in Ross-shire. Centered in the middle is the

small village of Garve where there has been numerous alleged sightings of the figure of a woman in Victorian costume, walking in the middle of the road. She is described as wearing a black uniform, a white cap, matching cuffs and a white waistband. She appears to have her head bowed and her hands clasped.

A stretch of road near Cairnpapple near Bathgate in West Lothian is said to harbour a curious phantom figure which has been called "The Silver Man." The first sighting of this figure was documented in the Summer of 1988, when a family of five passed through Ravenraig Wood, which was less than one mile from Bathgate. As the driver, named David was motoring along the road, he became aware of a glowing figure which seemed to be running beside him. It seemed strange that the running figure appeared to be keeping up with the car which was travelling at 60mph. The entity was described as being bulky in weight and over six feet tall. By now the whole family could see this apparition. It was later documented by the family that the figure ran ahead of the car and disappeared into the woods and was not sighted again. David and his wife were quite scared by this but his three children found it exciting and they are said to have christened the apparition "The Silver Man".

In the Summer of 1973, Scots showbiz personality Philip Differ and a friend witnessed an apparition in the full headlights of his car as they travelled between Banknock and Kilsyth on the A803. Phil and his colleague saw the figure of an elderly woman walking with her back to the car and described her as wearing clothes of a blue-grey colour and cloth wrapped around her feet instead of shoes. She also appeared to be carrying a large bundle. Phil and his friend became quite

scared when they both clearly witnessed the apparition vanish in front of their eyes.

In the Summer of 1995, one gentleman claimed to have experienced two very scary encounters near the Aberdeen to Stonehaven dual carriageway. The first encounter came when he "knocked down" a white apparition which stepped out onto the road. He reported that on impact he felt the thud, stopped his car in panic and got out to check the area, only to find nothing. A few months later he again "knocked" the same apparition down, only this time on impact, he noted an icy cold chill envelop his car and he felt an eerie presence with him which vanished after a few minutes. Interestingly enough, the same gentleman's mother had run into the same figure a few weeks previously. She reported that on this occasion, on impact, the figure came through the car windscreen before vanishing. That must have been a really scary happening!

In 1995, a motorist, whilst passing through Stonehaven, "knocked down" a figure in a red cloak and in the 1960's a couple "knocked down" the apparition of an elderly gentleman on the Cupar Road near St Andrews. In both accounts, after collision the drivers stopped and checked the road to find no trace of anyone around.

In January 1997 a driver passing through Fife had a collision with a figure garbed in black who staggered drunkenly into the path of his car and again, very similar to previous accounts, the figure vanished. According to local history there was a pit in the nearby vicinity and it is thought that the apparition could have been a miner.

In February 1997 a woman, whilst sitting at traffic lights, watched an elderly, stooped gentleman with a walking stick, glide straight through a boarded up shop door in Montrose Main Street.

A recent sighting in the outskirts of Jedburgh baffled one couple completely as they drove along the road during a very windy night. The beam of their headlights caught a man about to cross the road. The dress of the gentleman confused the couple as he appeared to be wearing a long coat, top hat and swinging a cane. They described the figure crossing the road and as the driver slammed on the brakes, it vanished before their eyes. Intriguingly, the couple noted as very strange the fact that the coat and hat worn by the gentleman was not blowing about in the high wind.

The last tale involves the Aberdeen tramcar and its phantom passenger. During WWII a tram heading for Scatterburn stopped to pick up one lonely passenger. The conduc-

tress, being aware that the lady was elderly and quite thin and frail, helped her onto the tram and into a seat on the lower deck. The conductress, called Nell, described the lady as all dressed in black and noted that she could not see her face due to the hat that her passenger was wearing. Nell then returned to take the lady's fare only to discover to her horror that her passenger had vanished on the still moving tramcar. Quickly Nell reported her missing passenger to George the tram driver who immediately stopped the car. George and Nell then searched the tram and the short section of track along which they had just travelled and could find no trace of the elderly lady. After considering the incident, Nell thought that it was possible that she had witnessed the apparition of George's mother who had

died a few months earlier.

A few weeks after the strange encounter, Nell was starting her shift at the tram depot and was waiting on George to join her as they were once again scheduled together for that day's route. Sadly Nell was informed that George had died that morning. Had Nell witnessed the apparition of George's Mother all dressed in black appearing as a warning of his coming death although Nell was not consciously aware of it? An interesting tale.

There are many sightings of apparitions on Scotland's roads and far too many to mention them all. Among some others are the Death Bogle of the old crossroads in Pitlochry - a story related to Elliot O'Donnell many years ago. The Death Bogle was described as being roughly eight feet tall

with long arms and surrounded by a mysterious glow. It appeared to a man and his young son who were approaching the crossroads in a horse and cart. The driver realised what the apparition was and at the same time the horse took fright and started to bolt in fear. The man and his son were then chased by the leaping figure of the Death Bogle and at some point the man was touched by the Bogle's long fingers. A week later the man was dead.

There is also the phantom cyclist of the Tak-me-doon Road in the Campsie Hills near Lennoxton and the phantom truck which is driven through a section of Edinburgh by an evil looking man.

In Portree on the Isle of Skye there are reports of a removal van which travels along the road with no driver and near the

**The man and his son
were then chased by the
leaping figure of the
Death Bogle and at some
point the man was
touched by the Bogle's
long fingers. A week later
the man was dead.**

village of Croy, phantom headlights have been seen by drivers on a single track road.

One thing is for sure, when you travel the roads in Scotland be extra vigilant, because our spectral friends will not follow the Green Cross Code and may walk out in front of you! Maybe it is time that the road sign manufacturers made us aware of this by introducing a new sign stating "BEWARE! SLOW MOVING GHOSTS AHEAD!!!"



Johnny Morris: A friendship surviving death?

My Story

**Personal Experiences
from Ghost Club Members**

**Johnny Morris
told us when he died
by**

Angela Morris and John Keene

We have both been "sensitive" for as long as we can remember; on the whole I tend to see or sense things and my partner Angela hears things. She often gets an inner voice speak to her giving her advice on whether or not to go ahead with a particular project or to proceed with something she is considering undertaking. Always but always, to her own considerable annoyance, she ignores the advice the voice gives her, and always, without fail, the voice is right!

Back in the 1990's we had become close friends with the late great Johnny Morris of BBC Animal Magic fame. The relationship had started off on a business footing but very quickly developed into one of those special friendships that come along but once in a lifetime. We just seemed to click

with Johnny right from first meeting him, and his incredible sense of humour, hospitality, need for companionship and help with the "little everyday problems" in his life meant that we were very soon either seeing him or talking on the telephone almost every day. For five years everything was fine, surreal but exhilarating, as although Johnny was in his late seventies when we first met him, he was incredibly active and mentally alert for his age. We became heavily involved in his hectic diary of appearances, orchestral concerts, broadcasts etc that was Johnny's "raison d'etre" and his staple diet to continue to make life interesting and worth living.

Occasionally our conversations would touch on the supernatural as he knew that we both had an interest and personal experiences in that field and although an atheist like ourselves, he very much kept an open mind on the subject and was always interested to hear of any new phenomena that happened to us. He was particularly interested to know if I could see Eileen, his wife who had died some ten years before and was buried in a private grave in the garden. I always denied that I had seen her for fear of upsetting or frightening him but in actual fact, in the latter years when there was some turmoil in his life, I often did see her standing in the doorway to the kitchen

where we always settled for a chat at his home. Her appearance was in no way worrying; almost as if she knew there were problems and that she was just keeping a protective eye on him and happy that he had friends to help him through.

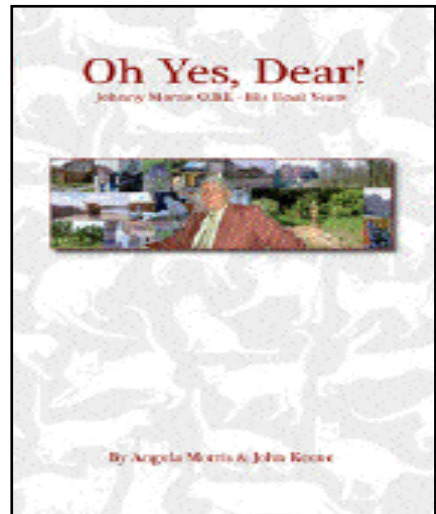
Johnny had his own taste of the paranormal in the form of an out of the body experience late in life when he fell down a flight of stairs whilst staying with Terry Nutkins in Scotland. He related to us how he felt himself starting to fall then suddenly became aware that he was detached from his body and watching himself tumble down the stairs. The experience was only momentary but appears to have been sufficiently strong that his body was totally relaxed during the fall so that, even at the age of 81, he was uninjured when, by all accounts, the nature and severity of his descent down the staircase could well have killed him.

Towards the end of his life, Johnny became very ill and started slipping in and out of lucidity. Much to the concern of all his family and friends, when he was admitted to hospital he was effectively cut off from contact with all of us by a person claiming to be next of kin. Try as we might, none of us could obtain any information on his health and indeed whereabouts and this sad state of affairs lasted for some seven weeks. Some time earlier we had bought Johnny's car off him when he changed it for a new model. One day Angela was out driving in this car when a voice came through to her which she instantly recognised as Johnny's. "I've done it, dear, I'm here." She heard in her head. Instinctively she answered out loud, "Is that you Johnny?" "Yes dear" came the instant reply. She suddenly realised what she was hearing and a shiver went down her spine as she guessed that if Johnny was talking to her now then

he must be dead. "Are you alright Johnny?" she cautiously asked into the thin air. "Oh yes dear!" the voice replied and in its tone she instantly knew that not only had Johnny just passed on and had come back to let her know but also, that wherever he was, it was suddenly so much better than the life he had left and that all his aches and pains and cares had gone for good.

A short time after she got home she received a telephone call from Johnny's housekeeper to advise her that indeed Johnny had died earlier that day. It was a comfort to know that although Johnny died alone he was able to get through to let us know he'd passed and that by the sound of his voice, he'd gone to an infinitely better place!

If you would like to read further Angela and John have written a book on their time



with Johnny Morris. Published by Paardeberg Books, Hardcover, 320 pages. ISBN-10: 0955768306 ISBN-13: 978-0955768309

Investigation

The Viaduct Tavern

On 2nd February 2008, sixteen members of The Ghost Club met at the Viaduct Tavern to conduct an investigation into this atmospheric public house in central London.

The viaduct Tavern was opened in 1869 and was named after the Holborn Viaduct, which was opened the same year. It is the last remaining example of a 19th century Gin Palace left in the city and has been

sent Old Bailey, which is built on the site of the old Newgate Prison. The exact spot where many executions were held from the old Newgate Prison, now marked with a small fountain, is visible from every window in the property. Some reports say the pub is also built on the site of Newgate Prison and/or the old Giltspur Street Comptoire, a debtors prison in use between 1700 and 1853, but evidence has come to light that this claim is doubtful. Although the pub boasts original prison cells in its cellars, during one of the vigils, we carefully examined the areas of the cellars thoroughly and found no evidence that prison-



The Viaduct.

Photo: Paul Brown

beautifully decorated, in keeping with its history. The original toll booth is still in situ. Apparently the pub was so rough, the landlord had to sell beer tokens to the customers from the booth to keep money away from his bar staff!

The immediate location surrounding the Viaduct Tavern is steeped in history. It is situated just across the street from the pre-

ers were ever incarcerated there. The absence of graffiti carved into the brick, the size and locations of the “cells” and the location of the pub itself makes this very unlikely to be the case.

However, the Viaduct Tavern does have a great atmosphere, and has had much history in its own right as a former gin palace, with an opium den located on the first

floor. One of the large paintings in the bar has a hole in it - this was done by the bayonet of a soldier during World War One during a scuffle! Many other things have happened here and it is certainly worthy of investigation by the club.

Ghost Club Members present:

John Barrett, Lisa Bowell, Paul Brown, Philip Carr, Paul Foulsham, Sarah Darnell, Paula Eason, Naomi Firth, Lorraine Holt, Gianna De Salvo, Justin Cooper, Emily Manns, Monica Tandy, Sue Matthews Philip Hutchinson, and Joanne Edwards.

Familiarisation Tour

We started a tour of the property (which is sizeable, 6 floors in total), starting in the cellar, then to the upper floors, some of which are derelict. The 1st floor is presently used as a stock room, 2nd floor is used as a staff area/training area but the floors above this are in a state of general disrepair

and had no electricity. On the 3rd floor, we were all told to beware of the hole in the floorboards and on the upper floors, the wallpaper was peeling off and the stairs were narrow, steep and littered with debris.

Towards the end of this tour, Lisa Bowell noted the following which I have quoted using Lisa's exact words:

"During the tour of the pub on the 1st floor landing, I picked up a woman aged in her 30's. She was dressed in a black Victorian dress with a bustle and a small black bonnet on the top of her head. She was a very large woman, more like a man dressed as a woman. She wasn't fat, just big. She had unkempt 'straw like' blonde hair, probably tied back in a bun with lots of strands coming out. I picked up the name Kate and the murder of a prostitute connected with her. She was quite red-faced, like a heavy drinker."

Baseline Tests

The Baseline tests were taken before the



Members in the bar preparing for the nights vigils.

vigils began.

Cellar

EMF: None

Air Temp: Between 5.5°C (storage cellar with open grills to pavement) and 11°C (inside wall).

Lighting Conditions: Pitch black with lights off and door closed.

Noise Pollution: Refrigeration unit, small fan. Some outside traffic noise from storage cellar with open grills.

Bar Area

EMF: None

Air Temp: Between 15.5°C (outside wall) and 18.4°C (interior).

Lighting Conditions: When inside light off, light pollution from outside street lights due to large windows.

Noise Pollution: Outside Traffic.

3rd Floor

EMF: None.

Air Temp: 11°C

Lighting Conditions: No electricity but light pollution from adjacent offices and street lighting.

Noise Pollution: Some traffic noise.

The Vigils

After familiarising ourselves with our surroundings and separating into two groups of five people and one group of six, we decided that, on this occasion, the groups would investigate the following locations.

1. The Cellar
2. The Bar and toilets (located downstairs)
3. Floors 3, 4 and 5, concentrating mainly on floor 3.

The following report has been constructed using the records of the groups, written at the time of the vigils on 02/02/08 in the named locations.

Vigil 1

Once everyone was settled we started the

first, proper vigil at 20:30. Group 3 stayed in the bar, Group 2 were upstairs on the 3rd floor and Group 1 went down to the cellar.

The Bar and Toilets

The temperature was constant at 15°C, the lights were on to start with, then we asked the barman to turn them off. However there was a lot of light pollution and traffic noise pollution from outside, due to the large windows. Monica set her camcorder up downstairs in the Ladies toilets. No EMF was detected.

Those present were Paul Brown, Monica Tandy, Naomi Firth and Sarah Darnell. Some loud bangs were heard at around 21:00. One of the bangs can be explained by a man hole cover being driven over by a bus. The others we could not quite so easily explain and seemed to come from the main door area.

During a question and answer session using dowsing rods, we appeared to make contact with a man and a lady. Strangely, the right hand rod seemed to cross when the man answered a question, the left one when the lady answered. We ascertained the man had been a patron and the lady had been a barmaid, possibly a prostitute. The date of 1902 was significant and Queen Victoria was the reigning monarch (although Queen Victoria died in 1901!). During this session, both Monica and Sarah came up with the same name independently. A full transcript of the session with the dowsing rods is available on request.

The bar area was separated into booths or seating areas near the windows. At 21:20, in the booth next to where we were sitting (two booths to the left hand side of the main door if looking at the pub from the front), we heard a weighty bag, or something similar slip off the table onto the floor. On closer inspection almost immedi-

ately, nothing had appeared to move. No bags were on chairs or the floor; all were on the table where they had been previously. One minute later at 21:21, a loud bang was heard again from near the door.

The 3rd Floor

The temperature was constant at 11°C. No EMF was detected and there was light pollution from the street lighting, traffic and nearby offices. There was also some noise pollution from the traffic outside.

Those present were Lorraine Holt, Jo Edwards, Paula Eason, Emily Manns and Sue Matthews.

The planchette was set up in the small room off the kitchen area. There was a fair bit of movement from the planchette in response to questions asked at 20:50 onwards. A female spirit appeared

to make contact. From a series of questions asked and responses given they ascertained the following: She worked at the tavern in 1878 as a prostitute and was murdered. The dates 1870 to 1880 were significant, as was 1875. The full details are on record.

At 21:00, Jo felt a draft from the kitchen area.

At 21:05, Sue complained of a headache but said it had gone by 21:17.

At 21:11, the temperature appeared to drop. Measurements confirmed the temperature had gone down to 10°C. Jo felt the floor was moving/ room was rocking.

At 21:14 the temperature appeared to get a little warmer. Measurements confirmed 12°C.

The Cellar

No temperature or EMF readings were taken and lighting conditions were described as low. We asked for the noisy air conditioning unit to be turned off but the refrigeration unit had to stay on. There was



added noise pollution of traffic coming from the road above, noisier in some areas of the cellar than others.

Those present were Lisa Bowell, Paul

The plastic drainpipe in the cellar that all thought had not been there during the vigil.

Foulsham, Gianna De Salvo, Philip Carr, Justin Cooper and John Barrett.

At 20:50, three knocks were heard, described as a 'metal cup sound'. This was heard twice.

At 20:55, Lisa sensed a 12 year old boy in one of the 'cell' areas. She said there was a feeling of hopelessness. A physical description of the boy was given and I shall keep that on record for future reference.

At 20:57 Paul heard a buzzing noise, like a fly.

At 21:00, Lisa felt there was a general feeling in the atmosphere that punishment was temporary.

At 21:05, Lisa saw a brown figure rush past her in the second part of the cells.

At 21:24, during a question and answer session, when John asked "Are any spirits present?" the rods crossed and Lisa saw a white flash in front of her eyes.

Justin reported hearing 3 knocks.

At 21:25, the session was ended and the group moved away from the furthest cell, en-mass. As they all moved away, a thud was heard from behind them. When they went back in to investigate, they found a large plastic pipe resting on its end, on a drain cover and propped up against the wall. They all said it hadn't been there only moments before, as various members of the group had been standing on the drain cover to make sure it didn't rock and make a noise. It didn't look like there was any where for it to have come from.

Vigil 2

The second vigil started at 21:50 and lasted approximately 50 minutes. This time, Group 1 were in the Bar, Group 2 in the Cellar and Group 3 went upstairs.

The Bar and Toilets

Members present during this vigil were Lisa, Paul, Gia, Justin, Philip and John.

No activity was noted during this vigil. A table tipping experiment was attempted but without success. However Lisa said she felt there was a weight on her shoulders and Justin reported feeling that something was banging on his head, resulting in him having a headache. No times were given.

The 3rdFloor

The temperature was measured at a constant 11°C. The vigil was carried out in

darkness/torchlight, although there was severe light pollution from street lights and office buildings outside. No EMF was detected.

Members present for this vigil were Monica, Paul, Naomi, Sarah and Philip Hutchinson.

At 21:55, Paul felt unusually short of breath. Monica joined him in the same area a few minutes later and reported the same symptoms. The planchette was set up in the same area as the previous group - the small room off the kitchen. Again, some planchette movement was noted at 22:00. At 22:10, the sound of shuffling footsteps in the kitchen area, were heard by both Monica and Sarah.

At 22:12, Sarah heard what sounded like a breath out, followed by a sharp intake of breath, coming from the kitchen area.

The Cellar

The temperature during the vigil was recorded at a constant 12°C. The lighting conditions were dark. No EMF readings were recorded.

Those present were Lorraine, Paula, Jo, Emily and Sue.

Between 21:58 - 22:08 in the 'cells' area of the cellar, Jo and Emily reported feeling uncomfortable, Jo said it was like she had knots in her stomach.

At 22:04 Sue reported feeling cold down her right hand side. She was seated with her back to the wall.

At 22:11, the group heard a noise from the furthest 'cell' area, described as a tapping. At 22:13, they heard a noise like furniture was being scraped across the floor above them - which was probably another group moving around in the bar area.

Between 22:21 and 22:29, Jo reports hearing someone whispering. The voice appeared to be coming from the barrel lift area.

At 22:29, Emily felt as though someone was watching her from the left hand side (through the doors to her left) which would be from the barrel lift area.

Vigil 3

The Bar and Toilets

Members present were Paula, Jo, Lorraine, Emily and Sue.

At 23:15, Sue saw a shadow move across the floor in front of the bar.

After not much activity was sensed in the bar area, the group decided to move downstairs to investigate the toilet area.

At 23:20, the hand drier in the ladies toilets turned on when no-one was near it.

At 23:25, the dowsing rods were used in a question and answer session. Contact appears to have been made with the spirit of a child, a boy, approximately 5 - 10 years of age who assumed responsibility for making the hand dryer start up. When asked where he was standing, the rods pointed towards the ladies toilets. He said he wanted the group to go back upstairs to the bar!

At 23:36 a knock was heard.

At 23:43 Lorraine saw a small shadow flit across the wall at the bottom of the stairs outside the toilet doors, to the right of the door marked private. It went in a left to right direction.

The 3rd Floor

Present for this vigil were Paul, Gia, Philip Carr, Justin, John and Lisa.

The planchette was used, again in the same area as the previous two vigils. During a question and answer session, it seemed to be vigorously drawing a series of circles and triangles. On inspection in the light, it looks remarkably like a pentagram.

The Cellar

The temperature during this vigil was noted at 11.5°C. No EMF was picked up

and it was pitch black when the doors were shut and the lights were turned off. We all had torches and much of the vigil was done, mostly in darkness, with a torch on.

Members present were Paul, Monica, Naomi, Sarah and Philip.

At 23:15, Philip's camera batteries drained. They were not brand new batteries but he had expected them to last longer than they had.

At 23:30, whilst sitting in the large 'cell' area, we all heard what could have been shuffling footsteps from the main area. Whilst sitting in this area, we had a close inspection of the cells and were trying to find evidence that these had actually once been prison cells, as the venue had claimed. We looked for graffiti carved into the bricks all over the cells (which is a common feature in any location which has been formally used as a prison), we looked for fixtures, or remnants of fixtures which could have held bunks etc. None were found.

Several of us felt uneasy whilst walking past the barrel lift area and into the further cells, although the atmosphere did seem to be changeable. I felt uneasy in the further 'cells' earlier on, but felt fine in there when re-visiting them about 10 minutes later.

Vigil 4

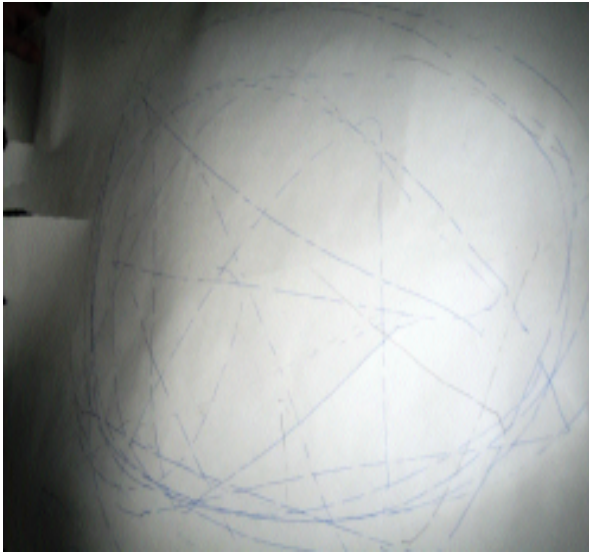
This, we decided to make a 20 minute 'free session' where people could go where they wanted in the building, as long as they stayed in pairs or more, for safety and for co-operation if something out of the ordinary were to happen. Nothing was reported during this time.

Vigil 5

We made the final session of the evening a group session, in which ever location we all felt had been the most productive throughout the evening. We decided on the third floor, because we had all experienced

good planchette movement and felt this area was also big enough to hold us all comfortably! All members were present apart from Sue, who had to leave to catch the last tube home. We decided to try some

table tipping, again unsuccessfully. We then decided to try and use the planchette again, as we had all had fairly good results with it during the evening. It was quite slow to start, but once it got going, it again made large swooping circles. Although not responding to questions, there were nine



Marks drawn by the planchette looked remarkably like a pentagram.

of us with our fingers contacting the board and we were all talking quietly amongst ourselves. When we asked Philip to describe the executions which happened outside Newgate Prison, the board felt energised and was moving vigorously around the table. On inspection of the paper afterwards, it again, looked very similar to a pentagram.

Summary

The Bar area had a comfortable ambience and the light and noise pollution from the street outside gave the area a generally unspooky feeling. However, this being the case, still bangs and noises were heard, most notably during the first vigil, the sound of a sizeable bag or object falling (slumping) onto the floor was significant,

especially as on inspection only moments later, nothing was seen to have fallen or had even moved. There was nothing on the floor near the table at all. One member reported seeing a moving shadow in the bar area.

More than one member, myself included, felt the toilet area had an atmosphere. The hand dryer started up but this could be explained by faulty or old electrics. A more unlikely explanation for this would be an insect flying too close to the sensor on the dryer. More investigation needs to be

done here.

The 3rd Floor was felt by many to be the most atmospheric, although the general state of the rooms and the fact there was no electricity could have added to the feel of the place. Various noises were heard, drafts were felt and there was some very interesting patterns drawn by the planchette or automatic writing device. Many members reported psychic impressions here, which are on record to compare with later visits to this site. Some members felt physically unwell or breathless in this area.

The Cellar was incredibly dark when the doors were closed and the lights were turned off. It would be very easy to be spooked in such a location. Many members noted changes in the atmosphere, especial-



The “cells”: We felt, on inspection, that it was unlikely people had been incarcerated here.

ly in the far 'cell' or area of the cellar past the barrel lift. Many felt the area near the barrel lift itself had a strange feeling about it, with one member hearing whispered voices coming from that area. Although we had asked for the air conditioning unit to be turned off, the refrigeration unit had to stay on. Could it be possible that the refrigeration unit was causing some sort of infrasound effect, making people feel uneasy or that they were being watched? The same effect can cause people to feel like they've been touched or they can see movement in their peripheral vision, all of which has been reported in this location at some time.

All in all, it was a very interesting evening which was enjoyed by all mem-

bers. It is a remarkable location which definitely warrants further investigation by the Ghost Club.

I would like to extend the team's grateful thanks to Emmanuelle from the Viaduct Tavern who looked after us on the night, also to the management of the venue for providing us with such an interesting location. I would also like to thank Paul Brown for providing many of the photographs used in this report and Philip Carr for finding us such a remarkable location to investigate! Finally I would personally like to thank everyone who attended for keeping such detailed notes, without which, writing this report would not have been possible.

Sarah Darnell.

Investigation

Stirling Castle

Sunday 2 March 2008

restored to its medieval glory. It was formally opened by the Queen on St Andrews Day, 1999. Built by James IV in 1503, it was converted to a four storey military barracks in the 19th Century. The Hall has been restored to its original appearance and



Stirling Castle: A favourite Royal residence of many Stuart

History

Sirling Castle is by far the grandest of all Scotland's castles and one of the most popular visitor attractions in the country. Located 250 feet above the plateau on an extinct volcano, Stirling became the strategic military key to the kingdom during the 13th and 14th century wars of Independence and was the favourite royal residence of many of the Stuart Monarchs.

Many important events from Scotland's past took place at Stirling Castle, including the murder of the eighth Earl of Douglas by James II in 1452. It played an important role in the life of Mary Queen of Scots. Her childhood was spent in the castle and Mary's coronation took place in the Chapel Royal in 1543. The Great Hall dates from the end of the Middle Ages and has been

it is now widely admired for its magnificence on the Stirling skyline.

The first fortification on the site dates to the 11th century. Much of the castle which exists today, including the Palace and Chapel Royal is magnificent Renaissance architecture with a strong French influence. The Royal Palace, 1540-42, is the finest Renaissance building in Scotland. A three-storey building with an ornate facade of tall windows and niches which contain a selection of grotesque carved figures and Renaissance sculptures. Over the Centuries, the Palace Block was stripped for military use and the Royal Chambers converted to mess rooms and officers' quarters.

The King's Presence Chamber originally included an ornate ceiling of over 100 carved oak heads (the Stirling Heads).

Many of the heads have been lost or destroyed but some survive to let us imagine how the original ceiling would have looked. Work is now in progress to restore the rich Renaissance decoration of the Kings' and Queens' apartments.

The King's Old Buildings house the regimental Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In the Crimea in 1854, the Sutherland Highlanders earned the nickname of the 'Thin Red Line', when they repelled repeated attacks from the Russian Cavalry

Alleged Activity

There have been numerous reports of a soldier in full Highland dress standing in the Main Square and when approached by Tourists he simply fades away in front of their very eyes. His apparition has also

been recorded in Elphinstone Tower. Apart from the Highland soldier, Stirling Castle is reputed to be haunted by several ghosts. One is a 'Pink Lady'; the apparition of a beautiful woman in a pink gown. She has been identified as a phantom of Mary, Queen of Scots, or the ghost of a woman searching for her husband. The ghost has been reported at the Church of the Holyrood but her apparition is most frequently seen on Ladies Rock, situated between the Castle and the Church. Another spectre that has been sighted is the 'Green Lady', thought to be often associated with fire. She may have been a lady in waiting to Mary, Queen of Scots and she is believed to have saved Mary when her bedclothes caught fire. There is historical record of Mary having been rescued from a fire in the Castle.



The magnificent Great Hall



View from the Elphinstone Tower

a white dress was witnessed by a member of the Castle Staff in the Unicorn Cafe. The apparition made an appearance one morning before the cafe opened up to the public. Initially, the member of staff became concerned as he thought the girl had been locked in the Cafe all night, only to then see her vanish into thin air.

The Investigation

Investigators

Team 1

Derek Green (organiser), Joan Green (first aider) and Dave Alderton and Mark Ord (technical).

Team 1: Derek Green , Bill Green, Stephanie MacDonald , L y n n Robertson, Kay Robertson, Carolanne Douglas, Nicola Bassett, Colin MacDonald, Karen Donaldson, Monica Tandy, and Chris De Rosa.

Team 2

Joan Green, Lisa Bowell, Rhoda Carr, Frank Carr, Colin Flynn, Soraya Badar, Andy Glanville, Tony Martin, Jonty Stern, and Marco Piva.

Castle Staff in Attendance: Brian Gibson, Frank Shields and Castle Supervisor, Ross Blevins.

Areas covered:

- * The Castle Kitchens
- * Elphinstone Tower
- * The Great Hall
- * The Royal Apartments

In the Inner Close of the Castle stands the King's Old Building, which is also known as The Governor's Block. It is in this building that footsteps echo across the ceiling of a room at the top of a flight of stairs and yet there is nothing above that room except for a roof on which nobody could walk. In the 1820's there was a "sentry beat" along the battlements that existed over the Governor's Block. One night a sentry, taking over guard duty, found the previous guard dead at his post, mouth wide open, a look of utter terror on his face. No explanation was ever made for this incident although it is known that after this, several other guards reported strange and terrifying incidents on the beat. The sentry duty above the Governor's Block was discontinued during early Victorian times.

Recent activity in the form of a strange white mist has been reported in the Castle Kitchens which have been restored and opened to the public. The Great Hall also has reports of phantom music being heard seemingly coming from the Minstrel's Gallery.

The ghostly figure of a little girl wearing

Prior to the investigation, the following

observations/feelings were recorded by various members of the team between 17:30 and 18:30 hrs:

Rhoda Carr: In the Unicorn cafe, while tidying up coffee cups and plates, I started pushing chairs back under the table where Frank and I were sitting. I pushed one of the chairs back into position and it pushed back out. I looked under the table to see if it was hitting off someone's bag but it wasn't. I then pushed the chair back under the table and it pushed back out again. For a third time I pushed the chair back under the table and it pushed back out again. The feeling I was now having was one of slight aggression, we hadn't even started the tour/investigation and here I was fighting with a chair! I left the chair.

Lisa Bowell: While standing on the Anne Battery, Lisa described seeing the figure of a man in Highland Dress (soldier?) He was about 5ft 8, very chunky, suntanned and with sandy/light brown hair cut straight up

and down. He was wearing a kilt which Lisa described to Frank Shields who confirmed that the kilt was from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. She noted that he moved within the group.

In the King's Guard Hall, Lisa noted seeing two points of light in the far left hand side of the Fireplace.

Chris De Rosa: During the tour, Chris noted feeling a presence in the King's Guard Hall. As he looked around, he reported that he could see a figure in the open double doorway into the King's Guard Hall from beside the entrance out into the Inner Close. He proceeded to take a photograph and caught an orb and a darkish colour in the photograph.

Marco Piva: At 18:10, Marco heard feet shuffling behind the open gate at bottom of stairs at Princes Walk. It was very clear that no one was there.

Dave Alderton: During the tour, Dave reports that his camera batteries have failed



The Kitchen

and he has lost power in his camera. They were brand new.

The Castle Kitchen and Bake House

Group 1

Time: 1840hrs

The outside weather conditions are dry but cloudy. Derek Green opened the vigil by asking out and Dave Alderton took EMF, temperature and thermal readings

could feel hot and cold spots which she later described to Derek as inconsistent with the draughts of cold coming from the door and window.

At 1900 hrs, Derek started to conduct a knock/response experiment. Derek conducted this on the front bench of seating facing the video screen in the corridor leading into the kitchens. Monica sat nearby and switched her dictaphone on. On the



The stairs in the Elphinstone Tower.

throughout the vigil. After Derek asked out, Lynn Robertson personally noted a feeling of giddiness. Lynn was standing beside the long table in front of the main entrance into the kitchen. Stephanie MacDonald then asked out. Immediately after this, Colin MacDonald said he could hear leaves moving or trees rustling outside the window. On investigation it was noted that there are steep slopes on the other side of the kitchen wall but no trees. During the vigil Carolanne Douglas noted feeling a pain in her nose and forehead. Carolanne then started to walk round the kitchen and

third set of knocks, Monica reported that her recorder had stopped. This had not happened before.

Elphinstone Tower

Group 2

Time: 1840hrs

Group 2 split into two teams to watch the top and lower floors.

On the top floor at 18:50 hrs, Marco noted seeing what looked like a black spot moving fast. This spot was about 2 metres above the ground and moved near the centre of the room. Marco also felt very drawn to the area which resembled an oven and he

also felt very cold. Joan Green felt drawn to the bottom look out post in a smaller room area through stone doorway. She noted that the lookout area was very dark in the corner and she felt a presence was

the presence of a male energy. Lisa added that she sensed a doorway in the wall facing the lower stair. However the stonework did not reflect this.

The group then moved back upstairs and



Lower floor of the Elphinstone Tower.

there. Lisa Bowell came to the same area, stood in the corner and noted that she was sensing an energy. Marco stood in the same area during the vigil and later reported that he had sensed a male energy in the same area as Joan. (Joan did not explain to Lisa and Marco about what she had sensed in the area.)

As team 1 entered the bottom room Marco became aware of a man standing in front of the wall opposite the door. Marco later noted that he had sensed the man come out of the wall. Joan asked out and Lisa sensed

Rhoda was drawn to the area of the corner where Joan, Marco and Lisa had sensed an energy.

Team 2 started a vigil in the lower floor and reported a quiet vigil. Mark Ord recorded the temperature at a constant 4°C throughout the vigil and no EMF was recorded, until 19:05 hrs, when Sorya asked out for communication and a reading of 0.6mG was recorded on the EMF meter.

The group moved to the top room and did not report any anomalies.

Elphinstone Tower

Group 1

Time:1910 hrs

Once again the group split into two teams.

At 19:26hrs, Monica recorded a three second blip on her Trifield Natural EMF meter.

Monica also noticed the area had got colder as this happened. Dave tested the area with his EMF meter but could not record any anomalies. The natural EMF (set to “magnetic”) would only pick up natural magnetic fields - unlike the Gauss Meter. Before the team moved to the lower floor, Dave reported catching an anomaly on his thermal imager. It seemed as though Dave was catching a round object moving along the wall. No explanation has been found for this.

On the lower floor Dave Alderton stated

to scan the area with the Thermal Imager and he noted what appeared to be a band of heat at the bottom of the stairs against the wall with the handrail. Dave focussed on this and explained to Derek that the imager was picking up on a heat source on the stone. Unusual as it seemed, Dave suggested that it could have been the sun from earlier on, shining on the wall and resulting in the wall retaining some heat. Derek then started asking out and also for spirit to try and come down the stair. No activity was reported.

On the lower floor Stephanie called out and after doing this both she and Chris noted what sounded like footsteps towards the window. Stephanie then asked out again and both Colin and Chris heard the same sound.

Carolanne Douglas had difficulty breathing at the foot of the stairs. While this was happening she became aware of a presence coming down the stair. Carolanne shone her torch a few times but could not see anything or anyone.

Up on the top floor Stephanie asked out after a period of time had elapsed but no activity was reported. Before the group left, Carolanne was standing at the entrance to Elphinstone Tower and it was here that she thought she saw a figure in black walk towards her. This made Carolanne jump and it gave her what she described as the "heebie jeebies!"

The Castle Kitchen

Group 2

Time: 1910hrs

Joan opened the vigil with a circle. Lisa said that she was sensing an energy, however the level of the energy was not strong. The full scribed account of the circle in the Castle Kitchens is available on request in the full investigation report.

The Great Hall

Group 1

Time: 2000 hrs

Derek asked some of the team members to sit in circle. Again, the full scribed account is available on request, or available on-line. Just as the Circle was closed, Colin and Kay heard what sounded like a flute faintly being played. Carolanne Douglas also noted that during the circle she could see orbs of light and at 20:25hrs she heard voices coming from outside the building. Carolanne also noted cold spots in the middle of the hall.

No EMF was recorded during the vigil.

King's Presence Chamber

Group 2

Time: 2000hrs

The group was again split into two. Standing inside the fireplace, Soraya started using her EMF meter for communication as she sensed an energy present. Soraya asked for spirit to push the dial on her meter into the red section. Within minutes this seemed to have been achieved, as Soraya was receiving very high EMF fluctuations which had not been there previously. As this was happening, Soraya felt tingles and shivers and Rhoda reported an uncomfortable feeling in her stomach. Soraya pinpointed this reading to the interior of the fireplace. The group then checked around the area in question to see if they could find any natural explanation for such a high reading. No explanation could be found. Rhoda again noted an uncomfortable feeling in her stomach and Colin and Soraya started using both their meters at the fireplace. Mark Ord then joined them but it then appeared that only Soraya's meter seemed to be active.

King's Guard Hall

Lisa, Andy, Tony and Marco sat in a circle. Details of this are again, available on request.

The Great Hall

Full Team

Time:20:40hrs

Derek called the full team of investigators into the Great Hall for vigil number 4 and asked for a circle to be conducted with some of the members. A full scribed account is available on request, or online. Stephanie MacDonald noted that during the circle, the Hall appeared to get colder and colder. At the end of the vigil, Marco Piva approached Derek and explained that while he was taking pictures in the Great Hall, his camera turned itself off and back on again. He could not understand why it did this as it had never happened before.

The King's Guard Hall

Full Team

Time: 2110hrs

The full investigation split into two

groups. Some gathered in the King's Guard Hall and some in the King's Presence Chamber. Before the vigil commenced Marco took some photographs in the Guard Hall and again his camera switched itself off and then back on again.

The following sitters formed a circle:

Andy Glanville, Tony Martin, Stephanie MacDonald, Nicola Bassett, Lynn Robertson, Derek Green, Rhoda Carr, Joan Green, and Jonty Stern. Bill Green scribed the circle and Frank Carr watched the time span of the circle. (The full scribed account, again, is available on request.)

Summing Up

This was The Ghost Club's first investigation of the Castle and possibly the first paranormal investigation to be granted in the Castle and its grounds. Due to this being our first, The Ghost Club and the castle management agreed a time scale for a tour and an investigation.

It was felt by many that Stirling Castle retains a lot of energy from its vibrant past.



The newly restored Great Hall.

Therefore it could be possible that the castle will from time to time, go through periods where there is paranormal activity and then periods of time where it may be quiet. There are numerous reports from the castle of various sightings and these have been recorded over a number of years. Some of the testimonies are very similar and come from a variety of sources. At present it would appear that the most active spirit in the castle is the Highland soldier. A recent account involved a tourist who whilst visiting Elphinstone Tower experienced what appeared to be a powercut. The lady explained that all the lights went out and as she panicked a man in Highland dress appeared in the lower level of the tower and helped her back out into the open air. Once out in the sunshine, she noticed the man had gone. The tourist decided to speak to one of the guides and make sure that her thanks were passed on. The Castle Guide thanked her for the information and assured her it would be passed on. Later in conversation with fellow colleagues it was agreed that no members of staff were in the building wearing Highland Dress. That testimony is like many other accounts which have been handed down over the years at Stirling.

I feel that Stirling Castle does warrant further investigation as there are a few areas in which I would like to see the teams spending more time. In all the investigation of Stirling Castle was a very enjoyable night with a few interesting points. A night which I know the Ghost Club would very much like to repeat.

Finally on behalf of the Ghost Club Council, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to William McEwan, Ross Blevins, Brian Gibson, Frank Shields, the management and staff of Stirling Castle and Historic Scotland for all their help and

kindness in making this investigation possible for members of the Ghost Club.

Derek Green
Area Investigation Co-ordinator
(Scotland)

Please note: this is an abridged version of the original report which can be supplied on request.

Members

Announcements

Congratulations to Zoe and Tim Mitchell on the birth of their daughter, Evie Mae on 9th January 2008. Some of you may remember that although heavily pregnant, Zoe still managed to make it to the Christmas Dinner at the George last year! We wish all three of them the best of luck for the future.



