# PHENOMENA

## The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

ISSUE 19 - NOVEMBER 2010

YouTube UFO REVIEWS

THE DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM GHOST

IN THE PRESS
LATEST INVESTIGATIONS
PHANTOM ANIMALS
AN UNEXPLAINED GHOST
ONE MAN'S MYSTERIES

PHANTOM HORSEMEN

AND MUCH MORE

RICHARD FREEMAN INVESTIGATES THE ALMASTY

STRANGE THINGS WHILST FILMING 'THE STONE'

CHRIS PARR'S YOUTUBE UFO REVIEWS

UN OFFICIAL DENIES ALIEN AMBASSADOR APPOINTMENT

UK SCHOOLS DO UFO CRASH DRILLS?

## EDITORIAL

**As many will know. As the darker nights slowly draw in a different theme of reports are often generated. It seems we receive more UFO reports during the winter months than any other time in the year. This is more than likely due to the cold clear skies being more visually prominent.**

**There's been a lot of talk recently about the UFO phenomena and government disclosure. Several interesting events have taken place since April of this year which many are interpreting as a quicker pace towards disclosure. However, like on most occasions, there's two sides to every story. We will be featuring one such story in this issue. A story that involved a U.S. Ambassador...**

**http://www.phenomenamagazine.co.uk**

## SUB-EDITORIAL

**Another busy month for the UPIA, added to the worst luck possible, 4 folk out of commission due to vehicle mechanical problems and then 5 UPIA members when en route to Corwen in North Wales to offer our new ground breaking format presentation to the Truthjuice group, ended up in a car accident, being hit from behind at a roundabout.**

**Whiplash and abrasions aside we were able to attend the meeting in time and offer our presentation. Thanks to Truthjuice for inviting us, we particularly enjoyed being chastised and suggested we were MI5 agents. We will miss our publication by mentioning Halton Libraries Paranormal week, where myself and Steve Mera will be lecturing on 21st October. A review will appear in the December issue of Phenomena Magazine. We were able to continue our research studies unabated, some of the material and theories we have discovered can really blow the top off the subject. Though the usual calls of Sceptism will occur. The publication of the information will take some time, with much recorded information and data required before we can offer our findings to official scientific communities as well as our peers. Our exotic cat case is still being visited and offering continuous information. We have also visited several locations. An East Cheshire Church we have monitored since the 1990's, An Abbey in Staffordshire, The Chained Oak, A second cat case in Staffordshire – where we were able to ascertain images received were a large domestically bred cat and the falsification of locational details. Members also spent a day visiting religious and ancient sites in Cumbria.**

**A special thanks to all our contributors. If you would like to contribute yourself, please contact the editor:**
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# IN STRANGE LOCATIONS...

On Wednesday September 29th, members of the UPIA visited Corwen in Wales to conduct a lecture for Truthjuice. A group of around 40 individuals came along to hear about how UPIA conduct their investigations. The lecture, which lasted around 2 hours consisted of several case reviews as well as how UPIA conduct their analysis and a few of the things we couldn't explain. By all accounts the night went well for the exception of a couple of people who wanted us to discuss the Chemtrail conspiracy. A brief description of chemtrails was given, however, UPIA are unable to gain any evidence in support of this theory. We are certainly aware of the visual difference between suspected chemtrails and normal contrails. Some believe that certain aircraft release chemicals into the sky as part of some program to alter weather conditions. Some simply believe that it is our government slowly poisoning us, and… there are those that think there's nothing odd going on. Just that aircraft engines and fuel types have changed over the years, thus producing a visible difference. Whatever the answer is… UPIA don't have it. Just like many other conspiratorial issues, UPIA do not find themselves in a position to get the truth. We can only speculate like many others and hope the outcome isn't too bad. We finished off the night with a question and answer session which went very well.

So… what is Truthjuice? Well, here are a few details from the website… truthjuice provides weekly speaking events here in the town of Corwen in North Wales, close to the English border so is handy for North and Mid Wales, Cheshire, Shropshire, with Merseyside and Manchester just about 75 minutes away. We are here to bring the TRUTH about what is really happening in the world both seen and unseen and to inform and educate the awakening masses as to who they really are and to help empower them to help develop more involved and self empowered communities.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday November 3rd 2010.
Mario Polo Presents 'Religion & The New World Order'. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Lecture starts at 7.30pm. £3.00 on the door.

'An exploration into the ongoing undermining and erosion of established religions and their replacement with man/nature centred ones. Destruction of Religion as the central of the four pillars of communism and why it is critical for the success of the NWO. Undermining of traditional religious teachings on divinity, creation, morality, marriage and role of men and women in a society. Ushering and steady endorsement of the New Age spirituality as an important part of the NWO agenda. Stanley Kubrick, "Eyes Wide Shut" and worship of the dark forces – Satanism and Luciferianism – as a source of diabolical strength and inspiration for "the elite".'

Wednesday November 10th 2010.
Lee David Presents ' Regnal Law and The Word'. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Lecture starts at 7.30pm. £3.00 on the door.

What's presented is an insight into Monarchical Law, Common Law and Civil Law (Admiralty/Maritime Law), and the differences between the two, and we'll take a step into where we as members of society are placed within this 'system', what it is, where is may have originated from, and where we "fit in" to this current consentual enslavement system we've allowed to be created. Subjects covered are elements such as words (worthsmithery), terms and definitions some may not yet be aware of that are being used, and how we can best cognicize the problems and how we may be able to change, or adapt it. Using a little symbology, historical research, science, illustrations, humour, insights, individual findings and visuals, I'll try to help the viewer perceive a different perspective to where the current world arena desires to guide us to a conclusion, with as much referenced material as possible.

Wednesday November 17th 2010.
Truthjuice Presents 'Open Mic Night'. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Lecture starts at 7.30pm. £3.00 on the door.

We at Truthjuice firmly believe that there are many like us out there who have something to say but no platform to say it on. If you want to have your say then get in contact and reserve your slot! Our past 'Open Mic Nights' have been going from strength to strength using the same format. You get 20 minutes to have your say followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers. To reserve your slot phone

Andrew or Tracy on 01978 861586 or E-mail us on info@truthjuice.co.uk

**For more information, visit the Truthjuice website at: www.truthjuice.co.uk**

By Colin Veacock

# DESTINATION MOON

## THE BIRTH OF THE SECOND SPACE RACE

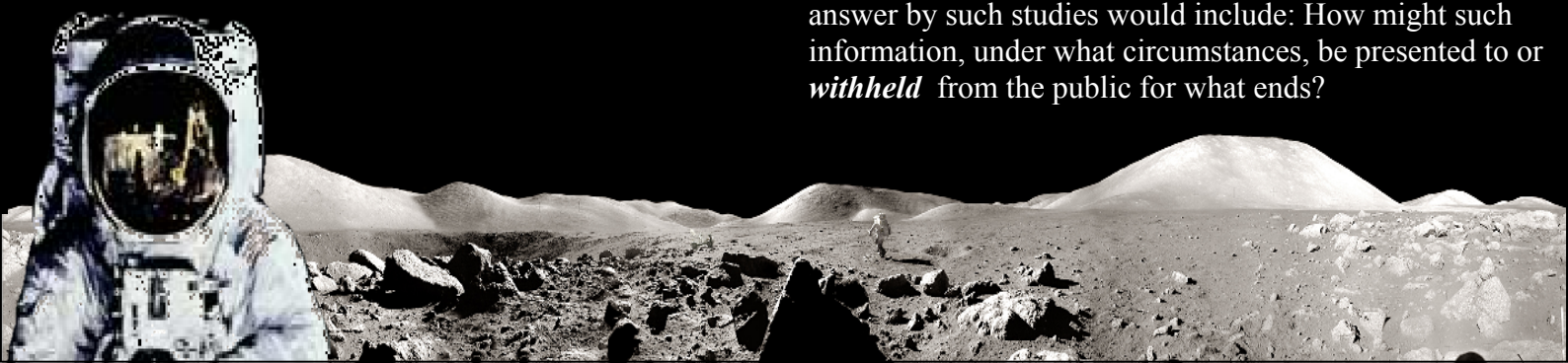
According to NASA nobody has set foot on the moon since Harrison Schmitt and Eugene Cernan climbed aboard the Challenger, Apollo 17, in December 1972 and left Taurus Littrow. Although there may have been further clandestine missions to the far side of the moon, carried out jointly by Soviet and American astronauts to investigate provocative anomalies, nobody has ever asked the thorny question of why we went there in the first place? Maybe if we could find the answer to that puzzle, we may go some way to explaining why suddenly everyone wants to return there as quickly as possible!

India is hoping to land on the moon as early as 2015, and China will follow closely two years later in 2017. The USA had anticipated launching a mission in 2018 but budget restrictions imposed on NASA by President Obama's administration basically killed off the Constellation Programme and the further advancement of the Orion spacecraft. A strange decision considering that the programme was entering the latter years of its development and could have feasibly been ready to fly as early as 2013! The only other entrant in the second race to the moon is Russia who will get there no earlier than 2025. Why, at a time when the worlds economy is circling the pan and ready to disappear into the sewer, are countries like India spending money they can ill afford creating a viable space programme and venturing to the moon? It seems blatantly obvious that these countries have accidentally discovered, after nearly 40 years, why the Americans risked everything to traverse the 250,000 miles of empty space to land on what we are still told is an empty dust ball of nothingness! Considering that it is now known that many of the NASA programmes (A public agency remember!) are funded by the US Defence Department, it should come as no surprise to realise that there is something of the utmost importance on the moon. The words of Farouk El Baz, a NASA scientist who worked on the Apollo programme, given in an interview to Saga magazine suddenly take on new significance…

***"We're looking for something," he said, "something..!"***

The answer to what that "*something*" may be can perhaps be found in those initial years of NASA when it was in its infancy and the administration was honest and open. In 1961 the **Proposed Studies on the Implications of Peaceful Space Activities for Human Affairs,** carried out by the Washington based think tank, The Brookings Institute, was placed in front of the House Of Representatives, 87th United States Congress, warning about the possible implications of the discovery of alien races or their hardware. They decided that if NASA stumbled across such evidence while exploring space that they may want to sit on such information for ten, thirty or fifty years while they study what they were dealing with.

"Since intelligent life might be discovered at any time via the radio telescope research currently underway, and since the consequences of such a discovery are presently unpredictable because of our limited knowledge of behaviour under even an approximation of such dramatic circumstances, two research areas can be recommended… Continuing studies to determine emotional and intellectual understanding, and attitudes, and successive alterations of them if any regarding the possibility and consequences of discovering intelligent extraterrestrial life. Historical and empirical studies of the behaviour of peoples and their leaders when confronted with dramatic and unfamiliar events or social pressures. Such studies might help to provide programs for meeting and adjusting to the implications of such a discovery. Questions one might wish to answer by such studies would include: How might such information, under what circumstances, be presented to or ***withheld*** from the public for what ends?



What might be the role of the discovering scientists and other decision makers regarding release of the fact of discovery?" – pages 215-16." To use the words of Jack Nicholson-

## *"The truth! You can't handle the truth…"*

They were most probably trying to digest the institutes findings when I believe jaw dropping information reached the in-trays of those in power in the secretive corridors of the Pentagon and White House. The early Ranger crash landers and the Lunar Orbiter missions had made an amazing and unexpected discovery. There seemed to be light reflecting objects of immense size standing on the lunar surface! With the warnings of the Brooking Institute ringing in their ears, NASA decided to air on the side of caution and commissioned a year long study of the moon made by trusted amateur and professional astronomers, and friendly observatories. Operation Moonblink ran for a year from September 1965 when a network of astronomers based on several continents spent their spare time scrutinising the moon. In that year long stake out 28 anomalous lunar incidents were recorded thus confirming the grainy but still tantilising early photographic evidence. NASA now knew that the moon harboured something truly astounding and of vital importance but they didn't know for just how long these structures had been standing there apparently right under our noses.

The NASA Technical Report, R-277. Chronological Catalogue Of Reported Lunar Events, published in July 1968, set out to answer that difficult question...

They researched through the archives, dusty personal ledgers and official documents of established observatories and famous astronomers, specifically looking for references to the moon.

PROPOSED STUDIES ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF PEACEFUL SPACE ACTIVITIES FOR HUMAN AFFAIRS

REPORT

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

In that study they unearthed over 570 sightings of anomalous lunar activity dating back to 26th November 1540 when observers in Worms, Germany, watched starlike lights moving about in the Calippus region of the moon. Over 150 sightings directly report blue or occasionally red glows filling the lunar skies emanating from the 25 mile wide and 2 mile deep Aristarchus crater. Others described clouds and electrical storms, and red, green and blue lights appearing in areas such as Sinus Medii, Plato and Copernicus. These areas just happen to correspond with where lunar anomalies were photographed by those early pioneering, potentially life changing, missions. What these anomalies represent, at present, is a complete mystery and ponderings amongst some researchers as to whether or not they are alien bases or evidence that we have our history wrong and there was once an advanced human civilisation which perfected space travel and colonised the moon and Mars, really doesn't take us any further along the road of discovery or disclosure.

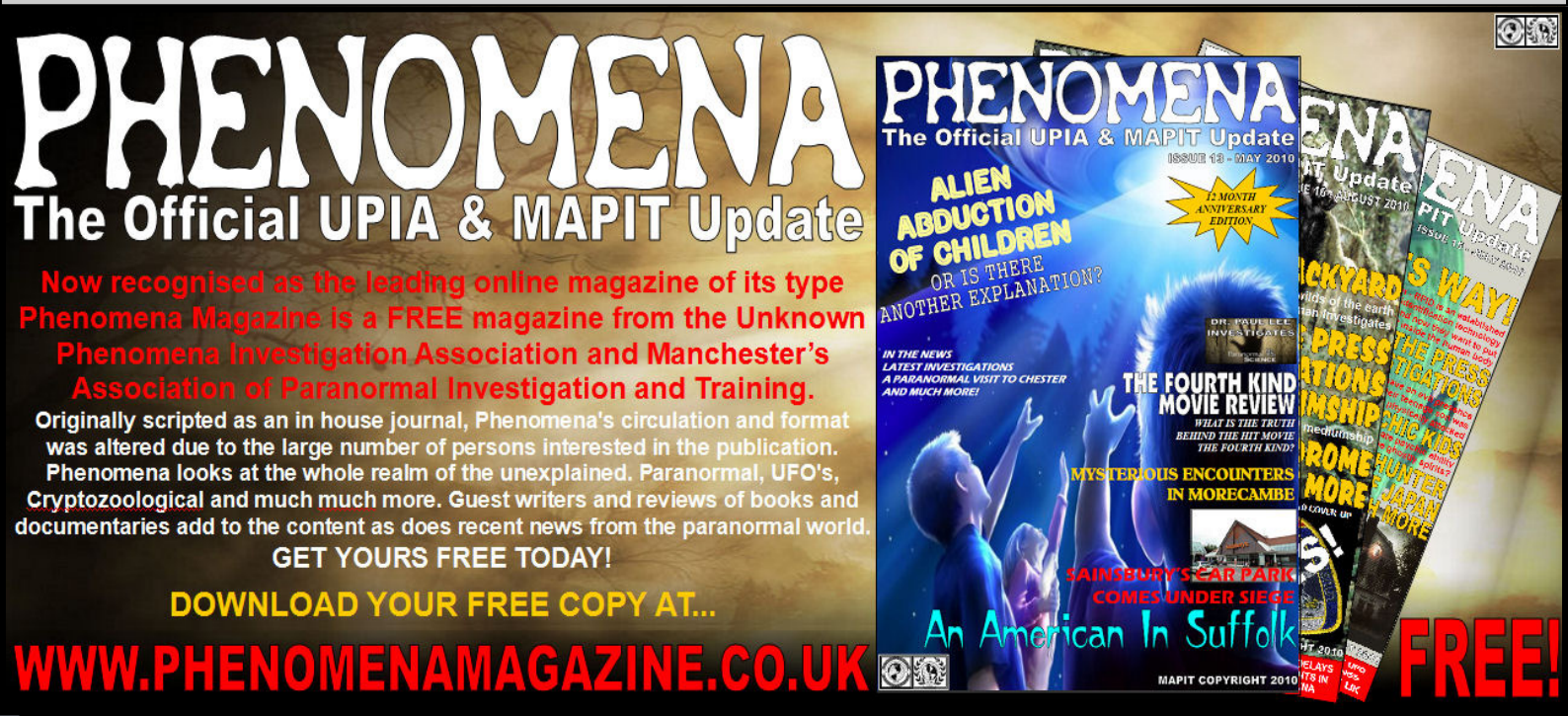
The true answers to those questions are possibly only known by a select few within the heavily fortified walls of the Pentagon. I believe it is this in-formation that is now steadily leaking out into the mainstream which has triggered the second space race. The race to return to the moon…

**The Secret UFO Reports – Project Blue Book: The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects" is a 184 page book written originally by the former Head of the Air Force Project Blue Book and contains a huge amount of fascinating 'inside' information which would be of huge interest to any UFO follower. For ordering and more information.**
**Please visit Cosmic Conspiracies www.ufos-aliens.co.uk**

# PARANORMAL NEWS ON FACEBOOK

**A group chronicling all news from within the paranormal world. Ghosts, UFO's, Cryptozoological, Weird and much more will be added in its particular area. Due to Facebook rules and regulations and copy-right protection, all news will be added as a link with a header explaining the link.**

**Please add all links in the correct discussion group.**
**Feel free to invite those you feel may find this tool of use or add links themselves.**



# The Dorset County Museum Ghost

By Bob Dezon of BARSoc.

On the 20th September 2010. The BBC news website reported that a group of paranormal investigators from Weymouth called "The P.I.T."(Paranormal Investigation Team), claimed to have captured the image of a "Ghost" inside the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester. The "Ghost" in question, was named by the group as being one "Hanging Judge Jeffreys". They also claimed to have additional photographs of a local fossil collector named "Mary Anning". Both images were said to have been captured inside the museum's main hall. Why the two alleged "spirits" would be at this particular Museum, is still quite baffling. 50-year-old Trudy Jordan, who's given position is "Locations Manager/Assistant Case manager/Paranormal Investigator" for "The P.I.T.", Was quoted as saying:

*"What we've found now is amazing – we're really chuffed, It wasn't until we looked at the footage afterwards that you could actually make out the figure of a man. You can make your own mind up but it's so detailed. We also have a photo of a woman with a cape going round her shoulders, and no head."*

Ms Jordan was also claimed the barrier alarms that "The P.I.T." set up in the Victorian Hall part of the museum, went off repeatedly. She was quoted as saying:

*"We've used them now since 2003 and never known anything affect them to make them go off unless someone actually goes through them."*

Beryl Smith who's given position is "First aid/Investigator" said she experienced strange swings in measurements from her EMF meter. She was quoted as saying:

*"I thought it was fascinating because somebody had come to me to want to talk through the meter."*

However, Dorset County Museum "Fundraising and Events" officer Nel Duke stated she remains "unconvinced". She was quoted as saying:

*"I haven't had any paranormal experiences here".*

Here is the image that "The P.I.T." supplied to press.

*Images taken using a Sony DSC W100. ISO of 400. Images dated: 29/10/2009 at 02:37:02AM. Exposure time = 1/40Sec Additional cameras used = Sony DSC-N2,Sony DSC-W190 and a Samsung S85. Settings for individual cameras are approximately equal.*

The first thing that we noticed, is that the image was heavily cropped. A cropped image provides little context for what it is we are looking at. Realistically it could be anything at all, from an out of focus light, to a drop of water on a sheet of glass

We contacted "The P.I.T." to ask for the full uncropped version of the image. It would be unfair to "The P.I.T." to analyse the image if we were not able to see the original source material. We finally spoke to "Steve" who's given title is Media Manager/Technician/Investigator. Steve sent the full unaltered versions, as per our request.

"The P.I.T." did originally provide two reduced quality, and copyrighted images. However, they were unsuitable for purpose. They also thoughtfully provided a document to accompany the images, to assist press inquiry. Also included, is a listing of restrictions upon their use publicly. One important section is labelled "A brief background to the photos", which I shall reprint here, in full:

*"The photos included where all taken by members of the P.I.T using digital cameras. The P.I.T does not claim to have conclusive proof of 'ghosts' within these photos merely that we have attempted to explain them using known science and have been unsuccessful in doing so. Not only where the photos analysed by experienced members of the P.I.T experienced in distinguishing reflection from dust insects and moisture etc. as well as various forms of light refraction and reflection. But when these could not be explained as such they where shown to a number of 'experts' within the photography industry who again could not explain the light patterns etc as a malfunction of multiple cameras.*

*For this reason we have forwarded the photos to the wider public for them to be analysed and dissected as would be seen fit."*

"The P.I.T." claim to have been unsuccessful in reaching a satisfactory conclusion using "known science". Exactly which scientific process was applied, still remains unclear. They also claim to have had the images examined by "experienced team members", and a "number of experts" in the field of photography. Neither of which could apparently explain the source of the "anomaly". A 2009 interview with the Dorset Echo, lists this "expert source" as a professional "photographic shop".

"Steve" also responded to a similar article on ghosttheory.com. He stated:

*"Further background to this photo is that it was one of a few photos we captured on multiple cameras from varying angles( the camera people where spread along the end of the upper balcony. the ground floor level was been focused on due to motion sensors activating without any visible cause. The reason we mention judge Jeffrey's is two fold not only is his chair on display in that gallery but also Dorchester and Dorset as a whole are linked to him. since the date the photos where taken we have since found references that he may have drunk at the inn that once stood on the site of museum."*

Our advice to "The P.I.T." is to simply use better qualified experts. If they had, then perhaps they would understand what it was they actually took photographs of. The images taken that night at the Dorset County Museum, are simply reflections of the camera flash, on a glass fronted display case/mirrored surface. You can clearly see this display case illuminated by the flash, to the north position of the "anomaly". Here is a similar display case, also in that area at the Museum.

The "anomaly" referred to as "Judge Jeffrey's", is actually the flash reflected onto the floor of the Museum. The reason it looks vaguely person shaped, is because the reflective surface (glass) is uneven. This creates a "lensing" effect", like similar to a Plano-Concave lens. This pattern of light is a reflection from a concave surface. Of course, the rest of the image was also cropped away from that area. Seemingly to focus attention soley on that one small area. This is very misleading to the viewer, and it does not look like a human figure when viewed unedited (as it is obviously spread across the floor).

*If the angle of reflection is equal to the angle of incidence, and the light returned is a diffused reflection, then the focal point is determined by the curvature of the reflective surface.*

There are some helpful diagrams to explain the process here:

**http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfadd/1160/Ch24ML/CrvMr.html**

The second image that "The P.I.T." claimed to have captured that night, one "Mary Anning", is exactly the same phenomena. The reason why it appears to be "missing it's head", is simply because the image was taken at a slightly different angle and position. Thus the reflection became a slightly different relative focal point.

We think it would be unfair to "The P.I.T." to leave this report here, without addressing the other "unusual phenomena" that allegedly happened that night. Perhaps they will take our advice, or perhaps they might ignore it? Only time will tell, but we know which decision will benefit them more.

The most likely reason Trudy Jordan believes the photographs contain the image of a man is classic Pareidolia, but we think perhaps artistic licence is mainly responsible for the headless woman claim. It would take some serious "mental juggling" to create that specific shape from that reflection. The claim that the P.I.R. (passive infrared) sensors that "The P.I.T." deployed (barrier alarms), kept "going off" is not in itself unusual. There are many reasons why a P.I.R. might trigger. Everything from extreme temperature changes due to central heating, to flying insects and intermittent power supply (dying batteries) could be responsible. It may even be a hardware issue, depending on the condition of the P.I.R. units. Beryl Smith's experience can be explained by the "Subject Expectancy effect". She believed that E.M.F. detectors somehow register "spirit energy". The subsequent needle movement reinforced her belief that there was a spirit present and attempting to communicate. There is more information about that particular psychology available here:

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subject-expectancy_effect**

"The P.I.T." did supply several other "images of interest" taken that night. Unfortunately, they are no more unusual than the others supplied to the press. For those of you who may be interested. "The P.I.T." claims to have 50 years experience in the paranormal, (we assume this means the total combination of experience from it's 14 members). We consider this to be an odd way to calculate overall experience. I know I could not trust 100 surgeons who each had one year of training, to perform an operation on me. In an interview given to the Dorset Echo, "The P.I.T." compared themselves to The Atlantic Paranormal Society (T.A.P.S.). Unfortunately, *T.A.P.S. is to ghost hunting, what Pope Benedict is to child safety.* T.A.P.S. are nothing more than entertainers, they are not scientific researchers. We think that is indicative of the level of expertise they ("The P.I.T.") currently seem to possess as a team.

NB: A Plethora of ill suited equipment, spurious connections, outdated theory, peer review via media etc, etc. Where they differ from T.A.P.S. is that they also use alleged mediums as an evidence gathering resource.

Our impartial advice to "The P.I.T." is simply to study past experiments, and do not repeat the failures. Design new experiments, and test those. Lose the equipment, it has little to no scientific use on an investigation of this nature. Learn basic physics, as that branch of science that can help explain a lot of "perinormal" phenomena. Learn basic psychology, this can help determine the human element of alleged hauntings. Have your "mediums" perform other duties. Last but not least, investigate using the scientific theory.

**Scientific theory construction:**

***1. Observation/description of phenomena or group of phenomena.***

***2. Formulation of a hypothesis to explain the phenomena.***

***3. Use the hypothesis to predict the existence of other phenomena, or predict quantitatively the results of new observations.***

***4. Performance of experimental tests of the predictions by several independent experimenters and properly performed experiments.***

BARSoc would like to thank "The P.I.T." for their cooperation in this matter, and we hope they will improve their operation over time. References can be found at: **http://barsoc.org/2010/09/28/the-dorset-county-museum-ghost/**

BRITISH ANOMALISTIC RESEARCH SOCIETY

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# UN official denies alien ambassador appointment.

**By Edward Moyer, September 27th 2010.**

**Despite earlier reports, the United Nations will not appoint an ambassador to greet extraterrestrials if and when they contact humanity.**

**According to numerous reports, 58-year-old Malaysian astrophysicist Mazlan Othman, head of the UN's Office for Outer Space Affairs, was to be given the role, provided UN scientific advisory committees and the General Assembly grant approval.**

**However, the Guardian has reported that Othman is quashing the suggestion. "It sounds really cool but I have to deny it," Othman reportedly said in an email cited by the newspaper.**

**"The continued search for extraterrestrial communication... sustains the hope that someday humankind will receive signals from extraterrestrials,"**

**The Australian quoted Othman as saying. "When we do, we should have in place a co-ordinated response that takes into account all the sensitivities related to the subject.**

**The UN is a ready-made mechanism for such co-ordination."**

Telegraph

# News...

## A U.N. ambassador to E.T.? Sounds like sci-fi.
**By Edward Moyer.**

If and when extraterrestrials try to contact humanity, they might want to stop by the United Nations headquarters. But despite earlier reports, it looks like there won't be a designated ambassador-to-the-aliens waiting for them there after all.

According to numerous reports, 58-year-old Malaysian astrophysicist Mazlan Othman, head of the U.N.'s Office for Outer Space Affairs--which is charged with "promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space"--had been tapped for the role. Word was that she was waiting only for U.N. scientific advisory committees and the General Assembly to give the thumbs-up.

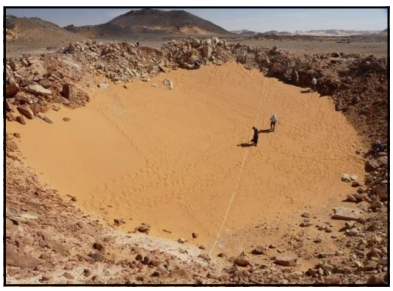
But now the U.K.'s Guardian News says that Othman is quashing the suggestion. "It sounds really cool but I have to deny it," Othman reportedly said in an e-mail cited by the online newspaper. Othman, who led Malaysia's national space agency before heading to the U.N. and helped train that country's first astronaut, is scheduled to speak next week at a Royal Society event devoted to the implications of alien contact and the need for necessary political processes to be in place should that contact occur. But the Guardian reports that Othman will be there to speak about how the world deals with "near-Earth objects." Earlier reports had been more tantalizing. The Australian leaned on a recent quote from Othman saying this:

"The continued search for extraterrestrial communication...sustains the hope that someday humankind will receive signals from extraterrestrials. When we do, we should have in place a coordinated response that takes into account all the sensitivities related to the subject. The U.N. is a ready-made mechanism for such coordination." The publication also quoted Professor Richard Crowther, a specialist in space law and governance at the U.K. Space Agency, on Othman's suitability for the supposed job: she "is absolutely the nearest thing we have to a 'take me to your leader' person." Though contact with space aliens may not happen tomorrow, the recent discovery of potentially Earth-like planets, and of the existence of life-forms in the harshest environments on Earth itself, have led to an increased focus on the possibility of extraterrestrial creatures. Famed physicist Stephen Hawking has recently helped to legitimize exopolitics, which looks at the public policy implications of alien life.

"To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational," The Times of London quoted Hawking as saying back in April. "The real challenge is to work out what aliens might actually be like." And how best to deal with them. As The Australian points out, under the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, overseen by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, members of the U.N. agree to protect Earth against contamination by taking the precaution of "sterilizing" extraterrestrials. But, The Australian says, Othman "is understood to want a more tolerant approach." If Hawking's thinking is correct, however, any eventual ambassador may be in for some challenging diplomacy. Though he suspects most aliens will prove to be microbes and small animals, Hawking warns against trying to make contact with intelligent ETs. He thinks they'd likely be cruising the starways in search of resources, and potential colonies. "We only have to look at ourselves," The Times quoted Hawking as saying, "to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet."

Mail Online

## Massive meteor crater discovered by scientist scanning Google Earth.



A pristine meteor crater undiscovered until it was spotted on Google Earth may help scientists determine the risks of further potentially catastrophic impacts. The Kamil crater, which is 52 feet deep and almost 150 feet wide, is deep within the Egyptian desert, and was unknown until it was seen on Google Earth. Caused by a ten-tonne chunk of iron travelling at more than 7,500mph, it is one of the best preserved sites ever found. The Kamil crater which is 16 metres deep and 45 metres wide, is deep within the Egyptian desert, and was unknown until it was seen in this image on Google Earth. The impact would have generated a fireball seen more then 620 miles away, and scientists believe it is relatively young - potentially less than a few thousand years old. This means it may have been seen by early humans, although no human record exists of its impact.

The crater was spotted in the border region between Egypt, Sudan and Libya in 2008 by mineralologist Vincenzo De Michele, then with the Civico Museo di Storia Naturale in Milan, Italy. He was searching for natural features when he chanced on the image on his PC screen. He contacted astrophysicist Dr Mario Di Martino, at the INAF (National Institute for Astrophysics) observatory in Turin, who, along with Dr Luigi Folco, organised an expedition to the site in February this year. The two-week expedition took more than a year to plan, and involved 40 people driving for three days in 40 degree heat to find the site. The crater, in southern Egypt, is one of the best preserved sites ever found. They collected fragments and carried out tests, and found that it was in remarkably pristine condition. Dr Detlef Koschny said: 'This demonstrates that metallic meteorites having a mass on the order of 10 tonnes do not break up in the atmosphere, and instead explode when they reach the ground and produce a crater.' Dr Falco added: 'We are still determining the geochronology of the impact site, but the crater is certainly less than ten thousand years old - and potentially less than a few thousand. 'The impact may even have been observed by humans, and archaeological investigations at nearby ancient settlements may help fix the date.' The European Space Agency, which helped fund the expedition, said: 'The data gathered during the expedition will be very useful to ESA's Space Situational Awareness programme's activities for risk assessment of small asteroids with orbits that approach Earth, a category to which the Kamil impactor originally belonged.'

# THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN

**What is it that everybody likes about a legend?... People like feeling frightened? That you can make lots of money by selling memorabilia? Or... That the legend could be true...?**

By S. E. Schlosser,
Clay Coppedge &
Colleen Mart

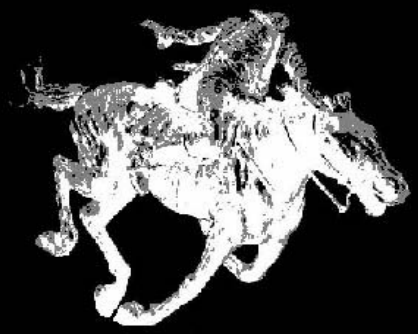
The Ghost of Julius Garesche.

It's no surprise to learn that there have been numerous reports of apparitions of headless horseman. There certainly may be more to the stories than just a legend, brought about by the famous village of Sleepy Hallow. One such apparition is that of Lieutenant Colonel Julius Garesche, a devout Catholic, graduated from West Point (U.S) one year before Rosecrans. When Garesche was assistant adjutant general in Washington DC, he obtained a commission as Brigadier General for his friend. When Garesche was stationed at Fort Brown, Texas, he had his first premonition of his destined death. Many of his relatives joined the Confederate Army and he damned them to Hell.

His use of profanity and condemnation concerned him, so he talked to his brother, Father Frederick. The priest listened, then shared his premonition of Garesche's death. It would happen during the first battle and no more than eighteen months after their September 14, 1861 meeting. Convinced he was destined to be a martyr for the Union cause, Garesche applied for field duty. Rosecrans appointed him as his Chief-of-Staff of the Cumberland Army. December 31st, 1862 was the last day of Garesche's life. He took Holy Communion. Soon, Confederate General William Hardee's troops launched a surprise attack. Rosecrans, astride his horse, was gathering his troops. Garesche was concerned that the general was exposing himself to great danger. Rosecrans told him to take care of himself. Garesche dismounted his horse and read from a prayer book before rejoining the general. As they were galloping into battle, a Union gunner fired at them, blasting Garesche's head from his body. Only a jaw fragment with part of his beard remained. His horse carried the headless body for about twenty yards before the burden fell to the ground. The headless body was interred in Mount Olive Cemetery, Washington DC. Garesche's headless ghost, astride a galloping ghostly horse has been seen at the site of his decapitation, near the railway. Railroad employees have seen the phantoms on moonlit nights. Peggy, wife of a Civil War re-enactor, had such an encounter. She was reading an inscription on a monument when she heard the sound of galloping hooves. She saw a horse with a headless rider racing by the railroad tracks, then suddenly vanish...

The Wild West Phantom.

As if the people around the Nueces River deep in Southwest Texas didn't have enough to worry about in the 1850s -- Comanches, Apaches, outlaws, insurgents, rattlesnakes - along came a headless horseman to further spook the brave souls who lived there. This headless horseman didn't bother, attack or even look at anybody, but the fact that he was there at all provided its own peculiar brand of fear and loathing. Here's what they saw: a rider whose head was not situated atop his shoulders but tied to the horn of his saddle and protected by a big Mexican sombrero. He was riding a large and extremely wild black mustang that seemed to carry its gruesome rider and cargo with great reluctance.



Always together, the crazy horse and headless rider were seen all over that wild country by a wide assortment of people who always described the horse and rider exactly alike, though sometimes a band of gold bullion was added to the spooky equation. The rider sat rigid in the saddle, never moving to the left or right, not even when daring cowboys and vaqueros ventured close enough to shoot him. People said the bullets seemed to pass right through him. Other riders with heads intact sometimes gave chase to the headless rider and the horse he rode in on but the big mustang was always too fast, too wild. Though the country was thick with wild mustangs at the time, this horse was always alone. Other horses fled wildly at the sight and scent of the horse and its rider, creating great mustang stampedes.

Some mustangers are said to have placed scarecrows on the back of a horse and sent it off into a herd of mustangs, who would run away en masse until they were too tired to run anymore, at which time they would be captured. This wasn't like other tall tales of the day, or some of the UFO sightings of a century later. People really saw this thing and one day they ambushed the horse and rider at a watering hole. They shot the rider a few times, captured the horse and partially solved the mystery.

The rider, riddled with bullet holes, was a dried up carcass of what had once been the earthly body of a former Lieutenant in the Mexican army known as Vidal. Vidal deserted the Mexican army and joined up with the Texans in December of 1835. He brought with him some valuable information about the Mexicans and presented himself as a Texas patriot. Thus established, he set up a horse stealing ring that managed to secure a lot of Texas horses while casting suspicion toward the Comanches. Following one particularly fierce raid by several Comanche bands, when most of the settlers were away chasing the marauders, Vidal and his confederates gathered up a bunch of the settlers horses and began driving them toward Mexico. The thieves ran into what might be called bad luck or maybe it was just fate that among the settlers they raided was a Mexican rancher named Flores and a Texan named Creed Taylor. Flores and Taylor shared a belief that no distance was too great to pursue the people who stole their horses. Adding to the thieves' misfortune was the fact that Flores and Taylor met up with former ranger and legend-in-his-own time, Bigfoot Wallace, who saw such a trip as not only worthwhile but a whole lot of fun to boot.

Wallace rode with the other two men to a point where they came upon the rustlers' camp. It was a fairly relaxed camp; they must have thought they were out of danger. If they dreamed that night of getting away with the horses, it was the last dream they had because the thieves were awakened long enough to be shot to death. Bigfoot Wallace always said he was just kidding, sort of, when he suggested they cut off Vidal's head and tie him onto the back of a big mustang and send horse and rider into the world to spread fear and loathing among, well... everybody. That's just how it played out. The mustang that they chose was blindfolded and affixed with most of Vidal on his back and the head and sombrero firmly fastened to the saddle horn. Vidal's feet were tied into the stirrups, which were double-fastened to each other under the horse's belly. The horse almost killed itself trying to get that thing off its back but to no avail. Finally, the horse took off at a terrified gallop into the countryside. Flores, Taylor and Bigfoot Wallace took the stolen horses back to their rightful owners at a much more relaxed pace.

The Headless Horseman.

Since tales of a headless horseman have existed for centuries in many different cultures throughout the world, it would be illogical to think that the headless horseman actually was real. However, after Washington Irving published his short story titled North Tarrytown, New York, changed its name to Sleepy Hollow in 1997. According to popular myth the headless horseman was a Hessian mercenary supposedly hired by King George to fight in the Revolutionary War. Although history does tell us that Hessians did actually fight at G.A Burger telling of a ghost that rode through the woods with his “hell hounds” and was sometimes said to be headless. But there are other headless horsemen that ride in different areas and countries. The story of the headless horseman has been passed down through word of mouth as well as written word for many generations. We can never be sure just where the story originated since there are so many different versions from different sources, but regardless of the origin of the legend of the headless horseman, in each instance he is a fictional character, nothing more than a myth... This is how the story goes...

One cold winter night, early in the New Year, a certain Dutchman left the tavern in Tarrytown and started walking to his home in the hollow nearby. His path led next to the old Sleepy Hollow cemetery where a headless Hessian soldier was buried. At midnight, the Dutchman came within site of the graveyard. The weather had warmed up during the week, and the snow was almost gone from the road. It was a dark night with no moon, and the only light came from his lantern. The Dutchman was nervous about passing the graveyard, remembering the rumours of a galloping ghost that he had heard at the tavern. He stumbled along, humming to himself to keep up his courage. Suddenly, his eye was caught by a light rising from the ground in the cemetery. He stopped, his heart pounding in fear. Before his startled eyes, a white mist burst forth from an unmarked grave and formed into a large horse carrying a headless rider.

The Dutchman let out a terrible scream as the horse leapt toward him at a full gallop. He took to his heels, running as fast as he could, making for the bridge since he knew that ghosts and evil spirits did not care to cross running water. He stumbled suddenly and fell, rolling off the road into a melting patch of snow. The headless rider thundered past him, and the man got a second look at the headless ghost. It was wearing a Hessian commander's uniform. The Dutchman waited a good hour after the ghost disappeared before crawling out of the bushes and making his way home. After fortifying himself with schnapps, the Dutchman told his wife about the ghost. By noon of the next day, the story was all over Tarrytown. The good Dutch folk were divided in their opinions. Some thought that the ghost must be roaming the roads at night in search of its head. Others claimed that the Hessian soldier rose from the grave to lead the Hessian soldiers in a charge up nearby Chatterton Hill, not knowing that the hill had already been taken by the British. Whatever the reason, the Headless Horseman continues to roam the roads near Tarrytown on dark nights from that day to this. Residents of Sleepy Hollow say people have really seen the apparition... But that’s what they would say!

**Recently, MAPIT was contacted by Michal Pralin in regards a new movie (The Stone) currently being filmed in Nottingham. This is what Michael had to say...**

**The British psychological thriller, *The Stone*, being filmed in Nottinghamshire, England, seems to have brought to life some peculiar paranormal events. On the very first day of shooting the Director, Philip Gardiner, found his mobile phone ringing even though it had been turned off. The actress, Layla Randle Conde was stood before him in a scene and yet when Gardiner looked at his phone it was Layla calling him.**

**Her phone was in her bag some distance away. Following this was a rapid succession of batteries draining instantly, more mobile phones playing up, car alarms going off, photographs of bizarre light effects, kettles constantly turning themselves on and dials on cameras working as if they were in the Twilight Zone. The events were so regular that it inspired some of the cast to actually return to the set during the night to hold seances where they reported strange feelings and an evil presence. I have included and unusual photograph I took at the location.**

**"It's a fascinating experience even if you don't believe in the paranormal because we we're actually filming a horror movie. It's as if fiction is coming to life and in all honesty I didn't mind because it has brought an extra edge of tension to the filming." Said Gardiner. The movie, being filmed on location at one of the UK's most haunted sites is already drawing attention from the world of paranormal research with one expert saying that it's one of the biggest "events" in years.**

**Set to be released in 2011 following a festival tour, the film is produced by Reality Films and has been written by the Director, Philip Gardiner, who wanted a completely different approach to his film.**

**"I didn't want to copy *Blair Witch* or *Paranormal Activity*. I'm aiming at classic British horror in the vein of the very best Hammer House. We have so many scary scenes that the editing is going to be hard work, but the location, cast and even the music are just so perfect that I am totally enthused by the whole thing." Said Gardiner.**

**Title: The Stone: No Soul Unturned.**

**Written and Directed by Philip Gardiner (www.gardinersworld.com)**

**Starring: Andrew Gough, Nik Spencer, Layla Randle Conde, Sarah Dunn, Dap C, Corjan, Simon Dulay, Wes Dolan, Suzy Deakin, Jo Jo Shaw, Tony Rotherham.**

**If you require an article written about the above story please let us know. Paranormal expert and author, Brian Allan is currently writing and reporting on these events.**

**For more information see www.thestonefilm.com**

**Contact: michael@real2can.com**

**US Contact: Reality Films**

**PO Box 91, Foresthill, California, CA 95631**

Mail Online

# News...

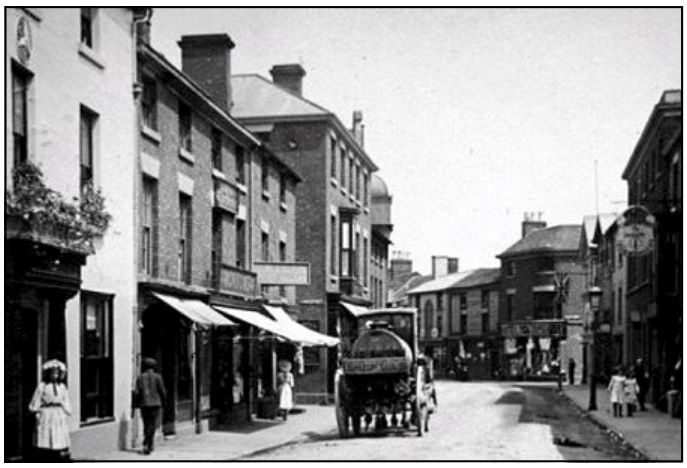
## Mystery of Wem ghost solved by an 88-year-old postcard and an eagled-eyed pensioner?

By Andy Dolan.

It was an image hailed as compelling evidence for the existence of ghosts. As a town hall was being destroyed by fire, an apparition of a little girl - standing behind a rail and surrounded by flames - was apparently captured on camera.

The picture was taken by Tony O'Rahilly, a sewage farm worker and keen photographer, as he stood across the road among a crowd watching the 90-year-old building in Wem, Shropshire, burn down in November 1995. Mystery: The infamous photo of the 'Wem Ghost', showing a girl in the fire at Wem Town Hall in November 1995. The legend of the Wem Ghost was born. But 15 years on, a pensioner has come forward to cast doubt on the spectre. Brian Lear, 77, said the 'ghost' bears a distinct likeness to a girl standing in a doorway in a photo of Wem's high street. This was used on a postcard dating from 1922. Mr Lear, a retired engineer from Shrewsbury, spotted the image when it was reproduced last week as part of a nostalgia item in a local paper. 'I was intrigued to find that she bore a striking likeness to the little girl featured as the Wem Ghost,' he said. 'Her dress, bonnet and ribbon appear to be identical.' In 1995 the 'ghost' image created international headlines.

There was local speculation that the girl was 14-year-old Jane Churm, who accidentally started a disastrous fire in Wem in 1677. The cause of the 1995 fire remains a mystery. Mr O'Rahilly died of a heart attack in 2005.



Solved: A street scene postcard from the 1920s taken in Wem shows a similar looking girl to the one who appears in Mr O'Rahilly's photo local councillor Peggy Carson, who knew him, said she believed the stress caused by interest in his picture contributed to his death. Local historian Tom Edwards, 69, said: 'He always maintained that the picture was genuine and I believe him.'

Photographic experts have suggested that the 'ghost' image was a trick of the light caused by the fire. However, Greg Hobson, the curator of photographs at the National Media Museum in Bradford, said: 'The postcard offers pretty conclusive proof that this is a hoax. 'I think we can say the mystery has been solved.' Mr Hobson said the technique used to produce the doctored photograph was probably similar to one used by Edwardian era mediums who purported to capture images of spirits with their relatives during the relatives' consultations as a way of boosting their credibility.

The mediums would first ask for a photograph of the deceased person, then take a picture of it in the back room. When the client returned later for a consultation, the image would already be partly exposed on to a glass plate. Another picture would be taken of the client during the session and exposed on to the same plate, giving an image apparently showing the spirit of their relative visiting them during the seance.

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THE Sun

By JOHN COLES

Published: 16 Oct 2010

A NURSE told yesterday of her terror when she came face-to-face with a panther-like beast lurking near a school. Emily Shiers, 33, said the fearsome big cat stood just TEN feet from her in a field.

Panther ... what the beast looked like- Tony Stone She was so frightened she grabbed her two-year-old nephew Nathaniel - and fled. Emily's close encounter came as she went to pick up Nathaniel's brother Lennon Cooper, four, from Callowell school in Paganhill, Stroud, Gloucs.

She and the toddler arrived early so they went for a walk in a field about 300 yards from the school. Shaken Emily said: "I heard a soft growl. Then I saw this creature. It just stopped and looked at us - I've never been so terrified in my life. It was about 5ft long, not including the tail, and about 2ft tall."

*It's the fourth reported sighting of a "panther" in Gloucestershire this year.*

Cop Mark Robson said he was convinced black LEOPARDS were in the Stroud area where they could inhabit caves.

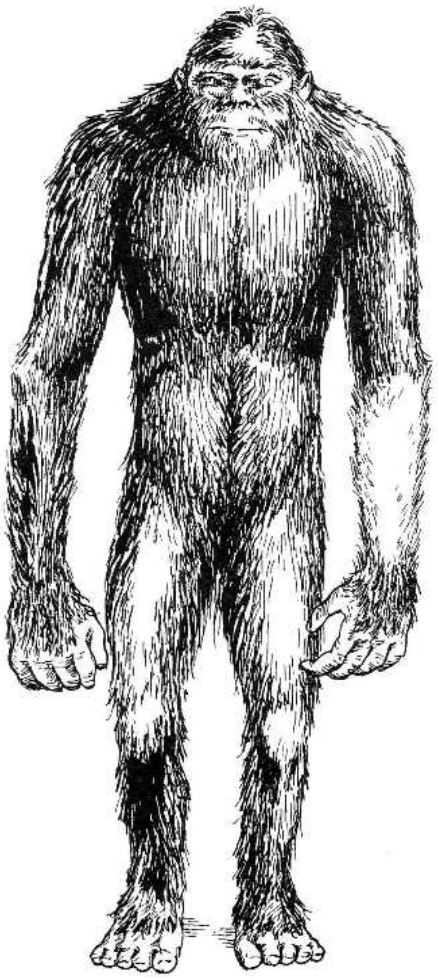
Emily added: *"I know what I saw - I'm not mistaken."*

Mark Fraser of Big Cats in Britain, had this to say.

*The original witness contacted us before it hit the papers, I passed it over to a Gloucs rep. I hear the lady may not be too happy with the way the Sun sensationalised it.*

'Thanks Mark'.

# FROM RUSSIA
## WITH HOMINIDS
### BY RICHARD FREEMAN



I first heard of the Ukrainian biologist Grigory Panchenko in Dimitry Baynov's book 'In the Foot-step's of the Russian Snowman'. It detailed a close encounter he had in with the Almasty, a relic hominid said to inhabit much of central Asia and the former USSR. Some years later I read about his long-term work in the Caucasus Mountains and the fact there were many reports from the Kabardino-Balkaria, part of the range. Panchenko believed that the population of Almasty were increasing throughout the area.

The Almasty, known as Almas, Albasy, Dev or Gul; is said to be a man like hair covered beast. It is smaller and more human in it's appearance than the Yeti or Sasquach, but larger and more muscular than a man. It is generally thought to be of the genus homo rather than a Pongid. Records of it go back hundreds of years in Central Asia and it was included in catalogues of local wildlife.

I thought it might be a good idea to contact Grigory and try to do a joint expedition with CFZ members and his own team. Getting hold of a number and e-mail for him took sometime and it was the best part of a year before I was able to contact him.

We invited Grigory over to speak on the cryptozoology of the Caucasus at 2007's Weird Weekend. Grigory had a vast amount of information most of which had never been aired in the west. As well as hominids, giant black snakes up to ten meters long had, for centuries, been reported from the area. His talk proved to be one of the highlights of the conference. Between us we arranged an expedition for June / July of 2008. Grigory and his colleagues would be in the field for 2 weeks prior to the CFZ team arriving.

The British contingent apart from myself consisted of Dr. Chris Clark, who has attended most of the CFZ's pervious foreign expeditions. Dave Archer a CFZ member who has organised his own expeditions in the past. Adam Davis, an experienced traveler and cryptozoologist of Extreme Expeditions and Keith Townley, a friend of Adam's who had accompanied him on some of his past adventures.

Shortly before we left we were contacted by Professor Bryan Sykes of Oxford University. Professor Sykes is one of the world's leading genetisists. He was interested in possible hominid survival and possible interbreeding between hominids and modern humans in past centuries. During his seminal work in mapping the human genome he was unable to find any DNA traces of anything other than modern man. He offered to do analysis on any samples we brought back and wanted us to carry out swab tests on Balkarian people.

After a mind bending ten hour wait at Moscow we flew to Mineranye Vody where we were met by Grigory and Alexey Ahokhov a very tall Russian computer expert and archeologist. Alexey had a delightful dog called Humma, a cross between a Red Setter and a Spaniel. She accompanied us on all our Russian adventures.

After a night's stay in a Sparten hotel in Tyranyauz we drove up increasingly poor roads near crumbling cliffs and river banks to the area of our first investigation,... White Rock. We were introduced to Anatoly the final member of the team. He was a Ukrainia archeologist with a ginger beard, little English knowledge, a great sense of humour and an even greater love of Vodka.

We made our camp in a small valley. When the road was first cut into this area of the Caucasus in 2000 the workmen sliced through many ancient tombs on the way. Around 1000 tombs are scattered around the area. Many, bisected by roads now spill their contents to the floor. Dozens of human bones and skulls were just sticking out of banks all around us. The remains were of Sarmatian people who originated in north Iran. The nobles were buried in cliff faces and slaves in the lower areas. The tombs dated from the 3rd to the 7th century. The slaves skulls had an odd domed appearance due to ritual binding. Grigory said that when he first saw one he thought it was an Almasty skull but soon realised that the bone was not thick enough.

In the two weeks before our arrival however, Grigory had uncovered what seemed to be a skull fragments of an inhuman thickness, in a cave in the cliffs of White Rock. On examining these I agreed that there did indeed seem too thick to be from a modern human. We bagged them up for analysis in the UK. We also took some of the Sarmatian bones in case their DNA had any odd markers that might hint at hybridisation with relic hominids.

White Rock itself rose, cloud festooned and sheer above our camp. Behind it were a range of ragged mountains called 'The Step Mother's Teeth'. The area was home to a she bear and her two cubs but we were not lucky enough to see them.

Anatoly told us of his own encounter with an Almasty in the 1980's. He was staking out an abandoned farmhouse near Neutrino. From a hiding place he saw a specimen pass by, at only 4 meters away. It was under 2 meters tall but powerfully built. It had grey hair 'the colour of a popular tree's bark'. Its head was domed with a crest and its nose was human like but smaller. It had no chin, and a thick, short neck. It swung its long arms as it walked.

Anatoly had also seen one of the giant snakes in a cave in the south of Kabardino-Balkaria near a town called Sammakovo. He was being lowered down into the cave when he saw a black snake he estimated to be 7 meters long, swimming away in the water that filled the cave. His farther had also seen such a monster snake many years ago in Kazackstan. Whilst in a marsh he saw what at first he thought was a man. As he drew closer he thought the tall, dark object was part if a dead tree. Then he realised that it was a huge snake rearing up like a cobra.

The following day we set out to investigate the cave where Grogory had found the skull shards. Confronted with the massive climb, Keith decided he could not make it and turned back to camp. The rest of us began on the long and winding path upwards. Eventually we left the path and climbed the increasingly steep slopes through flower strewn alpine meadows. We paused occasionally to catch our breaths and eventually reached the cliff face.

We walked along a narrow path to the cave where Grigory had found the skull fragments. An excavation of the cave revealed no further bones being found, but we did find some interesting dung samples. We spent the day exploring more shallow caves and then set up two camera traps. Dave tried to climb up the near sheer walls of one of the cliffs but the rising winds finally made him turn back.

The following day we climbed again in an attempt to retrieve the cameras. We managed to get to them and plugged them into a laptop. They showed only the setting and rising of the sun. On the way back down a wild cat was seen...

That night our camp was disturbed by the unearthly cries of a jackle. It came right through the camp in the wee small hours. We scrambled out of our sleeping bags in an attempt to photograph it but by the time we were up it had vanished into the night.

The next day we decided to split up. Keith, Anatoly and I investigated a wooded area whist Dave, Grigory and Adam went off to interview a man named Surgit who claimed to know the whereabouts of an Almasty's body.

On the way to the forest we investigated some small caves. In one, Anatoly had found 11 human skeletons dating back 3000 years. No evidence of the Almasty was found there, just some badger droppings.

From a distance it looked like the wooded areas were surrounded by grass. If fact it was a carpet of six foot nettles. The going was steep and rather slippy. At one point Anatoly pointed out scratch marks on a tree. They looked to be made by nails rather than claws. Close by, Anatoly found some hair in a tree. It was long, stiff and bi-coloured. At first I became excited but then I found further clumps of hair and they began to look suspiciously like the bristles of a wild boar. I bagged them anyway just to be sure...

The other team, headed by Adam, who is an officer for the Home Office, interviewed Surgit. Adam's job consists of cross examining people who want to stay in the UK, to see if they have any case. Hence he is an expert at interviewing. Surgit claimed to have found the body of a female Almasty back in 1996. It had been crushed under a rock fall on a mountain known as Kashkatash. He had retrieved a tooth that he had given to a friend. Surgit said he could lead us to the place in question. Adam seemed convinced he was telling the truth.

Anatoly told us some interesting cryptozoological snippets. Some years ago a friend of his was on a boat in the Lena River in Siberia when he encountered a strange creature. It had a black humped back and a two meter tall fin. It reminded him of a killer whale, but they were thousands of miles inland at the time.

A man on the boat took two shots at the beast with a rifle. It turned and swam at speed towards the boat. The man pumped three more bullets into the creature and it dived under the boat and swam away. The description recalls creatures described from Lake Vorota in Siberia. The beasts here are up to ten meters long. Have a dorsal fin and a wide head. Could they be some form of colossal fish?

Another river where he was told of a monster was the Don River that runs into the Black Sea. Here he was told of a six meter wells catfish that had overturned a boat and ate a man and a woman. The wells catfish is a contender for the largest freshwater fish in in the world (along with the Chinese paddle fish). The largest known specimen was five meters long. I have seen a 2.5 meter one and that was spectacular enough to be called a 'monster'.

Grigory too had some tales to tell, and not all of them about monsters. Grogiory told us of why he avoids Vodka and only drinks a little beer. Whilst in national service in the Ukraine in 1986 he was involved in a fight. The older soldiers had attacked the new inturns and Grigory was punched in the temple with a knuckle duster. He woke up in hospital only to find that the rest of his platoon, including the man who attacked him, had been sent to Chernobyl! The plant had exploded whilst Grigory had been out cold in a hospital bed! Lucky...

His files on the Almasty were extensive and he shared some of the more unusual stories with us. One story involved a farmer whose savage, Caucasus shepherd dogs were going wild. On opening the door of his house he was alarmed to find a young Almasty apparently trying to escape the dogs. It punched the man in the shoulder and knocked him down. The creature ran away pursued by the dogs. The hounds later returned with blood on their fangs.

On another occasion an adult Almasty approached a house and was attacked by a big dog. The Almasty used a club to bludgeon the dog to death. It then entered the house and stole a large block of Balkarian cheese.

The strength of the Almasty far far exceeds that of any modern human. On one occasion one was observed fighting a bear. The Almasty punched the bear, which tumbled over then retreated. Grigory thinks it was a young bear as an adult male would be more than a match even for an Almasty. Indeed, Almasty hair has been found in bear droppings in the Pamir Mountains. He has also been told of Almasty remains from a specimen killed by wolves.

One man saw an Almasty near his home and worried about it stealing food. He threw a stone at it...

The Almasty retreated behind the house and soon after a huge rock was hurled right over the house narrowly missing the man. In the morning it took two large men to lift it.

Another man struck an Almasty that had entered his house. The creature hit him back and knocked him fully 15 feet. Grigory also noted that the Almasty seemed to be left handed.

Anatoly told us that there were, in fact two man like creatures in the Caucasus. The Almasty that is the smaller and more human looking of the two and the much bigger, more ape-like *Mazeri*. The Mazeri more closely resembles the larger type of Yeti and the Sasquatch. It stays away from humans whereas the Almasty will approach humans and human habitation.

The next day we decamped and headed for the Elbrus area where the Almasty body was supposed to be. This was near the borders of Goria, so we had to get border passes. We stopped in a campsite for mountaineers that consisted of a number of alpine shacks that were small and quaint. Surgit arrived and introduced himself. He looked a little like Farther Ted. he, via the translation of his beautiful daughter Tanya, explained that this was the area where he had seen the body. It was only half an hour's walk up a nearby mountain. He was dressed in slip on shoes and a shirt. With only half an hour's walk the body must have been in the foothills and easily accessible. We all set off immediately apart from Keith who stayed behind.

The going was a little steep but after half an hour on a decent path we reached an area of snow that I assumed was where the body lay. To my surprise we passed this area and carried on climbing. We passed a huge boulder that had about a dozen or so plaques on it. They were memorials to people who had died on Kashkatash! We had expected an easy 30 minuet jaunt up a hill. Instead we were climbing to the top of a mountain that had killed a considerable number of people whilst dressed in a fashion more in keeping with a walk in the park!

Towards one side of the mountain was a retreating glacier that had carved out treacherous cliffs. Masses of loose scree coated the sides of the mountain and great sheets of frozen snow, a slippery as a politician stretched out over huge areas.

The path disintegrated and the way grew ever more treacherous and steep. In such situations a group should stick together but that is exactly what didn't happen. Some forged on ahead whilst other lagged behind. We were led across a field of ice and snow that sat atop jagged boulders. Chris managed to walk across it but I am twice his weight. My leg went through the ice and I lost balance. In a flash I was sliding on my belly down the steep ice sheet towards spiky boulders 300 feet below. Realising that cryptozoologist puree was soon to be on the menu I swung my body around jammed my boots onto the rocky outcrops at the side of the scree pile I had been walking on prior to venturing onto the ice. This stopped me after about 30 feet instead of the three hundred that would have most certainly ended my existence. Seems funny hey?... I assure you it wasn't at the time...

I crawled back onto the rocky area and decided that the ice was impassable for me. I stayed put whilst the others carried on to the area where the body was. We had not started until 4 in the afternoon and now the sun was getting dangerously low. Being stuck on the mountain after night fall would be as dangerous as French kissing an industrial meat grinding machine so I began to get concerned. The others returned after realising they were running out of light. Then we began our return journey.

On the way down we got split up yet again. Taking a wrong turn I found myself walking along a narrow path next to 50 foot sheer cliffs constructed of a partially loose and crumbly soil. At one point this gave way beneath me and I had to grab onto tree branches and hang, Indian Jones style, over the cliff. I managed to pull myself back up and continued gingerly on my way. I was glad to finally get to the bottom having nearly died twice in one day! Back at the camp we had beers and shishkebabs and talked about the need to stick together. The next day we returned to Mount Doom (except for Keith who had more sense) and climbed up a route that avoided the ice. Why Surgit had led us up the ice festooned way the day before no one knew. This route took us higher and we climbed up through swathes of dwarf rhododendron.

At a height of nearly 10,000 feet I began to suffer from altitude sickness. On a steep area my vision failed like a camera iris closing. Blackouts at 10,000 feet are not good so I decided to stay put. I sat down to try to get myself together as the others carried on higher. After about two hours Chris and Adam returned. The route was so steep and cramped that not everyone could work on it safely. They left Dave to continue with the guides and Surgit. The three of us wearily returned to the camp.

Sometime later Dave and the others returned. Dave was holding a large day-glow orange body bag. He had found something in a high altitude cave. He discovered a nest made of rhododendrons inside. He had stuffed the nest into the bag and brought it down. Donning plastic gloves Adam, Chris and myself began carefully sifting through the vegetation. We found and bagged over 20 hairs with medullas as well as two pieces of dung.

The following day we headed for Elbrus village (except for Dave, who like a glutton for punishment had decided to go up the mountain for a third time). We were to interview an elderly man who had told Grigory that he had seen an Almasty in his youth. However, when we interviewed the man, who was 85 years old, his story had changed. He said that it had been his *father* who had seen the Almasty at the age of 14. This would have put the event in the 1890s!

The old man recounted what his father had told him. It had been around noon and he had opened a door into a room in part of the house where the ceiling had collapsed. He saw a young Almasty sitting in a chair. It seemed to be basking in the rays of the sun that fell through the roof. It was covered with hair. The hair on the face was reddish. It had long, fine hair on it's head. The eyes were red but the old man thought his father had meant red veined rather than glowing red. The creature threw it's head forward and the long hair fell in front of it's face. He quickly shut the door and retreated.

The old man also said his father had seen a big snake near the house the man currently lives in. It was in 1964. His horse had reared up and he saw a, grey / green snake 4 meters long and as thick as his arm, slithering away.

Later we talked to a man of about 30 named Tahir, who was the vice president of Elbrus national park and a doctor of Geographical Science. He told us that three years ago, whilst hunting for some lost sheep, he had encountered a large Almasty. He had been walking through a wooded area at twilight when he saw what he thought was a cow lying down. Then the 'cow' stood up revealing itself to be a tall, man-like figure. Thinking it was a human (the figure was in silhouette) he asked in Balkaria if he had seen any sheep pass by. When no answer was forthcoming he asked the same question in Russian. Still there was no answer... As he drew closer he saw that it possessed a high, dome shaped skull. Then he realised that it was an Almasty. He decided to fetch his uncle to show him the creature. Looking back he saw the Almasty walking off into the hills. By the time he returned with his uncle it had gone.

Our next port of call was the small town of Nutrino. We had rented a small, Sparten flat in a tower block. 8 adult men in a tiny flat was a squeeze. There was no hot water and the electricity supply was not very reliable either. I have never been anywhere as depressing as Nutrino. It is not dangerous like Georgetow or full of beggers like Banjul but it has an air of decay and hopelessness quite unlike anywhere else I have visited. The tower blocks are crumbling and peeling. Many stand cold and empty. Some blocks were never finished before the collapse of the Soviet Union brought economic degradation to the area. There is a 90% unemployment rate. The bleak, eastern block architecture is totally at odds with the lovely looking mountains that rise up as a backdrop to the town.

Adam and Dave went with Anatoly to stake out an abandoned farm house about a mile out of town. The house had a weird history. In the early 1970's it was supposedly the scene of a triple murder. An old man had some money put away. He had decided to spend it. Three of his relatives got wind of this and went round to his house to try to force him to hand over the cash. There was a struggle and the old man was killed. His wife stabbed the killer to death but was then killed by the remaining two brigands. They ran into the mountains but were later found by the police. The farm has stood empty ever since. It was the building where Anatoly had his Almasty sighting back in the 1980's. In 2005 it was the scene of a very close Almasty encounter. Three shepherds had been using it to have a drink in. The door to the verandah opened and a large male Almasty walked in. It picked the nearest shepherd up and gently put him to one side before leaping off the verandah.

Grigory, Chris, Keith and I went to investigate some caves where Grigory had uncovered some human like bones but left them in situ. The caves had filled with earth over the past few centuries and were now no more than crevices. Grigory crawled in with a small spade and started excavating.

There were two collections of bones but both were clearly human. One was an old woman with only one tooth left in her lower jaw. A coccyx and some ribs from this individual were also found. Grigory reckoned that they dated back about 200 years. Upper and lower leg bones from a man of an earlier age were also found. All were packaged up for testing incase they had any odd markers in their DNA that might suggest hybridisation with Almasty in past generations.

In the early evening, back at the flat, Keith was on the porch, looking down at the street below when he beheld an amazing sight.

"There's a cow here, eating a fire" he said. It was true. A brown cow was munching happily away at a small bonfire lit on some waste ground below the flats. Another cow tried to join in the feast but was jealously chased off by the first cow who defended her flaming snack ardently. At one point the cow withdrew momentarily as if it's lips were scorched. It soon resumed fire scoffing. It was obviously enjoying it's meal as it was drooling prolifically! Perhaps the cow was trying to eat the ash and charcoal for it's mineral content.

In conversation Grigory revealed two more priceless cryptozoological gems. Whilst researching in Moscow library some years ago he came upon an amazing story, complete with a photograph in a 1928 edition of a magazine called '*Knowledge is Strength'*. The story told of two strange creatures encountered on the coast of the Barents Sea by hunters. They were otter like in shape and bounded across the land and into the water. The hunters managed to shoot one of the large creatures but the other escaped. It was, apparently, very hard to kill.

The photograph showed the hunters with the skull and hide of the creature. The skin looked like that of an elephant seal but was hairy. The skull was thickset and had eight interlocking teeth. The hunters sent details of the creature to Moscow University and received a letter saying… *"Thank you for this information. No such an animal exists."*

Another story related by Grigory involved a friend of his who had been a geologists specialising in searching for oil deposits. In the early 1980's he had been in eastern Siberia carrying out investigations into possible deposits. He was working north of Vladivostok when some locals informed him that something like a 'dead crocodile' had washed up on the beach. He took a look at the carcass and photographed it several times. It was a large, elongate creature with only four teeth. These were arranged as, two on the upper and two on the lower jaw. The teeth were at the very tip of the jaw. He did not no the significance of the find and it was soon washed back out to sea.

Sadly, after the break up of the Soviet Union, he lost his job and subsequently his house and family. He ended up drinking himself to death. Grigory however has copies of the photographs and thinks that they might be the remains of a primitive whale or Archaeocete. I am currently waiting to see the pictures myself. At the farm Anatoly said he had heard a male Almasty vocalising to attract a mate. Adam had heard some weird crashing noises but no one had seen anything. The camera traps they had set up around the farm and it's out buildings revealed nothing but branches and grass moved by the wind.

Next day I resolved to join them on a second vigil at the farm. During the day Grigory, Chris, Dave and I set out to climb up a mountain called Gobisanty to investigate an Avalanche. Avalanches kill mountain animals such as wild goats and Yaks that the Almasty may feed on. As we set out to the foothills the air was split by a loud, inhuman sounding bellowing emanating from behind some bushes. Grigory immediately said that it was no animal he knew of. The harsh noise continued and got louder. Chris, Dave and I fanned out around the bushes in a pincer movement, cameras at the ready. Could we have disturbed a sleeping Almasty?

As we drew closer something loomed from the bushes. It was Alexey and Humma. He had taken a short cut ahead of us and then hid and made some spectacular inhuman noises to scare us!

Grigory had warned us that we might have to cross some streams on the way up Gobisanti. These 'streams' were in fact increasingly dangerous rapids that we had to cross on foot. On either side we had to navigate endless legions of rocks and boulders. It was slow, tedious and exhausting. We finally reached the avalanche are. The snow had retreated and frozen, but hundreds of pulped trees lay strewn around like matchsticks. The only dead animal was a rancid cow too foul for an Almasty to eat. After a quick lunch beneath the snowline we headed back down. The rapids were getting ever more fierce and crossing them was harder. One area was particularly savage. We got a large log and braced it over the rapids. The rapids were not wide but very fast. With Grigory holding one end and Dave the other I tried to haul myself across. Halfway the pull of the cascading water sucked me down and my grip faltered. Grigory wrenched me out and onto the bank saving me from being smashed into the rocks by the thundering cascade.

Next Chris tried his luck. He came even closer to death than me and was plucked out by Grigory. We finally staggered back to Nutrino damp and shaken.

That night Anatoly, Dave, Adam and I did a stake out at the abandoned farm. The building consisted of three rooms, two of which were locked. Around this in a 'L' shape ran a verandah with a door at one end. The main building was surrounded by other smaller outbuildings.

We set up camera traps in four different locations around the grounds of the farm. Anatoly brewed up red wine and honey on an old stove in the hope the smell would attract the creature. We also laid out bread and honey.

We all took up posts in various places on the verandah as night fell. The hours seemed to go quickly as I sat staring out into the darkness, listening for the slightest sound. Around 10.30 at night something made a bird-like twittering noise. Shortly afterwards one of the camera traps fired. The Almasty is said to make a twittering sound! One of the specimens Grigory once saw was making such a noise. Anatoly went out to investigate but did not return.

Dave fell asleep on one of the manky beds in the open room. Adam and I sat on the other one listening intently. A lull in activity was supposed to occur around midnight to 3 o'clock in the morning. Hence Adam and I had gone into one of the rooms to warm ourselves around an old stove. The 7 foot door of the room was open an inch or two and starlight from the clear night was pouring in. At around 2.30 in the morning Adam and I heard a deep, guttural vocalisation. The nearest phonetically that I can write this is 'bub-ub-bub-bub'.

*"Did you here that?" I whispered?*

Adam nodded solemnly.

Shortly after something passed by the door blocking out the light momentarily. Whatever it was, it was large enough to put the 7 foot door in shade and it seemed to be walking along the verandah.

*"Did you see that?" I asked*

*"Something is on the verandah"* said Adam.

Adam and I grabbed our digital cameras and rushed out to find only darkness and silence. We did a circuit of the building with our torches but found nothing. Did an Almasty pass by us only 12 feet away on the verandah? I don't know. If it did it was as fast and silent as a cat. But something blocked out a slit of starlight 7 feet tall only seconds after the weird vocalisation.

At first light we started looking for Anatoly. We were worried that he might have fallen in the dark and hurt himself, or even been attacked by a bear. We found him asleep in one of the out buildings. We took the camera traps back to the flat and downloaded the images onto Alexey's laptop. They showed sunrise, sunset and branches moved by wind.

The 12th day was to be the last for Adam, Keith and Dave. Surgit phoned telling us that the friend he had given the Almasty tooth to was a wise woman who was using it as a charm. She worked in a restaurant in a nearby village and he would take us to her. He duly arrived and we set off. The wise woman was not the crone that the phrase 'wise woman' congers up but a fairly normal looking middle aged woman. We had a pleasant meal in the restaurant whilst Surgit spoke with her. Apparently she had given the tooth to her daughters in the city of Nalchik. They had mislaid the tooth and were now tearing apart their flat in order to find it. I found it very odd that an object used as a 'charm' was being treated so off hand.

That night we all drank beer, wine and Vodka and said goodbye to three of our companions. Alexey drove them back to Mineranye Vody and picked up his girlfriend Natasha.

The next day there was still no sign of the elusive tooth. Chris, Grigory and I staked out the farm again. This time adding pungently smelling fried onion to the bait. Nothing happened except for having reoccurring nightmares. Each time I fell asleep I dreamt that something with long, bluish fingers and dressed in a blue / black monk-like robe, was trying to strangle me. They were lucid dreams in which I struggled to wake up.

Back at the flat in the morning Surgit arrived and told a strange story. He said that the spirit of the Almasty had made the tooth vanish as well as the body on the mountain. However, he announced proudly, 'djinn' (Islamic spirits) had given him a red hair from the queen of the Almasty's. He presented us with this item. It looked more like a vegetable fiber to me.

What were we to make of this wild tale. Grigory was rolling his eyes whilst translating. Surgit never once asked for money. He also trekked up the mountain again and again and worked hard looking for the supposed Almasty corpse. The only conclusion we could come to was that he believed his own story and must have had some kind of mental problem. The promising lead of a corpse and a tooth vanished in a puff of smoke.

We phoned a man called Saeh Kumbunov who's number Surgit had given us. He said the man was with him when he found the body. The 70 year old was much surprised at Surgit's claim and said there had never been a body in the first place.

Later that day a gaggle of local women burst into the flat jabbering excitedly in Balkarian. They looked like stereo-typed peasants in some old film. It turned out that the person we were renting the flat from was not it's owner. It looked as if we were going to be ejected onto the street! Gigory seemed to pacify them after a bit and they relented and let us stay. After they left, the electricity went out. Alexey returned with Natasha, the editor of a furniture magazine. We were also joined by two Russian body builders called Sasha and Victor. We departed for an area called Gushgit. We drove as far as we could then walked up a long, winding steep path into the hills. We made camp, then went off to explore a 'kosh' or shepherd's house. The Almasty is often said to lurk around these as some shepherds put out food for them. This one was long abandoned and a scruffy shanty that no self respecting relic hominid would be seen dead in.

In the morning we set off to explore a series of shallow caves in the high mountains. We found some hair and a lot of dung. Gigory also unearthed what may have been finger bones. We carefully bagged all the material. We came upon another abandoned kosh. This was in a worse state than the first but it had an interesting Balkarian tribal symbol on the wall.

The following day I felt totally drained and had to turn back. I got to camp and collapsed into the tent. I made the right decision. A violent thunderstorm struck and the others returned soon after apart from Anatoly who had vanished once again.

In the morning Anatoly returned. He had found a cheese factory deep in the mountains! There were guards with dogs and machine guns that were often fired randomly into the night. He thought that any Almasty's would have long left the area. We returned to Nautrino. We visited Elbrus village again on the track of eyewitnesses. Gigory was hoping to track down the local shepherd who had been lifted up by the Almasty in the old farm in 2005. We found out that this man was away at a funeral and wake for several days but we did find some other witnesses who we interviewed. One old man called Bahua Tilov had seen Almasty's on several occasions since the 1970's. The first time was whilst he was working in irrigation near Nautrino. He saw a large black Almasty with two smaller grey coloured ones sitting amongst the rocks. As he approached the trio of beasts retreated. Another time he was with two German tourists when they saw a large male Almasty walking into an abandoned house. It turned and scowled at them. The Germans were too afraid to take pictures or follow it into the house. More recently he had seen a family group of them. He had tried speaking to them but they fled back into the forest.

Rumagha Kulmesov and his wife were a delightful couple who invited us into their house and gave us tea, bread, cheese and a delicious home made yogurt. Rumagha had seen a juvenile Almasty in his back yard only 2 years ago. One night someone threw a pebble at his window. Thinking it was his son come to visit, he called out telling him that the door was open. There was no answer but sometime later someone knocked at the window. On investigation he saw what he at first thought was a sack of wool in the corner of the yard. Then he realised it was a young Almasty. He didn't get a good look at the face but he said it was hair covered with pale, human-like hands. It made gestures as if it wanted food. Rumagha brought it some bread, which it took. It then made gestures that Rumagha interpreted as meaning that it had a friend who also wanted food. He brought a second piece of bread and left it in the yard. He saw the shadow of the first Almasty leaving. He then went back inside. In the morning the second piece of bread was gone...

Rumagha's wife saw an Almasty in 1955 at the age of 14. She and her family had been deported to Kazagstan. She had been invited to a relative's house. Upon getting there she found a number of children huddled in a corner crying. When she enquired what was the matter, one of them told her to peek out of the wooden shutters that covered the glassless window.

In the yard was a weird creature slightly taller than herself. From her vantage point, peeking through a crack, she could not see it's legs. The upper part was covered with hair. The hair hung down obscuring the face, chest and upper arms. The description put me in mind of 'Cousin It from The Addams Family'. It was slowly moving it's arms up and down in a manner of a child imitating a bird. It made a whistling noise like a bird. From time to time it paused to pick up mud and sling it at the wall and shutters. It was still there when she left sometime later. She found it odd that such a 'crazy topic' could be of interest to us.

We had heard a recent story concerning a derelict restaurant. A scant few days before, a group of armed police were camping there. When the night air was rent by inhuman screams they fled. We, armed only with cameras, decided to stay the night there. The restaurant had been built on the lines of a Balkarian castle. It had a 45 foot tower, battlements, circular gardens and many out buildings. All were built from great blocks of stone. It fell into disuse in the 1980's. It was a shame because in it's day it must have been spectacular. If someone had the time and money to do it up it could be a glorious attraction even today. It is now only inhabited by cows and bats. Most of the rooms were covered in cow dung and we had to search for a relatively clean area to sleep. As the sun set we set up cameras and a campfire. We put out bait and waited. It was a spooky venue worthy of Hammer Horror, or even Scooby Doo.

We took turns on watch, waiting for something to come lumbering out of the woods behind the buildings or for a wild scream to pierce the darkness. Nothing came. The camera traps picked up only bats.

In the morning we met Alexey, Natasha and Humma as they were going back to the Ukranie. Shortly after we journeyed back to Mineranye Vody. On the way we passed from Balkarian to Karbodinian. The change was noticeable with less urban decay and filth. We passed through an area called Bidick, rich in unexplored caves. Anatonly and Grigory may consider this area for a future expedition; And so we returned to England with the samples. At the time of writing this article, samples are being collated prior to being DNA analysed.

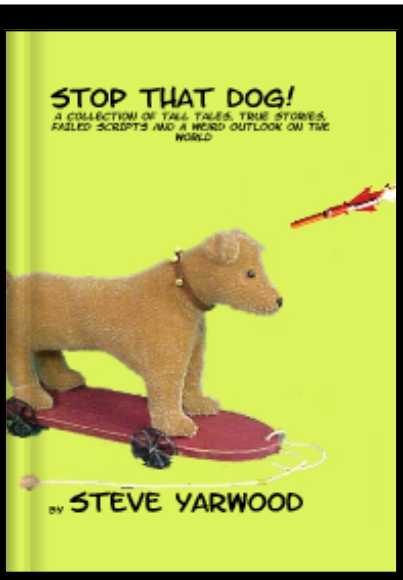
So what is the Almasty? I believe it exists, both Grigory and Anatoly have seen it. It seems smaller and more man like than the classic Yeti or Sasquatch. Grigory thinks it may be a surviving strain of Homo Erectus. As far as I know, however no fossil skulls of this species show the distinctive 'domed' shape.

The Almasty could, of course be a descendent of Homo Erectus. This species begat many others such as Homo Hidlebergensis, Homo Floresensis, Nearnderthals and modern man. Why could it not have another descendent, big, powerful and adapted for forest and mountain dwelling. The Almasty seems very adaptable. Grigory says it can live wherever it's ecological twin, the brown bear can. On this expedition I felt closer to my quarry than on any other. It really felt that at any moment I could be staring into the eyes of man's closest relative. Kabardino-Balkaria is a unique place. The Almasty population is on the increase and it seems they are willing to approach human habitation on occasion.

There seems a good chance of witnessing on and getting conclusive evidence. What this will mean biologically, ethically and even theologically remains to be seen. Different races of humans cannot seem to get along yet alone a different *type* of man.

Grigory's project will continue and his investigations in the mountains of mystery will carry on.

I'm going to make sure that I'm part of it…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# The Unexpected Ghost!

**By,Theresa F Koch.**

Recently while sitting with a new friend I got the over whelming feeling to ask her if she was her fathers love baby. She said yes she was the baby, {I asked were you born on Valentines Day?} she pronounced yes. Tears pouring from my eyes I announced to her your fathers standing beside you {he passed on several years ago}.

This seems to be the way my gifts work, a feeling that over whelms my emotions then just a thought. I have become acquainted with this feeling and know how it goes. Several weeks later this same friend and I went into and old building here in Ogden, Utah (U.S) with the hopes to capture a saloon girl said to haunt this place. I walked around taking photos there and turned to take a photo of the Barber sign on the wall as I felt she was standing by it.

Later when I got a chance to look at these photos I was taken aback as there standing in front of Lori was her father who had communicated with me in the past week with the information that Lori was his child his {Love baby} born on Valentines Day. The unexpected ghost of my dear friends father was once again there to let her heart and soul know he stood beside her. Perhaps to comfort her as she mourned silently his illness before his death. In my photo her father appears as he did before his illness as if to say daughter I am okay and still with you. It seemed to comfort her though she always knew in her heart he was there. I had never seen a photo of this man before his death never having met him I was astounded when we went to her home and she showed me a photograph of him in life. He was the same man though a bit thinner. This also brought a confirmation to me as he was restored to the perfect size for his height. This article is dedicated to Charles R. McGrew. June 26th 1936-Feb 27th 1998 Rest in peace…

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**I'd like to thank Theresa for her e-mail and photographs. A very touching experience. However, MAPIT and UPIA do receive a lot of similar photographs and accompanying stories. I guess its all down to belief. Under the circumstances our analysts usually glance over submitted photographs and this one was no exception. Unfortunately, the conclusion in regards the photograph was that of a camera defect which can be replicated. As for those people in the photograph, we can only presume they are real people and that they were present at the time the photo was taken. Our organisations are no stranger to claims of Extra-Sensory Perception (ESP) and there does seem to be some evidence to support the fact that some people do seem to have certain abilities. As for an apparition of an identified man. Well… It all sounds rather wonderful, but unfortunately has very little scientific evidence to back it up. I would like to once again thank Theresa for sending us this photo and information and hope she continues to discover further truths to life's mysteries…**

## 'What The Hell'…UK schools doing UFO crash drills?

By Lounge Daddy, 10 October, 2010.

There seems to be a growing trend among schools to stage a UFO crash, and then teach students how to react, as well as to "properly" investigate and report on the incident. It sounds like a lot of fun, and a great way to fire up a student's imagination as well as writing skills. Hell, I wish we would have done a staged UFO crash at my school. The latest "UFO drill" took place Wed, Sept 29, at Sandford Primary School in the UK. The kids were treated to a full UFO crash scenario that included wreckage, police tape, and real police officers. (Perhaps it was only lacking men from the government telling the children not to talk about what was seen.) What's interesting is that "police were on hand to show the children how to properly investigate the UFO crash site." Um, were any of the officers speaking from experience? A news article at *The Weston Mercury* elaborates on the role played by the officers: Teacher and organiser Victoria Shepherd said: "PCSO Wright and PC Church were brilliant. They helped the children secure the scene and talked about what to do in an emergency, how they gathered evidence, how to interview witnesses etc." Are UFO drills becoming something of a routine part of the curriculum in the UK? It's certainly becoming more and more of a common event. Each time, it's a joint exercise put in place by the school and local law enforcement. A similar drill took place in Feb of 2009 when Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary, in County Durham, staged a surprise "crash" behind the school. In Sept 2008 "children from an Edgware school were made to believe aliens had landed in their playground by teachers and police." Again, each time it was conducted by the school system and police — teaching children what to do in event of a UFO event. Afterward, the kids are asked to write about their experience.

# Chris Parr's YouTube UFO REVIEWS

## Youtube Ufology.

*The opportunity to see UFO videos is no longer a rare feature in the last two minutes of your local news station or attending a UFO conference. Videos containing UFO footage can be uploaded within minutes on web sites such as Youtube and other similar video related sites. Every few months, a UFO video catches the media's attention and the footage is shown all around the world. Here are ten such videos....*

### The Haiti UFO.

August 2007. I was searching Youtube for any UFO related material and a video appeared with hardly any background information and lasted for 22 seconds. The brief footage showed UFO crafts apparently buzzing a coastal area with lots of palm trees. The footage was very impressive and I copied the video and linked it with a MSNBC news story about the O` Hare Airport UFO incident from earlier that year. I posted the video on Youtube within half an hour of seeing the original Haiti UFO video and entitled it 'UFOs are Here' Later that same day, I went to the Youtube channel and my makeshift video 'UFO`s are Here' had nearly 100, 000 hits and was number 2 in the science and technology section. As my video was the second response to the original video, I was contacted on Youtube by several people, including a reporter from the LA Times, wanting to know if I was involved with the original video. I confirmed that I had no knowledge of the origin of the video. The Haiti UFO video suddenly had over 1 million hits and had gone viral around the world.

'Barzollf 814' was the original poster of the Haiti video, yet was not responding to any questions relating to the footage and the mystery deepened. It was the breaking news on the Above Top Secret forum and members had noticed that some of the palm trees in the footage had the exact same leaf formation and the footage must be CGI. A few days later, 'Barzolf 814' admitted he faked the Haiti video and said it was a social experiment relating to his work as a professional animator. The original Haiti UFO video currently has over 14 million hits on Youtube and is probably one of the most recognisable video images in the world.

### The M5 UFO and Jet Fighters Video.

On the 7th February 2010, Youtube user 'princessmarije' posted a Youtube video entitled 'Jet Fighters chase UFO on M5' I watched the video on that very day and it showed a UFO hovering near a motorway service station and two jet fighters flying by the strange object. The video didn't capture the imagination of Youtube users at the time and could easily have been lost in the mix of UFO videos, due to lack of public interest in the alleged footage. However on April 10th 2010, 'The Sun' newspaper ran with the breaking story 'Fighter Jets chase UFO down the M5', stating a cameraman had taken video footage of military jets chasing a shiny orb. The Sun article had breathed new life into a highly questionable Youtube UFO video. Some TV news outlets, even as far afield as Asia had featured the anonymous footage and the M5 UFO video had quickly circulated around the Internet. A few days after the hype, the general consensus was that the video was CGI. 'princessmarije' had posted a new response video on Youtube, detailing in arrogant fashion that she fooled millions of people with the hoax and showed in her new video how it was created by iPad iPhone HD computer graphics.

The 'Sun' newspaper were in part, also guilty of perpetrating the M5 UFO hoax by promoting an anonymous video that had made no impact on Youtube and was easily dismissed as having all the hallmarks of CGI. Yet since the MOD have closed their UFO desk, The 'Sun' newspaper now portrays itself the saviour of UFO evidence and now has its own alleged replacement version with its very own Sun UFO desk. Ufology seems to be divided on how the subject is presented in the media. All UFO publicity is evidently not healthy, yet there seems to be a faction within ufology with an inherent fear of the UFO subject disappearing from mainstream attention. Lessons can be learned from the hype associated with the M5 UFO and Jet fighters video hoax.

### UFO over a river in Italy.

16th February 2007. A video was uploaded to Youtube entitled 'UFO over a river in Italy'. Its footage showed an elaborate disc shaped craft manoeuvring over a river and then accelerating away at great speed. There was no commentary live sound with the footage and it was supported by additional music. The video did not gain notoriety until the middle of April 2007 as various copies of the video with no sound were widely circulated on the Internet. On the 17th April, Italian UFO researcher Paola Harris stated that she had presented the original footage at the MUFON international UFO symposium in Nevada back in 2005. An anonymous source had forwarded the footage to her back in 2004, claiming that the object in the video was highly secretive and advanced man made technology. The location of the video footage was claimed to have been near a river in the Veneto region of Italy. Harris has a UFO lecture DVD from 2005, which featured the Italian UFO footage and it is likely that the original Youtube poster had extracted the footage from the DVD and uploaded it on line.

The footage was also sent a couple of prominent Italian UFO researchers around 2005, yet they were suspicious of the anonymity of the providing source. The original Youtube video in February 2007 has currently over 7.4 million hits, yet there are now hundreds of copies of the video on line which will take its total viewing figures into many millions.

### The World Trade Centre UFO.

In 2003, the 'Sci-Fi' channel regularly showed a video within the adverts section of UFO footage near the former World Trade Centre towers in New York. It featured a female reporter participating in a live photo shoot from a helicopter. In the footage, she notices a disc shaped craft from behind the WTC and then sees it accelerate at incredible speed and leaving a trail of vapour. Barbara Sicumosa was the actress posing as the reporter in the footage and is the wife of Blondie guitarist Chris Stein.

The 'Sci-Fi' channel were bombarded with enquiries at the time, relating to the footage and they stated that the video was a trailer for the channel and it was CGI. Despite this UFO video being created in 2003, it gained a second opportunity to gain notoriety, due to the popularity of Youtube in 2007. It currently has millions of hits, despite its artificiality.

# Chris Parr's YouTube UFO REVIEWS

## The Norway Spiral Videos.

On the morning of December 9th 2009, there was breaking news on the Above Top Secret forum with a report that early morning, of a strange aerial phenomena over the skies in northern Norway. Someone had posted a link to a Norwegian video upload site at 'www.vgtv.com', where you could watch recent footage of the mystery event. By lunchtime, there was a media frenzy on the event which was now dubbed as the 'Norway spiral mystery'. Youtube became inundated with the spiral videos and a global mystery was being shared within only 6 hours after the mystery had occurred. After seeing better quality footage, I believed that the Norway spiral was actually emanating from the ground and possibly created by someone with sophisticated Laser light show equipment. Later that afternoon, the Russian military said they had tested an intercontinental missile around the same time, yet there was no sincerity to that claim, even on 'Russia Today News'. The Norway spiral mystery remains currently unsolved.

## UFO Hits Wind Turbine.

On Sunday 4th January 2009, I received news of some mysterious damage to a wind turbine in Lincolnshire. I gave it no ufological connection, yet remembered the alleged Isle of Man UFO incident from 2001 and wondered if a UFO related slant would be a applied to the Conisholme wind farm turbine. On Thursday 8th, the 'Sun' newspaper had the front page headline claiming that a UFO had been responsible for the damage to the Lincolnshire turbine. 'ITN News' also featured the story and Youtube immediately had video uploads relating to the story. On February 11th 2009, it was revealed that a mundane broken bolt was responsible for the missing blade. This incident was investigated by MAPIT & UPIA who had concluded early on that the damage done to the wind turbine was in fact, nothing to do with a UFO and that the witnesses who came forward to say they had seen a UFO in the area was a completely different event.

## UFO Pyramid over Moscow.

On 9th December 2009, Russia's own Youtube site had two viral videos claiming 'alien invasion'. The videos were soon available on Youtube and there was speculation and skepticism regarding the footage. Was it CGI?; and how could thousands of people near the Kremlin and Red Square fail to notice an apparently slow moving and stationary gigantic pyramid shaped UFO hovering low in the sky? On the 11th December, Russian TV news had shown the UFO pyramid video and the footage was later covered around the world. CGI is believed to be behind the Moscow footage.

## UFO 2009 Galicia Spain.

On the 1st October 2009, a video showing a UFO craft crashing into the Spanish ocean after being pursued by jet fighters was an immediate Youtube hit and gained attention from around the world.

However, it was quickly established that the video involved CGI and actors. The alleged footage was strategically marketed to be a viral video to promote a TV film made by 'Terra Networks' of Spain. The video was impressive and interesting, yet it did not gain momentum as a genuine and believable video.

## UFO Tracks Iranian Missile.

6th October 2009. US Fox News ran a news piece on the Iranian military testing of 'Shahab-3B' missiles during a period of alleged International tension. It showed a video of a missile launch with a dense vapour trail. The 'Sun' newspaper later ran the article and the video footage on its web site declaring 'UFO Tracks Iranian Missiles' and the video was swiftly doing the rounds on Youtube and the internet. The 'Sun' stated that a UFO streaks through the sky in this astonishing video' Former UFO MOD employee and now Britain's leading ufological figurehead Nick Pope was asked to comment and said '*the footage was phenomenal and not man made'*. Sadly for the ETH community, the footage showed the shadow of the vapour trail from the missile or missiles, casting a shadow onto nearby cloud. Yet is this just another token media UFO story blown up out of proportion? Clearly 'yes'; And what about Mr. Pope's contribution to the story? I don`t know?; but I`m sure he will be wonderfully courteous as always, to tell us in the next edition? Maybe the British ufological era of having a go at Nick Pope is over. He is now generally popular on the Above Top Secret forum, Coast to Coast AM and International Ufology, which is difficult terrain for credibility and acceptance and has a prominent role in the current International UFO disclosure movement. Maybe the hypothetical situation is: The 'Sun' contact Nick and ask him for a comment. Nick says that he hasn't time to analyse the footage properly but he will get back in touch. The 'Sun' say 'OK give us something'. Nick gives a swift two side of the coin answer in order to maintain credibility and bring the UFO topic into the mainstream. In reality: Nick told the 'Sun' that the footage was phenomenal and not man made. Which could allude to 'the streak in the cloud was not man made and caused by a shadow'. Is this another example of ufological devils advocate with the sensationalist media?, or are media relationships controlling the source of public scrutiny regarding UFO's?

## UFO`s over New York 13th October 2010.

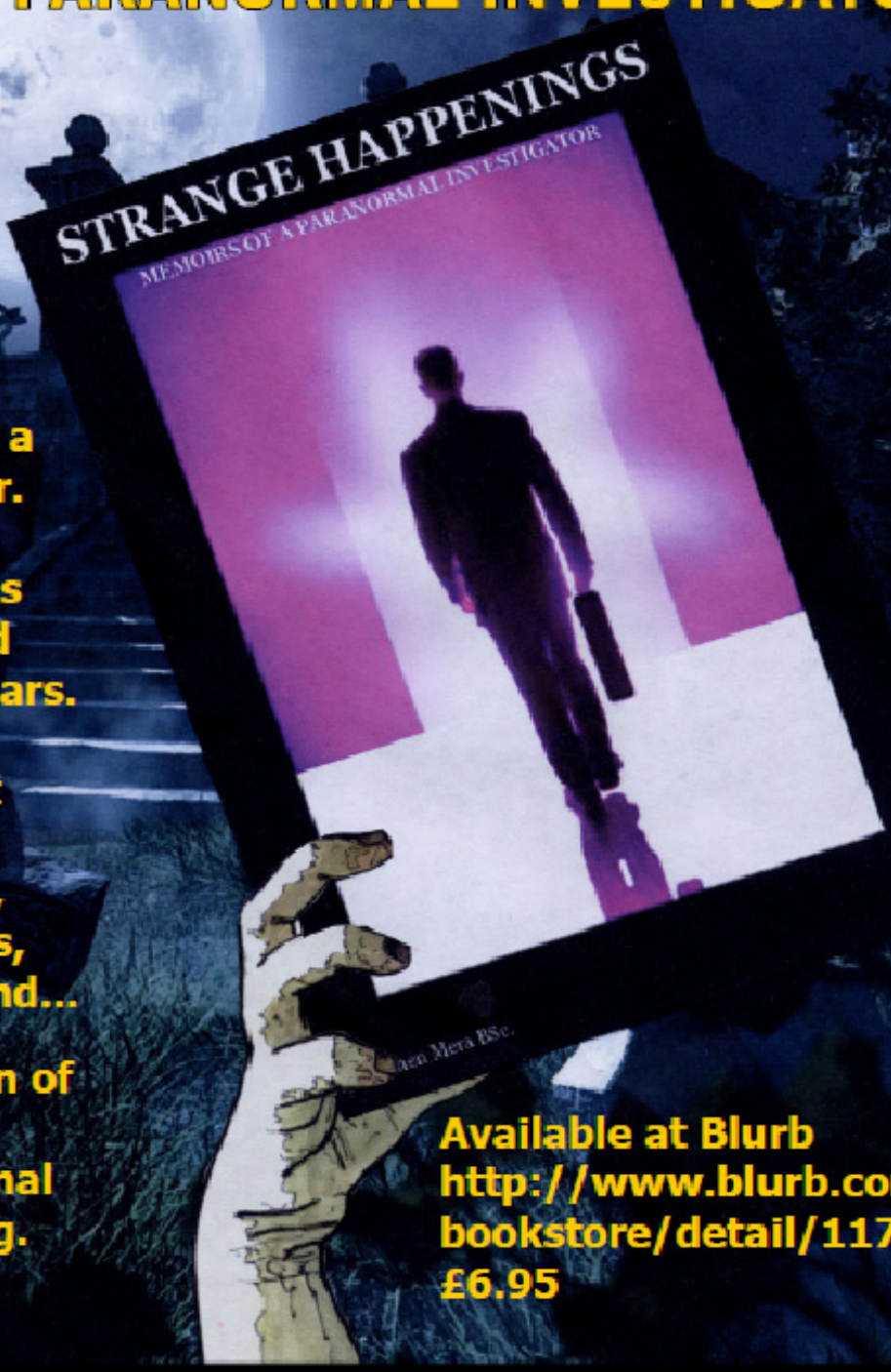
13th October 2010. The day that the 33 Chile miners were rescued. The UFO pulse on this day (which was only yesterday as I am writing) was that retired NORAD officer Stanley. A .Fulham had written a book called 'Climates of Challenge' and the book stated that on the 13th October 2010, there would be a worldwide display of UFO's over major cities in order to awaken mankind of carbon monoxide pollution as a critical mass. Could the UFO's have a vested interest in US environmental policy? 13th October 2010;  A US news crew hits the street and observes a small gathering of people on a street corner looking at the sky. The interviewer stumbles upon a small crowd and performs an interview which is the farthest away from 'Frost v Nixon' you may ever experience. Uninterested witnesses are asked to comment on small silver objects in the sky and only have minimum excitement and interest, due to the fact that they are on live television. An Above top Secret post says ' Twitter is ablaze with UFO reports in NYC Still', there is only footage of what resembles balloons. How disappointing or good for mankind and Obama's carbon tax agenda? But wait! Youtube now only promotes its popular videos, selectively of course after 24 hours. So what could be the update and how ironic it is that there is a current media UFO wave and on Youtube. I shall go back 'live' on Youtube right now and find an update for 11-20pm October 14th. 'ABC News' are the guilty culprit for the original fabricated live news topic . It is pathetic and patronising. Many other US major news channels run with the NY UFO mystery and all we have is multiple Helium balloon videos. 'Russia Today' runs with the story of 'New York Aliens or Balloons?' But alas, The 'New York Daily' news video has found the source of the New York non-mystery? Angela Crapero, Head teacher of Milestone School reveals that the second and third graders were throwing a surprise party with the wonderfully topical name of Andrea Craparo. She confirms that the kids had 48 helium balloons in 4 boxes and one of the boxes contents escaped and twelve balloons caused the mystery. There seems to be a dominating pattern emerging with the viral UFO videos on Youtube. The channel no longer displays the videos by their popularity and updates their viewing figures in a top 100 chart. We now have Youtube delaying the counter for video views for 24 hours. So it is impossible for independent UFO videos to go viral, whether CGI or not, without the assistance of the media and TV networks.

Please don't send me back to cover this unfolding UFO media debacle. The banality hurts my head so much, that I fear I never want to see the term UFO again. This New York UFO update is over. This is Chris Parr live from Youtube 14th October 2010... Signing Off!

# STRANGE HAPPENINGS

## MEMOIRS OF A PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR

BY STEVE MERA

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# PHANTOM ANIMALS

By Steve Mera

Ghostly manifestations of animals have been often discussed amongst professionals throughout the years and are often left chasing their own tails... (excuse the pun!). Such reported sightings go back hundreds of years, some are simply myths and legends, others are more substantiated. During the early 1600s the subject was seriously debated by Victorian academics who suggested that such manifestations cannot be real. It was theorised that animals do not have souls, therefore they could not return after death. However, reported sightings continued. Of course, many will argue that animals are no different than you and I. Do animals possess the intelligence to recognise that they are in fact dead? Does this make a difference? Whatever the mechanism sightings of ghostly animals are the product of many worthy arguments...

It seems that sightings of these phantom animals fall into two categories... The first being some form of recorded anomaly. Just like the Stone Tape Theory that was introduced into paranormal investigation during the 1970s. The theory that certain environments have the capability to somehow record events and then later play them back hundreds of years later is now popular belief. Some academics have even supported the theory suggesting that certain geological conditions could be responsible or attributed to the phenomenon. There are certainly numerous incidents world wide of people seeing ghostly battle scenes as if they had stepped out of their time to witness a past event. Soldiers have been described as well as charging horsemen, so therefore, it seems possible for some phantom animals to be recorded events being replayed over and over. The big giveaway is that such recorded phenomena does not interact with the witnesses.

The second category is rather more perplexing. There have been thousands upon thousands of reports world wide of phantom animals interacting with witnesses, such as being chased or warned off by a phantom hound, the feeling of a ghostly cat rubbing itself around your legs, even a phantom horse giving chase to innocent passes by. There are too many reports to simply dismiss them. If such experiences are real, then it would seem that some ghostly animals are in fact aware of their surroundings and those that are in it. The most recognised ghostly animals seem to be Phantom Hounds, however a lot of the information you read is that of myth and legend.

According to Welsh myth *'Cwm Annwn'* may have been the original source for the legend of Herne the Hunter, who was said to have a pack of ethereal white dogs that were responsible for terrorising small towns. Also, *'Arawn' the Lord of Winter* and his black hounds of hell supposedly roamed the hillsides looking for human souls. There are many similar stories throughout Scandinavia, German and other parts of Britain. Phantom hounds are known by many names... In Devon they are known as *'Yeth'*, in Cornwall they are known as *'Dando'*, in Somerset they are called *'Gurt Dogs'*, The people of Norfolk call them *'Old Shuck'*, similar to those in Suffolk which are called *'Old Shock'*. In Yorkshire they are known as *'Barguest'* and in Northern England they are referred to as *'Guytrash'*. The welsh referred to them as *'Gwyllgi'* and in the Isle of man they were called *'Mauthe Doog'*. Even the Irish had a name for them... The *'Pooka'*. It's interesting to note that the names *'Shuck'* or *'Shock'* may very well be a derivative of the word *'Succa'*, meaning *'Demon'* in Old English.

Throughout the ages the representation of phantom hounds have changed somewhat... They were known to be larger than normal dogs, often black in colour. Some headless, some with heads but only a single eye. Some with wings, some that walked on the hind legs. It was even said that they could shape shift into different animals, be it a cat, a bird or a pig. Nowerdays, they are mostly described as large black dogs with red glowing eyes.

The Great Chart phantom of Kent is said to have been such a beast, that appeared in a church hall several centuries ago, attacking the congregation before disappearing in a gulf of fire. Newgate Prison in London was also reputed to have a phantom hell hound.

The legend dates back to the time when Henry III was in reign. During a period of extreme famine prisoners were forced to feed upon each other. A rumoured witch that was the victim of cannibalism was heard to place a curse upon the inmates. The following night a terrifying beast materialised with glowing red eyes. According to the legend, the beast attacked the inmates ripping them from limb to limb. Some of the prisoners fell to the floor and on inspection it was presumed they had died of fright. Their faces paused in expression of shear terror.

The phantom hound was said to haunt the prison right up till 1902 when the building was demolished. However, strange putrid odours are still reported at the location, along with the occasion sighting of the hound, which suggests this vengeful harbinger is not confined to the writings of legends and myths...

Residents of Hoe Benham, a small village near Newbury, Berkshire was also known to have a phantom that reeked havoc through the darkened streets. However, this time is was not a hound, but a 'Pig'. On December 2nd 1907, Oswald Pittman and his friend Reginald Waud were painting the garden fence

at Laburnum Villa. It was a cold winters morning, and the two young men were waiting for the arrival of the milk man so to get themselves a hot drink. Around 10.00am Oswald walked up to greet the milk man and noticed his friend Miss Clara Miles walking up the path. Clara had come over to lend a hand. But as Oswald looked, he noticed something strange. At first he thought Clara had brought along her favourite dog, but as she got closer he noticed that is wasn't a dog at all. In fact, it was a large white pig with an unusually long snout. The pig was about ten feet behind Clara, following her up the path. Oswald turned and went back into the garden to tell Reginald that Clara was here, and that for some odd reason, she had brought along a large white pig. As Clara entered the garden Reginald shouted over *'You'll have to leave your pig outside'.* Reginald was a keen gardener and didn't want his flowerbeds being messed up. Clara stopped with a puzzled look on her face. *'What pig'* replied Clara. Oswald got up to look, but there was no pig to be seen. Clara said she had not seen a pig and if one was walking behind her she'd certainly would of heard it. Puzzled as to what he had seen, Oswald and Clara decided to travel back down the path in hope of finding the odd looking beast. They made their way back down the path, asking people on the way if they had seen the odd looking pig, but no one had seen anything. The pig had simply vanished...

During that month, a number of the residents in the small village of Hoe Benham also reported seeing the unusual pig. Many described the pig as large, white and an unusually long snout. Oswald, still baffled as to what he had seen later reported the incident to the 'Society of Psychical Research' whilst visiting London for a few months. SPR investigated Oswalds claims but could not find the mysterious pig. It wasn't long before the residents of Hoe Benham started to believe the pig was some sort of ghost and that seeing it was a warning of coming illness. SPR noted that it was unusual to see a pig in that location during December of 1907, as pig fever was common and most if not all pigs in the vicinity had been killed in hope of culling the quickly spreading illness. To date, the ghost pig of Hoe Benham is still talked about and occasional visitors to the village report seeing the odd looking pig.

Welsh folklore also talks of numerous ghostly animals which include the sightings of phantom horses. Residents of Bryn-y-mean near Colyne Bay, Wales have reported seeing a white phantom horse numerous times. Michael ford, a local resident was driving to work one Wednesday early morning. He decided to stay off the motorway and stick to the minor country roads as his car tax had ran out the day before and he was hoping not to have to tax it until the Friday. As he drove down the twisty country road, the sun was just coming up. Then suddenly from nowhere, a large white horse appeared in front of him from over a hedge. Michael slammed on his brakes. He described how the horse filled the car windscreen. He braced for an impact... But then... nothing. Michael looked up; to his astonishment the horse had vanished. He quickly jumped out of his car and looked in both adjacent fields. There was no sign of any horse. Still puzzled he walked over to the hedge the horse had appeared from and looked over. He was shocked to find no hoof marks in the muddy field. Realising that he had obviously seen something quite strange, he jumped back in his car and sped away. From then on, Michael took an alternate route. There have been several sightings of the ghostly horse on that particular road, and most of them took place early morning.

Another road in Edgehill is also said to be haunted by a phantom horse. In fact, the appropriately named, 'White Horse Road' has had many reported incidents. The road, which has been named after the ghostly manifestation cuts through the countryside. On one side of the road is the haunted Edgehill battlefield where residents have reported seeing soldiers and hearing gunshots. On the other side is where the bodies of soldiers are buried. The Battle of Edgehill was the first major conflict of the English Civil War. Some believe the phantom horse was Prince Rupert's who road into battle on his large white horse. Prince Rupert did survive the battle, but it is rumoured that he was thrown from his horse during cannon fire and that his horse was killed instantly. Another notable white horse of the Edgehill battle was owned by Captain Kingsmill who apparently died on the field. The phantom horse has been seen galloping through the field and passing in front of car headlights on White Horse Road.

The most unusual of all animal ghosts has to be the sighting of a ghostly monkey which is said to haunt Athelhampton Hall, a 15th century hall in Dorset that was built by Sir William Martyn in 1485. The Martyn family crest was that of a monkey sat on top of a tree stump and below was the motto *"He who looks at Martyn's ape, Martyn's ape will look at him".* Ironically, it is Martyn's ape that haunts the building. It is rumoured that the pet ape had the run of the hall and it could go where ever it wanted. One of Martyn's daughters who was madly in love with a young man had been told she was no longer wanted. She was so unhappy, and could no longer bare the grief. She was determined to end her life. Athelhampton Hall had a number of secret passage ways. Some were known by Martyn's daughter. She used one, climbed up a secret staircase to a small room at the top, where she killed herself. However, she was not alone. The ape had followed her, and his curiosity led him to the small room where Martyn's daughter lay. Somehow the door leading to the small room had shut behind him, and he ended up trapped. It took weeks to finally find Martyn's daughter and laying beside her was the pet ape, who had apparently starved to death. It is the spirit of the ape which said to haunt the hall, scratching behind the walls in a desperate attempt to escape.

It seems that there is numerous stories of people seeing ghostly manifestations of animals. As for evidence, there does seem to be lack of good photographs or video footage to support the theory that such things exist. But many would argue, 'Why can't they exist?'. It seems people are more inclined to believe the story of a phantom monk, than a phantom pig, duck, chicken, horse etc. Even when there are many accounts of seeing such ghostly animals...

# One Man's Mysteries

**By David Farley**

*THE DAY AFTER MY FATHER DIED.*
*MON 26TH AUGUST 1996.*

I had received a call from my mother saying my father had been admitted to hospital and to collect one of my younger brothers (I am the eldest of four brothers) and get to the hospital. We rushed to the hospital, racing through red lights and speed cameras and we never made it in time. My father had a massive heart attack and died.

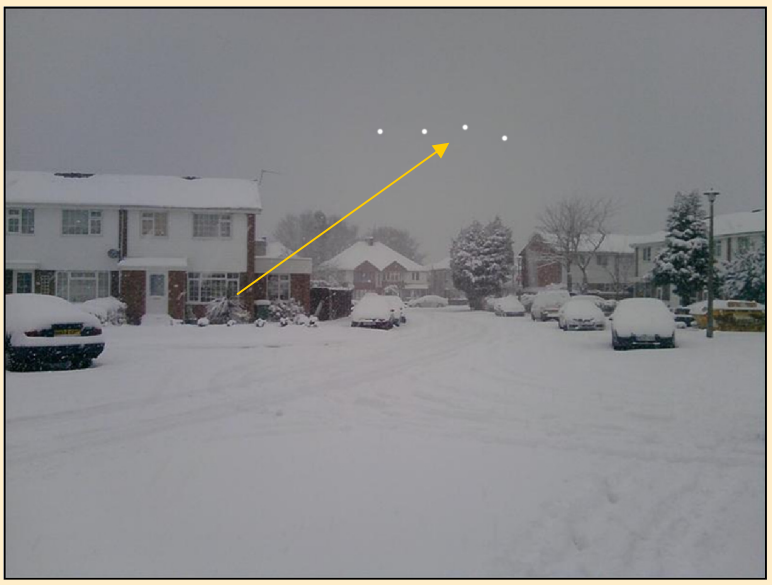
I work as a welder and the next day I went to work as I needed to be doing something as it was no good staying at home. I was welding at my bench at about 9:45am when I suddenly felt someone grip my left shoulder in a reassuring way and it lasted just a matter of seconds. Now it couldn't have been anyone behind me. There was nothing that could have touched my shoulder. I had my back to the wall. No one else was in the welding bay but me so all I could think was it was my father saying goodbye to me as I didn't reach him in time the night before. This has happened to no one else in my family or happened since to me.

Above is a picture to show you where my welding bench is located and you can see there is no way anyone can get behind me….???

*UFOs in the 70s.*

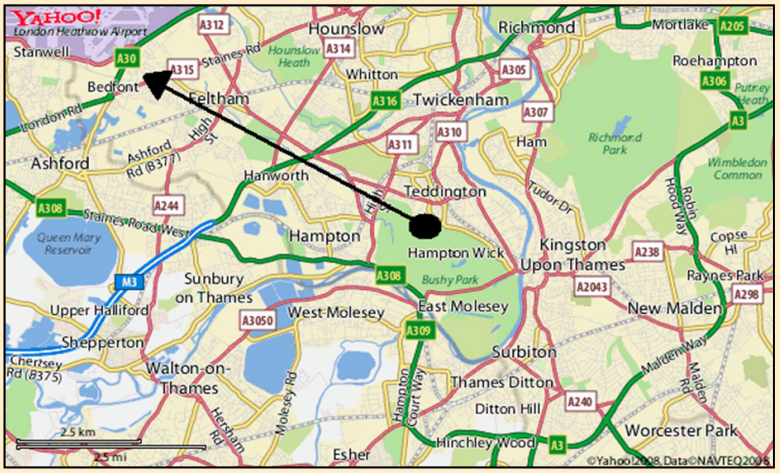
During the early seventies when I was living at home in (Teddington, Middlesex, England), I remember the sky looking like it was about to snow, which it did later that night and the type of cloud that day was one where there are no gaps (just a complete blanket like in the photo (top right) but without the snow).

I was talking to my brother in his upstairs bedroom when through the window I spotted a row of bright lights moving slowly from left to right (from south to north).



With this all hell broke loose. I ran downstairs shouting to my mother and father to rush outside as there were UFO's in the sky and we all rushed into the garden and looked. When outside we called our neighbours who rushed outside as well to see.

There were four bright lights and they had no discerning outlines. As we watched them, they moved slowly across the sky and they were too far apart to be one object and after what seemed a few minutes another light appeared and moved at the same speed and in the same direction as the others but this one varied its height.




They all headed in the general direction of Heathrow Airport but the strange thing is, apart from the fact no planes were flying because of the weather, they were travelling against the normal flight path (they flew south to north) which to this day is still the take off route for the planes. In all, I say the whole event lasted about 6 to 8 minutes and was witnessed by 7 people. Eventually they could not be seen so we returned indoors with our neighbours and discussed what we saw and as the years went by it was rarely mentioned again….

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