

PHENOMENA

The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

ISSUE 6 - OCTOBER 2009

**HOW (NOT)
TO BE A
GHOSTHUNTER**

IN THE PRESS

ORBS: WHAT ARE THEY?

HALLOWEEN - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

STRANGE LIGHTS OVER NETHER POPPLETON

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

MYSTERIOUS ANGLESEY

LATEST INVESTIGATIONS

THE OUIJA BOARD

AND MUCH MUCH MORE

**WERE THE SMITHS
REALLY SPOOKED?**





BY ANTHONY MILHORN & STEVE MERA.

The most common type of visual activity to be presented as evidence for paranormal activity and often used by amateur groups to "prove" a haunting, are Orbs. Let's begin with what people believe orbs to be, then we will move on in the case against them.

Orbs: What Are They Believed To Be?

Orbs are believed by a large number of people, both new groups, experienced and people who are capturing them, to be spirits caught on film. Or, another popular belief is that an orb, is a ball of energy, spirit energy that's free floating, in the environment. Even remarks such as 'The First Stages of a Spirit Manifestation' have been used.

It is common knowledge that energy is most stable in the form of a sphere, which is the limited physics background of the belief, and I do stress limited. I have also heard of orbs being spirit guides, demons, astral creatures and oddly enough "evolved spirits".

Now that we know what the most common beliefs are in regards to orbs, let us proceed onto the truth. What orbs REALLY are.

Orbs have been scientifically debunked as a modern inception with no pre-recorded example prior to the availability of CCD lens (digital camera) technology and it's inferior ability to focus, "supernatural orbs" make up the predominant presence of 'ghost photos' on the Internet.

There are two main types of orbs reported, both of which are caused by particulate matter in the air. The first type is Naturalistic Solid-Type orbs, and the second type is Liquid-Based orbs. We shall explore the two and see what the differences are. First off, cameras...

What Type of Cameras Most Often Capture Orbs? Digital vs Film.

Naturalistic orbs are most commonly gained using digital cameras and built-in flash. While photographers with archives of photos report having occasionally seen "orbs" in their photos gained with film cameras no evidence has been presented that this is not a modern light artifact error arising in CCD lenses, and the recent rise in reports of orb photos may be directly related to the common availability of digital cameras and associated rise in the number of pictures taken.

It should be noted also that the size of the camera is another consideration in the recent proliferation of orb photos. As film cameras, and then digital cameras, have steadily shrunk in size, reports of "orbs" increased accordingly. As cameras became smaller, the distance between the lens and the built-in flash also shrank, decreasing the angle of reflection back into the lens causing less focus on small light artifacts and thus an orblike appearance.

The Main Causes of Orbs:

There are a number of naturalistic causes for orbs in photography and videography.

*Solid orbs - Dry particulate matter such as dust, pollen, insects, etc.

*Liquid orbs - Droplets of liquid, usually water, e.g. rain.

*Foreign material on the camera lens

*Foreign material within the camera lens

*Foreign material within the camera body

Common things Orb Supporters state to prove their case of "paranormal" orbs:

" But there was no dust when I took the picture! Must be a ghost!!"

Well....

There are also orbs showing up without any "environmental" explanation i.e. no visible dust, no rain, no moisture, no snowing, no light reflections, etc. However it should be noted that dust particles and moisture and most particles that are small, are present in our environment at all times undetectable to the naked eye.

Sorry to dissapoint.

" ...but the orb appeared in this photo, but not this one taken right after, therefore, it must be a ghost... It moved!"

No, it is NOT a ghost. Orbs are particulate matter in the air, hence they are subject to the laws of aerodynamics and air currents. In other words, they do move, but not of their own volition. They move with air currents and can disappear from shot to shot or frame to frame, with no problem at all.

Also, the angle at which an orb is photographed can also play a factor, on whether or not the flash or the light (from any source) is hitting the piece of matter in the right way as to make it visible.

" But my orbs have faces in them!"

No, they don't.

You are simply seeing a natural activity of the human mind called "**matrixing**", which is *the human mind's tendency to find familiar images in complex shapes, patterns or colours. In other words finding a face in the shapes and shadows of a collection of objects.*

An example is laying on the grass and looking at the clouds. You look at the clouds and your mind makes familiar shapes out of them...a train, a dragon, a hamburger.

Most orbs have complex patterns and lines, as well as colors in their "nucleus" which gives fuel for the fires of matrixing.

Ok now then. Solid Orbs and Liquid Orbs.

How a solid orb is created:

A solid orb, or dust orb, is created because a reflective solid airborne particle, such as a dust particle, is situated near the camera lens and outside the **depth of field**, (*In optics, particularly film and photography, the depth of field (DOF) is the distance in front of and beyond the subject that appears to be in focus*) in other words out of focus. The pinpoint of light reflected from the dust particle that would be seen if it were at the **hyperfocal distance**, (*which is the closest distance at which a lens can be focused while keeping objects at infinity acceptably sharp; that is, the focus distance with the maximum depth of field*) the distance from the film or **charge-coupled device (CCD)** to the object being photographed whereby the object is in focus as accurately as possible, grows into a circle of confusion with increasing distance from it.

The appearance of the circle of confusion is modified by aberrations such as **chromatic aberration** (*chromatic aberration is caused by a lens having a different refractive index for different wavelengths of light aka the dispersion of the lens. The term "purple fringing" is commonly used in photography due to the most common type of corona being coloured purplish blue*) or coma.

Chromatic aberration is also the cause of so called "light emission" by orbs and the supposed "corona" of an orb. They are also often caused by water or water spots remaining on the negatives during photo processing. Often simply cleaning the negative and reprinting the film will eliminate the orbs.

Misidentified as Orbs:

In some rare cases Natural Electrical Phenomena (NEP) can sometimes be misidentified as orbs such plasma discharge or even Eath Light Phenomena (ELP). Now... As you will probably be aware. There is always the exception. There have been a handful of paranormal investigations throughout the world that provide photographic evidence of unusual light phenomena which is yet to be explained. The photograph below was taken by paranormal investigators and depicts numerous balls of light situated near the floor and up against a wall. You can clearly make out that these balls of light seem to be self illuminated thus causing a light reflection on the carpet below.



If the information pertaining to this photopgraph is real, then we may be dealing with a true light phenomena associated with paranormal disturbances and should not be referred to as an ORB...



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Currently there are 8 completed modules. MAPIT are awaiting responses from academics around the world. We apologise for the delay and will inform you as we complete the modules. Thanks.



UPIA & MAPIT

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Halloween: What's it all about?

BY KIRST D'RAVEN

Halloween had its beginnings in an ancient, pre-Christian Celtic festival of the dead. The Celtic peoples, who were once found all over Europe, divided the year by four major holidays. According to their calendar, the year began on a day corresponding to November 1st on our present calendar. The date marked the beginning of winter.

Since they were pastoral people, it was a time when cattle and sheep had to be moved to closer pastures and all livestock had to be secured for the winter months. Crops were harvested and stored. The date marked both an ending and a beginning in an eternal cycle. The festival observed at this time was called Samhain (pronounced Sah-ween). It was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain, more so than any other time of the year, the ghosts of the dead were able to mingle with the living, because at Samhain the souls of those who had died during the year traveled into the otherworld. People gathered to sacrifice animals, fruits, and vegetables. They also lit bonfires in honor of the dead, to aid them on their journey, and to keep them away from the living. On that day all manner of beings were abroad: ghosts, fairies, and demons--all part of the dark and dread.

Samhain became the Halloween we are familiar with when Christian missionaries attempted to change the religious practices of the Celtic people. In the early centuries of the first millennium A.D., before missionaries such as St. Patrick and St. Columcille converted them to Christianity, the Celts practiced an elaborate religion through their priestly caste, the Druids, who were priests, poets, scientists and scholars all at once. As religious leaders, ritual specialists, and bearers of learning, the Druids were not unlike the very missionaries and monks who were to Christianize their people and brand them evil devil worshippers



As a result of their efforts to wipe out "pagan" holidays, such as Samhain, the Christians succeeded in effecting major transformations in it. In 601 A.D. Pope Gregory the First issued a now famous edict to his missionaries concerning the native beliefs and customs of the peoples he hoped to convert. Rather than try to obliterate native peoples' customs and beliefs, the pope instructed his missionaries to use them: if a group of people worshipped a tree, rather than cut it down, he advised them to consecrate it to Christ and allow its continued worship. In terms of spreading Christianity, this was a brilliant concept and it became a basic approach used in Catholic missionary work. Church holy days were purposely set to coincide with native holy days.

Christmas, for instance, was assigned the arbitrary date of December 25th because it corresponded with the mid-winter celebration of many peoples. Likewise, St. John's Day was set on the summer solstice. Samhain, with its emphasis on the supernatural, was decidedly pagan. While missionaries identified their holy days with those observed by the Celts, they branded the earlier religion's supernatural deities as evil, and associated them with the devil. As representatives of the rival religion, Druids were considered evil worshippers of devilish or demonic gods and spirits. The Celtic underworld inevitably became identified with the Christian Hell. The effects of this policy were to diminish but not totally eradicate the beliefs in the traditional gods. Celtic belief in supernatural creatures persisted, while the church made deliberate attempts to define them as being not merely dangerous, but malicious. Followers of the old religion went into hiding and were branded as witches.

The Celts built bonfires to frighten the spirits away, and feasted and danced around the fires. The Hallowe'en fires brought comfort to the souls in purgatory and people prayed for them as they held burning straw up high.

The fires of Hallowe'en burned the strongest in Scotland and Ireland, where Celtic influence was most pronounced, although they lingered on in some of the northern counties of England until the early years of the last century.

The last night of October was transformed by the Church into the vigil of All Saints' or Hallowe'en. Christians believe that goodwill always conquers evil, and that Jesus, the light of the World, defeats all the fear of darkness.

In England the day of fires became November 5th (Bonfire Night), the anniversary of the Gunpowder plot of 1605, but its closeness to Hallowe'en is more than a coincidence. Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night have a common origin they both originated from pagan times, when the evil spirits of darkness had to be driven away with noise and fire.

In Lancashire, 'Lating' or 'Lighting the witches' was an important Hallowe'en custom. People would carry candles from eleven to midnight. If the candles burned steadily the carriers were safe for the season, but if the witches blew them out, the omen was bad indeed. In parts of the north of England Hallowe'en was known as Nut-crack Night. Nuts were put on the fire and, according to their behaviour in the flames, forecast faithfulness in sweethearts and the success or failure of marriages.

Hallowe'en was also sometimes called Snap Apple Night, in England. A game called snap apple was played where apples were suspended on a long piece of string. Contestants had to try and bite the apple without using their hands. A variation of the game was to fix an apple and a lighted candle at opposite ends of a stick suspended horizontally and to swing the stick round. The object was to catch the apple between the teeth whilst avoiding the candle.

Many places in England combined Hallowe'en with Mischief Night (celebrated on 4 November), when boys played all kinds of practical jokes on their neighbours. They changed shop signs, took gates off their hinges, whitewashed doors, and tied door latches.

Another tradition from which Halloween customs might have come from is a ninth century European custom, souling. It was a Christian festival where people would make house calls begging for soul cakes. It was believed that even strangers could help a soul's journey to heaven by saying prayers, so, in exchange for a cake they promised to pray for the donors' deceased relatives.

The practice of dressing up in costumes and begging door to door for treats on holidays goes back to the middle ages, and includes Christmas wassailing. Trick-or-treating resembles the late medieval practice of "souling," when poor folk would go door to door on Hallowmass (November 1), receiving food in return for prayers for the dead on All Souls Day (November 2). It originated in Ireland and Britain, although similar practices for the souls of the dead were found as far south as Italy.

Yet there is no evidence that souling was ever practiced in North America, and trick-or-treating may have developed in North America independent of any Irish or British antecedent. There is little evidence of masking or costuming on Halloween — in Ireland, the UK, or America — before 1900.

The earliest known reference to ritual begging on Halloween in English speaking North America occurs in 1911, when a newspaper in Ontario reported that it was normal for the smaller children to go street guising (see below) on Halloween between 6 and 7 p.m., visiting shops and neighbors to be rewarded with nuts and candies for their rhymes and songs. Another reference appears, place unknown, in 1915, with a third reference in Chicago in 1920.



In Scotland a similar tradition is called *guising* because of the **disguise** or costume worn by the children. Although traditions of seasonal guising stretch back at least as far as the Middle Ages, it became an exclusively Halloween practice only in the twentieth century. However there is a significant difference from the way the practice has developed in the United States. In Scotland, the children are only supposed to receive treats if they perform for the households they go to.

This normally takes the form of singing a song or reciting a joke or a funny poem which the child has memorized before setting out. Occasionally a more talented child may do card tricks, play the mouth organ, or something even more impressive, but most children will earn plenty of treats even with something very simple. However, guising is falling out of favour somewhat, being replaced in some parts of the country with the American form of trick-or-treating. Such a practice is in use in certain regions of the United States, as well. Children of the St Louis, Missouri area are expected to perform a joke before receiving any candy.

In modern Ireland there is neither the Scottish party-piece nor the American jocular threat, just "treats" — in the form of apples or nuts given out to the children.

However, in 19th and early 20th century Ireland it was often much more extravagant — for example, slates were placed over the chimney-pots of houses filling the rooms with smoke and field gates were lifted off their hinges and hung from high tree branches. Until the 1990s, Irish children said "Help the Halloween Party," but are now more inclined to use the American "Trick or treat" due to the influence of American popular culture, movies, and television. In Waterford the phrase "attin far Halloween" is still commonly used, being the vernacular pronunciation of "anything for Halloween". In Quebec children also go door to door on Halloween. However, in French speaking neighbourhoods, instead of "Trick or treat?", they will simply say "Halloween", though in tradition it used to be *La charité s'il-vous-plaît* (Charity, please).

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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 received confirmation by officials and is now live.

We petition Her Majesty's government to initiate an accreditation scheme for Mediums, Psychics, Spiritualists, Healers and other paranormal practitioners, 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 practitioners 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 create 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 practitioner". 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 practitioner of any tradition to use fear or intimidation to acquire or retain clients - particularly in regard to professed psychic abilities or divine favour.

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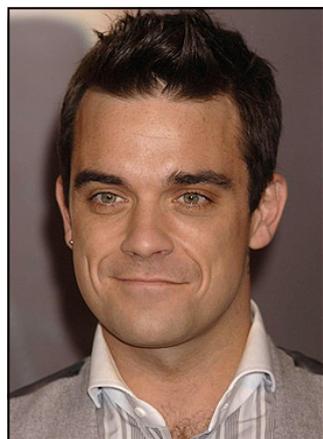
St. Paul's Cathedral UFO.

The Sun Newspaper : September 17th 2009.

The mysterious orb was snapped unwittingly by amateur photographer Tim Letten as he took a pic for a competition. The object was caught head on in the stunning shot as Tim took a photo of the famous London landmark. *But the keen snapper did not notice the mystery craft until he put his photos on his computer at home.* Tim, 43, from Essex, said: "I was taking pictures along the river for a competition and captured a picture of an object flying across the sky which I thought was an aeroplane." "When I got home I put it on my computer, zoomed in and thought 'It must be a UFO!'" And the photo has definitely convinced Tim that we're not alone. The excited designer said: "Looking at that, if anyone doesn't believe, they must be mad!"

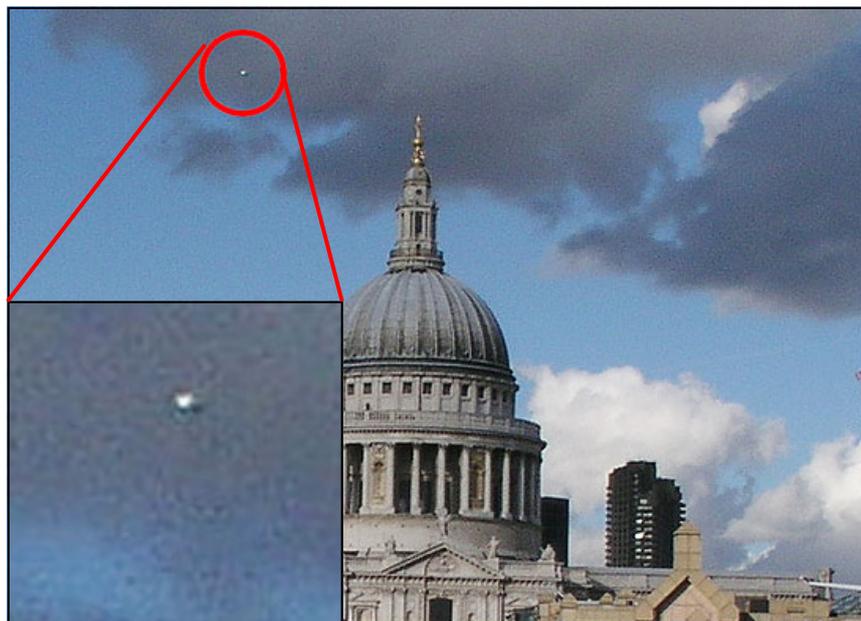
Robbie takes Ayda on a trip to the spots...

The Sun Newspaper : September 21st 2009.



Further proof that Robbie Williams and his girlfriend are perfect for one another. Actress Ayda Field has been accompanying him on a series of late-night alien-spotting trips around the Wiltshire countryside. UFO nut Rob has taken her to several places near his new home in Compton Bassett where plenty of extra-terrestrial activity has been reported. The intrepid duo

have made more than one trip under the cover of darkness to Cradle Hill near Warminster, a popular sky-watching spot. They have also visited the ancient mystical site of Silbury Hill, the scene of several reported spaceship sightings over the years. A pal of Rob's said: "During the summer Rob and Ayda went on loads of late-night excursions. "Cradle Hill used to be a really famous spot in the Sixties and Seventies where UFO hunters would gather en masse and scan the skies for signs of alien life. "It's undergone a bit of a revival recently so Rob has taken Ayda up there to see if they can spot anything. "Ayda loves it. She enjoys spending time with Rob no matter what they do." A whopping 450 UFO sightings were reported from Compton Bassett last year, making Wiltshire the UK's UFO hotspot. I wonder why Robbie picked that area to move to?



Robbie's royally close encounter.

The Sun Newspaper : September 8th 2009.

Robbie Williams is no stranger to spooky goings-on. Just last week he spoke openly about his close encounters with UFOs while living in LA. So his feathers are not in the least bit ruffled by the discovery that he's sharing his £7million Wiltshire pile with a ghost. And not just any old ghost. The country mansion Rob and his missus Ayda Field now call home was once inhabited by Henry VIII's sixth and last wife Catherine Parr. Spooky stuff. Rob said: "I think there are ghosts. I haven't seen or heard anything. "I've definitely felt something but it's not scary. I'm very, very pleased to say. "It's Catherine's Parr's old house. In fact, we're actually not in the old house, we're in her barn." Robbie and Ayda moved back to the UK earlier this year in preparation for his musical comeback. And it sounds like he's enjoying the country life. The former 'Take That' star said: "I've been in the countryside and I've been in Swindon. "It's lovely down there and the people have been great with us. "I can't even believe that a 35-year old me has bought a 500-year-old place. Because as a 26 or 27-year-old there's no way that I would have chosen to be there or go anywhere near it. But it's lovely." Robbie also revealed what he's been doing in his spare time. He said: "I've got these things called rage buggies. They're like go-karts for grown-ups. I've got my own track." I wonder what Catherine makes of a race track in her garden.



Were the Smith's Really Spooked?

A couple who refused to pay the full price for their cottage because they said it was haunted lost their court case. Josie and Andrew Smith said they should not have to pay £3,000 of the cost of their home in East Staffordshire because of a ghost. But Judge Peter Stretton at Derby County Court ruled in favour of the previous owners, Susan Melbourne and her sister Sandra Podmore. He said, 'I do not accept that it is haunted now or has been at any other time'. He called the Smiths' actions "extraordinary". The Smiths said that Lowes Cottage in Upper Mayfield, Staffordshire, was possessed by spirits which caused walls to weep and objects to be moved. On occasions the spirit even attacked the occupants, the Smiths said. They had refused to pay the final £3,000 installment on the £44,000 house saying that the sisters who sold the property knew of the ghostly presence and had failed to declare it.



During the case, Josie Smith, 36, told Derby Crown Court that she was assaulted by the spirit as she lay in bed and felt like she had been raped. 'I felt something touching me beneath my nightdress', she said. It only stopped when I shouted 'No'." Mrs. Smith said she had experienced a number of strange things, including visions of a little boy with bright red, 'piggy eyes'. The Smiths said the sisters had failed to tell them about the ghost before they bought the house in 1994 and moved in with their children Daniel, Stephen and Lindsey. The couple asked for help from a priest, the Rev Peter Mockford, who specialises in the paranormal. He told the court he believed that there was a paranormal presence in the house. Giving evidence, both sisters said they had no knowledge of ghosts in the house or that the house had ever been haunted. Mrs. Melbourne told the court, I have never experienced a ghost and I have never heard of a haunted house in Mayfield. I do not believe in ghosts." Their lawyer, Thomas Dillon, told the court that the Smiths had invented the story to avoid paying the outstanding money.

MAPIT did conduct a thorough investigation of the building and did stay over night. We can not confirm paranormal activity as the on site investigation was uneventful. No temperature disturbances, no electro-magnetic fluctuations, no electrical spiking, no unusual odours or sounds, no unusual photographs or video footage. In fact it was a perfectly normal environment. When we gave our conclusion in the morning the Smith's were not happy and later contacted a not so professional organisation known as 'The Ghostbusters'. It was these that confirmed a haunting and said they had strange things on video, which is yet to be seen. The most unusual thing was that articles had been in at least 15 different newspapers and all failed to mention that the Smith's were building another house next door after purchasing the land. It was obvious that they were suffering from financial difficulty. During the night were looked through a tin of letters which had been left on the table. There were at least 80 different letters offering considerable money for the Smith's story, along with thank you notes for letting them do an article or for appearing on TV or radio. The only one that looked like it was not approached was a TV program called 'The Lie Detector'..... Anyway, the rest is history.

As far as we are concerned.... Case Closed!

The Carrington UFOs

BY STEVE MERA & STEVE YARWOOD.

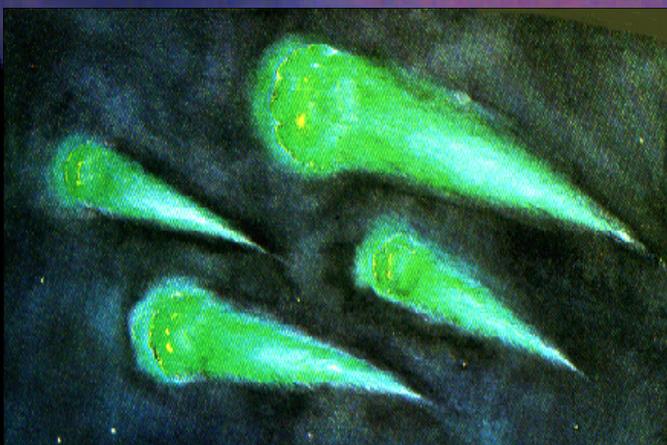
Carrington lies bang in between Flixton, Partington, Irlam, Davyhume and Sale which are all towns in Cheshire. As you come off the M62 Motorway onto the Carrington slip road your suddenly greeted by the immense sight of Carrington Shell Refinery, along with Gas, Chemical and Electrical plants. It is this area that has been haunted by the UFO phenomena for many years. One of the first reported incidents took place in 1976.

The Huge Object.

During the Spring of 1976, five anxious shoppers were waiting for the local Carrington bus to take them to Sale centre. The bus arrived and they got on. A few minutes later one of the passengers turned to another and said, 'Can you see that, what is it'. All were eventually looking at a huge object, about the size of a football pitch hanging motionless in the air over Shell Refinery. They all described the object as rectangular in shape with large bright white lights that were set behind some type of grid structure.

The object started to move silently and slowly over towards Irlam. Meanwhile, Sergeant Butts, and another police officer were travelling down Washway Road in Sale when their attention was drawn skyward.

In the distance they saw a huge rectangular object moving away from them. When witnesses informed the police and showed drawings of the object they had done, police officers were surprised to find that they were identical to those Sargent Butts and his accompanying officer had drawn.



Great Balls of Light.

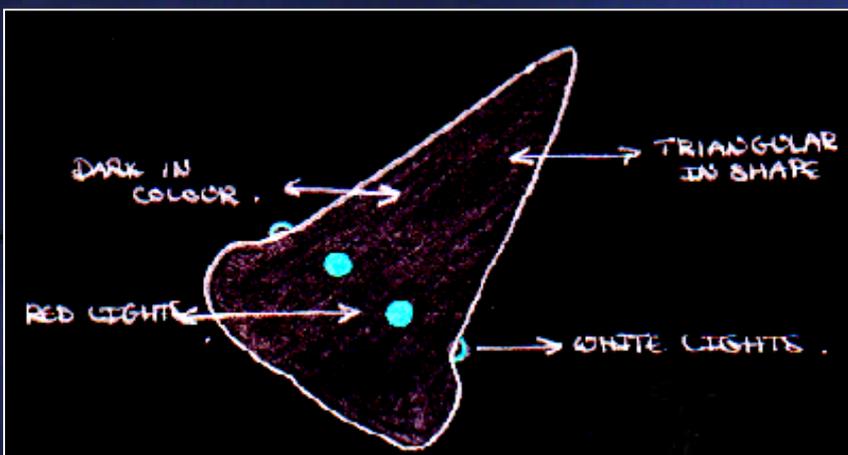
Green fireballs or globes of light are not often reported, however, when one bothers to research these particular phenomena you find that they have been reported world wide. Three emerald-green objects were seen by Mr. Gerry Mitchell, a former Royal Airforce pilot, in May 1978, moving slowly over the Carrington Shell Refinery. When the United States Airforce's Project Twinkle investigated a similar phenomenon in New Mexico in 1950, they noticed that where ever they set up their equipment, the UFOs moved to another location, suggesting that they possessed - or were guided by some form of intelligence. These green objects are seen

almost every year. As to what they are remains a mystery. Carrington Shell Refinery stated 'We've no idea what the balls of light could be, we do know however, that they are nothing to do with escaping gases from the plant etc'.

Flying Triangles.

During the summer of 1994 we were contacted by a very distressed woman. She told us about a remarkable experience. She and two friends were travelling in a car down Carrington Lane near the refinery when she looked to her left and spotted a small triangular shaped craft slowly moving across a field. She shouted out for her friend to stop the car. They pulled over and jumped out of the vehicle. She watched as the object started to move towards them. It was completely black in colour and was about 20 feet from the ground. As the object passed over a hedge a column of bright blue light dropped to the ground. She explained how the column of light did not defuse as it normally would when passing through a hedge. It was as if the light was solid. It kept the same shape, not like a torch. A torch lights more of an area the further away it reaches.

She watched the object move silently over the road and across into the opposite field. She became distressed when she found to her surprise, that her two friends could not see the object as she did. The two friends claimed to have seen a slow moving aircraft, but both were not too sure about the night's events. They said that the aircraft did not seem real in some way. An investigation found no other witnesses. This seems to be common, even the huge object seen in 1976 only had 9 witnesses, when in fact half the North West should have seen this thing. I suppose that's what makes the UFO phenomena so unusual.



The 1996 UFO Flap.

In February of 1996, we were inundated with UFO reports of large triangular objects. These stretched from Bowdon to Cholton and wait for it... 'Carrington'. Amongst the witnesses were three police officers, 4 security officers from Cortol Chemicals on Barton Dock Road, Salford and at least 35 independent witnesses. All described the same objects. Large dark coloured, triangular shaped objects, with bright lights on them. One witness was asked to draw the object as seen when it passed over her....

The above picture represents the object as seen passing over Urmston Road, Urmston, Manchester. The witness watched it for over ten minutes before shooting off towards Salford. All together there were 19 witnesses in Urmston that share the same story.

The 2002 UFO Flap.

In September 2002 there were 11 UFO incidents reported. Numerous lights had been seen to dart off at high velocity, also a large triangular object had allegedly been seen by several witnesses travelling in a coach. But by far the most impressive was the sighting of a large rectangular shaped craft. Four middle-aged witnesses saw 'a huge dark oblong ... it was dark grey in colour, a kind of blackish metal covering. The witnesses could not be sure of what the front end was like but they thought it was a cone shape and on this was a huge pulsating red light. The light itself was the apparent size of the full moon. This pulsed at a slow rate about once every three seconds ... Most of the time the light was off. It came suddenly, grew bright, quickly faded and then came on about 3 seconds later. The witnesses said that the size of the thing was amazing. it seemed to take so long to pass over and it seemed ages before they saw the back of it. The sighting occurred close to the Shell Carrington oil refinery and as it approached the area it was shining a large floodlight, like those used at sports events, with a panel visible between the lights. The object slowly moved across the sky and disappeared off into distance. The witnesses were amazed at the fact that it had not been seen and reported by hundreds of people.

The 2009 UFO Flap.

July 25th 11:00pm. Four white lights flying in formation in a north westerly direction were seen by several witnesses. The objects were seen to be travelling faster than normal aircraft speed. They reported no noise as the objects passed over gracefully. On August 4th large ball of orange lights seemed to come out of nowhere. Four witnesses reported watching the objects travelling fast then changing direction to the East. On August 14th a witness contacted MAPIT. His account follows... 'I was outside my house about 7:30 PM enjoying the evening sky when I looked to the west and saw a very large, white lighted circular shape. The light was extremely close to the ground about 2000 feet and about 10 miles away to the west. I watched for about 5 minutes and the object never moved. I first thought it was a helicopter with a search light: however a helicopter happened to fly in front of the object, and clearly was much smaller than what I was seeing. The helicopter was much closer to me, so if the object was a helicopter then it would have appeared smaller due to the fact it was further west than the helicopter. I also saw a red light much higher to the northwest that also never moved for the 5 minutes but had to be around 20,000 ft in altitude. Both objects remained for around 25 minutes before fading away to nothing'.

Whatever the attraction... Carrington certainly seems a hot spot for UFO activity...

THE OUIJA BOARD.

By Kist D'Raven.



There are several ways you can look at the subject of ouija boards, glass divination or indeed any form of 'contacting spirits of the dead' either for fun, scares, paranormal investigation or for whatever reason floats your boat.. It depends totally on your own particular belief system which reason for NOT using them you prefer.



Any form of experiment which is carried out hoping to prove the existence of a intelligent entity that you cant see is pretty useless if it is only carried out with a person or persons actually touching the object which you are hoping to achieve movement in. I know the 'believers' are gonna scream and wail and say 'yes but the spirits take our energy to accomplish movement' but really that is irrelevant. If you are in an area which is reputed to be haunted, the area has gained this reputation already without the 'spirits' having to take energy from anyone sitting with their finger on a glass or planchette.. as for the accompanying screams of 'But we have proof the spirits use our energy! we always feel tired afterwards!' - yes well, you would - you may even feel faint or pass out.. This isnt due to the fact that 'Dead Uncle George' has been using your energy though, this is a condition connected to extreme anxiety and can really be very dangerous , and is also a common cause of death in Hex and Witchcraft cases in less enlightened civilisations.

'Victims show all the signs of panic... adrenalin, racing heart, wild movements and sweating. Then as the victim begins to realize the hopelessness of his situation, this reaction is reversed (heart slows, pulse drops and there is a steady drop in blood pressure) This is known as the parasympathetic reaction..' If we apply this to the ouija board situation - people who obviously have a high degree of expectation (sitting in a darkened room focussing on what they are trying to achieve and really not knowing what to expect) - it is very likely, when the glass / planchette starts to move - (which it invariably does because someone is deliberately or spontaneously moving it) that the participants are going to experience a similar kind of anxiety. When the session is over, the body returns to normal again, leaving the participants feeling drained - again, in extreme circumstances it is possible that the blood pressure etc. could drop to such a degree that you could experience some of the symptoms described above.

Psychologically speaking, the effects that the ouija board can have on a disturbed or young mind could be traumatic too - especially if the participants are believers. You hear loads of stories about this or that person who did the ouija, contacted the devil and went mad / killed his family/ took a gun to school instead of his library books.Im sure I'd bore you if I started to discuss schizophrenia etc. As a tool for paranormal investigation, the ouija.. well it sucks, to be honest. Lets face it, youve got people touching it - you cant rule out accidental movement, deliberate fraud etc. and even if the object moves on its own, can you rule out psychokinesis? - Ouija Board during Paranormal Investigation = Crap Evidence. Period. Actually, you can apply this formula to any type of divination or unproven method of investigation.. table tilting, glass divination, pendulums, mediums.. From a believers point of view - (with all due respect Im not actually a believer, but fairs fair, I'll include it anyway) - all these methods of gaining information from the deceased are a bit like using an internet chatroom, only you cant find out the other persons IP address... you dont know who your talking to, or if what they are telling you is actually true - again, another reason for avoiding dabbling..

Funnily enough, I cant actually think of a good reason for using one, can you?



Strange Lights over Nether Poppleton

By Dave Sadler

Having first appeared in the UK daily newspaper The Sun, video footage of two undetermined lights in the sky (LITS) and the following report, was again being treated as evidence of aliens visiting the earth by some 'experts'...



By ROBIN PERRIE

Published: 27 Jan 2009

BOOZERS rushed from their pub to see four UFOs overhead — and were then plunged into darkness when the power mysteriously cut out. Landlord Keith Gelderd and his customers watched in amazement as the glowing, spherical shapes floated silently in the night sky. Dad-of-one Keith, 53, said: "If I live to be 100 I'm sure I will never see anything like it again. At first there were two spheres hovering in the distance. When they started to move they made no sound. "There were seven or eight of us watching. As they moved towards us two more appeared. "They were all in a line, then one moved 180 degrees around the one next to it. As they left all the electricity went off and you could hear alarms. Then it came back on again. "None of us was drunk. What were they? Flying saucers?" Bricklayer Jason Mitchinson, 45, spotted the UFOs first outside the Lord Nelson in the village of Nether Poppleton, near York, last Thursday. He said: "It was the strangest thing I've seen. They were an orange flame colour with an outer ring that glowed. "They just cruised along. They stopped over the pub, then headed for Scarborough. When they turned it was tight, at 90 degrees, not like a plane." The pub is close to RAF Linton-on-Ouse, where Prince William did some of his flying training. But the base said it had no aircraft flying that night and saw nothing as its radar was turned off. Police had no other reports.

Video footage can be seen at <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/ufos/article2175249.ece>

UPIA Involvement.

Contacted by a TV company in relation to the case the UPIA were asked to visit the location and discuss with witnesses at the pub the events which led to the footage being filmed. The full visit by the UPIA would be filmed and appear on the Richard and Judy show on Tuesday 10th February from 6pm on the Watch Channel. UPIA were given 24 hours to research this case, and our initial information consisted, as previously mentioned, of an article in 'The Sun' newspaper, wonderfully titled 'Close Encounters of the Thirst Kind', and some highly dubious and poor quality mobile phone video footage. Not the best of cases to react too, but given the test of the UPIA's character, we agreed to take part.



Pre Visit.

With only 24 hours to spare before leaving for Nether Poppleton (NP), and having viewed the footage on many occasions, as well as hours of additional footage, not dissimilar to the NP footage. It became apparent that what was witnessed was some form of Balloon or UFologies current bane, the Chinese lantern. So to acquire information regarding the area on the evening the footage was recorded. January 23rd 2009 from 1030pm. Contact was made with the Landlord and witness of the Lord Nelson Pub, who offered basic information regarding his involvement. Local News sources were called including, the York Press, Minster FM, BBC York and BBC online all reported no knowledge of the event. Poppleton Villages Residents Association - Neighbourhood Management Unit. Poppleton Local Parish Council. Meteorological Office and the Sun Newspaper were also contacted, the Sun the only outlet not offering any information.

The Case.

Upon arriving at the site, measurements and other information we gathered, and we proceeded to interview 4 of the 7 witnesses to the LITS. The basics of the event were, at 1030pm, principal witness Jason Mitchinson, whilst smoking outside saw two balls of light travelling towards the pub in an Easterly direction. Slowing over the pub, he ran in to tell regulars, a total of 7 came out and watch the LITS travel silently in a South South Easterly direction. The 'Golden Spheres' were now 4 in number, in a straight line. Numbers 2 and 4 traversed and altered position. The footage was recorded on a mobile phone and apparently one witness had contact details for a Sun reporter, who was immediately contacted.

During questioning highly questionable discrepancies in witness reports about crucial aspects of the case started to appear. Timescales involving the alleged power failure in the area coinciding directly to the lights halting over the head, to an hour later, to a minor flicker were our main interest at this point. Eon power were contacted, offering the information that due to weather conditions previously, workmen did perform an operation causing a short lapse of power locally, 45 minutes after the LITS were witnessed. Comments in the bar from other regulars were offered claiming the witness to be a liar; these of course were discounted by the UPIA. So over the following few hours, information was gleaned from as many sources as possible. 2 witnesses did not turn up and the landlord seemed to be revelling in the glamour of the event.

Pre Conclusion.

Given all available details, witness testimonies, footage, similar footage, UPIA experiments regarding Chinese lanterns and the work of UPIA investigators Paul Reeves, Philip and Della Bordley, Kirst D'Raven and Steve Mera. We were able to offer a pre conclusion to the event, that what was witnessed was indeed Chinese Lanterns. The witnesses would not however, accept this answer. Jason in particular, now quite drunk became very abusive.

Post visit information.

Additional contacts were made to officialdoms, and Phil Bordley was able to find information extremely important to the case.

Meteorology.

Location: York UK

Time: 21.00 Hours

Wind Direction: SE

Wind Speed: 10.1mph Gusting up to 20.4mph (9.1m/s) Force 2

Air Temp: 5.8C (42.4F)

Visibility: 5.0km: Overcast 250ft-8000ft

Pressure: 1015 MSL (mb)

Trend: Rising

Description: Dark, Overcast, Light Wintry Scattered Rainfall at 1.8mm

Tea Lights.

So if our initial thoughts were correct and Chinese lanterns had been witnessed, given direction and average wind speed, we looked at what information could be acquired regarding their fuel source, the tea light. Packaging details claim that most Tea Lights last 4-6 hours... I'm sure that some last longer than others, depending on the type of wax or material used & the length of the initial wick. But a high percentage of Tea Lights are said to burn around 4 Hours. Therefore on an average of Wind Speed being 15mph and for a duration of four hours, the balloons could have had a maximum traversivity of 60 Miles. Therefore due to Wind Direction being SE, puts them in a launch area of Scunthorpe / Lingston Upon Hull. Of course Minimum Traversivity could be anything from a mile away.

Official Contacts.

Ministry of Defence Response.

Dear Mr Sadler,

Thank you for your e-mail of 2 February regarding a UFO sighting over Nether Poppleton in Yorkshire on 22 January 2009. Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no UFO report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MoD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. The MoD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date, the MoD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. With regard to this particular sighting, I can confirm that we have received no other reports of UFO sightings from the Nether Poppleton area for 22 January 2009. I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Paul Webb, RAF Bus Sec 13, Room 2E03, Spitfire Block, HQ Air Command, RAF High Wycombe, HP14 4UE
Tel: 01494 49 6254
ufodesk@mod.uk

Civil Aviation Authority Response.

Dear Mr Sadler,

Thank you for your email which has been passed to me for a response. In my capacity as the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) focal point for aviation related environmental complaints I have considered the details of your observations during the night of 22 January 2009 at 2230. My initial thoughts focussed on:

- 1 RAF Linton-on-Ouse and possible night/low flying exercises
- 2 Higher overflying civil traffic involved with the night flying of Royal mail

I have looked at the RAF Linton website which does advertise various low flying/night exercises but *not* for the date of your observation. Additionally, I have spoken with the air traffic control unit at the airfield who have no knowledge of any aerial activity in the vicinity during the night of the 22nd. The second suggestion is somewhat flawed as such traffic would only display the red/green and white navigation lights when in the cruise. Therefore, at the moment, I can offer no other aerial explanation. I am unaware of the weather conditions at the time of the observation, but is it possible that the lights were generated by a ground source being refracted by cloud? I hope the above will be of some help to you and admit frustration in not being able to supply a substantive explanation. Best regards,

Ian Wrathall, CAA, Directorate of Airspace Policy, Aviation Related Environmental Complaints - 0207 453 6524.

RAF Fylingdales

Dear Mr Sadler,

Thank you for the email below. I forwarded the information to our team in the radar but unfortunately I have no feedback to offer you. Nothing has been recorded on the radar data covering the Nether Poppleton area. The radar at Fylingdales focuses on man-made objects in space and we therefore normally track objects 100 km + above the earths surface. However and of note - we have had quite a few evenings of military helicopter activity with Lynx helicopters from Dishforth/Topcliffe airborne until quite late in the evening. The lights from their obstruction lamps and night navigation lights can be seen from quite a distance and before the noise of the helicopter is heard.

Hope this helps.

Tim Fenton, Flight Lieutenant T J Fenton MBE RAF, Media and Communications Officer, RAF Fylingdales.

Additional.

Through the power of the internet, additional sources gleaned valuable information, proving the case; in the UPIA's eyes was a hoax. The first tad of information was from a York newspaper in 2008, note the users name and location: Admiral N, Nether Poppleton says... 4:27pm Mon 20 Oct 08—Maybe you could sue the council; I mean who knows what sort of damage a 5ft piece of tissue paper could do to a stone building :-) Admiral N? The pub was the lord Nelson, Secondly an addition to the article online at the Sun website offered us final piece of information required. Posted by: Becky9—I live in Nether Poppleton myself, and saw 2 lights to start with then another two, I can confirm that someone who lives near myself were letting off lit lanterns which were rising up into the sky (like miniature hot air balloons). Added to the researched information, we were informed the Sun newspaper had paid a large sum of money both to the main witness and the person who videoed the event, and put a 4 figure sum behind the bar at the pub. Also Cactus TV also paid a fee for the information and involvement, and put a free bar on at the pub on the UPIA's day of visiting.

Conclusion.

The UPIA were able to acquire a lot of information before and after the event. Given our findings, areas pointing to our conclusions were:

Discrepancies amongst witnesses reports when interviewed separately.

Large sums of money involving the media.

A witnesses direct contact to a Sun reporter.

The Suns high profile involvement in UFO related stories at that time.

Findings in local and national newspapers, directly associated to the area.

Contacts with Officialdoms, offering no basis to back witnesses claims.

Therefore, we believe the event witnessed was the now common Chinese lantern, we also believe that this event was preplanned by at least one witness, but others may have been privy to the plans, other witnesses had no knowledge, adding to the witnesses of the event. Money was earned by one witness in particular, who we believe to be the instigator of the reports. The Pub also made a significant profit from the period. We believe this case was a sighting of Chinese lanterns, a hoax involving some of the witnesses.





How (not) to be a Ghost Hunter - a tongue in cheek guide.

Submitted by Paul Reeves.

Originally Compiled by Cheri Esperon.

So you want to be a ghost hunter.. Being a ghost hunter is easy, all you need to do is spend a few hours watching television, you can learn all about it. There are wonderfully real and accurate paranormal shows all over cable television. Watch them and you too can be an expert Ghostbuster. But what if you don't have cable television? Never fear I have watched all the shows and I can tell you what to do:

Preparing for a Ghost Hunt.

1. Ghost hunting is an exciting and thrilling hobby. Your time spent ghost hunting will be action packed. Ghosts are drawn to activity, so have fun and give out high energy. Don't stay in one place too long 2-3 minutes is more than enough. You never see the guys from TV paranormal shows sitting around for hours do you?
2. Your mind is more open when you are under the influence of drugs and alcohol. So be sure to have a couple of beers before you go, and bring a few extra along in the cooler. I would never advocate the use of illegal drugs but let's just say this: Too bad they are illegal because they would be great help on a ghost hunt. Also if you have smokers on the team, be sure to bring cigarettes. Ghosts are attracted to the nicotine and you can often see the ectoplasm of many ghosts hovering around smokers.
3. The more the merrier, bring all your friends! Make it a party. Ghosts love parties, and if something gets trashed- well who cares? It isn't like the dead can complain right?
4. Asking permission to investigate a site is for amateurs, the real die-hard ghost hunters don't care. Break in if you have to, it's in the name of science after all.
5. Do NOT do any sort of research on the site before you go, it is much better if you go in not knowing what the claims are or what to expect.



Using Your Equipment.



1. Never warn a ghost that you are going to take a picture; it is much better to surprise them. If you say "flash" or give any sort of warning, they will run off.
2. Orbs are great evidence of paranormal phenomenon, don't use night vision, not only are these cameras expensive, but they also can't capture orbs. Use a very bright flash or spot light to capture these Orbs, which are of course the first stages of an apparition. On close inspection of the orb photo you can clearly see the ghosts face in them.
3. Never take a tripod, they are too bulky and they will slow you down. Keep moving when you are taking photos. Never take 2 shots of the same spot. Most ghost hunters have a nice steady hand, so they won't have to worry about the camera jiggling.
4. Set your shutter speed to a slow speed. Ghosts move very fast so you will need the slow shutter speeds, this is especially helpful for capturing rods, paranormal ribbons and vortex—spirit doorways.
5. Bring crystals, Ouija boards, divining rods, etc you never know when they might be helpful.
6. Bring an EMF detector, a KII if you can, if you see the numbers go up, you have a ghost and ghosts like to communicate through them.
7. When doing an EVP session, make sure you whisper - you wouldn't want your voice accidentally caught on tape. Keep the conversation moving; don't pause too long in between questions. NEVER video tape an EVP session, it is a waste of film; you have an audio recording, anything more is overkill.
8. If you can't find equipment that will do what you want, build your own. There is no need to waste time conducting scientific testing to evaluate the tool, if it lights up, is shiny or makes cool noises- it works!
9. If one of the television ghost busters uses a new tool- don't waste any time getting it. These shows have hundreds of highly-paid researchers to look for new gear, if they use it, it must work!
10. If you can't get the equipment to work the way other tv groups do, then you must be doing something wrong, so keep trying. In fact you should spend the majority of your time trying to duplicate the same cool results they get.

Developing Your Investigative Style.

1. You don't get a television show for nothing - these people on TV know their stuff! If they do it, there is no need to question. Never question the pros. They know what they are doing; you really don't need to know why they are doing something.

2. The best answers for paranormal activity is usually the most irrational, when explaining paranormal activity don't let skeptics try to throw logic into the mix; and always give a full explanation - such as how the ghost was feeling, what they were thinking and so on.

3. Use your instincts; your first impression is usually right. Don't dig around trying to find explanations for something, remember your test taking advice from school, "The first answer you choose is generally correct"

4. Think on your feet, never pause to evaluate a situation, chances are you will miss your opportunity to capture a ghost. If you hear a noise, run blindly toward it; don't pause to think about what might be the source. Besides, you are totally safe, if just you and your friends are in an old abandoned building - what could possibly go wrong?

5. Don't ever get bogged down on researching other people's theories, develop your own and stick with it. If someone questions you, make something up or confuse them with mysticism or throw some technical sounding terms at them. Try to create your own phrases by combining technical and new age terms such as "isochoric manifestation of a cosmic energy relative to the ethereal plane in pseudo-corporeal form". Don't worry if you don't understand what you are saying - no one else will either, and you will look very smart! REMEMBER! You are the paranormal "expert" make sure you let everyone know that!

6. Remember to take your Psychics along with you. A medium knows exactly what's going on, make sure to let them know where your investigation is going to be just in case they want to bring other mediums with them and use their energy as a psychic battery. If your medium should be possessed then make sure to take some rock salt with you and holy water so to throw over them at times of distress.



Dealing With Clients.

1. Try to always keep in mind, the client has no idea what is going on. Don't waste time talking with them or getting their opinion. If you do have to interact with your client, don't ask a bunch of personal questions. It isn't any of your business what is going on in their lives; never ever ask about drug or alcohol abuse, histories of mental illnesses, recent stresses or other personal information. In fact, never ask questions; let them tell you what they want to. Not only is this much more professional, but asking a bunch of questions will only encourage them to ask you annoying questions.

2. If the client does start to bug you, asking annoying questions about why you do something or stuff like that, it is easy to shut them up by simply asking, "Don't you watch paranormal groups on TV?" If they did, they would know what you were doing, and if they don't... well they are beyond help.

3. Make sure you state your rates up front and always collect payment before you start investigating. Only amateurs do an investigation for free. You will make a ton of money doing personal appearances when you are accepted as a parapsychologist. To get this qualification, all you need to do is read a book or two and that's it.

4. Always try to sell your client a paranormal cleansing while you are there. This is very easy to do, just burn some white sage, say a few prayers and sprinkle some holy water around. It is guaranteed to get rid of the ghosts and will make your team extra money.

5. Don't ever give a client a copy of any evidence. They will sell it or use it to write a book and will take all your glory. You captured the evidence using your equipment - you have sole rights to it and can use it whenever and wherever you wish. When you do post evidence, make sure you include all the important facts, time and date it was captured, the exact address where you caught it, and if you can, post GPS coordinates so other people can find the haunted site - the only time you should not do this is when there are other teams in the area. This leads me to my next point.

Working With Other Teams.

1. Ghost hunting is a competitive business. NEVER EVER work with another team, unless they can do something for you. But as soon as you get what you want out of the relationship, cut all ties.

2. Your best bet is to bad-mouth, harass, and run down other teams. Let everyone who will listen know why your team is so much better than theirs. Spy on them, try to post nasty messages if they have a message board, and make fun of them whenever you can. The only teams worth working with are those you see on TV; everyone else deserves nothing.

3. Your best bet is to just break up the other teams. If you find a weak member do everything you can to steal them. Good people will jump ship to go to another team at a moment's notice - remember that and watch for your opportunities to talk trash to those people and turn them against their team.
4. If you do get someone to switch sides, make sure they take as much personal and private information as possible. Use what you can to better your team, and leak all the dirty laundry - it will only make them look bad and you look good..
5. Never take the advice of a more "experienced" investigator. Sure, there are people who have been investigating for 20-30 years, but let's face it, if they were really any good, they would have a TV show, so don't bother with them. You know just as much as they do, and why would they help you anyways? Be suspicious of those people, they just want to steal from you or ruin your excellent reputation.



Evidence.

1. If at first you don't notice anything in your audio or photos, use fancy software to enhance it. When you do this, you will be surprised how much you will find. Don't ever publish unaltered evidence - that is boring. Make sure you enhance it until you will be sure everyone else will be able to see or hear what you did.
2. Never ever question your findings; this will make you look ignorant; and if by chance you discover something you published is wrong - never, never, ever retract it. No one else is as smart as you so chances are if you missed it, they will too. It is much better to leave it up and just run with it.

3. If you can't find any compelling evidence, it is ok to fake it. The only way to gain credibility is to post exciting evidence. This will help you gain more exposure and you will eventually have the chance to find real evidence later.
4. Be sure you know how to spot other people's fakes and call them out on it every chance you can. If they try to call you out on your fake evidence, or even question your real evidence, personally attack them. This will show what losers they are and no one will listen to them.

Putting Together and Promoting Your Team.

1. It is much better to start your own team than join an established one. If you must join an established team, try to make changes to suit your needs as soon as possible. Especially if they don't do things the way it is done on television. If they try to question you, simply tell them, "Well that is the way (insert your favorite TV team here) does." That is all the explanation anyone should need.
2. Start building trust within your team immediately. Never do a background check on a potential team member. That is an invasion of privacy and besides, what they do in their personal life has no impact on your ghost hunting.
3. People with jobs and families will just hold you back. Try to find people who don't have any responsibilities or goals other than ghost hunting.
4. Go EVERYWHERE together in your team t-shirts. Try to attract as much attention as possible. Dress crazy, be loud, do what ever it takes to attract attention. This is especially important if there is a television camera or a reporter nearby. Do whatever it takes to be photographed, or even better, interviewed in your t-shirt! All press is good press.
5. Make sure to create a group logo that people will immediately identify with. Such logos should mention the words Ghosthunter, Ghostbuster, Spook Detectives, Spirit Consultants etc. You could simply use the logo below.
6. Finally, make sure you comb through books, magazines or the internet on a weekly basis so to read other teams work and pass it off as your own. It is important to obtain community recognition as soon as possible.
7. Make sure to purchase the latest Ouija boards, Scrying Mirrors and Talismans as the newer ones are more powerful and will work better.

So there you have it, all you ever needed to know about being a good ghost hunter. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. I am an expert on the paranormal and know everything there is about it.

Most of you will probably not bother reading this final paragraph, which is great! If you just skimmed this article and only took away tiny bits of information to suit it to your own needs, you are well on your way to being a great ghost hunter.

But if you did bother to read every word, and not jump to conclusions, I hope by now you have realised that this article is a spoof and is actually a "how not to" guide that is dripping with sarcasm. I hope you had a chuckle! I know I did...

Happy Ghosthunting...



Mysterious Anglesey.

By Steve Mera.

For most Anglesey, Wales is a location for holiday makers. It's attractive shores and small coves attracts thousands every year. Beautiful landscapes, country walks and Quaint villages often come to mind. However, Anglesey has a much more mysterious side such as strange standing stones, ancient burial sites and ruined villages. It is also no stranger to paranormal phenomena. Boasting hundreds of haunted locations...

Standing in Llangefni town center is the imposing stone built Bull Hotel. This 22 room hotel has been brought back to its former glory over last few years and is known for its paranormal disturbances. Many years back an old four poster bed was said to have been haunted. Those brave enough to sleep in it would often wake to a chilled room

and a strange orange glowing ball of light that would run backwards and forwards across the end of the bed. Slight tapping sounds were also reported to come from the wooden headboard where a secret compartment had been found which in its time would have been used to hide jewellery and the occasional pistol. Many of the staff had reported the feeling of being watched whilst in the cellar and claimed to have heard someone behind them laughing or sniggering at them. This occurrence happened so often that staff started to refuse to go down to the cellars. Eventually the manager had to do the cellar duties by himself and had confessed to hearing the laughter himself when he knew he had been alone.

The upstairs landing is also somewhat of a hotspot. A number of years ago a waiter was on his way up to his room, next minute he rushed down, pale of face and shaking like a leaf. He was finding it hard to speak as he grabbed a nearby chair. After he had calmed down a little he said that he had just turned the corner on the landing when he spotted to his side a elderly woman sat in a rocking chair slowly going back and forth. She was wearing a long black dress with a white cotton collar. She also had on a neck brooch and had her grey coloured hair in a bun. The mysterious figure slowly lifted her head and stared right at him and as she did she slowly faded away along with the chair she was sat on. He described her clothing as Victorian looking. Needless to say, the waiter took an alternative route to his room from then on. The hotels attics are said to be the home of a ghostly dog.

Described as a white and brown coloured terrier which is often seen and heard scampering around and on occasion been seen to disappear through an attic wall. Workmen carrying out repairs in the attic watched the dog scamper past them.

They spent quite a long time looking for the dog but could not find it. Later they asked staff who the dog belonged to. They were told that they were wasting their time looking for the dog as it was a phantom hound and would often disappear running through the attic walls. Finally, many punters have stories of their own experiences at the Bull. One such punter explained that on one particular night he was sat with friends and the subject of ghosts came up. However, one of his friends did not believe the hotel was haunted nor did he believe in ghosts and made this quite clear by shouting it out. It was at this moment his words were interrupted, when a heavy mirror which was above the stone fireplace suddenly through itself off the wall towards him, clearing the table below it. It fell to the floor smashing into thousands of pieces. Everyone was stunned at what they had seen and the subject of ghosts was never to be brought up again...]



The Lligwy region near Moelfre has a number of mysterious ruins from three separate eras. The first being Hen Capel Lligwy (Old Lligwy Chapel). During the 12th century many Celtic churches built of timber were replaced with stone from the surroundings. It's unsure which saint the church dedicated as there are no records or information about how and why the church came to be.

It is believed that the upper part of the church was later constructed in the 14th century and then later in the 16th century an underground crypt was constructed. The crypt which is only about 5 feet in height measures around about 6ft long by 5ft wide. Also, in the center of the church floor looks to be a well and there is also evidence of a small altar of some kind.

Situated about half a km away is the well known Din Lligwy ruined village from the Roman era. Well protected and hidden by a ring of large trees this site is now protected. This fascinating but eerie location shows evidence of once an important center of a community. The large stones that construct the buildings are well preserved and double layer walls can easily be identified as if used as a cavity wall insulator. Most of the buildings would have had walls around 5ft tall and approx 1.5m wide. The size and shapes of the different buildings may suggest they had a different purpose. Round buildings are often thought to be iron age domestic dwellings. Excavationists have discovered Roman coins, a silver ingot, a glass jug and pottery. Another building shows evidence of it once being used as a workshop, melting metal and the working of iron. Visitors to the location have on occasion heard the beating of metal and distant voices in conversation and when investigated, find that the site is completely empty and eerily quiet.



Further up the road about a km stands the remains of an ancient Neolithic burial chamber, still very much intact. The chamber dates back to the end of the 3rd millennium BC and was more than likely covered in a mound of soil like many others scattered around the country. A small opening would have been the only entrance and exit used for carrying in the bones of the dead. The largest stone sitting on top of the chamber (often referred to as the capstone) weighs around 25 tons and keeps the chamber relatively dry. The bones of 15 - 30 people along with pottery were found in the chamber when it was excavated back in 1909. Locals do not visit the site in fear of unsettling the spirits and a couple of elderly woman who often travel past the chamber claim to occasionally see and smell burning torches in the distant fields. As if witnessing a ghostly ritual from years past...

Facing the mainland is the quaint village of Beaumaris complete with its own castle which at times is said to host the sounds of horses hooves upon a drawbridge which is no longer there. Beaumaris has one of Great Britains oldest buildings, which is said to have been constructed in 1400. Now used as a shop of sorts the tiny Tudor looking building was once known as a rather creepy location. Locals claim that an apparition of a woman and young boy were often seen at the upstairs window at times the building was closed or undergoing some repairs.

There does not seem to be any information in regards who the apparitions are nor why they should only be seen at the upstairs windows. If indeed the apparitions were associated with the building then they must have been quite small as the upstairs ceiling is no more than 5ft in height. Probably the most known haunted location in Beaumaris is its Gaol. Visited by around 30,000 tourists per year the gaol now a museum is largely unaltered. As you walk down and past the side walls of the gaol you cannot help noticing a door situated around 30 feet up. The doorway once led to an outside balcony which was used for public hangings. A bell situated on top of the goal walls would be rang to let the villages know that a hanging was to go ahead.

The balcony no longer remains, but the doors are clearly visible. The gaol was designed and built by Joseph Hanson in 1829 and later expanded in 1867 to accommodate another 30 inmates. The gaol chapel has been untouched and is still in it's original condition. Beaumaris Gaol is most well known for how they kept their criminals in check. Brutal methods were used such as stretching racks, chains and whippings and also hangings. During one such hanging the prisoner claimed that if he were innocent the four faces of the nearby church clock would never show the same time. In fact for a while they did not. However, this was later attributed to the wind hitting the southern face. Paranormal disturbances at the gaol are often witnessed by security officers, who have reported seeing unusual flashes of light, stones being thrown, doors banging, keys rattling, and the sound of heavy footsteps. Numerous witnesses even claim to have had their hair pulled, heard the execution bell, even though the hammer was taken out of it years back and seen a floating shadowy apparition moving across the long dark corridors.



A mile outside Moelfre lies St. Llanallgo church. The resting place for many a soul that died at sea in a horrific shipwreck during hurricane winds. The Royal Charter was a steam clipper that was wrecked on the rocks of Moelfre's coastline by gale force winds and huge waves on October 26th 1859. The precise number of dead is uncertain due to the passenger list being lost. However it is noted that 459 lives were lost that stormy night, the highest death toll of any shipwreck on the Welsh coast. The only survivors were 21 passengers and 18 crew members, which were all men. Sadly no women or children were saved. It has also be speculated that some of the survivors that made it to shore were attacked, mugged then killed by robbers waiting for them to come ashore. The Royal Charter was transporting gold miners back home to Liverpool. It is thought that due to distrust the miners wore gold and money bags fastened to their belts. If they were lucky enough not to have sunk due to the extra weight they were carrying, then they would have had to still fight off their attackers once on shore. Moelfre certainly does have a rugged coastline and locals often report hearing screams coming from the sea on such stormy nights.



On one occasion Mrs. Walt, a visitor to Moelfre was walking her dog along the coastline path around 8.00pm in the evening when she saw in the distance what she thought to be four fishermen carrying something they had fished out of the sea. As she approached she momentarily lost sight of them as the hillside blocked her view. Minutes later she arrived at the top to find no one there. Not a single person could be seen. Mrs. Walt quickly realised that it would have been impossible for the men to have passed her. They had mysteriously vanished. Most if not all that perished at sea during the faithful night the Charter sank, were buried at St. Llanallgo. Now known as St. Gallgo the church remains the same. A small but quiet church with many headstones. There are rumours of St. Gallgo being haunted by a silent figure seen many times throughout the dark nights, caught briefly in the passing car headlights. The figure is said to be a tall man dressed in dark clothing who wanders slowly amongst the graves. Many have slowed or even stopped to get a better look only to see him slowly fade away. No one seems to know who the mysterious figure is, but he is said to continue haunting the location.

Just two miles outside Benllech, on the northeast coast of Anglesey, lies Red Wharf Bay. A beautiful location that tourists visit all year round. This peaceful retreat also has its mysteries. The Ghost of Captain Thomas is said to haunt the Ship Inn which is situated on the shore of Red Wharf. Members of staff claim the Captain is rather playful and enjoys rearranging the furniture around. Tables and chairs are often found to have been moved during the night.



Pumps in the cellar are regularly turned on and off and glasses are heard to be moving around. Several members of staff claim to have had a fleeting glimpse of the Captain, standing near the front window and on the cellar staircase. It is unknown who named the apparition or if he is in fact a captain or not. The Inn has changed hands numerous times over the years and information pertaining to the activity has been lost and forgotten.

A little further up the bay near the great rock of Castell Mawr, locals talk of a ghostly figure of a desolate woman dressed in a white long dress wandering the ruins of Gwiningar House which burnt to the ground during the 1940s. Again, no one knows the identity of the woman in white but local legend speaks of the murder of a young lady in a once nearby hotel known as the Onions which in time changed its name to the Min-y-Don. Like many other old hotels, the Min-y-Don was also known to be haunted. Strange noises and objects being moved were often witnessed. Room 15 was apparently the site of most of the disturbances. The manageress talked of seeing an old sea captain who had died in the room many years back. Guests staying in Room 15 were often awakened by loud banging sounds and the cupboard doors flying open.



The Min-y-Don was also home to a ghost of a bad tempered barman who is said to have fell to his death down the stone cellar steps. As the months past, staff would regularly mention the oppressive, angry atmosphere in the beer cellar and were reluctant to go down there. Water and gas taps were often mysteriously turned on and the strange smell of smoke would often fill the air...



Brynteg just 3 miles from Benllech is said to have one of the most ominous crossroads on the Island. Many visitors know of its location due to the high amount of reported car accidents there over the years. Now with strict speed restrictions the crossroad is somewhat safer, but locals know of it for a different reason. Many claim to have seen the apparition of a horse drawn coach rushing along the open road as if travelling on a cobbled street instead of tarmac. Never stopping nor straying from its path the coach passes the California, a public house standing on the corner of the crossroad. Those that have seen it simply watch in amazement as the coach slowly fades away in the distance. Joe McMullan, a local resident claims to have witnessed the incident twice.

The first time was back in 1969. It was around 10.30pm on a Sunday evening, Joe was on his way home from a local pub when he was startled by a coach rushing past

him. He remember that it was strange that he had not heard its approach. The coach was being pulled by four large black horses and their hooves made such a noise in the quietness of the night. Joe stopped and watched as the coach and horses faded away before his very eyes. His second experience was shared with his friend Michael. It was a sunny evening in August of 1981. Both Joe and Michael had just finished work and were on their way home. They had just crossed over the crossroad when their conversation was interrupted by the sound of horses. They stopped and looked around. Nothing could be seen, but they both could clearly hear the approaching horses. Suddenly they both felt a chill in the air as the sound of a rushing horse drawn coach flew by them. They were astonished, neither of them could see anything. Only the sound of the coach and horses was witnessed. Since the '80s there have been numerous sightings of the mysterious coach, rushing to its destination over and over...

Anglesey is full of mysteries, haunted locations, legends and myths... Oh! and of course it's also a rather good place to go and relax and enjoy a holiday if that's what your looking for...

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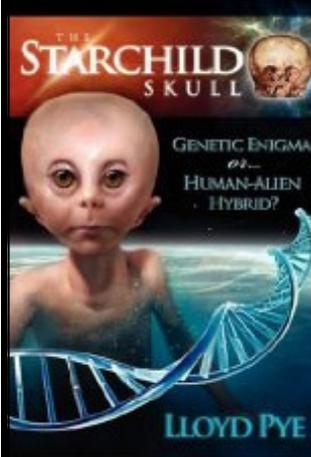
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BOOK REVIEW.

It's a great book. Imagine yourself in Europe 1,000 years ago and you found photos of the Earth with the Moon in the background as taken from the space shuttle and you had the wisdom and open-mindedness to realize what they were. Now imagine trying to get anyone to accept what we all know now as the simple truth. Since those times certainly many things have changed, but a great many have stayed the same. This book chronicles Lloyd Pye's near decade of struggles to solve the mystery of this strange skull that he has become

convinced is of an extraterrestrial/human hybrid and the incredible difficulty he has had even getting simple tests done and trying to get out the truth without getting heckled and ridiculed. If nothing else, this story is a lesson in how the scientific community circles its wagons in the face of something that could contradict accepted dogma. But it's much more than that. I didn't think there was anything to this business prior to reading the book, but I must admit I am now, like Lloyd Pye, very anxious to find out all there is to know about this skull.

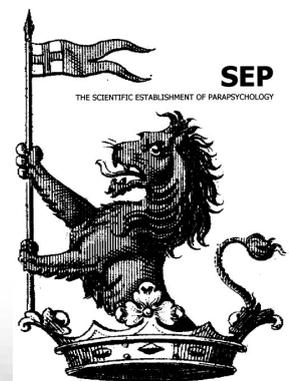
This book should end to be continued... The final, and no doubt most important test involves the nuclear DNA and won't likely be done for several years. In case you're wondering why it will take so long, the technique for sequencing human DNA didn't work! The mitochondrial DNA showed the mother to be human; the nuclear DNA (includes the father's), however is not! A new process has been developed to read Neanderthal DNA (it's not specie specific) but it is only done at one lab and there is a waiting list. Read the book and I think you too will see why this could be one of the greatest scientific discoveries ever.



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