

PHENOMENA

The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

ISSUE 2 - JUNE 2009



BUSTING THE GHOSTBUSTERS

'WHO YA GONNA CALL'...

TRY A RATIONAL INVESTIGATOR.



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BUSTING THE GHOSTBUSTERS...

Over the years quite a large number of organisations come and go, but only the most skilled and professional usually remain. Nowerdays the investigation of Paranormal Phenomena is common and the general public are usually more aware as to what phenomena consists of. Since the 1980s, there have been a steady increase in the subjects interest due to shows such as The X-Files, and in more recent times the TV Show Most Haunted has become a regular family viewing. But do not be decieved!



It has been confirmed by numerous associates that such TV Shows as Most Haunted fake paranormal disturbances, such as pretending to be touched, to have heard a ghostly voice, to have seen an apparition. Even small stones are often thrown about by the team so to blame it on the paranormal. Psychics and mediums are not recognised as having any form of ability and are usually just winging it via having prior knowledge of locations and the alleged activity that takes place there. Most Haunted is simply TV entertainment (if that's what you want to call it), and is nothing like the real forms of investigation carried out by reputable organisations. Investigators have stayed over night in many of the locations you see on Most Haunted and have reported next to nothing taking place, however, every time Most Haunted go into a location, all hell breaks loose. Unfortunately, shows like this often mislead people into thinking paranormal investigation is the same as it is seen on TV.

Apart from such TV Shows, there are also many organisations around the country that openly admit the use of alleged psychics and mediums as part of the investigatory procedure. By doing this they become unprofessional and bias. Their belief in the mediums ability can often muddy the waters. To this end MAPIT & UPIA adopt the none use of psychics and mediums unless they are acredited by a parapsychological department. This protocol is similar to the No Hypnosis Policy that was enforced within the organisations some years back because it was quickly recognised that this method was useless for eliciting the truth. However, many organisations still use hypnosis as a means of obtaining true hidden memories.

Some organisations are only interested in obtaining the next best photo of a ghost, or to get themselves on TV etc. MAPIT have been involved in clean-up cases many times. A clean-up case is when you are required to take over an investigation because another organisation has done a poor job of it, often resulting in an unhappy witness. Many organisations do not have a procedure nor the knowledge how to assist a family through such a crisis. Even sensative and thought to be confidential information has been submitted to magazines, newspaper and TV Shows by investigators of organisations around the country. There are a lot of silly things going on out there! Some investigators get witnesses to perform or take part in seances. Getting witnesses to pay them for the service they provide is also not unheard of. Some will even give terrible advice such as telling the witnesses that they should move home or get rid of a personal item or object. It is simply because of the above that MAPIT & UPIA conduct their investigations in a scientific manner and that investigators have a wide range of knowledge such as forensic parapsychology and anomalistic psychology. So if your thinking of becoming a UPIA or MAPIT investigator,....

Better Leave Your Beliefs At The Door!



PARAPSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT STARTS TESTING ALLEGED MEDIUMS & PSYCHICS



Julie Beischel, PhD

As a society, we are fascinated by individuals who experience regular alleged communication with the dead. Mediums and the “bodily challenged” individuals with whom they communicate have become ubiquitous in popular culture. As with any natural phenomenon, bringing mediumship into the laboratory allows for its controlled and repeated examination. The scientific study of mediums is actually over a century old. Today, we can confidently offer the conclusion that during mediumship readings, certain mediums can report accurate and specific information about the deceased loved ones, known as “discarnates” of living people, or “sitters.”

They do this without any prior knowledge about the discarnates or sitters, in the absence of any sensory feedback, and without using fraud or deception. Investigating mediums in the lab should include two equally important factors: an optimal research environment and maximum experimental controls. This increases the probability of capturing the phenomenon in a laboratory setting while eliminating all conventional explanations for the accuracy of the mediums’ statements. I like to say that you can’t study football on a basketball court using baseball players and the rules for hockey and then conclude that football doesn’t exist.

In order to create an optimal research environment, we recognise that there are three people participating in each mediumship reading: the medium, the sitter, and the discarnate. We take into account motivation, fatigue, and communication abilities when choosing discarnate participants. We also optimise the process for the mediums by, for example, performing phone readings at times chosen by the mediums and requesting information commonly found in “regular” medium-client readings, such as descriptions of the discarnates and causes of death.

To maximise the experimental controls, we use a quintuple-blind protocol, which is a method that employs five separate levels of controls: the medium, the sitter, and three experimenters are each blinded to different pieces of information. Briefly, no one knows anything about what anyone else is doing until all of the data are collected. This prevents the inadvertent (or intentional) leakage of information and effectively eliminates all the “normal” explanations commonly put forth by skeptics attempting to dismiss the reality of mediumship: fraud, rater bias, general statements, cueing by the experimenter, and “cold reading,” a technique in which cues from the sitter are used to fabricate “accurate” readings.

However, even with these controls, we cannot conclude that mediums are talking to the dead.

Why not? Three “paranormal” explanations each still fit the data. The first is known as the Survival of Consciousness, which is the continued existence, separate from the body, of an individual’s consciousness or personality after physical death. This is commonly known as “life after death.” Another possible explanation is Super-Psi, which is the retrieval of information through clairvoyance, precognition, and/or telepathy with the living. It’s the idea that a medium is just reading your mind. Lastly is the Psychic Reservoir hypothesis, which claims that all information is stored in the universe and mediums are simply accessing that cosmic database. This is similar to the Hindu Akashic record, Jung’s collective unconscious, and Yeats’ *spiritus mundi*.

Therefore, further research is needed to solve the “dead people vs. dead information” quandary for several academic and socially relevant reasons. First, mediumship studies address the relationship between the mind/consciousness and the brain. Is consciousness a product of the brain’s biochemistry or, like radio waves with a radio, is it separate from the body but received and transmitted by the brain? While neuroscientists continue to argue about which of a half-dozen different neural correlates in the brain house consciousness, mediumship research suggests it might not live there at all. In addition, mediums may be able to locate missing persons or contribute to criminal investigations, but for us to sensibly utilize this information, the process by which it is acquired needs to be better understood.

The information mediums provide may also contain wisdom or knowledge that could benefit scientific, technological, and social progress. Perhaps most importantly, scientific evidence for life after death could revolutionize modern medicine and healing. First, this knowledge could alleviate the anxiety felt by hospice patients and their loved ones. In addition to the solace brought by your own experiences and beliefs, imagine being able to face death with actual scientific evidence that we continue to exist after we die and are even able to communicate reliably with those left behind.

Second, mediumship readings may be helpful or even synergistic in grief counseling. (But just try to get your insurance company to cover therapeutic mediumship readings without a mountain of scientific studies to establish their benefit.)

NEWS ITEMS...



TAVISTOCK DEVON

On May 3, 2009, at 9:20 PM, I happened to notice an orange light through my kitchen window which I first thought was an air balloon. I quickly realized it wasn't an air balloon as the orange light would have been the other way around from the darker shape and it was moving way too fast and would have been too late and dark as it quickly went out of my view. It was too fast for an aeroplane and was no way the shape of one, nor a helicopter. There was no noise and it just smoothly moved to the left in a fast fashion. It got smaller, but still bright like a star and then vanished.

NORTH COAST of COUNTY DOWN

At 10:05 PM on Monday, May 11, 2009 on a beautiful clear night I noticed an orange glowing shape travel fast across the sky. It was silent and was flying low as an aircraft. I called my husband who also witnessed it disappearing across the sky. Then another appeared and followed the path of the first one. We have not seen anything like it before.

LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK

On May 8, 2009, I was outside playing with my dog and chatting with my partner when I saw a silvery white bright star-like object drifting overhead slowly and silently at 10:40 PM. I said to my partner, "Look up," and at that moment the object illuminated to an intense brilliance that almost hurt our eyes. The light took on a square shape while at full illumination and was headed away. It quickly dimmed back to the original circular shape. We were excited and saw the UFO for approximately one minute. After being lit up so bright, it faded in luminosity and totally vanished. The UFO flew directly overhead in a clear sky. I have had sightings for years and once reported a sighting to the MOD and they dismissed it, even though fighter jets had flown in to intercept the UFO.

A special congratulations to Tony Eccles. Tony has been involved in the investigation and research of UFOs and Anomalous Phenomena for as long as I can remember! Investigator for NARO—Northern Anomalies Research Organisation and a Regional Co-ordinator for BUFORA—The British UFO Research Association. Tony turned his eyes to forming his own organisation and was a founder member of MARA—Merseyside Anomalies Research Association. Tony is the author of 'A Different Sky', which delves into our collective, regional psyche, and considers why, for as long as people have been around, there have been sightings of UFOs. Tony has recently become the Chairman of BUFORA. Well done pal!

<http://www.bufora.org.uk/>

PAT Delgado, the Hampshire pioneer of research into crop circles, who helped spark global interest in the phenomenon, has died aged 90. His best-selling book *Circular Evidence*, published in 1989, investigated the crop circles that appeared across the south of the UK. Many were in fields in the Winchester area, with the Devil's Punchbowl at Cheesefoot Head a favoured spot. Mr Delgado, of Arle Close, Alresford, spent years researching the phenomenon alongside his friend Colin Andrews, a former electrical engineer at Test Valley Borough Council. Mr Delgado had worked on the NASA Mariner project, based in Woomera, Australia in the 1960s. Mr Delgado passed away at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital on Saturday morning (May 23rd). He will be sadly missed.



Is it a bird, a plane, or a speck of dirt? Lone 'UFO' spotted hovering over Bristol rooftops...

By a Daily Mail Reporter on 14th May 2009

Is it a bird, a plane, a speck of dirt on a camera lens or maybe, just maybe a UFO. These images of the mysterious object were taken as it apparently hovered over a residential area of Bristol. Computer game writer Andy Hadlington, 36, spotted the blob from the window of his office in Knowle late on Sunday afternoon. He quickly grabbed his video and these images are the result. 'It was the freakiest thing I have ever seen in my life. I was sitting in my office and saw it out of the corner of my eye.'



We're not far from the airport so I thought it could even have been a low-flying plane, so I was quite alarmed. 'It was quite exciting - it sort of hovered past the houses. There was no sound. I ran downstairs and out of the garden to see where it went but I couldn't see anything. 'My fiancée was out at the time but I'm sure other people must have seen it. It was so clear.' Unfortunately for Andy, so far no one else has stepped forward to say they too saw the UFO. However, the British Flying Saucer Bureau, based close to Bristol in Winterbourne, said there were ways of verifying the authenticity of the video. Denis Plunkett, 78, of the bureau, said: 'There are ways to sort out good from bad. Firstly they are silent, there will be no noise. 'They can also become invisible. They can go in and out of MoD radar. They can change speed, direction and height in seconds. 'The best thing is if there are multiple witnesses to the sighting. 'If more people saw this I'd be very interested.'

Russian scientists in bid to solve Tunguska Event

Russian scientists will this week attempt to solve the mystery of a giant explosion 100 years ago that turned night to day across western Europe and flattened a large swathe of Siberia...

By Adrian Blomfield in Moscow

A Scientist is claiming a UFO deliberately crashed into a meteor to save Earth from destruction 101 years ago. Dr Yuri Labvin, president of the Tunguska Spatial Phenomenon Foundation, insists an alien spacecraft SACRIFICED ITSELF to prevent a gigantic meteor from slamming into us above Siberia on June 30, 1908. He claims the result was the Tunguska event - a massive blast estimated at 15 megatons that downed 80 million trees over nearly 100 square miles. Eyewitnesses reported a bright light and a huge shock wave, but the area was so sparsely populated no one was killed. Most scientists think the blast was caused by a meteorite exploding several miles above the surface.

But Dr Labvin thinks quartz slabs with strange markings found at the site are remnants of an alien control panel, which fell to the ground after the UFO slammed into the giant rock. He said: "We don't have any technologies that can print such kind of drawings on crystals. We also found ferrum silicate that can not be produced anywhere, except in space." Nick Pope, who headed the Ministry of Defence's UFO investigation team from 1991-1994, said: "The Tunguska explosion is one of the world's greatest mysteries. "Previous theories suggest it was caused by an impact from a comet, a mini black hole or a piece of anti-matter. This new theory is the strangest yet. "We need an analysis of the quartz slabs to be able to prove this one way or another."



Redstar Films



Recently UPIA investigators have been involved in five investigations carried out over a five day period with a Canadian film crew from Redstar Films. The film crew followed investigators to numerous locations in Staffordshire, Manchester, Wales and Cheshire. For professional reasons UPIA cannot give details on the locations that were filmed.

However, the TV Show is to air this October in Canada and then hopefully to be released internationally. UPIA will inform you nearer the time. We would like to say a big thank you to our Canadian friends and look forward to working with them in the near future.



THE OFFICIAL UPIA INVESTIGATORS T-SHIRT

FOR UPIA INVESTIGATORS ONLY.

TO ORDER ADDITIONAL T-SHIRTS, SIMPLY CONTACT STEVE MERA OF THE UPIA. T-SHIRTS COST JUST £10.00. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO REQUEST THE CORRECT SIZE.



Strange Object in Anglesey Sky still unknown!

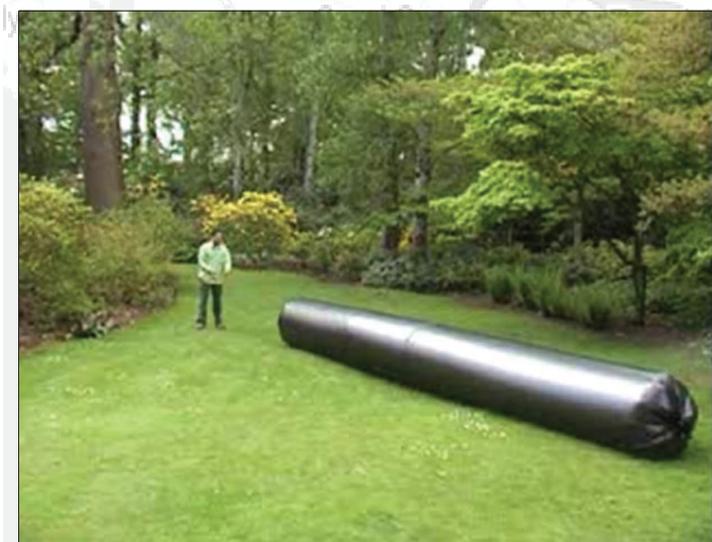
On Tuesday 29th of March 2005 whilst on holiday at Tyn Ros Caravan Park Anglesey Wales, (located near Molfe). My father (Mr. Alex Mera) witnessed a large dark coloured cigar shaped object in the sky. The sighting took place whilst looking out to sea at around 5.00pm. The object was viewed for around 4 minutes. In that duration the object moved from right to left, then arced upwards and ascended relatively quickly into cloud. The MET Office and RAF Valley confirm the cloud height to be approx 12,000 feet and 6/8ths cloud cover. Wind speed was 8 knots westerly. The strange object was black in colour and maintained a constant tilt. It had no visible wings or tail, no engines or visible propulsion method, no sound or any aircraft recognition lighting or markings.

My two daughters accompanying my father also witnessed the object, and all claim to have seen it glint in a reflection of sunlight as if it were dark but reflective in nature. Due to the elevation of the object, cloud height, duration of sighting, angle of arc, an approximation of size would be huge. At this time we can calculate the object to be at least the size of a 747 jumbo jet. The object was not seen again, however a couple walking on the near by Lygwy beach were heard in discussion regarding this strange object. No further information at this time, we are still waiting further details from other sources such as Anglesey newspapers and other witnesses.

Using the data given it is possible to work out a maximum size of the object. Unfortunately because the initial sighting was overhead it would be impossible to estimate the distance between the object and the given cloud base to come up with an accurate measurement. If that data was used the size of the object would have been ten times its likely size so it may be estimated that the object was indeed lower and likely to have been at an altitude of around 365 metres (1200 feet).

Given that the cloud base was 3657 metres (12000 feet) and that it covered the length of the tip of the observers little finger (1 cm or 10mm) and that the object seen entering this cloud base at 70 degrees we can use basic trigonometry to estimate it's maximum size. The distance to the object is 3675 (cloud base) divided by the sin of 12 degrees. This gives us 3891 metres or 3.891 Km or for those of us who think the metric system is a fad 2.481 miles. Using the arms length rule of 0.65m and the size of the little fingertip (10mm) for reference we can now calculate it's maximum size.

Object length = $0.01\text{mm} * 3891\text{m} / 0.65 = 59.86\text{m}$



So using the calculations we have an object length of 59.86 metres or 196 feet. As a side note from other data given the object moved the distance of 3.891 km (2.481 miles) in four minutes which gives us a speed of 36.04 mph or 58 kph. We can also assume that if the object was indeed originally seen at an altitude of 365 metres (1200 feet) and four minutes later disappeared into the cloud base at 3675 metres (12000 feet) that it climbed 10800 feet during those four minutes (approx 45 ft per second).

I am aware that the basis of this investigation lies upon the weather data being accurate. If the cloud height was a lot lower than reported then we could more or less find a rational explanation. It is best that we use Occam's Razor. William of Occam (or Ockham) (1284-1347) was an English philosopher and theologian. His work on knowledge, logic and scientific inquiry played a major role in the transition from medieval to modern thought. He based scientific knowledge on experience and self-evident truths, and on logical propositions resulting from those two sources. In his writings, Occam stressed the

Aristotelian principle that *entities must not be multiplied beyond what is necessary*. This principle became known as Occam's (or Ockham's) Razor or the law of parsimony. A problem should be stated in its basic and simplest terms. In science, the simplest theory that fits the facts of a problem is the one that should be selected. This rule is interpreted to mean that the simplest of two or more competing theories is preferable and that an explanation for unknown phenomena should first be attempted in terms of what is already known.

Therefore, we should presume the object was in fact a Solar Balloon rather than an Unidentified Flying Object. However, could the Met Office and RAF Valley's weather data be inaccurate. I suppose its a more feasible explanation than a UFO! Whatever it was, I have not been satisfied with the Pre-Conclusion. I await further info.... If I can get some.

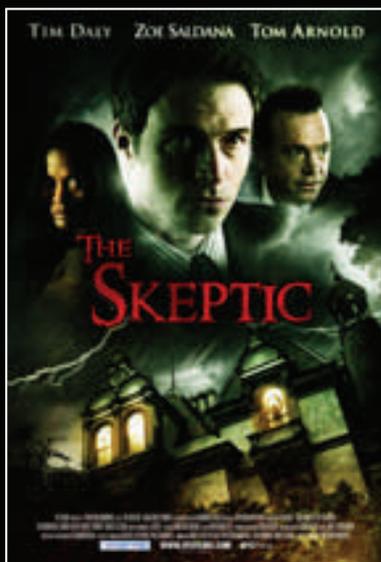
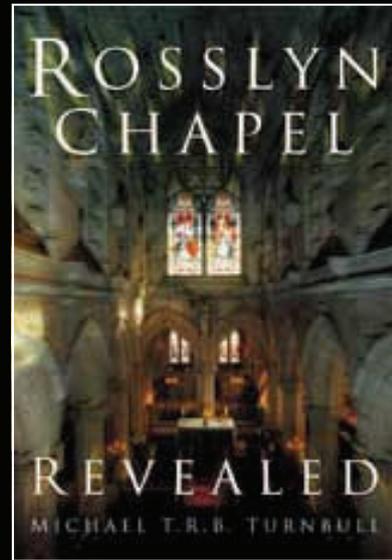
Special thanks to Steve Yarwood for the analysis report.

Steve Mera & Steve Yarwood.



REVIEWS OF THE MONTH

Michael Turnbull's tale is a nuanced historical one that does much to explain the pre-Reformation function of Rosslyn chapel's design and ornamentation. The building is soaked in the sacramental vision of the old faith and, as elsewhere the work of Eamon Duffy has shown us, pre-Reformation churches at their most decorative provide in their imagery a repository of spiritual wisdom for the pre-literate age. Clearly, Rosslyn functions in this way; among a wealth of very nicely produced photographs, we find attention to the sculpting, for instance, of 'The Corporal Works of Mercy' and of The Sins. Angels, dragons and other such iconography speak not so much of a great code to be cracked, but of a universal vision of spiritual good and evil that the modern age so often wants simply to unravel into a story of man's alternating 'Jekyll and Hyde' motivations (the Manichean heresy has been surprisingly enduring and now provides the bedrock of much 'modern' psychology). Turnbull restores sanity in summing up the connection (or lack of it) between Rosslyn and the Knights Templar. His comments on comparative architecture between Rosslyn and other edifices demonstrate how natural, if still exceptional, the church is in its conception. He re-evaluates, perhaps rehabilitates, the contribution of Fr Augustine Hay (1661-1736/7) to the recording of the history of Rosslyn in a way that will clearly attract subsequent scholarly interest. The inspiration taken by writers such as Burns and Scott from the environs features, as does the remarkable phenomenon that was the Community of the Transfiguration, brainchild of Brother John Halsey (Anglican) and Roland Walls (Anglican chaplain at Rosslyn and latterly Catholic priest). These are only a few features of a visually hugely attractive book, appropriately enough, the narrative of which spins out to connections spanning 'ordinary' social and cultural history and the creative and spiritual wellsprings of human beings in a way much more richly layered than anything The Da Vinci Code is capable of envisioning. Like Rosslyn itself, this book is rather delicious and I would urge anyone with an interest in the Scottish religious sensibility to read it.



Following the mysterious death of his aunt, Bryan Becket (Tim Daly) separates from his wife (Andrea Roth) and young son, to move into the elderly woman's supposedly haunted Victorian mansion. A die hard skeptic, he dismisses one eerie incident after another as natural phenomena: scratches from inside a locked closet, objects disappearing, a strange seizure suffered by his law partner (Tom Arnold). Then a more secular fright: it appears the mansion, which Becket believed to be his rightful inheritance, his aunt has willed to someone else. He learns the beneficiary is a professor (Bruce Altman) of a paranormal lab at a renowned science institute. The professor informs him his aunt reported many frightening incidents that she wished investigated after her passing. The occurrences grow stronger, and their personal nature prompts the professor to suggest, to our mortified skeptic, that he seek psychiatric help. That he may be haunting himself!

Now the deterioration of Becket's stoicism accelerates alongside the intensifying haunting. The local priest (Robert Prosky) and Becket's own psychiatrist (Ed Herrmann) seem to both know more than they'll reveal. But Becket persists. He enlists the help of an exotic young psychic (Zoe Saldana) who soon realizes the house and Becket are linked. As they move toward the unpredictable and shattering final scenes it becomes clear that it is not the house which holds the secret... it is Becket himself. This is a traditional haunted house movie that has the regular spooky scenes that keep you on the edge of your seat. Well worth a watch.

STIGMATA

By Kirst D'Raven.

The term Stigmata originates from Saint Paul's Letter to The Galatians, in which he states 'I bear on my body the stigmata of Jesus.' It is the plural of the Greek 'Stigma', a identification brand or mark as used on an animal or slave.



Stigmata is defined as sores, wounds, bodily marks or sensations of pain in locations (the head, hands, feet and side) which appear to correspond to the wounds allegedly inflicted on Christ that occur spontaneously and without any discernable cause. To bear the marks of stigmata is to be termed stigmatic.

Stigmata is widely considered by most to be of supernatural or religious origin, and though many stigmatics are highly religious, belonging to the Roman Catholic faith or Catholic religious orders, no case of stigmata has to date been proven as paranormal in origin.

Over 500 hundred cases of stigmata were reported in the 20th century, in most cases the stigmatic was female and nearly all were of the Catholic faith, so would we be safe to assume that stigmata is a 'Blessing from God?', an 'Affinity with Christ's suffering?'. Alternatively, even some physical manifestation of the zealous hysteria endured, suffered or enjoyed by the highly pious?

As with any phenomena considered to be a little out there, copious amounts of money, time and labor has been poured into finding a cause – with little publicity or result shown for the effort, but a quick trawl through the internet reveals some snippets of information, which I find interesting.

First of these is the statement that 'No known case of Stigmata is known before the 13th c.' – This coincides, incidentally, with the first emergence of images of the crucified Christ in Western Christianity. Does this mean that faced with visual evidence of the suffering of their idol, people begin to actually feel His pain? A theory favored by Christian theologian Ivan Illich in his paper 'Hospitality and Pain'.

"Compassion with Christ is faith so strong and so deeply incarnate that it leads to the individual embodiment of the contemplated pain"

Interesting enough, but surely that's not exactly very good advertising for the Church is it? Telling your disciples if they really cared about their Idol, they would really suffer his pain? What kind of person would actually want to suffer pain? Hmmm...

Bad marketing, methinks.. Probably why that particular theory wasn't extensively published.. Next up on the Stigmata list of possible causes is... Self-Infliction. Yes, I know how bad that sounds, but hear me out on this, we aren't talking deliberate fraud here..

"There is evidence to suggest that some stigmatics do indeed mark themselves in an attempt to suffer with Christ as a form of piety."

Admirable.. in an odd, sadistic kind of way.. A bit like the monks who whip themselves.. again, not the greatest advertising campaign..

Interestingly enough though, the same person who revealed this in his study also revealed that the female ratio of women to men had changed from 7:1 to 5:4 over the last 100 years. Stigmata are no longer a female dominated phenomenon, but do appear to manifest primarily in the non-ordained.

Having stigmata would give these people direct access to the body of Christ without requiring the permission of the Church through the Eucharist.

One of the early stigmatics was St Francis of Assisi. The unusual thing here was the fact that this case actually predates the time that the image of Christ on the cross began to be displayed, suggesting perhaps that since the wounds displayed did conform to the sites of Christ's wounds, some supernatural shenanigans may be afoot.

Apparently not. Records show that the holy man was plagued by many afflictions of a medical nature, and modern doctors believe they know what some of these afflictions were. One thing doctors believe he suffered from was a condition called Quartan Malaria.

Quartan Malaria sounds a little bit Deep Space 9, but is actually a very nasty disease. It involves the liver, spleen and stomach becoming infected and causes the victim intense pain. One complication of Quartan Malaria occasionally seen around the time Francis was around is known as Purpura, a hemorrhaging of blood into the skin causing purplish marks.

Purpuras are often observed to occur symmetrically, which means if one hand or foot was affected it would be possible for the other limb to be affected in exactly the same way.

If memory serves me correctly (and it's a distinct possibility that it doesn't – I was never that interested in RE classes at school, and most of the information taught was the teachers own interpretation anyway..)



Francis's wounds were observed shortly after his return from the wilderness – so it is feasible to theorize that Francis was actually afflicted with ecchymoses, which are large Purpura that had been punctured appearing like an open wound. Modern doctors believe this to be a possibility.

In conclusion, I have to say that I for one would prefer that there be a little bit of the unknown left in the world, and that not every presumed paranormal or supernatural phenomenon can somehow with the right investigation and research be disproved. Unfortunately though, it seems the paranormal eludes and slips out of reach yet again....

BEYOND KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE

This years speakers include: Jim Marrs, Steve Bassett, Nick Pope, Geoff Stray, Ralph Ellis, Ian R. Crane, Neil Kramer & Peter Robins.

September 12th & 13th 2009 at the Static Gallery in Liverpool's city centre at 23, Roscoe Lane, Liverpool L1 9JD. Saturday Tickets £27.50. Sunday Tickets £27.50. Weekend Tickets £50.00.

For more details, visit the Official Website at:

WWW.BEYOND-KNOWLEDGE.CO.UK

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PETITION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC TESTING OF MEDIUMS AND PSYCHICS BY LAW

The following is the official version which appears on the Downing Street website.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/PsychicTesting/>

This has now recieved confirmation by officials and is now live. Currently at 94 Signatures.

We petition Her Majesty's government to initiate an accreditation scheme for Mediums, Psychics, Spiritualists, Healers and other paranormal practioners, which would determine whether a "psychic" individual truly exhibits abilities inexplicable in terms of current scientific laws. While the request for such assessment seems both outlandish and draconian, we ask to raise this petition in recognition that many psychic practitioners charge substantial sums of money for their services to an often vulnerable customer base; most notably the elderly, the bereaved and the seriously ill. It is noted that the Office of Fair Trading deems false psychic readings to be a major area of fraudulent activity – costing its victims around £140 million per annum. The need for some degree of assessment and regulation of psychics and mediums is now pressing, given that the Fraudulent Mediums Act (1951) was abolished in 2008. As a result, customers of psychic practioners are only "protected" by "fair trading" laws, with most acts of suspected "psychic" fraud no longer considered a criminal act.

In light of the above, this petition requests the government creates a number of testing centres (ideally associated with a university psychology department and assisted by a stage magician experienced in techniques such as slight of hand, "cold reading", etc.), capable of assessing whether an individual's claimed "psychic" abilities are either paranormal or can be explained in mundane terms. Those "psychics" and "mediums" passing such an assessment would be issued a licence, legally permitting them to commercially offer their services as a "psychic practioner".

This document, however, should acknowledge that even apparently authentic psychic abilities are neither precise nor predictable. Those who either fail (or refuse to sit) such an assessment should be legally prohibited from taking money through claiming to possess paranormal abilities; those breaking this condition being liable for a fine and possible charges of fraud for material gain.

We also ask Her Majesty's Government to legally prohibit any attempt by a psychic, medium (licensed or otherwise) and/or witchcraft practioner of any tradition to use fear or intimidation to acquire or retain clients - particularly in regard to professed psychic abilities or divine favour.

The New AITC Course

Currently there are 6 completed modules. MAPIT are awaiting responses from academics around the world. We appologise for the delay and will inform you as we complete the modules. Thanks.



UPIA MEETINGS

The next UPIA Meeting will be held on July 14th 2009 at the Residence— Formally known as the Bulls Head, Congleton at 7.30pm See you there.

MAY 2009 CROP CIRCLES



East Kennett Longbarrow, nr Avebury, Wiltshire. Reported 3rd May.



Clatford, nr Manton, Wiltshire. Reported 4th May.



All Cannings Bridge, nr Stanton St. Bernard, Wiltshire. Reported 6th May.



Peaks Down, nr Swindon, Wiltshire. Reported 9th May.



Roundway Hill (2), nr Devizes, Wiltshire. Reported 10th May.



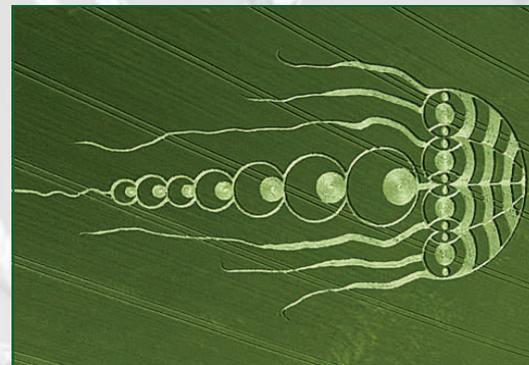
Barbury Castle, nr Wroughton, Wiltshire. Reported 24th May.



Bishop Cannings, nr Devizes, Wiltshire. Reported 24th May.



Windmill Hill, nr Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire. reported 25th May.



Waylands Smithy, nr Kingstone Coombs, Oxfordshire. Reported 29th May.

Glastonbury Symposium

Investigating Signs of Our Times

An annual three-day conference of mysteries, truth and new frontiers

crop circles - environment - liberty issues - 2012, earth mysteries - new science - metaphysics, consciousness studies - UFOs - alternative health.

Friday-Sunday, 24-26 July 2009, Town Hall, Glastonbury.

Crop Circle Tours on Thursday 23rd July. Online booking opens in February 2009. Now in its nineteenth year

One of Britain's longest-established and acclaimed 'alternative' conferences.

FOR DETAILS OF SPEAKERS PLEASE VISIT: www.glastonburysymposium.co.uk

The Summer Crop Circle Lectures 2009

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd August

The Assembly Room, Town Hall, Devizes, Wiltshire, UK

Two days of exploration, research, comment and debate on the enigmatic Crop Circle phenomenon.

The Summer Crop Circle Lectures is an annual event at which a small intimate assembly of researchers and enthusiasts gather from all over the world to explore and debate the crop circle mystery. This conference is an opportunity to come to fully immerse yourself in the heart of the mystery. Whether you're an experienced researcher or a fascinated novice, we have something for everyone.

Our programme combines top national and international speakers with exciting newcomers to provide an authentic flavour of current thinking. As a complement to two days of lectures we have organised a number of tours that will provide an opportunity for a hands-on experience of the circles and for an exploration of other aspects of the phenomenon. This conference is a great occasion for discussion, sharing and networking.

Saturday 1st August - £40.00

Jaime Maussan

International UFO & Crop Circle researcher
Mexico's leading UFO investigator & TV journalist

Michael Glickman

Leading Crop Circle commentator and geometer
*Author of 'Crop Circles: The Bones of God'
& 'Cormography'*

Jude Curriuan

Cosmologist, sensitive & healer
Author of 'The Thirteenth Step' & 'CosMus'

Jay Goldner

Austrian Crop Circle researcher
Author of 'Messages from Space: Crop Circles at Chibbolton'

Dan Vidler

Crop Circle researcher & photographer
Webmaster www.ukcropcircles.co.uk

Additional Tours & Events

Crop Circle Tour - £25.00

A hands-on visit to two crop circles with researcher
& guide **Dan Vidler**

Night-watch/Vigil - £30.00

A night-watch & vigil in the magical Wiltshire
countryside with guides **Ross Holcomb** &
Jonathan DeVierville

Avebury Tour - £25.00

A guided tour around England's largest stone
circle with top researcher **Robin Heath** &
dowser **Glenn Broughton**

Speakers Supper - £20.00

Join speakers & fellow delegates for a late
supper where we relax after an intensive
conference and talk into the night...

Sunday 2nd August - £35.00

Bert Janssen

Leading Dutch Crop Circle Researcher
Author of 'The Hypnotic Power of Crop Circles'

Anne Baring

Celebrated writer & retired Jungian Analyst
Author of 'The One Work' & 'The Mystic Vision'

Karen Alexander

Leading UK crop circle researcher
*Author of 'Crop Circle Year Books 1999-2008' &
'Crop Circles: Signs, Wonders & Mysteries'*

Film: Crop Circles of 2009

By top crop circle photographer **Steve Alexander**

Also with:

**Robin Heath, Ross Holcomb, Glenn Broughton,
Jonathan DeVierville, Graham Tucker, Andy Fowlds
& Richard Waterborn.**

Online ticket sales at
www.SummerLectures.co.uk

Weird '09, to be held in August 2009, is Wiltshire's premier UFO and paranormal conference. We are proud to present a stellar line-up of distinguished speakers, from the UK and the US, who will share with you their expertise and experiences in ufology, the paranormal and crop circle research.

Speaking live will be Nick Pope, Paul Devereux, Joe McGonagle, Dr. Peter McCue, USA Crop Circle Researcher Nancy Talbot, Mike Dram, Kevin Goodman, Hayley Stevens, Nick Redfern, Brian Allan, and SPI USA. Recorded interviews with Dr. David Clarke and Steve Dewey will also be shown.

Weird '09 will be held over two days at the Athenaeum Theatre in the small town of Warminster, once the UFO capital of the UK, and possibly the world, with over 5000 sightings reported over a ten year period.

Warminster nestles in the beautiful rural countryside of Wiltshire, within easy striking distance of important ancient monuments, including Stonehenge, Avebury, West Kennet Long Barrow and Silbury Hill. The impressive Iron Age hill forts of Battlesbury and Scratchbury are also close by.

You will also be able to join the annual Warminster Sky Watch at the fabled Cradle Hill and participate in a paranormal investigation



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH!

While aboard the Queen Mary a few years back my Uncle George took this picture of what he thought was an ordinary vestibule. When he got home he printed out his pictures but wasn't expecting to find what looks like a ghost walking down the hall. My Uncle is 78 and does not believe in ghosts, but this freaked him out. He doesn't even like to talk about the incident. I was just watching a special on the 10 most haunted places and when the Queen Mary was listed I felt compelled to send in the picture.



MANCHESTER RADIO ONLINE

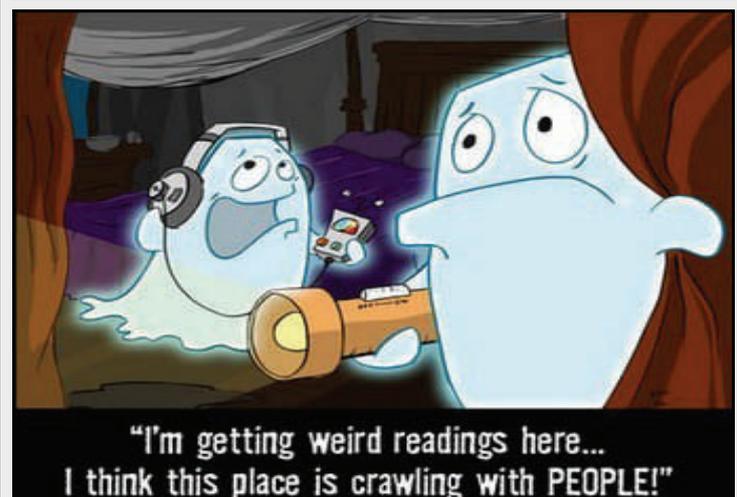
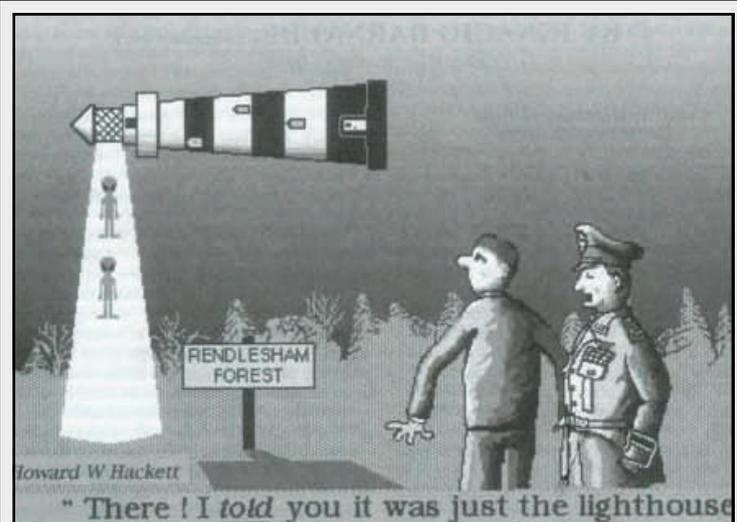
<http://www.manchesterradionline.com>

TONY FILER & PAUL RIPMAN

TURN IN EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. STEVE MERA WILL BE DISCUSSING THE LATEST PARANORMAL NEWS AND CASES.

DETAILS OF THE PARANORMAL SHOW CAN BE FOUND ON THE MANCHESTER RADIO ONLINE WEBSITE.

SO JOIN US FROM 9.00PM TILL MIDNIGHT.

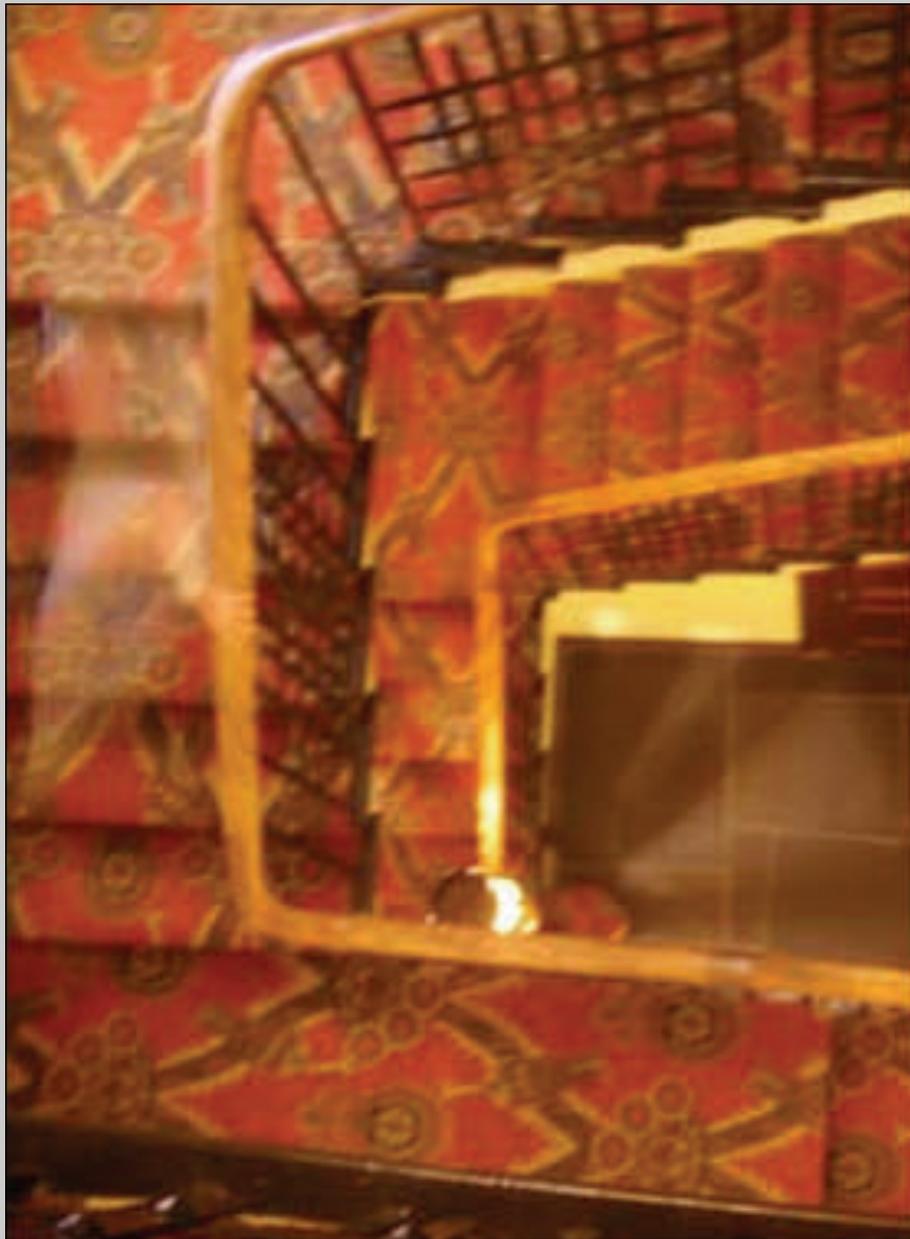


Well... If it's in the Sun, I guess it Must Be True!...

Teen snaps eerie ghost.

By Chris Semper : May 28th 2009—The Sun.

THIS is the sensational picture which proves ghosts exist, a teenager claims. The spectral vision was captured by 14-year-old Connor Bond at an ancient castle in the Scottish highlands famed for its ghostly residents. The ghoulish apparition was snapped by accident while the youngster and his family were attending a wedding at the castle.



The family only noticed what they had captured when they downloaded the image on to their computer and saw the ghostly hand and a swirl of mist around it. The ghost was captured at Tulloch Castle in Dingwall in the Scottish Highlands - a historic pile well known for its supernatural residents. Despite describing themselves as 'sceptics', Connor and dad Mike are now convinced the ghost they snapped is real and are hoping experts will examine it and prove them correct.

Mike, 52, from Inverness said: "We were at this wedding and Connor was walking around taking loads of photos. I think he took about 200 in total. "After we loaded them up on to the computer we were looking through them and were just stopped in our tracks by this one shot. "You can clearly see this ghostly figure on the staircase. "You can see a hand on the banister and what appears to be a white mist around it. "Being a sceptical person I thought Connor had done something to the picture but he says not and I believe him." He added: "Even other members of the family can't believe what they've seen and are all checking their own photos

now." Tulloch Castle dates back to the 1200s and has a long history of ghostly activity. The most famous of them is the Green Lady who has been seen by dozens of people, and even has the castle's bar named after her. She is believed to be the ghost of Elizabeth Davidson, whose family once owned the castle where her portrait hangs in the Great Hall. Mike added: "I just don't see what else it could be - it's a digital camera so you can't accidentally double expose the shot and Connor swears there was no one around at the time... "It's a mystery."



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THE NEW BRITISH INVESTIGATORS TRAINING COURSE IN ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA (BITC)

The BITC Course has quickly become one of the worlds leading educational courses in the subject of Forensic Parapsychology, Anomalistic Psychology and Anomalous Phenomena. The BITC course is only available via correspondence. Our courses are sent out in full to our students. Students sitting the correspondence course have as long as they wish to complete the course and submit their answers to MAPIT Head Office. On receipt an examination paper is sent out. On passing the course students will be sent a BITC certificate and confidential registration document. Students can then (if they wish) obtain assistance regarding research, investigations, analysis and being put in contact with local organisations. Most organisations throughout the country recognise the BITC qualification and are well aware of its standards. This qualification may allow students to enter or join an organisation and immediately become an activist without the need to sit other similar courses. The correspondent BITC Course costs just £50.00 UK Sterling... \$120.00 U.S. Students sitting the correspondent course will obtain a free CD-Rom containing hundreds of newspaper clippings, documents and thousands of paranormal photographs.

It is not compulsory to sit the BITC examination paper, however, it is necessary if students wish to become active researchers or investigators. If students have any difficulties they can contact MAPIT via E-Mail or Telephone during office hours. Assistance can also be obtained from our extensive web site. The Examination paper consists of 100 questions regarding details found within the course material. Students will require 75% of the questions correct to pass the examination. The BITC course consists of 20 modules. At the end of each module, students will find a question sheet. All question sheets must be completed and returned together to MAPIT Head Office for marking. The BITC Course can be sat by students of any age and need no previous knowledge. MAPIT also run a continuation course such as the Advanced (AITC) course.

HOW TO SIT THE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE ?

Course Registration Fee = £5.00
Course Fee = £45.00
Total Amount To Pay = £50.00

Send your registration & course fee of £50.00 UK Sterling or \$120.00 U.S. (or Equivalent of £50.00 UK Sterling) via cheque, postal orders or international cheques to :

MAPIT Head Office
85, Royal Oak Road
Baguley, Wythenshawe
Manchester, M23 1DZ
England UK

Make sure to include which course you would like to obtain and your full postal address.
(DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS IN YOUR ADDRESS - SUCH AS U.S. STATES)

As soon as MAPIT receive your registration & course fee, the full course & CD-Rom will be dispatched. If students have any further queries, they can simply E-Mail MAPIT. A syllabus can be obtained via our website at: <http://www.maxpages.com/MAPIT>



**UPIA : UNKNOWN PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ASSOCIATION
ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS THAT ARE INTERESTED
IN TAKING PART IN RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION. MEETINGS ARE HELD
IN CONGLETON CHESHIRE EVERY MONTH. IF INTERESTED CONTACT
DAVE SADLER ON : 07805 688610**