



HAUNTED HISTORY
UK's spookiest century

HOLY GRAIL
Amazing discovery

WEIRD WOOD
Terror in the trees

Paranormal

Paranormal

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF THE UNEXPLAINED

www.paranormalmagazine.co.uk • MAY 2010 • ISSUE 47

Wendigo!

TERRIBLE SPIRIT OF THE NORTHERN WASTES

ALSO
UFOS OVER SOUTH AMERICA

FAKING IT
Most flaunted 'ghost' photos

PLUS
GHOST RESEARCH
SKULL HOUSE
SPECTRAL SOLDIERS
SPOOKY SUSSEX
SCIENTIST'S SÉANCE SURPRISE

ALSO Frightening lightning

PARANORMAL NEWS
ALIEN LIFE & FISH FALLS
'EXPLODING' HEADS

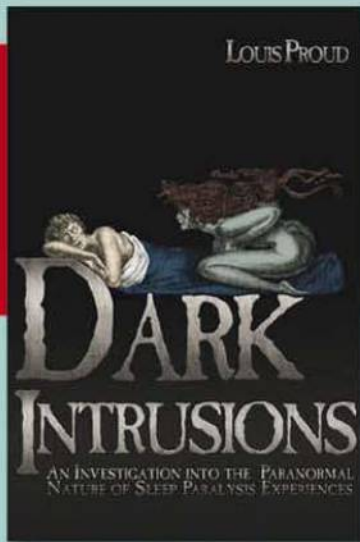
SIGHTINGS
WORLDWIDE ROUND-UP

READERS' EXPERIENCES
THREE COMPETITIONS
REVIEWS AND COMMENT

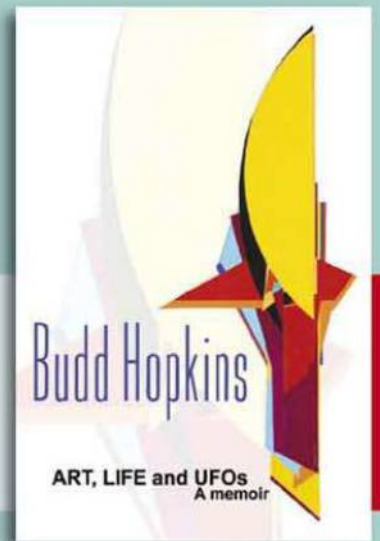
GHOSTS//UFOS//ESP//PHENOMENA//WEIRD CREATURES//FOLKLORE//SUPERSTITIONS//MAGIC//ANOMALIES

SIMPLY PHENOMENAL

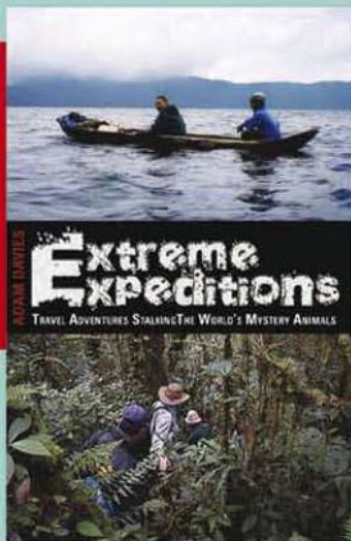
Anomalist Books



“Louis Proud has demonstrated with this book that he is one of the most acute commentators on the paranormal to appear in recent years...”
– Colin Wilson, author of *The Occult*



“This is an excellent book – well written, compulsively readable, often funny, enlightening... I recommend it highly.”
– Jerome Clark, author of *The UFO Encyclopedia*



“This is what really goes on behind-the-scenes during the course of a quest for monsters in exotic locales... packed with adventure, intrigue, humor and (of course) monsters...”
– Nick Redfern, author of *There's Something in the Woods*



“*The Cryptoterrestrials* is the most refreshing speculation on the paranormal I've seen in ages...the *Book of the Damned* for the 21st century.”
– John Shirley, author of *Bleak History*

AnomalistBooks.com

Available from Amazon or your local bookseller.

www.journal-plaza.net & www.freedowns.net

Paranormal

Exploring the world of the unexplained

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

12 ISSUES FOR £34.98
saving £16.02
See page 9 for more details



CONTENTS

Paranormal Magazine/Issue 47

14 Hungry spirit

RICHARD FREEMAN investigates the various manifestations of the terrifying Wendigo, a malevolent spirit first whispered about round the camp fires of Canadian Indians.

20 If you go down to the woods today...

ROBERT GOODMAN takes a nervous stroll round one of the UK's weirdest woodlands, where ghosts and UFOs appear and animals disappear and where an ancient cult may still hold its revels.

24 Faker's dozen

JANET BORD, co-director of the Fortean Picture Library, is used to examining photos purporting to show the paranormal. Here Janet selects an unlucky 13 of photographs she knows to be fakes - how believable do you think they are?

30 Is this the holy grail?

JERRY GLOVER reveals to the world a rare medieval carving which he is certain represents the most magical object in the European mystic tradition. Hidden in plain sight in an English church for centuries, this could prove a discovery of international importance.

36 Alien hunting ground

NIGEL WATSON casts his eye to the skies of South America, a region which has seen a wealth of UFO activity for decades and is currently experiencing major flaps in every one of its countries.

40 The anthropologist and the spiritualists

JACK HUNTER felt it was high time anthropologists took an interest in séances and mediumship. He therefore immersed himself in psychic circles and had experiences which profoundly changed his attitude towards the beliefs of spiritualists and his own world view.

44 The ghost-hunter's secret weapon

JOHN FRASER shows the importance of research both before and after any paranormal investigation, arguing that it is an essential tool for any serious ghost-hunter.

48 Signs and wonders

MARK GREENER takes us back to the turbulent, bloody years of the English Civil War when ghostly events became frenzied and the paranormal was used for 'spin' by both sides of the political divide.

54 My visit to the Skull House

DAVID HARRISON takes tea with 'Charlie', the skull of a priest beheaded during the Civil War - or is it the skull of one of King Arthur's knights? - and now cursed.

58 Fire from heaven

LOUIS PROUD examines the paranormal aspects of one of the most dramatic yet little known forces of nature. Why are some people struck by lightning over and over again during their lifetime and other survivors apparently develop psychic abilities after being struck?

64 Ghostly and ghastrly

CATE LUDLOW delves into the lurid pages of the Terrific Register and pulls out some plum ghost stories for a more than usually gothic UNEARTHED.

68 Spooky Sussex & frights in Brighton

DAVID SCANLAN and JANET CAMERON take a tour along the South Coast of England to reveal a host of ghostly locations, from creepy castles and manor houses to haunted hotels and nightclubs.



14

HUNGRY SPIRIT

BY RICHARD FREEMAN



24

FAKER'S DOZEN

BY JANET BORD



36

ALIEN HUNTING GROUND

BY NIGEL WATSON



48

SIGNS AND WONDERS

BY MARK GREENER



58

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

BY LOUIS PROUD

REGULARS 5 Editorial // 6 News // 9 Subscriptions // 12 Sightings // 35 Good Fear Guide // 56 Popular Haunts // 74 Experiences // 77 Strange Goings-on // 78 Reviews // 81 Competitions // 82 Bookend

Ghosthunter Store^(tm)

"ghost hunting's one stop shop"

16 Church St. Mount Holly, NJ 08060



Many models of EMF meters starting at \$12
A full line of nightvision video, photo and motion sensors
Digital Video Recorders & all of your other ghost
hunting needs. Faith based items, crystals and
smudging herbs and spiritual supplies to help
with problem hauntings

The only paranormal store run by real researchers with over
20 years of experience & who use everything they sell.
We also continue to help you after your purchase.

www.theghosthunterstore.com - open online 24/7

We ship worldwide




Tony Hyland
Psychic services

Free gift
with every
30 minute
reading

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS FROM REAL AND
EXPERIENCED READERS CALL NOW FOR THE MOST
ACCURATE READING YOU WILL EVER RECEIVE.

Free printed birth chart and profile with
every 30 minute reading. To claim phone
01458 833657 after your reading.

 0906 117 7590 01458 831262

 1580 600 353 1800 719 348

£1.50p/m from BT landline (€2.40 R01)

Credit/Debit card readings 20 minutes £29.99

SMS Text TONY and your message to 79996.
SERVICE 24 hour service. Replies cost £1.50 per text.
www.tonyhyland.com

0906 service provider Inveroak Ltd. SMS = Dynmark Ltd. Help line 08448 010995. 2 text replies.
Calls are recorded 18+ Entertainment purposes only.

Tranquill Light

Call Our Psychic Hotline
0906 5390784



- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Angels & Cherubs | Glow in the Dark | Spells & Ritual Supplies |
| Ashes to Ashes | Incense Shop | T-Lite Holders |
| Books & Journals | Just for Luck | Tarot & Oracle Cards |
| Candels | Meditation Shop | Tarot Boxes |
| Cds | Mood Jewellery | Tiaras |
| Crystals & Gemstones | Mystical Charms | Voodoo |
| Divination Tools | Posters, Cards & Artwork | |
| Gift Ideas | Ritual Herbs | |
| Fancy Dress | Silver Jewellery | |

SPEND £20
in the shop &
RECEIVE A FREE
MYSTERY GIFT

www.tranquillight.co.uk

www.tranquillight.co.uk

Call our 24hr Psychic Line
0906 5390784

You will be calling a live Psychic reader.
We do not use automated/recorded
readings.

To pay on your phone bill: Dial our
Telephone number where you can choose to
enter a chosen reader's pin number or you can
be put through to the next available reader.
0906 5390784

Calls cost £1.50 per minute from a BT landline. Mobile phone
standard network charges may also apply. You must be 18+
and have the bill payer's permission.
All calls are recorded.
Lines open 24hrs, 7 days a week

www.tranquillight.co.uk/phone.html

In accordance with UK Law we must state that a phone or telephone reading is for
entertainment purposes only and no guarantee can be given as to accuracy. All our readers are
hand picked genuine psychics. Charlotte 4005, Arron 4239, Barbara 4246, Elayna 1284,
Erris 4297, Jordan 4315, Mark 4295, maxine 4004, Romea 4255, Sheena 4280, Shelly 4304.

UK GHOST NIGHTS

The home of Ghost Hunting in the UK

OVERNIGHT GHOST HUNT AT
ST. MARY'S
GUILD HALL
COVENTRY

SATURDAY
12TH JUNE
2010

9.30PM
- 3.30AM



Special Introductory Offer £49 per person

Book now at

www.ukghostnights.com



Paranormal

Exploring the world of the unexplained



EDITORIAL Who's afraid of no ghosts?

Visit us online and join the community:
www.paranormalmagazine.co.uk



Tell the editor about your own experience with the paranormal and let him know your views on the magazine. Email editor@paranormalmagazine.co.uk or write to **Richard Holland**, The Editor, Paranormal, Jazz Publishing, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester CH4 9AJ



GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Jazz Publishing, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ, UK. Tel: 01244 663400 • Fax: 01244 660611 info@jazzpublishing.co.uk

EDITOR

Richard Holland
editor@paranormalmagazine.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Lindsay Burdekin
lindsay.burdekin@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 226

ART EDITOR

Gareth Evans - gareth@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 204

WEB EDITOR

Fergus McShane
fergus.mcshane@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 232

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Bord, Janet Cameron, Jon Downes, John Fraser, Mark Fraser, Richard Freeman, Jerry Glover, Robert Goodman, Mark Greener, David Harrison, Jack Hunter, Christopher Linton, Cate Ludlow, Louis Proud, David Scanlan, Nigel Watson.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Justine Hart - justine@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 235

ACCOUNTS & ADMIN MANAGER

Emma McCrindle - accounts@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 207

ACCOUNTS

Pam Coleman - accounts@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 215

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

Richard Davenport
richard.davenport@paranormalmagazine.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 304

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Shelley Curry - shelley.curry@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 303

ADMINISTRATION

Jan Schofield - jan@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 219
Katie-Marie Challinor - katie@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 224

CIRCULATION & PROMOTIONS

Katy Cuffin - katy@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400 Ext. 237

SUBSCRIPTION & BACK ISSUES

Telephone: 01778 392468
subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk

PUBLISHER

David Gamble - david@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Stuart Mears - stuart@jazzpublishing.co.uk
Telephone: 01244 663400

PRINTING

Warners (Midlands) Ltd.

DISTRIBUTION

Jamie Wren - jamie.wren@mmclld.co.uk
Telephone: 01483 211222

ISSN: 1748-6904

Having trouble finding Paranormal Magazine in your newsagent?

Please contact our distribution company for your nearest outlet on 01483 211222 or visit: www.jazzpublishing.co.uk/stockists

All letters sent to Paranormal Magazine will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes and such are subject to edit and comment editorially. Please ensure that all photos and slides have credits attached. Please send copies not originals as we are unable to return any unsolicited photographs. The views expressed in this magazine by the contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. While every effort is made in compiling Paranormal Magazine, the publishers cannot be held responsible for any effects therefrom. Reproduction of any matter contained in Paranormal Magazine is prohibited without prior permission.



Some years ago I met Brian Dean, a chap who published an occasional little magazine called *Anxiety Culture*. It's now a highly praised 'webazine' (www.anxietyculture.com) and a forthcoming book.

Brian's goal is to expose the fear-driven culture of modern society: exaggerated crime figures, over-the-top news reporting, insecurity regarding your finances and your job etc etc. Brian aims to put things in perspective, expose the fear-mongers and calm us all down with common sense, wit and insight.

Alas, I don't think Brian would be very pleased with me. I have to confess that at times *Paranormal Magazine* ups the fear factor somewhat.

A few months ago (in issue 42) Brad Steiger offered a theory for the vampire phenomenon. He suggested that the vampire may be some sort of disembodied, interdimensional being that possesses humans and turns them into blood-hungry monsters.

Admittedly, this is a bold idea - in fact, it offended some visitors to the *Paranormal Magazine* website, who told us they know several vampires personally and they're all nice people, who just take a little nip from a willing donor from time to time. But to be fair to Brad, the spirit-possession theory was just one of several lifted out of his new book *Real Vampires*, published by Visible Ink, and during his research he did speak personally to members of the 'vampire community'.

Nevertheless, it's a terrifying concept. And if it wasn't unnerving enough, this month Richard Freeman cranks the fear level up to 11 with an article on the Wendigo. The lore of the Wendigo matches Brad Steiger's concept of the vampire rather too well - a disembodied spirit that possesses people, turning them into furious, ravening monsters which prey on human flesh. There is even evidence for a physical transformation for those experiencing 'wendigo psychosis'.

The Wendigo also bears comparison with the Draugr, the 'Viking Undead' of Norse

mythology (see Thomas Polkinghorne's article in issue 40). The Draugr emerges from its tomb bloated, pale-skinned and savage - a fair description of a Wendigo. Both are terrors of the frozen North, which seems more than coincidence. But is it evidence merely of a shared folklore or of something more real?

Sharing space with Brad's article on 'Real Vampires' in issue 42, Richard also scared the proverbials off us with his article on killer ghosts (I really ought to have put a health warning or something on that issue!). Richard wrote about

'Nowadays you can't even tune into a nice cosy ghost-hunting programme on the telly without them cracking on about demons.'

ghastly tentacled things emerging out of the darkness and strangling unfortunate people in their beds. He, too, implied such horrors might be preying on us from some other dimension.

Can things get any more alarming? Yes, they can. Nowadays you can't even tune into a nice cosy ghost-hunting programme on the telly without them cracking on about 'demons'. Troubled spirits aren't scary enough anymore, it seems.

Demons! That's going too far. Next you'll be expecting me to believe in such wacky things as sea serpents and modern fairy sightings... oh dear, which I do happen to believe in!

We'll all just have to take a breather and put things in perspective. Stories of ghosts actually hurting people are very rare. Honestly. It. Hardly. Ever. Happens.

There is one advantage to reading *Paranormal Magazine*, however unnerving it might be. You can't read it in the dark, so at least you've got an excuse to leave the light on.

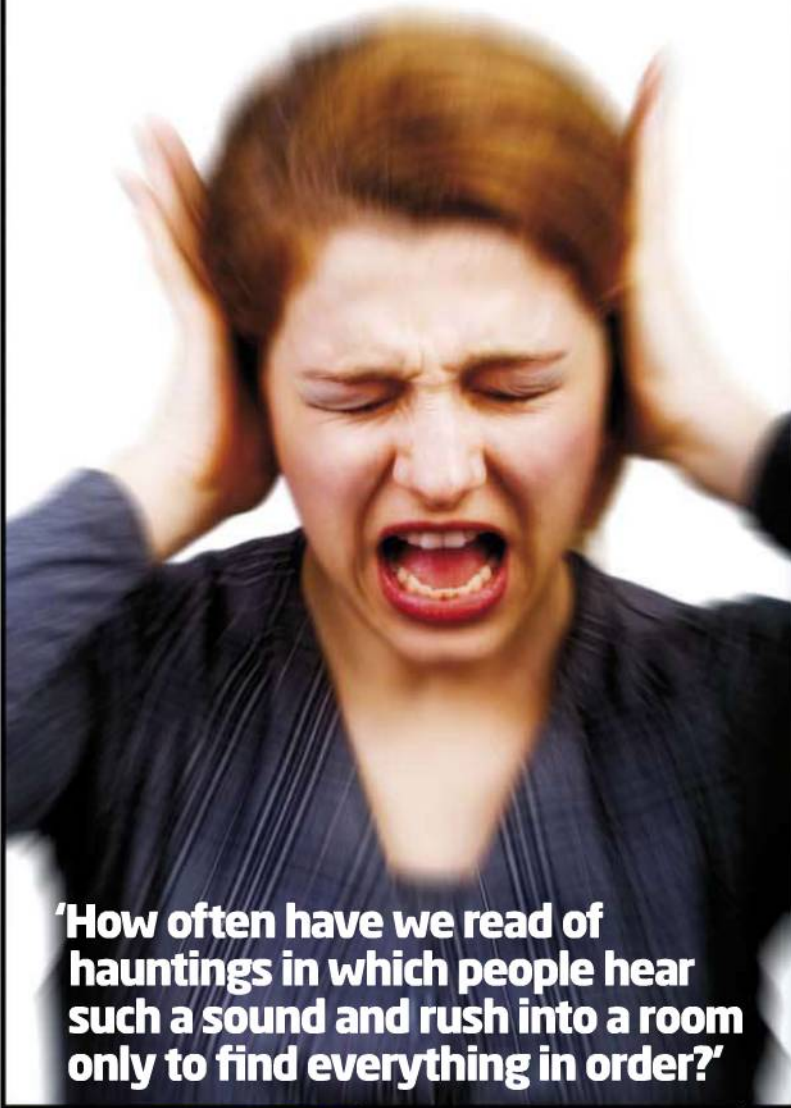
Richard Holland, Editor

Paranormal News

The latest from the world of weird

What's that noise?

Exploding head syndrome sounds like something from a David Cronenberg movie. In fact it's a harmless - and rarely reported - medical condition that may have some bearing on ghostly events.



'How often have we read of hauntings in which people hear such a sound and rush into a room only to find everything in order?'

Last month we reported that psychologists in the Netherlands had discovered that 10% of normal children of primary school age regularly hear disembodied voices.

Well, now *Paranormal Magazine* has learnt of another little-known medical condition which might have some bearing on supernatural experience - the alarmingly named 'exploding head syndrome'.

Exploding head syndrome is a rare phenomenon in which a sleeping or dozing person suddenly hears 'a terrifically loud sound in their head, such as a bomb exploding, a clash of cymbals or a gun going off'.

Writer Diane Mapes, writing for the health section of the MSNBC news site, highlighted the condition in February. She spoke to suspected sufferer Marie Raymond, of Seattle, who explained that she was often woken in the middle of the night by a loud crashing noise, or by someone apparently shouting her name.

'The sound is terrifying - super loud, like someone has broken in,' said Marie. 'But when I get up to look around, nothing's amiss and everything's quiet.'

It was Marie's description of the crashing as sounding like 'someone had broken a window or knocked over a set of dishes' that intrigued *Paranormal Magazine*. How often have we read of hauntings - especially poltergeist cases - in which people hear such a sound and rush into a room only to find everything in order? In an article in our December 2008 issue, for example, investigator Robert Snow recalled hearing at a haunted cottage in Dorset, 'a tremendous crashing sound, as if a thousand bottles had been dropped onto a stone floor from a great height'.

The sound as of heavy furniture being dragged about is another commonly reported phenomenon of this type - and then there are the even more familiar taps, knocks and 'footsteps'.

Paranormal Shorts



THROWN AWAY

A policy document has revealed that following the closure of its dedicated unit, any new UFO reports sent to the MoD will only be kept for 30 days before being destroyed. This will save the MoD from having to release the reports in response to freedom of information requests, which it found burdensome.

David Clarke, who got hold of the memo, commented: 'This is the final rubber-stamping of the decision - they want to wash their hands of the UFO business altogether. Even if something quite serious happened, perhaps a near-miss with an airline, the MoD will say, "We may have had a report on it, but we've destroyed it".'

[SOURCE: Daily Telegraph, Feb 28]

MYSTERY LOAFER

Residents of the Cornish town of Fowey have been mystified by gifts of bread found in the morning on their doorstep. Town Crier Michael Penprase said: 'It was beautiful-looking bread. My wife put a notice in the window asking for a sliced loaf - and sure enough, this morning in a bag on the door handle were three sliced loaves of bread.'

The donor leaves a card calling himself the Phantom Bread Maker of Old Fowey Town, picturing himself as a cloaked figure. Residents are enjoying the mystery but the police have warned the bread might be 'contaminated'.

[SOURCE: BBC, Feb 18]

ALIEN ART

Ancient cave paintings found in Madhya Pradesh, India, are believed by some to show 'an ET in a space suit' and 'a classical flying saucer-shaped UFO ... in what might be an ancient UFO abduction scenario'.

Local archaeologist Wassim Khan says the objects and beings seen in the paintings are anomalous when compared to previously discovered examples of prehistoric cave art in the area. Indeed he is reported as saying that that 'they might suggest beings from other planets have been interacting with humans since prehistoric times'. Von Daniken would have got a whole book out of this one! [ArchaeologyDaily.com, Feb 17]

Did Templars venerate an ancient nail?

In a fortress once believed to belong to the Knights Templar a four-inch nail has been found, identical to those used by the Romans for crucifying criminals in the time of Christ. It was in a decorated box and had clearly been handled with care. Archaeologists think the Templars may have believed it was one of the nails used to crucify Christ - an important holy relic. The fort is on a small isle off the coast of Madeira.

[SOURCE: Daily Telegraph, March 2]

According to a 1989 study in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* some patients experience a bright flash of light along with the 'explosion' and often experience an associated 'sense of alarm, together with a cold sweat, laboured breathing' and a rapid heart rate.

J. M. S. Pearce, a British neurologist who carried out the study and coined the term admitted that exploding head syndrome cause is a 'mystery' and concluded that it might be 'quite common, but underreported'.

Dr Neil Kline, a sleep physician and representative of the American Sleep Association, told Diane Mapes: 'It's not associated with pain nor with any disorder that we know of and there are no physiological medical consequences that are associated with it,' which also sounds rather like: 'We don't know what causes this.'

Here then is another phenomenon accepted by scientists even though it's rare and they don't understand it. But ghosts, which have been reported by countless numbers of credible witnesses down the centuries, are still left out in the cold as far as scientific research is concerned.

This strange condition may well be connected to some kind of 'haunted house big noise syndrome', in which an as yet unexplained external source - the 'ghost' - has the effect of making witnesses hear any number of inexplicable sounds. But until scientific research is undertaken... we just won't know.

[SOURCE: MSNBC.msn.com, Feb 17]

UNWILLING FAMILY OF 'QUAKERS'

Are the Desarmes family incredibly lucky or unlucky to have become caught up in two devastating natural disasters - but survived?



the unbelievable occurred - Chile was shaken by the second devastating earthquake of the year.

'We came here thinking we were safe, but we ended up living through something worse,' Pierre's brother Stanley told the BBC. 'I thought this was the year I was destined to die. We were praying together and we said

After the major earthquake that all but destroyed Port-au-Prince in January, Pierre Desarmes decided the best thing he could do was get his family out of Haiti.

Although he is a Haiti national, Mr Desarmes was only visiting Port-au-Prince at the time of the earthquake. He is a singer with a group called the Reggaeton Boys and for years has been based outside the country.

He was therefore greatly relieved when he was able to arrange for his parents, his brothers and his young niece to fly back with him to start a new life in his adopted country - Chile.

They had hardly had time to begin to get used to their new life when

"Whatever happens, at least we are going to die together'.

Pierre's father, Joseph, said: 'In Haiti, they got me out from under the ruins of a house, and I felt lucky to have survived. To come to Chile and go through the same situation, you can't imagine how powerless I felt. It was the worst thing that could have happened to me.'

Pierre says his relatives are in a state of shock after the two earthquakes. They feel cursed.

'I am acting as father, brother, cousin, helper, psychologist. They believe that every situation means death, and I have to make a supreme effort to keep on convincing them that things here are not so bad.'

[SOURCE: BBC, March 4]

ZOMBIES SUE

An appeals court in Minnesota has given the go-ahead for a group of people dressed as zombies to sue police who arrested them for disorderly conduct. The seven 'zombies', wearing white face powder, fake blood etc. had lurched through a mall urging shoppers to 'Get your brains here!' in a protest against consumerism way back in 2006.

The appeals court ruled that police had no reason to imprison them for two nights simply for 'dressing as zombies and walking erratically in downtown Minneapolis'.

The protestors' lawsuit against Minneapolis and its police had initially been denied by a lower court.

[SOURCE: ABC News, Feb 26]

UFO-NUKES

UFO researcher Robert Hastings and former US Air Force Captain Robert Salas are organising a press conference later in the year to highlight concerns about UFO incursions at nuclear weapons sites.

They say media reports of UFO activity at nuclear weapons sites have been published as recently as March 2009 and that they know of hundreds of reliable witnesses to UFO 'observation'. Indeed a dozen ex-USAF personnel will discuss their own UFO experiences at the conference, which is to be called The UFO-Nukes Connection.

Learn more at www.ufohastings.com by clicking on the Press Conference page.

[SOURCE: UFOChronicles.com, Feb 25]

CAT FILES

Following a freedom of information request from the newspaper, a UK government department has made available all its files on alien big cat sightings.

The dossier released by Natural England lists more than 100 sightings of non-native and unidentified animals since 2005. Of these 38% were of big cats (or of their spoor), with the remainder including such species as boar, raccoons, a snapping turtle and a possible wallaroo. Charlie Wilson, who coordinates reports for the agency, confirmed that 'escaped, released, dumped animals occur in the wild now and then' but doubted the existence of breeding populations.

[SOURCE: Daily Telegraph, March 6]

FAITH HEALING

According to an article in *The Lancet*, there is increasing evidence that placebos (fake treatments) have an actual biological effect. In other words, the chemicals in the 'medicine' have no effect but the expectation of recovery may sometimes be enough to change a patient's brain and body.

Although doctors have long known placebos can help patients feel better, this is the first time they've recognized that the 'treatments' have sparked any physical changes.

Paranormal Magazine is intrigued because this has implications not only for 'faith healing' but any psychological effect causing actual changes in the body - including harmful curses.

[SOURCE: PhysOrg.com, Feb 18]

New hope for alien life

The quest for environments which might support alien organisms continues apace.

Last month *Paranormal News* reported that NASA's Cassini spacecraft had discovered evidence of subterranean oceans on Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, the first water-bearing location found in the solar system beyond Mars.

Water has also been found closer to home – on our own moon. Previous data has found water vapour and water molecules but now scientists have detected a possible 600 million metric tons of water ice in more than 40 craters in the Moon's North Pole.

The data was gathered using data from a NASA radar that flew aboard an Indian spacecraft, Chandrayaan-I.

'After analysing the data, our science team determined a strong indication of water ice, a finding which will give future missions a new target to further explore and exploit,' said Jason Crusan, a program executive for NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate.

Chemical fingerprints of potential life-enabling organic molecules have also been detected further out in the Milky Way, in the Orion Nebula, a nearby 'stellar nursery'. The discovery was made by the international Herschel Space Observatory.

The nebula has been described as 'one of the most prolific chemical factories in space'. Molecules already identified by spectral analysis include water, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, methanol, dimethyl ether, hydrogen cyanide, sulphur oxide, sulphur dioxide and their isotope analogues. It is expected that new organic molecules will also be identified.

Then there's the search for 'Para-Life': previously unrecognised forms of life here on Earth (see 'It's Life But Not As We Know It' by Mark Greener in our September 2009 issue). Geobiologist Felisa Wolfe-Simon is seeking Para-Life in the waters and mud of Mono Lake near Yosemite National Park, California. This ancient lake covers about 65 square miles with no outlet and is noted for its weird tufa formations. It also has one of the highest natural concentrations of arsenic on Earth.

Dr Wolfe-Simon has theorised there may be life that chose an 'evolutionary pathway' to utilise arsenic, which is chemically close to phosphorus, one of the essential building blocks of life. If she can find such microbes at Mono Lake it could suggest life started on our planet not once but at least twice, which would in turn help to support the idea that life is



PARA-LIFE: Mono Lake looks so weird and alien it's no surprise to learn that investigations are taking place here in the hope of discovering organisms using different 'building blocks' for life than anything else on Earth.

much more likely to have started elsewhere in the galaxy.

'We have some very exciting data,' says Dr Wolfe-Simon but we won't know the results of her research for 'arsenolife' till she publishes them at the end of this year.

[SOURCES: DiscoveryOnline, March 2; TimesOnline, March 4; ScienceDaily.com, March 5]

'Child Sacrifice' witchdoctor arrested for deception

A couple of months ago (in issue 45) we reported on the BBC's exposure of an increase in child sacrifices taking place in Uganda, in particular the story of one former witch doctor who claimed that before he converted to Christianity he had murdered about 70 people, including his own son.

Polino Angela said he had made it his mission to convince other witch doctors to give up the practice, hinting that this was the reason he had not been arrested for the murders. Now news has reached us that Angela has been arrested – not for the child sacrifices but for lying about them.

He allegedly repeated his claims to a Ugandan police officer and has been charged with 'giving false information to a public officer'. Moses Binoga, head of the Anti-Human Sacrifice and Trafficking Task Force, said the police have learnt from Angela's relatives and

neighbours that his son died of malaria and was not sacrificed.

'Seventy people [killed] was just fantasy to make the story look interesting,' said Mr Binoga. He added that Mr Angela had admitted lying, saying he hoped the international publicity would lead to a flow of donations to his anti-sacrifice organisation.

It is perhaps possible that the Ugandan police have sought to discredit Angela because they are embarrassed that 70 murders should have remained undetected by them while the 'killer' freely admitted to them to a foreign film crew.

The anti-sacrifice task force has maintained that child sacrifice is a growing problem, however, and we at *Paranormal Magazine* would certainly rather believe Angela is lying rather telling the truth about such hideous crimes.

[SOURCE: BBC, Feb 26]

the Magic Wand Shop

Fine Magical Wands made in England since 1485

Down the cobble-stoned alleyway, tucked in the corner away from the glare of the gas-light, lies The Magic Wand Shop. Few know of its existence. Normal human beings are certainly always in too much of a hurry to notice it. Only magical folk - witches, wizards, conjurers and those who believe in magic - have the time and the intuition to find the shop and discover its wares!

Wooden magic wands in silk-lined presentation boxes, hand-crafted in England (the home of magic) by master craftsmen.



Suitable for wizards and witches, young and old.

What a wonderful gift and a treasure to behold!

Other amazing and magical gifts available - check out our website for more details...



View our range on our web-site

www.themagicwandshop.co.uk

AURA READINGS

Ann Castle was born seeing auras and interprets them from your digital photos. Auras are formed from thoughts, so they cannot lie. Readings can:

- Identify root causes of problems and help you change your life!
- Shed light on your pet's behavior problems.
- Reveal the truth about your lover.
- Provide law enforcement with free (and discreet) psychological profiles of suspects.

www.aurareadings.com

3 ISSUES FOR ONLY £1

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE BY DIRECT DEBIT



PLUS A FREE Paranormal MUG!

FOR EU & REST OF WORLD PRICES PLEASE CALL 01778 392468 OR VISIT WWW.JAZZPUBLISHING.CO.UK

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

- YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO PARANORMAL MAGAZINE
 THIS IS A GIFT

BILLING DETAILS - Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.

MR/MISS/MRS/MS	FORENAME	SURNAME
ADDRESS		POSTCODE
DAYTIME PHONE		
EMAIL		MOBILE NO.

DELIVERY ADDRESS DETAILS - If different from above:

MR/MISS/MRS/MS	FORENAME	SURNAME
ADDRESS		POSTCODE

PAYMENT OPTIONS (PLEASE TICK)

- 1ST PAYMENT OF £1 THEN £16.99 EVERY 6 MONTHS
 YOUR MUG WILL BE SENT OUT WITH THE 4TH ISSUE

BEST DEAL!

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit		DIRECT Debit
Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society		Originator's Identification Number
To: The Manager	Bank/Building Society	4 1 7 5 2 0
Address		Reference (OFFICE ONLY)
Postcode		
Name(s) of Account Holder(s)		Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Branch Sort Code		Please pay Jazz Fashion Publishing Ltd. Direct Debits from the account detailed in the instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Jazz Fashion Publishing Ltd. and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.
Bank/Building Society account number		Signature(s)
		Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account. All Instruction Form - P47

Now send your completed application to: Paranormal Magazine, Subscription Department, FREEPOST PE211, Bourne PE10 9BR

IT'S FASTER BY PHONE CALL:

01778 392468

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES EMAIL MAGAZINES@JAZZPUBLISHING.CO.UK

*First 3 issues for £1 is only available when you pay by Direct Debit and is an initial trial period - the free gift will only be available to subscribers who continue to receive the magazine by paying bi-annually by Direct Debit. Your account will be debited with 1 instalment of £1 to cover the first 3 issues. If you wish to carry on with your subscription DO NOTHING. After the initial 3 issues your subscription will then continue at the special price of £16.99 for 6 issues. Offer only available in the UK.

WELL-KNOWN: Fish falls in northern Australia have been recorded for decades. This is an illustration of a fall reported in the north of Western Australia in the 19th century.



Fish falls in the desert

Mysterious falls of fish from the sky are a fortune favourite. In late February the freak phenomenon happened not once but twice on successive days in the arid environment of Australia's Northern Territory.

'Hundreds and hundreds' of small white fish fell on Lajamanu, on the edge of the Tanami Desert about 550km (nearly 342 miles) south-west of Katherine.

'They fell from the sky everywhere,' resident Christine Balmer told her local newspaper. She added: 'These fish were alive when they hit the ground. Thank god it didn't rain crocodiles.'

Lajamanu is hundreds of miles from the nearest lake and it's even further to the coast. Nevertheless, this is not a unique occurrence: in 2004 locals reported fish falling from the sky and in 1974 a similar incident captured international headlines.

The fish are believed to be spangled perch, a common freshwater species in northern Australia.

The usual explanation of a water spout was immediately trotted out by weather experts, who ignored the fact that only one species of fish was found and without any associated weeds or other aquatic life-forms. This is a typical characteristic of fish falls – yet how can an updraft sucking water out of a lake make such a neat distinction? Anyway,

no such water spout was reported.

A more reasonable explanation was offered by Peter Whelan, an entomologist, who suggested that the fish had probably been swimming along grooves in 'sheet-flooded' ground and only became visible when the water dried up.

'They swim upstream and they get stranded, especially these desert fish,' he said.

Rather against this theory, however, is the fact that there were so many fish and all or most of them were alive. Then Dominic Fraccaro, 66, a witness to the 1974 event, got in touch with Northern Territory News.

He said: 'Where I was they would have had to have come out of the sky because there's no rivers – not on the black soil plains.'

He added: 'It was raining fish and it was known to all the locals.'

Mr Fraccaro admitted he did not see any fish actually fall (and neither did anyone this year) but insisted 'there was no other explanation'.

[SOURCE: NTnews.com.au, Feb 28, Mar 1 & 2]

Ghosts sold for over £1,300

High price reached for two bottled spooks on online auction site.

Two glass phials said to contain ghosts exorcised from a house in New Zealand have been sold on an online auction site for \$2,831.51 NZ (that's £1,351 or \$1,978 US or \$2,178 AUS).

The bottles were sold via the Trademe website to a company selling electronic aids for giving up smoking – although why they were interested is anybody's guess. A 'phantom bidder' (ho ho) tried to push the bidding up \$5,000 NZ but was discounted.

The seller, Avie Woodbury claimed that an exorcist from a spiritualist church captured the two ghosts in her Christchurch home and sealed them in the phials of 'holy water'.

She said the spirits were of an old man named Les who had died in the house during the 1920s and a naughty 'little girl'. They had both allegedly begun to manifest after Woodbury experimented with a Ouija board.

She said activity included 'items going missing then turning up in weird places... voices from other rooms [and] a 'jug boiling itself'. She also said her dog was 'mental' and would avoid certain rooms and that her small niece spoke to the ghost girl.

'We have had no activity since they were bottled on July 15, 2009,' she stated.

Despite the frantic bidding, not everyone took the auction seriously. One sarcastic individual commented on the website that he suffered from multiple personalities because of two spirits trapped in bottles.

'I think they are called Jim Beam and the other is Johnnie Walker,' he said.

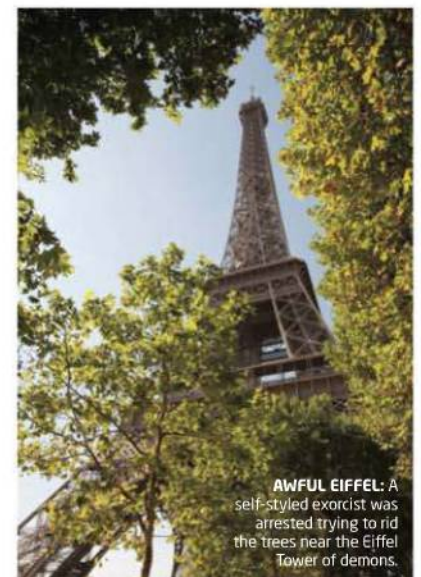
[SOURCE: 9News.com, March 9]

There's a chance to win a **Ouija board** on page 81 – if you're brave enough!

Evil powers at the Tower

Gardeners working at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris were alarmed to find a man perched up a horse chestnut tree and 'baying'. They also found several trees had graffiti painted on them and nails had been hammered into their branches and trunks. Coaxed down, the unnamed man told police officers he was 'trying to rid the trees of demonic forces'. He was taken into custody and psychiatric reports are being prepared.

[SOURCE: Daily Telegraph, March 4]



AWFUL EIFFEL: A self-styled exorcist was arrested trying to rid the trees near the Eiffel Tower of demons.

NEW

The Ghost Meter

Get Ghost hunting straight away with this easy to use EMF Meter...

3 Ways to detect Paranormal activity!



1. Accurate 0 to 5 milliGauss display
2. Audible tone with volume control (Can be turned off)
3. Flashing LEDs in the top allow the Ghost meter to be used in the dark or at a distance



CODE: CELL2
Only £28.99

EMF Meters

Gauss Master With Backlight

CODE: GM2

Lightweight and durable, with an easy to read scale (0 - 10 mG), and audio signal. It can also measure between 0.1 - 1mG by holding in the button on the side.



Only £34.99

Cellsensor EMF Meter

CODE: CELL1

The CellSensor is a dual use meter featuring cellular phone RF radiation measurement as well as an accurate single-axis ELF meter.



Only £29.99

KII EMF Meter Deluxe

CODE: EMF4

The five bright LEDs display EMF activity allowing for quick and easy readings. A great meter whether you're taking readings around the home to reduce your EMF exposure or on a Ghost hunt.



Only £44.99

MEL-8704R EMF Pro-navigator

CODE: EMF5

The three in one Mel Meter lends itself perfectly to Ghost Hunting and Paranormal Investigation. What other meter can read both EMF and cold spots at the same time?



Only £79.99

Paranormal Kits

Fantastic Range of Kits & Equipment From Beginner to Pro

New for 2010
Starter Kits now feature a new case design



NEW

Starter Kit 1

CODE: KIT001

KIT 1 Contains:

- 1 x GM2 Gauss Master with backlight
- 1 x MOT2 Beam Barrier Alarm
- 1 x IRTN1 IR Thermometer
- 1 x RT9 In/Out Dual Display Thermometer
- 1 x TRCH1 Standard Torch
- Batteries for the above
- Plastic case with cut foam
- Introduction to ghost hunting sheet

Presented in a sturdy plastic carry case with foam, two-part hinged and catches designed for frequent use.

Only £104.99

Starter Kit 5

CODE: KIT005

KIT 5 Contains:

- 1 x GM2 Gauss Master with backlight
- 1 x MOT7 Mini PIR Motion Detector with Remote
- 1 x IRTN1 TN1 IR Thermometer
- 1 x RT6 Hygro-Thermometer
- 1 x RT9 In/Out Dual Display Thermometer
- 1 x TRCH1 Standard Torch
- Batteries for the above
- Plastic case with cut foam
- Introduction to ghost hunting sheet

Presented in a sturdy plastic carry case with foam, two-part hinged and catches designed for frequent use.

Only £124.99

Kit 7 Intermediate

CODE: KIT007

KIT 7 Contains:

- 1 x CELL1 CellSensor EMF Meter
- 1 x IRT3 RayTemp 3 IR Thermometer
- 1 x MOT2 Beam Barrier Alarm
- 1 x RT6 Hygro-Thermometer
- 1 x RT9 In/Out Dual Display Thermometer
- 1 x TRCH1 Standard Torch
- Batteries for the above
- Aluminium flight case with cut foam
- Introduction to ghost hunting sheet

With a high quality Aluminium flight case with foam, metal hinges, catches with locks and a shoulder strap.

Only £156.99

KIT 9 Intermediate-Pro

CODE: KIT009

KIT 9 Contains:

- 1 x GM2 Gauss Master with backlight
- 1 x CELL1 CellSensor EMF Meter
- 1 x MOT2 Beam Barrier Alarm
- 1 x RT12 In/Out Dual Display Thermometer
- 1 x IRTN2 TN2 IR Thermometer
- 1 x MOT7 Mini PIR Motion Detector with Remote
- 1 x TRCH1 Standard Torch
- Batteries for the above
- Aluminium flight case with cut foam
- Introduction to ghost hunting sheet

With a high quality Aluminium flight case with foam, metal hinges, catches with locks and a shoulder strap.

Only £174.99

KIT 12 Professional

CODE: KIT012

KIT 12 Contains:

- 1 x GM2 Gauss Master with backlight
- 1 x CELL1 CellSensor EMF Meter
- 1 x MOT2 Beam Barrier Alarm
- 1 x MOT7 Mini PIR Motion Detector with Remote
- 1 x TLKRT5 Motorola TLKR T5 2-Way Radio (Pair) Rechargeable
- 1 x RT12 In/Out Dual Display Thermometer
- 1 x RT6 Hygro-Thermometer
- 1 x IRTN2 TN2 IR Thermometer
- 1 x MIC1 Boundary Microphone
- 1 x REC4 Cassette Recorder
- 2 x TRCH1 Standard Torches
- 1 x TDK90 90 Min Cassette tape
- Batteries for the above
- Aluminium flight case with cut foam
- Introduction to ghost hunting sheet

Only £312.99

We also sell: Motion Detectors, Thermometers, Dowsing Rods, Infrared Torches, Night Vision, 2 Way Radios, EVP Recording equipment, Paranormal Books - DVDs and more...

SHOP ONLINE: **TomsGadgets.com** or call: 0845 456 2370 today

www.journal-plaza.net & www.freedomns.net

sightings

Have you had a Sighting? Please let us know if you have seen a ghost, UFO, mystery beast or anything else strange and inexplicable. Send the details of your sighting to: editor@paranormalmagazine.co.uk or visit www.paranormalmagazine.co.uk



GHOSTS

RACON FOLLY: Plans are in hand to turn this 238-year old ruin into a family home, along with its ghosts, but the present owner isn't worried as he does not believe in them. Some people describe the folly as one of the 'most frightening places in West Sussex'. Others believe the suicides, illegal raves and devil worshippers who used the Folly in the past are the ones responsible for its ghostly legends. Paranormal activity reported include the spirit of a lady in white, unseen forces throwing bricks from the top of the tower, a ghostly face looking out from one of the windows, and several accounts of people being grabbed and pushed. Oh, and not forgetting the ghostly tractor! (www.portsmouth.co.uk 5th February).

I-POD GHOSTS: Demolition worker John Fores captured what he believed was the ghost of a boy on camera while knocking down the Anlaby Primary School in Anlaby, near Hull. He discovered the picture later when viewing the images on his computer and he swears there was no boy present when the photograph was taken. At first glance the photograph looked to most people to have been faked and after a little internet research I found the site 'Ghost Capture', complete with the exact same image for download. The site allows people to make their own ghostly images then download them onto their phones. Mr Fores believes fellow workers played a trick on him, sending the image to his phone via a Bluetooth application. View the photo at paranormalmagazine.co.uk/news. (*Hull Daily Mail & Mark Fraser* 20th February).

GWRYCH CASTLE: Kevin Horkin was taking pictures at this castle in North Wales and believes he captured the 'picture of a spirit'. As usual it was not until he downloaded the pictures on his computer that he discovered the picture. Amazingly the room that the "young woman" is standing in has no floor. According to the North Wales Paranormal Group there have been "many sightings recorded at the castle." View the photo at paranormalmagazine.co.uk/news. (*newssubmit.net* February).

IT'S NOT MAGGIE: The Burnett Arms Hotel in Kemnay, Aberdeenshire, described as "one of Scotland's most haunted pubs," is for sale. Former owner Maggie Duffton, who died in 1934, is said to haunt the premises, indeed her coffin is rumoured to lie in the walls of the hotel. Recently house keeper Fiona Reid, spotted a dark apparition upstairs standing in a corner. She said: "Something drew me to walk towards it then it disappeared right in front of my eyes. I can't explain it." She turned around to leave and found a 30 year old newspaper on the floor behind her, in which was a picture of her grandfather. She believes it was his apparition she saw. Mrs Reid is adamant that the newspaper was not there when she first came into the room. (*Scottish Television* 25th February).

MISTY SCREEN: Two women working in the 'Simply Food & Drinks' in Durranshill Road, Botcherby, Carlyle, were stunned to see a misty figure on their CCTV which is aimed

on the outside of the shop. One worker complained of suddenly becoming cold before seeing the mist, which appeared to be coming from across the road. Word soon got out and people stood in the shop looking at it; it could not be seen from outside. Assistant Miss Nolan said: "I have never believed in things like ghosts until that night but unless somebody can explain to me what it was, I believe now. I wish to God I hadn't seen it." View the footage via paranormalmagazine.co.uk/news (*News & Star* 28th February).

TINY BODIES: The former brothel, Tibbals Building on Water Street, Port Angeles, USA, is said to "echo with the cries of prostitutes and their dead babies who were soon "dispatched." The premises is most famous for its 'lady in blue'. Robin Alexis of Mystic Radio and a team of investigators from Paranormal Investigations of Historic America of Monroe recently conducted an investigation on the premises. During the vigil Alexis saw the figure of a lady in Victorian dress standing by a window, and a "priest in black robes wearing a large cross," and also a Native American woman who said her name was Grouse Woman. (*www.peninsuladailynews.com* 1st February).

STATION 3: Firefighters in Chicago's Station 3, situated in the Green Garden Township, are convinced their fire station is haunted. Lt. Todd Hamm said: "I used to see things going in and out of the ambulance - shadowy things. One was a dark-clothed, blackish figure that walked right in front of me." Among the ghosts are an "angry cowboy", a figure in blue and apparitions somewhat akin to the 'shadow people.' Firefighter Tom Warszalek said: "They're freaking me out." (*Suburban Chicago News* 4th February).

THE KING'S TAVERN: Witnesses describe "chills to the bone," the ghost of a baby girl which has allegedly been caught on camera, the sounds of a baby crying, as well as a host of other paranormal phenomena in this building built in 1729 and located in Natchez, Mississippi. Three skeletons, two male and one female, were found bricked up during renovations. The female is thought to be Madeline, a mistress of a former owner; it is her spirit who is believed to be the main cause of the haunting. There is a haunted mirror, doors open and close of their own accord, objects are thrown off shelves, to name but a few of the recent manifestations. (*www.time.com* 5th February).

FORT HAYES: The now abandoned fort in downtown Columbus, Ohio, is haunted by former recruits, according to present day custodians. "An angry ghost" throws clothes around, marching soldiers, ghostly screams have been heard, footsteps, bangs, doors opening and closing of their own accord and whispering are a few of the incidents that have been reported. The most common feeling is that of being followed. (*www.dispatch.com* 14th February).

WHISPERS: Situated on Warren Street in Mitchell, Indiana, this B&B has five graves in the back gardens and is said to harbour a host of ghosts, according to one recent investigation by the Louisville Ghost Hunters

Society. Disembodied voices which sound like two men talking have been recorded and noises such as "thuds and tinkering sounds" were also heard. Present owner Jarrett Marshal has experienced many odd occurrences on the premises, but believes that among the several ghosts the most active is that of a little girl called Rachael. (www.michigansotherside.com 19th February).

CURSED CAMPUS: Frightened students at the Northern Illinois University, believe that their building and the grounds are either cursed, or haunted. They have reported "eerie sounds in the campus hallway, and shooting sounds in the night." Rumours are that it is the ghost of the gunman who shot dead five people and wounded 19 before shooting himself. One student said: "This was bound to happen. The shooting may be because the ghost of the 2008 killer wants the whole incident repeated again. It's really creepy." (*merinews.com* 19th February).

SPOOKY & FREAKY: The Supreme and District Court building in Brisbane, Australia, has been described as "spooky and freaky" by security guards patrolling the premises, and they all now believe in ghosts. Incidents include "unexplained whooshes of air rushing down corridors, a seemingly-possessed elevator and a judge's chair that mysteriously spins in the night." Although no actual ghosts have been seen, local historian Jack Sim believes the premises are haunted by the ghosts of the prisoners who died in the cells in the late 1800s. (*Brisbane Times* 23rd February).



UFOS

TERROR IN PHEAR: Roy Shaw, a sceptic, ran away terrified, twisting his ankle in the process, after spotting a UFO in Phear Park, Exmouth, in Devon. He said: "The object was round, about 30ft in diameter and 100ft long, with blue and red flashing lights on its perimeter. It appeared to land at the top end of the park by the bowling green. My dog started to growl when what I can only describe as a white shape came towards us. It was about 4ft high and seemed to be translucent and moved very slowly towards us. I was transfixed because it made a droning noise, which sounded like "my, my." Mr Shaw still remains sceptical, but is at a loss to explain the incident. (*The Metro* 8th February).

UFO VALLEY: Aron Sacks snapped a UFO on his mobile near Bacup, Rossendale, in Lancashire; an area now dubbed "UFO Valley" by some. Mr Sacks said: "It was amazing - certainly not a normal aircraft. I grabbed my phone, took one photo, then when I looked back it had gone. There was no sound, nothing. It's very haunting to think I've seen a UFO." His dad has also seen three UFOs in the past. (*The Sun* 10th February).

N. IRELAND: On the 5th of March the witness was in Newtonwards, Co. Down, standing on a roadside when she saw a light appear from behind a building. Then two more lights appeared in the sky straight after: forming a

triangle. They made no noise. She said: "The object passed in front of clouds that were slightly lighter than the darkish sky. I could see the object was triangular and it just glided across my vision in a couple of seconds and disappeared behind more buildings to my left. The lights on it were just clear, and didn't blink." (www.uk-ufo.co.uk 5th March).

KENT: The witness was driving through Orpington when she spotted "a huge bright ball, like a fireball, falling to earth," on the 6th of March. She reports: "We watched as this spinning orange ball stopped abruptly and shot backwards in a south to westerly direction backwards very quickly. I took a picture on my mobile phone and on looking at it when I got home I noticed two small orange lights: after zooming in on them the shape changes like a triangle inside a sphere with two orange lights and a dark patch in the middle." (www.uk-ufo.co.uk, 6th March).

MONMOUTHSHIRE: On the 7th of March in Monmouthshire a witness observed a bright light and reports: "I was just in the garden having a ciggie and looked up and saw what I thought to be an extremely bright star. Then I noticed it was moving quite fast. At first I thought it might have been a plane or helicopter but could hear no sound. I watched it for a few moments and then it very quickly appeared to fade and was gone." (www.uk-ufo.co.uk, 7th March).

CONSTELLATION PROGRAM: Due to recent UFO sightings near the moon and the sun, the new theory is that President Obama has cancelled the recent planned manned flights to the Moon because of alien bases situated on it. Nothing at all to do with economics! Meanwhile, NASA's Mars Rover has caught the image of a "giant silverback gorilla" - well that is one explanation for the image anyway! (*Phantoms & Monsters, The Sun, February*).

BLUE, BLACK, BLUE BLACK: The witness was standing at the back of his house in North Carolina on the 18th of February when he saw a strange light in the sky. He reports: "I saw a blue light, it was really bright, going left right, left right, real fast. I was confused at what I saw, we live near an airport, so I thought maybe I was misinterpreting a plane or whatever, then the light stopped, and started doing very tight, and a very fast figure-of-eight pattern. It then started doing huge loops, while flashing blue, black, blue, black. I ran inside and grabbed my camera and beat on my father's door yelling for him to come. We went outside, and he also saw it. I got a short recording of it, maybe one min 30 seconds." (*MUFON 15th February*).

RHOMBOID WOBBLE: Two motorists were en route from Port Arthur to Houston, Texas, travelling west on Highway 73 at 11.45pm when they saw a multi-coloured object 200ft in the sky. The witness said: "There were three rhomboid-shaped pulsating objects. They seemed to be separate, but yet as one unit." The lights then positioned themselves behind the vehicle on the highway and followed the now terrified passengers, who thought that they were 'going to be blown up'. The lights now were only 100ft above the road behind them, the air around the lights then seemed to "ripple", the lights then "wobbled" and became an orange sphere. At that point two oncoming cars braked hard when they saw the lights which then just simply disappeared." (*Source MUFON 23rd February*).

MORPHING: Florida, 26th February 2010, the witness reports: "I was driving to work at 5 am when I saw four lights in an arrow form, two lights on one side, and two lights on the other. I kept driving and when I looked up again the lights were moving, interweaving, then they spread out in a straight line and disappeared one by one." (*MUFON 28th February*).

TAIWANESE USO: News reports claiming that the navy spotted a submarine are wrong according to the Taiwanese. In fact they are reporting an unidentified submersible object in their territorial waters. 168th Fleet Commander Lee Tung-fang said the object did not take evasive action to avoid detection but carried on at "two nautical miles an hour." He said it was not a submarine or a sea mammal. Mr Lee also reports that his unit has had experience in locating unidentified objects that "are not submarines." (*etaiwannews.com February*).

MYSTERY CRASH: Authorities have been searching for "a mystery plane" that witnesses reported having observed crashing in Australia's Northern Territories, off the Bay of Darwin. A woman standing on Nightcliffs jetty reported a "small plane like a Cessna going down." The authorities conducted a land and aerial search but found no wreckage. No planes in the area have been reported as missing. Territory Superintendent Bruce Porter said: "We've spoken to the witness and a couple of other witnesses that state the same thing, so it's not just one person, which is why it's been a bit strange. They said they could still hear the engine running, but we searched the area and couldn't see anything." The official explanation is that the witnesses saw an "optical illusion," but they have so far failed to account for the noise. (*smh.com.au 1st March*).

WORM HOLE: What has been described as a "UFO wormhole" by some, an "unusual cloud formation" by others and effects caused by the HAARP Project has been filmed over Mexico by a witness who wishes anonymity. A local UFO investigator reported: "Amazing footage shows what may have been a UFO entering or leaving our earth." One observer notes that two UFOs can also be seen in the clip. Recent "strange" cloud formations have been filmed over Moscow, Romania, and Florida. (*allnewsweb.com 15th February*).

RUSSIAN SKY RUSTLERS: Wildlife on the Aksania-Nova Wildlife Reserve in Southern Ukraine is "mysteriously disappearing." Recently a tourist took a photograph of a wild herd of Przewalski horses and when developed a UFO is apparently seen on the picture; needless to say nothing was seen at the time. Ufologist Vladimir Kanuka declared the photograph as "indeed showing an extraterrestrial craft" which he believes is responsible for the disappearance of the animals. (*Source: Michael Cohen allnewsweb.com 17th February*).



CREATURES

GLASGOW CAT: A journalist from the Cumbernauld News reported to Big Cats in Britain: "I was making my way back from Cumbernauld to Glasgow on the 25th of February by train. At roughly 4.10 I looked out the window beside the railway track to see the unmistakable figure of a big cat ... on waste ground between Stepps and Springburn station. Its stealthy

gait and the way its movement was controlled from its shoulders led me to believe that I had seen a panther." (*Big Cats in Britain*).

THREE KITS: A lynx along with three kittens has been reported on several occasions recently near the Leicestershire/ Nottinghamshire border. A local farmer reports several sheep losses over the last three months in the same area. Several BCIB investigators in the area are monitoring the situation. Meanwhile, in Renfrewshire, Scotland, a lynx was caught on camera near the town of Kilmacolm. (*Nigel Spencer Rutland & Leicestershire Panther Watch & BCIB*).

THE CHASE WOLF: More reports of a wolf have come in from the Cannock Chase area in Staffordshire. The latest sighting comes from Mark Sutton, near Broadhurst Green, who said: "It was not a panther and it was too large to be a dog. It was walking through the bushes without a care in the world. It was about 50 metres away from us, but it didn't seem fussed. It disappeared back into the Chase. I'm sure a lot of other people would have seen it. It wasn't trying to stay hidden." (*Source Sunday Mercury 9th February*).

CHUPACABRAS AGAIN: An employee at the Runaway Bay Golf Course near Lake Bridgeport in Texas claims he found the dead body of a Chupacabras, Rocky Vincent who found the animal described it as looking like a "shaved dog with raccoon feet, a possum tail and a possum head." Another witness said: "It looks like it's got some sort of skin condition [like] mange. You look at the claws on it and the feet, there's nothing like it." A state biologist who examined the carcass identified it as a raccoon, but was at a loss to explain why it had lost its hair. View the footage at paranormalmagazine.co.uk/videos. (*Meri News & The Fort Worth Star-Telegram 20th January 2010*).

GILL MAN: In the early hours on the 7th of February a tractor driver took a short cut along Harrison Avenue in New Orleans, when a "dark form" lunged out of the shadows. The man slowed for a look and later said: "The creature had dark or black skin covered in masses of skin or fins that looked like algae growing all over its body. It seemed to have gills or matted hair that looked like gills on its face and head; two yellow eyes leered out from under a prominent forehead." It stopped, stared at the man and opened its mouth "in a growl revealing a set of massive fangs and a lolling tongue that looked too big for its mouth." The Gill Man, a name given by the witness, ran off towards Scout Island. (*Haunted America Tours, February*).

APELIKE: 'CS' was on a wood cutting weekend with his family near Oregon on the California border on the 20th of February when they had a disturbing encounter. He reports: "Around 10am my son motioned at me to look over at a pile of logs some 150 feet away from us. I saw a brown shape and head on the other side of the pile watching us. It was definitely an upright apelike human. I yelled for the family to get in the truck. This thing took off towards the other side of the hill and was gone in an instant! Later they found 'several large tracks were this thing had been watching us'. (<http://bigfootballyhoo.blogspot.com> 10th February).

Sightings
is compiled
by MARK FRASER
of the research
organization
Big Cats in Britain
(www.bigcatsinbritain.org)



RAGING HUNGER: WEIRD TALES OF THE WENDIGO

Psychiatric condition or something infinitely more sinister? And are there really 7-ft tall, cannibalistic man-monsters running round North America? **RICHARD FREEMAN** examines the terrifying lore of Canada's most infamous legend.

LUCKILY, FEW OF US IN THE WEST have experienced true hunger. If we miss a meal or two the worst we get is a rumbling stomach. But real hunger, stark, gnawing desperate hunger was an awful and life-threatening reality for the Canadian Indians.

Native people, including the Cree, Ojibwa and Naskapi, lived in a very harsh environment. In the brief summer months the people would form into loose communities but during the lean winter months family groups tended to live alone. The men of the family would hunt. Stores of dried meat and fish were kept in case fresh game ran out.

Should a hunter fail to bring home game and should stored food run out then starvation was a real prospect in the unforgiving, frozen darkness. In such conditions one of the most abhorrent aberrations of human behaviour could happen: cannibalism. The Algonquin Indians and other native people have a particular loathing and dread of cannibalism; it is one of the greatest taboos. Out of this horrific act and out of the bitter cold and want of winter was born one of the most terrible monsters in the history of folklore, the Wendigo.

The Wendigo is known by many names. The beast itself is supposed to be a pallid, emaciated giant. Some say it has a skeleton and heart of ice. The Wendigo is generally hairless save for a wild mane of white hair about the head. Its eyes are owl-like or sunken with glimmering points of light like indigo stars. The gaping lipless mouth is fringed with teeth like a forest of icicles.

The Wendigo is a personification

of hunger and winter. It craves human flesh and with each person it devours it gets larger, so that its ravening appetite is never sated. It is constantly hungry and constantly searching for prey. Some say it can fly or 'walk on the winds', travelling miles in search of its human prey.

But the Wendigo is considered doubly dangerous because it is believed its spirit is able to possess human beings. Once a person possessed by the Wendigo has tasted human flesh, he will kill again and again to satisfy his unnatural hunger. If a possessed person is caught early the process can be reversed and the spirit driven out by turning the victim on a spit above a fire. But if the possession had progressed too far there was only one course of action: execution. People believed to be possessed by the Wendigo have been shot, strangled or beheaded. After death the body was generally burned in the belief that the cannibal's heart of ice needed to be melted to ensure that it was dead.

So runs the folklore of the Wendigo. Yet the Wendigo and its baleful influence seems to manifest in the real world, as well as in legend. Cases of people convinced that they are possessed by the Wendigo, known as Wendigo Psychosis, are well attested.

The pioneer and surveyor David Thompson recorded such a case in 1796 while living with a group of Cree living between Rainy River and The Lake of the Woods. A young man awoke one morning filled with the urge to kill and eat his own sister. Despite his family's best efforts, the youth's morbid urges grew stronger. ●

'THE WENDIGO IS A PERSONIFICATION OF HUNGER AND WINTER. IT CRAVES HUMAN FLESH AND WITH EACH PERSON IT DEVOURS IT GETS LARGER, SO THAT ITS RAVENING APPETITE IS NEVER SATIED.'



“IT IS BETTER THAT THEY SHOULD KILL ME. HOW WOULD IT DO IF I SHOULD EAT MY LITTLE ONES, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR NOSES?”

windigo. His eyes were blazing and his teeth were rattling, so the old woman killed the little boy.’

The best known case of Wendigo psychosis occurred in Alberta in 1879. It gained notoriety in newspapers across Canada and the US. A Plains Cree hunter called Swift Runner wandered into a Catholic mission in St Albert. He claimed that his whole family had starved during the harsh winter. The priests became suspicious when Swift Runner began to scream out in his sleep and be plagued with nightmares. He also looked very fit and well-nourished for a man who had supposedly almost starved to death. He told the priests that he was being tormented by a Wendigo.

The priests reported their suspicions to the police, who took Swift Runner to his camp in the forest north-east of Edmonton. There they found the bones of his family. Every scrap of flesh had been gnawed from them and even the marrow sucked from the bones. Swift Runner had not eaten them out of desperation; there was plenty of food at the Hudson Bay Company post only 25 miles away, no distance at all, even in winter, for a Cree hunter.

This was true Wendigo Psychosis, an overwhelming desire to eat human flesh. He told Father Hippolyte Leduc: ‘I am the least of men and I do not merit even being called a man.’

A contemporary photograph of Swift Runner shows a haunted-looking man staring blankly as snow swirls around him.

One could argue that those afflicted by Wendigo psychosis had some form of disease, such as rabies. But the symptoms of Wendigo psychosis include knowledge that one is ‘possessed’ and include a period of lethargy, anorexia and disassociation. None of these are symptomatic of rabies.

One might also assume Wendigo psychosis is simply

PREDATOR: A man possessed by the wendigo would become a hunter - and its prey was other people. © Simon Wyatt

At a tribal council the Medicine Man decided that a ‘*Weetego*’ had possessed him. A sentence of death was passed upon him and he was quite willing to die. He was strangled with a cord by his father and his body burned to ashes.

At Smokey River in 1899 a man named Moostoos was bludgeoned with a hatchet and stabbed by members of the party he was with. He had warned them that he was ‘going to go Windigo’.

He said: ‘I don’t want to do anything to my children. It is better that they should kill me. How would it do if I should eat my little ones, and especially their noses?’

The man became violent, trying so hard to bite one person that he tore their clothes, and had to be restrained. One witness claimed that he levitated.

‘He floated up right off the ground and when I caught hold of him, it was hard to reach up and seize him,’ he said. ‘He was very strong and we had hard work to get him down and hold him down.’

Even babies could be possessed by the Wendigo. Anthropologist Ruth Landes recorded such a case in her 1938 study *The Ojibwa Woman*. It was told to her by a Cree woman:

‘The infant Son of the Shaman Great Mallard Duck was viewed by his mother’s co-wife and by his half sisters as a *windigo* and therefore killed. This happened during a period of starvation, when seven out of Duck’s family of 16 persons died of hunger. The baby that was nursing was just crazy. He was eating his fingers up and biting the nipples off his dead mother’s breasts. They knew he was to become a little

a matter of mental illness. A number of psychotic serial killers, such as Ed Gein, Peter Bryan and Jeffery Dahmer, were cannibals. And yet none claimed to be possessed or under the influence of anything supernatural. Victims of Wendigo psychosis seem to know that something evil is at work inside them.

And then we have physical manifestations of the condition.

A man named Napanin arrived at Trout Lake, an outpost near Wabasca, in 1896 claiming the Wendigo had come into him. He had been travelling with his wife and child 'when he saw his child as a young moose and wanted to eat him', a witness said in a letter. This is not uncommon. Those with Wendigo psychosis often perceive people as commonly eaten animals.

The wife and son fled, and Napanin went looking for help for his affliction. He suffered from a constant bone-chilling coldness, as if the monster's heart of ice was growing within him. He complained of freezing, even when

he was wrapped in six blankets.

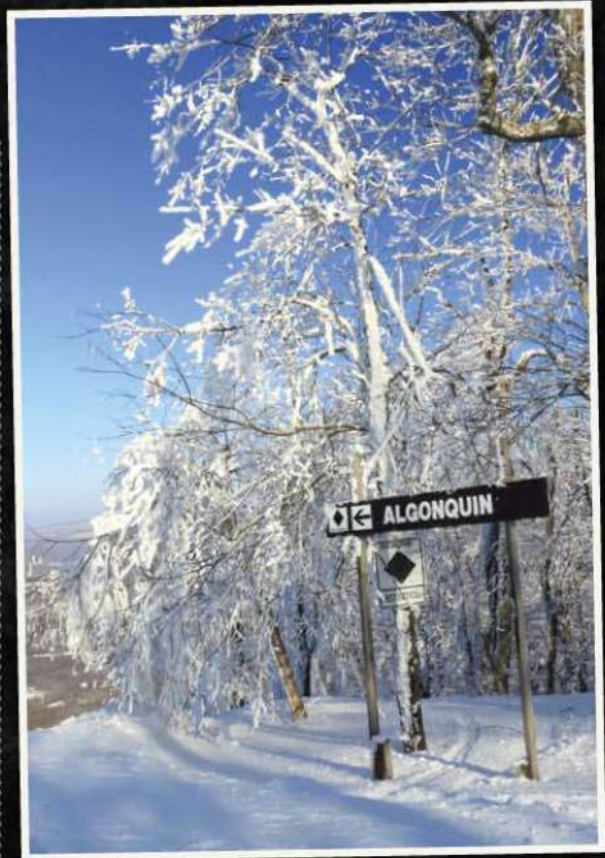
'The sound of him was terrible. He was calling like a wild bull,' the witness wrote. 'He does not look like a human being. He seems terribly swollen in the body and face.'

Fearing that he would eventually kill, men of the village decided that they had to kill him first. A medicine man slew him with an axe. The body was buried, and a huge pile of logs placed over the grave to prevent him from rising from the dead. His severed head was buried separately.

In this case we see a physical change and a perceived change in body temperature. Could something more than madness have been at work here? Was some external force exerting an influence?

In many other cases, witnesses reported physical changes - bodies swelling and growing, lips and mouths enlarging. Some of the victims spoke of icy cold in their chests and an inability to warm up.

In one case recorded by Dr A I Hollowell, in his field notes made in the 1930s on the Berens River, Saulteaux, an old woman was killed



by her sons. She asked them to kill her because she feared she was becoming a Wendigo. They cut open her body and found that her heart had already begun to turn to ice.

Dr Hollowell also records another case in which a Saulteaux woman, believed to be possessed by the Wendigo, developed a mass of ice growing on her back. She recovered after her family melted it off with boiled water.

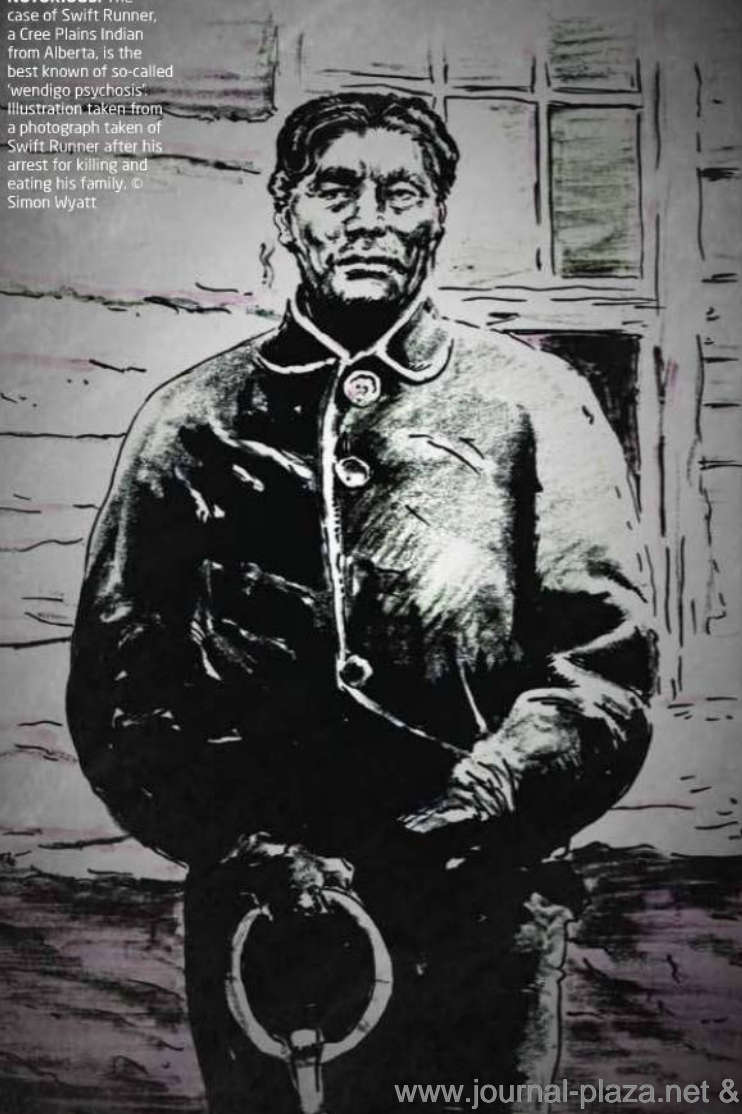
DESPERATE: Algonquin in the snow. Canadian winters can be exceedingly harsh and in the past led to such privation that the horrors of cannibalism could become a real threat among certain tribes.

'COULD SOMETHING MORE THAN MADNESS HAVE BEEN AT WORK HERE? WAS SOME EXTERNAL FORCE EXERTING AN INFLUENCE?'

And what of the Wendigo itself? There are even modern-day accounts of creatures that sound very like it. My friend and fellow cryptozoologist Derek 'Tex' Grebner wrote to me with a story of what sounds very like a Wendigo seen by a lady known to him. It occurred in Illinois.

He wrote: 'I have recalled something that I heard a year or two ago from a friend and this sighting is what I believe to be the Wendigo because it was hairless and beastly and upright and she said it was about 7-foot tall. She drove past it in the ditch on the country road and stopped to see what it was. When it stood up she screamed and drove away but the

NOTORIOUS: The case of Swift Runner, a Cree Plains Indian from Alberta, is the best known of so-called 'wendigo psychosis'. Illustration taken from a photograph taken of Swift Runner after his arrest for killing and eating his family. © Simon Wyatt



beast kept pace with her car as she drove the forest-lined road [and] it screamed at her. She said she could see it had claws. It swung into the trees and followed the terrified girl, screaming as it went, covering the distance quickly.

'The chase finally ended when she left the trees and came onto open territory, where she could get up sufficient speed until she reached a well-lit residential area. Her last sighting of the beast was of it standing atop a street light at the edge of the residential area. She did not think that what she saw looked at all like a Bigfoot - it was all but hairless, she said, and had a bit of a snout-like face and gray skin.'

Another even more horrific manifestation was seen by paranormal investigator Jan

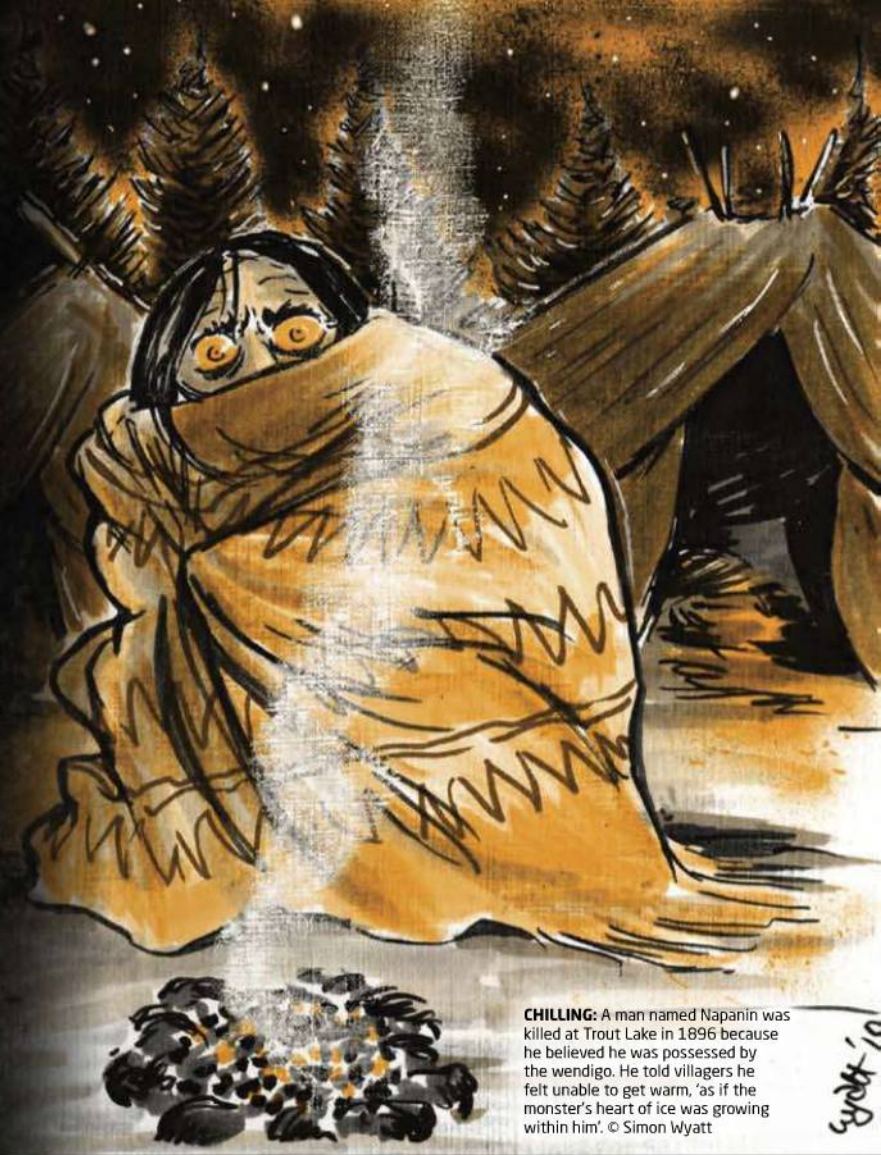
"ITS MOUTH SHOWED BOXY, OUTSIZED TEETH IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A HIDEOUS GRIN, MIXED WITH SALIVA AND BLOOD AND STAINED PINK."

DEMONIC: The most famous fictional story on the theme is 'The Wendigo' by Algernon Blackwood. Blackwood spent many days of his youth living rough in Canada and his tale conceives the Wendigo as a wild, god-like entity, the spirit of the forests and lakes. This is Matt Fox's famous illustration for the story when it was reprinted in pulp *Famous Fantastic Mysteries* in 1944 (note its eyes, 'sunken with glimmering points of light').



Thompson on Christmas Eve, 1983. While driving along back roads between Sturgis and Morganfield in Union County, Kentucky, during a snow storm, Jan saw a monstrous creature crossing the road in front of her car.

'It appeared to be a naked man, relatively tall; about six-and-a-half feet in height, with milky white flesh that blended in with the snow,' she claimed. 'There was long, thick disheveled patches of dark brown hair protruding from its body in various odd places, mostly on its upper torso. Its head was covered with the same untamed mess that hung like a lion's mane over its shoulders and down its back.



CHILLING: A man named Napanin was killed at Trout Lake in 1896 because he believed he was possessed by the wendigo. He told villagers he felt unable to get warm, 'as if the monster's heart of ice was growing within him'. © Simon Wyatt

'It just stood there staring at me through the windshield. Its eyes were like red fiber-optic lights, and they seemed to have the same iridescent glow that an animal has when caught in the beam of headlights. There were large clouds of warm air coming fast from its mouth as it momentarily rested from running through the field. Its nostrils were large and flared and seemed out of contour for a human. Between the thick exhales of breath I could see some color around its mouth, chin, and neck that went down to his chest. It too was red, but this glistened in the lights' gleam as something wet would...

'His arms were as muscular as his thighs and were abnormally long and slender, and his hands ended in spindly fingers with long ragged nails... Its mouth showed boxy, outsized teeth in what appeared to be a hideous grin, mixed with saliva and blood and

stained pink. Its lips opened wider in warning and revealed two large canines that were thick and longer than the other teeth. Then it licked its bottom teeth with its tongue, running it across his bottom lip.

'It still maintained an unblinking stare, with eyes that seemed to pulse inside its sunken cheekbones, as if pondering what action to take next... It closed its mouth, snorted a hefty gust of air, then just as quickly as it had jumped onto the road a few moments before, jumped away to the other side with an uncanny grace, barely touching the ditch and running through the opposite field.'

Noted Native American scholar Mike Hallowell says that his Indian friends still firmly believe in the Wendigo and 'clam up' if the subject is spoken about. Some believe that even speaking about the Wendigo can summon it up. The fear of the monster and its awful curse still seem palpable. Perhaps with good reason. ☉

SOURCES

David Thompson's Narrative, edited by Richard Glover, 1962 Toronto; *Windigo Psychosis: A Study of Relationship between Belief and Behaviour among the Indians of Northeastern Canada*, by Morton I Teicher 1961 University of Washington Press; *The Ojibwa Woman*, by Ruth Landes 1938 Columbia University Press; Unpublished field notes from the 1930s by Dr Mike Hallowell.

DO YOU HAVE A BOOK TO PUBLISH?

For an appraisal please send your manuscripts to:

MELROSE BOOKS

St Thomas' Place, Ely
Cambridge CB7 4GG UK

Phone: 01353 646608

Fax: 01353 646602

info@melrosebooks.co.uk

www.melrosebooks.co.uk

(ref: PN)

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CALL

RICHARD
01244

663400

EXT 304

NEW AUTHORS

PUBLISH YOUR BOOK
ALL SUBJECTS INVITED

FICTION, NON-FICTION, FANTASY
& SCIENCE FICTION, SPIRITUAL,
SELF-HELP, POETRY, RELIGION,
BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR,
ACADEMIC & REFERENCE

WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO:

ATHENA PRESS

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
2 HOLLY ROAD,
TWICKENHAM TW1 4EG. UK
www.athenapress.com
info@athenapress.com

Paranormal

Exploring the world of the unexplained

**NOW AVAILABLE
TO VIEW ON YOUR MAC OR PC**



www.jazzpublishing.co.uk/digital

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



12 ISSUES FOR

ONLY £34.98

FOR EU & REST OF WORLD PRICES PLEASE CALL 01778 392468 OR VISIT WWW.JAZZPUBLISHING.CO.UK

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

- YES!** I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO 100% PARANORMAL MAGAZINE FOR £34.98
 THIS IS A GIFT

BILLING DETAILS - Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS:

MR/MISS/MRS/MS FORENAME SURNAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
DAYTIME PHONE
EMAIL MOBILE NO.

DELIVERY ADDRESS DETAILS - If different from above:

MR/MISS/MRS/MS FORENAME SURNAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE

1 CHEQUE PAYMENTS

- I ENCLOSE A STERLING CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO JAZZ PUBLISHING

2 CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

- PLEASE CHARGE MY VISA MASTERCARD MAESTRO (ISSUE NO. _____)

CARD NO
EXPIRY DATE START DATE
NAME ON CARD
CARDHOLDERS SIGNATURE
SECURITY NO (LAST 3 DIGITS ON SIGNATURE STRIP)
HOUSE NUMBER POSTCODE

P47

Now send your completed application to: Paranormal Magazine, Subscription Department, FREEPOST PE211, Bourne PE10 9BR

IT'S FASTER BY PHONE CALL:

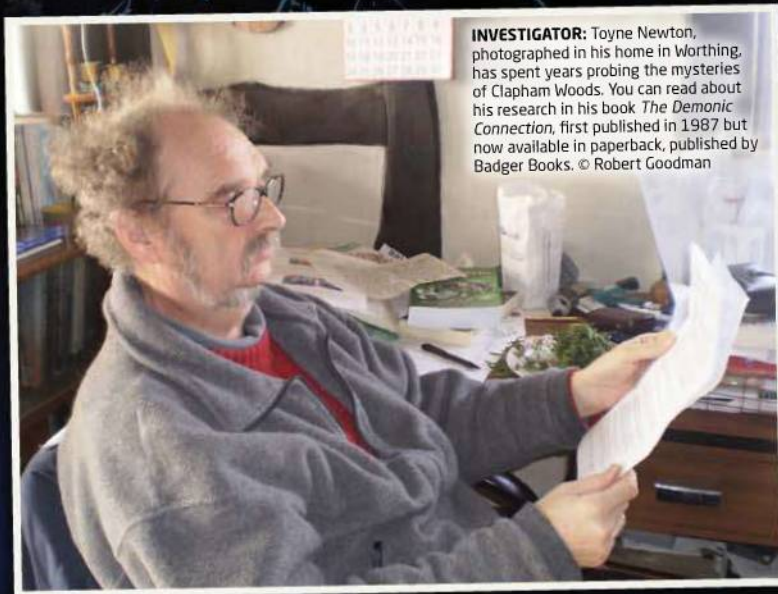
01778 392468

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES EMAIL MAGAZINES@JAZZPUBLISHING.CO.UK

If You Go Down To The Woods Today

...you could be in for a nasty surprise! **ROBERT GOODMAN** reveals the wealth of unsettling paranormal activity recorded from Clapham Woods, cursed land where no birds sing and a devilish cult may still perform sacrificial rites.

*'Hilltop 't Clapham
sittith all replete,
Where God and de 'il
tis said doth meet.'
Anonymous*



INVESTIGATOR: Toyne Newton, photographed in his home in Worthing, has spent years probing the mysteries of Clapham Woods. You can read about his research in his book *The Demonic Connection*, first published in 1987 but now available in paperback, published by Badger Books. © Robert Goodman

‘THERE HAVE BEEN REGULAR ACCOUNTS OF UFO SIGHTINGS, RAMBLERS HAVE OFTEN REPORTED “MISTY GREY SHAPES” AND UNSEEN FORCES HAVE PUSHED PEOPLE TO THE GROUND.’

to say that Hecate, who was the Greek Goddess associated with the Underworld, and of dark magic and mayhem, required that dogs be sacrificed to her. This may also explain the eerie atmosphere, and the feelings of malevolent unease experienced by ramblers.

UFO SIGHTINGS

A cult of Hecate worshippers would not, however, explain the many UFO sightings reported in the area. Since the 1970s there have been numerous reports of flying objects (so far unidentified) hovering over Clapham Woods. Some of them are strange lights, others cigar-shaped objects or maybe discs, depending on which angle they are viewed from.

Most of the sightings, be they spinning lights or the classic saucer-shape, seem to simply disappear or move off at great speed after a few seconds toward the nearby coast. Some have descended at great speed down into the woods from the night sky, and then have taken off again vertically before vanishing.

One such incident took place in 1979 when a Mr Barber, of Finedon, was walking on Highdown Hill overlooking the woods. He saw a large orange ball hovering above the woods. Then the object suddenly dropped into the wood, illuminating the area among the

THE SLEEPY LITTLE VILLAGE of Clapham lies just off of the A27 on the chalky South Downs of West Sussex. There is just one street, named aptly ‘The Street’, comprising of one shop, a church, and a few houses. There has been a settlement here since before the Norman Conquest. Up on the hill and next to the Saxon church is the old Manor House, Michaelgrove, a former home of the Shelleys. I wonder if it’s possible Mary formed the embryo of an idea for her Gothic classic *Frankenstein* here.

Behind this idyllic vista of rural England there is an altogether darker story, for here the neighbouring Clapham Woods has become a hotbed of mysterious events and paranormal activity. Since the 1970s there have been regular accounts of UFO sightings and ramblers have often reported ‘misty grey shapes’ appearing on footpaths in front of them. Unseen forces have pushed people to the ground. To add to this there have

been literally dozens of family dogs reported missing during walks in the woods, never to be seen again.

Clapham Woods seem to be a worm-hole or a magnet for strange and mysterious activity. But ask the villagers about any of the strange goings on, and you are met with a wall of silence and suspicion.

I therefore turned to Toyne Newton, an expert on the occult history of the area, to learn more. I met up with Toyne at his home in nearby Worthing. I asked him: how might all these weird events be connected?

He told me that during his investigations, he and researcher Charles Walker had uncovered evidence of Satanic activity in Clapham Woods and that this could be a possible explanation for the disappearance of domestic dogs.

A group calling themselves ‘The Friends of Hecate’, claims Toyne, contacted Charles during the investigations and warned him off, telling him to stay away from the woods. Toyne went on



DEEP DEPRESSION: This pit in the heart of the woods was thought by some locals to have been a crater caused by a UFO landing. © Toyne Newton

'A GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE FRIENDS OF HECATE WARNED HIM OFF, TELLING HIM TO STAY AWAY FROM THE WOODS.'

trees. That night many calls were made to the police reporting the same sighting.

On another occasion, in 1982, a Mr Derek Stenning, of nearby Worthing, was driving in the area with his son along the A27, when they had an experience which they described as 'most unnerving'.

'We saw a large bowl-shaped object above Clapham Woods, half of which was a bright white light, the other half orange. The two lights flashed on and off, on and off, alternately. We stopped the car, and the lights seemed to be

moving towards us, but then sped off towards the sea.'

The Ministry of Defence launched an investigation into these and other reported sightings, but have so far published no findings.

ANIMALS VANISH

A noticeable characteristic of Clapham Woods is a strange absence of wildlife, and an eerie silence with a distinct lack of birdsong. The wood does not seem to be a welcoming place for animal life, a suggestion that may be borne out further by a catalogue of domestic

dogs disappearing here, and in one case a horse. The animals simply vanished, never to be seen again.

A few years ago a Mr Peter Love was walking his pet chow in the woods, when the dog ran into a clump of trees and never came out. A week later Clapham farmer John Cornford's collie vanished in the same area, and despite an exhaustive search, the dog was never found.

Perhaps the most dramatic incident of this nature took place when a young man was riding his horse along the many paths that criss-cross through the wood. He dismounted in order to answer a call of nature and when he returned, the horse had quite simply vanished. He was only yards away from the animal, yet he heard no sound. What could possibly have happened? Again a search was organised, but the horse was never seen nor heard of again.

MIST-ERIES AMONG THE TREES

It was a beautiful clear summer evening, and two hikers were walking in the woods around the 'Chestnuts' area when a grey mist began forming on the path in front of them. This mist then began to take on the more solid appearance of a bear. Neither stayed around to see what happened next but they

THREE-FACED: William Blake's portrayal of Hecate, a Greek goddess of dark forces whose shrine was at crossroads, where she could keep watch on all who came and went. Is a cult worshipping Hecate active in Clapham Woods?



WHO WAS HECATE?

Hecate was a minor Greek Goddess who was assigned portions of the Underworld, the Earth and the Air. She could grant men great favour and ensure a bountiful harvest, or she could equally destroy lives and crops. She was also the goddess of the darker sides of magic and the moon. One of her pastimes was sending demons to the earth to torment men and drive them mad.

It is said that she haunts crossroads, and lonely footpaths, and to gain her favour she requires that dogs be sacrificed to her.

A terrifying apparition, she has three heads: it is said that Dante's vision of Satan as having three faces in hell may have originated from the Hecate image.

One of Hecate's heads was that of a savage snake, another was of a mad horse, the third, a frenzied bitch. Her host of followers were known as 'The Hellish Hunt', a band of pitiful and wretched beings who escorted her on her nocturnal missions to wreck havoc, fear and destruction. The hunt was comprised of part-human wild men, pitiful ghosts, murderers, vampires, cannibals and malevolent magicians.

She is also, on her lighter side, known as Queen of the Witches.

'PEOPLE HAVE COMPLAINED OF IRRESISTIBLE URGES TO VENTURE DEEPER INTO THE WOODS AS IF THEY WERE COMPELLED BY SOME UNSEEN AND MALEVOLENT FORCE.'

both were convinced that some sort of supernatural manifestation was taking place.

On a different occasion, but on an equally clear and warm evening, a group of three students were walking in the same area of the wood when they noticed a swirling grey mist. All three said that they experienced feelings of dizziness and unease, while one of them, a girl, had a sensation as if being pushed.

Other people have complained of irresistible urges to venture deeper into the woods as if they were compelled by some unseen and malevolent force, finding it extremely difficult to leave the area.

Still others have complained of their legs going weak and of being literally pushed to the ground. All agree that as soon as they have left the area, their symptoms leave them.

ANCIENT CURSES

In the 12th century King Henry II cheated William de Braose, a powerful baron, out of a portion of land known as the 'rape of Bramber', which included Clapham Woods. The deed was enough to ensure that the baron's son, also called William, harboured feelings of resentment towards the monarchy for depriving him of his rightful inheritance.

Some years later, when Henry's son John became king, he earned the nickname 'Bad John'. To ensure the loyalties of his barons, King John ordered that the youngest child of each should be taken and held as hostage. On hearing this, William hid his only son, and the boy's mother away from harm, fearing for their safety. But John found them and threw them into a jail and left them there to starve.

Beside himself with anger and grief, William spoke a curse on John and the land which should have been his. The words he uttered were:

'I call upon the damned to likewise damn the bramber woods of Suosexe, and may John and his creed ne'er walk in peace.'

The second curse placed upon Clapham came from a Robert le

Fauconer after he lost a court case to the local parson, whom Robert had accused of common assault. Not only did the jury return a verdict of not guilty, but they found in the parson's favour against Robert for false accusation. Roberts' response was to curse Clapham:

'I call upon she who knows to damn the accursed village, and all its meagre holdings. May the priesthood of this false God soon come to know their fate.'

Do the mysterious and paranormal events that have shrouded the area of Clapham over

the past 800 years or so have any connection to these two curses? Could the 'she' referred to by Roberts be referring to Hecate?

Who can say?

But one thing is certain: there is definitely something strange going on down in the woods at Clapham.

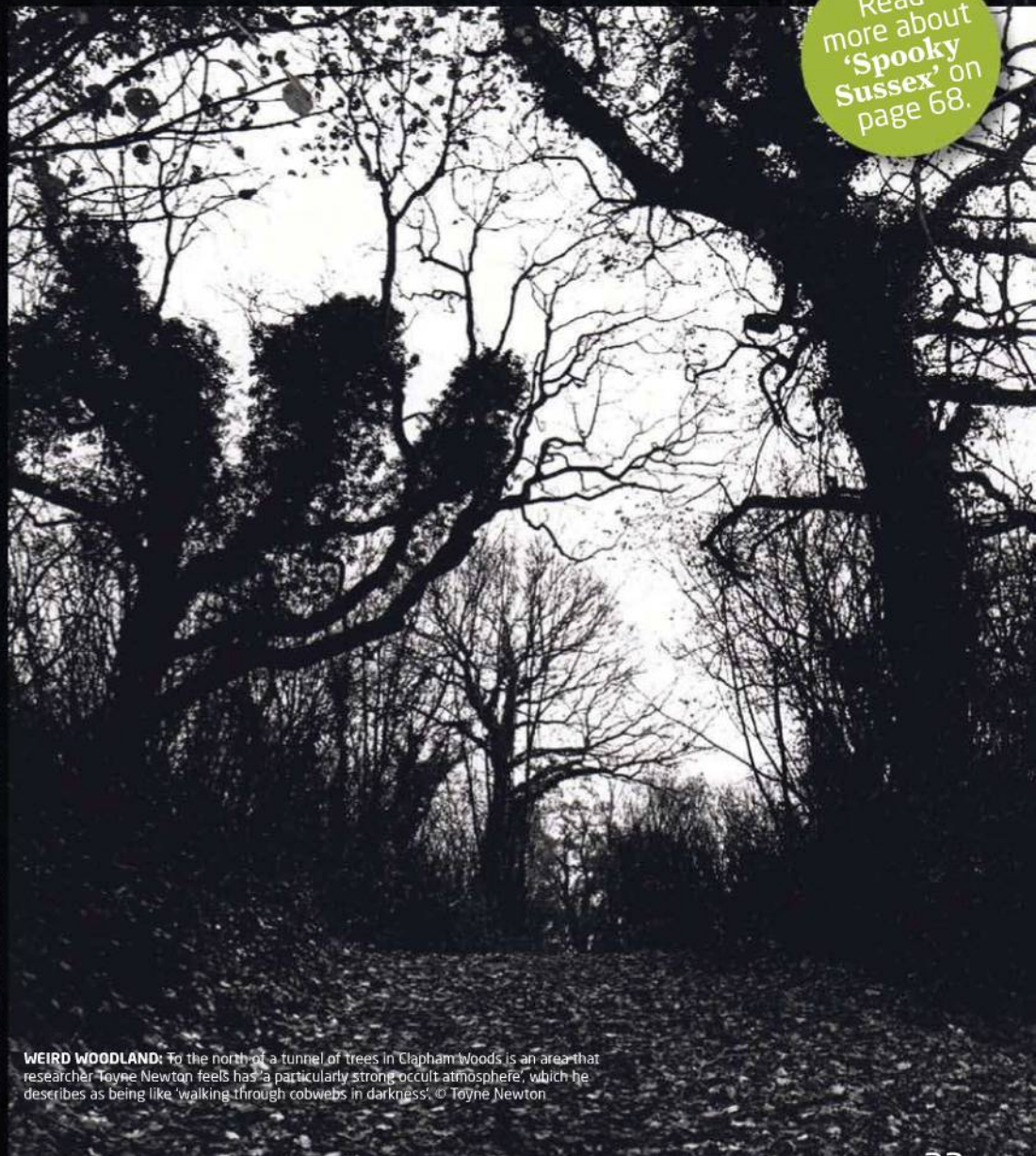
Hill forts, burial mounds, long barrows, ley lines, disappearing animals, Satanic activity, ghosts, unearthly forces, UFOs - all of these things (and more!) have a long-standing presence in Clapham woods, and I have only here been able to scratch the surface of this fascinating place.

Should you choose to visit, then my advice would be to stick to the paths, and leave the area before dusk. After my own brief visit, I came away feeling glad to leave in spite of the area's outstanding natural beauty. ☺



Robert Goodman is an actor who has been seen in movies such as *Gangs of New York*, *Jean of Arc* and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. He was born in Northampton and now lives in central London. In between acting roles, Robert has worked as a London tour guide and as a magician in the world-famous Hamleys toy store in London's Regent Street. In his spare time Robert writes and makes his own short films.

Read more about 'Spooky Sussex' on page 68.



WEIRD WOODLAND: To the north of a tunnel of trees in Clapham Woods is an area that researcher Toyne Newton feels has 'a particularly strong occult atmosphere', which he describes as being like 'walking through cobwebs in darkness'. © Toyne Newton

Faker's Dozen:

Ghost photographs from the hoaxer's hand

As co-director of the Fortean picture Library **JANET BORD** is used to examining photographs that purport to show paranormal phenomena. Many photos seem genuinely inexplicable - but here Janet selects an unlucky 13 that she knows to be hoaxes. There's much to be learnt from her selection.

GHOST PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE DIVIDED into three categories: genuine photographs showing some kind of paranormal occurrence; genuine photographs of something that looks paranormal but actually has a natural explanation; and faked photographs, either done simply as an experiment, or, worst of all, done to deliberately mislead people with the aim of financial gain.

Sadly it's not always easy to correctly categorise ghost photographs. Diehard sceptics will pronounce them all either category B or C; diehard believers will want them all to be in category A. I have always tried to be impartial when assessing

the many 'ghost' photographs submitted to the Fortean Picture Library, but despite my long experience, I am still not sure I always get it right!

This collection of photographs concentrates on fakes, both deliberate and accidental: that is, some of these images were created to deceive, some were created simply to see if a convincing ghost is easy to fake, and there are some that just happened naturally.

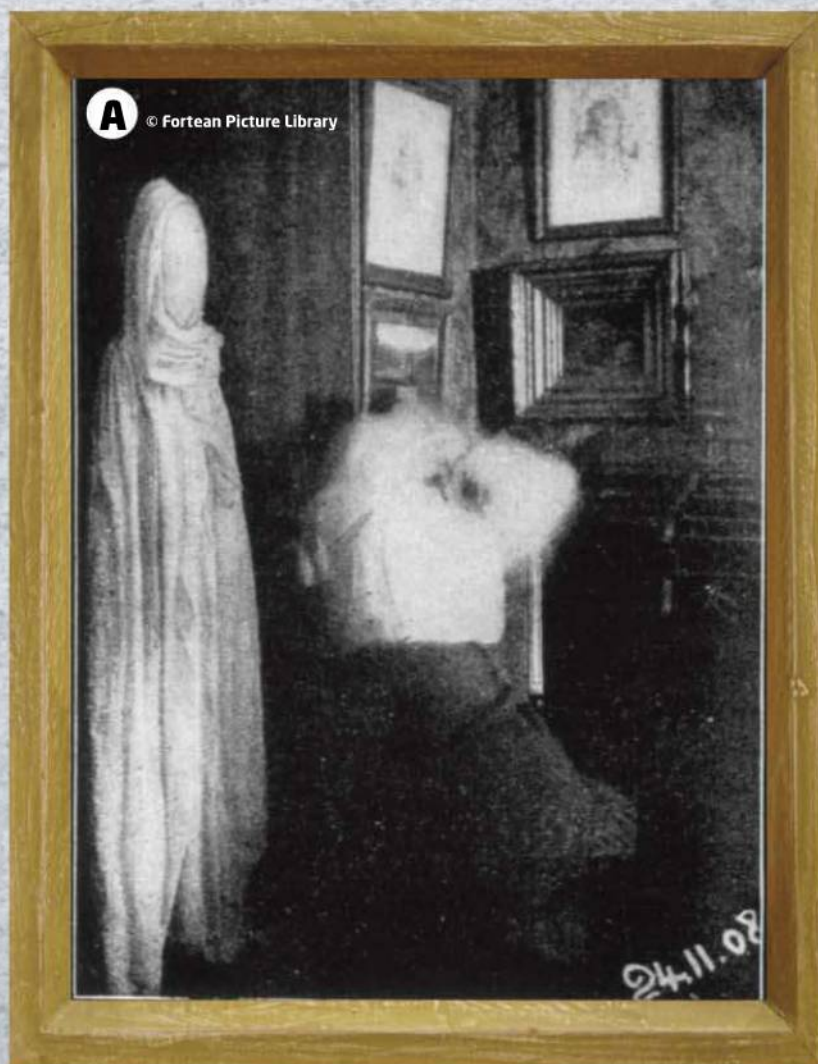
Make up your own minds whether any of these images succeeds in looking like a real ghost. In truth none of them are - or at least, I don't *think* they are!

THE LATE MRS BLACKWELL

It is probable that in Photo A the unconvincing 'ghost' from 100 years ago (the date having been conveniently written on the plate) was faked by draping a living person in a sheet. The ghost was alleged to be the dead wife of Henry Blackwell, who had materialised in the presence of a medium in a trance. (Though the man in the chair, having his hands lifted to his face, looks more like someone who is faking the terror of having seen a ghost!)

The photograph was taken by psychic photographer Andrew Glendinning, who in 1894 had published a book on the subject: *The Veil Lifted: Modern Developments of Spirit Photography*. This takes us into the murky realms of the seance room, where all manner of spirit activity was faked, including full-figure materialisations, and also into the world of spirit photography, where people who sat for their photographic portraits were hoping to find that the photographs contained cameos of the faces of their departed loved ones, often draped in white ectoplasm. Both these fields were very prolific in producing photographs allegedly of dead people, but it is highly probable that fakery was rampant.

'MAKE UP YOUR OWN MINDS WHETHER ANY OF THESE IMAGES SUCCEEDS IN LOOKING LIKE A REAL GHOST.'





SPIRITED ATTEMPTS

In the early days of universal access to photography, at a time when ghosts and spirits were all the rage, there were many attempts to create convincing ghost photographs, and I believe Photos B, C and D all come into that category.

In the Victorian era, photography was very different from today. Heavy cameras on tripods, and large glass plates, were used, a system that couldn't be more different from the tiny digital cameras used today. However, a degree of versatility could still be employed, and those early photographers were very skilful, so the creation of a convincing ghost photograph was just as much of a challenge as it is today, a challenge that was sometimes successfully met.

The famous photograph of the Brown Lady of Raynham, an apparent ghost coming down the stairs of Raynham Hall in Norfolk, although taken rather later in the 1930s, was made using a plate camera – and to this day no one is sure whether it is a genuine ghost photograph or just a very skilful fake. (This famous photo featured in my first 'Ghostly Gallery' for *Paranormal Magazine*, back in the November 2008 edition – indeed, it was used to great effect on the front cover.)

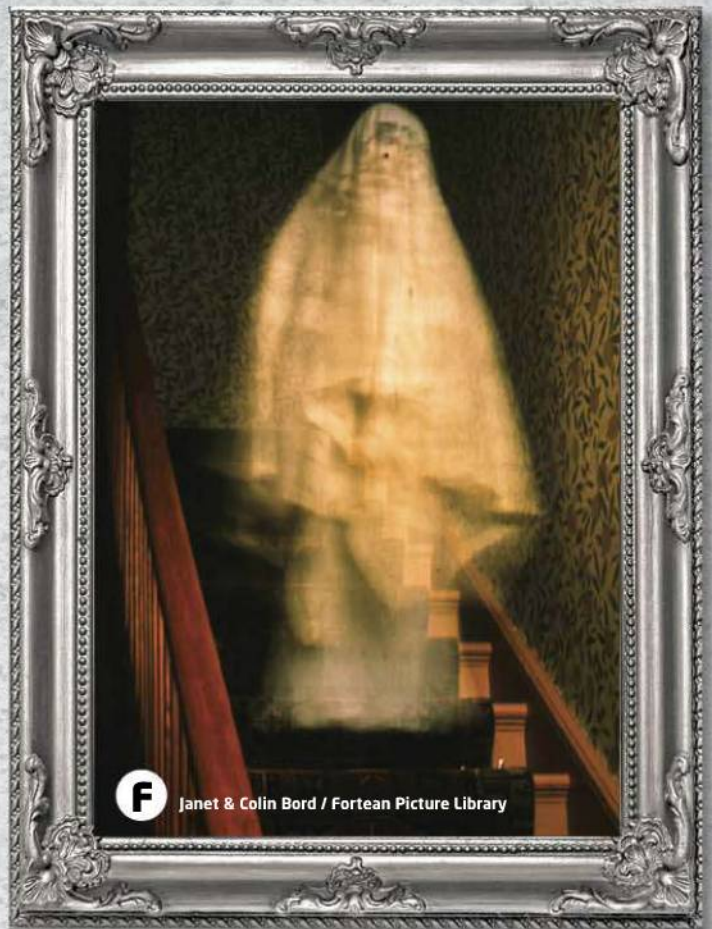
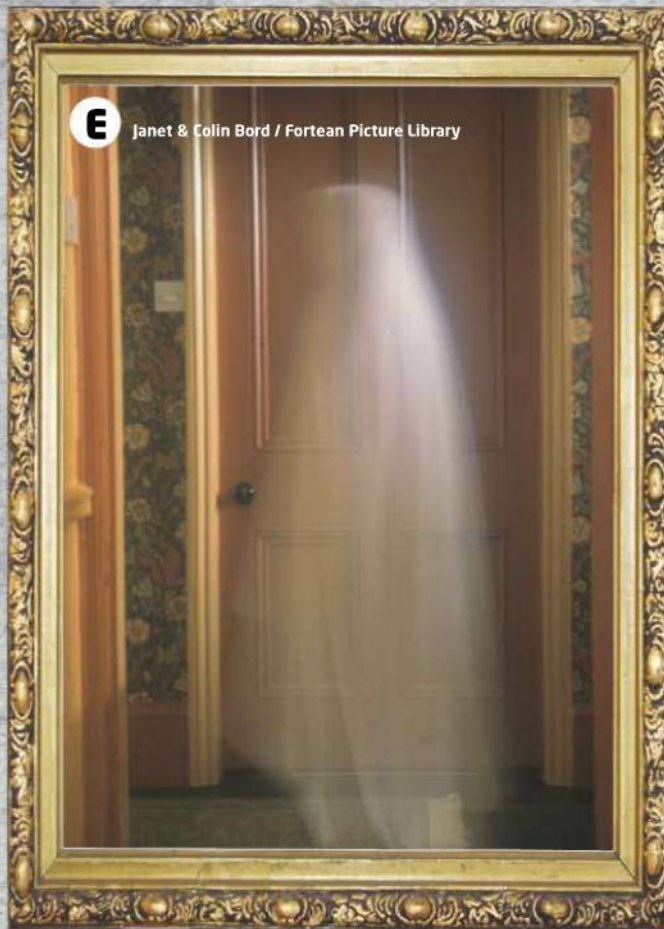
There were two possible methods of faking a ghost photograph using the old-fashioned tools. One problem with early photography was that the exposure times were so long, meaning that a sitter needed to keep dead still for at least one or two minutes. This explains why, in Photo B, the man sitting at an ornate table has his head resting on his hand: he is trying to avoid any movement that would blur his image. The 'ghost' could have been created by the woman walking into the scene while the shutter was open, staying still for a few seconds, then moving away again. During an exposure of several minutes' duration, a person moving quickly through the scene will not show up on the negative.

This method seems less likely to apply to Photo D, of the man brandishing a sword, because it would be much more difficult to maintain this pose for the required time. Perhaps two plates were exposed, one for the ghostly figure, the other for the man with the sword. Then they were sandwiched together and a print made.

This method may also have been used for Photo C, whose appearance seems so startling to the young lady on the bench. The ghost shows up more clearly for having been positioned in front of dark foliage.

'THOSE EARLY PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE VERY SKILFUL, SO THE CREATION OF A CONVINCING GHOST PHOTOGRAPH WAS JUST AS MUCH OF A CHALLENGE AS IT IS TODAY.'





'I DRAPED A WHITE SHEET OVER MYSELF AND ADOPTED MY BEST GHOST POSE.'



OUR OWN ATTEMPTS

By contrast, Photos E, F and G were faked within the last 30 years by the proprietors of the Fortean Picture Library. My husband Colin and I had no intention of creating hoaxes – that is, passing our ‘ghost’ photographs off as the real thing, and have never done so – they are just examples of what can be done with very little effort.

Basically, I draped a white sheet over myself and adopted my best ghost pose. Colin set up his Rolleiflex film camera on a tripod and made an exposure of me for half a second. I moved out of the scene, he rewound the shutter without moving the film on (a useful feature of the twin-lens Rolleiflex) and he then gave another exposure of half a second of the empty scene, so that in the resulting photograph my figure has an ethereal transparent appearance. This is what we aimed for, because this is how we expect ghosts to look, but interestingly the majority of ‘real’ ghosts appear like solid people rather than misty wraiths.



 **SHODDY HABITS**

Minsden Chapel, south of Hitchin in Hertfordshire, has long been rumoured to be haunted, and is a favourite haunt of ghost-hunters, indeed I visited it myself back in the 1960s and can confirm it had a nicely spooky atmosphere, being ruined and overgrown with ivy.

Traditionally the ruins are haunted by a ghostly monk, and this photograph of him (Photo H) was allegedly taken by T. W. Latchmore in 1907. However, it appears that Latchmore admitted in 1930 that the photograph was a hoax: the 'ghost' being the result of an experiment in double-exposure.

The admission was made to Elliott O'Donnell, in one of whose ghost books I found a photograph claiming to show the ghost of a Somerset monk (Photo I), but with no further details. I suspect that this too came about as the result of deliberate double-exposure (though of course I cannot be sure, in the absence of a confession).

'LATCHMORE ADMITTED IN 1930 THAT THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS A HOAX: THE "GHOST" BEING THE RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT IN DOUBLE-EXPOSURE.'





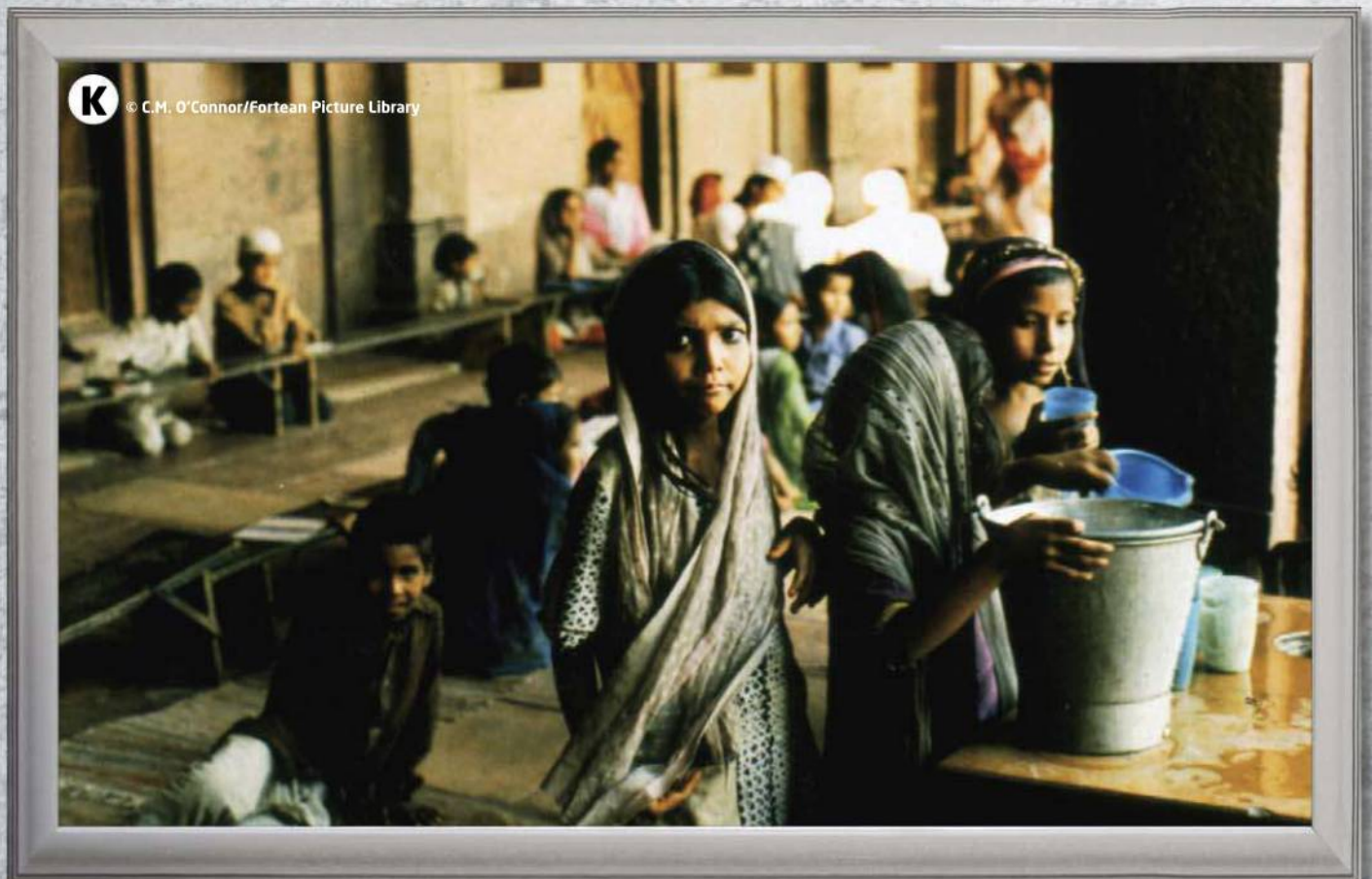
J © John Billingsley/Fortean Picture Library

LIGHT WORK 

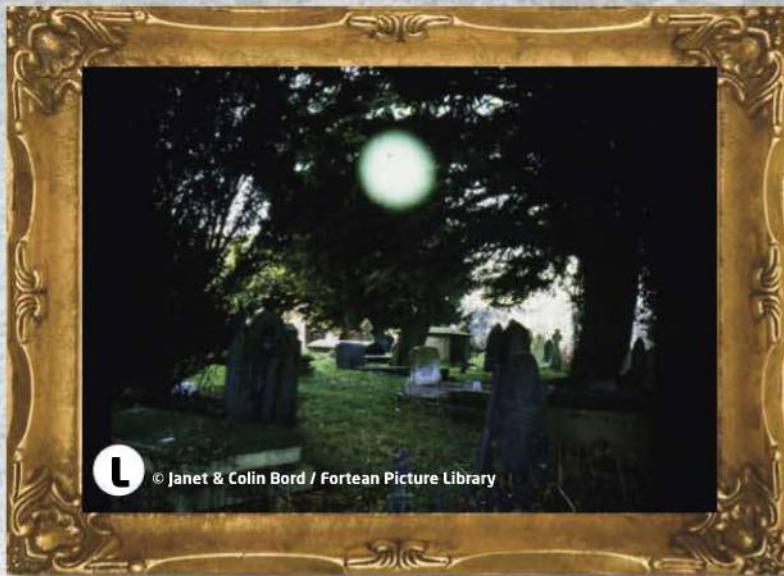
Sometimes unexpected light effects can lend an air of mystery to what was intended to be a straightforward photograph, as can be seen in Photo J, John Billingsley was photographing a hogsback grave cover inside Heysham church in Lancashire, but somehow light from the windows got in on the act, and the camera movement made the light look, in John's words, 'like spirits doing the tango'.

The two white figures towards the back of Photo K, which was taken in India, are not ghosts. The explanation for the strange effect is that they were wearing white clothes and headgear, and they were lit by a shaft of bright sunlight which has caused them to be overexposed in the photograph.

'SOMETIMES UNEXPECTED LIGHT EFFECTS CAN LEND AN AIR OF MYSTERY TO WHAT WAS INTENDED TO BE A STRAIGHTFORWARD PHOTOGRAPH.'



K © C.M. O'Connor/Fortean Picture Library



L © Janet & Colin Bord / Fortean Picture Library

ORBS EXPOSED

Orbs are a modern phenomenon in that they have only started to be common on photographs taken with digital cameras. This suggests that they have a natural explanation, their appearance being connected with the way a digital camera works, which of course differs radically from the traditional camera using film.

That's not to say that circular blobs of light were never captured on conventional photographs. Then as now, they would be interpreted as spirits or spirit lights, perhaps somehow linked to the will-o'-the-wisp or corpse candle, especially if photographed in a graveyard.

However it's not at all difficult to fake such a blob of light, as Photo L shows. It was done by photographing the churchyard and then copying the transparency in the dark-room later, over-exposing a small area to make the orb.

SURPRISING HANDIWORK

The 'ghost' that manifests on the 13th photograph in our faker's dozen (Photo M) is a bit different, as it demonstrates how a photograph can remain enigmatic for a long time if all the facts are not known.

This time the 'ghost' is nothing more than a pair of disembodied hands. The photograph was taken in Adelaide, South Australia, in late 1975 by Neville D'Cruz. It shows Vernon D'Cruz (the photographer's brother) with a friend at the friend's house.

For a long time this photograph caused total puzzlement.

Although the hands are clearly seen, there is no visible trace of any other part of a human body behind Vernon. Was it a ghost photograph or simply a hoax? For a long time I thought there was something genuinely strange about this photograph, but I have now seen other photographs that were taken at the same time, and they show a child messing about on the bench close to Vernon, so it looks as though in the 'ghost' photograph the child was somehow hidden behind him.

Whether this happened accidentally or on purpose is difficult to ascertain, as Vernon refused to discuss the photograph in the years that followed, but I suspect it was unintentional. How many other so-called 'ghost' photographs would reveal themselves to have prosaic explanations if all the facts were known?



M © Yvonne Banks-Martin / Fortean Picture Library

'A PHOTOGRAPH CAN REMAIN ENIGMATIC FOR A LONG TIME IF ALL THE FACTS ARE NOT KNOWN.'



Is this the **Holy Grail?**

Hidden in plain sight on the stones of English churches are curious and largely unknown works of medieval art. **JERRY GLOVER** believes a carving in an ancient church near his home may echo one of history's most enduring mystical legends.



GRAFFITI ARTISTS BELONG to a long and largely hidden tradition. Medieval graffiti artists in particular match today's scrawlers for creativity. Their panoply of signs and symbols from times when few could write were a valuable currency of ideas. When you attune your eyes to their existence, the interiors of some of Britain's oldest churches are found to contain a largely unknown treasure trove of mysterious symbols with even more obscure meanings.

Amidst these impromptu traces I may have found something possibly unique, possibly quite remarkable: a very early depiction of the Holy Grail, the legendary cup of mystical power.

When I first noticed the little carving on the first left-hand pillar at the church of Mary Magdalene and St James at Husborne Crawley in western Bedfordshire, my impression was that it was a rendering of a chalice topped with – were those? – yes, little flames. Its uppermost bowl shape, arrayed along the top edge with little pointed notches, and its ribbed stem and base, made the assumption seem fair. What else could it be but a flaming chalice, and therefore... the Holy Grail?

However, on reading that Violet

Pritchard – the only person to have made a detailed study of ancient English graffiti – identified it as a 'cresset', a kind of light used by medieval monks, I put aside the notion. After all, Pritchard had studied the subject for years, seeking out interesting examples of this lost folk art, and I was only a beginner.

But as I became better acquainted with the strengths and weaknesses

'AFTER EXAMINING DOZENS OF CHURCHES, I KNEW THESE CARVINGS WERE AT LEAST HIGHLY UNUSUAL, IF NOT UNIQUE.'

of Pritchard's impressive endeavor to interpret medieval graffiti, the curious little carving in the ancient hilltop church started to pick at my thoughts. It nagged at me that Pritchard stated the carving 'is in danger of remaining unidentified', suggesting that her identification was a best guess. Moreover, none of the rare surviving examples of cressets I could find looked anything like the Husborne Crawley carving, whereas many medieval chalices did – other than the crucial detail of the flame-like notches.

As I started to research the history of the church, its area and the earliest artistic depictions of the Grail (as well ☉

HOLY PLACE: The church of SS Mary Magdalene and James at Husborne Crawley, in Bedfordshire, where the enigmatic graffiti can be found. © Jerry Glover

MAGICAL: This medieval carving in a 13th century church bears a remarkable resemblance to representations of the Holy Grail from the same period. © Jerry Glover



artistic appearance until Professor Joseph Goering announced that it can be seen on three 11th-12th century church frescoes in the Catalan Pyrenees. These are unique and beautiful paintings showing the Virgin Mary holding vessels radiating wisps of flame.

These frescos narrowly predate the earliest known written accounts. Thus, Professor Goering argues, they are the world's earliest Grail depictions, and might even have inspired the early written tales. I sent Professor Goering an image of the graffito at Husborne Crawley, outlining what both I and Violet Pritchard made of it. He was good enough to reply that it was 'most intriguing', adding:

'I am not experienced with cressets, either in art or in reality, but this looks to me very much like something that could be called a (fiery) chalice or ... grail. It is elegantly done, in the clearly recognizable shape of a eucharistic chalice, and I have no trouble imagining that those are small flames emerging from the cup.'

The world's foremost scholar

INSPIRATIONAL: Angels show the Holy Grail to the purest of Arthur's knights, Sir Galahad in this tapestry by William Morris. The Grail legends have inspired artists and writers since the Middle Ages.

MOST SPLENDID VESSEL: The Grail appears to Lancelot and fellow knights, replenishing their food and drink and healing their wounds.

as many other strange inscriptions), it became clear that, while strong on history, there were gaps in Pritchard's knowledge in the very areas I have pursued since becoming fascinated by the ancient graffito that abounds in my district: namely obscure and arcane symbolism.

Over the summer of 2009 the questions started to pile up. Could I have stumbled onto a discovery of no small significance? The church

in question is host to a number of other strange ancient inscriptions. On the same pillar as the flaming chalice, for example, can be found the head of an open-mouthed bearded man (possibly representing John the Baptist) and a snake entwined around a branch bearing fruit with shining 'rays.' After examining dozens of churches, I knew these carvings were at least highly unusual, if not unique.

'THE WORLD'S FOREMOST SCHOLAR ON EARLY GRAIL ICONOGRAPHY HAD CONFIRMED THAT MY INTERPRETATION OF THE IMAGE AS REPRESENTING THE HOLY GRAIL WAS A REASONABLE ONE.'

But what were they meant to signify? And why were they made here, of all places?

To see if I could confirm that the flaming chalice might be the legendary Grail, I first looked into its background as a visual icon. The Grail's literary origins are well-known (see separate panel), but little had been done to establish its first

on early Grail iconography had confirmed that my interpretation of the image as representing the Holy Grail was a reasonable one.

'The image looks to me like it might well date to the 12th or 13th century,' Goering added, then raised further questions about the date of the church, which I was able to confirm as 13th century. This gives enough latitude for the carving to have been made around the time of the very first flourishing of the Grail myths in European literature. This was very exciting indeed.

We might go so far as to say, then, that in the absence of even earlier examples, there is the strong possibility that this is the earliest depiction of the Holy Grail in England, the British Isles even. Had anyone else, I wondered, in the six or seven hundred years since it was carved, viewed it the same way as me? Surely I was not the first! After all, for centuries it has *always been in plain sight!*



Powers of the Grail

The legend of the vessel of power evolved in epic romances created between 1190 and 1240. In *The Story of the Grail* by Chrétien de Troyes, Perceval, a clumsy young knight from King Arthur's court, finds a castle in a valley, home of the Fisher King. There he sees a procession of children bringing a white lance that drips blood and the Grail, made of gold and adorned with precious stones, from which 'so brilliant a light appeared that the candles lost their brightness'. For failing to ask a crucial question of this Grail, Perceval prolongs the Fisher King's suffering, instigating war.

The first chalice grail comes from the *Lancelot-Grail* cycle, written anonymously about 40 years after Chrétien de Troyes. In a small moated castle Lancelot sees a beautiful maiden holding aloft 'the most splendid vessel that had ever been seen by earthly man'. As each knight kneels before the Grail, tables instantly replenish with delicious foods and spices. It is the vessel where 'the blood of Our Lord was shed and gathered'.

Lancelot's combat wounds are healed by the vessel's presence, which feeds and heals other knights, physically and spiritually. It also cures Lancelot of his subsequent madness, but when he approaches it too closely he is knocked out by a fiery blast, remaining in a trance for 24 days, one for each year of his sinful love for Guinevere. The Holy Grail is eventually carried up to heaven by a disembodied hand.

These properties reach extravagantly magical heights in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*. From the hermit Trevrizent, the hero learns how the Grail's secrets were found in Toledo by Kyot, a scholar of heathen texts. The Grail is called *lapsit exillis*, a stone that was abandoned on the earth from a host flying 'high above the stars'. It is the power that burns - and resurrects - the phoenix. Humans beholding the stone experience ultimate agony, then after a week cannot age or die. On Good Friday a translucent white dove descends from heaven to leave a wafer on the stone, upon which the names of those pure enough to be its guardians are inscribed.

'OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE DISTRICT BUILT FROM GREENSAND ONLY THIS ONE ACTUALLY APPEARS GREEN. HAD THIS GREEN CHURCH ATTRACTED THOSE INTERESTED IN ESOTERIC LORE?'

Another important question to be answered is why had these unusual inscriptions been made in this particular church? And what can we tell about the people who chose this way of making their mark?

The church stands just three miles off Watling Street, an ancient major route along England's spine. Some of the travelers along it would have been pilgrims up from the Way of St James, a primary pilgrimage route extending from Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain right through the Pyrenees: 'Grail country'. Another ancient route, the Icknield Way, passes eight miles from Mary Magdalene and St James. A steady stream of travelers thus had the opportunity to stop by.

Were some lured by the fact that in 1228 a treasure valued at 300 ounces was found in the churchyard, one that was donated to the hospital at Dover before disappearing from history? Or could there be another reason, a more secret and compelling one?

The churchwarden informed me that of the seven churches in the district built from greensand, an

EARLY IMAGES: These frescos now on display in the Museu Nacional d'Art Catalunya in Barcelona were both painted in churches in the Catalan Pyrenees in the early 12th century. Each shows the Virgin with flaming vessels which Prof Joseph Goering believes are the earliest representations in the world of the Holy Grail. The vessel in the fresco showing Mary with St Peter is similar in shape to the Bedfordshire graffito.



olive-colored stone, only the one at Husborne Crawley actually *appears green*. Architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner comments: 'Has any other church such green greensand as the W tower of Husborne Crawley, where it appears mixed with ironstone?'

Until the warden pointed it out to me I had not noticed this, so intent was I on getting inside the church and seeing its strange graffiti. This raised the intriguing possibility that this green church had attracted those interested in esoteric lore. The description of the Grail in an early tale as a stone that fell to earth has been linked to the legend of an emerald that fell from Lucifer's



SYMBOLIC: On the same pillar as the putative Grail graffito can be found this carving of a bearded man, possibly representing John the Baptist. © Jerry Glover





MAGIC COLOUR: In common with six others in the county, the church at Husborne Crawley is built of the local Greensand stone but it is the only one to appear truly green. Did this give the church mystical significance? © Jerry Glover



Will the real Holy Grail...

Of the small number of artifacts claiming to be the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, the *Santo Caliz* of Valencia (pictured) must be the most ornate. The vessel of dark brown agate, dating back to the 1st century BC Turkey or Alexandria, in Egypt, sits on a medieval gold stem and an alabaster base decorated with pearls. Custodians think it 'absolutely likely' the bowl was used at the Last Supper. Scholars beg to differ.

In 2007 historian Mark Oxbrow claimed that the *Patène de Serpentine*, an exquisitely decorated green plate displayed in the Louvre, could have inspired the one described by Chrétien de Troyes, who used the Catalan word *grail*, meaning a large dish, platter, or vessel.

Less ostentatious Grail artifacts have emerged, as Graham Phillips found when he investigated a small onyx vessel passed down through generations of the Peverel family, ending up in an attic in the Warwickshire town of Rugby. This authentic Roman spice jar was linked to Mary Magdalene who went to Christ's tomb to anoint his body with spices, hence its name: the Marian Chalice.

For centuries, Genoa's 'emerald chalice,' obtained by Crusaders in the Holy Land, was held to be the Grail - until an accident showed it to be made of green glass. It also seems that no one pointed out that it isn't a chalice but a bowl; such is the Grail's potential to influence perception.

The medieval romances and illustrations are more resonant to me than any of the material 'Grails', which no matter how gaudy or plain are lifeless and disappointing in comparison to an actual flaming chalice - even one scratched on a wall.

'THE GRAFFITI OF THE FLAMING CHALICE AND THE OTHER MEDIEVAL WALL CARVINGS AT THE CHURCH ARE NOT DOODLES ... THEY EMBODY A CONTINUUM OF IDEAS THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO THEIR MAKERS.'

crown during the war in heaven. And it seems very plausible that this notion of the Grail as an 'elixir stone' is connected to or somehow derives from the primordial substance described in *The Emerald Tablet* by Hermes Trismegistus, a text any studious medieval alchemist or hermetic philosopher would have known.

These are traditions in which the Grail and the Philosopher's Stone seem so interchangeable as ideas, and so close in time, as to be inseparable. The church at Husborne Crawley, being distinctively and uniquely green, could therefore have provided a

'call to expression' to those who knew mystic traditions of the Grail and alchemy, traditions rooted in supernatural artifacts strongly tied to the colour green. Indeed, green is a feature of other traditions absorbed into Christian decoration, as hinted at by the fine carving of a Green Man on a 16th century chair by the altar.

The graffiti of the flaming chalice and the other medieval wall carvings at the church of Mary Magdalene and St James are not doodles, idly improvised ancient graffiti made by children (as can be seen at Westminster Abbey), which is crudely executed and devoid of symbolic meaning. They embody

a continuum of ideas that were important to their makers, expressed in symbols which sometimes fell outside ordinary Christian decoration as it had matured over the church's first millennium.

I think it extremely probable that adult wayfarers, knights or pilgrims influenced by traditions originating from beyond England, drawn to a significant location, are responsible for this carving and its associated markings, a few of which may also have esoteric meanings.

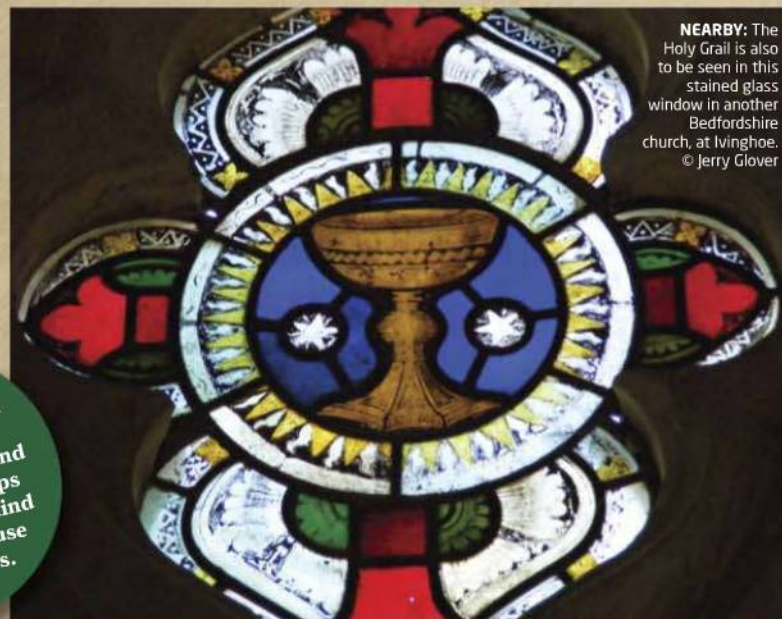
For the person who chose the Holy Grail as their 'signature,' it was not a symbol taken from their own imagination. They had received it, perhaps via an image, a teaching, or some method of initiation. Whatever its origin, it must have been for them the clearest, most elegant visual expression of spiritual attainment. The sign of a desire - perhaps once required, perhaps yet to be attained - of direct contact with the source of all spiritual mysteries.

We have just begun to scratch the surface of this fascinating subject. ☪



Jerry Glover also manages a rock band. Previously, he was a prolific deviser, writer and producer of shows for radio and television. He is the only *other* person to have played the role of Number 6 from the cult TV show, *The Prisoner*.

Thanks to Professor Joseph Goering for his correspondence and to Graham Phillips and M. Bell for kind permission to use their pictures.



NEARBY: The Holy Grail is also to be seen in this stained glass window in another Bedfordshire church, at Ivinghoe. © Jerry Glover

SOURCES:

- English Medieval Graffiti* by Violet Pritchard
- The Holy Grail: The History of a Legend* by Richard Barber
- The Virgin and the Grail* by Joseph Goering
- The Victoria County History* (www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk)
- Buildings of England (Bedfordshire)* by Nikolaus Pevsner

**THE
GOOD FEAR
GUIDE**

Where do you go for comfortable accommodation with the chance of experiencing something spooky? Well, why not Ware?

Fanham's Hall in Hertfordshire is the classic country house: a beautiful and impressive Jacobean manor built in mellow stone and set in its own grounds. And what grounds! The stunning formal gardens are one of the major attractions at Fanham's Hotel.

Like many big country hotels, Fanham's Hall specializes in the corporate meetings and weddings markets but there is plenty to enjoy here for the short break guest. Owners EH Venues pride themselves on their friendly staff and excellent service. The rooms are big, bright and well-appointed with particularly stylish en-suite bathrooms. Food is another feature at Fanham's, with its Executive Chef providing cuisine he describes as 'unfussy, satisfying and downright tasty, with a dash of imagination'. You can enjoy a full meal in the Pavilion Restaurant, take tea on the elegant terrace or – a nice idea this – take your time over a specially prepared picnic in the fabulous gardens.

Gorgeous though it is, Fanham's Hall also has its darker side – just as *Paranormal Magazine* readers like it. Considerable ghostly activity has been reported here. Local author Damien O'Dell spent some considerable time researching the ghosts for his book *Paranormal Hertfordshire*, published by Amberley. He writes:

'What makes the ghosts of Fanham's Hall so interesting is the variety of their manifestations: they are sometimes seen, at other times heard, they make their presence known by touch – or even by smell!'

Mr O'Dell spoke to many members and former members of staff with personal experience of the paranormal at Fanham's. Christine, for example, had a catalogue of creepy encounters, including hearing the eerie sound of children crying and on another occasion 'a lot of running about, up and down by someone in high heels', with no one visible on either occasion. Of all the things she witnessed during the 16 years she worked at the hotel, the only incident that unnerved her took place in the drawing room. She felt a presence behind her and then 'freezing hands' gripping her throat. She spun round to find she was still alone in the room.

Another cleaner, Betty, glimpsed what appeared to be a lady in medieval dress staring out of a mirror and Shirley had a bizarre experience while cleaning one of the conference rooms: she was astonished to see a tin of polish glide the length of a table, before dropping to the floor. Shirley put it back – but it did it again. And it did it a third time! Shirley also reported a range of poltergeist activity, including seeing pens 'crazily spinning' and no less than 58 glasses all floating a few inches above a dining table.

The long gallery is haunted by a male ghost, only the top half of whom is visible. A former manager, James, told Mr

O'Dell of a strange personal experience when he suddenly felt 'as though people were rushing towards me' down the length of the gallery. Fanham's Hall is also haunted by a 'grey lady', seen on the main staircases and the inexplicable aroma of strong tobacco is often smelt in the Knebworth and Welwyn Rooms.

Finally, if you are tempted by an overnight stay or two in this fine Jacobean mansion, you should try to book any of the rooms between 205 and 212, since these seem to attract regular strange events, mainly ghostly murmurings and music, as well as brief sightings of possible apparitions in the passageway outside.

The Editor

FACTFILE

Fanham's Hall Hotel, Fanham's Hall Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 7PZ.
Tel: (01920) 460511
email: enquiries@ehvenues.com
www.ehvenues.com

- Grand Jacobean mansion
- Beautiful, extensive gardens
- Excellent food, including picnics
- Stylish, recently refurbished en-suite rooms
- Regular events, eg special dining and fashion shows
- Specialists in weddings and conferences
- Near London, with all its attractions
- Lots of ghostly goings-on

ALIEN HUNTING GROUND: UFOs in SOUTH AMERICA

Nowhere in the world seems to have generated so many dramatic UFO sightings in recent years as South America. NIGEL WATSON discovers this has always been the case, and can't help wondering why.

Since the dawn of the flying saucer age in 1947 South America quickly became the most UFO and alien infested continent on this planet.

This intense pattern of activity is continuing right up to the present day. The most spectacular recent incident occurred in Northern Argentina in the early hours of Thursday, November 26, 2009. As the inhabitants of Joaquin V. Gonzalez suffered from an oppressively hot night, a huge elongated object carrying a red light at the front suddenly came into view. Hundreds of people who were at the many outdoor restaurants in the town witnessed this 'luminous' and 'weightless' cigar-shaped object. It was completely soundless and sent out flashes of light.

Many witnesses reported feeling numb or paralysed as they watched this craft. When they attempted to take photographs of it they discovered their digital cameras and mobile phones did not work or malfunctioned. After about 55 minutes the object finally went out of sight to the southwest of the town. A few minutes later, when it was assumed the UFO had reached the El Tunal hydroelectric power station, there was a sudden power blackout that lasted for 12 hours.

One unnamed witness, who was fishing in a boat on the lake next to the power station at the time in question, saw a huge UFO that was 200 to 300 metres long. It made a low rumbling sound and beamed lights at the turbines. The turbines beamed the lights back at the UFO and they made a sound as if they were 'working in tandem'.

A few days later on December 15, a large silver cigar-shaped object was seen again at Joaquin V. Gonzalez. It appeared for about five minutes at 5pm and was seen by a large proportion of the population. As on its previous visitation, it caused mobile phones to malfunction and a power cut.

Luis Burgos, president of the Fundacion Argentina de Ovnilogia, claims that Argentina is a focal point for UFO activity. His group received 550 UFO reports in 2008 and 332 cases by late September 2009. These sightings included abductions, landings and bedroom visitations.

Throughout 2009 there were a steady stream of UFO sightings and humanoid encounters. In March an unnamed woman in La Pampa, Argentina, said a UFO used a strange force to pull her and her young son towards it. They only escaped capture because her husband grabbed her legs and dragged them back to safety. The frequency of UFO visitations and cattle mutilations in the region have now made people fearful of working at night.

At Florencio Varela, Buenos Aires, in July 2009 a woman woke up to see 14 aliens next to her bed. For forty minutes they used telepathy to inform her that different alien civilizations come to study our planet and use crop circles to send messages to each other. ◉

'When it was assumed the UFO had reached the hydroelectric power station, there was a sudden blackout that lasted 12 hours.'



OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The military authorities in most of Latin America have taken the subject of UFOs very seriously.

In Brazil they ran a special investigation into a UFO flap that ran from October 1977 to January 1978. This Operação Prato (Operation Plate or Operation Saucer) was conducted by intelligence officers at Belém, Air Force base, Northern Brazil. They collected hundreds of reports from people in Colares and villages north of the air base, who witnessed UFOs and on some occasions were burnt by their beams of light. Many of the villagers said the beams of light sucked blood from them and left marks on their body.

Captain Uyrangê Hollanda headed the operation and took a great interest in the subject even when the project was terminated. Indeed, he and his fellow officers witnessed several UFOs and even had an alien contact during their investigations. In 1997, Captain Hollanda went public with his thoughts about UFOs and his belief that the 1977 flap covered a far bigger area than he was able to investigate. Not long after making his views public he committed suicide.

UFO groups in South America have been active in getting secret documents released to the public, and many inroads have already been made. The biggest success occurred last August when the Brazilian government released thousands of pages of UFO documents, which are now being put online.

In Chile UFOs were officially acknowledged as 'real' in 1997, after three UFOs were seen and tracked by radar at Chacalluta International Airport, Arica, northern Chile. It also triggered the Chilean Air Force to set up a special UFO investigation group.

The Uruguayan Air Force set up their Comision Receptora de Denuncias Ovni (CRIDOVNI) in 1979. In 2009 it analysed 2,100 cases and found 40 (2%) that they could not explain. Their files include encounters with luminous spheres by military and commercial aircraft along with cattle mutilation reports. They also note a couple of abduction related cases.

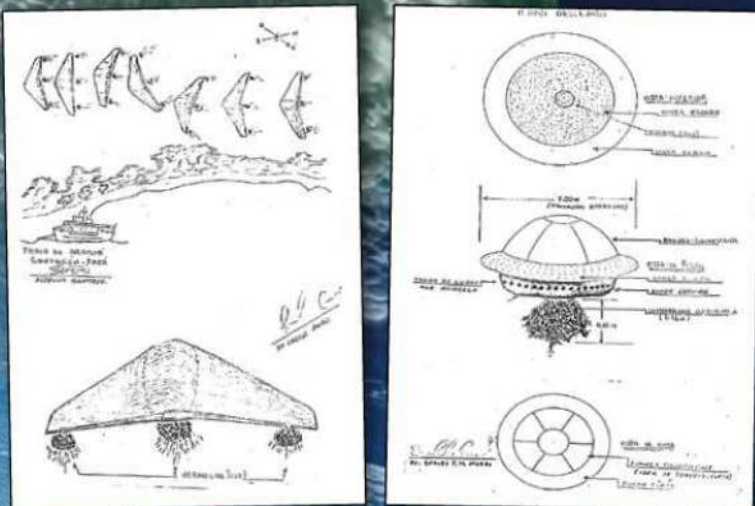
In 1980, a camper at Playa Pascual, saw several small beings that immobilised him and carried him to their nearby UFO. Inside, he was subjected to a medical examination and then he woke up inside his tent. Another incident involved a family who experienced a period of missing time after seeing an 'aircraft' land in front of their car.

The head of CRIDOVNI, Colonel Ariel Sanchez, acknowledged that 'The Phenomenon Exists.' However, he was not certain if UFOs represented extraterrestrial craft, foreign aircraft or some unknown type of atmospheric phenomenon.

References

Report on Secret UFO Documents Released in Brazil along with web links, by A. J. Gevaerd, *UFO Digest* website at: www.ufodigest.com/news/0809/secret-docs.php; Brazilian UFO Magazine website at: www.ufo.com.br; Colares 1977 on the ufologie website at: www.ufologie.net/html/colares.htm; 'UFO Files: Brazil's Roswell' History Channel TV programme, December 2005. Available on YouTube, see: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIID2G3fkMU; 'Chile announces UFOs are for real' at: www.ufologie.net/html/offichili.htm; 'When the UFO issue gets official treatment by governments' at: www.vigilia.com.br/sessao.php?categ=0&id=665; 'Air Force Declassified Uruguay Files, ET Hypothesis Not Dismissed' by Daniel Iglesias. Translation by Scott Corrales, *UFO Digest* website at: www.ufodigest.com/news/0609/uruguay.php

OPERATION PLATE: In 1977-8, officials at Belém, Air Force base, Brazil, interviewed hundreds of witnesses of UFOs in the area. This is just a couple of the many sketches witnesses submitted for analysis. See separate panel, 'Official investigations' to learn more.





bodies of Juan and his girlfriend, who had suffered a similar fate to the rabbits.

The Varginha creatures

South America also has a strong tradition of flying saucer crashes to rival Roswell. The most famous encounter occurred at Varginha, Minas Gerais state, Brazil.

Liliane Fatima Silva, her sister Valquiria and Katia Andrade Xavier saw a creature that seemed to be in pain squatting behind an old garage. The young girls described it as being dark brown, hairless and about 4-feet tall. It had a large head, large red eyes and a small mouth and nose. Most shockingly, it had three horns sprouting from its head and it gave off a bad odour.

Soldiers from the Escola Sargentos de Armas based in nearby Tres Coracoes, captured two creatures that were sent away in an army truck. And, as many as six creatures were allegedly caught dead or alive on that fateful day.

On the same day as this encounter, January 20, 1996, other people saw similar alien creatures and UFOs in the area. Several months later, businessman Carlos da Souza reported seeing a UFO near Varginha on Saturday, January 13, 1996. He followed it for several miles until it made a steep dive towards the ground. When he got to the site where the UFO had crashed he found that military personnel were already

UFO CAPITAL: Buenos Aires, Argentina, where a woman woke up to find 14 aliens gathered round her bed. Argentina has seen an extraordinary number of UFO sightings in recent years.

Sex and violence

South American contact and abduction cases are known for having a high level of sex and violence. The most famous sexual encounter case is that of Antonio Villas Boas, which happened on October 14, 1957.

Unlike the woman in La Pampa, Antonio was unable to escape the aliens who dragged him into their egg-shaped spacecraft, which landed in a field on his family's farm near Sao Francisco de Sales, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Inside the craft he was seduced by a beautiful, slim, short, woman who had long flowing fair hair, milk white skin, and slanted, blue eyes. On leaving she pointed at her stomach, at him, and then towards the sky, implying that she would give birth to their offspring somewhere beyond our planet.

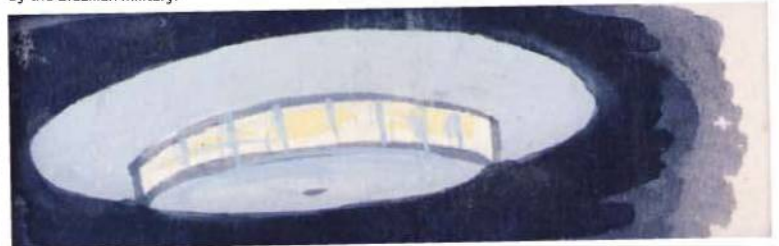
Another case, anticipating the arrival of the Varginha Creatures and the Chupacabra (more of which later), occurred near the city of Petare Miranda, Venezuela, on November 28, 1954. At 2am, truck drivers Gustavo González and Juan Ponce had to make an unexpected stop because the road was blocked by a large luminous sphere. As they went to get a better look at this obstacle, a short, hairy creature with glowing eyes attacked them. González,

unfazed by the creature, tried grabbing it but it pushed him several feet backwards. Ponce tried stabbing the creature with a knife but it bounced off as if it had struck metal. Two other similar creatures appeared before all three of them disappeared into the UFO and flew away.

UFO activity has also been linked with cattle mutilation and there was a wave of such cases in Argentina during 2002. More disturbingly, the mutilated body of a man found near Guarapiranga reservoir on September 29, 1988, has been attributed to UFO activity.

About ten years earlier, near Punta Arenas, Chile, 'Juan' found that his rabbits had been killed and all their blood drained out of them. When he bought another batch of rabbits, he decided to stay at the rural property to see what was killing them. A few days later, his relatives found the naked

ON FILE: Three sketches of UFOs submitted by eye-witnesses and recently declassified by the Brazilian military.



'A short, hairy creature with glowing eyes attacked them. Ponce tried stabbing the creature with a knife but it bounced off as if it had struck metal.'



CAPTURED: An artist's impression of the creature two girls claimed to see squatting behind an old garage at Varginha, Brazil. Several similar aliens were also allegedly rounded up by soldiers and taken to a nearby army base. © Philippe Auger

'A UFO used a strange force to pull her and her young son towards it. They only escaped capture because her husband grabbed her legs.'

in the process of recovering the wreckage. He was warned away from the site and told not to speak about this incident as it would be 'bad for him'.

Like the Roswell case there are plenty of 'eyewitness' accounts in the Varginha saga but no firm evidence to back up these claims. The final verdict of Brazilian UFO researchers is that if any alien creatures were captured they were probably sent to the United States for further examination and study.

Why South America?

The continent was famously struck by the ravages of a strange reptilian creature that was named Chupacabra. The name translates as 'goat sucker' though it has been known to suck the blood, and mutilate, any type of animal.

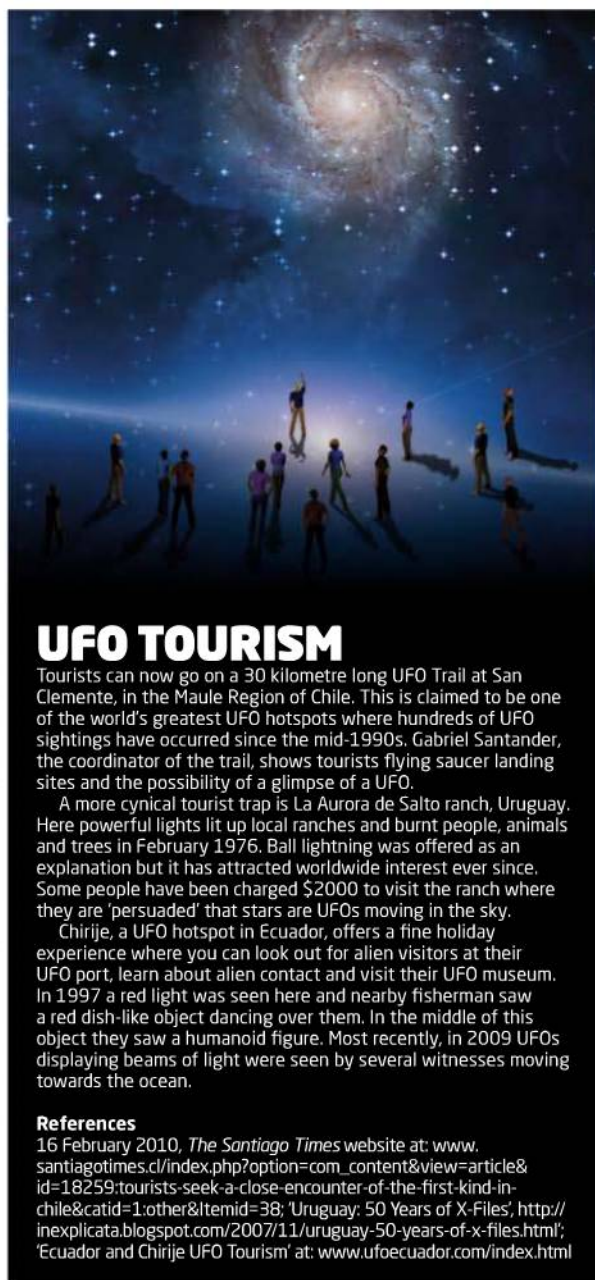
In 1995 it struck Puerto Rico and then spread its activities throughout South America. At the turn of the century the focus of its activities moved to North America. The description of the Varginha creatures is very much like that of the Chupacabra, and the stories of blood-sucking UFOs of the 1970s shows that UFOs are intricately linked with the idea of vampire-like activity.

Alan Murdie notes that South

American UFO sightings are often associated with local superstitions and legends rather than with spaceships. Investigating the case of Arcesio Bermudz, who chased a UFO at his farm near Anolaima, Colombia, and died shortly afterwards, locals said he had encountered a 'spirit light'. They said his farm was built over a sacred site and the light showed that treasure was hidden there.

Scott Corrales, who runs the excellent 'Inexplicata' website, observes there is a greater acceptance of all types of strange phenomena in South America, because it is 'the logical extension of the embedded traditions of 19th century spiritualism'. Although, he continued, 'the unfortunate downside of this is a willingness to embrace contactees and contacteeism'.

From purely the UFO viewpoint there are all types of rumours surrounding why South America is such a hotspot of alien activity. One theory is that the aliens have underground or underwater bases there; another is that the USA military has used the continent for the testing of psychological warfare techniques that induce alien abduction experiences. Some even think that flying saucers



UFO TOURISM

Tourists can now go on a 30 kilometre long UFO Trail at San Clemente, in the Maule Region of Chile. This is claimed to be one of the world's greatest UFO hotspots where hundreds of UFO sightings have occurred since the mid-1990s. Gabriel Santander, the coordinator of the trail, shows tourists flying saucer landing sites and the possibility of a glimpse of a UFO.

A more cynical tourist trap is La Aurora de Salto ranch, Uruguay. Here powerful lights lit up local ranches and burnt people, animals and trees in February 1976. Ball lightning was offered as an explanation but it has attracted worldwide interest ever since. Some people have been charged \$2000 to visit the ranch where they are 'persuaded' that stars are UFOs moving in the sky.

Chirije, a UFO hotspot in Ecuador, offers a fine holiday experience where you can look out for alien visitors at their UFO port, learn about alien contact and visit their UFO museum. In 1997 a red light was seen here and nearby fisherman saw a red dish-like object dancing over them. In the middle of this object they saw a humanoid figure. Most recently, in 2009 UFOs displaying beams of light were seen by several witnesses moving towards the ocean.

References

16 February 2010, *The Santiago Times* website at: www.santiagotimes.cl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18259:tourists-see-a-close-encounter-of-the-first-kind-in-chile&catid=1:other&Itemid=38; 'Uruguay: 50 Years of X-Files', <http://inexplicata.blogspot.com/2007/11/uruguay-50-years-of-x-files.html>; 'Ecuador and Chirije UFO Tourism' at: www.ufoecuador.com/index.html

were constructed here by German Nazi engineers and scientists who escaped to Argentina and Brazil after World War 2.

Certainly South America offers a rich mixture of UFO and alien sightings, rumours, speculation and plenty of theories. Like elsewhere in the world, there is no answer to what the flying saucers and their occupants are doing here. ☼

References 'UFO Over Argentina is seen beaming dam moments before a Massive Blackout' *Open MindsTV* website at: www.openminds.tv/ufo-over-argentina-is-seen-beaming-a-dam-moments-before-a-massive-blackout/; 'UFO Crashes and Blackouts in Northern Argentina' by Scott Corrales, *Inexplicata - The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* at: inexplicata.blogspot.com/2009/11/ufo-crashes-and-blackouts-in-northern.html; *Ovni Salta* website at www.ovnisalta.com.ar; *The Humanoids* edited by Charles Bowen, Futura, 1977; 'The Fabulous Fifties - The early days of UFO in the Spanish-Speaking World' by Scott Corrales (c) 2006. Graphic images of the mutilated body are easily available on the internet. For links and discussion see www.wunderkabinet.net/damndata/index.php?archives/2027-More-on-human-mutilation.html; 'Human Mutilations: The Sum of All Fears' by Scott Corrales, *UFO Digest* website at: www.ufodigest.com/news/0307/mutilate.html; 'The Varginha Incident' list of web references, *UFO Evidence* website, at: www.ufoevidence.org/cases/case498.htm; 'The Varginha E.T.s' by Bob Pratt and Cynthia Luce, *MUFON* website at: www.mufon.com/bobpratt_frame.htm; Several links to Chupacabra can be found on the *UFO Research Center* website at: www.uforc.com/chupas/; 'Spirit in the Sky: The Curious Death of Bermudez...' by Alan Murdie, *Fortean Times*, No. 160, July 2002, pp40-44; *Inexplicata - The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* website run by Scott Corrales at: <http://inexplicata.blogspot.com/>; *A Guide to German Flying Discs* by Henry Stevens, at www.qsc.cc/rmhhistory.htm



THE ANTHROPOLOGIST AND THE SPIRITUALISTS

Recognising an important part of human experience largely ignored by his predecessors, **JACK HUNTER** has adopted a modern anthropological approach to the world of western spiritualism. He did not know quite what to expect when he first entered the séance rooms - but he got more than he bargained for and has now reached a conclusion that might shock some of his colleagues.

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN

REMEMBER I have had a fascination with the paranormal; I have always been interested in the extraordinary array of beliefs held by human beings the world over in spiritual entities, and have often wondered where such beliefs could have originated.

My curiosity for such things led me to the study of anthropology, a discipline which, for the past 150 years or so, has concerned itself specifically with the study of human societies, cultures, behaviours and beliefs. I opted to employ anthropological methods in an attempt to answer the question, 'Why do humans believe in spirits?'

To try to get at the heart of the matter I immersed myself fully into the world of home-circle spiritualism. Through participating in trance séances and mediumship development sessions, I hoped to discover for myself the sensations that lead people to believe in the existence of spiritual beings.

The experiences I had over the course of this fieldwork radically altered my appreciation of spirit beliefs and changed my perception of the world around me (both visible and invisible). I was alerted to occurrences that seem to defy the rational mindset traditionally held by anthropologists studying such beliefs.

I am by no means the first person to attempt to answer this question. Early anthropologists, in the 19th century, were inundated with the reports of explorers detailing their 'first contact' with 'primitive' and 'savage' people from far-off exotic lands. Many of these reports described the supernatural beliefs of distant tribal societies, detailing their notions of deities, spirits and demons. Such accounts provided

the perfect source materials for armchair anthropologists to base their theories on.

Sir E. B. Tylor (1832-1917), widely held to be anthropology's founding father, coined the term 'animism' (from the Latin *anima* meaning soul), to refer to what he called the 'belief in spiritual beings'. To account for the origin of such widespread beliefs, Tylor hypothesized that primitive man confused the experience of dreaming with reality, suggesting that 'when the sleeper awakens from a dream he believes he has really somehow been away, or that other people have come to him' (Tylor, 1930, 88).

Tylor's theory implies an inability on behalf of the experimenter to distinguish between dreams and reality, suggesting that belief arises as a consequence of mis-perception. Spirit encounters, however, do not always occur during sleep. Experiencers often report that their anomalous experiences

were *more real* than dreams, clearly demonstrating an ability to distinguish between the two states. Indeed, not even anthropologists are immune from having paranormal experiences while fully awake.

In the 1920s, an anthropologist by the name of E. E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973) conducted an intensive period of participant observation with a group of people known as the Azande in Sudan. Evans-Pritchard was interested in trying to understand the way that people understand and interpret the world around them. Among the Azande a large degree of what they understood about their world was

'THE EXPERIENCES I HAD RADICALLY ALTERED MY APPRECIATION OF SPIRIT BELIEFS AND CHANGED MY PERCEPTION OF THE WORLD AROUND ME.'

ALOOF: In the early days of anthropological investigation, European and American researchers took a patronising view of 'primitive' people and tended to remain on the outside 'looking in' rather than immersing themselves in their culture to truly understand them.





SPOOK LIGHT: Azande women in present day Sudan. In the 1920s anthropologist E. E. Evans-Pritchard lived in an Azande village, where he saw a mysterious light that was afterwards explained to him as being the result of witchcraft. © Philip Powell

informed by a belief in witchcraft. One night Evans-Pritchard was walking in the garden outside his hut in the Zande village when he saw a bright light passing between his servant's hut and the hut of a man called Tupoi. The following morning Evans-Pritchard told his Azande informants about the light, and they were quick to announce that what he had encountered was disembodied witchcraft on an errand to capture the soul of an innocent victim, while the witch lay asleep in his hut.

Incidentally, later in the day, news came to the village that a member of Tupoi's household had died in the night; a fact that fully confirmed to the Azande that the light seen was indeed the product of witchcraft. Despite the conviction of the Azande, Evans-Pritchard was wary about announcing the reality of the phenomenon he had witnessed. In his famous book *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande* (1976), he noted:

'I never discovered the real origin [of the light], which was possibly a handful of grass lit by

'TO MY SURPRISE, THE ROPES THAT I HAD SPENT SO LONG TYING AROUND THE MEDIUM'S LEGS WERE THROWN INTO DISARRAY.'

someone on his way to defecate, but the coincidence of the direction along which the light moved and the subsequent death accorded well with Zande ideas.' (1976, 11).

At the other end of the spectrum, Edith Turner is an anthropologist who has fully embraced the 'native' interpretation of her anomalous experience. In her 1998 book *Experiencing Ritual* she describes in detail the events of the *ihamba* healing ritual of the Ndembu in Zambia. Turner participated fully, and emotionally, in the *ihamba* ceremony, culminating ultimately in the extraction of the *ihamba* spirit from the back of the afflicted patient:

'...I saw with my own eyes a giant thing emerging out of the flesh of her back. This thing was a large gray blob about six inches across, a deep gray opaque thing emerging as a sphere. I was amazed - delighted.' (1998, 149).

Edith Turner's experience during the *ihamba* ceremony transformed her appreciation of spirit beliefs, and led her to announce that anthropologists need to learn to see the way that the natives see in order to fully appreciate the true nature of their rituals and beliefs.

My own fieldwork methods have been greatly influenced by Edith Turner's approach to the *ihamba* ritual. The idea that anthropologists should participate fully in the rituals and practices they study, as a means to actually *experience* the effects for themselves, is fundamental to a recently developed anthropological sub-discipline: transpersonal anthropology.

Transpersonal is a term used to refer to experiences that apparently transcend the boundaries of the normal every-day world, and open the experiencer up to a wider perspective of reality.

Transpersonal experiences would include a variety of altered states of consciousness, paranormal experiences, religious/spiritual experiences and so on. A transpersonal anthropologist, therefore, is one who does not neglect these anomalies of experience in his/her fieldwork, but instead treats them as an integral aspect of social and cultural life. Unlike other theoretical standpoints, the transpersonal approach does not begin from the assumption that paranormal phenomena do not exist.

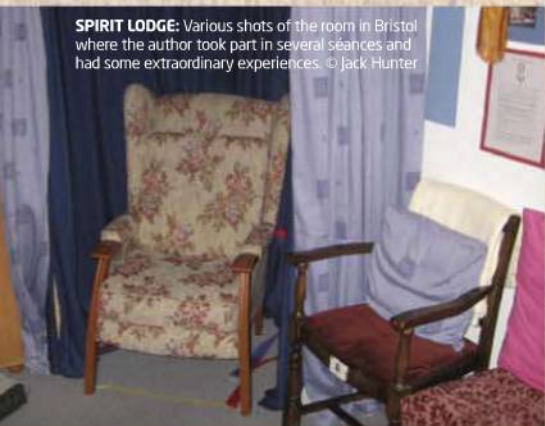
There is a lot of scope for transpersonal anthropological research, especially within Euro-American societies. Despite the widespread interest in ritual practices and beliefs in 'exotic' and remote locations around the world, there has been surprisingly little interest in spirit mediumship and spiritualism in the Euro-American world.

This is especially true for home-circle spiritualism. Paranormal, or transpersonal, experiences in Euro-American societies are muted by social and cultural conventions, but that is not to say that they are non-existent. People would simply prefer not to discuss anomalies of experience, or their participation in spirit rituals and séances, for fear of ridicule in a society that is officially considered 'secular'.

My own research, therefore, attempted to fill this void in the anthropological literature through undertaking participant observation at a 'non-denominational' centre for the development and promotion of trance and physical mediumship in Bristol. This seemed like the perfect venue for exploring the origins of spirit beliefs: a place where people claim to be in regular contact with them.

I was particularly interested

SPIRIT LODGE: Various shots of the room in Bristol where the author took part in several séances and had some extraordinary experiences. © Jack Hunter



in the role that experience plays in the séances conducted at the centre, both in terms of those observing the séance and of the medium demonstrating. In order to get at the experiential core of the séance proceedings I took part in a number of séances as a sitter, and also engaged in mediumship development sessions.

While participating in séances as a sitter, I observed some peculiar visual phenomena in the red light of the séance room. In addition to seeing small flashing lights flickering in and out of the cabinet in which the medium sat, I saw the face of the medium apparently blurring and changing shape – an effect that is referred to as transfiguration.

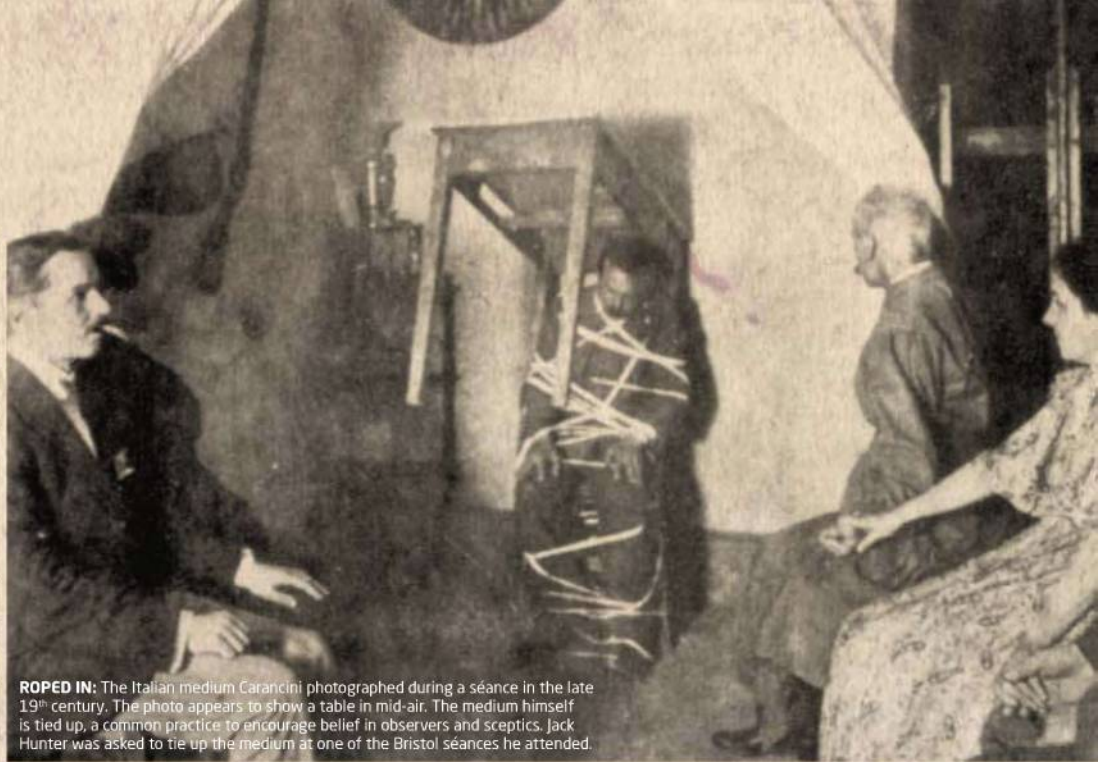
Whether these visual phenomena are the product of ‘spirit influence’ or of the lighting conditions in the séance room is very difficult to say; nevertheless such experiences are commonly reported by individuals regularly attending séances.

On another occasion I was exposed to an exciting demonstration of physical mediumship. As I was new to the group it was my responsibility to tie the medium into his chair in the cabinet. Naturally I spent a good while securing the medium with ropes and plastic cable ties. Shortly after the lights had been switched off, a high-pitched voice called out from within the cabinet asking whether I knew what dematerialisation was. I replied that I had heard the term but had never experienced it myself. The voice then asked whether I would like a demonstration, and of course I said yes.

The voice told the sitters to count to three, and as they did so, to my surprise, the ropes that I had spent so long tying around the medium’s legs were thrown into my lap. The voice laughed.

This was the first of a number of perplexing tricks that we would be exposed to over the course of the evening. Other phenomena displayed that night included bright flashing lights, floating trumpets, loud banging sounds, a variety of different communicators each with their own distinct personalities, and an apparent ectoplasmic materialisation (although I did not personally see this as my view was blocked by another sitter).

My feelings on leaving this particular demonstration were



ROPED IN: The Italian medium Carancini photographed during a séance in the late 19th century. The photo appears to show a table in mid-air. The medium himself is tied up, a common practice to encourage belief in observers and sceptics. Jack Hunter was asked to tie up the medium at one of the Bristol séances he attended.

mixed. During the séance I had been entirely unable to determine whether the effects I was witnessing were the product of fraud, or whether they were in actuality genuine paranormal effects. Within the séance room it becomes very difficult to tell such things apart, and this, I think, is a general problem when dealing directly with the paranormal.

Sitting for mediumship development provided yet more strange experiences. The development process started with a guided meditation and a prayer of intent calling for any attendant spirits to make themselves known to the developing mediums (myself included).

As I relaxed into the meditation I felt my heart rate increase and my fingers began to tingle. I felt as though my conscious self was somehow moving back from my physical body, and in the moment of greatest detachment I felt a presence approach from behind. My left hand began to move of its own accord, shaking erratically from side to side, and though I was aware of the movement I was entirely unable to stop it.

Eventually I felt as though the energy required for this movement to occur was diminishing, and the sense of presence receded. The experience came as quite a shock; I had not been anticipating such a profoundly odd sensation, especially not during my first development session.

Anthropological accounts of séance groups have traditionally tended to focus on the social function of the group; suggesting that the séance’s primary purpose

‘I FELT A PRESENCE APPROACH FROM BEHIND. MY LEFT HAND BEGAN TO MOVE OF ITS OWN ACCORD ... I WAS ENTIRELY UNABLE TO STOP IT.’

is to allow its members to escape the tedium of their day-to-day lives. Such interpretations, to my mind, block out the experiential aspect and so fail to grasp the essential core of what is going on. While it is undoubtedly true that there is a social aspect to these gatherings, there is also an experiential dimension that cannot be ignored. Both mediums and sitters gather because they want to have paranormal experiences, and within the séance room anomalous experiences, for whatever reason, do occur.

My fieldwork experience gave me an appreciation of the sort of phenomena regularly encountered by the members of the séance group. I saw mysterious mists and flashing points of light in the darkness of the cabinet, I saw faces blur and change shape, I heard strange voices from entranced mediums claiming to be the spirits of long dead people, and, perhaps most shockingly, I felt my own arm under the control of an intelligence not my own.

My perspective enabled an understanding that could be gained in no other way. These are just some of the types of experience that provide evidence for a belief in spiritual beings.

Why do people believe in spirits? Because they have compelling first-hand experiences that suggest they exist. ☉



Jack Hunter attended the University of Bristol where he studied for a BA degree in Archaeology & Anthropology. His dissertation concerned the practice of contemporary trance and physical mediumship in Bristol. He is currently studying for a Master’s degree in Religious Experience with the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre (RERC). He is particularly interested in experiential approaches to the investigation of contemporary mediumship and séance phenomena, and in the way that paranormal experiences are interpreted and lived with by experiencers. His website is at www.paranthropology.weebly.com

The ghost-hunter's SECRET WEAPON

Research may not seem as glamorous as a Ghost Detector or Spook Magnet but if such technology ever exists, it's a long way off. In the meantime, argues JOHN FRASER, this too-often overlooked discipline is not only your best tool, it's essential to any investigation.

There has been much debate recently about the equipment and experiments that make a good paranormal investigation, with many groups of investigators making a special effort to ensure their investigations are run on what might be regarded as a scientific basis. While scientific 'methodology' is undoubtedly a good thing, when it comes to claims as to whether one type of equipment or experiment is scientific or not, things become far more tenuous.

It is a dangerous mistake to think at this stage in paranormal research there can be any hard and fast rules on what to use in an investigation. I believe it is better to see any investigation as a 'Ghost Hunting Experiment', for three reasons:

- Firstly, we do not know for sure if the thing we are searching for even exists.
- Secondly, if 'it' does exist we have no idea currently exactly what 'it' is.
- Thirdly, if paranormal activity does exist, by definition its phenomena will not be able to be fully explained within current science, and a whole new set of scientific rules will have to evolve to understand them. In the same way as the scientific rules of the 19th century could not have explained the sub-atomic physics of today, so current science will never be able to fully explain a whole potential new science of the supernatural.

Without a reliable backbone of agreed science to fall back on, the key I believe to making the most of an investigation comes in the background research carried out, and a sensible interpretation of its findings. So often after an investigation, any perceived phenomena are just listed without anyone looking into what may have caused them. Yet this research part of the process can often be as interesting and rewarding as the investigation itself.

However, a well-researched ghost hunt should not just consist of looking into results found *after* an investigation. Many things can be done long before an investigation has even begun. However, you should be aware that there is one disadvantage to pre-investigation research: it can lead to auto-suggestion (or accusations of it) with regards to what may subsequently be experienced by a team at a haunted location. For this reason only one or two members of a team should be involved in this process.

'The research part of the process can often be as interesting and rewarding as the investigation itself.'

Is it haunted?

One of the key things pre-investigation research can discover is whether it is even credible that a particular site is haunted, and therefore whether an investigation is worth pursuing. This is very important when dealing with sites of historical and long-running hauntings, where 'facts' can be used in one publication then another without anyone being aware of where those 'facts' originally came from.

Some years ago when I was looking for sites to investigate I came across the very interesting old manor house called Ightham Mote, in Kent. This manor house has appeared in several reputable ghost publications as hosting a particularly tragic haunting by Dame Dorothy Selby, who it has been said was one of the informants who prevented the Gunpowder Plot. The story states that Dorothy was bricked up at Ightham Mote in an act of terrible revenge, and in 1872 the bones of a woman were found in a secret cupboard, giving substance to this tragedy.

However, a simple piece of 'pre investigation' research soon pulled the entire story to shreds. Dame Dorothy Selby actually died 36 years after the Gunpowder Plot, in 1641. We can be sure of this as there is a large stone memorial to her in St Peter's Church, Ightham, where she is actually buried (churches are an important source of research). When you combine this with the fact that the people who run Ightham Mote have never received any reports of anything strange happening, there is sufficient evidence to declare the site unlikely to be haunted without the need to even think about setting up equipment there.

One of the key ways of testing out historical ghost sightings is to try to trace them back to their original source. If the original source is weak or invalid it can often be a strong indication that the haunting is invalid as well. Sometimes it just takes an inquisitive mind to discover this.

A good example is the haunting of the *Lady Lovibond*, a ship which was claimed to have been sunk off the Goodwin Sands, near Deal, in Kent, on February 14, 1748. Legend has it the ship haunts the same spot on Valentine's Day every 50 years. Perhaps you could research it the hard way, as I did, risking a scowl from your librarian when ordering the rather obscure *Lloyds Register of Shipping Wrecks* for that period (even the most obscure) ◉



HITTING THE BOOKS:
The internet now puts information - some of it good, some of it bad - at the fingertips of modern ghost-hunters but you're still likely to find libraries an invaluable resource, just like the pioneering researchers who have preceded you.



above
IGHTHAM MOTE:
At this spectacular medieval manor house in Kent, the ghost is said to be of Dame Dorothy Selby, who was bricked up in the walls. © Dominique Fraser.

right
WRITTEN IN STONE:
The memorial to Dorothy Selby in St Peter's Church, Ightham, which proved she could not have been bricked up in Ightham Mote as legend states. © John Fraser.



publication, unless they are restricted to the reading room of the British Library, can be ordered from you local branch for exactly the same nominal fee as a Dan Brown bestseller).

The *Lloyds Register* clearly showed that there had been no shipwreck at that time. This, of course, left this haunting without an original source. Nor have I to date been able to track down the sightings that were meant to have happened every 50 years after the sinking of the ship that never sank.

As a research project, though, it was perhaps the wrong one to choose, as the actual story involved a wedding party, a fight on board between the groom and a lover, and all hands

being lost with the ship. Now if all hands were lost, how did anyone find out why the ship sank? Not only did the original source not exist but it logically *could not* exist. This basic anomaly didn't stop hundreds of ghost hunters from around the world leaving their loved ones on Valentine's Day, 1998, and invading Deal to catch a glimpse of the ship.

The use of psychics

Pre-investigation research is not just about finding whether a site is sufficiently haunted to proceed. A pre-visit from part of an investigations team to an active haunting can, through interviews and other techniques, make an essential record of a haunting to compare with the oncoming investigation.

When psychics are used on investigations (which to some is controversial), it can turn that use into a sound scientific experiment by taking them onto premises 'blind' to the background research and seeing how well they identify its reported nature. It is, of course, a danger that any psychics may inadvertently use ESP to tune into this – but if we can indicate that some phenomena is

either ESP or proof of the afterlife, I for one would be very pleased with the progress made.

In one specific example of this technique, some 'psychics' who accompanied me into a haunted council flat managed some impressive results which, when combined with some other lobbying, succeeded in getting the distressed family a transfer. In a more general way, this type of research can also help organise the logistics on an investigation.

The Kylesku Hotel in Sutherland is haunted by a fisherman who originally died in a place known as the Snuggery within the hotel. The ghost was probably shocked at finding himself in the ladies toilets after some conversions! Finally after further major renovations, I calculated that he would have been due to appear directly above a pool table that had been moved into the extended bar. In a full-scale investigation without research, where would the investigators have put their equipment to try to detect this poor, hapless ghost?

Get talking

A ghost hunt is by its nature an unpredictable thing and however much planning takes place beforehand, there will always be something that happens or that comes to light which makes further research necessary after the event. There are a number of ways I have found to make this both interesting and rewarding.

Always look for back-up to the testimony provided by the owners / residents of the premises. In the case of the haunted council house mentioned above, we also managed to get good corroborative evidence from next-door neighbours. One of the things that has helped the famous Enfield Poltergeist investigation stand the test of time is that the back-up testimony researched by the investigators Maurice Grosse and Guy Playfair included hundreds of different witnesses. This has made it virtually impossible to diminish the haunting by looking at the credibility of any one person.

In addition to getting testimony, it always pays to cast a critical interpretation of the statements that people are making. When I was investigating a ghost in a derelict cottage in the South-East, the key-holders told me that on their last visit to the house they had seen a (ghostly?) footprint that they were sure had not been there

'A ghost hunt is by its nature an unpredictable thing and there will always be something that happens or that comes to light which makes further research necessary after the event.'



when they previously visited over a month before. While this footprint was interesting and the witnesses absolutely genuine, their statement that the footprints were new could not be accepted at face value. No previous phenomena had been footprints, so no one was on the look-out for them, and unless making specific checks, it is something that could have been easily missed on previous visits. For a good report, the background to witness testimony should be analysed logically, and any information should always be included with relevant provisos.

Outside of immediate eye-witness

Peer review

If there is one thing that is more important than any other when researching your results, it is the willingness to share them with other groups for scrutiny and advice. Some groups are very open at sharing their results, others tend to let their reports gather dust. Peer review, though, is the key to successful research and good reports. One of my colleagues in the Society for Psychical Research, Barry Colvin, has, through analysing a number of examples of poltergeist rappings from various sources, discovered that the raps have a different acoustic resonance to normal



above left
CHANGING ROOMS: Extensive renovations at the Kylesku Hotel in Sutherland have meant that the place in which the ghost is said to appear is not the one suggested by the present layout.
© John Fraser.

above
DEAD RINGER: During an investigation into a haunting at a cottage in Sandwood Bay, Sutherland, research revealed that a local hermit bore a striking resemblance to the 'ghost of a bearded sailor' allegedly haunting it.
© Ann Bowker.

left
UNCERTAIN EVIDENCE: This footprint was found in an allegedly haunted house in south-east England after it had been locked up for some time. But were the key-holders right to be so sure it had not been there when they last visited?
© John Fraser

'For mainstream science to be involved we need more than just claims of paranormal happenings but also a good standard of research and reporting.'

testimony, there are numerous easy places where additional research information can be gained. I have already mentioned local churches, in addition to these, if your haunted site is within a small town or village, visiting a local post office, bar or shop can be surprisingly helpful. (I have so far found it a myth that a bar will suddenly go silent and every one will turn around and stare when you mention the local ghost).

During an investigation of a cottage at Sandwood Bay in Sutherland, supposedly haunted by a bearded sailor, it was through discussions with the owner of the local gift shop that I discovered there was a well-known bearded hermit who sometimes stayed at the cottage. This hermit resembled the sailor and was a good possible explanation for at least some of the sightings.

raps which as yet can't be replicated. This is potentially real progress, only made possible through cooperation.

Similar progress has taken place through replication of experiments among different groups into the creation of 'Orb' phenomena through natural means. (The details of which are beyond the scope of this article but please compare internet articles 'The Riddle Of The Orbs' by Phillip Carr, of the Ghost Club, and 'Orbs: A load of Balls' by Steve Parsons, of Parascience, an edited version of which appeared in the October 2008 edition of *Paranormal Magazine*, as good examples of how an issue can make progress by publishing results openly).

Ghost-hunting is not presently a science – for the reasons mentioned at the start of this article, it is still in a pre-scientific stage. In this sense ghost-hunters are in some ways like

the alchemists of old, investigating things tantalisingly beyond our current understanding. Neither is it likely that ghost-hunters will discover scientific proof of ghosts; for that to happen mainstream science has to be involved, and for that involvement to happen we need more than just claims of paranormal happenings but also a good standard of research and reporting.

Any certainty in paranormal investigations is, I suspect, still some years away. For now we should not exclude any reasonable theory, but simply research our results and carefully record anything that occurs. In this way we should remain optimistic – remembering that even Isaac Newton first started out as an alchemist and that if there is a 'new science' to be discovered, sooner or later it will be. ☉



John Fraser is on the council of the Society For Psychical Research. He is also active on the society's Spontaneous Cases Committee and was previously Vice Chair Investigations of the Ghost Club. As well as spending over 20 years researching the paranormal, John is also interested in the folklore behind the Dracula legend and has spent time promoting tourism for a Romanian Tour company in this sphere. John's latest book, *Ghost-hunting: A Survivor's Guide*, has just been published by the History Press. John's research into techniques related to ghost hunting and other paranormal investigations is still ongoing, and he would be interested in any feedback related to the article or the topic in general. Contact: jfraserghosthunting@hotmail.co.uk

Illustration by Lisa Magee.



Signs & Wonders

In times of social upheaval and uncertainty the paranormal – real or imagined – often becomes more prominent in people’s lives. This was certainly the case during one of the bloodiest periods of British history, the Civil War. **MARK GREENER** reveals how the turbulent years of the 17th century generated increased reports of paranormal phenomena and saw the supernatural exploited for religious and political spin.

THREE CIVIL WARS fought across Britain between 1642 and 1651 left Ireland ‘steeped in her own blood’, according to a 1642 government proclamation banning theatre productions. The same proclamation warned that ‘a cloud of blood’ threatened a ‘distracted, humiliated England’. Indeed, Parliamentary and Royalist armies slaughtered a greater proportion of the British population than World War 1. Famine, disease and recession followed.

Meanwhile, rationality and the paranormal clashed, often as violently as Cavaliers and Roundheads. Religious disputes produced a proliferation of sects, some of which questioned fundamental beliefs such as baptism, hell’s existence and the nature of sin. And the ‘Witchfinder General’ terrorised wise women, cunning men and the marginalised poor.

Against this harrowing background, Britons sought signs of God’s will in monsters, astrology and ghost armies. They found solace in divination, witchcraft and black magic. As Christopher Hill comments in his book *The World Turned Upside Down*, 17th century Britain was ‘a world of magic, in which God and the devil intervened daily, a world of witches, fairies and charms’. This allowed Civil War ‘spin doctors’ to generate political capital from prophecies, poltergeists and possessions. Nevertheless, the Civil Wars, as well as the dismal times before and after, offer some

of the most compelling evidence in the annals of the paranormal.

ANGELS, DRAGONS AND THE TEDWORTH DRUMMER

In 1660, Charles II returned triumphant following the fall of the republican Commonwealth built after his father’s defeat. But Britain’s wounds festered. In March 1662, John Mompesson, a Royalist magistrate of Tedworth, on the Wiltshire-Hampshire border, imprisoned a wandering beggar called William Drury for trying to gain money with a counterfeit pass. Drury, formerly a Parliamentary soldier, wandered the country beating a large drum and begging. The bailiff, for reasons that are not clear, sent Drury’s drum to

sound’. He returned to bed, only to hear a thumping and drumming on the top of his house. After this, the drumming continued, usually for five nights, followed by a three-night respite. Initially, Mompesson wasn’t too upset, describing the sound as ‘truly and sweetly as ever Drum beat in this world’.

However, as historian Michael Hunter remarks in his definitive analysis of the haunting, the strain began to tell. After a lull during Mompesson’s wife’s labour and just after the birth, the manifestations returned in November with vehemence. Shoes and ‘every loose thing’ moved of their own accord. Spikes and knives appeared in the family’s beds. The children’s beds shook.

‘THE CIVIL WAR, AS WELL AS THE DISMAL TIMES BEFORE AND AFTER, OFFERS SOME OF THE MOST COMPELLING EVIDENCE IN THE ANNALS OF THE PARANORMAL.’

Mompesson’s home. A month later Mompesson travelled to London. On his return, his terrified wife told Mompesson that thieves had attempted to break in.

Three nights later, Mompesson heard a tumultuous knocking around the outside of the house. When Mompesson, armed with a brace of pistols, opened the door at which he heard the knocking, the noise ceased, and began at a different door. When he opened that door, he heard a ‘strange noise’ and a ‘hollow

Mompesson reported sulphurous smells, blue glimmering lights, and the sounds of rustling silk and scratching under the beds as if made by iron talons. The King sent a Royal Commission to investigate – but, typically, the haunting did not manifest during the visit.

Drury could not be solely responsible for the family’s torment, which continued for around two years. For at least some of this time, Drury languished in jail and, according to some reports, the



ENEMIES: King Charles I, his executioner Oliver Cromwell, and King Charles II, who, when the monarchy was restored, dug up Cromwell's body and had that 'executed', too. Did such violent and turbulent times stir up paranormal phenomena?

events continued after his final sentence of transportation. The authorities released Drury after his arrest for trying to obtain money on false pretences. However, by the end of the year, Hunter reports, they'd arrested Drury again, for stealing two pigs. In March the following year, the Gloucester assizes sentenced Drury for branding, commuted to transportation, for the theft. Meanwhile, Drury told a visitor from Tedworth to warn Mompesson

that 'he shall never be quiet until he hath made me satisfaction for taking away my drum'.

Drury escaped on the way to the transportation ship. While returning to Wiltshire, he bought a new drum. Hearing of the escape, Mompesson indicted Drury as a witch. After his recapture, the Wiltshire assizes acquitted Drury of witchcraft, but transported him for previous crimes. (Based on Hunter's account, the Wiltshire

assizes did not transport Drury for witchcraft as some accounts claim.)

Hunter notes that as early as 1677, John Webster dismissed the 'strange tricks' as 'abominable cheats and impostures'. But I doubt the drummer was a hoax. There are too many reliable sources. And some previously sceptical people left convinced of its reality after spending time in the house. Furthermore, Mompesson's reputation suffered. So why would he perpetuate a hoax? Witchcraft or telekinesis also seem unlikely. Although Hunter reports that Drury travelled around the country showing feats of 'hocus pocus' and gained a reputation as a 'cunning man', Drury strikes me as more a conjuror and confidence trickster than a witch.

My favoured explanation is that the Drummer of Tedworth was a poltergeist, probably centred on Mompesson's daughter, who was aged about 10 or 11 years during the haunting. It's significant that when Mompesson moved the girl into his room, which had been free of disturbances for several months, the haunting in the room restarted as soon as she was in bed. It's plausible that Drury exploited the story when it reached him in goal and, perhaps, when he bought the new drum and returned to Tedworth. Nevertheless, for me the Tedworth Drummer remains one of the most convincing poltergeist cases from before modern times.

Tedworth was far from being the only village tormented by hauntings. In January 1643, 'ghostly apparitions' appeared over Edgehill, Warwickshire, near the site, a few months before, of the first battle

'MOMPESSEON REPORTED SULPHUROUS SMELLS, BLUE GLIMMERING LIGHTS, AND THE SOUNDS OF RUSTLING SILK AND SCRATCHING UNDER THE BEDS AS IF MADE BY IRON TALONS.'



TEDWORTH DRUMMER: A representation of the noisy phenomenon that broke out at the home of John Mompesson, in Wiltshire. This is one of a series of panels from the frontispiece of a seminal book on the supernatural, *Saducismus Triumphatus* by Joseph Glanvill, published in London in 1681.

in the Civil War. To the villager's 'terror and amazement', they heard drums, trumpets and the discharge of cannons and muskets. Four days later, people in Kinton – another village near the battlefield – reported the 'hideous groans of dying men ... crying revenge' and begging for death. In the sky, ghostly equestrians fought. The following day, many people witnessed a ghostly battle that started at midnight and ended at daybreak. Some saw the battles as a message from God's desire for peace. Indeed, almost everyone sought signs of God's will in the supernatural.

PROPHECIES, MERLIN AND MONSTERS

In 1637, Charles I tried to insist that the Scottish church use a new Prayer Book. The Earl of Montrose described the book as the 'brood of the bowels of the whore of Babel' but Charles's insensitive insistence on its use triggered a spate of revolts and constitutional arguments that ended in his decapitation 12 years later. (Michael Braddick's *God's Fury, England's Fire* offers a brilliant summary of the complex political, religious and social factors that triggered the Civil Wars.)

In 1640, a large Scottish army passed through Flodden and into England largely to demand that the king revoke the book. As they marched, a prophecy of Merlin in Latin and Scottish Verse passed around the army, correctly predicting their success. As Braddick notes, such prophecies lent 'supernatural authority to resistance, upheaval and changes of regime'.

Meanwhile, popular pamphlets looked for supernatural authority in disasters, 'monstrous births and unusual natural phenomena'. For example, using the sign of the cross during a baptism provoked considerable debate. Some Protestants regarded the blessing as too akin to Popery. Mary Wilmore, of Northamptonshire, said she would 'rather my child should be born without a head' than 'to be signed with ... the cross'. It was reputed that her child was indeed born without a head but with a cross on its chest.

In 1647, a Scottish child was born with two heads: one female, one male. A pamphlet suggested that this 'terrible and prodigious monster' – probably an

exaggerated report of conjoined twins – showed that nature was 'disquieted and troubled'. The pamphlet claimed that the unfortunate child said in a 'hoarse ... loud voice' that the 'sins of my parents' led to the deformity. The pamphlets deliver an equally loud message to their readers.

Astrology also experienced a renaissance, as every layer of society tried to understand the awful events unfolding around them. William Lilly, a leading astrologer, ventured into press, making predictions and evaluating paranormal phenomena, such as the long, yellowish, serpent-like apparition that appeared over Kent and Surrey, then passed across London. Lilly had some

'IN 1649 WILLIAM EVERAND RAISED "A GIANT WITH A GREAT SWORD IN HIS HANDS" AND A DRAGON "WITH GREAT TEETH AND OPEN JAWS, WHENCE HE OFTEN EJECTED FIRE".'

luck, such as publishing his prediction of Charles' defeat on the same day as the Parliamentarians' victory at Naseby.

And politicians recognised Lilly's value. An MP commented that Lilly helped maintain morale among the Roundhead army, the 'honest people of this realm' and many Parliamentarians. Lilly advised up to 2,000 clients a year. Most sought advice about illnesses, love and business. Other questions were specific: should my son go to war? Will he return safely? Is my husband still alive? People clearly valued his insights.

BRITAIN'S BLOODIEST WAR?

Up to one in every ten men enrolled in one of the armies during the 1640s. Braddick estimates that between 1642 and 1646, 62 000 people died – probably about one in every 50 people. Another 100,000 died from disease, 80,000 became prisoner of war and the war left perhaps 55,000 people homeless.

THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF MAGIC

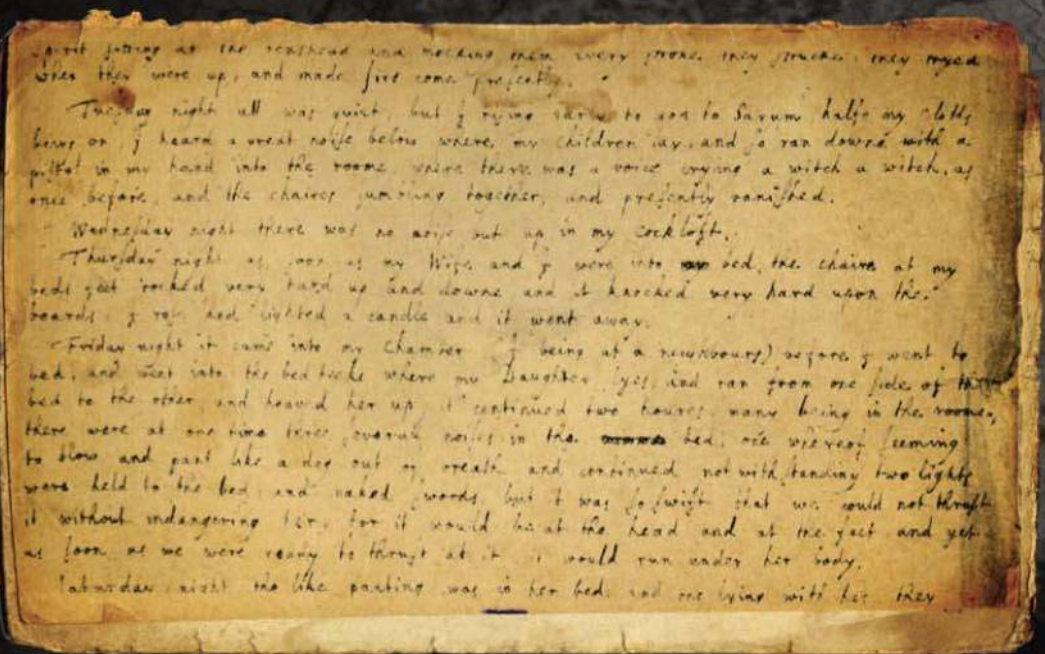
Severe forms of Protestantism swept away beliefs they regarded as 'supernatural', such as the miracle of the mass, protection by guardian angels and saints that intervened in human affairs. Some even questioned the nature of sin, whether humanity fell from grace, and hell's existence. Attacking faith's foundations imposed a great strain on a profoundly religious

society. Hill remarks that some more 'sophisticated' people descended into depression and melancholia, which sometimes prompted visions.

Whether this explains the visions of the Christian mystic John Pordage, usually a reliable source, is a moot point. Pordage describes how in 1649 a visitor called William Everand raised "a giant with a great sword in his hands" and a dragon "with great teeth and open jaws, whence he often ejected fire". Smells and taste of brimstone accompanied some apparitions. Everand also evoked angels, complete with pleasant smells. Everand continued

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT:

An extract from John Mompesson's own journal detailing some of his experiences with the so-called Tedworth Drummer. The journal is held at the Bodleian Library in Oxford; this page is reproduced from a plate in Harry Price's *Poltergeist Over England*, published in 1945. In this extract, Mompesson refers to phenomena including chairs being jumbled together, and a disembodied voice crying 'A witch! A witch!', later panting 'like a dog out of breath'.





SPOOKY SATIRE:

Cromwellian commissioners who broke into Woodstock Palace in Oxfordshire on October 13, 1649, to 'remove all signs of the King's occupancy' got more than they bargained for when they discovered the house was haunted. They were terrified by strange shapes, moving furniture, loud noises and what seemed to be an invisible dog. This satirical cartoon shows the puritans menaced by animated furniture, which just happen to be sporting Cavalier-style wigs and hats.

raising the apparitions during the three or four weeks he stayed with Pordage. Just what Pordage saw remains a mystery.

Meanwhile, some rural people turned back to the old ways. As Hill remarks, most villages were home to a cunning man or white witch, who were cheaper than doctors and lawyers and, in the case of medicine, probably at least as effective. For example, Pendle, Knaresborough and Northamptonshire forests were notorious havens for witches, sects and heresies. The Robin Hood ballads – which, Hill notes, are often hostile to the clergy – capture this long-standing tradition.

Then, on July 17, 1645, the Essex assizes tried 36 people for witchcraft, marking the start of England's largest witch-hunt. The court acquitted one suspect. Nineteen were executed, nine died in gaol, and six remained in prison three years later. Braddick estimates that the courts tried about 250 people, and executed around 100, for witchcraft during the summer of 1645. Around 20 witches faced execution after a spate of 40 trials in Norfolk alone.

Our ancestors were no more willing to accept responsibility for their actions than their descendents today. In 1660, for example, some writers blamed a pact between the Devil and

THE KING'S EVIL

For centuries it was believed that The King's Evil – scrofula, a type of tuberculosis – could be cured by a touch from the sovereign. Charles I and II both touched subjects suffering from the disease, indeed it has been claimed Charles II touched as many as 92,000 people. On one occasion, the crush of those seeking the King's blessing killed half-a-dozen people. Numerous contemporary reports suggest that the cure worked – perhaps a classic case of the placebo effect (mind over matter).

Cromwell for Britain's woes. As Fitzgibbons notes, Cromwell died seven years after a decisive victory at Worcester, fuelling suspicions that he had sold his soul. (As we'll see this wasn't the only conspiracy theory.) More commonly, locals blamed death, destruction and disease on poor marginalised outcasts, or neighbours with whom they fell out. The tensions created by the War made courts receptive to accusations of witchcraft and simmering local feuds boiled over.

In some cases, Matthew Hopkins, the 'Witchfinder General' was only one of several strands of evidence against the witch. In one early trial, Hopkins was one of 92 witnesses. However, Hopkins had found his niche – although some of his methods are akin to torture. Hopkins and his colleague John Stearne stripped suspected witches searching for the witches' mark – a teat to suckle their familiar – a humiliating experience for many women. They placed the suspect on a stool in the middle of a room, with their feet off the ground, and denied the 'witch' food and sleep for three days. Someone watched constantly should the familiar come. After this, Hopkins and Stearne asked leading questions. Not surprisingly, after enduring this torment, many 'witches' confessed.

'THE PURITAN GEORGE MORE BELIEVED THAT CASTING OUT DEVILS WAS THE GREATEST ACT OF A CHURCH. THERE WAS POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS CAPITAL IN A SUCCESSFUL EXORCISM.'

SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

Despite the false confessions extracted under torture, some people inevitably turned to Black Magic. John Rogers, a member of a sect called the Fifth Monarchists (who believed that Christ would become the fifth ruler after the fall of four ancient monarchies) felt sorely tempted to use black magic and necromancy to overcome his hunger and extreme poverty. Others were more practical. In 1621, Almond reports, Elizabeth Saunders taught Katherine Malpas how to fake a possession in the 'hope that much money would be given unto her'. In the financial hardship during and after the Civil War, others possibly faked possession.

At first sight, faking possession

needed considerable skill. Wailing and gnashing of teeth, foaming at the mouth and fits weren't enough. According to Almond, signs of possession included a previously un-acquired knowledge of Greek, Latin or another language, clairvoyance, extraordinary strength, and revulsion at sacred objects or biblical texts. Yet I wonder how carefully some investigators probed. Philip C Almond, in his book *Demonic Possession and Exorcism in Early Modern England*, notes that the puritan George More believed that casting out devils was the greatest act of a church. So if the Church of England has 'this power to cast out devils, then the church of Rome is a false church'. There was political and religious capital in a successful exorcism.

Nevertheless, there are signs of sympathy for the Devil as scholars began to investigate the psychology of religious experiences. In 1649, for example, William Walwyn noted that 'extreme fasting and continuance in prayer (beyond what their bodies could bear) might make men see visions, hear voices and prophesy'. Walwyn believed the devils and demons reflected the person's passions and desires, and arose 'from the anguish of his tormenting conscience'. Such insights mark the beginning of

society that regards possession less as the work of the devil and more of a psychiatric illness.

THE CURIOUS TALE OF CROMWELL'S HEAD

Charles II executed Cromwell in January 1661 – despite Oliver's death three years before. A crowd of thousands watched the hanging of the corpses of Cromwell and two others Charles II regarded as responsible for his father's execution. After hanging on Tyburn's triple tree (near Marble Arch) for six hours, the heads were hacked from the bodies. The executioner took eight cuts to decapitate Cromwell's corpse. He also knocked out several teeth and damaged the nose. The head was then skewered



DROWNED OR BURNED: In England, witch hunting reached its horrifying peak in the 17th century. This contemporary woodcut shows an unfortunate woman being 'swum' - a version of the more familiar 'ducking' - in a river. Even if her accusers decided that she wasn't a witch, the poor woman might very well die from her ordeal.

on a 20-foot oak pole topped with a metal spike and exhibited on the roof of Westminster Hall.

Cromwell's Head, Jonathan Fitzgibbons' fascinating account, notes that the embalmed head remained on Westminster Hall for some 25 years. The head finally came down, probably during a storm, in the last years of James II reign. What happened next isn't clear. According to a story recounted by Fitzgibbons, a soldier picked up the head, which he hid in his chimney for 20 years. Then, in 1710, Claudius Du Puy added a head he said was Cromwell's to his private museum of curiosities.

As Fitzgibbons recounts, the head passed through various owners - including an alcoholic actor who showed it off around taverns - until it was bought by Josiah Wilkinson, of Kent, in 1815. Many questioned its authenticity. And there were several rival heads. But Wilkinson pointed out that the head bore a remarkable resemblance to Cromwell, complete with damaged nose and the famous wart over the left eyebrow.

The head remained a Wilkinson family heirloom for 145 years and scientific analysis in the 1930s, produced, Fitzgibbons remarks, a 'compelling case' that the skull really was Cromwell's. However, the descendant who owned the head in the 1950s did not want it to become an exhibit, and so, on March 25, 1960, the head was re-interred in Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, which

Cromwell had attended more than three centuries before. A simple plaque commemorates the event, but the precise site remains a closely guarded secret.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

Contrary to popular belief, the Civil War wasn't a fight between commoner Roundheads and aristocratic Royalists. Every village, sometimes individual families, contained Parliamentarians and Royalists. Even today, Britain remains split between those who regard Cromwell as a hero and those who see him as a regicidal villain.

Whatever history's ultimate view may be on Cromwell, in many ways the Civil War marked the start of modern British society. Many of the troubles in Ireland trace their origins to Cromwell's barbaric intervention in Eire. Alchemy, magic and astrology transformed into science.

I've noted before in *Paranormal Magazine* that alchemy is totally rational, based on knowledge at the time. Furthermore, as Hill points out, alchemy and Calvinism shared the idea that we could help ourselves: we could seek salvation from the search for the philosopher's stone or the grace of God. Astrology, Hill argues, helped form the basis of psychology and sociology.

Today, even a tenuous discrepancy in an important event can trigger a spate of conspiracy theories, often of widely differing

'THE COURTS TRIED ABOUT 250 PEOPLE, AND EXECUTED AROUND 100, FOR WITCHCRAFT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1645.'

verisimilitude. As Fitzgibbon notes, similar theories still surround Cromwell's corpse. Some question whether it really was Cromwell's body that was buried in Westminster Abbey. And were they his remains that were removed from the Abbey to hang at Tyburn or had loyal Parliamentarians previously recovered the headless trunk and buried the corpse elsewhere?

The Civil War shows the truth of the aphorism coined by the 19th century French writer, Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr: *'Plus ça change, plus c'est la meme chose'* (the more it changes, the more it remains the same). ☪

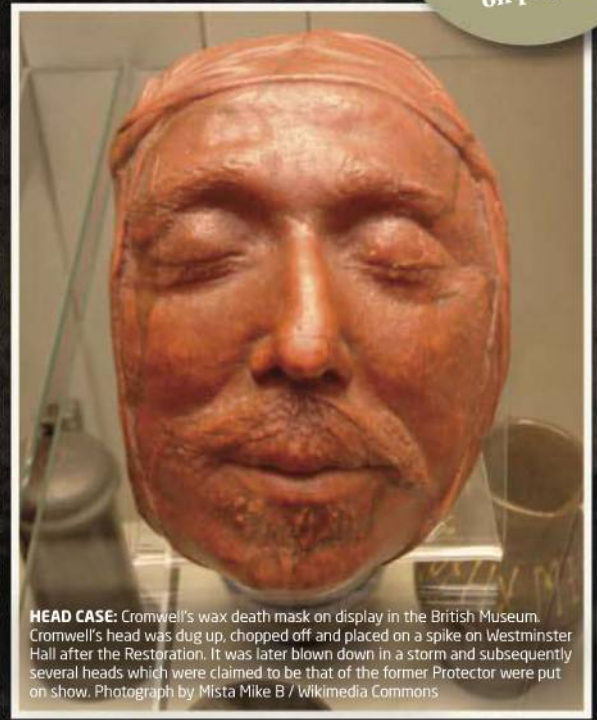
REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Philip C Almond, *Demonic Possession and Exorcism in Early Modern England: Contemporary Texts and their Cultural Contexts* Cambridge University Press 2004
 Michael Braddick, *God's Fury, England's Fire* Penguin Books 2008
 Jonathan Fitzgibbons, *Cromwell's Head* The National Archives 2008
 Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down* Penguin Books 1991
 Michael Hunter, 'New light on the Drummer of Tedworth: Conflicting narratives of witchcraft in Restoration England' *Historical Research* 2005;78:311-353
 John Ingram, *The Haunted Homes and Family Traditions of Great Britain* Gibbings & Co 1897.



Mark Greener is an award-winning freelance journalist specialising in health and bioscience. Mark is a former research scientist who has written widely on his life-long passion: cryptobiology. He's the author of nine books and his features have appeared in magazines worldwide. He lives between Cambridge and Ely and keeps a sharp look-out for the Fen Tiger but has sadly never even seen a footprint.

Read more about spooky activity of the Civil War period overleaf and in Popular Haunts on page 56.



HEAD CASE: Cromwell's wax death mask on display in the British Museum. Cromwell's head was dug up, chopped off and placed on a spike at Westminster Hall after the Restoration. It was later blown down in a storm and subsequently several heads which were claimed to be that of the former Protector were put on show. Photograph by Mista Mike B / Wikimedia Commons

My visit to the Skull House

One of the legends attached to an eerie keepsake in a country cottage in Lancashire dates from the turbulent days of the Civil War. Historian **DAVID HARRISON** spent an afternoon visiting 'Charlie' - a cursed skull.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED by the many skull legends that exist throughout England, with almost identical dark and haunting stories being connected to each skull. One particular skull story captivated me as it was local to where I live. The 16th century cottage called 'Skull House', named after the skull kept within its whitewashed walls, is situated at the bottom of Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge, near the old industrial town of Wigan, in Lancashire.


The legends surrounding this skull are typical of the type. It is said that in the dark days of the English Civil War, a priest or monk was on the run from Cromwell's Roundheads and found refuge in a cubby hole in the fireplace of the house. On being discovered, the Roundheads lit the fire to force him out. The soldiers decapitated him and his fire-darkened skull remained in the house ever since.

Another legend has it was the skull of one of King Arthur's knights who had taken part in a battle near the River Douglas. It's interesting that an early source, the *Historia Brittonum*, which allegedly dates from the 9th century, states that Arthur fought his second battle of twelve at the River Dubglas

(translated as Blackwater), which could be interpreted as the River Douglas. According to this story, the skull of the knight was kept nearby sometime after the battle, and found its way to Skull House - where it has resided ever since.

Many subsequent owners of Skull House - as the cottage became known - have tried to dispose of their ghastly house guest; one disgruntled owner threw the skull into the river, only to find it had mysteriously returned. The ungrateful owner was later found drowned in the river. Another owner who became unsettled by the skull tried to get it as far away from the house as possible, only to find it had returned once again. This offender subsequently suffered a

'MRS SMITH HAD LENT THE SKULL TO THE LOCAL SCOUTS A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO: HE HAD RETURNED MINUS A NUMBER OF TEETH.'



SKULL HOUSE: This cosy cottage off the beaten track in north-western England is named after the mysterious head-bone kept there for centuries.
© David Harrison

CHARLIE: The origin of the skull kept in Skull House near Wigan is a mystery. One legend states that it belonged to a priest beheaded by Cromwellians, another that he belonged to one of King Arthur's knights.
© David Harrison



fall down the stairs. Other residents have tried to dispose of the skull but have consequently suffered illness, bouts of bad luck and even untimely death – in short, they suffered the deadly curse of the skull.

I decided to pay a visit to Skull House and meet the current owner, Mrs Smith. With the curse lingering in my mind, I felt some trepidation when I knocked on the door but Mrs Smith soon put me at my ease and kindly showed me a collection of old newspaper reports and an old book which told the story of the skull. I found Skull House to be an elegant country cottage, with old oak beams, worn flagstones and beautifully framed windows, including one in stained glass showing the skull itself. Above all, the cottage had a nice, warm feeling to it.

Mrs Smith told me about the many mysterious doorways and cubby holes in the cottage that led to nowhere, and how she had taken care of the skull – who she affectionately calls Charlie – since she bought the property a number of years ago. When she bought the cottage she had been made aware of the skull – which was to stay in the cottage as part of the sale, and she seemed very fond of Charlie, and kept the skull in a

room; the doorway of which has a beautiful stained glass window – the centre of which displayed an illuminated skull.

I asked Mrs Smith if I could take a few photos of Charlie – it had been photographed on a number of occasions for newspaper reports, and had recently been examined by the University of Liverpool, who had concluded that the skull was that of a boy, or perhaps a young woman – the skull being quite small and lacking eye-brow ridges – which are prominent on skulls of males. Mrs Smith disappeared into the ‘skull room’ for a number of seconds and then re-emerged with Charlie.

‘People who have handled him have suffered from bad luck, you know,’ she said with a smile as I nervously eyed the skull – it was indeed a relatively small darkened skull, with no eye-brow ridges, but it had a number of deep ‘scars’ by the side of the temple. Charlie’s firm jaw-bone was attached onto the upper part of the skull by what looked like delicately fixed copper wiring. I decided to respectfully let Mrs Smith handle the skull, and I got the feeling that there was genuine affection between them, a sense of them being old friends. There was no way Mrs Smith

‘RESIDENTS HAVE TRIED TO DISPOSE OF THE SKULL BUT HAVE CONSEQUENTLY SUFFERED ILLNESS, BOUTS OF BAD LUCK AND EVEN UNTIMELY DEATH.’

would want to dispose of Charlie like some former ungrateful owners of Skull House had reputedly done.

Mrs Smith placed Charlie on a small bookcase for me to photograph, and she explained she had lent the skull to the local Scouts a number of years ago: he had returned minus a number of teeth. I didn’t ask what bad luck had befallen the Scouts as a result of their carelessness.

As she placed the skull down on the bookcase, it suddenly fell onto its side – I was a bit concerned – thinking for a moment that the skull might break – all because of my request to photograph it – I could be cursed for life! Mrs Smith smiled once more and casually placed it upright again – everything was ok – to my relief, Charlie was made of strong stuff. As I photographed the skull I could swear it was smiling. ☺



Popular Haunts

For our final foray into paranormal activity associated with the English Civil War, we join CHRISTOPHER LINTON on the site of one of its bloodiest battles.



ECHOES OF VIOLENCE: The Sealed Knot Society restages the battle on Marston Moor for the entertainment of the public. Even the Society's celebrated authenticity, however, cannot truly convey the savagery of the fighting and the brutal deaths of so many men which in turn seem to have created so many ghosts. © Robin Denton

Marston Moor

LONG MARSTON, YORKSHIRE

AS THE SUN EBBED AWAY FROM the skies above Marston Moor on July 2, 1644, dark clouds rolled across the landscape: a sure sign that bad weather was brewing. It was a day that ended with the thunderclap of a summer storm, and the fate of a nation was decided.

'The Royalist Cavalry fled this way, aided by a young girl who opened a gate so they could pass through - her ghost has been seen and heard screaming in this part of the battlefield.'



© Robin Denton

I have visited this battlefield many times, both on my own and with interested parties. I usually start my walk at the Sun Inn in Long Marston and head down Marston Lane towards Tockwith. To the right is Marston Hall, where Parliamentary officers were housed the night before the battle. It is said that Oliver Cromwell himself haunts this place, though of course it's more than likely the apparition of a less famous Parliamentary officer who died in the fighting.

Just beyond Marston Hall is the junction of Atterwith Lane (of which more later) and then we come to the junction with Moor Lane, scene of the Irish Regiment's disaster and also a place where ghostly soldiers have been seen many times in the past. Beside this is the Monument, where in 2006 I had my own strange encounter. I heard what I can only describe as someone running on gravel, accompanied by heavy breathing and wheezing and the rattle of various accoutrements which a soldier may have worn during the battle. I confess I was on my own and it was around 1.30 am when this happened, and it also took me a good ten minutes to shake myself into looking for an explanation – I didn't find one.

Touring the site of the battle itself, I tend to walk from the Monument down Marston Lane and then turn right up Kendal Lane. It was here the fighting between Royalist and Parliamentary horse started the battle. There is a public footpath on the right which leads towards Wilstrop Wood: a very spooky place in the dead of night. This pathway leads the walker past the bean field Prince Rupert hid in.

After their defeat, the Royalist Cavalry fled this way, aided by a young girl who opened a gate so they could pass through Wilstrop Wood. It is unsure how she died – some say she was trampled by accident by the fleeing Royalists, some that she was murdered by Parliamentarians – but either way her ghost has been seen and heard screaming in this part of the battlefield.

Carrying on through Wilstrop Wood brings you eventually to Atterwith Lane, and a right turn here on to the main road once more. Midway along this lane ghosts have been seen, mostly hiding in ditches or behind hedges, as the Royalists would have done at the conclusion of the battle. All over the site men have been seen dressed as if still in battle and men and horses have also been seen around Cromwell's



OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE: Near the Monument to the fateful battle of 1644 on Marston Moor, the author became one of the many witnesses to apparently hear an echo of the conflict. © Peter Mattock

'Beside the Monument I heard someone running on gravel, accompanied by heavy breathing and wheezing.'



Plump, a clump of trees opposite the Monument.

Men fought and died in these fields shedding their blood, their heroism and fates become recorded in the earth. It is no wonder their shades are still to be glimpsed. ●



FIRE FROM HEAVEN

Lightning is one of the most powerful and impressive natural phenomena on Earth. It is also little understood and its effects can sometimes seem supernatural. **LOUIS PROUD** explores the paranormal aspects of this powerful force.

FEW CAN DENY THAT LIGHTNING IS A mysterious force of nature. In fact, scientists don't yet understand exactly how it works. Equally mysterious are the effects it has on those who are struck by it. Although being struck by lightning usually results in considerable physical, neurological and psychological damage and, less often, death, some victims claim they've been altered for the better. Some develop psychic abilities.

Others undergo a profound spiritual transformation, acquiring a strong belief in God and the afterlife. People struck by lightning are never the same again.

Then there are those who, as though marked by a curse, are struck by lightning multiple times throughout their life. Their stories raise questions about fate and coincidence. One remarkable case is that of British cavalry officer Major Summerford.

Summerford was first struck by lightning in February, 1918, while fighting in the fields of Flanders during the First World War. He is said to have been riding a horse at the time, from which he was knocked off. The lightning strike rendered him paralysed from the waist down. Sometime later, Summerford retired and moved to Vancouver, Canada.

In 1924, while fishing from a riverbank, Summerford was struck by lightning again. More



FIREBALL: Lightning is still not fully understood today, with phenomena such as 'ball lightning' remaining controversial despite centuries of encounters.

specifically, the lightning struck the tree (presumably a fallen one) that he was sitting under. The injury caused paralysis in the right side of his body. Eventually, though, he regained the ability to walk. He was again struck by lightning in the summer of 1930, while taking a stroll in a local park. When, as happened in this instance, the lightning strike issues from a clear blue sky, it is known as a 'bolt from the blue'. We are told that the

injury rendered Summerford permanently paralysed, and that he died a couple of years later. The final touch to this amazing story of coincidence is that, about four years later, lightning struck the cemetery at which Summerford was buried, destroying his tomb.

Another extraordinary lightning-related coincidence deserves mention here. It concerns a Bulgarian woman named Martha Martika, whose first husband, Randolph, was struck and killed by lightning. Although devastated, Martika married again – to a man named Charles Martaux – but he too was struck by lightning and died as a result. Martika became extremely depressed, and sought the help of doctor. The two of them fell in love and were eventually married. But Martika was widowed a third time when her latest husband, after stepping out into a thunderstorm, was struck and killed by lightning.

THE WRATH OF GODS

In many parts of the so-called uncivilized world, such as central and western Africa, witchcraft is commonly blamed for adverse natural phenomena, including lightning. According to a highly unusual story reported in late-October, 1998, in the Congo daily newspaper L'Avenir: 'Lightning killed at a stroke 11 young people aged between 20 and 35 years during a football match,' all of them members of the same team. ☉

////////////////////////////////////
'SOME VICTIMS DEVELOP PSYCHIC ABILITIES. OTHERS UNDERGO A PROFOUND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION. PEOPLE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING ARE NEVER THE SAME AGAIN.
////////////////////////////////////



CONJURED UP:

Shamans and sorcerers in most cultures are seen as having power over the elements and lightning storms have become symbolic of angry gods and a supernatural presence. No self-respecting Gothic novel or old horror film would be complete without at least one thunderstorm.

The football match was held in the eastern province of Kasai, during which an additional 30 people sustained burns.

'The athletes from Basanga [the home team] curiously came out of this catastrophe unscathed,' reported the newspaper. That, incredibly, all members of the visiting team were killed by the lightning, while the home team remained unharmed, coupled with the fact that the score was one-all when the lightning struck, sparked anger and suspicion between rival fans, many of whom suspected witchcraft.

'The exact nature of the lightning has divided the population in this region which is known for its use of fetishes in football,' the newspaper explained. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo it's common for one sports team to place, with the aid of a witchdoctor, a curse - or hex - on an opposing team. Because

the country was in a state of civil war at the time the incident occurred, 'much of the detail about the match remains obscure,' explains Marcus Tanner in *The Independent*, which also covered the story.

Numerous cultures and religions throughout the world, both past and present - including the Hindus, the Aztecs, the Norse and the Slavs - associate lightning and thunder with the divine, believing these natural phenomena to be emanations of the gods, or as gods in themselves. On those spots where lightning was observed to strike, the ancient Greeks built temples, believing such locations to be touched by the gods and therefore holy. When someone was killed by lightning, however, their body would be left unburied, for it was considered unwise to mess with the work of a god.

WHAT HAPPENS

Lightning is basically a massive electrostatic discharge, which either takes place between a cloud and the ground, between clouds, or within clouds. (The word 'electrostatic' relates to static electricity). Lightning can even occur in volcanic eruptions, forest fires and dust storms. The conditions needed to create lightning are known. Exactly how it is formed - how clouds build up the electrical charges that produce it - is still a matter of debate, however.

Since lightning heats up the surrounding air to around 20,000°C - about three times the temperature of the surface of the sun - two things occur. Firstly, a bright flash is caused by iridescence. Secondly, there is a clap of thunder, a shockwave created by the sudden expansion of air. They occur in this order because light travels faster than sound.

In America, annually, the estimated number of people injured by lightning is between 200 and 1,000 - four out of five of which are men - while the average number of people killed is 67. As these statistics show, a person is much more likely to be injured by a lightning strike than to be killed by one.

'THE FINAL TOUCH TO THIS AMAZING STORY OF COINCIDENCE IS THAT LIGHTNING STRUCK THE CEMETERY, DESTROYING HIS TOMB.'

Being struck by lightning is similar to having a stroke, resulting in extensive nerve cell damage. The area of the brain most affected is that which controls personality, emotion and organisation. Symptoms caused by lightning strike injuries, many of them baffling and unexplainable, include an irregular heartbeat, mood problems, depression, intense headaches, incontinence, frequent blackouts, sleep disturbances, panic attacks, memory loss, seizures, and debilitating aches and pains.

It's fair to say, of course, that being struck by lightning is a predominately negative experience, leaving survivors with a number of impairments and a great deal of pain and trauma. Many of them are forced to rebuild their lives and, both physically and mentally, are never the same again. In some cases, however, it can have a positive effect on people's spirituality, making them feel as though they've been blessed, not cursed. Some liken the experience to a kind of spiritual awakening, saying it transformed them for the better – or, at the very least, made them value their life much more.

Some lightning strike survivors claim that they've not

only become more spiritually-minded, but they've even gained psychic abilities. On the National Weather Service's Lightning Safety website, run by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which features the stories of numerous lightning strike survivors, one woman named Missy wrote that she was struck by lightning through the phone line. The accident occurred when Missy, while foolishly using the phone during a thunderstorm, suddenly heard a loud explosion, and saw, at her feet, a bright white light, 'which was football-shaped and had spikes. It blew me across the floor, and I was knocked out for a few seconds.'

Missy's son found her lying on the kitchen floor. He dialled 911 and she was taken to hospital, where doctors confirmed she'd been struck by lightning. A bizarre side-effect of the accident, she says, is that she now experiences ESP every once in a while.

She explains: 'There have been times where I speak someone's name, someone that I haven't heard from or seen in many years, and all of a sudden they walk in the door... I've had eerie feelings about things, just before they actually happen... ☉



SURVIVOR: Most people who are struck by lightning do not die. This picture shows Mr Herbert Bowker in the clothes he was wearing when he was hit by lightning while riding his bike near Heidelberg, South Africa. In 1907, He told *The Strand Magazine*: 'The current made a hole in the back of my head and passed over my back and arms. My clothes were nearly burned off my body; one shoe was taken clean off'. After a six-months convalescence, the only after-effects of the strike was a continuing deafness caused by the bursting of his eardrums and 'noises in my head'.

Most people who know me are amazed. And so am I. This periodic thing only started after my lightening incident.'

SUPERNATURAL STRIKES

Some of the effects caused by lightning strike injuries are so bizarre as to be classified as paranormal. It's little wonder, then, that tales of the paranormal often crop up in

THE 'HUMAN LIGHTNING ROD'

No one on record has been struck by lightning as many times as the United States park ranger Roy Cleveland Sullivan. Between 1942 and 1977, Sullivan, now deceased, was struck by lightning a total of seven times, earning him a place in **THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS**. Born in Virginia in 1912, Sullivan says he was first struck by lightning as a child.

In April, 1942, while taking refuge from a thunderstorm inside a fire lookout tower, Sullivan sustained his first official – and most severe – lightning strike. Inside the tower 'fire was jumping all over the place', so Sullivan ran outside and was instantly struck by lightning.

Sullivan's second lightning strike, which occurred in 1969, is also noteworthy. After hitting nearby trees, the lightning was deflected into the open window of his moving truck, knocking him unconscious. The truck went out of control, but came to a stop near the edge of a cliff. The seventh, and final, lightning strike took place on June 25, 1977, while Sullivan was fishing one morning in a freshwater pool.

Sullivan was killed by lightning, however. He shot himself at the age of 71 on September 28, 1983. His suicide is thought to have been motivated by unrequited love.

'THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE VISITING TEAM WERE KILLED BY THE LIGHTNING, WHILE THE HOME TEAM REMAINED UNHARMED, SPARKED ANGER BETWEEN RIVAL FANS, MANY OF WHOM SUSPECTED WITCHCRAFT?'



TOO HOT TO HANDLE:

Lightning is associated with several gods of the ancient world, most noticeably the Greek father of the gods, Zeus, who would fling bolts of lightning at enemies or those he wished to make immortal; a characteristic he shared with his Roman equivalent, Jupiter. This striking painting by Gustave Moreau shows Jupiter with one of his many mortal lovers, Semele, the mother of Dionysus. Unfortunately, when Jupiter revealed his true self to Semele, taking on his divine form, the powerful, lightning-like energy emanating from the god destroyed her.

Melvin commented: 'Some say it was me having an out-of-body experience. Some say it was my grandmother coming down from heaven to push me out of the way of the lightning. Some say it was a glimpse of an entirely different dimension. I'll never know.'

Melvin's encounter with lightning altered him in such a way that he now has a strange effect on the pager he wears. The batteries inside of it, instead of lasting for months - which they're supposed to - die every few days.

A comparison can be drawn

between Melvin's story and that of Robert Davidson. Davidson was struck by lightning in June, 1980, just after stopping his motorcycle on the side of the road to put on his waterproofs. Following his injury, Davidson noticed that whenever he put on a new watch, it would burn out in days, whereas his old battered watch - the one he wore when he was struck - continued to function perfectly. The problem ceased after a period of 15 years, and these days Davidson can wear any watch he likes. (One is instantly reminded of how watches, cameras, tape recorders, and other electronic devices in allegedly haunted or paranormal locations are known to malfunction for no apparent reason.)

There is another reason why Davidson's story belongs in the paranormal category and it has nothing to do with malfunctioning watches. When

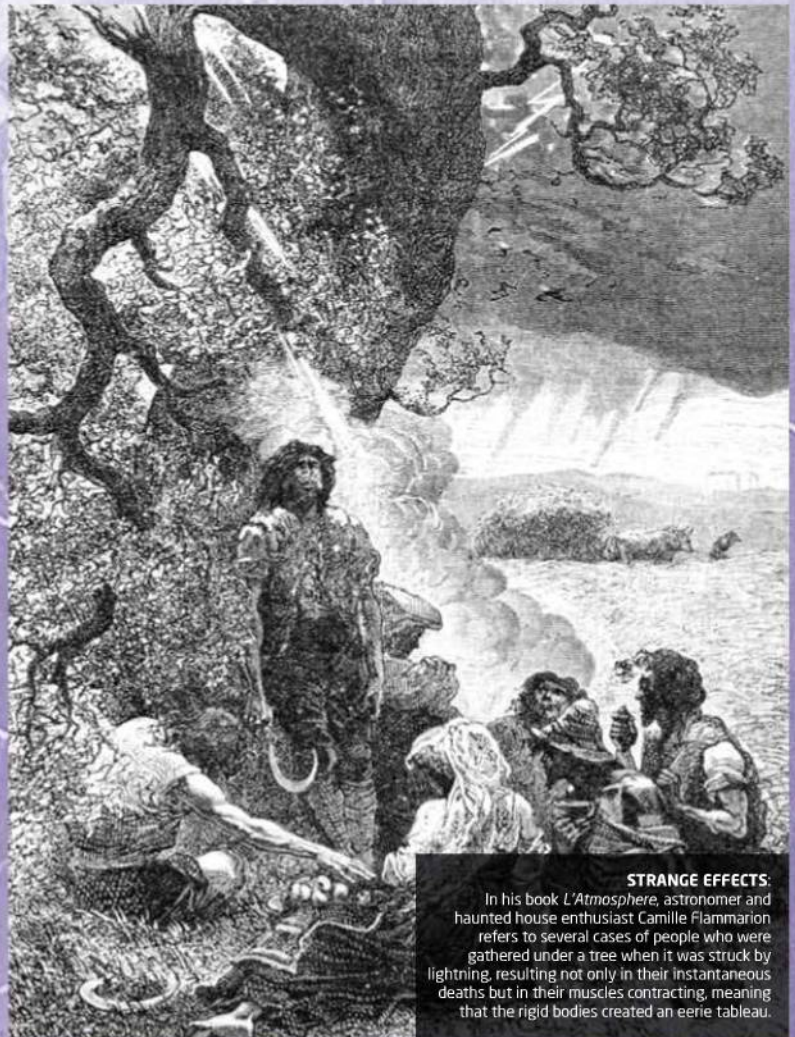
relation to lightning strikes and, indeed, lightning strike injuries.

Steve Melvin's story certainly deserves to be classified as paranormal. Melvin, a former storm chaser from Ohio, was struck by lightning in June, 1989, at the exact same moment he was taking a photograph. Following the incident, Melvin, then in his late-20s, discovered that his camera had been damaged as a result; it was melted down the front. The film inside, however, was still okay.

Incredibly, the final photograph shows the ghostly outline of a human framed in lightning. How this image came about is a complete mystery, as Melvin had been standing on the other side of the lens at the time he took the photograph.

In an article published in *The Independent* in November, 1999,

'EXACTLY HOW IT IS FORMED - HOW CLOUDS BUILD UP THE ELECTRICAL CHARGES THAT PRODUCE IT - IS STILL A MATTER OF DEBATE.'



STRANGE EFFECTS:

In his book *L'Atmosphere*, astronomer and haunted house enthusiast Camille Flammarion refers to several cases of people who were gathered under a tree when it was struck by lightning, resulting not only in their instantaneous deaths but in their muscles contracting, meaning that the rigid bodies created an eerie tableau.



////////////////////////////////////
'SHE PROCEEDED TO LIFT THE BIBLE TO THE SKY AND MUTTERED SOMETHING THAT NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND. ALL OF A SUDDEN DAVIDSON HAD A PULSE.'
////////////////////////////////////

MIRACULOUS:

A lightning strike killed Robert Davidson, but while paramedics desperately tried to restart his heart a mysterious woman dressed in black and carrying a Bible pushed through the medics and onlookers, insisting she could save him. Somehow she succeeded in doing so - but melted back into the crowd and wasn't seen again.

he was struck by lightning his heart stopped beating. Attempts by paramedics to administer CRP were ineffective; no one could get a heartbeat.

'He had no pulse... he should have been dead,' stated paramedic Kimberly Cobb, who appeared on the program *Unsolved Mysteries*.

Suddenly, a mysterious woman appeared, dressed in black, old-fashioned clothes (extremely odd attire, especially for such a hot day) and carrying a Bible. She pushed her way through the crowd of people who had gathered around Davidson, including police officers who tried to restrain her. She yelled out: 'Let me touch him.'

Thinking her actions harmless and 'worth a try', the paramedics let her approach Davidson. He explains: 'She knelt down beside me, and placed the Bible and one hand on my chest and the other hand on the ground. She proceeded to lift the Bible to the sky and muttered something that no one could understand.'

After smiling at the people around her, she disappeared

into the crowd, never to be seen again.

All of a sudden Davidson had a pulse. The mysterious woman in black had saved his life - provided she actually existed, of course. Not everyone saw the woman. Some say they saw her, others say they didn't, indicating that she may have been a ghost - or, according to some, a non-human entity. Maylou Shafer, one paramedic who was present at the scene, is certain the woman existed.

'There is no doubt in my mind,' she said. 'She was there.'

Davidson, who spent seven weeks in a coma following his injury, and was extremely lucky to have survived, believes the woman was an angel. In an interview with John S. Friedman, author of *Out of the Blue*, Davidson remarked that God 'left me here and allowed me to come back to life. Maybe

it's to help other people.'

The experiences of lightning strike survivors - as well as those who aren't so lucky - raise questions in our minds about fate, God, death, the afterlife and our purpose here on earth. No wonder lightning used to be considered a divine force - and still is in certain cultures.

According to traditional Native American belief, when lightning strikes a person, it's never a random, meaningless occurrence; there is always a reason for it. If the strike causes death, believe the Sioux, it's because the victim did something to challenge fate. If they survive, it means they've been chosen to become a special kind of medicine man.

There may be some truth to this idea, because many lightning strike survivors develop a strong sense of altruism and goodwill towards others. As the lightning strike survivor Steve Marshburn, creator of the support group Lightning Strike and Electric Shock Survivors International (LSESSI), put it, people such as himself 'have a purpose... I can say that people who have been injured [by lightning] are people who help other people.' ●



Louis Proud lives in Melbourne, Australia. An avid writer/researcher of paranormal and occult phenomena, his work has appeared in *Fate*, *Mysteries Magazine*, *New Dawn* and *Nexus*. His interests include film, radio-controlled models and anything to do with the mysterious and unexplained. He can be contacted at louisproud@gmail.com

SOURCES

NOAA, National Weather Service Lightning Safety, 'Survivor Story: Missy', http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/story_missy.htm; Friedman, John S., *Out of the Blue: A History of Lightning*, Delacorte Press, New York, 2008; Plimmer, Martin and King, Brian, *Beyond Coincidence: Stories of Amazing Coincidence and the Mystery and Mathematics That Lie Behind Them*, Icon Books Ltd., UK, 2004; Rodell, Chris, *The Independent*, 'Unlucky Strikes', 7 Nov, 1999, <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/unlucky-strikes-1124177.html>; Tanner, Marcus, *The Independent*, 'Lightning Kills an Entire Football Team', October 29, 1998, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/lightning-kills-an-entire-football-team-1181336.html>; Burchard, Hank, 'Lightning Strikes 4 Times', *The Ledger*, Lakeland, Florida, May 2, 1972 (reprinted from the *Washington Post*), <http://tinyurl.com/yd77evy>



Unearthed

This month we return to the sensational pages of *The Terrific Register*, the infamous penny weekly of the early 19th century which predated the 'gutter press' of modern times. CATE LUDLOW is a great enthusiast and collector of the so-called 'Penny Bloods' of the period and has been compiling a series of extracts to create themed volumes for the History Press. In our December issue Cate supplied us with extracts from two of these: *The Book of Murder* and *The Book of Wonders*. This month she has offered us a few highlights from her latest collection, on a subject close to the hearts of *Paranormal Magazine* readers - *The Book of Ghosts*.

Ghostly & Ghastly

Apparition Of The Duchess Of Mazarine

It is well known to most people acquainted with English history, that the celebrated Duchess of Mazarine was mistress to King Charles II. Madame de Beauclair was a lady equally admired and beloved by his brother and successor, James II. Between these two ladies there was an uncommon friendship, such as is rarely found in persons bred up in courts; particularly those of the same sex, and in the same situation.

After the burning of Whitehall, these two ladies were allotted very handsome apartments in the Stable-yard, St James. About this time it was that reason first began to oppose itself to faith. The doctrine soon spread, and was too much talked of not to be frequently a subject of conversation for these two ladies; the specious arguments made use of by persons of high reputation for learning, had such an effect on both, as to raise great doubts in them concerning the immateriality of the soul, and the certainty of its existence after death.

In one of the serious consultations they had together on this head, it was agreed between them that on which ever of them the lot should fall to be first called from this world, she should return, if there was a possibility of doing so, and give the other



an account of in what manner she was disposed of. This promise it seems was often repeated, and the duchess happening to fall sick, and her life despaired of by all about her, Madame de Beauclair reminded her of what she expected from her; to which Her Grace replied, she might depend upon her performance. These words passed between them, not above an hour before the dissolution of that great lady, and were spoken before several persons who were in the room, but at that time they were far from comprehending the meaning of what they had said.

Some years after the duchess's decease, happening, in a visit I made to Madame de Beauclair, to fall on the topic of futurity, she expressed her disbelief of it with a great deal of warmth, which a little surprised me... I found, to my great concern, that she was become as great an advocate for the new doctrine of non-existence after death

as any of those who first proposed it.

It was not, however, many months after we had this conversation, that I happened to be at the house of a person of condition, whom, since the death of the Duchess of Mazarine, Madame de Beauclair had the greatest intimacy with of any of

'I perceived not how she entered, but, turning my eyes towards yonder corner of the room, I saw her stand in the same form and habit she was accustomed to appear in when living.'

her acquaintance. We were just sat down to cards about nine o'clock in the evening, when a servant came hastily into the room, and acquainted the lady I was with that Madame de Beauclair had sent to entreat she would come that moment to her; adding, that if she ever desired to see her more in this world, she must not delay her visit.

So odd a message might very well surprise the person to whom it was delivered ... I offered to attend her, being, as well I might, desirous of getting some light into what at present appeared so mysterious. In fine, we went that instant. Madame de Beauclair ... seemed in as perfect health as ever she had been. On our inquiring if she felt any inward disorder which should give room for the melancholy apprehensions her message testified, she replied in the negative; 'Yet,' says she, with a little sigh, 'you will very soon, very soon, behold me pass from this world into that eternity, which I doubted but am now assured of.'

A clergyman of her own persuasion, whom she had sent for, that moment coming in we all quitted the room, to leave him at liberty to exercise his function.

It exceeded not half an hour before we were called in again, and she appeared, after having disburdened her conscience, to be more cheerful than before; her eyes, which were as piercing as possible, sparkled with uncommon vivacity; and she told us, she would die with the more satisfaction, as she enjoyed in her last moments the presence of two persons the most agreeable to her in this world, and in the next would be sure of enjoying the society of one, who, in life, had been dearest to her.

We were both beginning to dissuade her from giving way to thoughts which there seemed not the least probability of being verified, when she put a stop to what we were about to urge, by saying, 'Talk no more of that; my time is short, and I would not have the small space allowed me to be with you wasted in vain delusion; know, (continued she,) that I have seen my dear Duchess of Mazarine.

'I perceived not how she entered, but, turning my eyes towards

'The same gentleman heard from twelve o'clock at night till it struck one, a continual noise of driving nails into a coffin.'



yonder corner of the room, I saw her stand in the same form and habit she was accustomed to appear in when living: fain would I have spoken, but had not the power of utterance; she took a little circuit round the chamber, seeming rather to swim than walk, then stopped by the side of that Indian chest, and, looking on me with her usual sweetness, "Beauclair," said she, "between the hours of twelve and one this night you will be with me."

'The surprise I was in at first being a little abated, I began to ask some questions concerning that future world I was so soon to visit; but, on the opening of my lips for that purpose, she vanished from my sight I know not how.'

The clock was now very near striking twelve; and, as she discovered not the least symptoms of any ailment, we again aimed to remove all apprehensions of a dissolution; but we had scarcely begun to speak, when on a sudden her countenance changed, and she cried out, 'Oh! I am sick at heart!'

She grew still worse; and in about half an hour expired, it being exactly the time the apparition had foretold.

Notices of Approaching Death

In 1727-8, in the month of February, at which time Langford Collin, Esq. lived at York, one night coming home, he immediately and very speedily undressed himself and went to bed to his lady, who being awake, he spoke to her; but he had hardly exchanged six words when he was surprised at a sudden knock given to the street-door, so loud, as if it had been a great sledge hammer, which made him as suddenly rise up out of his bed, and with a pair of pistols in his hands, he hasted across to the dining room, but before he could reach the door of it, he heard a second knock, full as loud as the first; at which impatient, and fearing it might injure his lady then pregnant, and near her time, he with all expedition did run to the window, during which a third knock was heard, not only by himself, but several of his family; but throwing the sash open, he saw nobody, neither at the door, nor on one side or other of the house, though it was clear moon-light, and nothing to obstruct his sight either

FRIENDS REUNITED:
The spirit of the Duchess of Mazarine returns from the great beyond to warn her friend, Madam de Beauclair, of her own impending demise.



MURDER MOST FOUL: The hapless killers discover they have slain their own daughter rather than their intended victim.

way for a considerable space.

Still thinking it was done by some unlucky persons out of game or wantonness, he discovered next morning his uneasiness at such usage, at the coffee-house, declaring with some warmth how highly he would resent it, could he come to the knowledge of the rude person who had been guilty of the ridiculous action; nor did he change his first opinion till the next post bought him a letter, which informed him of the death of his cousin, Thomas Smith, Esq. of Nottingham, who died at London at the time the said knocking was heard.

About three years after that, the same gentleman sitting up with his next brother, Mr Abel Collin, heard from twelve o'clock at night till it struck one, a continual noise of driving nails into a coffin, in the workshop of John Baker, a joiner, which abutted onto their yard; at this he was very much offended, as thinking it very unkind from an intimate acquaintance of a sick person, when soon after he heard a noise as if two or three men were landing a coffin in the room over his head, which made him suspect it to be a fore-runner of his brother's death, who departed this life exactly at one o'clock the next day.

The Midnight Assassination

In the county of Galway, in Ireland, there lived a young couple, the children of the two neighbouring cottagers, who were betrothed to

each other from the earliest period of infancy. They had been educated in the same rude retirement, had partaken of the same fare, had shared in the same amusements; and were now anxiously waiting the period of their union.

Their parents were of the lowest class of Irish peasantry, and possessed no inconsiderable share of the national virtues and vices. With dispositions naturally good, their passions had been inflamed by the civil dissensions of the period, and embittered by the pressure of acute poverty; and which finally induced them to join the ill-fated rebellion that terminated in the death of poor Emmett and his associates, (and sadly, also in the death of the young man himself).

It was dusk when the Irishman arrived at his cottage, and the voice of wailing was loud within. He entered, and beheld his wife, with a young woman seated by her side; and his daughter, the child of his pride, dying from positive exigence. After the death of her betrothed husband, she had gradually drooped and bowed her fair head towards the tomb. With a faint smile she held out her hand to her father, and sunk back exhausted on her couch of straw.

Unacquainted with the cause of her complaint, he turned to his wife for further information, and was told in reply, that neither of herself or her daughter had eaten any thing for the last two days, for that every trifling sum they could procure, had been devoted

to medicine for their child. Her countenance darkened as she spoke, and with a ghastly grin of the most diabolical tendency, she drew her husband in silence from the room, and whispered in his ear that the young woman, who at that time lodged in their cottage, had saved up a guinea while at service, and proposed that it should be appropriated to themselves.

After a long struggle between their horror at the idea of murder, and their affection for their child, they resolved to despatch the poor woman, and devote the spoils to the subsistence of themselves and daughter. At the dread hour of midnight they entered the room where the two females reposed on the same miserable truck, and in order to ensure the destruction of their victim, remarked that she was stationed nearest to the door, while their daughter slept contiguous to the cottage wall. Having carefully ascertained this point, they entered in an adjoining apartment, and conversed in an audible tone upon the way in which the murderous scheme should be executed.

In the meantime the young woman, roused by the conversation, and over-hearing the frequent repetition of her name, listened in breathless silence, and but too soon became acquainted with the proposed plan of murder. Not a moment was to be lost: she hastily changed places with her sleeping companion, and crept gently over by the cottage wall, which the parents imagined was the corner that their child occupied.

All was now silent, but in a few minutes the door of the room was lifted gently on its latch, and a head was thrust forward. The form advanced, and was succeeded by another, bearing a dark lantern in her hand. They approached the bed in quiet, but in the agitation of their movements the light was extinguished. The young woman continued in the most fearful suspense, and could distinctly hear the sharpening of the murderous weapon, and see its blade glittering in the darkness of the room. In an instant it was drawn across the throat of the victim – it cut with a keen edge, wizzed while it separated the

'It cut with a keen edge, wizzed while it separated the arteries, and the blood welled in a purple tide from the wound.'

arteries, and the blood welled in a purple tide from the wound. The hollow death-rattle followed, the sinews of the body became contracted with convulsions, and a long deep sigh announced that the midnight murder was effected.

The wretches removed the apparel of their victim into the next apartment, and they returned to commit the corpse to earth. Followed at a slight distance by the young woman, who boldly resolved to track their footsteps, they bore it swiftly from the house, and hastened to the grave that had been dug for its reception. The night was wild and tempestuous, and the thunder reverberated in ten thousand echoes along the murky arch of heaven. The wind howled across the moors, and every succeeding gust spoke of unrelieved horror. Not a star was seen in the firmament, but all grew black and dismal, save where the lightning's flash irradiated the landscape, and betrayed its utter desolation.

The guilty couple felt the silent awe of the moment, and as they stole quietly along with their lifeless burden hanging on their arms, listened with renewed affright to each passing whisper of the breeze. They had now reached the extremity of the gardens, and with paralysed hearts cast the corpse into the burial place. It sunk with a heavy sound into the grave, the face was turned upwards, and a sudden flash of lightning, as it shone full on the dead body, revealed the features of their daughter, of that child for whose sake the murder had been committed.

They were roused from their trance of agony by a deep-drawn sigh, and the sound of approaching footsteps; and by the blue flashes of lightning, and the dim light of their lantern, beheld a form clad in white approaching the spot where they were stationed. It proceeded with slow and solemn steps, and when nearly opposite the grave, beckoned them with its hand to follow. The conscience of the murderers instantly took alarm, and suggested to their disordered imagination that it was the ghost of their slaughtered victim. Struck to the soul with the sight, her past guilt rushing full on her mind, the feelings of the mother



'The spot where he lies buried may still be seen, but is now generally avoided as a residence of unholy spirits.'

were unequal to the struggle, she gave one deep heart-rending groan, and dropped dead on the body of her daughter. The father returned in a state of phrensy to his cottage, was impeached on the evidence of the young woman, who had encountered them at the grave, and was shortly afterwards executed for the murder.

The spot where he lies buried may still be seen, but is now generally avoided as a residence of unholy spirits. It stands at a slight distance from the main road, and is embosomed on one side by a dark wood, and on the other by the bleak moors of Galway.

Resuscitation

In the year 1728, Margaret Dickson was tried at Edinburgh for the murder of her child, supposed to have been born during the absence of her husband. After her condemnation, she behaved in the most penitent manner, acknowledged her infidelity, but constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrible a crime. At the place of execution, her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration, and she was hanged.

After her execution, her body was cut down, and delivered to her friends, who put it into a cart,

to be buried at her native place; but the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in charge, stopped to drink at a village about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, when most of the spectators ran off with every sign of trepidation. A person who was drinking in the house, had recollection enough to bleed her; in about an hour she was put to bed, and next morning she so far recovered, as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is partly founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgement of the court has been executed, can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforth totally exculpated. She lived about thirty years afterwards. ●

NASTY SURPRISE: The most celebrated illustrator of *The Terrific Register* was a woman, Mary Byfield. In this engraving she conveys the subject of 'A Skeleton in Every Family' to accompany an article on family jealousy and murder.

Reader offer

For *Paranormal Magazine* readers The History Press is making available copies of *The Book Of Ghosts* (ISBN 978-0-7524-5416-0) at the reduced price of £7.99, plus P&P. Just phone or visit the website and quote this reference: 'HPGHOST'. Offer ends: June 1, 2010. Contact: 01235 465577 or www.thehistorypress.co.uk

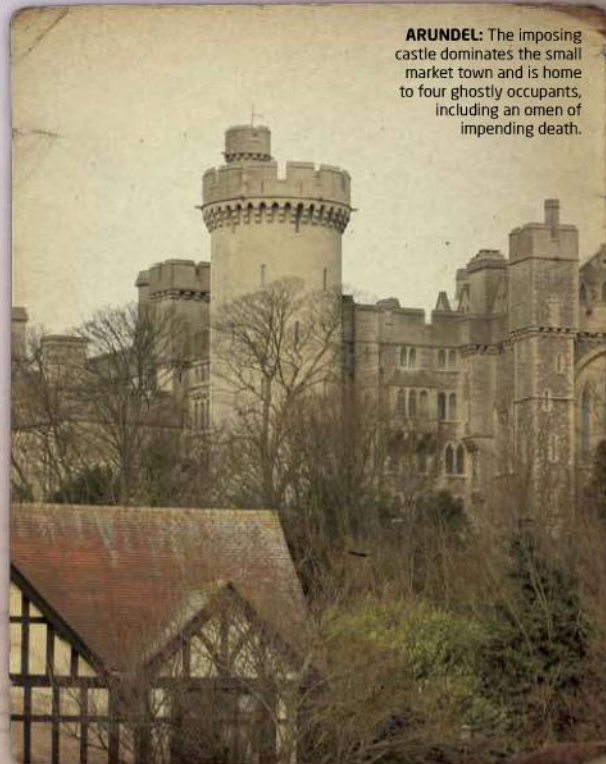
SPOOKY SUSSEX

Author of a new book on *Paranormal Sussex*, **DAVID SCANLAN**, highlights a few of his favourite haunted spots from both the eastern and western portions of this beautiful and historic county along England's southern coastline.

I am a resident of Hampshire (and founder of the Hampshire Ghost Club) but neighbouring Sussex is one of my favourite counties. The amount of hauntings in Sussex and their diversity is truly amazing and in this article I am going to bring to you my favourite top five haunted locations from the county.

ARUNDEL CASTLE, WEST SUSSEX
Entering Arundel, you immediately notice two dramatic landmarks overlooking the small market town. Approaching from the west, your gaze is immediately drawn to the grand Arundel Cathedral and then, just a short way on, you are taken aback by the view of Arundel Castle.

The castle dates back to the 11th century and has been the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Norfolk for many hundreds of years. Surprisingly, considering its importance and rich history, there



ARUNDEL: The imposing castle dominates the small market town and is home to four ghostly occupants, including an omen of impending death.



'THE AMOUNT OF HAUNTINGS IN SUSSEX AND THEIR DIVERSITY IS TRULY AMAZING.'

are no ghosts of kings, queens, lords or ladies, rather the restless wraiths of average, everyday folk and even an animal.

Possibly the most famous of Arundel Castle's ghosts is that of a kitchen boy, said to have been driven to an early grave by the abuses of his cruel master. There are reports of people hearing the banging and crashing of pots and pans as the youngster continues to furiously clean the never ending piles of dirty cooking utensils.

By contrast, the ghost of the castle's handsome library is a suitably tranquil one: he has been witnessed quietly looking through the books. Who he is remains a mystery but he is described as resembling a Royalist cavalier and may date from the early 17th century.

Next we come to Hiorne Tower, designed by architect Francis Hiorne during a period of major renovations. Hiorne died before this unusual structure was completed, so he never got the chance to see his dream fulfilled. Perhaps it is the tower's association with its designer's disappointment that drew a young lady here to take her own life. Bitterly disappointed by a failed love affair, she threw herself from the tower and her ghostly suicide has been witnessed, time and again, since the harrowing act took place. ☹



COWDRAY HOUSE:
The 5th Viscount Montague and his wife haunt the ruins of their now ruined former home. © Cowdray Heritage Trust

Perhaps the strangest ghost of Arundel Castle is the phantom white bird that flaps at the windows to warn of an impending death in the family - usually the head of the family line. Not a sighting to be taken lightly!

'THERE ARE REPORTS OF PEOPLE HEARING THE BANGING AND CRASHING OF POTS AND PANS.'

BRAMBER CASTLE, WEST SUSSEX

Bramber Castle is a motte and bailey constructed by William De Braose, around 1070. The De Braose clan thrived at Bramber for 133 years until the family unfortunately incurred the wrath of King John in 1203. The king ordered that William's children be placed in custody as a way of insuring the family's doubtful loyalty.

The entire family fled to Ireland to escape this edict but they were apprehended and brought back to

England. William De Braose, his wife and children were all shut up in a room at Windsor Castle and left to starve to death. However, it is at Bramber Castle that the sorrowful wraiths of the De Braose children have been seen, emaciated and dressed in rags.

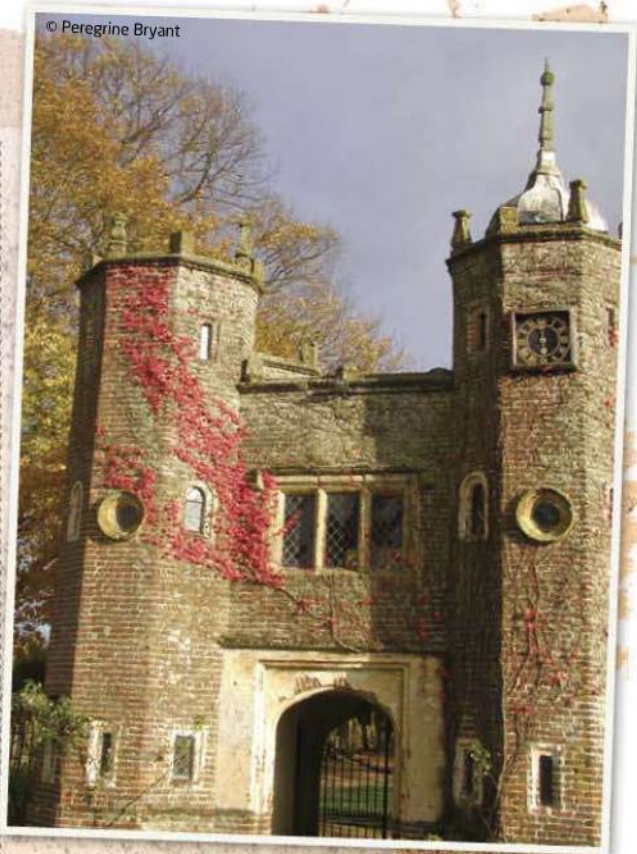
COWDRAY HOUSE, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX:

The ruins of Cowdray House can only hint at its former greatness. The house was built in the 16th century and welcomed a veritable *Who's Who* of visitors both famous and infamous, including, on several occasions, Henry VIII.

In 1538, during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the then owner of Cowdray, Anthony Browne, who demolished most of it and turned out the monks. One of the dispossessed monks cursed Browne and his family, shouting: 'By fire and by water thy line shall come to an end and it shall perish out of the land.'

According to Heather Ongley, the operations manager of the Cowdray Heritage Trust, the curse was believed by many to have come true more than two hundred years later. She told me that in 1793 Cowdray burnt down in a huge fire sparked by a workman's brazier. The house was in the process of being redecorated in readiness for the wedding of the 24-year-old Viscount. At the time the Viscount was holidaying in Germany with a friend. Ignoring warnings from the locals, the two young men decided to run the rapids down the Rhine at Laufenburg - and they both drowned. Cowdray had therefore been destroyed by fire and the head of the family by water.

The Viscount had died without an heir. And 22 years later, the inheritor of the estate, the Viscount's sister, watched in horror as a small boat carrying her two children overturned in a sudden squall just off the coast of Bognor. They, too, were drowned.



But what of the ghosts of Cowdray?

'The most common one is a grey or white lady walking from Midhurst town towards Cowdray House,' Heather told me. 'This is purported to be the wife of the 5th Viscount Montague. He apparently shot a priest dead in the chapel here at Cowdray, for starting the Mass without him, in 1702. The Viscount fled to the keeper's lodge and hid in a six-foot square priest hole, until he died in 1717, and would only come out for an hour at midnight when his wife brought him food and other comforts.'

'There is talk of two ghosts, one of the Viscount himself, whose troubled spirit was said to haunt the room until the house burnt down in 1793, and his wife, who is said to float down Lady's Walk, which is further up the hill towards the new Cowdray House where Lord and Lady Cowdray now live.'

CUCKFIELD PARK, WEST SUSSEX

During the 16th century Henry and Elizabeth Bowyer decided to build a new home for themselves on the site of an old medieval hall at Cuckfield. After the demolition of the old hall was completed, the construction of a new house,

known at the time as Cuckfield Place but now called Cuckfield Park, was commenced and completed around 1574.

Cuckfield Park remained in the ownership of the Bowyer family for over 115 years until it was sold to a member of the Sergison family in 1691. In 1848 the then lady of the house, Mrs Ann Sergison, passed away at the age

'THREE CHURCH-GOERS DECIDED TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM, AND APPARENTLY DROWNED THE RESTLESS WRAITH IN THE FONT!'

of 85. Soon after her death there were reports of her ghost being seen both inside the house and in the grounds. One story states she was even seen swinging on the gates of Cuckfield Park. This obviously caused some concern, and three church-goers decided to perform an exorcism, and apparently drowned Mrs Sergison's restless wraith in the font!

Another legend attached to Cuckfield Park is that when a member of the owner's family is about to die a tree in the grounds will drop one of its branches. The question is: how do you know which tree to keep an eye on? ☛

CUCKFIELD PARK: This beautiful and historic house was haunted by a Victorian lady who liked to swing on the gates. The gatehouse is pictured above.
© Peregrine Bryant





MICHELHAM PRIORY:

The author had an extraordinary encounter with the ghost of a swearing monk among these ruins. © David Scanlan

MICHELHAM PRIORY, EAST SUSSEX

Michelham Priory, near Upper Dicker, was built in 1229 to house the religious order of the Augustinian Canons. Henry VIII took their priory away from them in 1537 and it was subsequently turned into a domestic home. Not surprisingly one of its many ghosts is one of the Canons, who has been seen in the area of the gatehouse.

'COMING THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE, I WAS CONFRONTED BY THE GHOST OF A BROWN-CLAD MONK STANDING AT THE FOOT OF STAIRCASE.'

Back in 2004 I had the privilege of investigating Michelham Priory with a team from the Hampshire Ghost Club and I had a very unusual encounter here. Coming through the main entrance, I was confronted by the ghost of a brown-clad monk standing at the foot of a staircase. The monk raised his right hand and pointed upstairs. He then shouted in a very loud voice, 'He is a fucking sick bastard!' before vanishing. Another member of the team entered seconds later but unfortunately didn't see or hear anything.

Another frequently reported ghost is that of a melancholy woman who is seen staring into the moat that surrounds Michelham Priory. The woman is commonly thought to be member of the Children family, who were tenants here for some years and allegedly lost one of their sons when his clothing became tangled in the watermill mechanism. Although the graves of young members of the Children family can be found in Arlington Church, the story of the boy deaths remains unconfirmed.

Property manager Chris Tuckett was very much a sceptical gentleman when he first moved into the Priory but when I met him in 2004 he told me he changed his mind about this when, shortly after moving in, he awoke in the night to the sound of moving furniture. Plucking up his courage, he ventured out of bed and noticed that an item of furniture had moved slightly out of position. He was surprised that such a small

movement should have made so much noise but then he spotted that one of its casters was gummed up with varnish and this had scraped marks in the floorboards. Chris saw that a large figure-of-eight pattern had been scratched onto the floor, scratches that could only have been made by the furniture being moved repeatedly in the same fashion.

Chris also described to me how he returned to the Priory one evening, locking the door behind him. As he made his way upstairs, he passed a man going down. Assuming the man was just another resident, he thought little of it, but then remembered that he'd locked the place up and the gentleman wouldn't be able to get out. Chris hurried back down stairs but was shocked to find there was no one else in the building. There was no way the man could have left the Priory because Chris had the only set of keys still on his person! ●



David Scanlan's interest in the paranormal stems from his witnessing poltergeist phenomena some years ago. In 2001 David established the Hampshire Ghost Club (www.hampshireghostclub.net), with the aim of bringing like-minded people together in a society where they could investigate ghosts and collect evidence of life after death. Paranormal Sussex is published by www.amberley-books.com which has also published David's previous titles, *Paranormal Hampshire* and *Paranormal Wiltshire*.

FRIGHTS IN BRIGHTON

JANET CAMERON, author of *Paranormal Brighton & Hove*, continues our Sussex theme.

The city of Brighton and Hove may be one of the most haunted places in Britain. Among its many haunted spots is Dr Brightons bar, near the sea-front. A backstreet abortionist once operated in the cellar of this building in dark, filthy conditions. Desperate mothers were forced to bring their children with them. It is said one small boy was left in the cellar during his mother's operation. He fell, hit his head hard on a beer keg and died.

In recent years, a child's ghostly handprint has appeared on the window-glass when no living child was in the vicinity. There are also reports of knockings, tappings - and people being *poked*.

Another haunted licensed premises in Brighton is The Prince Arthur pub. Licensees Phillip Fifton and John McPherson are freaked out by their spook, which 'wafts' past Phillip in the kitchen. Noises are heard, items moved and strange footsteps heard. John is especially nervous of entering the cellar, a source of strange noises. Once, to his horror, he distinctively heard something mumbling. On another occasion both young men heard a shrill sound, like a knife being dropped onto a plate, from below.

The Marlborough Hotel is haunted by tragic Lucy Packham. Lucy died from serious bruising to the head and body in March, 1900, aged 32, murdered by her husband. Lucy plays around with lights, switches off the gas on beer taps, sweeps glasses off shelves and twirls lampshades. A landlady claims to have had fleeting glimpses of her. The Royal Albion Hotel is haunted by the bowler-hatted ghost of philanthropist Sir Harry Preston. Doors open and close and the lift ascends and descends when there's nobody around.

The Bow Street Runners in Brunswick Street West, Hove, was once a police station. Disturbances escalate in this pub whenever there's



PRESTON MANOR:
Arguably the most haunted of Brighton's many haunted buildings. © Janet Cameron

'Lucy plays around with lights, switches off the gas on beer taps, sweeps glasses off shelves and twirls lampshades.'

a change of ownership. Staff report a pale female ghost. It's thought she was incarcerated in a cell in the police station for being drunk and disorderly and died there. Glasses fall off shelves, and once a glass shattered before the astonished eyes of the landlord as he reached for it to serve a customer. On another occasion a staff member was using a hairdryer upstairs when it switched itself off and a cold hand pressed down on the back of her neck; another reported something very cold brushing the back of her calves.

Preston Manor is considered Brighton's most haunted building. A night watchman during the war felt a chill in a room on the ground floor and turned to see a ghostly woman's face staring at him, floating on a misty body.

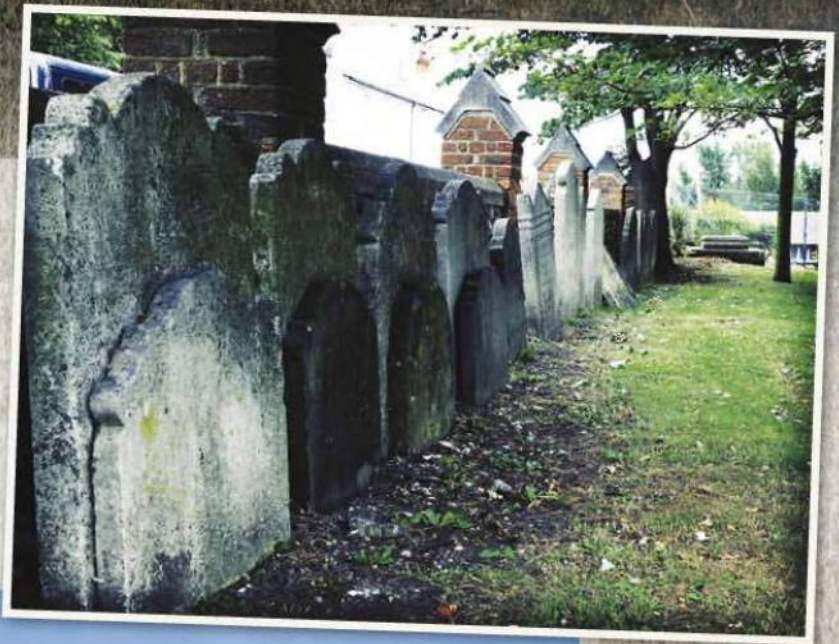
A séance held at the manor in 1896 discovered that its infamous White Lady was the ghost of a nun, excommunicated and murdered. Later, Mad Jack, son of owner Ellen Stanford, found a skeleton buried in the garden and wanted it reburied in consecrated ground. The vicar refused because

the nun was a papist, so she was buried without his consent. Later, she appeared to an army officer, telling him she was wrongly excommunicated and unaware she was now buried in consecrated ground. The officer arranged for Masses for her soul. This did not appease her, as the sightings continued.

The Old Manor on the Wick Estate was haunted by a ghost who scared off caretakers - and also by soldiers occupying the house during the war. *The Argus*, on October 7, 1953, documented the experiences of owner Mr Dudley Gamble-Jones, who was convinced there was a genuine poltergeist at work. Paint bottles were moved out of locked rooms and left in the hallway, heavy corks were taken from acid containers and locked doors were found open. Efforts by ghost-hunters were inconclusive.

After this a funny thing happened. The Phantoms Union, Hove branch, laid down a rule that 'Ghosts should only walk for the purpose of scaring humans, not to entertain or amuse them.'

You have been warned! ☘



BRIGHTHELM CHURCHYARD:

In 1956 children playing in the burial ground were terrified by a dark, hooded figure which glided across the grass before disappearing through a tombstone.
© Janet Cameron



Paranormal Brighton & Hove by Janet Cameron is published by Amberley, priced £12.99.

experiences

Do you have a story to share? Here at Paranormal, we are always interested to hear of our readers' true life experiences of the supernatural. Email your story to: editor@paranormalmagazine.co.uk or write to The Editor, Paranormal Magazine, Jazz Publishing, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester CH4 9AJ.

'Annie' clears her name

It was in April 2008 that I first realised my house was being haunted. As somebody who has had a keen interest in the paranormal since I was nine or ten years old (I'm now 44), and an out-and-out 'believer', I have had a number of encounters with spirits over the years, usually a strong smell (often of perfume or tobacco smoke), occasionally accompanied by the strong feeling of a presence, but this was the first time I had experienced anything in my own home.

At the time I had lived at my current address for over 16 years and had never experienced anything remotely paranormal. So when family photos I have lined up along a bookcase in my living room began literally flying from one side of the room to the other, despite all doors and windows being closed and the heating turned off, and I began to experience extremely loud crashing noises coming from upstairs which sounded like the wardrobe being turned over even though nothing was ever disturbed or out of place, I knew it bore all the hallmarks of a haunting.

These events went on for a couple of months, usually once or twice a day, with the occasional lapse for a short time. They did not particularly concern me since they were not aimed in my direction, but I definitely had the feeling that someone was trying to get my attention. Then one evening a friend of mine, Eddie, dropped by for a visit. Eddie is not a medium but he is interested in the paranormal and a good deal more sensitive to spirits than I am. During the course of our conversation I just happened to mention the recent activity and he immediately said, 'I wasn't going to say anything because I didn't want to worry you, but there is definitely a presence in this house.'

He went on to say he thought the spirit was a male, as it was very strong. For me, this at least confirmed what I had suspected all along, and that the activity wasn't just me misinterpreting normal phenomena. It was time to find out more.

Another friend of mine, Rodger, is

an extremely gifted natural medium. I explained to him what was happening in my house and he immediately agreed to come over and try to discover the cause. When Rodger arrived the following week, the moment he entered the house he was afflicted by an intense, crushing headache. Straight away he said that the energy in the house was very negative, not evil but just a very angry female presence. After what Eddie had said about thinking it was a male I assumed this was a different spirit, but Rodger assured me it was the same one. He also said it was one of the strongest energies he had ever encountered (which would explain her ability to throw photographs and make loud crashing noises).

When Rodger first attempted to make contact with her, she was extremely agitated and kept repeating 'I didn't do it' over and over again. It took Rodger at least ten minutes to get her to calm down enough to get any sense out of her, but even then she would quickly get upset again and start repeating 'I didn't do it' once more. It took quite some time and a lot of patience to find out anything about her, but finally Rodger was able to discover who she was and why she was in my house.

It turned out that her name was Annie. She had apparently been the wife of a rabbit warrener, and one of her jobs had been to take the pelts of the rabbits to the local factory for processing. One day, she was accused of stealing six pelts that had gone missing. She was arrested and imprisoned, and subsequently tried at the Assizes (Quarter Sessions) at the nearby town of Thetford, where she was found guilty and sentenced to death. She was hanged, according to Annie, in July 1794. She was in her mid-twenties when she died.

Now that she had quietened down somewhat, it was easier for Rodger to get more information out of her. It seemed that she was so angry at being falsely accused and then executed that she refused to cross over and had remained here to try and clear her name. Of course, she had quickly discovered that no one could any longer see or hear her, and then as the years had gone by everyone connected to her trial and

punishment had passed away, leaving her alone and trapped and not knowing how to go about crossing over.

Although she did not say so, Rodger felt that I was not the first person she had followed home in an attempt to tell her story and get help, although it seemed as if I was the first to be aware of her presence. When Rodger asked her if she wanted to cross over she said yes without hesitation, although she insisted that she wanted her story to be told and her name cleared. I promised her I would do what I could (which is the reason for me writing to you) and then with some help and guidance from Rodger she was able to cross to the other side.

Many people might think that the above is the result of an over-active imagination, but I can honestly say that since that day there have been no more flying pictures, and no more loud bangs from upstairs.

So much for all the information I had been given, but I wanted to know was if any of it could be substantiated, and, more importantly, if I could find any record of an 'Annie'. The town where I live, Brandon in Suffolk, is located within the Brecks, a vast area of sandy heath and conifer plantations, where I often go for walks. From medieval times up to the early 19th century this area had many warrens where rabbits were farmed for their meat and fur. What I didn't realise until carrying out some research was that at the end of the 18th century Brandon had been an important centre for producing felt for the hat trade, felt that was made from rabbit fur and processed at a large factory in the town. This fact seemed to lend credence to Annie's story.

Further research revealed that Assizes courts were indeed held at Thetford (another fact I did not know), but unfortunately I discovered that the records for Thetford were destroyed in a fire many years ago. A search through the lists of inmates in Norfolk's women's prisons showed plenty of 'Annes' but none that fitted the bill for my ghostly visitor. Despite this failure, I have no reason to doubt the information given to me by Rodger, and I know that what I experienced was quite real.

For now my research continues, in the hope that one day I can find proof that Annie was indeed a real person who suffered a dreadful fate for a petty crime that even now, over two hundred years later, she insists that she did not commit.

Richard J. West, Suffolk

'Family photos I have lined up along a bookcase began literally flying from one side of the room to the other.'

The day I sighted Storsie

I live in Östersund, which is located on the shores of Storsjön (The Great Lake), the fifth largest in Sweden. Since the Viking-era there have been many hundreds of sightings of the Storsjöodjuret, the Great Lake Monster (the animal is depicted on a runestone here!). In 2009 alone there were seven reports of sightings in the local media.

In late July 1977 (I've forgotten the exact date), I was 16 and cycling on my way home after an ordinary day of school. I am on a street called Hornsgatan on the island of Frösön, near Östersund. As I approach a crossing, I look down to the lake, which is two blocks down to make sure that there is no car approaching. For a split second I can clearly see something black, the size of a Volkswagen, rise in the water in the harbour. Within a second, since I am moving forward with some speed, a house is blocking my view. But my brain is sending me the message, 'What the hell was that?'. So I immediately turn around, and in the seconds it takes for me to do that, this black thing has gone.

So I move as fast as I can down there and as I arrive I can see nothing at all in the harbour. There is no boat whatsoever moving (and they are white or have lighter colors in any case). But I do see a few men talking excitedly about half a block from me to the left. I kick myself for it now, but I never approached them. Instead, after a few minutes, I hurried back home and told my mother excitedly of what I had seen.

At this point she tells me that my sister (Maria) and one of her friends have gone to a bridge near a hospital on Frösön a few kilometres away in the hope of spotting Storsie there - the local media had reported a recent sighting there. So my sister and her friend had been sitting there for hours, and meanwhile I had accidentally tripped over something

above right GRIMSTON: What caused this odd patch of 'mist' and why was it not visible on the next photo snapped seconds later? © Vivienne Moulton-Wynne
below A22 FACES: Can you see the faces Martin Cave can see in this anomalous mist? © Martin Cave
below right A22 STAIRS: Another patch of 'mist' hangs over the spot where the ghost of a girl is reputedly seen. © Martin Cave

A couple of mist-eries



These photographs were taken at about 10.45pm on 18/05/2007 at the entrance to Grimston churchyard, near Kings Lynn, Norfolk. I was visiting the churchyard on behalf of a friend and took the picture to show her the state of the churchyard.

At the time of taking the first picture I was not aware of the mist (for want of a better word). I took a second picture 2 to 3 seconds later and as you can see it is perfectly clear. The picture was in a batch of pictures that I had taken that day. I only discovered the anomaly when I downloaded the pictures later that day.

I discovered that a ley-line ends at Grimston churchyard - I don't know if this could have any significance? I am using as reference John Timpson's book *Timpson's Leylines*.

- Some colleagues and I routinely go to a spot on the A22 road at Caterham, Surrey. It is common here for a sighting of the ghost of a girl crossing the road in the early hours.

There photos were taken around 3am on 7th Feb. I took numerous photos and most do not show this smoke/mist. About 5 photos show the smoke. At first I thought it was my breath in the cold air but trying to recreate the effect, I found it is not even similar to these photos. When I took the photos, it was clear and only when I saw the photos did the



smoke effect appear.

On the 'A22 Faces' photo, I was standing in the central reservation, looking to where this girl is supposed to run across the road from. I must stress, there was no smoke around me when I took this.

On reviewing the photo, it appears to show an image of a bald man, head and torso, looking directly at me. Also to the left, I can make out what looks like a face breaking through the smoke. Having shown this photo to friends, others have seen other images as well, which I do not see. I have highlighted the images I see.

'A22 Stairs' is looking at the infamous stairs where the girl is also reported to be standing, looking down at the ground. A colleague is with me on the stairs as well, wearing a hi-viz jacket.

I am neither a believer nor disbeliever, but look for logical reasons for things. It could be water vapour, but few of the photos show this, plus the mist only appears in the area where the ghost is supposed to be - coincidence maybe?

Vivienne Moulton-Wynne (Grimston photos) and Martin Cave (A22 photos), both via email

We receive quite a few pictures of anomalous mists, and several appeared in Janet Bord's 'Ghostly Gallery' last month. Suggestions that they are caused by flash reflecting water vapour invisible to the naked eye is clearly not sustainable in Vivienne's photo taken on a sunny day, and Martin raises reasons to doubt this explanation in the case of his photos. Both would love to learn the opinions of other *Paranormal Magazine* readers - what do you think caused these anomalies?



mysterious literally just a couple of blocks from home.

Forty minutes later, I decided to go down there again, and this is when the real thing happened. Again, I am on my bike, and within seconds I can spot two girls about my age screaming and pointing at the pier. Suddenly, I can see what they have seen, as an unknown animal comes into my view swimming towards the girls at the edge of the harbour towards the bridges and the town.

As you can imagine, I get myself over there as fast as I possibly can, and there it is. Clear as day. I just know that this is Storsie. It is within 10 metres from us. I start to walk by the shore (which is built in such a way that it steps down) just looking at it. It is about three metres in length, what I could see of it. First there is a head or (most likely) the back of a neck, then some water, followed by the bulk of the body. It moves along like a boat upside down. It does not move like a snake would, it just moves straight forward, and I have no idea what makes it behave like that.

After having followed it for some distance, I start to feel that I must see more and in my head I suddenly thinks that if I piss it off I may get to see it raise its head out of the water. I know it sounds crazy now, and I am not proud of it, but I picked up a small rock and threw it, but missed. I never tried a second time because I did not want to lose a second of watching this animal finding another rock. Then, after about 300 metres from the pier, it decided to dive and that was it.

Today, a small place designed for swimmers is located at the spot, but it was not there back then. As I was standing there looking out, I realized that a small boat with two or three people in it, was circling around for a few minutes closer to the bridge to my right, as if they were clearly on the lookout for something. Also, there is every chance that witnesses could have seen this from cars from the bridge itself.

For me, the story ended there. I guess I wanted to get back to my bike before somebody could nick it, so I went back to the harbour again and then onwards to home. The next day I realized that if I had jumped onto my bike and moved myself in a hurry to the smaller bridge beyond the main one, I could possibly have seen it from the bridge it had passed beneath, because on a fine summer day you can see the stones at the bottom there. Needless to say, I regret this to this day because had I seen it from that angle, I would have known much more about actual size and so on.

In my defence, I think it is safe to say that your brain is not operating properly in a situation like this. How could it?

You have just seen something that supposedly should not even exist. That is one hell of an experience.

At home, my mother thought that I should report this to our newspaper, so we did. I promised them a drawing (I was making my own comics at the time, so I knew how to draw) so I grabbed a sheet and a pen and headed down to the harbour. Sadly, I do not have the exact date of the sighting, but I found out that it was in print in late July. I only wish that some of the other witnesses from that day will make a late appearance and say 'Hey, I was there.' A bit late now, but it would be interesting to meet somebody who shared the experience.

If you want to know what's going on with Storsie, please visit my blog at www.myspace.com/storsie.

Mike Eriksson, Sweden

RESPONSES

Mystic geography

I read the article on Psychogeography in the February issue of *Paranormal* with great interest. The adoption of occult ideas into psychogeography has been a major characteristic of 'anglo-psychogeography' (along with its literariness) and Robert Goodman name-checks most of the main players.

This has been a cause of some controversy among those who borrow from the situationists. Debord was very anti-occult and also rejected the surrealists' use of chance. But another 'sit', Agar Jorn, cheerfully referenced esoteric and paranormal practices (though not indiscriminately) as a means to disrupt orthodox ways of seeing and image-making.

Perhaps the biggest gripe is that the occultist-psychogeographers have somewhat overwhelmed the anti-art political activism and social theorising from which psychogeography arose. I think there is something to be said for this argument, but I don't think that one makes the other inevitable.

The mythogeography project (www.mythogeography.com) is at least partly an attempt to restore the politics and activity - the group 'drift' - to psychogeography as just two of a multitude of different discourses that includes those of the occult, the esoteric and what Charles Fort might call 'the procession of damned data'.

The just published *Mythogeography* book takes the form of a documentary-fictional collection of the internal documents, diary fragments, letters, emails, narratives, notebooks and handbooks of a loose coalition of performers, 'alternative' walkers, artists and lay geographers. All illustrated in full

colour by Tony Weaver, who designed the Wrights & Sites' *Mis-Guide* books.

The fragmentary and slippery format recognises the loosely interwoven and rapidly evolving uses of walking today: as performance, as exploration, as urban resistance, as activism, as an ambulatory practice of geography, as meditation, as post-tourism, as dissident mapping, as subversion of and rejoicing in the everyday and the extraordinary. *Mythogeography* celebrates that interweaving and is an attempt at a handbook for those who want to be part of it.

O, and by the way, I'm part of the Devon cluster, as mentioned in your 'Location, location, location' editorial!

Phil Smith, via email

My Deathworm discoveries

In 2005 I took an expedition into the Mongolian Gobi in search of the deathworm [see Dr Karl Shuker's article in the March issue]. We travelled 1,000 miles through the Gobi and interviewed dozens of witnesses. Their descriptions dovetailed nicely. To a man they said the deathworm had scales. One even drew them onto his crude sketch of the animal. Not a single one of them associated the deathworm with the supernatural. All said it was a real flesh and blood animal.

The description was of a creature on average 2-feet long and shaped like a salami. It was of a reddish brown colour but a couple of people said it was grey. All dismissed the supposed electrical power, or throwing lightning as they called it. They believed it was venomous and could spit poison but no one knew anyone who had been killed by it. A sighting could send whole communities into a panic and they would pack up and leave the area.

Most witnesses said the creature was just lying inert on the ground but one man saw one eating a mouse and a woman saw one slithering down a hole. One retired colonel saw it just after rainfall and said its scales were shining with the rain. He postulated that this was where the myth of electrical power came from.

I can confirm that the goyo is not poisonous but is the most tasty vegetable I have ever tasted. I was given one by a nomad's wife. It has the texture of celery and the flavour of a banana.

We concluded, much like Karl, that the worm was a reptile, possibly a worm-lizard or sand boa. The CFZ are hoping to return to the Gobi for a second deathworm hunt later in the year.

**Richard Freeman,
Zoological Director Centre for
Fortean Zoology**

strange goings-on

Paranormal Magazine will be pleased to publish summaries of notable investigations by regional paranormal groups. Please contact the editor in the first instance with a short summary of 'where, when and what happened' by emailing: editor@paranormalmagazine.co.uk

Extra-sensory common sense

JASON CARTER, of Para-Investigations, tells us about the ethos of his group and highlights some of their successes.

Para-Investigations is now one of the UK's leading independent paranormal investigation teams and our members provide a balanced investigation approach due to the range of beliefs they possess. Para-investigations was launched by two experienced paranormal investigators, Jason Carter and Rob Embleton, with the aim of gathering evidence of the paranormal in a professional, respectful and scientific manner. We now have teams based across the UK and have visited some of the most haunted locations in the country.

Our team is self-funded so we undertake occasional paranormal events where the public joins us on an investigation. We carry out these events to raise funds for new equipment, contribute to our Public Liability Insurance, cover costs of

expensive venues and to meet people with a similar interest. Particular emphasis is placed on the safety of the participants, both physical and spiritual.

We aim to investigate more interesting and varied venues each year. We have visited some amazing locations such as: Amhurst Fort in Kent, where we captured some fantastic photos of a spirit lady; The Busby Stoop in Thirsk, where a penny was thrown over the heads of the investigation team and into a bucket; Clitheroe Castle, where we caught the sound of marching on our night vision camera; The Heritage markets in Liverpool, where we caught a group of spirit people huddled together; and Ordsall Hall, Salford, where we caught a strange figure; Hyde Town Hall.

We use four genuine night vision

THE HUB: A team member keeps an eye on all the cameras set up at an investigated location. © Para-Investigations



cameras for our hub, ensuring that the feeds we get are dust-free and real. Our camera feeds go through a converter and are then wirelessly transmitted to the hub (up to 50m). By using only very short runs of cable, ie from the cameras to the modem, we reduce the amount of noise normally seen on other systems.

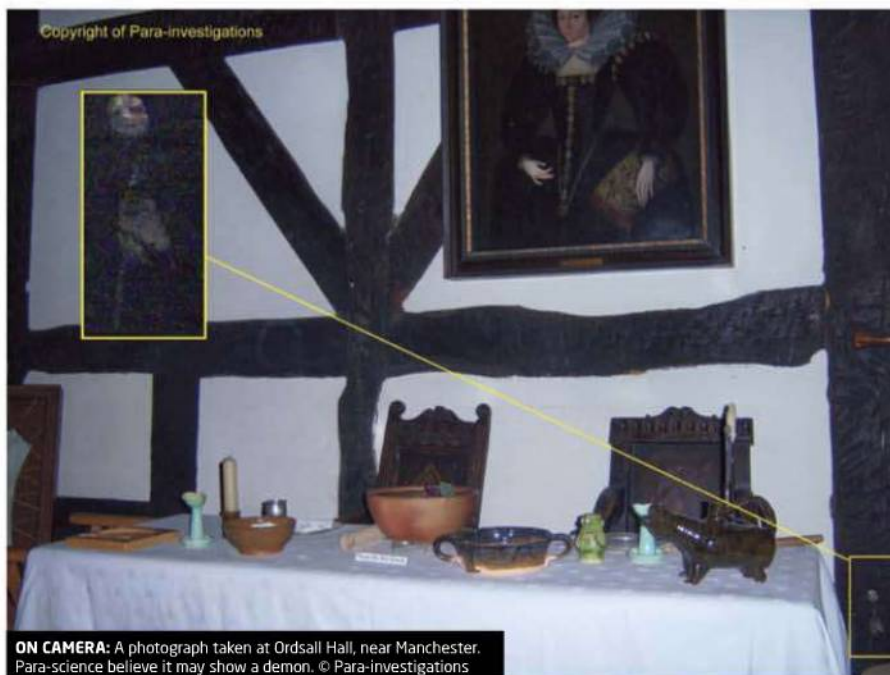
We also use locked-off motion detection equipment in some rooms with known activity and motion detection software linked to specially built laptops and night-vision cameras. On a large investigation we can use in excess of 10 motion detection cameras and they are locked off in specific rooms alongside EVP detection equipment and environmental data loggers.

We always record the investigation in a report where we try and cross-reference the findings back to historical data.

Our main communication techniques include glass divination, table tipping, séances, dowsing, crystal work and EMF and EVP experiments. We are primarily a technical team but we also work with mediums to try and communicate with spirits. Our best piece of equipment is the investigator, however, and we ask all the team to challenge everything they see, hear and feel, because not every noise or light is paranormal.

Para-Investigations have well established paranormal investigation techniques and we normally get some amazing results. The main drive for the team is to remain an independent paranormal investigation group which allows us to record an honest account of the night and not be biased towards satisfying paying customers. Our team members never invent activity and we would much rather leave a venue finding nothing than having a fictional paranormal experience!

Read more about the teams and the full reports of their investigations at www.para-investigations.co.uk



ON CAMERA: A photograph taken at Ordsall Hall, near Manchester. Para-science believe it may show a demon. © Para-Investigations

'We ask all the team to challenge everything they see, hear and feel, because not every noise or light is paranormal.'

Books



Strange Things: Father Allan, Ada Goodrich Freer and the Second Sight

By **John L. Campbell & Trevor H. Hall**
Published by **Birlinn**
RRP **£9.99** pb
Reviewed by **John Stoker**

Like many other organisations, the early years of the Society for Psychical Research suffered from growing pains as it attempted to find its feet.

In 1892 it set up an investigation into the phenomenon of Second Sight which seemed to be prevalent in the highlands and islands of West Scotland. The project was headed by Ada Goodrich Freer, a young lady whose ability as an investigator was far outweighed by her ability to charm most of the people she met. She was lucky enough to encounter Fr Allan McDonald, a local priest, collector of folklore and a chronicler of strange tales, who gave her access to his journals which provided the basis for her further studies.

The investigation, financed by Lord Bute, involved much travel by Miss Goodrich Freer and was abandoned after no conclusive results appeared to be forthcoming and ended in acrimony.

But the young lady's career in psychical research was destined for even more controversy. With further financial help from Lord Bute, she set about investigating Ballechin House, an old property in Perthshire, which was alleged to be the most haunted house in Scotland. Once again her investigation appeared to lack the necessary leadership, descending into a haunted house party, and was criticised in the pages of *The Times*, where the SPR distanced itself from Goodrich Freer, claiming that it had no involvement in the matter.

This welcome reprint of a book first published in 1968 chronicles the Scottish adventures of Ada Goodrich Freer, one of the most colourful and controversial psychic investigators, as well as her early life and later career up to her death in New York. It also offers an insight into the early years of the SPR and the work of some of its founding fathers. But its most valuable asset is the reprinting of stories from the journals of Fr Allan McDonald, providing some truly strange stories from an equally strange land.



Book, DVD & Game reviews from back issues can be found online at:
www.paranormalmagazine.co.uk



Images of the Wildman in Southeast Asia: An Anthropological Perspective

By **Gregory Forth**
Published by **Routledge**
RRP **£95** HB
Reviewed by **Richard Freeman**

Images of the Wildman in Southeast Asia concentrates mainly on Indonesia and is unquestionably the most detailed and comprehensive work of its kind.

Forth has put an impressive amount of work, not only in visiting most of the areas in question repeatedly for over 20 years but in delving into old records, foreign journals and books, and even unpublished papers and works.

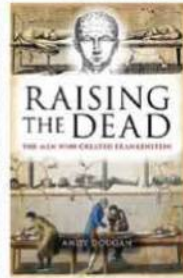
The main subject is the Ebu-gogo of Flores and the detailed account of their destruction at the hands of local tribes who were supposed to have trapped them with burning plant material in a cave. He also looks at alleged modern-day sightings and the possibility that Ebu-gogo may have been one in the same as the tiny hominid *Homo floresiensis*.

The chapter on the orang-pendek of Sumatra draws on much previously unseen material. A lot of this is from Dutch colonial times. There are also unpublished accounts from the researches of Debbie Martyr, the person who, perhaps, knows more about this creature than anyone else alive.

Other chapters look at wildmen on other island chains, on mainland Asia, Australasia, Europe and North America. Sadly South America, a continent rich in wildman lore, is excluded for reasons of space. None of these other chapters go into as much detail as those on Indonesian wildmen.

One of the few marks against the book is Forth's general dismissal of larger wildmen. This seems illogical. He states, for example that most early Sasquatch reports were of creatures smaller than men, which is quite untrue, and gives credence to the 'Jacko' story of 1884 where a small Bigfoot-like creature was supposedly captured in by railway workers. The story was almost certainly a newspaper hoax.

This minor quibble aside, Forth's work is a really quite staggering piece of research and an invaluable tool for reference on this little studied subject.



Raising the Dead

Written by **Andy Dougan**
Published by **Birlinn**
RRP **£9.99** pb
Reviewed by **Mark Greener**

Raising the Dead is a contender for my book of the year. Dougan's achieved the almost impossible task of saying something new about *Frankenstein* by focusing on one incident. In 1818 - the same year Mary Shelley published her groundbreaking gothic novel - a judge in Glasgow sentenced murderer Matthew Clydesdale to hang and his body undergo public dissection.

During the dissection, Professor Andrew Ure connected parts of Clydesdale's anatomy to a battery - with, *The Scotsman*, reported 'truly appalling' results. When Ure applied current to the legs, Clydesdale's corpse kicked with sufficient 'violence as nearly to overturn one of the assistants'. Applied to a nerve in the neck, Clydesdale showed 'laborious breathing'. Applying the current to the face threw the muscles into 'fearful action... several spectators left the room, and one gentleman actually fainted from terror'.

Clydesdale's case, fascinating in its own right, allows Dougan to dissect the intellectual strands that Shelley wove to create *Frankenstein* as well as to uncover some skeletons in modern medicine's closet. Pioneering work by Ure and others into electricity's biological effects led, as Dougan describes, from stimulating corpses of frogs, kittens and murderers to treatments for paralysis, pacemakers and defibrillators, which saved countless lives. An excellent, highly recommended book.



DVDs



The Twilight Saga: New Moon

Directed by: **Chris Weitz**
Price: **£19.99**
Reviewed by: **Fergus McShane**

After the astonishing fandom, popularity and success of the first film in the *Twilight Saga*, part two of Stephanie Meyer's novel series turned film franchise has had a lot to live up to.

New Moon sees change in the air in Forks when the Cullen family, including Bella's heartthrob, Edward, leave the town over fears for her safety. After a deep depression overcomes her, Bella finds herself growing closer to the buff Jacob Black and embroiled in the world of werewolves, the ancestral enemies of the vampire.

Unfortunately, *New Moon* in no way matches the tone, sentiment or freshness of the first instalment. Instead we are presented with a tragic romance that is utterly devoid of passion, emotion and rawness, where everything to do with the love triangle in the slow-paced, two-hour tale is portrayed through expressionless and decidedly hammy teen-angst glares.

Ostensibly based on sexual repression, far from just toning down the sexual aspects of vampires for teen audiences, it seems to awkwardly condemn the idea of sex or lust, leaving the finished product dull and predictable.

None of this will stop *New Moon* from being a huge success, because at its core it is essentially an enjoyable, if lifeless, piece of escapism and because fans of Meyer's source material will undoubtedly stick with this series to the tepid end. And having a deeper knowledge of the story they will be able to look past the seemingly random plot movement in the first half of the film.





Games



Dante's Inferno
 Format: **PS3 (tested)**, 360
 Publisher: **EA**
 Developer: **Visceral Games**
 Reviewed by: **Gary S. Darcy**

Inferno: the abode of Satan and the last call for all the dark deeds of mankind. The developers of *Dante's Inferno* have a rich seam from which to extract an epic adventure that has captured the imagination of saint and sinner alike.

Initial cut scenes bode well and the mature themes are effectively carried forward into the opening levels. These consist of cavernous environments inhabited by the souls of the lost and loathsome suffering at the hands of minions, whose sole purpose it is to torture and oppress lost souls.

The combat is promising at first: our hero dispatches minions, minotaurs and suitably repulsive bosses, complemented by the ability to punish or absolve lesser creatures of their sins with a QTE for the former and button presses for the latter.

The game does not hide its influences and although comparisons with *God of War* and *Devil May Cry* are inevitable, they are not - to begin with - detrimental. However, before you rush out to spend your 40 pounds, you may want to take in the inscription above the entrance to hell: 'Abandon hope all that enter.'

It is not long past Gluttony that you begin to think you are playing a different game. The environments and enemies begin to repeat and diminish and hell is to be found in repetitive combat, poor camera angles and distracting, irrelevant puzzles. Unfortunately, this road to hell is paved with good intentions.



Phantasy Star 0
 Format: **DS** Publisher: **Sega**
 Developer: **Sega (in-house)**
 Reviewed by: **Gary S. Darcy**

The light that burns twice as bright, burns for half as long - and SEGA's dream machine burned so very, very brightly with some great titles accompanying it.

Since the premature demise of the Dreamcast, various attempts have been made to bring *Phantasy Star* to a new generation of consoles, with varying success. The new DS version has Wireless and Wi-Fi Story modes and, as with the original, the single player experience is the weakest of the three.

The game hub, or 'City', provides

access to various traders and following initiation into the Dairon City hunter's guild; the player can access the portal to complete various quests.

The feel of the original was captured well, but as a single player experience the game does not stand up to similar titles on the DS. The Wi-Fi modes make for a satisfying co-operative experience, requiring players to co-ordinate attacks and think carefully about tactics and weapon selection, especially when facing some of the larger and meaner bosses.

The main pivot of this real-time RPG is the combat, and most of the weapons handle well, although the targeting system for handheld weapons can frustrate and the game is crying out for a rotating camera during battle.

Considering the limitations of the DS, the 3D environments are well presented and SEGA have to be commended for bringing the cooperative spirit of the original to the DS.



Planet 51
 Format: **PS3, 360 (tested)**, Wii, DS
 Publisher: **Sega**
 Developer: **Pyro Studios**
 Reviewed by: **Gary S. Darcy**

Planet 51 ticks all the boxes for a children's game based on a movie. It looks nice, it is well animated, the story is formulaic fun and the people are green...

The environments are surprisingly large, look good and harbour well-drawn characters with a distinct style. The game's main quests are from the open-world school of *Grand Theft Auto* sandboxes, albeit with the tone of Pleasantville, USA. Lem, the main character, can earn and 'borrow' vehicles as opposed to stealing them from the innocent clutches of other drivers.

A racing game at heart, the vehicles handle like a cross between a bumper-car and a hover mower, though the races themselves do little to raise the stakes or the pulse. The physics are well implemented but those floaty controls do make driving feel like riding a bicycle with twisted handlebars and will prove frustrating for many younger players.

Considering the effort put into making this a pleasant experience in-keeping with the franchise's tone, the developers have been a little stingy with regard to vehicle availability. Particularly in the opening stages, there is little fun to be had in the initial chores, mowing an old woman's lawn while avoiding the flowerbeds doesn't encourage persistence, regardless of the prospect of your own set of wheels.

The game does mix things up later, offering up the roles of peripheral characters Chuck and robotic pet dog Rex. It's not enough to sustain prolonged interest, but for the legions of fans marching to the counter, it may just suffice.



Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant
 Directed by: **Paul Weitz**
 Price: **£19.99**
 Reviewed by: **Fergus McShane**

The first of another possible new franchise involving vampires, werewolves, magic and mysticism aimed squarely at teens kicks off with an amalgamation of the first two novels in a 12-part series.

While many will look at this with a sense of déjà vu and cashing-in on vampires because of the recent *Twilight* saga, it must be mentioned that this novel series is a precursor and possible inspiration to Stephanie Meyer's series and one which received almost as much success on its literary release. Unfortunately, this similarity was not the case with the cinematic release.

Telling the tale of Darren Shan, we follow a regular teen turned half-vamp who starts on the path of destiny. Joining the relative safety of the travelling Cirque du Freak he finds a new family and mentor in the vampire, Mr Crepsley (John C. Reilly).

Initial response to this movie is that of light-hearted fun. Regrettably, from here this film becomes convoluted, chaotic and ultimately forgettable. Though there is talent on display in Reilly, Salma Hayek and Ken Watanabe to name a few, they seem to sweep through, dragging a lifeless film along. There are simply too many nonsensical plot points and time slips to create any coherency in *Cirque du Freak*.

The biggest failing for the franchise's future is that it takes itself a little too seriously while simultaneously trying to force comedy. Coupled with an awkward tone that doesn't appeal to either adult or teen audiences head on, this may be one vampire epic we don't get to see play out.



Jennifer's Body
 Directed by: **Karyn Kusama**
 Price: **£19.99**
 Reviewed by: **Fergus McShane**

Any film based around the fact that Megan Fox is attractive was never going to set the world alight in terms of quality. It is therefore a surprise that there is something more than your run-of-the-mill high-school horror in *Jennifer's Body* than meets the eye.

When a struggling indie band aims for world fame by sacrificing a virgin to the devil, they mistakenly choose Jennifer (Megan Fox), turning her into a demonic cheerleader as a by-product. She must now devour people in order to remain beautiful and strong, leading her on a high-school gory killing spree that her best friend must somehow stop.

Much of the higher-than-expected quality is presumably down to the film being penned by Diablo Cody, who is a hot prospect for the future of offbeat Hollywood. And *Jennifer's Body* as a result has an interesting satirical edge that plays nicely on the fact that while being a teenager is bad enough with all the teen hormones flying around, adding a demonic presence makes teen life downright horrific.

This is by no means a classic in the making of *Carrie* ilk, but *Jennifer's Body* has enough promise to hold its own. The downside of the film, however, is that it doesn't quite fit as an all out gore-filled horror, nor does it altogether work as a tongue-in-cheek comedy, instead getting lost unsatisfyingly in between.



PaganShop1
www.paganshop1.com

**Officially the no.1
Spiritual Site**

www.paganshop1.com

**Candlelightcraft
Limited**

Angels & Cherubs, Aromatherapy Oils,
Burners & Gifts, Books & Journals, Candles
& Holders, CDs Music Meditation Hypnosis
Crystal Balls, Pendulums, Scrying, Ouija
Boards, Crystals & Gemstones, Spells, Altar &
Ritual Supplies, Tarot & Oracle Cards, Tiaras

www.candlelightcraft.co.uk

PSYCHIC TAROT

60p **LIVE 1-2-1**

09049 555 541

Eire Callers **1580-787-707**
Credit Card **0871-989-9900**

Box50285 EC3P 3WY. 60p/min. All calls recorded. Helpdesk: 0845 053 0508.

**HOROSCOPE
TEXT**

**TXT HOROP
Followed By
DDMMYY To
83888**
(eg. Horop DDMMYY)

Box50285 EC3P 3WY. Subscription service.
Texts received at £1.50 each. Send STOP to
83888. Help:0845 053 0508.

**Unlock
Your Future**

60p

**09055
700735**

Eire **1580-787-707**
Credit Cards **0871-989-9900**

Box50285 EC3P 3WY. 60p/min.
All calls recorded. Helpdesk: 0845 053 0508.

**EVER HAD PROBLEMS
FINDING A COPY
OF PARANORMAL
MAGAZINE IN YOUR
LOCAL NEWSAGENT?**

**USE THE ORDER FORM BELOW
TO RESERVE A COPY OF
PARANORMAL MAGAZINE WITH
YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT.**

**Don't Miss Out
Just ask!**

Your local newsagent to
order this magazine

NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

Take this completed form, or a copy of it, to your local newsagent who will reserve your copy of Paranormal Magazine. Some newsagents even offer a home delivery making it even easier to ensure you don't miss an issue. Once set up, your copy of Paranormal Magazine will be held for you to collect, saving you the time and the frustration of having to search the newsstand.

So don't miss an issue, simply complete this form and take to your local newsagent today!

Please reserve/deliver* a copy of **PARANORMAL MAGAZINE** on a regular basis, commencing with the _____ issue. *delete as appropriate

YOUR DETAILS Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

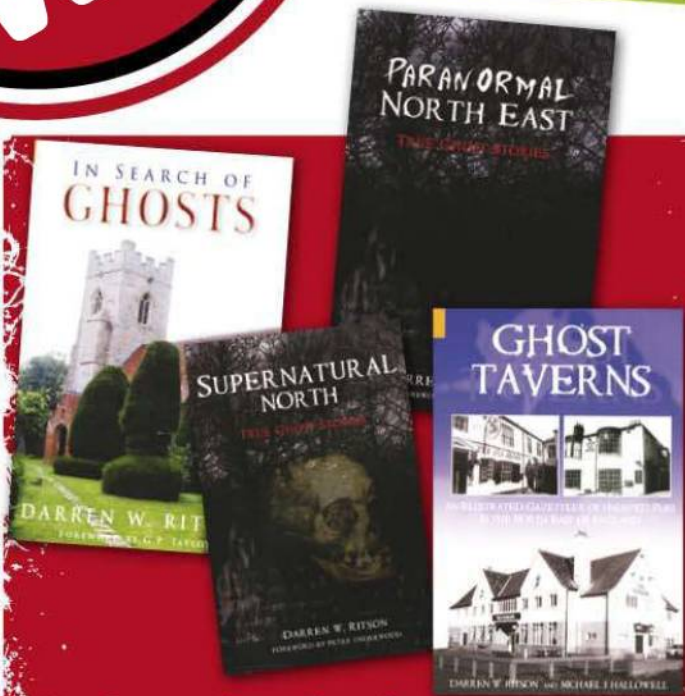
Paranormal
Exploring the world of the unexplained

Just ask!

WIN

Final date for all competition entries is **Monday, April 26.**

Competitions



Four books by UK ghost-hunter Darren Ritson

Darren Ritson is well-known to readers of *Paranormal Magazine*. His article on a fascinating investigation into ghostly goings on in The Shambles, York, was a highlight of last month's issue, for example.

Based in the North-East of England, Darren is the founder of the G.H.O.S.T. research group and is not only a seasoned investigator of paranormal phenomena but also a prolific author.

Darren's publisher, Amberley, have kindly donated two sets of FOUR of Darren's entertaining and informative books detailing his adventures with spooks: *In Search of Ghosts*, *Supernatural North*, *Paranormal North-East* and *Ghost Taverns* (the latter co-written with Tyneside-based colleague Mike Hollowell).

For your chance to win a set of these great books, log on to paranormalmagazine.co.uk/competitions and be prepared to answer this question:

Darren Ritson is the founder member of which paranormal research group?

Ouija Board from Tranquil Light

Tranquil Light, a psychic services and supplies company based in Sheffield, Yorkshire, has kindly presented *Paranormal Magazine* with two stunning Ouija Boards for our Competitions page this month.

The Ouija Board was first patented in Baltimore, USA, in 1891, and was intended as a game – it was claimed that the planchette moved in response to subtle suggestions from the subconscious. However, so-called 'talking boards' to contact the spirit world have been around a lot longer and the Ouija Board soared in popularity for this purpose during the terrible years of the First World War.

Some people are nervous about using a Ouija Board, fearing that it might attract mischievous or evil spirits – but Tranquil Light's designs are so bold they would look fine displayed on a wall and need not be used at all.

We have two Ouija Boards from Tranquil Light to give away. For your chance to win one, log on to paranormalmagazine.co.uk/competitions and be prepared to answer this question:

In what year was the Ouija Board first patented?



The Picture of Dorian Gray audio book

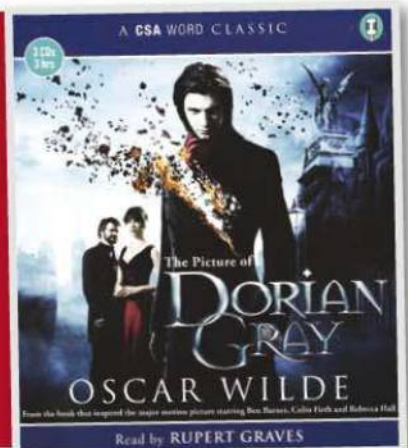
The Picture of Dorian Gray is one of Oscar Wilde's masterpieces and one of the last great gothic novels of the 19th century. A tale of supernatural evil, it is also a masterly social satire on the hidden underworld of Victorian vice simmering below the apparent respectability of the upper classes. The novel also contains some of Wilde's wittiest – and for the time shocking – quips and aphorisms.

The Picture of Dorian Gray has seen many stage and screen adaptations and recently saw renewed success in a sumptuous adaptation starring Ben Barnes, Colin Firth and Rebecca Hall.

CSA Word has now produced an absorbing audio book presentation of this classic novel, superbly read by actor Rupert Graves, best known for his appearances in the Merchant-Ivory movies of E M Forster's novels, such as *Maurice* and *A Room With a View*.

CSA Word has donated five copies of *Dorian Gray* audio book to give away. For your chance to win a copy, log on to paranormalmagazine.co.uk/competitions and be prepared to answer this question:

Who wrote *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?



You may also enter by post. Please write your answer, with your full name and contact details, onto a postcard or sealed-down envelope and send it to:
Competitions, Paranormal Magazine, Jazz Publishing, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester CH4 9AJ.



BOOKEND

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Jonathan Downes



In the last 15 years the world of cryptozoology has acquired a major new icon: the chupacabra. Originally the term, which literally means 'goatsucker' in Spanish, was used to describe a semi-bipedal, almost kangaroo-like creature which I, whilst in a frivolous moment back in 1997, described as looking like 'Sonic the Hedgehog on acid'. In the intervening years the term seems to have become a catch-all usage to describe any Hispanic bogeyman or monster.

In the early summer of 2004, Nick Redfern and I were sitting, soaked to the skin, in a small café on the outskirts of Canovenas on the island of Puerto Rico, in the company of Ismael Aguayo, one of the head honchos in the Canovenas civil defence and also one of the world's foremost chupacabra investigators.

Ismael had been called to investigate the first known chupacabra incident in March 1995 when eight sheep were discovered dead, each with three puncture wounds in the chest area and completely drained of blood. He told me that soon after that incident he and a friend, sitting in the self-same café where we were sheltering from the storm, had coined the term 'chupacabra' to describe the unknown perpetrator of this series of killings.

In the intervening years (nine at the time of our conversation) the term had spread to include appearances of other monstrous creatures, some with wings, and some with sickle-shaped claws, all across the Spanish speaking New World.

A few weeks after our conversation, a rancher near San Antonio, Texas, killed a hairless dog-like creature which was attacking his livestock. For reasons I've never been able to fathom, this hairless blue dog was also described as a chupacabra, and the term became synonymous with these blue dogs after a

news report stated: 'at the nearby Deleon's Grocery and Market, customers came in to check out pictures of it. One woman said it was exactly how her grandmother described the dreaded chupacabra.'

Now I was in San Antonio investigating the case only four months after the creature was shot and I have spent the last five years ridiculing this news story. How could this woman claim the creature is like something her grandmother called a chupacabra when we all know the term was invented by my mate Ismael? But have I got it wrong?

My Spanish is far from perfect so I may have misunderstood Ismael. Is it possible that what Ismael actually told me was that he and his mate had simply co-opted the term chupacabra from the shared folklore of the Hispanic peoples of the New World rather than invented it? If so this puts an entirely new light on the whole affair.

An awful lot rests on this so I am appealing to readers of this magazine for help. Can you find any written and citable references to the use of the word chupacabra (or any reasonable variant of same) in print before the spring of 1995?

There is no doubt that there were vampiric attacks on livestock in the area going back for decades, but were any of them called the chupacabra? Does the name chupacabra turn up in children's fairy tales? Or in comic books? Or anywhere else? And if so, how far back does it really go?

Please do not hesitate to contact me either through *Paranormal Magazine* or by email to Jon@eclipse.co.uk

Jon Downes

Jon Downes is director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology (CFZ), which is committed to the investigation of reports of mysterious creatures around the world. The CFZ is based in Devon and paid for by public subscription. Jon has written many books and articles on cryptozoology and his various monster-hunting adventures.

'I HAVE SPENT THE LAST FIVE YEARS RIDICULING THIS STORY. BUT HAVE I GOT IT WRONG? AN AWFUL LOT RESTS ON THIS, SO I AM APPEALING FOR HELP.'



**This is a reinactment.*

Bigfoot Lives In Oklahoma

Own one square foot of Bigfoot Country for

Only £11.88

Order Today!

Bigfoot has been spotted numerous times in the Kiamichi Mountains of South Eastern Oklahoma. The Kiamichi Range in South Eastern Oklahoma has areas that have not been touched by man in years, gated areas that are off limits. Sasquatch prefers high mountain wood lands that are pretty much inaccessible.

Own One Square foot of land in the middle of this awesome environment. We will deed you one square foot of this land for the preservation of this untouched land that could easily be part of the migration sights of Sasquatch/Bigfoot.

You will be registered for the ownership of this land in the corporate records of Big Foot Country Inc. We will be responsible for all taxes.

You will receive a legal deed of title to this land that will be suitable for framing, as well as keeping an area totally absent of man so Sasquatch/Bigfoot will not be interrupted in their natural habitat. What a gift for family members, a legal deed to this unique land. Everyone can afford to purchase one square foot of land in the Kiamichi Mountains located near the top of this mountain range.

30 Day Money Back Guarantee If Not Completely Satisfied

Order Online At www.bigfootcountry.com.uk

Cheque Enclosed Bill My Credit Card

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ MC/Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City, State, Country, Zip _____

Signature _____

**Mail This Coupon To: Bigfoot Country, Inc.
BM Box 4141
London WC1N 3XX**

# of Deeds	Price Each	Total	S&H	Total Remitted
	£11.88		£3.28	

30 Day Money Back Guarantee If Not Completely Satisfied

www.journal-plaza.net & www.freedowns.net



WE WANT FRESH BLOOD

We are looking for sharp eyed individuals to help us crack one of three cases.
If you think you can handle it then come along to CSI: The Experience, Bullring.
Strong minds and clear thinkers apply within!

NOW OPEN, BULLRING, BIRMINGHAM



CSI: THE EXPERIENCE™

A hands-on, hi-tech and completely immersive interactive
entertainment experience that makes YOU the crime-cracker.

• THE UK PREMIERE •

0844 338 0338

CSIBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

Price: Adults £9.75 Children (up to 17 years old) £7.00

Concessions and group discounts available

Blog: www.csibirmingham.wordpress.com

Facebook: search "CSI: Birmingham"

Twitter: www.twitter.com/csibrum

Opening times:

Mon-Sat 11am-8pm Sun 11am-5pm

theticketfactory.com™

