

PHENOMENA

The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

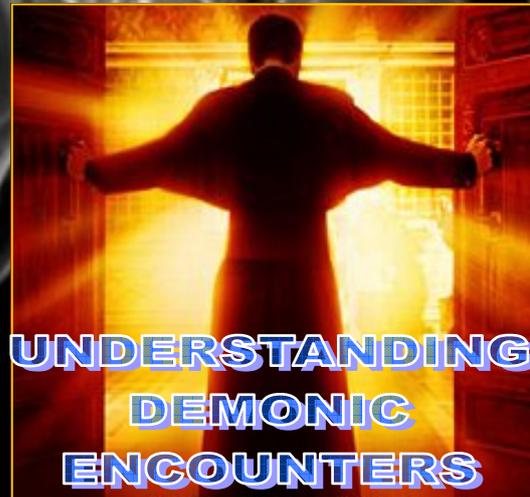
ISSUE 17 - SEPTEMBER 2010

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THE FADDEN PHANTOM

POLTERGEIST LEVITATION

LATEST INVESTIGATIONS
IN THE PRESS
AND MUCH MORE



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**CROP CIRCLES
THROUGHOUT
THE UK**

**UK GOVERNMENT
RELEASE STARTLING
UFO REPORTS**

**THE PHANTOM
HITCHHIKER
PHENOMENON**

EDITORIAL

Over the last month I have found myself investigating some unusual locations as well as having to commit myself to a long duration of video analysis submitted to us from Serbia, Japan, Australia, America and the UK. Never have MAPIT received such a variation of cases in a single month.

There have also been three on going investigations into alleged paranormal disturbances which will be featured in the mag at a later date. Big cat sightings have also been prominent this month and newspapers have been busy reporting several incidents. I was also lucky enough to be invited along to one of the UPIA training sessions, which was certainly an eye opener for me... (See Article to the Right).

Overall, it's been another busy month. A future trip to Wiltshire to perform some new methods of research into the Crop Circle phenomenon is also on the cards which quite frankly may result in some interesting finds. Finally, over the next few months you will notice some new changes to the mag. Hope you enjoy this months edition which covers numerous paranormal subjects.

SUB-EDITORIAL

I've been asked to pen a sub editorial for Phenomena Magazine, so my monthly update will include information from the last month, both in the news and from the UPIA. The main area of the month has been the Perseid meteor shower in the skies above the UK.

The Perseid meteor shower has a wonderful and somewhat grisly history. Often referred to as the "Tears of St. Lawrence" this annual shower coincidentally occurs roughly about the same date as the saint's death is commemorated on August 10. While scientifically we know the appearance of the shooting stars are the by-products of comet Swift-Tuttle, our somewhat more superstitious ancestors viewed them as the tears of a martyred man who was burned for his beliefs. The UPIA and MAPIT found themselves beaten by the UK cloud cover. That is for myself, whilst holidaying in Anglesey; I was greeted with perfect conditions and viewed a spectacular meteor show. Other UPIA news is visited elsewhere in this month's issue, including our groundbreaking 3D ESP training course, not what you'd think from the name I assure you. Visits to numerous locations have taken place, in particular a UPIA Big cat site in the North of England. UPIA protocols do not allow an in depth account of affairs, but again, some groundbreaking on site methodology has been devised for such cases. Other UPIA cases continue to be researched and investigated as time and logistics allow and will be discussed in Phenomena Magazine when protocol allows the information's release.

A special thanks to all our contributors. If you would like to contribute yourself, please send over any articles no more than 2000 words. Thanks.

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IN STRANGE LOCATIONS...

Over the years I have been privy to numerous training sessions ran by many different organisations. The most beneficial of them being those ran by UPIA; and last months 3D-ESP Training session ran by UPIA's Kirst D'Raven was no different. It is very easy to become comfortable with the fact that you consider yourself well trained and up to date with modern research and investigation methodology. I was surprised how much investigation and research techniques have come on. 20 to 25 years back research was much more limited due to it being a pre-internet era. Investigators were forced to have to attend a records office and libraries to get their material, thus spending weeks, sometimes months tracking down that vital piece of evidence. I was certainly out of touch in regards how much information is now readily available on the internet and the processes of obtaining it. Never had I been so surprised as to the value of historical information and new investigation methods. UPIA's incorporation of Forensic Analysis was incredible, and I could certainly see the rewards of using such investigation techniques. It was also refreshing to see an organisation using pieces of



detection equipment in the correct manner as many other organisations treat their equipment as ghost detecting devices. New members were also shown how to use a spectrum analyser along with photographic and video techniques, collecting sample evidence, monitoring environmentals, taking prints and casts, the assessment and investigation of animal deaths, scale referencing and measurements, grid construction and resistivity checks, and much more. Having ran MAPIT for around 20 years I can clearly see how beneficial it is to continue learning new skills which may further help in the scientific study of anomalous phenomena.

UPIA have a large amount of training sessions available to newcomers. UPIA certainly do live up to their name and I would agree that they are at the leading edge of new investigation and research methodology. Visit UPIA at

<http://www.upia.co.uk>





THE FADDEN PHANTOM

BY STEVE MERA

During June of 2004 I was contacted by a Mr. Fadden, a welder from Bury who informed me that he was having some sort of problem in his house. His family had moved into their three bedroom house only eight months back and since, strange sounds could be heard during the night, objects would disappear and then later turn up in odd places, and his son Michael aged 19 believed he was having bedroom visitations. I listened to his story and became intrigued. After we had conversed for sometime I arranged to meet with himself and his family at their home the following week.

Myself and another investigator, Sarah Walker, met with the family at their home. Mr. Fadden had been married for 28 years and had one son, Michael, who was a student and living at home with his parents. The family also had two pet dogs, Max and Ben, two brown Staffordshire bull terriers. Mr. Fadden was a well built guy, around 6.5 feet in height and had been a steel welder for around 16 years. The family had lived in Middleton before moving to a larger house in Bury about eight months ago, and all seemed as normal until a couple of months after moving in. Mr. Fadden told me that he had experienced something that had troubled him ever since.

"My son Michael went out to walk the dogs around the near by reservoir and when he returned I was shocked to see the state he was in. He was as white as a ghost (excuse the pun) and shaking all over, he looked terrible. I asked him what was the matter? I thought he had seen a dead body whilst he was out or something. He eventually told me that he was walking towards the estate and something caught his eye behind him, he quickly turned to see something very unusual. He could only describe it as a large moving black mass which was following him and then it lifted and travelled towards a neighbours house, passing through several brick walls on its way. Mr. Forshawe, a neighbour, witnessed the same thing. It eventually reached the neighbours house and disappeared through the wall. I couldn't believe it. My son is usually scared of nothing; I have never seen him like that before. I went outside for a look around and chatted with Mr. Forshawe about what he had seen. I couldn't see anything unusual, however Mr. Forshawe did back up my son's story".

"A few days later my son said he was going to his friends and that he would not be home till late. Anyway we went to bed leaving the landing light on. We both fell asleep fairly quickly. Then suddenly we woke to the terrible sound of our son downstairs. It sounded as he was crying out and fighting with someone. We rushed downstairs to the lounge where Michael was sprawled out on the floor in tears. 'What the hell is going on' I said. We got Michael up, but he was struggling to catch his breath. As Gill, (Mrs. Fadden) was making him a drink, Michael tried to explain to me what had happened. He had come in around 1.10am and had made himself some cheese on toast. As he settled down to his snack, he had leaned forward to grab the TV remote when suddenly something seemed to grab him from behind".

"He felt as if something had literally jumped on his back and was grabbing him around the throat. As he panicked and struggled to get this thing off him, he felt as if he had got an electric shock. Michael ended up on the floor kicking and shouting out, but the more he struggled the more the electric shocks seemed to continue. Then when I had shouted out Michael's name from the top of the stairs, whatever it was, let go of him. It took forever to calm Michael down, and we pretty much ended up staying up for the duration of the night. Michael was so upset he said that he was going to move out and live with his friend. We didn't know what to do".

"On another occasion, My wife asked me to go to the chippy for tea, so I reached out to grab my van keys off the telephone table and they were gone. We looked high and low but could not find them anywhere". "I always put the keys on the small table beside the phone, but there was no sign of them. I ended up ringing into work to tell them that I had lost the keys to the van. They were not pleased to say the least". The following morning as I was putting my coat on I decided to have one more check of my pockets, but... no, nothing was in them. I heard my friend beep his horn outside, as I made my way to the door, I had one last a fleeting glance down at the telephone table. I could not believe it, there were the keys, just sat there exactly as I had left them the night before. We had all checked the table several times and the keys were definitely not there. Amazed at the find I just grabbed them and made my way out the door".

At this point I asked Mrs. Adams (Gill) if she had witnessed any activity in the property herself.

"I have had unusual things happen in the house when Alan's out at work... Sometimes the dogs seem to be looking at something that I can't see and they often act a little strange upstairs. I've seen a dark shape move around and heard footsteps twice coming from upstairs when I'm the only one in and also felt a cold breeze in the lounge and on the staircase several times, but the most common thing is that items always seem to disappear and turn up in odd places. Sometimes I just put it down to me being tired. A few weeks ago I had come in from shopping and was unpacking the bags in the kitchen. I had purchased a bottle of aftershave for Michael's birthday, but as I unpacked I quickly realised that it wasn't in any of the bags. I was sure I had purchased it so I hunted out the receipt which was in one of the discarded bags on the floor. Just as I thought; there it was on the receipt along with toothpaste, soap and other bathroom materials. I quickly checked again. I had everything but the aftershave. I presumed it must have somehow fallen out of my bag whilst on the bus and thought nothing more to it".

"That is until Michael's birthday. I had got up earlier than normal to make Michael a nice breakfast before he set off to college. Alan had already left for work a good hour before. Michael came down and was sat having breakfast whilst I filled the kitchen sink bowl with hot water. Then all of a sudden we heard an almighty crash. I remember seeing Michael jump in fear. He had not been the same since that terrible night he was attacked. Michael just stared at me and said 'No way am I going up there'. I knew I had to at some stage so I grabbed Alan's umbrella and headed up the stairs".

"I pushed open the bedroom door and looked in. Nothing seemed to be out of place, so I headed into the bathroom; and that was when I saw it. The missing bottle of aftershave I had purchased was in the bath. It had been unwrapped and the box was lying next to the bottle. I couldn't believe it. It was still around and now playing tricks. I quickly grabbed the bottle and put it back in its case and dropped it into my dressing gown pocket. When I got back downstairs I told Michael that I had left my window open and that the morning breeze had blown the net curtain and knocked my small vase off my window ledge. I didn't want Michael to know what had happened. He had already been on the verge of moving out. After he left for college I wrapped the aftershave up and gave it him when he got back in. I told Alan when he got home which seemed to un-nerve him yet again".

"I have also seen that dark mass at least 4 times now. The last time I saw it was when I was coming in from the Post Office last Wednesday. As I came up the path I saw something move in the lounge. I just froze, thinking we may have had a burglar. Both Alan and Michael had both gone out early that morning and were not due back until tea-time. As I stepped closer to the window, I saw a 3 to 4 foot tall dark mass slowly moving from beside the TV and out of the lounge door. No way was I going back in that house alone. I ended up at my mums. When I got there I just broke down, I didn't know what to do. My mum wouldn't even come back with me. I ended up waiting for Alan to finish work. I telephoned Alan and told him what had happened. He later picked me up at my mum's house".

"When we reached home, Alan went in first to check around. A minute or so later he came to the front door and waved me in. Nothing was out of place but we both remember an odd smell lingering around the staircase. It smelt like rotten fish. I ended up leaving two automatic air-freshners in the hallway. That night we were plagued by lights flickering. Alan had gone to the front door to look at the lights coming from our neighbours house, but only ours seemed to flicker. By morning the smell had gone and the lights were working as normal".

Mrs. Fadden was asked if she had any substations, generators or electrical pylons in the area.

"Yes, we do have pylons, but not close, they have never seemed to have been a problem".

My first impressions was that both Mr. and Mrs. Fadden were telling me the truth. I could clearly see that they were scared and their dark bags under their eyes indicated that they were having sleepless nights. Several times during the interview Mrs. Fadden became very upset as if she was re-living her experiences. I would even go as far to say hysterical at times. Questions in regards medical history can be a sensitive area, a series of questions were asked during an interview break. The answers were satisfactory and I carried on...

(The photograph to the left is of the Fadden's home in Bury. The house next door was where the dark mass was seen to enter. Mr. Forshawe lives opposite the Fadden's home).

Mrs. Fadden had also tried to gain knowledge of the subject and ended up convincing herself that she and her family had been the receiver of some sort of alien interaction. This was brought about by reading UFO literature. Her beliefs are somewhat limited, along with her husbands. I remember Mrs. Fadden stating:

"I believe there might be something out there that we don't understand but I'm not too sure."

Mrs. Fadden was clearly still very uneasy talking about their experiences and suffers from thoughts of an awaiting attack from this unknown violator to the household. Some of the questions I asked were specifically designed to find a rational explanation. Their answers seemed to rule out Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (T.L.E), drug induced hallucinations and other theories relating to electricity and electromagnetic effects on the brain. Mrs. Fadden was obviously suffering from Post Traumatic Stress (P.T.S.) which leads me to believe that her experiences were real. Apart from the emotional breakdowns during the interview Mrs. Fadden gave us a very clear picture of the incidents and she did not attempt to exaggerate her story.

Also, Michael had explained that he had seen a strange dark mass following him when walking the dogs and that he had a terrifying experience in his lounge which consisted of being subjected to electric shocks and also the feeling of pressure upon his back and throat. Even though there may be incidents that suggest the activity may be poltergeist related, there are certain details that don't quite fit. The only time I had heard of such incidents taking place are those cases sometimes referred to as Diabolical Hauntings. These type of incidents are often thought to be extremely severe and can often result in injury or illness. Some would even go as far as to state that such phenomena is demonic in nature and that church assistance must be obtained. I have only come across a handful of cases like this in my time as an investigator and it seems that obtaining church assistance was not a bad idea...

The investigation and research of Demonology is very similar to investigating general paranormal disturbances such as poltergeist infestations and hauntings. In fact Demonology can actually incorporate such paranormal disturbances; making it sometimes initially difficult to categorise. Investigators can find themselves investigating a case with all such aspects of both Demonology and Paranormal Phenomena. Like I mentioned above, differentiating such disturbances can be difficult however there are certain characteristics to demonic or negative hauntings. Most hauntings or paranormal disturbances be it poltergeist infestations or classic hauntings etc are usually referenced to as Positive or Neutral in nature. Positive hauntings for example are not so common. For instance the owners of a haunted house have no problem with the activity taking place, in fact the so called 'spirit' (if that's what it is) can actually be playful and helpful at times. Most common are those referred to as neutral hauntings, those disturbances that can be passive at times and also be annoying, scary and upsetting.



Finally we come to the negative hauntings where apparitions are commonly seen as dark amorphous shapes, even ugly gargoyle creatures are said to have been seen. Horrific disturbances such as being physically attacked and injured. Horrific odours such as the smell of rotten meat or flesh. Strange audible disturbances such as screams, crying, and animal noises. Manifestations of blood and dirt has at times also been reported. Such negative hauntings can incorporate poltergeist type experiences such as being sexually attacked similar if not identical to Succubus or Incubus activity. Such negative spirits are often referred to as demons, entities or fallen angels; and as previously mentioned, negative hauntings are also referred to as (Diabolical Hauntings).

It is often said that there is nothing more physically, emotionally, spiritually or psychologically dangerous than encountering something so evil or terrifying. Investigating this form of paranormal, supernatural or preternatural phenomenon is not for the faint hearted. The most productive investigators would more than likely be religious to some degree and / or have a good knowledge of the Catholic faith as statistics show that families that are devout Catholics seem to be persecuted the most. Some would suggest that it is their faith that is being tested...

I am not sure if there is enough evidence to state this as a fact, however it is true to say most diabolical incidents do involve many devout Catholics, such as the Carlotta Moran case, better known from the book and movie 'The Entity'. Also the Smurl family case, better known for the TV movie, 'The Haunted'. Investigators can usually expect a more interactive, extreme and profound phenomena when investigating preternatural activity. Preternatural or 'Praeternatural' is that which appears outside or beyond the natural. While this may include what is more commonly called the supernatural, it may also simply indicate extremity - an ordinary phenomenon taken 'beyond' the natural. The Supernatural refers to forces and phenomena which are beyond ordinary scientific measurement. Concepts in the supernatural domain are closely related to concepts in religious spirituality, metaphysics and Schizotypy. Terminology can be rather difficult to understand and often cause disambiguation.

Almost everyone now recognises the word 'Ghost', which is said to be a spirit of a person that once lived, regardless of how many years ago that may have been. The term Ghost actually means a human spirit that is not recognised by its viewer / viewers. An 'Apparition' is the term given to a human spirit that is recognised by the viewer / viewers. I know... We as investigators, researchers and authors of this subject often make this mistake in terminology. The word 'Apparition' is nowadays given to all manifestations be it a human spirit we recognise or not. Also, they don't even have to look human to be given the classification 'Apparition'. They can be referred to as amorphous or smoky apparitions.

Many believe that a human spirit can remain earthbound because they refuse to believe they are dead, or they choose to remain for one reason or another, be it strong ties to family or loved ones, attracted to certain places, important matters or possessions, or unfinished business etc. Many believe that they can sense ghosts or sense the emotion in an environment. This can be described as an oppressive atmosphere. Often said to feel 'Heavy'. It is also thought that ghosts are pretty much aware of ourselves as well. This would obviously only apply to interactive phenomena, which inevitable are commonly reported during such household disturbances. Apparently ghosts don't just come out at night, they can cause an equal amount of activity during the sunniest of days. However, ghostly phenomena tends to be recognised and more prominent during the night. This could simply be that the people in that environment are more conscious of disturbances during the quieter part of the day. They may be too busy during the day to even notice or could simply be out at work. We do tend to be more aware during the evening to household sounds, I'm sure you'll agree. In fact, psychologically speaking the brain certainly acts differently at night and there may be some factor that comes into play that increases certain senses.

There are many theories as to how a ghost might manifest, one of the most popular is that they can draw from their environment, such as electricity, batteries, even people. An interesting point to mention is that there are numerous reported incidents that involve the witnesses receiving huge electricity bills. In some cases, so high that the amount of electricity could not have been used in the given time. Of course, you can well imagine this predicament when trying to explain this to the electricity supplier. There are reports of high bills on a regular basis throughout many hauntings. Drawing energy from batteries is another theory. New heavy duty batteries can suddenly and inexplicable drain without usage. On the odd occasion they can even burst and / or leak which can leave nasty burn marks. Finally there is the theory of drawing of energy from people. Similar I suppose to poltergeist infestations. It is thought that the phenomena can somehow adversely affect an individual, drawing on their energy could possibly leave them feeling lethargic or run down. Such witnesses often report a lack of motivation, appetite, concentration or sleep.

Temperature drops or 'Cold Spots' are also a popular finding amongst investigations. Is it generally thought that the drop is due to the draining of energy from both the atmosphere and the people in the vicinity. There are also reports of warm areas as well, and of course, some believe this is the dispersion of the activity, i.e. the energy being placed back in the environment. I have come across cold spots a number of times but never has it been cold enough to see my breath. Hollywood films would have us believe that cold spots are common and the investigators tend to see their breath; when in fact the truth is that most cold spots are picked up via electronic equipment such as temperature alert devices and thermal guns, but there is always the possibility that such equipment is not working correctly, thus giving you false readings. Take into consideration that things may not be as they seem. There are plenty of rational explanations for these sudden temperature fluctuations, such as drafts and temperature reading equipment going hay-wire. We should all be aware that any electronic equipment can fault, and more so in an environment declared to be haunted. Strong EMF spikes can also cause equipment to fault, just as infra-sound can cause us to feel uneasy, ill or anxious. As for so called in-human spirits. There are a lot of theories and speculation, often driven by personal belief. Some would suggest that such in-human spirits are thought to have never 'lived' and are considered evil in nature. These are often referred to as Demons, hence the terms Demonic Activity and Diabolical Hauntings. It is said that they have the capabilities to encourage or force negative or evil human spirits to do their bidding. Their purpose being one thing... to destroy those in the environment, usually an entire family and occasionally focused on an individual by methods of tormenting the living or / and keeping a human spirit from passing over. It's generally thought that a demonic spirit will not manifest during the day, they tend to prefer darkness so they can carry out their harassment of anything / anyone associated with God. It is presumed that the more religious the individual or family the greater the victory is. Demons apparently have no morals, they will attack the weak, ignorant or young, simply because they are more defenceless and on most occasions it is their goal to eventually possess a living person. The reason for this is not known, however, some researchers believe that such demons are jealous of humans and their capabilities to live. Again, a load of speculation... But I'm sure such disturbances do take place...

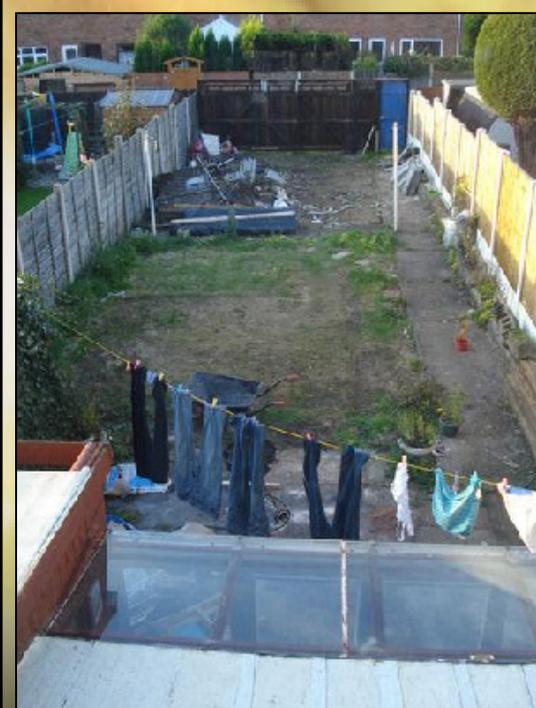
As to what is responsible depends on who you ask. I try not to follow the stereotypical approach, but would much rather simply state what I can prove to have happened as well as document testimonies from those who claim to have had such experiences.

There is a wealth of information that would suggest demonic activity is somehow connected with alleged possessions. It is often wrote that such possessions do not just happen over night and that demons usually wear their victims down, causing sleep deprivation, a lack of appetite or even illness. Demonic activity or negative spirits are usually invoked such as messing about with Ouija boards or Black Magic, however there is the possibility that an evil act had once taken place in the environment, usually considered as a 'Sin'. However, there are some cases that do not seem to follow the normal pattern. Occasionally there can be an eruption of such activity without finding a cause or invocation. This does not mean there wasn't one, just that one wasn't found. Demonic activity first starts with provoking fear, which you can imagine is probably easy. By doing this the victims can throw off negative energy, which the activity feeds on, similar to how poltergeists work. If you can catch this early enough, investigators may be able to conduct the 'Starving The Phenomena' program. This is a technique that I stumbled upon during an investigation of poltergeist type incidents back in 1998. The idea is to educate the witnesses in hope of decreasing their stress level. This can sometimes be done by explaining that such disturbances are usually short lived and that it is rare for anyone to get injured. The witnesses would also be told of how poltergeist activity seems to work. In most cases a single paranormal event is often experienced or seen which in turn upsets the witnesses causing stress and emotion. It is this type of negative emotion which is thought to power the phenomena. The more energy, the more phenomena will be experienced. A vicious cycle you could say. However, like previously mentioned, educating the witnesses can help drop stress and emotion levels, thus causing a directly proportional reaction and decreasing paranormal activity. Once the witnesses see that this is the case, it reinforces their beliefs even further and in some cases witnesses gain control and rid their homes of the phenomena.

So what of the Fadden's experiences. A dark mass that is responsible for attacking Michael, creating terrible odours, moving things around, playing tricks and keeping the family awake at night. Sounds like a diabolical haunting doesn't it? Well... lets not jump the gun. I'm only prepared to state at this time, some type of paranormal phenomena was taking place.

October 8th 2004. I visited the Fadden's house with fellow investigators Sue Walker and Peter Owens to set up equipment and conduct further interviews. Mr and Mrs. Fadden had been keeping a record of events. It had been a few weeks since I had talked with the family and was eager to find out if any other incidents had taken place. I pulled up outside their home and immediately realised that news of us attending had spread around the local neighbourhood. Mr. Forshawe was out and standing by his gate. As I got out of the car, he called me over. "Are you the ghost guys?" he said. I replied Yes! (holding back a giggle). "Well I saw that thing as well, it was about the size of a child and it was following their young lad home. When he saw it, it shot off over their (pointing towards the house next door to the Fadden's). "It went right through the wall and disappeared. Never seen anything like it in 63 years, and never want to again". I was pleased that we had independent witnesses to an event which would have been difficult to believe otherwise. I asked Mr. Forshawe if he would be happy to complete one of our report forms so to have his testimony on file. He agreed to fill it in and pop it over to us later that day. We walked up the pathway to the Fadden's front door where Michael was waiting for us. 'Come In, Mum and Dad are in the kitchen' he said. We sat around the small kitchen table sipping hot coffee as Mr. and Mrs. Fadden told us of what had been going on. Mrs. Fadden was first to talk.

'Last Thursday was the worst! I had come in from getting the washing off the line and the telephone rang. It was my mum, just checking up on how things had been. I was just telling her that it had not been too bad recently when I heard a growl coming from the lounge'. I didn't think that much of it. Just thought it was one of the dogs playing up. I walked into the lounge whilst still on the phone with my mum, and when I got in there I realised that the dogs were out the back. None of the dogs were inside. I told my mum on the phone to hang on a second whilst I checked to see if the dogs were still out there, and as I turned to come out of the lounge I heard a deep loud growl come from behind me. Well... I just freaked. I dropped the phone and the back plate where you put the batteries in, flew off. I rushed into the kitchen and out of the back door. I stood there not knowing what to do for a good few minutes. I first sent the dogs in which didn't seem to bother them. I saw this as a good sign and followed. I managed to get the phone back together and working and then rang my mum back. She had been trying to get through but it was engaged. I ended up locking up and going round to my mums. That growl scared me to death. I think whatever it is, it's playing games with us'...



I asked the family if they had heard this growling noise before. Mr. Fadden shook his head as if to suggest no, but Michael said 'Yes'. *'I've heard it a few times at night but thought at first it was the dogs, but I heard it once when the dogs were out'*. Mr. Fadden was in the back garden yesterday securing the back fence to make sure the dogs couldn't get out. When he noticed his bedroom curtains moving backwards and forwards as if being drawn and then opened, but at the same time he could see Mrs. Fadden in the kitchen. He went in and asked if Michael was back from college, but he had not yet returned. On investigation he could clearly see that the curtains had been moved and that two of the curtain hooks had come off the rail. Below is a photograph of the Fadden's back garden taken from the main bedroom. Items were still being moved and later found in odd places. Several important letters had gone a miss and when Michael's front door key and bus pass disappeared last Tuesday Mr. Fadden became outraged and ended up telephoning a local church and taking with a vicar. He had explained what had been going on and wanted rid of this menace. Mrs. Fadden was surprised, she didn't know how much all this was really affecting her husband. *'Normally he's the quiet and sensible type that normally finds a rational explanation for things'*; she said. In fact, Mrs. Fadden thought that her husband didn't believe in religion and all that... She was rather taken back at his sudden approach. She went on to say *'He'd obviously had enough and was now taking it into his own hands to sort something out'*.

Mr. Fadden's conversation lasted sometime and ended up with an agreement that the vicar would get back in contact with him...

Investigator Sue Walker had been next door to have a word with them. Even though they were aware of what the Fadden's were going through, they had not experienced anything unusual. Michael had told the family next door about the dark mass and that it had been seen going into their wall. In fact, the family were considerably worried. They were rather scared at the thought of experiencing anything paranormal. Sue sat back down at the table grasping a freshly filled report form. Mr. Forshawe had passed it to her whilst leaving next doors.

The night was slowly drawing in and it was decided that we start to set up our equipment. Michael was going out for the night. The dogs were at Mrs. Fadden's mothers. We had placed an audible recorder on the landing, a video camera at the bottom of the stairs and another video camera in the lounge. A number of meter sweeps were taken throughout the property. Such sweeps are often referred to as baseline tests. Temperature was a normal 18 degrees, with a slight drop to 17 degrees in the bathroom. EMF measured no unusual spikes. An average 6mg was found to be emitting from the electrical consumer unit. This was normal. I had been in some properties that had excessive EMF through bad wiring which measured 20-25mg, which could over a period of time adversely affect those in the environment. Thus causing headaches, the feeling of anticipation and even sickness. Ion air counter measured normal as well as the digital magnetometer. In fact, the environment was normal in every way.

(The photograph to the right is a reconstruction of an event, when Mrs. Fadden discovered her son's aftershave bottle in the bath).

By 11.00pm myself and investigator Peter Owens had finished setting up all the equipment. Temperature alert devices were set up on the staircase and in the lounge. An Infra red motion detector was left next to the video camera in the hallway. Michael had left for the night earlier and now Mr. and Mrs Fadden had just retired for the evening. Sue was reading through the report forms and making notes in the kitchen when we joined her. We sat quietly listening out for any unusual sounds...

1.45am. Further baseline tests were carried out once again. Temperature now 15 degrees as normal. EMF and other checks were all normal. Lounge video tape was changed in the camera. Everything seemed to be fine.. that is until 3.05am.

I was sat in the kitchen with Peter and Sue when we heard movement. At first just a couple of thuds what sounded like footsteps.

We listened more closely. Then another and another. We then heard a bedroom door open and shut, then two more thuds then nothing. Quietness befell the house once again. The footsteps had started directly above the kitchen in Mr. and Mrs. Fadden's bedroom and ended in the upstairs hallway. We grabbed our cameras and rushed up the stairs as quietly as possible. Thinking one of the Fadden's had got up to visit the bathroom, we expected bumping into one of them;... but no!

There was no one there. All doors were shut, just how we had left them and the Fadden's were clearly asleep in their bed. The upstairs audio recorder had picked up the clear sound of footsteps, a door opening and closing, more footsteps and then an unusual sound. Something that sounded like a muffled moan. Whatever it was the audio recorder that was situated on the floor outside the bathroom door picked it up loud and clear. We were just rewinding the audio tape again to have a second listen when the infra red motion detector went off. Looking downstairs you could clearly see the motion detector facing the lounge. We rushed down to find nothing. There was no reason why the detector went off. A new tape was placed in the audio recorder and placed back on the upstairs landing along with the video camera from the bottom of the stairs.

4.22am. Sue had gone into the kitchen to make coffee (a necessary ingredient for most paranormal investigators). Peter and myself were conducting our final baseline tests with the equipment, again looking for unusual EMF spikes, odd temperature changes, geomagnetic anomalies etc. I had just picked up the magnetometer from the equipment bag when we heard Sue shout out 'Oh My God!' We ran into the kitchen to find Sue stood beside the fridge looking up at the ceiling. Sue claimed to have seen a dark amorphous mass about the size of a football move across the ceiling and disappear. She had turned to get a spoon out of the kitchen draw when it caught her eye. She watched as the mass slowly changed shape several times before it simply disappeared into the ceiling. It was then decided to set up a camera in the kitchen and leave it photgrabbing the area of the ceiling for a few ours.



7.34am. Sue and myself were drawn to the bottom of the stairs after hearing movement upstairs. To our disappointment, it was Mr. Fadden getting up. We then realised it was time for us to pack up. By 8.00am, Mrs. Fadden was in the kitchen making us some breakfast whilst Mr. Fadden tried to probe us in regards what we may have experienced throughout the night. We did not want to go into too much depth. We simply told him that we had heard a noise on the landing and that Sue thought she may have seen something. We would have to go through the photos, audio and video recordings before we can say for sure what was experienced. The following day not only revealed the strange noise we had captured on the audio recorder but also a strange dark orb that was captured on photograph in the kitchen by Peter on his camera...

We had arranged to visit the Fadden's the following weekend to reveal our findings and to discuss what to do next, however our plans were cut short after receiving a telephone call from Mr. Fadden on the Thursday evening.



We were shocked to find out that he had gone down to his caravan with his wife. He explained that on Wednesday the local vicar accompanied with two associates had visited the property to talk with them and to conduct a blessing which involved going into each room of the house. After which they stayed for a short time to talk to them about being a stronger family unit and accepting God into their lives. They left with the understanding that the family were to visit the Church the following week to further discuss their situation.

However during the early hours of Thursday morning. Something quite horrific took place. Mrs. Fadden had woke around 3.30am. She was feeling a little cold and realised that the covers had been pulled off her. Blaming her husband she gathered the bedspread and pulled it up around her. A few second later she felt the covers being tugged from her grasp. They were being pulled off her from the bottom of the bed. Suddenly fearing something strange was happening Mrs. Fadden sat up and looked down at the bottom of the bed. As her eyes focus she could make out a dark shape moving. As she let out a scream, grabbing at her husbands arm she felt a cold hand grab at her ankle. Kicking and screaming out for him to wake up she felt herself being pulled down the bed. It was as if her husband was drugged or something. He simply would not wake up. Mrs. Fadden kicked furiously as she screamed out for her husband.

Just as she thought she was losing the battle the cold hand let go of her ankle. She quickly shot up on to the bed diving at her husband and wrapping her arms around him. At this point Mr. Fadden woke up to find his wife screaming and crying. He quickly reached over to the bedside lamp and switched it on. Mrs. Fadden was in a right state, he had never seen her so upset. Whatever it was that had grabbed her had seemingly disappeared leaving Mrs. Fadden's left ankle red and inflamed looking.

Clearly the vicars attendance to their home had not been beneficial. It would seem that things had suddenly got worse. It took a few hours for Mrs. Fadden to calm down. They had stayed up the rest of the night discussing their options. By 7.00am they had decided to leave the house and temporarily live at the caravan until they sold the house. Mr. Fadden would be left to sort all the belongings and putting the house up for sale. Also, their son Michael was to live at his friends flat whilst attending university.

It would seem that our investigation had suddenly and abruptly come to a close... Over the following weeks I visited the vicar and discussed with him Mrs. Fadden's experience and why they felt it best to leave their home. I also kept in contact with the Fadden's and later sent a report to them.

The family home was eventually sold to a Mr. and Mrs. Horton in October of 2005 for a knock down price of £75,500. The Fadden's eventually purchased another house in Radcliffe, Manchester where they now reside. Michael now has his own flat and living with his girlfriend. Since the family fled their home they have had no experiences. In February of 2006 I visit the Horton's and explained to them that a few odd things was reported to have taken place at their home, but both Mr. and Mrs. Horton could not think of anything unusual that had taken place since they had moved in. Only that their pet poodle on occasion would sometimes bark at a seemingly empty corner of the room...

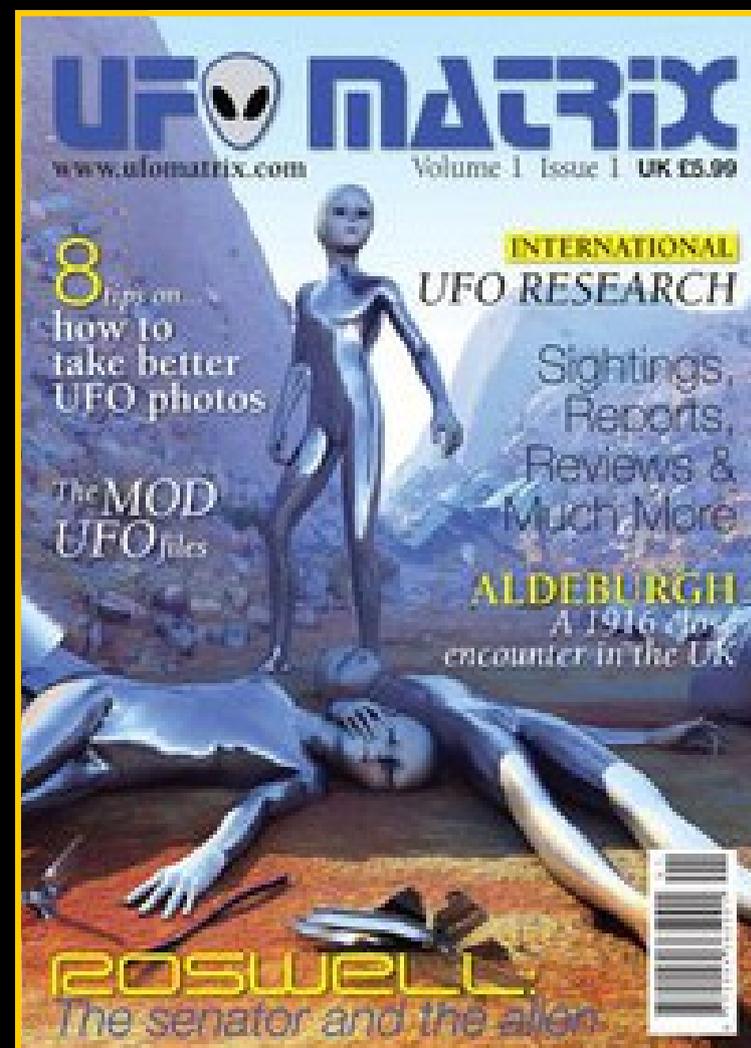
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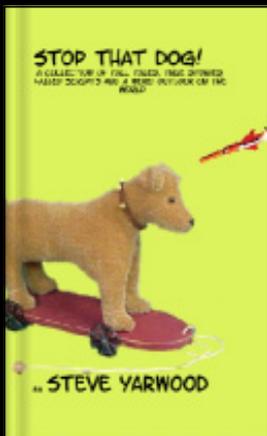


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Britain's Moss Haunted!



KATE MOSS is no stranger to spirits, but now she's more worried about supernatural happenings than booze. She thinks her London home is haunted after a catalogue of calamities. She has hired a shaman to rid the place of "evil energy" (not the Nineties dance outfit **THE SHAMEN**, an exorcist).

A source said: "Her fella **JAMIE HINCE** is a believer in the supernatural and has persuaded her there is bad energy in the house which needs to be removed by a shaman priest. "She has found one who will perform a ceremony to cleanse the place." Kate's gaff has been the scene of many a disaster in the past few months. In May the supermodel had an £80,000 **BANKSY** painting nicked. Just days later sewage flooded into her kitchen, causing £100,000 damage. Now the replacement floor has buckled, her sauna has leaked and Kate has been told the house needs rewiring. I know a few builders who could sort it out for her for a very reasonable price.

Big Cats got Bark!



SCHOOLBOY Sam Burne points to deep scratches in a tree in his garden - thought to have been caused by a PANTHER.

Sam, 14, and his family were stunned when they found the huge gouges left by a big cat. The marks, all several inches long, were first spotted by his mum Jo, 44, as she did some gardening. It followed several reports of sightings of a panther around Coventry.

Amazingly the beast did not leave prints or try to eat the family's two pet rabbits. Sam said: "It's frightening to think it was just outside."

Scientists invent invisibility cloak made of tiny pieces of glass.

By Niall Firth : July 22nd 2010.

It sounds like a far-fetched invention from science-fiction or fairy-tales. But US scientists have developed a working invisibility cloak made from small particles of glass. When light hits an object, it bounces off the surface and into the naked eye, making it visible. But researchers at Michigan Tech University have found a way of capturing infrared light and bending it around an object, making it invisible. At the moment the science is still based in the lab.

But if the same results could be achieved with visible light, the shrouded object would disappear from sight. Professor Elena Semouchkina has developed a non-metallic cloak that uses identical glass resonators made of chalcogenide glass, a type of material that does not conduct electricity. In computer simulations, the cloak made objects hit by infrared waves—approximately one micron or one-millionth of a metre long—disappear from view. It is the first time scientists have tried using glass to bend light in this way. Her invisibility cloak uses metamaterials, which are artificial materials with properties that do not exist in nature. These metamaterials are made of tiny glass resonators arranged in a concentric pattern in the shape of a cylinder. The 'spokes' of the circle produce magnetic resonance which bends light waves around an object, making it invisible. Metamaterials, which use small resonators instead of atoms or molecules of natural materials, straddle the boundary between materials science and electrical engineering.



The team is now testing an invisibility cloak rescaled to work at microwave frequencies and made of ceramic resonators. They are carrying out the work in Michigan Tech's anechoic chamber: a cave-like compartment lined with highly absorbent charcoal-gray foam cones. Inside, antennas transmit receive microwaves, which are much longer than infrared light, up to several centimeters long. They have cloaked metal cylinders two to three inches in diameter and three to four inches high. 'Starting from these experiments, we want to move to higher frequencies and smaller wavelengths,' the researchers said. 'The most exciting applications will be at the frequencies of visible light.' New Scientist magazine predicted last year that invisibility cloaks could be part of everyday life in 30 years. The research appeared in the journal Applied Physics Letters, published by the American Institute of Physics.



THE Sun Least Haunted.

By Jen Blackburn : June 28th 2010.

Yvette Fielding has quit cult show Most Haunted - after it failed to find enough ghosts. The ex-Blue Peter host hopes to have more luck spotting spooks with other channels. She said she was leaving to "move paranormal activities to the next level". Yvette also claimed she got buckets of fan mail asking her to "go further and move forward". In a letter to fans of the Living show she announced she would now be ghost-hunting for other channels including ITV2's Ghosthunting. Yvette, 41, joked: "That's not so much goodbye as see you on the other side!" She made the statement on the website for the show's maker Antix Productions, which she set up with her husband Karl Beattie. It has not been decided whether Most Haunted will continue without her. Yvette wrote: "It is time for me to hang up my long black coat, move on and leave Most Haunted as its presenter in order to pursue other projects." Most Haunted started in 2002 and ran for 14 series. It was billed as a serious investigation into ghosts. After complaints Television Regulator Ofcom ruled the show was entertainment and not to be taken seriously.



THE Sun Take us to your Pharaohs.

By Kenny Angrove : June 26th 2010.

A SCOTS honeymooner was left stunned after spotting what looks like a UFO in his holiday snaps from Egypt. Gerry Weatherall, 41, captured the mystery 'flying saucer' hovering over pyramids at Giza. The kitchen surveyor was touring the famous site during a week-long break with new bride Ayisha, 28, when he took the snap. But it was only when he checked his pics back home in Barmulloch, Glasgow, that he realised his close encounter.



He said: "I uploaded the pictures of the pyramids on to my computer and was flicking through them when I spotted this object hovering over them. "I took a load of pictures and it's not in any of the others. "We didn't see anything at the time but you can clearly see there is something there. "Maybe it is a UFO visiting the pyramids."

UPIA took a look at the photograph and concluded that the object could be simply an insect passing in front of the camera...



Mystery Sea Monster.

July 30th 2010.

A MYSTERIOUS Loch Ness type creature has been snapped stalking fish - just YARDS off the British coast.

The fish were so terrified they beached themselves just seconds after the long necked creature was snapped speeding towards them. The strange Plesiosaur-like creature was spotted just 30 yards off the Devon coast by locals who reported a sighting of what they first thought was a turtle. But pictures taken by one of the baffled witnesses reveal its neck is far too long for any known sea turtle.



Experts are totally baffled by the sighting. Gill Pearce photographed the creature following a shoal of fish at Saltern Cove in Paignton, Devon, on July 27. She at first thought it was a large sea turtle but baffled experts say it doesn't fit the description because the greenish-brown beast with a small reptile head has too long a neck. Mrs Pearce reported her sighting to the Marine Conservation Society where it was studied by sea life experts. "Gill Pearce spotted the creature about 20 metres from the bay at Saltern Cove, near Goodrington," said Clare Fischer from the MCS. "It was observed at about 15.30 on 27 July but by the time she had got her camera it had moved further out. "She spotted it following a shoal of fish which beached themselves in Saltern Cove.

"The creature remained in the sea, then went out again and followed the shoal - this indicates it's not a turtle as they only eat jellyfish. "We would love to know if other people have seen anything like this in the same area and can help clear up the mystery." Some people think the sea sighting could be linked to that of a sperm whale sighted off south Devon recently but Clare thinks not. "They [sperm whales] wouldn't come that close inshore and the reptilian-like head counts that out - at least that's what the experts are saying!" The sighting has caused a stir on the MCS website too where theories range from sea serpent to salt water crocodile. An MCS spokesman said: "It was reported as a turtle as it had large front flippers and small back flippers and what appeared to be a shell but was also said to have a small head on a thin neck about two-feet long which craned above the surface like a Plesiosaur. "It's described as being as long as a sea lion with a long neck which floated at the same height in the water all the time." "This is not a fake! "The problem is the distance and clarity from which the photos were taken. "The lady thought it may have been a turtle - but turtles don't chase fish. "It was reported as a turtle as it had large front flippers and small back flippers and what appeared to be a shell. "But it was also said to have a small head on a thin neck about two feet long, which craned above the surface like a Plesiosaur. "No sea turtles do that with their heads and we do not know of similarly described freshwater turtles that grow so big. "So at the moment it is 'unidentified' - the person who reported it has trawled the internet and says the closest ID fit is a giant green sea turtle - but the description of the head doesn't add up." The organisation has now asked for people to keep a keen watch on the seas off South Devon and appealed for more photos to be taken, adding: "If you live or are visiting down near Saltern Cove Goodrington, near Paignton please keep your eyes on the sea and let us know if you see anything - and keep your camera by your side just in case.

Big Cat blamed for Horse Death.



MYSTERY big cat is being hunted after a horse was savaged in its stables.

Experts believe an escaped panther may be to blame for the attack after trail marks were spotted near the stables. Pony Henry was found by owner Rachel Baugh with bite marks and cuts. She said: "At first I thought it was a bite from another horse on his back. "But when I looked more closely I could see really deep wounds on his rump and his back. "I called the vet right away." Rachel said there patches in the grass where it looked like a big cat had been lying in wait, and trail marks surrounding the stables in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. She added: "It looks like it was out there stalking." Police have now asked for local people to be on the look-out for the creature. Vet Simon Lyddon said: "I was one of the biggest cynics when I hear about cats roaming the countryside. "However, having looked at the injuries, there is a definite possibility that they were inflicted by a big cat." Danny Bamping, of the British Big Cat Organisation, said: "There have been a couple of cases in West Wales where a similar attack has taken place. "Having seen the photos I'm 95 per cent sure the injuries are the result of a big cat attack."

UFO Video was Balloon!



See the footage at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdjdtbkw54>

An amazing video that turned up on YouTube turns out to be a balloon. The video shot at Lake Havasu, Arizona last year has gained almost half a million hits. Many have proclaimed the footage to be one of the best pieces of UFO video evidence. However, turns out it was a large helium balloon that got loose during some TV filming. Witnessed by local Rangers and documented!



EXPRESS. MOD blocks release of UFO Files.

August 1st 2010.

The release of files about a Ministry of Defence civil servant-turned-UFO expert has been blocked. Nick Pope has drawn on his experiences working for Britain's official UFO investigation unit for a number of books about aliens and strange sights in the skies. Fellow UFO researcher David Clarke made a Freedom of Information request in 2007 for internal MoD documents about Mr Pope's decision to speak publicly about his conversion from sceptic to believer in the possibility that extra-terrestrials are visiting Earth. But more than three years later, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has upheld the department's refusal to publish the files because they contain personal information. Mr Pope worked on the MoD's UFO desk from 1991 to 1994, dealing with possible sightings sent in by the public.



He published his first book about the phenomena - Open Skies, Closed Minds - in 1996, although he continued working for the MoD until November 2006. The MoD's official line is that it has no opinion on whether or not aliens exist but 50 years of UFO reports uncovered no evidence of a potential threat to the UK. Dr Clarke asked the department to release records of its internal discussions about how to respond when Mr Pope began talking to the media about UFOs in 1995-96. He obtained an April 1996 memo written by a senior officer in defence intelligence, who said the matter should be approached "very delicately".

But the MoD refused to release other papers about Mr Pope, including some which contain "free and frank advice" from defence officials about how to handle the situation. The ICO said in its ruling on Dr Clarke's request: "The commissioner feels that this is a finely balanced case and that the complainant has provided well reasoned arguments to support his case. However, in this particular case the commissioner does not believe that release of the information concerned would further the legitimate public interest in any significant way."

POLTERGEIST LEVITATION

By Steve Wagner.

Poltergeist phenomena, it has been noted, seem to strike families with pre-teen children, and the strange events often centre around the child or children. This may be the case for Kristi and her family, who a few years ago experienced phenomena that would strike fear in any sane person. Even moving far away did not stop the terrifying incidents.

This is Kristi's story...



My children, then 10 and 8, were in bed and later my husband and I also went to bed. Sometime in the middle of the night, I woke up to the blood-curdling sounds of my daughter Hanna screaming, "Mommy! Help me! Leave me alone! Help!" I sat up in bed trying to turn on the lights and wake my husband, but he wouldn't budge. I finally got the lights turned on and tried to open my bedroom door. It wouldn't open. It felt as if someone was holding it closed from the other side. I grabbed the doorknob and yanked as hard as I could, and when it opened, there was nobody on the other side. I ran down the hallway and tried to open Hanna's door, but it would only open an inch or two before it felt like someone was forcing it shut on the other side. I told Hanna to get away from the door. She screamed that she wasn't near the door. She was still screaming for me to please help her.

I was scared and mad that I couldn't get in. I started to slam my shoulder against the door to get it open enough so I could enter. At one point I slammed it so hard that the door flew open. I flicked on the light switch... and what I saw was the scariest thing I had ever seen in my life! Hanna, who had a wrought iron canopy bed, was hanging on to the post and levitating in mid-air! She was holding on for her dear life. Black shadows flying around the room quickly gathered and flew out of the window. (Normally, this window needed something to prop it open, but it was staying open by itself.) When the shadows flew out the window, the window crashed shut and Hanna slammed down to her bed. I ran to her bed, picked her up and rushed back to my bedroom. I sat on the edge of my bed with her on my lap, asking her what happened. Suddenly, the lights dimmed and my bedroom door slammed shut with such force that the door got wedged in the doorway. Finally, my husband woke up. My son was in his bedroom on the first floor and didn't hear anything.

As it happened, we had a U-Haul halfway packed in the driveway; we were getting ready to move to Florida. The next day we decided to cut out of there early. We got up in the morning and finished loading the U-Haul. My son was the last one out, and as he was coming down the outside back steps and got down to about the third from the bottom, something pushed him and knocked him into the yard about five feet from where he was coming down the steps. When he landed, his chest hit the grass and his feet almost flew over his head backward. It didn't look like he had simply tripped. By the time his feet finally hit, he turned around and his face was white and loaded with fear. He screamed that something pushed him and held his feet. He said it felt like something held his ankles while he was being pushed. Five people witnessed him being pushed.

We left and travelled to Florida. But that wasn't the end. Two nights after we arrived in Florida... In the middle of the night again, I heard Hanna screaming, "Get out of my room! Mommy, make him leave!" I hopped out of bed, hurried to her room and swung the door open. The door hit her sliding closet door and it came off the tracks and fell over, bouncing off the corner of her bed. I went in and took her out and said, "Hanna, nobody is in here." She started to cry and I took her to my room. She was lying on my bed and I was sitting beside her on the edge of the bed. The lights started to dim slowly. I started to feel a chill on my neck and down my back and I smelled a slight stench. Hanna started to curl up her toes and draw her legs toward herself. I asked what was wrong.

"It's there," she said. "What's there?" I asked. "That thing!" "What thing?" "Please make it go away," she begged.

I turned around and nothing was there, except my husband David, who was standing in the doorway on the other side of the room. I said, "Hanna, it's just David." I asked her to describe what it looked like. She said that its feet weren't touching the floor. It was in the air and was tall, very tall. He was wearing a black, long trench coat and a top hat, she said, and she could see through his face as if he didn't have a face, just a head, but could see through him, too. I was getting a bit angry. "Okay," I told her. "Let's get rid of this thing forever. Let's send it back to wherever it came from!" I made her sit next to me and I said, "Hanna, if you've never believed in the power of the Holy Ghost before, you have to do it now!" She said she did believe in Jesus. "You have to believe that he's here with us now and he's asking us to ask for his help," I said. "Let's pray." We held each other's hands in fists and said the Lord's Prayer very loudly. We asked that our Lord send his angels of protection and rid us of this evil and ban it from entering our lives.

"By the power of God's love and through our prayer, send this away from us and leave us forever!" Suddenly, everything felt normal. The lights were extremely bright, the chill and stench went away... and it was gone. We never experienced the entity again but have, since then, had paranormal experiences. We've moved back from Florida to Pennsylvania and have had encounters in this house:

Chairs moving in another room while we were all watching TV in the next room over.

Lights going on by themselves.

Music and people talking in the middle of the night, but nobody there.

Shadows hovering above us while vacuuming or doing other things.

People standing over us while we're sleeping.

I once saw a man walking from the bottom of the basement steps into the basement. I thought it was my dad, but when I went down, nobody was there. I got creeped out and ran back upstairs. When I went to go out the front door, I was pushed out and the door slammed shut. I turned around quickly and I saw the face of a man that reminded me of Grizzly Adams, but with a shorter beard. His face disappeared immediately.

People think I'm nuts when I talk about this stuff, but I know what we have experienced, and for some reason I don't think it's the end of it. The house that we're living in is going to be sold soon and so we have to move.

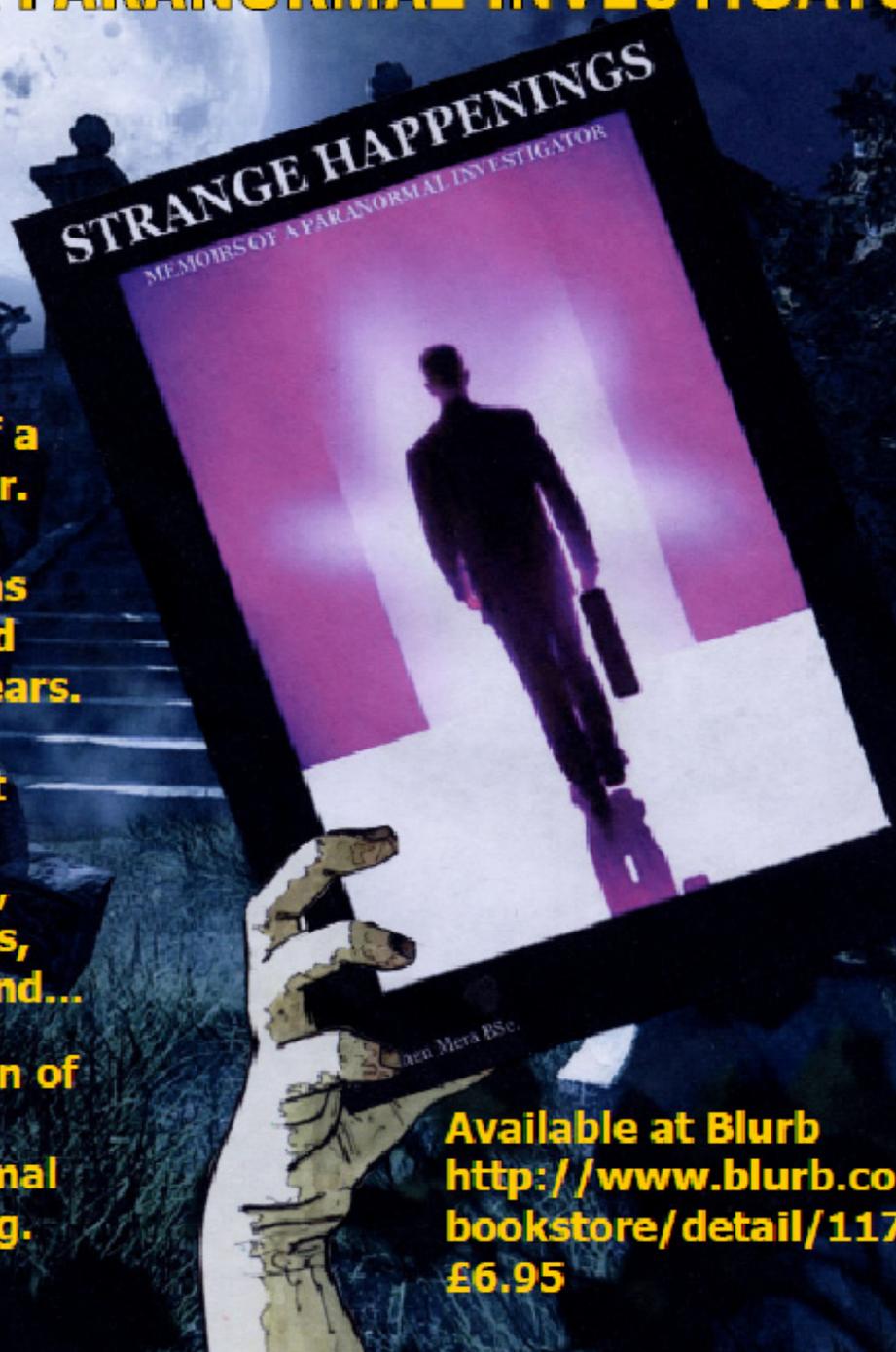
But wherever we move to, I know it's going to continue to happen....

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

MEMOIRS OF A PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR
BY STEVE MERA

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UNDERSTANDING DEMONIC ENCOUNTERS

By Abagael Macaskill

Encounters with demons have been reported going back thousands of years and up to our current times. The various reports do have many elements in common so that we can see a thread of consistency through the ages. An excellent definition of a demon comes from the ancient text of First Enoch:

"But now the giants (Nephilim) who are born from the [union of] the spirits and the flesh shall be called evil spirits upon the earth, because their dwelling shall be upon the earth and inside the earth. Evil spirits have come out of their bodies. Because from the day that they were created from the sons of God they became Watchers: their first origin is the spiritual foundation. They will become evil upon the earth and shall be called evil spirits. The dwelling of the spiritual beings of heaven is heaven; but the dwelling of the spirits of the earth, which are born upon the earth, is in the earth." (1 Enoch 15:8-10) These earth-bound evil spirits are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim. Genesis 6 tells us that the Nephilim are the offspring of the fallen angels who mated with humans. These Nephilim are later described through the Old Testament as the giants in the land. As the Nephilim died, their souls, an abomination to the Lord, were destined to roam endlessly across the earth, constantly in search of a body to re-inhabit.

[note: the terms evil spirit, unclean spirit and demon are used interchangeably throughout the Bible.]

We see the arrival of demons on the scene in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy. According to this verse they were not always around, which is consistent with the Enochian explanation of their appearing on the earth.

This describes the beginnings of encounters between the demons and mankind. "They sacrificed to demons, which are not God - gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear." (Deuteronomy 32:17). So we see one aspect of the demon/human encounter is one of worship (false, idolatrous worship according to God). This worship was based on fear and appeasement. Moving forward in time to the New Testament era, we see demons and demon possession in full swing. One aspect of Jesus' ministry, and later his disciples', was the casting out of demons.

One notable example:

"When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. [...] Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs." (Mark 5: 2-13).

From this passage we learn that more than one demon can possess a human simultaneously; they impart greater than human strength to that human, not to mention very anti-social behaviour; and they apparently crave remaining in a body, ANY body, even that of a pig instead of being cast out to nothing. Their over-arching desire to inhabit a human body is also seen in this passage: When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house [body] I left.' [...] Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. "(Matt 12:43-45). They apparently can only find rest when they inhabit a person, thus driving them to do so constantly. Jesus goes on to explain in the above passage that the demon can return, and with friends, if the inhabited person does not experience a true conversion. But what about today? Do these human/demon encounters still continue? In the fascinating book "Demon Possession" by John L. Nevius, a missionary to remote parts of China, dozens of encounters are described that exactly fit the Biblical model of demons.

He collected eye-witness accounts from many missionaries spread throughout the desolate regions of rural China and compiled them. The behaviours described are remarkably consistent with each other across distances that were never travelled by the local people. The general trend is that a demon would enter a member of a household, causing convulsions, violence and poltergeist-style effects about the house. The person affected almost never had any recall of the event. (The possession usually seemed to be sporadic, not constant. The observers could not tell if the demon left in between "events" or remained, but was "quiet".) Demands, made through the mouth of the entranced victim, would be on the rest of the family for worship of the entity in order to make the effects of its possession less. So frequently within the family and village, systems of worship of the demon were set up in a vain attempt to appease the spirit and release the affected member from his torment. Of course the spirits are liars so the desperation of the family increased. In every case the health of the possessed individual declined, sometimes unto death.

The author made the observation that these encounters almost always happened in rural areas of less developed countries and were not matched in urban areas. This was also the case in Jesus' times though the reason as to why would be speculation. One possibility is in our modern, sophisticated, urban centers we don't require forced possession. We gleefully invite inhabitation of demons through mediums and channelers. To channel a spirit guide, ascended master, guardian angel (or whatever pretied up word used to describe it) a person must go into a trance or hypnotic-like state giving over control of their mind to another entity. These episodes do not tend to be violent unless the channeler at some point decides to no longer practice the procedure. Then typical demon possession behaviour as described earlier will surface (see The Beautiful Side of Evil by Johanna Michaelson). Reports of demon encounters have occurred throughout history, up to

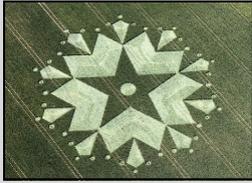


our present time. Hollywood-style drama aside, the descriptions of these events remain basically consistent across time and cultures lending credence to a legitimate phenomenon. Though science will never be able to measure such encounters since they are, by definition, not a part of our material world, human experience will attest to the existence of such creatures...

Abagael is the Channel Manager for the Pets and Animals channel on Helium.com. She has worked with animals most of her life: veterinary assistant, many kennel cleaning jobs and manager of an SPCA that hosted farm animals in addition to cats and dogs. The SPCA (animal shelter) is where she fell in love with the hobby farm life and bred sheep for about 20 years. She currently has a flock of Corriedales with award-winning fleeces, along with chickens, goats, cats, fish and a dog. Her other passion is homeschooling. She homeschooled her own daughters for 11 years and I has sold homeschool curriculum through her home business since 1998. She has started four different homeschool curriculum stores through the years. On Helium, She has begun to explore writing seriously for the first time in my life. After a 10th grade English teacher wrote on her report card progress report "she can't write and never will be able to" she was very demoralised and insecure about her writing. Through college she had several professors tell her she was a talented writer and should be following that as a possible career. She refused to acknowledge their comments because of the earlier criticism. (A good example of how powerful the written word can be-for good or evil!) She has enjoyed exploring the variety of writing formats and has used events like contests or Marketplace to try the different types (research, poetry, essay, memoirs, book reviews, and most recently, flash fiction!) that I never had tried before. Abagael also writes for Examiner.com as the Harrisburg Homeschooling Examiner.

Feel free to check out her articles at Helium.com

RECENT CROP FORMATIONS



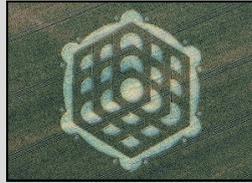
St Martin's Chapel,
Nr Chisbury, Wiltshire.
Reported 3rd July.



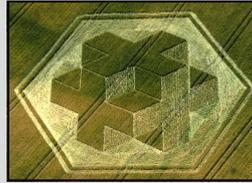
Castle Hill, Nr Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire.
Reported 5th July.



Sutton Bank,
North Yorkshire.
Reported 5th July.



Danebury Hill, Nr Nether
Wallop, Hampshire.
Reported 6th July.



Cley Hill, Nr Warminster,
Wiltshire.
Reported 9th July.



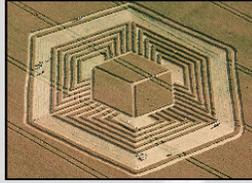
Guys Cliffe, Nr Old Milverton
Warwickshire.
Reported 10th July.



Clifton, Nr Brighouse,
West Yorkshire.
Reported 12th July.



Sandy Lane, Nr Stockbridge,
Hampshire.
Reported 12th July.



Fosbury Nr Vernham Dean,
Wiltshire.
Reported 17th July.



Farley Mount, Nr Sparsholt,
Hampshire.
Reported 17th July.



Wentworth Castle, Stainbor-
ough Park, Nr Barnsley.
Reported 18th July.



Woolaston Grange, Nr
Clap-Y-Ares, Gloucestershire.
Reported 18th July.



Standals Farm, Nr
Bishopstone, Buckingham.
Reported 21st July.



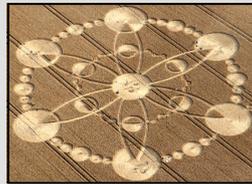
The White Horse, Nr
Alton Barnes, Wiltshire.
Reported 25th July.



Roundway Hill, Nr Devizes,
Wiltshire.
Reported 25th July.



East Field, Nr Alton Barnes,
Wiltshire.
Reported 26th July.



Windmill Hill, Nr Avebury
Trusloe, Wiltshire.
Reported 27th July.



Beggar's Knoll, Nr Westbury,
Wiltshire.
Reported 27th July.



Stanton St. Bernard, Nr
All Cannings, Wiltshire.
Reported 28th July.



Coberley, Nr Needlehole,
Gloucestershire.
Reported 28th July.



Silbury, Nr Avebury,
Wiltshire.
Reported 28th July.



East Field, Nr
Alton Barnes, Wiltshire.
Reported 29th July.



Wickham Green, (South), Nr
Hungerford, Berkshire.
Reported 30th July.



Wickham Green, (North), Nr
Hungerford, Berkshire.
Reported 30th July.



Westbury White Horse,
Westbury, Wiltshire.
Reported 1st August.



Winters, Nr
Rochford, Essex.
Reported 2nd August.



Whitefield Hill, Nr
Woodsend, Wiltshire.
Reported 3rd August.



Pewsey Wharf, Nr
Pewsey, Wiltshire.
Reported 3rd August.



Lurkeley Hill, Nr
East Kennett, Wiltshire.
Reported 3rd August.



Cliddesden, Basingstoke,
Hampshire.
Reported 4th August.



Trent Barrow,
Nr Nether Compton, Dorset.
Reported 5th August.



Stanton Bridge,
Nr Honey Street, Wiltshire.
Reported 8th August.



Pewsey White Horse,
Nr Pewsey, Wiltshire.
Reported 8th August.



Horton, Nr Devizes,
Wiltshire.
Reported 9th August.



Northdowns,
Nr Beckhampton, Wiltshire.
Reported 13th August.



Lurkeley Hill (2),
Nr East Kennett, Wiltshire.
Reported 17th August.

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SCARIEST MOMENTS



Rochdale, England 1996... As I sat there in the darkness I could hear it... At first quite faint but growing louder. It was now right behind me... The deep rasping breathes were just over my shoulder. Trying to gather the courage to turn and face this thing... My mouth had ran dry... my palms were sweating... Oh well, hear we go. I slowly turned to look behind me and that was when the unthinkable happened. It was so fast, I couldn't believe it, crouched in pain, I ran, without a care of what people thought. I just had to get out of there. Confused as to what had exactly happened I found myself in the lounge. Something had lashed out in the darkness, it had attacked me, and I had the marks to prove it...

During an investigation in 1996 I had experienced something that was to change my view and opinion forever. On most occasions, an investigation of said paranormal disturbances rarely amount to anything substantial.

Over the last 20 years I have stayed over in many of the countries most haunted buildings in hope of obtaining the littlest of evidence to support all the hype you read. I wish I had a penny for each time I've been told that there's an apparition of a blue, grey or white lady. Tall tales are easy to come by which are usually supported by photographs of orbs which often turn out to be nothing more than illuminated dust particles. Yes! I've heard it all before... ranging from the first stages of a manifestation to a demonic entity Hell-bent on destroying your soul. So you may ask yourself why? Why do I even bother spending my years sitting in cold dark and damp places waiting to witness something truly unusual. Well... It's all because of what I experienced that night back in August of 1996. For me, the incidents of that night hammered home the fact that paranormal phenomena really does exist; and since then dedicated my life in an attempt to find out how and why such phenomena can occur. I cannot speak for everyone;.. for me it's worthy of as much investigation and research you can give it. I guess you would have had to have been there. Sometimes you really do need to see it to believe it. I did, and for the first time in my life I was truly scared...

August 1996 was also memorable due to a five week heat wave the UK was enduring. A hose-pipe ban had been enforced just after two weeks. The last thing I expected to read in a newspaper was a family that were having strange outpourings of water in their prefab bungalow home in Rochdale. The Gardner family were plagued by the sudden appearance of water on their ceilings, doors and worktops. Rochdale council had dispatched investigators to the scene several times in hope of finding the problem, but it seemed they had drawn a blank. I contacted the family and they agreed for me to visit and interview them. When I arrived I was surprised to see how small their bungalow was. Some of their carpets had been rolled up and plastic sheets had been placed around in hope of protecting their belongings from water damage. I sat gripping my mug of coffee as the Gardner's bombarded me with details of what had gone on. I quickly realised that there was a lot more to it. Pictures had jumped off the wall in view of witnesses, objects were found to have been moved, strange odours of pipe tobacco, appliances working on there own when not plugged in, unusual sounds throughout the night and of course... the water. There was evidence of water damage in almost every room.

It was clear that an investigation was warranted. Mrs. Gardner agreed that I could return armed with equipment and investigators. As I sat taking notes Mr. Gardner came in from the kitchen and said *'It's started again'*. A bemused look fell over my face, I thought he was joking... He Wasn't! Mrs. Gardner broke down in tears as I followed Mr. Gardner into the kitchen. I stood there in amazement... Mr. Gardner had reached out by the side of the cooker for an umbrella. I couldn't believe my eyes. It was (by all intense and purpose) *'Raining in the Kitchen'*. Water was just dropping from the ceiling. The shower lasted a minute or so. I was gobsmacked! I'd never seen anything like it. I had arranged for the Gardner's to stay over at relatives... I arrived with five investigators and an array of equipment. Throughout the night we experienced things I'd only read in books. An apportionment of a small statuette, strange odours of tobacco and flowers, and of course further formings of water that seemed to intelligently make its way across the hallway ceiling. I was loving it... Excited at the possibility of what next might occur. However, as the night drew in a more sinister atmosphere fell over the home...

It was now around 3.00pm, I found myself sat on the end of a bed in the back bedroom. Either side of me were investigators Carole and Val. We sat in silence, listening for any little noise... A few minutes later a strange feeling came over me. An odd tingling sensation and a feeling of anticipation. And then a noise... Quiet at first but getting louder. The sound of deep breathes from directly behind me. A sudden coldness came over me. I was only laughing and joking an hour ago, but hear I was absolutely terrified. I looked over at both Carole and Val. They to were hearing the deep breathes. I knew that being the man, it would have to be me to turn and see what it was; but I couldn't. Fear had gripped me so hard that I couldn't move. The breathes got louder and nearer; and out of sheer panic I forced myself to turn and face whatever it was in the darkness...

At that very moment I suddenly felt myself thrust off the bed as if something had hit me hard in the back. The only thought on my mind was to run out of there. I felt physically threatened. I rushed past Carole and Val holding my back. I found myself in the lounge thumbeling for the light switch. Whatever happened had clearly left me in a state of panic. My heart was racing. A few seconds later I was stood trying to explain to my team what had happened. The sudden feeling of being punched and an electric shock at the same time had left a nasty mark on my back. It was clear that it was starting to bruise...

I had to leave the building... I needed some air. As I stood in back garden I contemplated my future within this subject. I thought that I was in acceptance that such phenomena existed... Apparently not. I was fooling myself! This was a bit all too real for me, but what was I to do? OK... so now I know such things are real. Rather than looking foolish I decided to carry on the investigation. But I did seriously doubt weather or not I should be doing this. After all, how can you protect yourself against something you cannot see nor hear? The whole experience had changed me. Over the following weeks I had come to accept what had happened and it gave me a new zest for knowledge and to further investigate the strange and profound... But I don't think I'd ever want to experience that feeling again. A feeling that now, whilst writing this still gives me a chill!

Steve Mera.

PREVIOUSLY FEATURED IN PARANORMAL MAGAZINE: <http://www.paranormalmagazine.co.uk/>

SHOOT THEM DOWN!

By Nick Pope.

On 18 September 1976, Parviz Jafari - who later retired as a general in the Iranian Air Force - attempted to shoot down a UFO with an air-to-air missile. The UFO had been seen over Tehran and an air force commander ordered a jet to be scrambled. The jet lost instrumentation and communications when it approached the UFO and had to return to base. Jafari was piloting a second aircraft that was scrambled and as he approached the UFO in his Phantom F-4 jet he locked onto it with his radar. The object was so bright that Jafari was unable to make out its shape, though he could see multicoloured lights flashing rapidly, like a strobe light. As he approached, he saw four smaller objects detach from the main craft. One of them came towards his aircraft. Believing he was under attack, Jafari attempted to launch a heat-seeking Sidewinder missile, but at that instant his missile control panel went dead. On his return to base, he was quizzed by an American



colonel and years later, Jafari saw a Defense Intelligence Agency document on his encounter, released under the Freedom of Information Act. It stated "This case is a classic that meets all necessary conditions for a legitimate study of the UFO phenomenon". That was interesting, given that the US government's public position is that official UFO investigations ceased in 1969 when the United States Air Force closed down their research programme, Project Blue Book. Parviz Jafari is not the only military pilot to have made an attempt to shoot down a UFO. On 11 April 1980, Oscar Alfonso Santa Maria Huertas, a pilot with the Peruvian Air Force, was scrambled to intercept a spherical UFO hovering in restricted military airspace. His unit commander's orders were clear: shoot down the UFO. As Santa Maria Huertas closed on the object in his Sukhoi-22 fighter, he strafed it with his 30mm canon, firing 64 shells at the UFO. He saw some of his projectiles hit the craft, but they had no effect. "The projectiles didn't bounce off", he said. "Probably, they were absorbed". He vectored his aircraft for another attack, but on this occasion the UFO took evasive action and a bizarre and potentially deadly game of cat and mouse ensued. At one point, Santa Maria Huertas got within 300 feet of the UFO, which he described in the following terms: "It was about 30 feet in diameter. It was an enamelled, cream-colored dome, with a wide, circular, metallic base. It had no engines, no exhausts, no windows, no wings or antennae. It lacked all the typical aircraft components, with no visible propulsion system".

On 12 November 2007 Jafari and Santa Maria Huertas told their stories together in public for the first time, at a historic event held at the National Press Club in Washington DC. A group of people with backgrounds in government, the military and the aviation community came together to lobby the US government to re-open Project Blue Book. There were 14 panellists from 7 countries. All the panellists had either seen a UFO while on active service or undertaken official research and investigation into UFO sightings. None took any position on the exact nature of the UFO phenomenon, but all agreed that it raises important defence, national security and aviation safety issues. The event was organised by filmmaker James Fox and investigative journalist Leslie Kean, from the Coalition from Freedom of Information - an organisation advised by John Podesta, who was Chief of Staff to President Clinton. Two of the participant's had been witnesses to Britain's best-known UFO sighting, which took place in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk. Jim Penniston was in charge of security at RAF Woodbridge (a United States Air Force base) when on 26 December 1980, reports came in of lights in the forest that lay beyond the perimeter fence. Thinking an aircraft had crashed, he and colleagues went out to investigate. What they actually found was a UFO that had landed in a small clearing. "When we came up on the triangular-shaped craft there were blue and yellow lights swirling around the exterior ... the air around us was electrically charged. We could feel it on our clothes, skin and hair. Nothing in my training prepared me for what we were witnessing", Penniston explained. He described how he and the others took photographs (that they were told later had been over-exposed) and made sketches of the craft, including strange pictorial symbols seen on the hull, before the UFO took off and accelerated away to the horizon. "Speed: impossible", Penniston wrote in his logbook. The other witness was the Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, who witnessed the UFO two nights later and saw it fire light beams into the weapons storage area at RAF Woodbridge. "I have no idea what we saw but do know whatever we saw was under intelligent control", Halt stated. I was one of the participants at the National Press Club event, as between 1991 and 1994 my duties at the Ministry of Defence had included investigating UFO sightings, to assess whether they were of any "defence significance", a phrase which - perhaps deliberately - is virtually impossible to define. The British government has looked into the UFO phenomenon since 1950 and to date has received over 10,000 UFO reports. Most sightings can be easily explained as misidentifications of ordinary objects and phenomena, but around 5% remain unexplained. The MoD receives more Freedom of Information Act requests relating to UFOs than on any other subject, including the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Department is in the process of releasing many of its old UFO files (including ones from the Defence Intelligence Staff) though the size of the job means that full disclosure is likely to take several years. The other British participant at the Washington DC gathering was Captain Ray Bowyer, a commercial airline pilot who saw two UFOs in the vicinity of the Channel Islands on 23 April 2007. He described the objects as being "a flattened disk shape with a dark area to the right side". He said they were "brilliant yellow with light emanating from them". He estimated them as being up to a mile across. Some of his passengers saw the UFOs as did at least one other pilot in the area. An anomalous return was detected on radar. The MoD's investigation was inconclusive, but the French government - in whose airspace the UFOs were adjudged to be - is continuing to look into the incident. The National Press Club event was moderated by Fife Symington, a former Governor of Arizona who was previously in the United States Air Force. In 1997 a vast delta-shaped UFO was seen by hundreds of people in Phoenix and Symington, as Governor, held a press conference to address the situation. Concerned at what he felt was a rising state of panic, he forced his reluctant Chief of Staff to dress up in an alien suit. The stunt made headlines and certainly lightened the mood, but the real story emerged only last year, when Symington admitted that he too had seen the UFO in the skies over Phoenix. As it happened, he wasn't the first politician to have seen a UFO. Former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan both had sightings and 2008 presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich recently confirmed that he has seen a UFO.



Another speaker at the 12 November event was Wilfried De Brouwer, a retired Major General who served formerly as Chief of Staff of the Belgian Air Force. De Brouwer spoke about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred in Belgium in 1989 and 1990. "Hundreds of people saw a majestic triangular craft with a span of approximately 120 feet, powerful beaming spot lights, moving very slowly without making any significant noise but, in several cases, accelerating to very high speeds", he explained. He went on to say that on three occasions F-16 aircraft had been launched in unsuccessful attempts to intercept UFOs and said that on one occasion the F-16 radars showed the UFO performing "rapid changes in speed and altitude which were well outside of the performance envelope of existing aircraft". Some researchers suggest that sightings such as this are attributable to stealth aircraft or other experimental aircraft, but De Brouwer explained that this possibility was discounted, following consultation with NATO allies. One of the reasons the various panellists travelled to Washington DC was a growing frustration with the position of the US government. Nothing illustrates the reason for this frustration better than the official reaction to an event that occurred on 7 November 2006 when numerous airline personnel at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago witnessed a disc-shaped UFO hovering over one of the terminal buildings at a height of around 2000 feet. After several minutes it accelerated away upwards so rapidly that it punched a hole in the cloud cover.

Since the object was not tracked on radar, the Federal Aviation Administration declined to investigate, dismissing the sighting as probably attributable to a "weather phenomenon". Picking up on this point, the declaration signed by the panellists states: "We suggest that prejudice against the term 'UFO' and against reports of unknowns could lead officials to dismiss sightings that involve unconventional aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles engaged in espionage or terrorist activity, especially when radar returns are not available". If such words came from UFO enthusiasts, they might be ignored. Coming from generals, government officials and pilots, they are more difficult to dismiss. With flight safety issues in mind, it was interesting that one of the signatories to the declaration was John Callahan, a former Divisional Chief of the FAA's Accidents and Investigations Branch in Washington DC. Callahan described how he had investigated a 1986 incident where the pilot and crew of a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 encountered a UFO over Alaska. They described a spherical object four times the size of their own aircraft. Callahan's investigation included a review of the voice tapes and the radar data. As with so many of these cases involving pilots, the radar tapes confirmed that there had indeed been a large object following the Japanese aircraft. In one of the few conspiratorial moments of the National Press Club event, Callahan revealed how a briefing was set up for some of President Reagan's scientific staff, where one of three CIA attendees concluded by stating "This event never happened; we were never here; we're confiscating all this data and you are all sworn to secrecy". How seriously should the flight safety angle be taken? In the UK, the Civil Aviation Authority has several cases on its files involving near misses between commercial aircraft and UFOs. None is more disturbing than an incident that occurred on 6 January 1995, involving a Boeing 737 on approach to Manchester airport. When over the Pennines at a height of 4000 feet, both the pilot and the first officer saw an unidentified object pass down the right hand side of the aircraft at high speed. It was described as wedge-shaped, illuminated, with what looked like a black stripe down the side. Neither man was certain how close the object had come to colliding with the aircraft (which was carrying 60 passengers) but the first officer instinctively ducked as it went by. On this occasion, nothing unusual was seen on radar. The CAA's report into this incident (entitled Airmis Report No. 2/95) concluded "Having debated the various hypotheses at length the Group concluded that, in the absence of any firm evidence which could identify or explain the object, it was not possible to assess either the cause or the risk by any of the normal criteria applicable to airmiss reports. The incident therefore remains unresolved". There is a huge misconception about the UFO phenomenon. Many people dismiss sightings as the work of overactive imaginations and treat the whole subject as if it were a joke. To be fair, most UFOs do turn out to be misidentifications. Furthermore, there are some outrageous hoaxes perpetrated and tall tales told. And yet, as the recent event at the National Press Club illustrated, there is a serious and potentially sinister side to all of this. Some UFOs are seen by reliable witnesses such as pilots. They are tracked on radar, performing speeds and manoeuvres that exceed the capabilities of our most sophisticated aircraft. Attempts have been made to shoot down at least two UFOs - maybe there are other such cases that have never been disclosed. Finally, there are the people lobbying for action. Not UFO enthusiasts, but generals, pilots and government officials. All their backgrounds check out and all their accounts can be backed up by an audit trail of documents from official archives. When people like this call for the UFO phenomenon to be taken more seriously, maybe it's time to listen...

THE PAGAN FIRE FESTIVAL

By
Kirst
D'Raven

Lughnasadh: (Pronounced loo-na-sa) is a Pagan / Heathen Fire Festival, which would traditionally be celebrated at the full moon nearest the midpoint between the Summer Solstice and the Autumnal Equinox, and marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. The days will now grow increasingly shorter towards the end of Autumn, and the Celtic New Years Eve festival of Halloween...

For the more precise minded amongst you, the true astrological point of Lughnasadh is 15 degrees Leo.

Lughnasadh is named for Lugh, the Celtic deity who presided over the arts and sciences. According to Celtic mythology, Lugh decreed that a commemorative feast be held each year at the beginning of the harvest season in honour of his foster mother, Tailtiu.

Tailtiu was the royal lady of the Fir Bolg. After the defeat of her people by the Tuatha De Danann, she was obliged by them to clear a huge forest for the purpose of planting grain. She died of exhaustion in the attempt. The legend states that she was buried beneath a huge mound named for her at the spot where the first feast for Lughnasadh was held in Ireland, the Hill of Tailte. At this feast were held games and tests of skill and strength, as well as a great feast made up of the first fruits of the harvest.

A rather popular feature of the games was the 'Tailltean Marriages'. These informal betrothals lasted either a year and a day or until the next Lughnasadh, at the end of which the couple could either choose to continue the relationship or walk away, bringing the marriage to a close. The 'Tailltean Marriages' were still very common even up to the 1500s, and were usually solemnised by a poet or bard instead of by a conventional priest. Its possible also that these pairings were a precursor to the modern Wiccan tradition of 'Handfasting'. As the Christian faith marched across the world, brandishing its symbols of suffering and piety, the old festival of Lughnasadh took on a new identity. Loaves of bread were baked from the first of the harvested grain, and placed on the Church altars on the first Sunday of August. This new tradition was named Lammas, or Loaf-Mass. As this is a more modern festival, it falls on the same date every year - the 1st August.

Lammas tide was also the traditional time for craft fares - a little like our own Harvest Festivals, where ornamental loaves in the shape of wheat sheaves are to be found adorning churches the length and breadth of the UK.

The medieval folk would decorate their houses, shops and even themselves with coloured braid, ribbons and clothing, parades were marched, songs were sung, tales told and dances danced. A most alluring spectacle, no doubt, the highlight of which was the fiery and rather macabre tradition 'The Catherine Wheel'. The Roman Church had a habit of moving St Catherine's feast day around the calendar at an alarming rate - probably because she was a mythical saint as opposed to real one, and also because her worship gave rise to the heretical sect, 'The Cathari'.

During this ceremony, a large, tar-covered wagon wheel would be taken to the top of the largest hill in the vicinity, set on fire and solemnly rolled down the hill - to me (and many others before me, no doubt) this seems kind of symbolic of the whole festival. The fiery wheel symbolising the Sun beginning its descent into the darker days of winter. Maybe it was left over from some ancient Pagan rite... Regardless of all this supposition and theorising though, Lammas seems to have lost some of its importance these days, which is a shame. A quick flick through a few modern books of shadows reveals little about the modern witch's Lammas celebrations, except for a mention that poles should be ridden and a circle dance performed - a far cry from the colourful fetes and fairs of yesteryear.

A ceremonial highlight of such festivals was the 'Catherine wheel'. Although the Roman Church moved St. Catherine's feast day all around the calendar with bewildering frequency, it's most popular date was Lammas.

(They also kept trying to expel this much-loved saint from the ranks of the blessed because she was mythical rather than historical, and because her worship gave rise to the heretical sect known as the Cathari.) At any rate, a large wagon wheel was taken to the top of a near-by hill, covered with tar, set aflame, and ceremoniously rolled down the hill. Some mythologists see in this ritual the remnants of a Pagan rite symbolizing the end of summer, the flaming disk representing the sun-god in his decline; and just as the sun king has now reached the autumn of his years, his rival or dark self has just reached puberty.

Many commentators have bewailed the fact that traditional Gardnerian and Alexandrian Books of Shadows say very little about the holiday of Lammas, stating only that poles should be ridden and a circle dance performed. This seems strange, for Lammas is a holiday of rich mythic and cultural associations, providing endless resources for liturgical celebration...





DESPERATE boffins are trying to discover why dozens of mutilated seals are washing up on British beaches with their skin horrifically ripped off.

All the seals suffer the same wound — a single deep cut from head to stomach — but the top scientists can't work out what's behind the damage. Horrific ... the seals have had their skin sliced. Universal News And Sport Science sleuths have been hunting for the 'murder weapon' since the first seals started dying last year, but they are still clueless. Now they are appealing to Sun readers to see if you can solve the mystery. Horrified scientists have found around 60 carcasses so far. Most of the seals were spotted off the Norfolk coast, but ten more have been discovered at St Andrew's on the east coast of Scotland.



The cut goes all the way around the seals' bodies from head to stomach like a **CORKSCREW**. Professors have so far eliminated sharks, tidal power generators and ordinary boat propellers from the list of suspects — but they have no idea what else could have caused the injuries. The search is now on for a mystery vessel that could have inflicted the mechanical wounds.

Top mammal scientist Callan Duck told The Sun: "It's a very clean cut - it looks like one single cut. If you're cutting a loaf of bread, there's a sawing action and you leave jagged edges, but there are none of those, so it looks like one continuous movement." "The skin has been ripped clean off the seals' jaws. It would take hours to do that with a scalpel yourself." The clever animals have learnt to avoid swimming too close to ships, leaving Mr Duck's team puzzled that they seem to have swum into the blade **HEAD FIRST**.

He added: "Seals are pretty savvy creatures and they won't approach an obvious threat, but very suddenly they're being dragged head first into a rotating blade." The Scottish killings have already hit ten per cent of the breeding population of seals — and scientists are worried that the species could soon be wiped out entirely.

The seal team at St Andrew's University has already asked the RSPCA, the National Trust and even the Scottish Government to solve the mystery — with no luck. The baffled experts are now hoping Sun readers can piece together the puzzle for them. Mr Duck said: "It's a good mystery. We do believe it's solvable. Once we find out where, we can move on to why and what." "We'd like to encourage members of the public to call in and make suggestions." Experts are also keen for any snaps of the dead seals. Mr Duck added: "They can be smelly but please take a picture."



August 16th 2010.

A lad helped take his gran to hospital and found himself facing a black-cloaked GHOST!

Jake Bestwick, 12, saw the spirit rise up from the floor, with its head hidden under a hood. He said yesterday: "It came through the floor about 20cm from my face. It stood in front of me for a few seconds and then vanished." The sighting was the latest to hit Derby's new Royal NHS Hospital after The Sun revealed it was haunted last year. Five staff reported seeing a dark-clad spirit and bosses called in an exorcist to get rid of it. Jake, of Langley Mill, Derby's, was with mum Gail, 45, taking gran Dorothy Campion to hospital. He did not know of our story during the sighting. But he said: "I know what I saw was a ghost." Experts say the spectre could be the spirit of a Roman soldier.

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THE HAUNTED WINDMILL

Near the town of Minnesota Lake in Faribault County U.S.A. stands a windmill that is popularly reputed to be haunted. It is rapidly falling into ruin, for it has not been used since its owner and builder died. Although abandoned and decaying, it still serves as a monument to the ingenuity and industry of the Minnesota pioneers. **By Mrs. P. J. Leach.**

Gottlieb Shastag, a miller from Holland, built the mill in the early sixties with the help of his neighbours. He spent two years in the woods near Mankato fashioning the parts of his mill. Working with rude, handmade tools, he carved the various parts from hard wood. The great gear wheels, some of them ten feet in diameter, are spliced together with wooden pins. The tooled wooden teeth, which meshed to drive the machinery, are carefully inserted. The main drive shaft is a huge oak log sixteen inches in diameter. The four fan blades, thirty-five feet in length, were most skillfully constructed. Working without patterns, using only the memory of his father's mill in Holland to guide him, this dauntless pioneer carried his task to success. Since there was no water power to turn the mill, wind power had to be utilised to the utmost.

To accomplish this, the fan was built so that the blades could be set by hand to face the wind. The whole top of the mill could be turned and anchored to a post to hold the fan in the desired position as long as the wind blew from that direction. In order that the miller might enter the mill with safety from any side, a number of doors were provided. Each part of the mill was fashioned by hand. Floor, shingles, handrails, and bins are all the work of Gottlieb's hands. Even the large grinding stones, shaped by were ground and polished by hand. No one at the present time seems to know just why the mill parts were constructed so far from the present site of the mill. Some say that the mill was first erected near Mankato and later torn down by Gottlieb and removed to Minnesota Lake.

however, for they could now have their grain ground near home and need not make the long and dangerous trip to Waseca. For some ten years Gottlieb did most of the grinding for the settlers who lived in the vicinity of Minnesota Lake. The coming of the railroads, however, brought to the community the better-milled flour from the large mills; and as a consequence Gottlieb's millstones were used not to grind wheat, but to crush food for stock. As the mill's machinery became worn with usage, it sometimes failed to function. The miller, who it appears was very superstitious, was convinced that there was a devil inside the mill. He even went so far as to attribute its presence to two of his enemies, whose purpose, he thought, was to bewitch the place.

Others report that he could not find suitable wood near its present site and as a result was forced to go a distance to secure material. At all events, it is known that Gottlieb and his neighbours hauled all the parts by ox-team through the woods and over the prairies.

Even the great center shaft was moved in this way. The distance was long and the roads were poor or altogether lacking, but these and other obstacles did not deter the pioneers. When all the pieces had been assembled, a "raising bee," under Gottlieb's direction, took place. How all this was managed without modern machinery is a mystery today. Putting the parts of the windmill in place must have been dangerous and exhausting work. It had to be done carefully, too, so that the cogs would mesh and the fan turn smoothly. "The new mill," according to a newspaper account published a few years ago, "must have been a wonderful sight in the woods by the lake, and the insistent creaking of the giant blades must have sounded odd in the quiet of the primitive land. Doubtless the Indians felt at a loss to account for the strange round house with the big wings, that, blown around by the wind, turned the wheels that ground the white man's flour for him." The settlers were glad,

He endured five years of difficulty, but his troubles came to an end, so he said, when he managed to chase the devil out in the form of a black rabbit. In order to prevent further trouble, he refused to permit anyone, even members of his family, to enter the mill thereafter. All its doors save one he nailed up. At that one door he received grain for grinding. He did all his work alone. In 1913 he was struck on the head by one of the mill fans and the injuries that he sustained from the blow caused his death. Never since his death has the old mill ground any grain. No one has dared to do any work there and this rare Dutch windmill is abandoned. The exterior is in need of repair and the fan is broken and dangerous; but the inside is in good condition. It is littered with leaves and dirt and the wooden gears and other equipment have been patched with nails, but the mill remains much as Gottlieb left it. The winding stairs to the hopper, where the grain was dumped, are still strong enough for the curious to climb. The haunted gear chamber, from which a black rabbit is sometimes seen still scares its visitors. It seems a pity that this old mill is not restored to its early appearance and preserved for its historical interest in this great milling state of Minnesota, for it is a marvel of mechanical genius, a monument to pioneer industry. Even if it's haunted!...



SAVE THE MILL!



THE VANISHING HITCHHIKER

By Sean Tudor.

This 'returning-ghost' tale is one that is told the world over. Indeed, it has been said that wherever there are roads there are likely to be variations of this story. Folklorists argue, with good reason (and even aside from the subject matter, which proposes that apparitions can actually manifest to hitch rides from unsuspecting motorists), that the ubiquity of the tale and its incorporation of a common set of easily recognisable narrative points or 'motifs', clearly designates the Phantom Hitch-Hiker as a creature of folklore.

Typical of such legends, the Phantom Hitch-Hiker (or PHH) is a tale told as a supposedly true event, often by someone who qualifies this claim by reference to a reliable witness a person or two removed from themselves (who is customarily anonymous, or proves to be untraceable), or to a news media source. But, we are told, true events are never so simple or invariable. The plausibility of urban legends and their setting in contemporary history (i.e. the recent past) marks their distinction from traditional tales of legend and folklore, which is perhaps why we tend to accept them rather uncritically, particularly when the source of the story is a trusted acquaintance or the media (which is, by and large, not predisposed to the deliberate publication of fictional stories). Nevertheless, apart from the important difference in modern times that these tales are also spread by the media, they are passed on in the same manner: by word of mouth. In other words, although the story is somewhat innovative compared to the public's conception of the traditional ghost story, it belongs to the same 'oral tradition'.

Folklorists prefer to interpret urban legends as unconscious expressions of our common fears and neuroses, an exploration of 'what if...?' They are popular because they deal with bizarre, ironic or supernatural themes which invite us to temporarily suspend disbelief in order to milk them of their entertainment, moral, or cautionary value. Urban legends are told and retold in a variety of social settings, and by a cross-section of the population, who quite often fail to recognise that these *are* legends. Not surprisingly a number of urban legends have found their way into book, television, musical, and filmic plots.

A large measure of the appeal of the Phantom Hitch-Hiker surely lies with the sympathy the story instills for the subject of the tale, the Hitch-Hiker herself - a young woman or girl who has died in tragic circumstances, and is desperately and forlornly trying to complete her last journey. Undoubtedly, though, it is the 'punch ending' - the sudden and unexpected disappearance of the girl, the abrupt contrast between the banal and the bizarre, and the motorist's realisation that he has shared his journey with a ghost, that gives the story its special power; And, most important of all, is its assertion that what is described *actually happened*.

Like other urban legends, the brevity and simple construction of Phantom Hitch-Hiker tales ensures that the essential elements are easily picked up and passed on (usually quite accurately); And their ready relocation, anywhere and at any time, to local and familiar settings - the nuances of local detail - adds to the story's credibility and appeal. The physical setting, then, is likely to be known well to the audience. It is a place sometimes renowned for similar events; and the protagonist(s) is not only someone known (if indirectly) to the narrator, but also a person with whom the audience can readily identify.

Other conventions allow us (as is the folklorist's claim) to predict most variations of the story as they appear from location to location: The ghost - often, but not exclusively, an attractive young woman in white or light-coloured clothing - is (until her disappearance) taken to be a real person. Traditionally appearing on the anniversary of her demise (a victim of a road accident - a passenger or wayward pedestrian), she attracts the attention of a passing motorist (frequently a lone driver, often male) by various means: by waiting passively or walking along the roadside late at night, encouraging the driver to stop and proffer a lift; or, in the classic situation, actively seeking a lift, thumb raised in characteristic hitch-hiker fashion.

Accepting the offer of a lift, the girl (as a matter of circumstance or choice) assumes the back seat of the vehicle (or its equivalent on a motorcycle, the pillion seat). After a short period of conversation, during which she gives her address, the girl grows quiet, prompting the motorist to look around, only to discover she has vanished. Alarmed, but curious, the driver continues on to the address given, only to learn that he is the latest in a line of motorists to bring the resident's wife-daughter-sister-niece-granddaughter home. Variations on the theme are manifold. In certain instances, the girl leaves a purse or handbag in the rear of the car, in which the motorist discovers her identity and/or her address, to which he then proceeds. At the destination, he may be shown or notice a photograph of the girl, pictured in the same dress in which the ghost had appeared.

The Phantom Hitch-Hiker (known in the USA as the *Vanishing Hitchhiker*) is recognised by folklorists as nothing less than the classic transport-focused legend, a popular example of contemporary folklore, an *Urban Legend*.



In other, more elaborate versions the motorist, responding to his passenger's complaints of being cold, loans her an overcoat or sweater, for which he returns the following day. The person answering the door (a relation or other knowledgeable person), recognising the description as belonging to his/her daughter, a former tenant, etc., tells the disbelieving motorist the familiar story, directing him to the cemetery where the girl is buried, where he not only finds proof as to the deceased status of his passenger (confirmed beyond doubt in some cases by the existence of a photograph set into the headstone), but his loaned garment, neatly folded on the girl's grave.

With the above in mind, it is plainly apparent that the majority of Phantom Hitch-Hiker tales must be apocryphal. Wherever the familiar conventions appear piled upon one another, particularly where the protagonist is not forthcoming as a named witness available for interview, there can be no serious objection to the claim that they belong entirely to folklore.

But are *all* tales of this kind dismissible as folklore? The purpose of folklore study is not to determine whether such tales have any evidential basis to them, but to study their patterns of dissemination, their internal similarities and variations, their genealogies, and above all, to ascertain *why* these stories are told - what purpose it is they serve in our everyday lives, particularly in our sophisticated modern times.

The fact that at least one genuine case may, in *some* instances, have provided the inspiration for the host of very similar accounts that become accepted and adapted as urban legends, is largely irrelevant. However, I suspect that the majority of folklorists would tend to deny the existence of an archetypal event, or at least a traceable one, particularly in those cases with the more bizarre or supernatural themes.

Professor Jan Harold Brunvand, in his book *The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and their Meanings*, points out that attempts to trace the originators of urban legends or to locate actual events to account for them, almost invariably prove futile. While this is certainly true for most *Phantom Hitch-Hiker* stories, where the researcher's task is compounded by the very subject matter, is it necessarily the case for other urban legend themes?

A modern favourite and case in point is 'The Poodle in the Microwave', which relates the story of the old lady who, used to drying her rain-drenched pet by placing it in a moderately-set conventional oven for a minute or two, puts it in her daughter's microwave oven, with predictably disastrous result.

While this story may be an example of the 'what if?' exploration of an unthinkable scenario, is it not beyond the realm of possibility that such an event has actually taken place (or will, at some point in the future), resulting from the actions of particularly technically-naïve people, or out of the mindless cruelty of certain evil persons? Folklorists might concede the point, but will challenge us to locate such a case.

Perhaps the classic example of a story proven to contain more than the proverbial grain of truth is found in the re-discovery of the ancient city of Troy by the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890).

Schliemann was subjected to ridicule by his peers when he began to search for its ruins, which had for centuries been believed to exist only within the pages of Homer's *The Illiad*. To the academicians it followed that since Homer wrote much about what we would today regard as mythical and fantastical creatures and situations, Troy itself must have been fictitious. Schliemann proved them wrong.

Can we say the same for the Phantom Hitch-Hiker? While it is difficult to refute the idea that, as folklorists contend, Phantom Hitch-Hiker stories are nothing more than an old and familiar dish served up in a new sauce, is it possible that they are at least based on some modicum of truth? Might the popular versions represent romanticised distillates of one or more - admittedly rare - but true and originally more subtle and internally variable encounters?

The answer of the folklorist would appear to be 'no'. As we have already noted to a degree, almost all of the characteristics of a typical Phantom Hitch-Hiker account can be anticipated, and this fact, coupled with the very improbability of ghosts, renders them non-starters as far as their consideration as items of potential fact. Even where convention is broken, for instance, where a witness is named, it can be difficult to determine whether this might not simply represent a further bogus detail intended to reinforce its acceptance as a strange-but-true story.

Michael Goss observed in his highly-recommended analysis of the phenomenon, that whereas the repetition of particular anomalous events worldwide (he cites the commonality of poltergeist incidents') can and have been used to support arguments favouring the existence of such phenomena, when it comes to apparitions, particularly those exhibiting a very specific mode of behaviour such as the Phantom Hitch-Hiker, the reverse seems to apply - undoubtedly a consequence of their patently artistic adornments.

Clearly, any honest evaluation of the Phantom Hitch-Hiker phenomenon must surely concede that most accounts *are* suspect. It is therefore a very difficult prospect to separate apparently reliably reported accounts of hitch-hiking phantoms from their counterparts in folklore. But this is as it should be. Any account that lays claim as a genuine paranormal event should rightly be subjected to rigorous scrutiny before being accepted as such...



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OFFICIAL UFO DOCUMENTS RELEASED!

THE Sun

Lynsey Haywood, August 5th 2010.



AN ALIEN spaceship "20 times the size of a football field" is among a string of bizarre UFO sightings included in top secret MoD files released for the first time today. The huge craft was reported to the military after it was seen hovering above Manchester Airport in January 1995. Incredibly, it was spotted the same day a British Airways pilot reported a "near miss" as he tried to land a Boeing 737 on the runway leading to a highly-classified MoD investigation.

Other sightings include a "cigar-shaped" object flying above Lancashire in February 1977 and in October 1980 two security police officers on patrol at RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, saw a "strange, glowing object" in the woods...

A report said: "The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. "The object itself had a pulsing red light no top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared."

One Brit drew a sketch of an alien invasion he claimed to have spotted in Morecambe, Lancashire, in May 1997 and sent it to the MoD. He drew three triangular UFOs resembling stealth aircraft, two of which had lozenge-shaped lights along the wings. He described how the flying saucers hovered over people's homes and had followed cars but were not helicopters, planes or balloons.

A small rocket with a rear engine shaped like a "ten-petal flower head" was also seen apparently orbiting the moon in 1984.

A Brit living in Toronto, Canada, told the MoD in October 1995 that the craft was part of a group of spaceships resembling a "naval task force" captured in the background of a magnified photograph of the planet Jupiter.

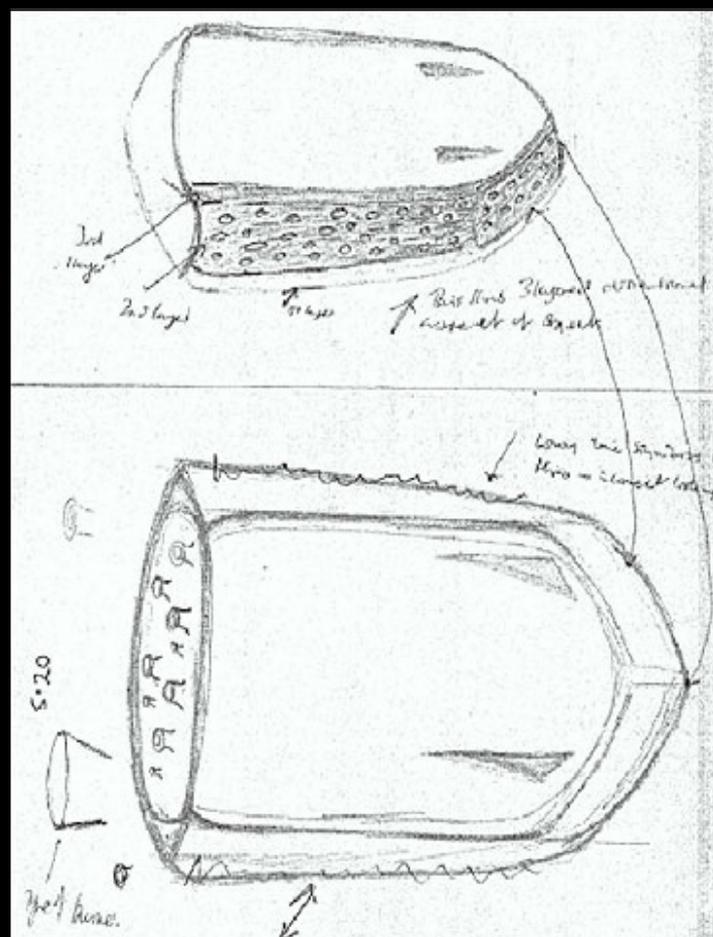
He warned: "I see this as a potential serious threat to our security from a totally unexpected quarter by people who are technologically more advanced than we are."

A black triangular craft with a pulsing red light at the front and two continuous white lights at the rear was seen in Stanley, County Durham, on the evening of September 29 1995.

The witness said it travelled at about 40mph and was accompanied by a high-pitched tone like an aircraft in a dive. And a circular "space station", with red, green and white lights pulsing like a heartbeat in an anti-clockwise direction around the outside, was seen above Gwent, South Wales, in May 1998.

Incredibly, the top secret files released to the public for the first time today also revealed that Sir Winston Churchill was

accused of covering up a close encounter between an RAF and a UFO during the Second World War.

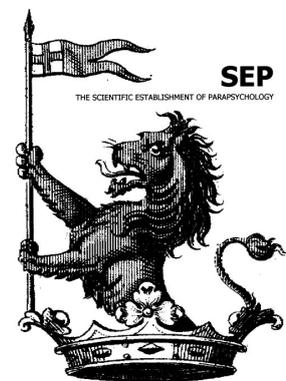




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