

PHENOMENA

THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

ISSUE 24 - APRIL 2011

THE WESTALL UFO ENCOUNTER



**A SAUCERFUL OF SECRETS
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO WATTIE?
GROCERY GHOSTS
THE DRUMMER OF TEDWORTH
A CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN REDDISH
AND MUCH MORE**

**In Space, Everyone can here you Lie
They just don't realise it!**

COLIN VEACOCK EXPLAINS...



Hello to all, As you flick through our April 2011 issue, you will probably notice that we have quite a number of UFO orientated articles in it. You could say 'It's a bit of a UFO Special'. But don't worry, there's also some interesting paranormal bits in it as well. Its been a busy month with book writing and TV filming, interviews etc. I have also been in discussion with a number of people regarding lectures for this year. I will provide details of them once I can confirm dates. For now! I hope you enjoy this issue.

SUB-EDITORIAL



The worlds in shock at the moment. The events in Japan are still ongoing at the time of writing, and things seem to be getting worse. Phenomena Magazine, the UPIA and MAPIT's thoughts are with the people of that country. On a more positive note... The whole busy busy busy process continues, The Japanese quake led to numerous UFO videos going viral online.

Most of the video's are easily explainable, especially ones with reflection on the inside of the helicopter window. The truthers have been having a field day, blaming everything from HAARP to 2012. I'm really looking forward to Christmas day in 2012 as everybody should.

The UPIA have several areas of media work taking place, Steve has been very busy, also releasing his 2nd book – Paranormal Insight, available at www.blurb.com. Several TV related appearances are due in the coming weeks as are radio shows, talking of which, jump on www.UKPN.com, you have my recommendation.

Case related, the UPIA have been working on 3 residential cases, each totally different, and one, we hope, solved to the point that minor adjustments in the witnesses environment, have caused a large percent of the reported occurrences to cease. Hopefully psychological aspects will also adjust given time...

PHENOMENA
The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

Now recognized as the leading online magazine of its type Phenomena Magazine is a FREE magazine from the Unknown Phenomena Investigation Association and Manchester's Association of Paranormal Investigation and Training.

Originally scripted as an in house journal, Phenomena's circulation and format was altered due to the large number of persons interested in the publication. Phenomena looks at the whole realm of the unexplained, Paranormal, UFO's, Cryptozological and much much more. Guest writers and reviews of books and documentaries add to the content as does recent news from the paranormal world.

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A special thanks to all our contributors. If you would like to contribute yourself, please contact the Phenomena Magazine at: phenomenamag@yahoo.com

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Page 2: The Challenges of selling a Haunted House.

Andy Asbury and Tim Ryan discuss the challenges of selling a Haunted House. Should you declare that your home has a spook? Many buyers can be put off due to things that go bump in the night and especially if someone has dies in the property. So... What should you do? Well, Andy and Tim have a few ideas how to boost buyers interests and how to promote your haunted home in a positive way.



Page 3: The Westall UFO Encounter.

In 1966, in the small town of Westall, Australia, something remarkable took place that left the community puzzled and alarmed. Over 200 witnesses watched as a disc shaped object flew slowly over the school and land in a near by clearing. Moments later military personel attended the scene along with government officials who clearly wanted the whole incident kept quiet... Steve Mera explains.



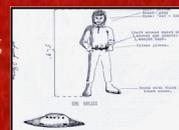
Page 7: The Drummer of Tedworth - Part 1.

The case of the 'Drummer of Tedworth' is one of the most famous episodes in the history of witchcraft. It involved a poltergeist which, in the early sixteen-sixties, haunted the house of John Mompesson, a landowner, excise officer and commission officer in the militia, who lived at North Tedworth on the Wiltshire-Hampshire border. Kirst D'Raven recounts this unusual and historic case.



Page 11: What happened to Wattie?

It was a bright spring day, and steely sunshine glinted over the mountains of Caithness when Colonel Arthur Trimble first saw the monster of Loch Watten. The monster's eyes were slits in a huge squat head, and its body, which loomed under the rippling water, appeared at least 20 feet wide. It observed him for several seconds. He even had time to take a photograph. Dr. Karl Shuker investigates.



Page 15: A Close Encounter in Reddish.

Many will agree that the investigation of UFO's and the experiences reported throughout the last 40 years have changed drastically. During the 1970's 'Grays' were rarely heard of and the typical UFO was nothing more than a 'Flying Saucer'. The late David Rees and Dean Preston looked into one such case that took place in Reddish, Stockport, UK. From the MAPIT Archives - 1977.



Page 19: A Saucerful of Secrets.

Step back 40 years to the heady days of 1967 as Andy Roberts explains how the summer of love was in part shaped by the hippie movement's fascination with Flying Saucers. "UFO's were not just in the air, they'd become a religion and the word a common sacrament to everyone who'd tripped." - Neil Oram. Andy reveals some interesting facts in regards the UFO's of that era...



Page 23: In Space, no one can hear you Lie.

Since it's now common knowledge that NASA airbrushed out anomalies and manipulated their photographs taken on the moon, and in space, to keep up the pretence that there's nothing of interest on our nearest celestial neighbour, it stands to reason that those brave astronauts taking the pictures must have seen something that scared the proverbial pants off the space agency. Colin Veacock investigates.



Page 26: SEP Spotlight - TOPS.

The Scientific Establishment of Parapsychology was established in 1996 and occasionally focus upon new organisations that show dedication, initiative and a willing to scientifically study such phenomena in hope of advancing the subject of parapsychology. The SEP focus upon TOPS - The Office of Parapsychological Studies run by Robert Young BSc.



Page 27: Grocery Ghosts.

We all visit supermarkets from time to time and rarely do thoughts of paranormal phenomena run through your head at the time. However, this might change if your shopping at Booth's Supermarket in Knutsford. MAPIT investigators descend upon Knutsford in hope of finding out the cause behind the strange going's on. Apparitions, strange sounds, things being moved around... Steve Mera explains...

Latest News Items include: Rendlesham UFO Papers Missing!, Iran declare building a Flying Saucer!, Panther on the Prowl. Frodsham Case Remains Unsolved!, NASA Scientist finds evidence of Alien Life? The Virgin Mary photographed on the Cornish Coastline? Another Virgin Mary photographed near the M6 Motorway in March 2011. Book Review: Alien Zoo by Dr. Karl Shuker, Advertisements and much more...

THE CHALLENGES OF SELLING A HAUNTED HOUSE

Disclosing whether a property is haunted or not can work for or against the seller. Some buyers are specifically looking for a residence with a ghostly presence, while others would turn tail and run at such a suggestion. Either way, if a seller knows something about a property and fails to disclose it, they are setting themselves up for a possible lawsuit. In some U.S. States, a seller must disclose whether a death has occurred on the property within the last three years.

Information that a home may be haunted can affect the value of the house and most certainly should be mentioned, since it's doubtful the buyer would make that discovery on his own before purchasing. The rule of caveat emptor, or buyer beware, can be used as an argument when the possibility of a home being haunted was not disclosed prior to a sale. Even if the owner has no solid evidence, if he cannot deny the existence of ghosts, it is enough for a court to declare a contract void and have the deposit returned.

Value: Generally a home suspected of being haunted is priced according to fair market value, and then adjusted depending on buyer interest. Such was the case with a Nottinghamshire, UK property purchased in 2007. The family thought they had found their dream home when they bought Clifton Hall, a 52-room country estate dating back to the days of William the Conqueror.

The structure appeared innocent enough, until the family moved in. After enduring months of ghostly voices and bloodcurdling screams, the owners enlisted the aid of paranormal investigators. Even science couldn't intervene and the haunting's continued. Unable to share their home any longer with these creepy tenants, Clifton Hall was put up for sale about one year later for £2.75m, and almost £1m less than they originally paid. The property was finally sold, but never returned to its status as a residence, and is currently being utilised as a conference centre.

Haunted houses may take longer to sell:

Actor Nicholas Cage, knowingly purchased the old Lalaurie Mansion in New Orleans' French Quarter in December 2006 for \$3.45 million. Built in 1832, this home was the scene of horrible violence and is known for its paranormal activity. Although the Cage

family spent time in the house, they never stayed overnight. In the autumn of 2008, the actor put it back up for sale for \$3.55 million, and it currently remains unsold.

In some cases when there is a history of well publicised violence, homes don't even get listed. Such was the case in St. Catharines, Ontario, where the home of serial rapist and killer Paul Bernardo, was bulldozed and sold as an empty lot. On the other hand, the home of Sharon Tate, the scene of the Manson Family murders, was sold at full value. The new owner tore it down and rebuilt a new mansion on the prime real estate site.

Although most people would not actively search out a haunted house, there are those who would consider such a residence a bonus.

An advert on the website for San Diego Paranormal Research states:

"The San Diego Paranormal Research Project will teamed up with your Professional Licensed Real Estate Agents to assist with the buying and selling of allegedly Haunted Houses and property throughout the United States. We will also handle requests for realtor houses."

Apparently there is a market for haunted houses, and they will assist you in locating one that is truly authentic. Various hotels and inn's often gain publicity and added business from advertising the fact that their establishments are haunted.

The Cashtown Inn, built in 1797 was the scene of many deaths during the U.S. Civil War. The current owners make no effort to hide this fact and advertise such specials as ***"Ghosts of Gettysburg Weekend Investigation Package with MARK NESBITT and his Investigative Team,"*** where guests can actually attend a ghostly investigation. During ***"Catch the Spirits Weekend,"*** guests receive special tours of the Inn, including the basement, and learn about the ghostly happenings in the area.

Houses where suicides and murders have taken place are generally avoided by the average home buyer. The grim history of the house can scare away a great number of people who are afraid that bad mojo may still be lingering.

So what do you do if you hear noises, feel spontaneous cold breezes, or see ectoplasm oozing from power sockets?

Hiding your "houseghost" from potential buyers won't get you very far, especially if the haunting is common knowledge in the community. In terms of your legal obligation to disclose a haunting, responsibilities vary by U.S. State. There is even word that such obligations of disclosure may start to creep into the UK courtrooms. Either way, if you try to keep this vital information from a buyer, not only may they try to sue you later, but your karma will be shot as well. It's best if you're straight with people about the condition of your home, both structurally and spiritually.

You may ask, "But if I'm honest about the house, how on earth are we ever going to sell it?"

The answer is good marketing.

Like with any property, you need to appeal to a target market. Ask yourself who would want your particular home. Certainly it has desirable qualities like a good location or granite countertops, but what sets your house apart from the rest of the neighbourhood? It's a resident ghoul or goblin! Use this to your advantage and try to attract buyers who are dying to live with the dead.

While it may seem strange to some, there is a niche market out there for haunted real estate. There are even websites that host ads from buyers who are eager to break bread with a spirit. These sites provide a great opportunity to network with buyers who are looking for a home just like yours. You can reply to a buyer's post if it sounds like a good fit, or post an advert of your own in the sellers' section.

Good Luck!

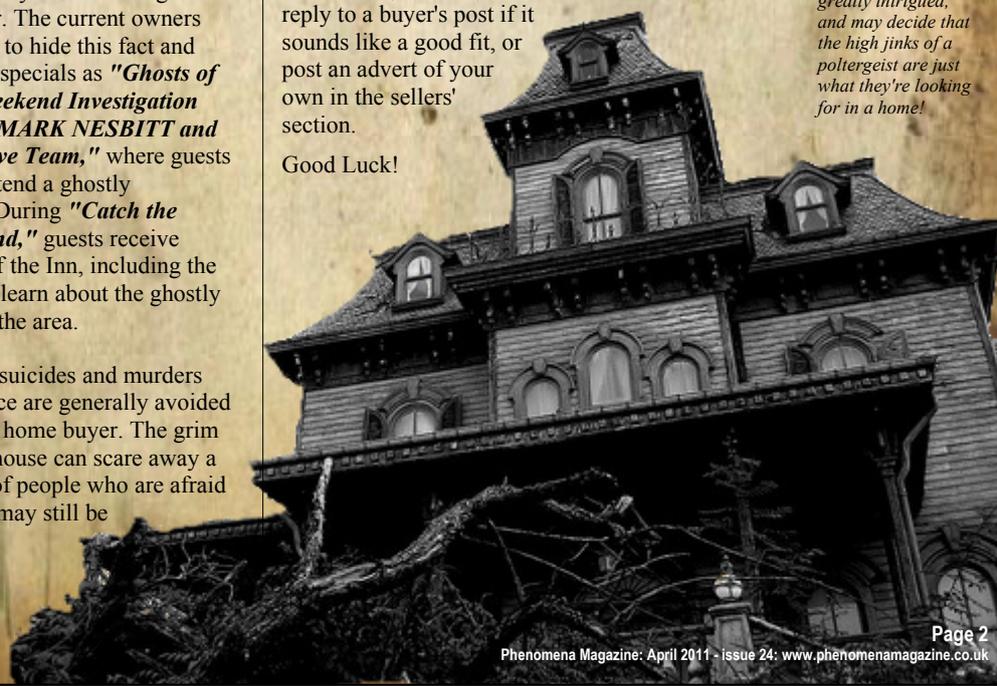
Notes:

If you can produce proof that you have an apparition, your home will be a hot commodity on the haunted reality circuit, so keep your camera handy!

Another way to get the attention of haunted house seekers is to start writing a blog that details your ghostly experiences. Many paranormal aficionados are tech-savvy, so they often start their home search online. If you blog regularly, your home is much more likely to get noticed by your target market than by relying strictly on print advertising. Create a buzz about your property, and you'll soon have a lineup of ghost-loving buyers at your doorstep.

Find out where these buyers like to hang out online. Post in paranormal related forums and advertise on radio programs that deal with the supernatural. Performing a Google search for terms like "paranormal radio" or "haunted real estate" should give you a few places to start.

Include a history of the home if you're able to, and share a couple of your ghostly encounters. Your guests will be greatly intrigued, and may decide that the high jinks of a poltergeist are just what they're looking for in a home!



THE WESTALL UFO ENCOUNTER

In 1966, a small town in Australia was visited by a flying disc which was seen by over 200 witnesses. The strange object was seen to temporarily land before silently lifting and flying off. Army and government officials soon arrived in hope of keeping the story quiet...

There have been a number of well known UFO cases throughout the world that have fascinated me, but none of them as much as the Westall UFO incident. Maybe its because I have family in Australia, or simply that there were hundreds of witnesses to this daylight event. Whatever the reason, for me... this is one of the best Australian UFO incidents that continues to baffle researchers even now... 45 years later.

Saucer in the sky! The whole class roared in laughter. *'No, there really is... look!* Classmates stampeded to the window and silence befell the room as they watched how the strange craft darted side to side before descending towards the paddock. The teacher Andrew Greenwood fort his way to the window and was shocked at the sight. By this time the students were hysterical. Andrew tried to calm the students down. *'Sit down, sit down... if*

It was described as a grey metallic colour with a slight purple hue and around the size of a large family car. There were a few variations in description. Andrew Greenwood described the craft as a silver green colour. However, all witnesses agree that the object was slowly descending and flew over the school's south-west corner before dropping out of sight behind trees near the paddock.

The Air Force depart Australian Ufology.

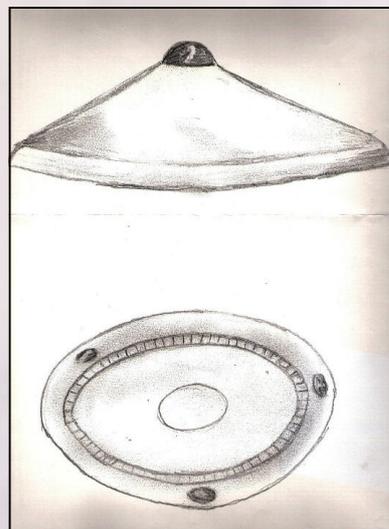
4 January 1994, RAAF Wing Commander Brett Biddington, on behalf of the Chief of Air Staff, informed every civilian UFO groups around Australia that "The number of reports made to the RAAF in the past decade had declined significantly, which may indicate that organisations such as yours are better known and are meeting the community's requirements." Therefore, the RAAF was not going to investigate or collect any more public reports from that date on. Although the RAAF have officially removed themselves from the public report collection phase, there is evidence that internal investigations, by other Government departments, still continue under the new title of Unusual Aerial Phenomena (UAP) or Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS). Called the "1996 - Defence Instructions (General) ADMIN 55-1", this 1996 Department of Defence (DOD) policy document better known as 'ADMIN 55-1' concerns UAS Policy is still in used.

'He looked up to see a silent silver disc shaped craft move slowly across the back of the school. It was around 50 feet up in the sky and was seen to make its way towards the paddock'.

On April 6th 1966 an incident took place that was to change the lives of hundreds of people. At around 11.00am over 200 students and teachers at a Victoria State School in Melbourne, Australia were shocked to see, what only can be described as a 'Flying Saucer' descend from the sky and seemingly land in a near paddock close to a wooded area known to the locals as 'The Grange' which in more recent years has been converted into a nature reserve. After a short time, the object lifted from the ground and traveled towards the suburb of Clayton South, Victoria.

there's any problem, the bell will ring! Surely enough a few moment later, the bell started to ring. The children ran to the door and headed out for a better look.

Another class had been doing sports outside on the main oval when the object flew over. The class came to a standstill as they watched the disc move silently over them.

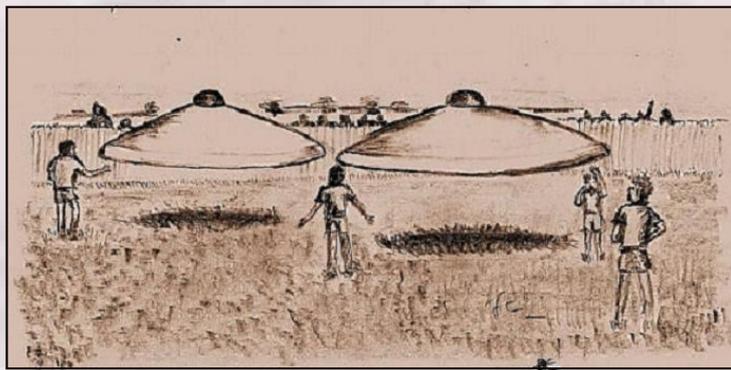


As usual, it was a beautiful sunny day and the first report came from a student in one of the science classes. Michael Fisher aged 14 slowly walked over to the classroom window and as he gazed into a sample pot, something caught his eye. He looked up to see a silent silver disc shaped craft move slowly across the back of the school. It was around 50 feet up in the sky and was seen to make its way towards the paddock. Michael screamed out *'Hey, there's a Flying*

Around 20 minutes later the object lifted silently, gathering speed and headed off towards the north-west. A number of witnesses described the craft as gaining altitude and being pursued by five small aircraft which must have been in the vicinity.

Three days later on April 9th the location was visited by a number of uniformed officers of the Australian Armed Forces accompanied by the local police department. The officers were seen to take soil samples from the location where the object came to ground. You could clearly see that there was an area of flattened grass that seemed to be singed. Later, reports state that the local farmer had burnt the area himself in hope of deterring children from entering his property. There were further reports of official looking gentlemen visiting the school and talking with the students, who had been individually sent to the headmasters office.

For further information on UFO and the Australian Government, files and case reports from 1950 to 1984 search the: National Archives of Australia.



grass where the object landed, whilst others believe the area had been burnt. A couple of student near the farmers field claim to have seen two army transporters and a number of officers in differing uniforms stamp over an area in the field. Once the officers had left, the students went over to the location and found a spiral patterned area of flattened grass which looked to have been covered over a little. As if in an attempt to hide it. Several students claimed that military officers cordoned off the landing site and that soil samples were taken by the truck load.

University lecturer Shane Ryan was so intrigued with the story he decided to do some investigating of his own. Ryan an English lecturer from Canberra, Australia visited the location and conducted dozens of interviews with local residents. Unfortunately, like his predecessors, he found no official records. More recently Shane Matthews, a Westall student revisited the location and took a number of photographs. One of which shows the location where the UFO landed.

'Police and military turned up at the location only 20 minutes after the object had vanished. Rather quick considering the nearest military facility was a considerable way away.

It's true to state that this is one of Australia's best UFO cases. Unlike many other incidents, this one took place during a sunny day, there were hundreds of credible witnesses along with a police and military presence, which coincidentally turned up at the location only 20 minutes after the object had vanished. Rather quick considering the nearest military facility was a considerable way away. Many have suggested that they must have been waiting somewhere locally with their engines running. Of course, when approaching the military for confirmation of their attendance, surprise surprise... there were no records of anyone attending.

There were also physical traces left by the UFO, such as the strange mark left on the ground. A Westall teacher that had taken several photographs of the object as it flew over the school was ordered to not only hand over the film to officials, but the whole camera. It was clear from the start. Someone wanted to keep a lid on this incident.

The events that took place on that day back in April of 1966 will most likely stay in the minds of witnesses forever.

There A mystery that was quickly covered up and suppressed, a mystery that will haunt Australian Ufologists, a mystery that will never go away...

Below is a photograph of a reporter holding original statements and drawings of the UFO; Also a more recent photograph showing the alleged location where the UFO was said to have landed. You can still clearly see an area of affected grass. Again, not many people know of the Westall UFO Encounter, probably one of the most significant cases in Australian Ufology.

The Documentary.

In 2009 a documentary was released in regards the Westall UFO Encounter titled:

Westall 66' A Suburban Mystery, written and edited by Rosie Jones and produced by Carmel Mcaloon. The documentary follows an investigator as he attempts to unravel a 45 year old mystery. Details of the documentary and press kit can be found at:

<http://www.westall66ufo.com.au/westall66ufo/>



The Reports 'They' Tried To Ban

The Secret UFO REPORTS

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. ordering and more information. Please visit Cosmic Conspiracies at: ufos-aliens.co.uk

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

MEMOIRS OF A PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR
BY STEVE MERA

A look into the world of a paranormal investigator. The book contains numerous investigations Steve has been involved with over the last 25 years. Investigations into hauntings, UFOs, secret government facilities, poltergeist infestations, alleged alien abductions, the strange and profound...

Stephen is the Chairman of MAPIT - Manchester's Association of Paranormal Investigators & Training.

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INNER CALLING

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The subject of psychology really does need to open new doors in regards the multitude of profound human experiences now more commonly reported. The evolution of human consciousness is now quickening its pace...

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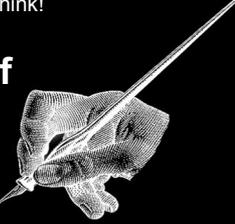
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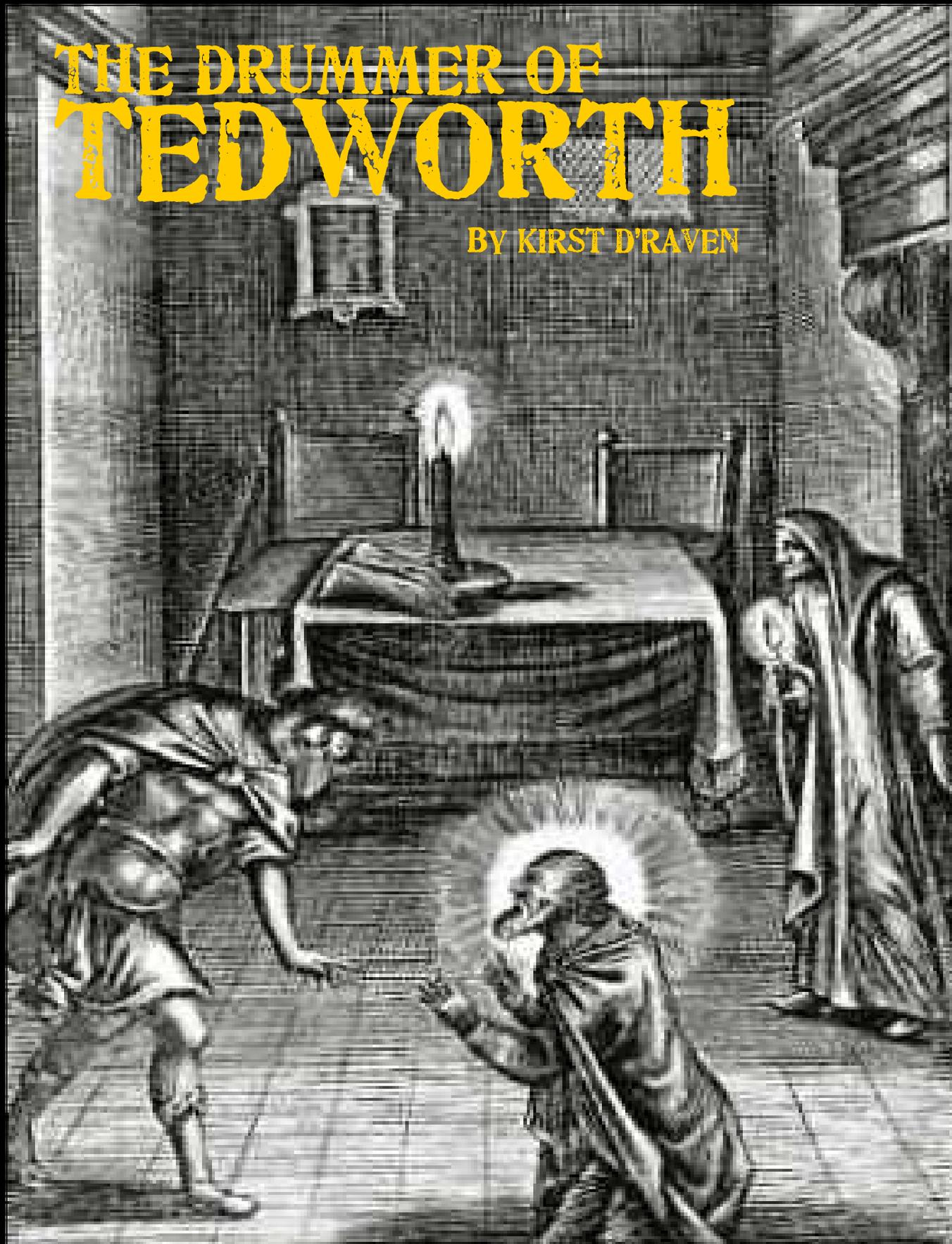
The Other Sides of Truth



Paul Kimball is one of Canada's leading UFO and paranormal researchers, both through his work as an award-winning documentary filmmaker (2005 EBE Awards for Best UFO Film and Best Historical Documentary for Aztec: 1948, 2007 EBE award for Best Historical Documentary for Best Evidence; nominated for a total of seven other EBEs from 2005 to 2007), and as a researcher, writer, and speaker. He has appeared on television, radio (Coast to Coast, CBC Morningside, Binnal of America, Strange Days Indeed, The Paracast) and in person at conferences and symposiums in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to discuss the UFO phenomenon and the paranormal. Paul also stars with Holly Steven's in the TV series 'Ghost Cases', assisted by UPIA.
Visits Paul's Amazing Blog Spot at: <http://redstarfilms.blogspot.com>

THE DRUMMER OF TEDWORTH

BY KIRST D'RAVEN



*And still perceived that it was Samuel, and he
climbed with his face to the ground, and
bowed himself." - Samuel, Chap. 28, v. 14.
- W. Faithorne, 1658*

Drumming could never be considered a rarity, there have been many percussionists throughout the world, and down through the ages, some distinctly more talented than others... but of all the Dave Grohls, the Keith Moons and Rick Allens who have delighted fans with their rhythms, no drummer has inspired and intrigued a nation, and even the Church and Crown, quite so much as the fabled Drummer of Tedworth.

Our drummer, a stout and sturdy Englishman would have been in his prime around the time the Cromwellian wars broke out. He would have suffered as many did, from the hard rule of the Stuarts, and so, wishing to better his fortune, he volunteered his services under the Man of Blood and Iron. It is said that the call of his drum inspired the revolutionists to mighty deeds of valor from the very first skirmishes till at last bloody battle. Then with the conflict at an end, Charles separated from his royal head, and the fifth Monarchy men invoking bedlam in their efforts to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, our brave drummer lapsed, forgotten, into a haze of obscurity which lasted until the Restoration.

Then he reemerged, not as the veteran hero living a life of ease and tranquility, but as a beggar, wandering from town to town, the fearsome beat of his beloved drum no longer provoking great and heroic deeds, but played to implore alms and sustenance to facilitate his very survival; And so he journeyed, unnoticed, undisturbed and scraping a meager existence, until in the spring of 1661 his weary footsteps chanced upon the quiet village of Tedworth, in Wiltshire, UK.

Tedworth, at the time, was under the rule of a certain Squire Mompesson, a gouty and miserable old git who was unimpressed that the peace and tranquility of his little kingdom was being shattered by the drummers' loud and raucous battle cries, and his even louder drum. And so it was on the Squires direct orders that the faded soldier was seized, beaten and driven from the little town minus his precious drum. The drummer pleaded in vain with the Squire to return his drum, with tears streaming down his battle worn and weather beaten face he begged, protesting that the drum was the only friend he had left to him in the whole world. In vain he related the happy



memories that it held for him, of fire and battle and victory... of greater times. But his plaintive cries fell on deaf ears... "Go!" he was told--"go, and be thankful thou escapest so lightly!"

Go he did. To where nobody knew, and nobody really cared. The following month, Squire Mompesson had cause to make the long and treacherous journey into London to pay his respects to the King, and the people of Tedworth had occasion to wish that the poor drummers lamentations had moved the Squire to pity, for in the middle of the night, the Squires family were roused by angry voices violently demanding entry, windows being tried and an unrelenting banging on the front door.. The house was situated in a remote spot, and to the occupants it seemed certain that having heard of the Squires absence, one of the many gangs of highwaymen, who roamed the countryside had planned to turn burglars. With no men folk to protect them, the women and children could make little resistance. Panic reigned at once. And consequently there was much quaking and trembling, until, finding the bolts and bars too strong for them, the unwelcome visitors retired. Mompesson's wrath was unsurpassed when he returned and learned of the Midnight siege.

He only hoped, he declared with great enthusiasm, that the villains would return, he would give them a greeting such as had not been known since the

days of the Great War. Little did the Squire know that he would be given chance to make good his boast, for no sooner had the household retired than the disturbance began again.

Lighting a lantern, slipping into a dressing-gown and snatching up his brace of pistols, the irate Squire dashed downstairs. As he neared the door, the hammering and voices became almost unbearable. He quickly turned the great key, slipped back the bolts and threw open the heavy door...

The moment he opened the door all became still. He warily extended his lantern and peered into the night, but nothing but empty darkness met his eyes. Then the knocking began again – this time at a second door. Quickly securing the first, the Squire hurried towards the hellish noise, and threw open the second door - only to find the quiet darkness, and to hear, with mounting anger, a tumult at yet another door. Again, he secured the door and raced to the renewed bedlam, and again met only silence when the door was thrown open...

When Mompesson related the story afterward, he said that as he stepped out into the darkness he became aware of "a strange and hollow sound in the air." This instilled in him the suspicion that the noises the household had witnessed may be of supernatural nature. As the Squire hurried back to the sanctity of his bed the suspicion

Documented Facts:

The case of the 'Drummer of Tedworth' is one of the most famous episodes in the history of witchcraft. It involved a poltergeist which, in the early sixteenth-century, haunted the house of John Mompesson, a landowner, excise officer and commission officer in the militia, who lived at North Tedworth on the Wiltshire-Hampshire border.

In March 1662, Mompesson intervened in the case of a drummer, William Drury, who had requested money from the local constable at the neighbouring village of Ludgershall on the basis of a pass which turned out to be counterfeit. Mompesson had the man arrested (although he was later freed) and his drum confiscated; subsequently, in April, it was sent to his house at Tedworth. Thereafter, he and his family were assaulted by thumpings, tattoos of the drum and other noises.

There were also scratchings, panting like a dog, sulphurous and other smells, and strange lights; in addition, objects were thrown around the room, beds were elevated, horses lamed and the like. These disturbances continued over several months into 1663, despite the fact that for part of this time Drury was incarcerated at Gloucester on a charge of theft. Meanwhile, the case became well known, and many people visited Mompesson's house to witness the strange occurrences for themselves..

deepened to a certainty, and an irrational alarm filled his very soul - an alarm that grew into a deadly fear when a tremendous booming sound came from the top of the house. For it was there, for safety he kept the beggar's drum, and a terrible idea began to twist and turn Mompesson's mind: "Could it be that the drummer is dead, and that his spirit has returned to torment me?"

Documented Facts:

The notoriety of the case stems largely from its central position in one of the most famous works on demonology ever published, that by the divine and apologist for the new philosophy, Joseph Glanvill. A lengthy narrative of the Tedworth case first appeared in the version of Glanvill's book entitled A Blow at Modern Sadducism.

In Some Philosophical Considerations about Witchcraft, published in 1668, and it remained equally prominent in the omnibus Sadducismus Triumphatus: or, Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions (1681), brought out after Glanvill's death by his mentor, the Cambridge Platonist, Henry More, who had encouraged Glanvill in his investigation of the case in the first place.

Not only was the case prominent in the various editions of Glanvill's own book, it was further propagated by subsequent, more derivative demonologists, such as the New England cleric, Increase Mather, in his Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences (1684), and the Scot, George Sinclair, in his Satans Invisible World Discovered (1685).

A few nights later, the Squires darkest fears seemed to come true when instead of the usual cacophony of nocturnal shouting and knocking, there began a veritable concert from the room containing the drum. This concert, Mompesson informed his friends, opened with a peculiar "hurling in the air over the house," and closed with "the beating of a drum like that at the breaking up of a guard." One can only imagine the mental torture of the Squire and his family, but worse was still to come. As the ghostly drummer gained confidence he laid aside his drum and began to play practical, and sometimes very painful, jokes on the members of the Squires household, and this malicious practice was directed primarily at the Squires children. It is recorded that for a time "it haunted none particularly but them."

Linen was dragged from their beds as they slept and thrown to the floor, a scratching noise was heard emanating from under the bed, described as 'of some animal with iron claws'. Sometimes, the children were lifted bodily, "so that six men could not hold them down," and their limbs were beaten violently against the bedposts. It would seem the unseen visitor bore no prejudice regarding age either, Mompesson's elderly mother's bed was often found to contain ashes and knives among other things, and her bible was frequently nowhere to be found.

As time went by, the seemingly unexplainable events became more frequent and profound - chairs moved by themselves, a board pulled itself from the floor and reportedly hurled itself at a servant. Lights were observed to float around, described as similar to corpse candles. John, the Squires personal manservant, was often the focus of the eerie occurrences. The "stout fellow of sober conversation" found himself confronted one night by horrible apparition which he described as "a great body with two red and glaring eyes..."

John also suffered from bedroom visitations in much the same way as the children, his bedclothes removed and being struck by an unseen force. John found, however, that if he brandished a sword he was left alone. Clearly, the ghost seemed to respond to the threat of cold steel. It didn't, unfortunately, respond to the exorcism rituals which were performed with no effect. All went well as long as the clergyman was on his knees saying the prescribed Latin verses by the bedside of the terrified children, but a bed staff was thrown at him the moment he rose from his genuflection, while other articles of furniture whirled about so violently, that the room had to be cleared of people for fear of serious injury.

The Squire Mompesson was, understandably distraught. As well as the injuries received by members of his family and household, people from all over the country began to flock to the house every night, hoping to witness the otherworldly events. The Squire found himself accused of staging the phenomena himself, of having committed some terrible secret sin for which he was now being punished. Such was the reputation of the events at Tedworth, sermons were preached with the Squire as the text. The people were divided, half angrily affirming the paranormal nature of the disturbances, the other emphatically denying it.

In time, news of the events reached the ears of the King, who sent an investigating commission to Mompesson House. Nothing untoward occurred during the visit, to the great delight of the disbelievers. After the visit, however, the most sensational and vexatious phenomena of the haunting so far occurred. The events continued for many months in this manner, until one day it occurred to Mompesson and his friends that the cause was not ghosts as they had first presumed. This idea rose from the singular circumstance that the voices heard in the children's room began "for a hundred times together" to bellow "A witch! A witch!" One of the bravest individuals in the throng of spectators suddenly demanded, "Satan, if the drummer set thee to work, give three knocks and no more!" Three distinct knocks were heard, as if in response. By way of confirmation, five knocks were requested, and received by another onlooker. A hunt for the drummer was launched, and eventually he was discovered in a jail in

Gloucester, accused of theft. With this discovery came the word that the drummer had openly bragged of hexing Squire Mompesson. This was all the evidence the outraged Squire needed. There was in existence at the time an act of King James I. which stated it was a felony to "feed, employ, or reward any evil spirit." It was under this Act that the Squire quickly had his alleged persecutor indicted as a wizard, and amid great excitement, the aged veteran was brought from Gloucester to Salisbury to stand trial. Although in the seventeenth century such a trial was sure to end in the drummer's execution, his spirit remained unbroken. Not for him the lesser acts of confessing or humbly begging mercy. Instead the drummer tried to bargain with Mompesson, promising that if the squire would only secure his liberty and gave him employment as a farm hand, he would rid him of the haunting that had plagued the Mompesson household. Sadly, the Squire felt the drummer "could do him no good in any honest way," and rejected the drummer's ingenuous proposal, and so the drummer was left to face his fate

A packed court room listened attentively to the tales of mishaps and misadventures that had made Mompesson House a national center of interest. During the trial proof was submitted that the accused had been friends with an old vagabond who claimed to possess supernatural powers. Emphasis was placed on the alleged 'fact' that the drummer had boasted of having taken revenge on Mompesson for stealing his drum and the beating that had been administered on the Squires orders.

It was to the drummer's great fortune that Mompesson did not have the power in Salisbury that he held in Tedworth. The jury was moved by the drummer's eloquent defense, acquitted him, and sent him on his way rejoicing. The Drummer was never heard of again, and with his disappearance came an end to the knockings, the corpse candles, and all the other uncanny phenomena that had made life a waking nightmare for the Mompesson family. So astonishing was the story of the drummer of Tedworth, it was still cited by the superstitious as a capital example of the intermeddling of superhuman agencies in human affairs, and still mentioned by the skeptical as one of the most amusing and most successful hoaxes on record, until the beginning of the twentieth century...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO WATTIE



IN SEARCH OF LOCH WATTEN'S MISSING MONSTER

A chapter from Karl Shuker's *Alien Zoo: From the Pages of Fortean Times* (CFZ Press: Bideford, 2010).

It was a bright spring day, and steely sunshine glinted over the mountains of Caithness when Colonel Arthur Trimble first saw the monster of Loch Watten. The monster's eyes were slits in a huge squat head, and its body, which loomed under the rippling water, appeared at least 20 feet wide. It observed him for several seconds. He even had time to take a photograph of it.

John Macklin – 'The Trap He Set Was For A Monster...', *Leicester Mercury*, 28 March 1966.

I first learnt about the existence of winged cats – which subsequently became an investigative passion of mine – when, as a teenager, I read a fascinating little book by prolific author Peter Haining entitled *The Monster Trap and Other True Mysteries* (1976). That same book introduced me to a couple of other subjects that I have since pursued in depth too – the Green Children, and the mysterious mini-mummy of Wyoming.

Ironically, however, the chapter that interested me most of all (and which gave its title to the entire book) was also the one that has mystified me most of all – because, over 30 years later, and in spite of the fact that it is potentially of immense cryptozoological significance, its subject has resisted every attempt made by me to uncover any additional details regarding it. Consequently, I feel that it is now time to give this whole perplexing matter a long-overdue public airing.

The very mysterious case of the Monster Trap.

The setting for the truly extraordinary episode documented in this chapter is Loch Watten – a Scottish freshwater lake in Caithness's River Wick drainage system. Its grim tale as given in Haining's book (in which the chapters' stories, although all allegedly true, are written up in a dramatised, novel-like style) can be summarised as follows. According to Haining, the incident in question took place some 10 years before the flap of Nessie sightings in 1933, and featured local estate owner Colonel Arthur Trimble (who had retired in 1922 from the British army).

It all began on the morning of 21 April 1923, when Trimble was walking his

spaniel, Bruce, by the lochside, not far from his estate. He had a camera with him, as it was a pleasant morning and he hoped to take some photographs. After reaching his usual point for turning back, Trimble called to Bruce, who had run some distance further ahead, and after waiting for him to come back, Trimble looked out across the loch – where, in Haining's words:

Something dark and looming had suddenly appeared on the surface of the water. The Colonel squinted his eyes and raised his hand to half-shade his face. The form was clearer now. It looked like a kind of neck with a huge flat head. Keeping quite still, he looked harder and could see that it was indeed a head and neck, and that there were slit eyes staring directly at him. Below the surface of the water he could make out the shape of an immense body, at least twenty feet wide. Colonel Trimble could hardly believe the evidence of his senses. It seemed like some huge water monster.

Haining stated that although the monster was less than a hundred yards away, thanks to his years of army discipline Trimble did not panic, and lifted his camera. Just as he was about to take a photograph, however, his dog Bruce spied the monster and immediately ran towards it, barking loudly. Startled, the monster disappeared beneath the water almost at once, but at that same instant Trimble succeeded in snapping a single photo, although he had no idea whether he had actually captured the beast's image. When he and Bruce arrived back home and he told his housekeeper, a local woman called Mrs Doris Dougal, what had happened, she confirmed that he had seen the loch's legendary 'serpent', and suggested that he report his sighting.

That same day, Trimble took his camera's film to the local chemist shop for developing, and when he collected his photos two days later he was delighted to discover that although the picture snapped by him at the loch was slightly blurred, it did indeed depict the monster's head and neck above the water surface. Consequently, that afternoon he penned an account of his sighting for London's *Times* newspaper, enclosed with it a copy of his photograph, and posted it a few hours later. From then on, Trimble visited the loch daily, in the hope of seeing and photographing the monster

again, but leaving Bruce at home to ensure that he didn't cause any disturbance this time if the monster should reappear. Unbeknownst to Trimble, however, on 1 May, while he was once again at the loch, Bruce managed to sneak out, and when Trimble returned home later that day he was met by Mrs Dougal with the disturbing news that Bruce was missing. The two of them spent some time searching for the dog locally, but to no avail – until Trimble saw a man approaching from the direction of the loch. The man was Trimble's nearest neighbour, the local doctor Robert McArdish, who told Trimble that he had spied Bruce swimming in the loch – but just as the doctor had been about to call out to him, he had seen a flurry in the water, as if something else was also there, and then the dog disappeared, after which the waves settled again, but with no sign of Bruce.

Enraged by the apparent killing of his dog by the monster, the following day Trimble set about building an extraordinary 'monster trap', consisting of 50 fathoms of rope attached to an enormous sharpened spike of steel that had been shaped into a massive hook. Trimble baited this hook with a large piece of freshly-purchased horsemeat, and after rowing into the middle of the loch in his dinghy he lowered the hook into the water, attached a marker buoy to the end of the rope, and dropped it overboard. Then he rowed back to shore, and returned home.

The next morning Trimble went out to inspect the trap, but it had not been touched, so he repositioned it elsewhere in the loch, and came back home. This procedure was repeated up until the evening of 4 May, when he informed Mrs Dougal that he was going out to the loch again, even though it was almost dark. Just on 9.30 pm, after looking outside to see whether he was returning as he was late, Mrs Dougal suddenly heard a single loud, terrified scream, from the direction of the loch. Racing outside to the gardener's cottage close by, she hammered on his door, explained what had happened, and the two of them ran fearfully to the loch. There, in some reeds at the lochside, was the half-submerged body of Trimble, and as they looked down at it, they saw to their horror that his chest

Folklore

In folklore, lake monsters have a long precedent, with many bodies of water thought to be haunted by strange supernatural creatures that fed on mankind. One example is the dreaded water horse: the most dangerous of which was thought to be the Each Uisge of the Scottish Highlands. This creature had shape-shifting abilities most commonly taking the form of a horse. It would drag people down into the deepest part of the loch and eat them, leaving only their liver behind.

In Wales, water creatures were more dragon like, and haunted the lonely lakes and rivers. The Afanc, said to haunt a pool on the river Conwy was one such creature. Traditionally it was captured and banished to a pool on Mount Snowdon. Another example can be found at Llyn Cynwech, which was traditionally haunted by a Nwyvre (a water dragon) dispatched by a local shepherd. In England there is also a tradition of lakes and pools being haunted by strange creatures, although this belief was not as strong as in places where there was a Celtic survival. Folklore shows that there is a long tradition of haunted lakes and pools, this may have some relevance on modern sightings in two ways:

Old folklore could be related to real sightings of creatures with a long historical precedent.

Newer sightings could be related to a different phenomena perhaps more metaphysical or imaginary, coloured by the belief of the times (this same theory applies to UFO abductions).

Of course this is an over simplification, and all modern sightings may be misinterpretation and have nothing to do with folklore and legend. But it is strange how sightings of strange phenomena are coloured by the belief of the time.

Lake Monsters:

Apart from the famous Loch Ness Monster, there are many more reports of mysterious creatures within the lakes and lochs of Britain, dating as far back as recorded history, and probably further. Some are mingled with old folklore about dragons and mermaids, while the more modern sightings have often become attributed to unidentified real creatures, including extinct dinosaurs. There is little doubt that strange forms are seen in various bodies of water, what is more difficult to ascertain is whether the creatures are actually physical, misinterpreted natural phenomena or something else.

Loch Morar

Loch Morar seems as likely a candidate as any for the home of a large creature, over 1000 feet in places, it is deeper than Loch Ness, although not as large a body of water. Its alleged resident monster has been dubbed Morag, and the story is perhaps one of the most frightening and physical encounters, of any British lake monster.

In August 1969, Duncan McDonnell, and Bill Simpson, were fishing on the loch in a motor cruiser. They became aware of a loud splashing in the water behind them and turned to see a large object in the water, which rammed the boat - side-on - in a deliberate manner. Simpson grabbed his shotgun from the boat and fired at the creature, which was described as '25 to 30 feet long, with dirty brown rough skin, 3 large black humps and a snake like head'. The creature slowly slipped back under the water after it had been shot, much to the relief of the two men. Morag has been seen on several other occasions, and the loch's remoteness (there is no road around the Loch) compared to Loch Ness, suggests that there could be many more sightings if the Loch was more accessible.

Like Loch Ness the sightings go back into history, and may have been part of common folklore before the sightings became publicised. Many other Scottish lochs are said to harbour monsters. Among these are Loch Lochy, Loch Arkaig, Loch Oich, Loch Linnhe, Loch Quoich, and Loch Shiel, (three of these along with Loch Ness are situated on the Great Glen Fault) many others were believed to have enchanted qualities.

had been pierced by the giant hook, which was still attached to the rope. And as they stood there, they heard something:

...something that turned their blood to ice – and haunted them for the rest of their days. It was a sound which came from the loch. The sound of something large that splashed as it swam away from the shore...

And with that dramatic little flourish, there endeth Haining's tale of the Loch Watten monster (let's call it Wattie, for short).

Whither Wattie?

Needless to say, one would imagine that such an episode, far more sensational than anything that even Nessie can lay claim to, would have subsequently featured in every major (and minor!) cryptozoology publication as a matter of course, as famous – or infamous – as the story of the Surgeon's Photograph and other endlessly rehashed and recycled cryptozoological histories. Yet nothing could be further from the truth.

Indeed, I have yet to discover a single mention of the Wattie history anywhere – I know of no book, periodical paper, magazine article, newspaper report, or website that contains even the briefest reference to it. Moreover, the only acknowledged claim to fame of Loch Watten, other than having been formally designated as an SAC (Special Area of Conservation), is that it is a good body of water for fly-fishing for brown trout.

In stark contrast, any celebrity status as a monster-haunted lake is conspicuous only by its absence. So how can such anomalies be explained? Let's look at some background information, beginning with a few additional details supplied by Haining himself. In his book's introduction, he stated that when selecting stories to be covered by him in it, he didn't want to repeat ones that lots of other writers had already utilised. Instead, he decided:

I would use stories that had particularly fascinated me in which I had done considerable research, if not actually visited the places in question.

Furthermore, in the opening to the 'Monster Trap' chapter itself, he stated that although Nessie was certainly the most famous Scottish monster, she was not the only one, noting that there were stories of water horses and serpents from many other Highland lochs, and then commenting:

One particular monster story has always fascinated me, but amid all the fuss about 'Nessie' it rarely gets mentioned.

For 'rarely', substitute 'never'!



Yet according to Haining's book, local people claim that there have been stories of a monster, which they term 'the serpent', in Loch Watten for many years, but no documentary records of actual sightings prior to Trimble's ultimately fatal incident. Is this true? Never having visited the loch myself, which is only 14 miles from John O'Groats in the far northeast of Scotland, I have no idea whether there is any verbal tradition of a monster here (though I have yet to communicate with anyone versed in Scottish mythology or cryptozoology who has ever heard of such tales). However, I would have expected at least some documentation of it, were such a tradition to exist. After all, as Haining correctly pointed out, there are accounts of monsters for a number of other lochs – including Ness, Morar, Oich, Lochy, Shiel, Arkaig, Lomond, Beiste, Quoich, and Trieg.

Another anomaly concerns Loch Watten itself. Despite being the second largest of Caithness's lochs, it is under three miles (4.65 km) long, less than a mile (1.6 km) across at its widest point, and boasts an average depth of only 10-12 ft (2.5-3.0 m) – a very far cry from the immeasurably greater size of Loch Ness, Loch Morar, and other notable bodies of Scottish freshwater associated with monster traditions. If the kind of huge reptilian monster (at least 20 ft wide – so how long was it?) allegedly encountered by Trimble were truly real, it would surely require a much more substantial aquatic domain than Watten.

Nor do these inconsistencies constitute the full extent of my concern for the validity of Wattie as a bona fide cryptid. When I first attempted to research this subject, back in the 1990s, I wrote on two separate occasions to Haining, having obtained his correct address, but I never received a reply to my requests for information, and as he died in 2007 this most direct line of investigation is no longer an option.

In addition, I met with a succession of dead-ends when attempting to uncover any Trimble-related leads (not even trawling through death registers and army records online elicited any evidence for his supposed former existence). I also searched meticulously through the relevant period of back issues for *The Times*, but did not find any published letter or photo by Trimble.

In short, the only known source of information (to me, at least) concerning Wattie is Haining's book, and, therefore, Haining himself – which to my mind is the most disturbing aspect of all concerning this mystifying tale. The reason why I say this is that some of Haining's other publications have already attracted considerable controversy in relation to the validity – or otherwise – of their claims.

Spring-Heeled Jack, Sweeney Todd, and Woolpit's Green Children - Three Reasons for Wattie Worries.

For example: in a detailed paper on Spring Heeled Jack (*Fortean Studies*, vol. 3, 1996), Mike Dash revealed that he was unable to obtain independent corroboration of various accounts and details that had been published by Haining in his book on this subject (*The Legend and Bizarre Crimes of Spring Heeled Jack*, 1977). And even an engraving claimed by Haining to show the recovery from a marsh of one of Jack's victims – a victim, incidentally, undocumented by anyone else – in reality showed no such thing. Moreover, when Mike Dash wrote to him asking for sources, Haining replied that he was unable to supply any because all of his research material had been loaned to a film scriptwriter who had subsequently vanished. Not surprisingly, perhaps, in his paper's annotated bibliography, Mike made the following comments regarding Haining's book:

The only full-length work on the subject is a curious hodge-podge of the accurate, the overtly-dramatised and the invented...it repeats many existing errors, creates new ones, and is so single-mindedly determined to fit evidence to the theory that Jack was the Marquis of Waterford that it does not flinch from introducing made-up evidence to support this case.

Equally controversial are Haining's books on Sweeney Todd, Fleet Street's homicidal hair-snipper. Although Todd is widely assumed to be an entirely fictitious character spawned by the Penny Dreadfuls of Victorian times, Haining published two book-length treatments, respectively entitled *The Mystery and Horrible Murders of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (1979) and *Sweeney Todd: The Real Story of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (1993), in which he alleged that such a person had actually existed. However, this claim has attracted much criticism, for a variety of reasons, including those summarised succinctly in Wikipedia's entry for Haining (as accessed by me on 2 July 2009):

In two controversial books, Haining argued that Sweeney Todd was a real historical figure who committed his crimes around 1800, was tried in December 1801, and was hanged in January 1802. However, other researchers who have tried to verify his citations find nothing in these sources to back Haining's claims. A check of the website 'Old Bailey' for "Associated Records 1674-1834" for an alleged trial in December 1801 and hanging of Sweeney Todd for January 1802 show no reference; in fact the only murder trial for this period is that of a Governor/Lt Col. Joseph Wall who was hanged 28 January 1802 for killing a Benjamin Armstrong 10 July 1782 in "Goree" Africa and the discharge of a Humphrey White in January 1802.

In short, there are notable precedents when faced with questioning the reliability of claims made by Haining in the absence of any independent sources of evidence to examine. Even in another chapter of *The Monster Trap*, documenting the Green Children, it is curious to note that the famous, historically-recorded incident of the Woolpit Green Children receives no mention whatsoever. Instead, Haining devotes the entire chapter to an exceptionally similar version allegedly occurring several centuries later in Spain – a version subsequently revealed by other researchers to be a complete fabrication, by person(s) unknown, directly inspired by the Woolpit episode; And I hardly need point out that Haining's description of Trimble's supposed photo – slightly blurred but showing a head and neck – is more than a little reminiscent of the Surgeon's Photograph of Nessie. Also worth remembering is that aside from his non-fiction books, Haining was a well-respected, extremely knowledgeable anthologist of horror and mystery short stories of fiction.

Was there ever a Wattie? Over to You!

It gives me no pleasure whatsoever in questioning the legitimacy of the Wattie affair as documented by Haining, especially as the book in which it appears is one that has been instrumental in introducing to me various other subjects that have since become significant in my own researches – and I would therefore be delighted if my concerns regarding this case could be convincingly dismissed. Yet it is clear that the omens for Wattie's validity are not good.

Nevertheless, it would be rash to deny this tantalising tale out of hand without having first given an opportunity for it to be investigated publicly. So here, gentle readers, is where you come in. If there is indeed anyone out there with direct or indirect, integral or background information relating in any way to monsters reported from Loch Watten, and to the Trimble incident in particular, I'd love to hear from you. Similarly, if Haining's research files have been preserved, any details of where and whether they can be accessed would be very welcome. After all, if we are to believe his claim that all of the subjects in his book were ones in relation to which he had conducted considerable research, these archives undoubtedly offer the most likely source of primary and additional data concerning this most monstrous of Scottish crypto-mysteries.

Four Wattie Updates.

The publication by *Fortean Times* in its September 2009-dated issue (but on sale in August) of my Wattie article forming the basis of this chapter has triggered four notable responses to date. The first of these was an email of 28 August 2009 that I received from Rod Williams of Talgarth, Wales:

I am a regular reader of Fortean Times and your item on Wattie was interesting but feel that it was a concocted tale by Peter Haining. I have read Hugh Miller's Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland and also Samuel Smiles's biography of Robert Dick [Robert Dick, Baker of Thurso, Geologist and Botanist, 1878], baker, biologist (botanist mostly) and geologist. A man who walked many miles at night over large parts of Caithness.

I cannot recollect in either book mention of Loch Watten or a/its monster. Both men were not above mentioning curious tales, particularly Miller who was well into hauntings and weird happenings; apart from being a quarryman turned geologist he seemed to thrive on such tales. I may have missed any reference of course but the book of Miller's can be read on line for free should you wish to check it out. Not sure of Dick's biography being on line but probably is. George Borrow's Wild Wales (circa 1854) mentions 'crocodiles' in Welsh lakes or rather stories of these mythical

beasts and enquires of people on his journey whether they knew of any local legends relating to these little lakes and crocs. Again I don't remember any specific stories as it has been many years since reading the book. I think I need to re-read it sometime. Our local lake Llangorse Lake has large pike in it and one chap told me that when he was wind surfing and was stood in the lake (shallow in many places) something large brushed his leg.

Quite apart from confirming the absence of Wattie information from some literary sources new to me, Rod's email is also of value for the interesting snippets of information concerning Wales's mystifying water 'crocodiles', which I've read about in a number of publications and which deserve a detailed examination in their own right. The second response was a letter penned by German cryptozoologist Ulrich Magin, which was published by *FT* in November 2009. In his letter, Ulrich revealed that Haining's account of Wattie was almost identical to a tale included by French fiction writer George Langelaan in *Les Faits Maudits* (not *Maufits* – as erroneously titled in Ulrich's letter) or 'Cursed Facts' – a book of fortune published in 1967, containing an eclectic mixture of retold press clippings and fictional stories. Langelaan claimed that his source for that particular tale was a *Times* news report from May 1932, but a search for it undertaken by Ulrich failed to unearth any such report.

The third, and most significant, response was a letter that I received from *FT* on 31 March 2010, which had been written to me on 23 March by Lance Shirley of Cornwall and was accompanied by a remarkable enclosure – a photocopy of an article that had been published in the *Leicester Mercury* newspaper on 28 March 1966 in what appears to have been a regular, long-running series of articles published under a 'Stranger Than Fiction' banner. Written by a John Macklin, the article was entitled 'The trap he set was for a monster...but it was the colonel who died'. Reading it through, I discovered that its content and wording were so similar to Peter Haining's chapter 'The Monster Trap' that it seemed highly likely either that Haining had directly copied Macklin's account or that he and Macklin were one and the same person. As I learnt from Mike Dash, Haining is known to have written under various pen-names as well as his own, so could John Macklin be yet another one?

After receiving Lance's letter and enclosure, I googled John Macklin on the internet, and discovered that just like Haining, he is/was a prolific author, and, again just like Haining, has authored many popular-format compilation books of supposedly true mysteries. Just another coincidence?

Lake Monsters:

Other theories about lake monsters suggest that the sightings are more related to other paranormal sightings, such as black dogs and ghosts, than to real animals. Perhaps related to certain geophysical conditions affecting the human mind. This theory has been related to places where the earth is under pressure, such as fault lines and plate margins. Loch Ness, which has long history of the uncanny is situated on the Great Glen Fault, which stretches across the country incorporating Loch Lochy, Loch Linnhe, and Loch Oich, all of which are also reputed to be haunted by monsters.

Early exponents of the mystical view that the haunted lakes acted like gateways to the enchanted, included members of the Golden Dawn. One, a friend of W.B. Yeats the Irish poet, remarked that the creatures were placed here by subtle enchanters to watch over the gates of wisdom, which could mean anything but is related to older folk beliefs about gateways into the other world. Something that may be ingrained in human subconscious.

One exponent of this idea is Doc Shiels, who was apparently successful in conjuring up lake monsters using shamanic practices and sympathetic magic, during his 'Monster Mind Experiment' of 1977. This apparently resulted in two clear photographs of Nessie, which have been declared as fakes from some quarters.

In all probability sightings of strange lake monsters will continue, and so will speculation as to their origin. It is doubtful whether there is one unified theory to explain all sightings, but perhaps in the future we will be closer to understanding all paranormal events.

Loch Watten is a loch in Caithness, Scotland in the River Wick drainage basin. The name is a tautology, consisting of the word "loch" (of Gaelic origin) and vatn, a Norse word meaning the very same, found in such names as "Pingvallavatn" and Myvatn in Iceland, and "Rossvatnet" and "Mosvatn" in Norway.

The loch is 2½ miles (4 km) in length and about a half-mile (1 km) wide. Extending to approximately 370 ha (914 acres) but rarely more than 3.7m (12 feet) in depth. Surrounded by fens, marches and wet pastureland. (Special Thanks to Mysterious Britain)

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

Photo Top Right:
Dr. Karl Shuker

Dr. Karl P.N. Shuker BSc PhD FRES FZS is a zoologist who is internationally recognised as a world expert in cryptozoology (the scientific investigation of mystery animals whose existence or identity has yet to be formally ascertained), as well as in animal mythology and allied subjects relating to wildlife anomalies and inexplicabilia. He obtained a BSc (Honours) degree in pure zoology at the University of Leeds (U.K.), and a PhD in zoology and comparative physiology at the University of Birmingham (U.K.). He is now a freelance zoological consultant and writer, living in the West Midlands, England.

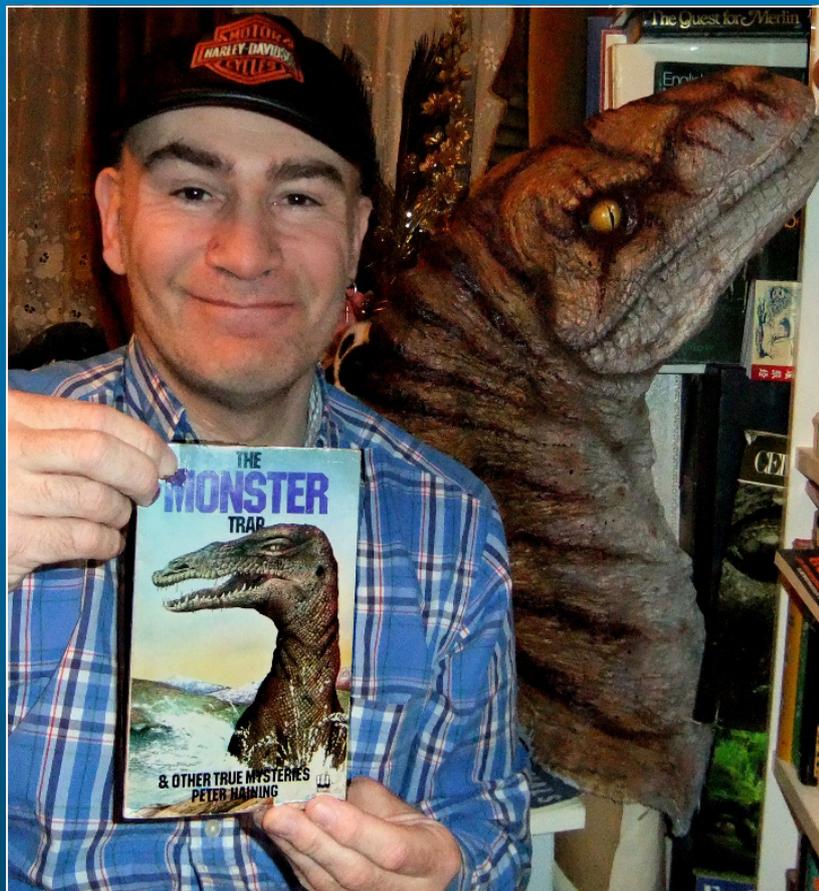
In his letter to me, Lance mentioned that he and his family had lived in Caithness, near to Loch Watten, from 1966 to 1976, during his childhood. While still living there in the early 1970s, he had read the *Leicester Mercury* article, which had belonged to his mother (it had been forwarded to her for its interest value from her father, who lived in Loughborough and always bought this newspaper), and was excited to think that such a creature may live so close to them. Whenever they passed the loch in the car, they always scanned the surface, just in case they could catch sight of the monster. Upon reading my *FT* Wattie article in September 2009, Lance realised that Haining's account matched what he could still recall from that newspaper cutting from long ago. Moreover, while subsequently clearing out the loft in the family home, he was delighted to discover it, yellowed with age but still intact, stored inside a biscuit tin crammed with other cuttings (including another John Macklin 'Stranger Than Fiction' article from the *Leicester Mercury*, this time dating from 1969 and documenting a ghostly occurrence in Hoy Harbour).

As Lance points out, what is so interesting is that the *Leicester Mercury* article predates not only Haining's book (by 10 years) but also that of George Langelaan (by a year). Consequently, it now seems that Langelaan did not originate this tale after all. Regardless of who did do so, however, no independent, substantiating evidence for its veracity or the existence in Loch Watten of a mysterious creature has ever come forward. Consequently, in my opinion the most reasonable conclusion remains that Wattie is a complete invention.

Irrespective of this, after receiving Lance's letter I lost no time in pursuing the Macklin line of investigation further. My ultimate goal was the procurement of some current contact details if he is still alive (in which case, of course, he and Haining could not be the same person!); or, if he is dead, uncovering as much biographical information concerning him as possible, in the hope of determining conclusively whether or not John Macklin was indeed merely another pen-name of Peter Haining.

In April 2010, I emailed an enquiry to Macklin regarding Wattie via Sterling, the American publisher of the most recent Macklin book that I have yet been able to trace (a children's book of true ghost stories, published by Sterling in 2006). So far, however, I have yet to receive any response from him.

Moreover, to me it seemed undeniably thought-provoking that whereas Macklin and Haining are/were both



extremely prolific authors who wrote on extremely similar subjects, none of Macklin's works are cited in the bibliographies of any of Haining's books accessed by me (or vice-versa). Equally, I have been unable to trace any indication that Macklin has published any books or articles in the years following Haining's death. And whereas photos of Haining are readily obtainable by googling his name, Google is currently (as of May 2010) unable to locate a single photograph of Macklin. Also, whereas Haining has a detailed entry in Wikipedia, Macklin (despite being a comparably prolific – and hence successful – author) has no entry whatsoever. So were Haining and Macklin the same person, with Wattie merely the figment of an inordinately prolific writer's fertile imagination? I was soon to discover the answer, which provided yet another unexpected surprise.

On 8 May, I received the fourth response to my enquiry for Wattie information. This time it was a highly illuminating email from none other than *FT*'s own Paul Sieveking, who informed me that John Macklin was indeed a pseudonym – but not of Peter Haining! Instead, it was one of many pen-names used by another author of popular-format writings on mysteries – Tony James. The plot thickens! So did Tony James originate the storyline for the Wattie tale, or is there an even earlier version out there somewhere that he had read? If anyone has current contact information for James, I'd like to hear from you!

The plot thickens! So did Tony James originate the storyline for the Wattie tale, or is there an even earlier version out there somewhere that he had read? If anyone has current contact information for James, I'd like to hear from you! Meanwhile, my sincere thanks go to Rod Williams, Ulrich Magin, and especially Lance Shirley and Paul Sieveking for shining some important light upon this increasingly complicated mystery, and I am intrigued to see if any new developments will occur in the future. After all, as a certain cult television series used to proclaim, the truth is out there – it's finding it that's the problem!

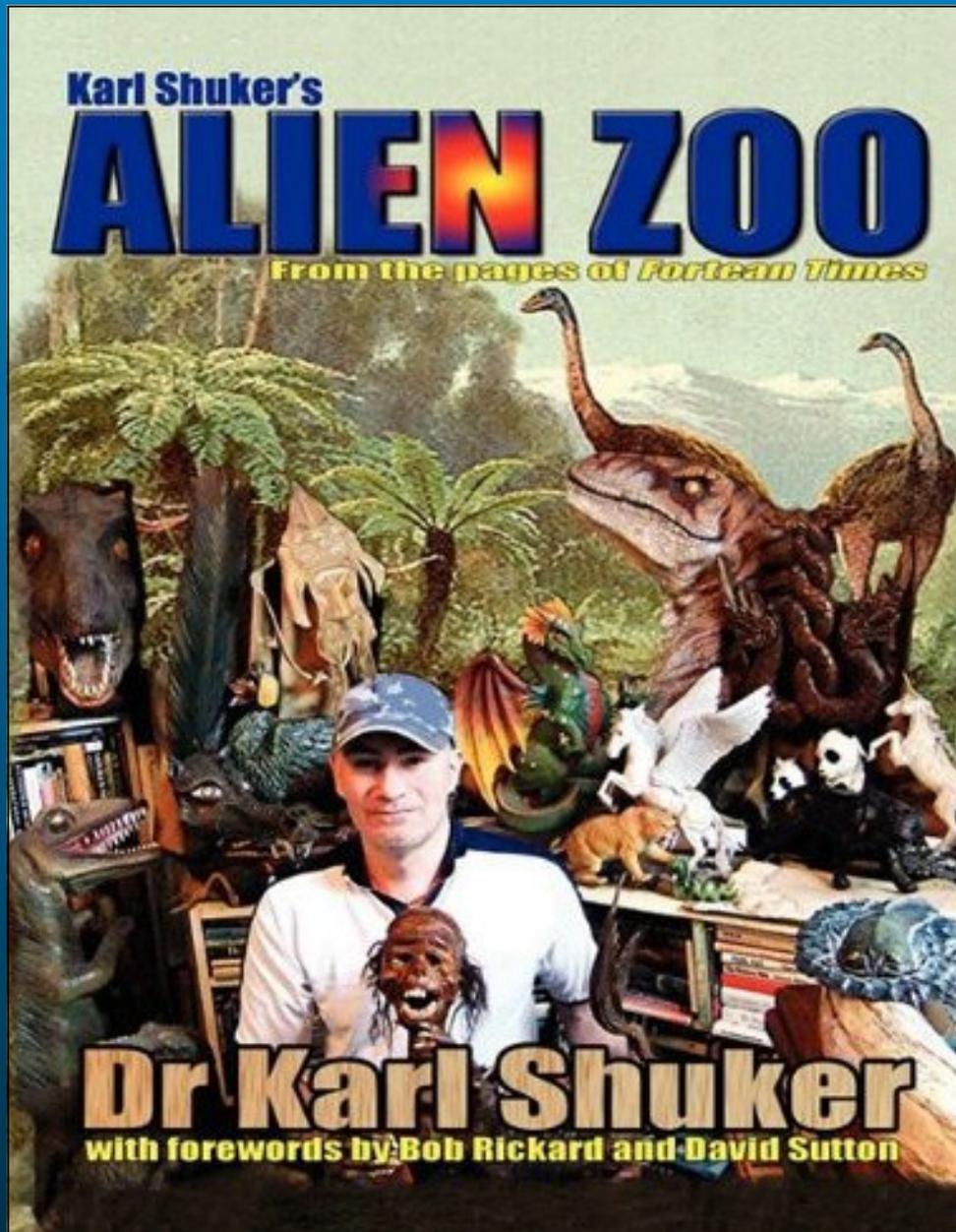
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Dr. Kark Shuker's 'Alien Zoo' is now available to purchase at Amazon:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Karl-Shukers-Alien-Zoo-Rickard/dp/1905723628/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1300292658&sr=1-1

Read our review of Alien Zoo on the next page...



It's a little difficult, to say the least, to write a review of a book by someone you like and respect - that said, I'm going to give it my best, and most unbiased shot...

Karl Shuker stands alone in the cryptozoological field. He is, without a doubt, the most knowledgeable and respected British cryptozoologist in the world today, and possibly the only person I would ever trust to give me an honest answer to any questions I may have on the subject – and no, he didn't pay me to say that.

The Shukes 'Alien Zoo' column in the popular Fortean Times magazine is read avidly worldwide, not only for its exceedingly interesting and diverse subject matter, but also for the unique and captivating way Karl manages to enchant whilst downloading information directly into the brains of his beguiled audience – and within this seemingly innocent book, these tales of unknown 'monsters', mythical mermaids and out of place marsupials truly are brought to life..

For readers already familiar with Dr. Shukes work – this book is not his best, nor is it his worst. This book simply has the same high standard of writing and description of each individual article, case or report that is evident in everything he does, and evoking that well known mantra from the lips of us poor mortal researchers '*When I grow up, I wanna be Karl Shuker*'.

P.S – I'd just like to add I had to fight the assistant editor - Dave Sadler to review this book, and even though I won hands down I don't get to keep my copy because it's been stolen by my fourteen year old daughter Grace...

Kirst Mason D'Raven.

Available at Amazon.co.uk : £14.24





A CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN REDDISH

FROM THE MAPIT ARCHIVES - 1977

The following incident came to the attention of MAPIT during February 1977. The encounter was witnessed by three children (two of them twins aged ten years old). Their parents are very respectable people and due to possible bad publicity, they do not wish their names to be used. Therefore, the children shall be referred to as Susan and John Harris.

Before I go any further I wish to point out that the third witness, whom shall be referred to as Paul Smith, was not interviewed; the reason being that when he was contacted by MAPIT, he denied all knowledge of the incident. Upon speaking to John Harris it became clear that Paul's parents had told him to say nothing to anyone.

The incident took place in North Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire, UK. The exact date is not known, but the events took place in the latter part of August 1976, on a Friday afternoon between the hours of 12.00 noon and 1.00pm. The area in which the observation occurred is a long plot of waste land overlooked by Reddish Vale Golf Club with railway lines running alongside. Further to end of this land is a local Primary School and reservoir.

The children were playing on the waste land, around a hut which had been constructed for them by a neighbour. Susan was tired and thirsty so she went into the hut to make herself and the boys some orange drinks. The boys remained outside playing by some bushes. Suddenly the boys saw a flash of silver pass before their eyes, and heard a crackling noise coming from the direction of the bush. Then, from within the bushes, there appeared a figure wearing a silver, one-piece garment. He had a short grey beard and yellow, longish hair. The boys stood aghast because he was floating about six inches above the ground! Then all of a sudden the figure vanished.

Meanwhile, Susan was completing the drinks as was unaware, at this point, of the incident outside: But then she heard a rustling noise outside the hut and then as she looked through the window she saw for herself the same bearded figure, who was staring into her face.

figure, who was staring into her face. She did not know who it was so she stared back at him. The figure then removed a small shovel from a belt around his waist and began digging up samples of soil and placing them in a small see-through bag around his waist.

Susan for some reason then felt scared and screamed for the boys. As soon as she did this, the figure again vanished into thin air. She ran outside and after discussing the incident the children agreed it was the same figure. The children then decided to look around and see if he was still about the area. They all began to walk towards the school playground nearby, and then spotted him, he was near the school fence, bent over taking more samples.

After a few minutes the figure appeared to go into the ground and again had disappeared. As they walked nearer the school fence they saw a silver, saucer-shaped object rise slowly from the playground and move off in a westerly direction until out of sight.

The figure was as tall as Susan and John's father, who is 5'-9", it had a very pale complexion and was wearing a one-piece silver garment, "like a track suit". The pants at the bottom did appear to be "elastic-like" and there were also four or five buttons running down along the chest. The hair was yellow with a grey beard, the eyes were like "cats" or with a shovel and plastic (?) sample bags hanging all the way round. The footwear appeared to be boots with thick black soles on them, the hands were covered with silver gloves. No sound or smell was emitted at any time from the figure.

It is unfortunate that we found out about this case after so long a delay, since any possible traces had long since disappeared. One part of the encounter which does sound like fantasy, is when the figure allegedly went into the ground.

On Investigation at the exact spot where the figure had been bending, a possible explanation was uncovered. As the children were about 400 yards away from the figure, they could have mistaken his bending down in a hollow and ducking under the fence (which was broken at the exact spot) and walking into the playground, as going into the ground. This is quite feasible remembering the rough land in between the figure and the young witnesses.

In closing, may I say that I was very impressed by the Harris family and I am keeping in touch with them in case of any further developments. If there is anyone reading this who would like to prove the "teenager observer" aspect, I would very much like to hear from them:

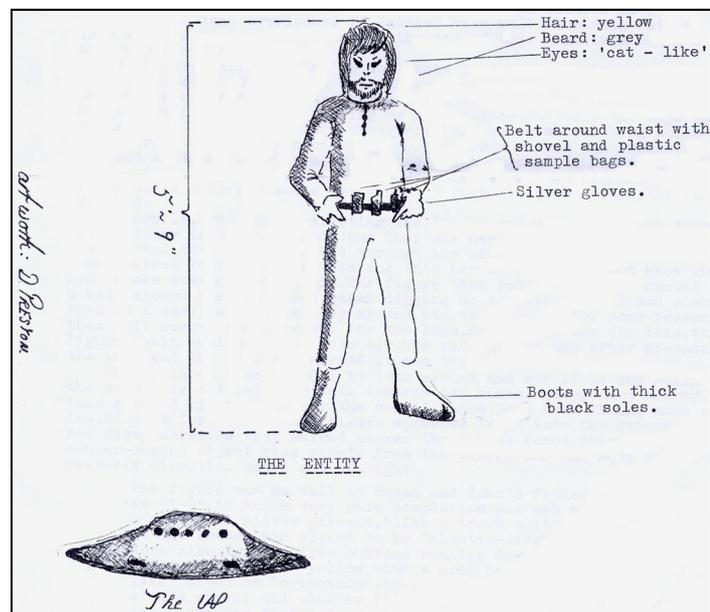
Compiled by the late David Rees (MAPIT Founder) and investigator Dean Preston.

This document is exactly how it was written back in 1977 - No alterations have taken place.

Reconstructed by Steve Mera BSc. - (current MAPIT Chair).



MAPIT was first formed by David Rees in August of 1974 and was situated in Stockport UK. At that time MAPIT investigators only researched UFO incidents, hence its name being : Manchester's Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team. David Rees was the editor of Skywatch Magazine and ran the organisation until it was taken over by Stephen Mera in 1996. Stephen reformed the organisation to incorporate the scientific study of anomalous phenomena. A much wider range of phenomena was to be investigated and researched. MAPIT became : Manchester's Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Team. In January of 2000 MAPIT went under another reformation and changed its name to : Manchester's Association of Paranormal Investigators & Training.



UFO FILES REVEAL RENDLESHAM PAPERS MISSING!

Intelligence papers on a reported UFO sighting known as the "Rendlesham incident" have gone missing, files from the National Archives reveal. The missing files relate to a report of mysterious lights from US servicemen at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1980. The disappearance came to light with the release of 8,000 previously classified documents on UFO's. Officials found a "huge" gap where defence intelligence files relating to the case should be, the papers show. The documents are the latest MoD files on UFO's released into the National Archives which were free to access on its website for a month. *"There is nothing to convince Her Majesty's government that there has ever been a single visit by an alien spacecraft"* Lord Stabolgi Government spokesman.

Photographs and sketches of UFOs made by members of the public are included, as well as their eyewitness reports. Among the documents is testimony from an airline pilot and his son who say they spent five minutes watching an object made up of three circles fly past their garden in Hellingly, East Sussex. The pilot reported it to Air Traffic Control in West Drayton, and an official labelled his sighting as one by *"a credible witness"*. But another defence official later wrote a memo saying the report *"contains nothing of air defence significance"*. More attention is given to the crew of an RAF Tornado who encountered an object the size of a C130 Hercules transport aircraft while flying over the North Sea in 1990. The pilot describes flying at Mach 0.8 but being overtaken by an aircraft the like of which he had never seen before. He talks about lights and even *"an engine area"* but the files also show how a possible explanation emerges - a Russian rocket booster was re-entering the earth's atmosphere on that same night. Another file released reveals six small "flying saucers" were found by members of the public in locations across southern England in 1967. Four police forces and the army were mobilised before it emerged the incident was a rag-day hoax by engineering students from Farnborough Technical College.

There is also a report from a London man who believed he may have been abducted by aliens. The files reveal that key documentation relating to the Rendlesham Forest incident has disappeared. Some UFO researchers believe the episode, which happened over two nights in 1980 is a classic example of a "close encounter". The incident took place near the fence of RAF Woodbridge - at that time being used by the US Air Force. A group of servicemen reported seeing strange lights in the trees near the base and after investigating found marks on the ground and damage to vegetation. The files reveal the MoD received a request for its own records of the incident in 2000, but when officials looked they discovered a "huge" gap where defence intelligence files relating to it should be. The hunt generated a series of notes, with one official speculating that the files could have been taken home by someone and another remarking that *"it could be interpreted to mean that a deliberate attempt had been made to eradicate the records covering this incident"*. However, among intelligence papers released in 2009, it was revealed that former Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton wrote to the defence secretary about incident in 1985, speculating that an unauthorised aircraft may have entered and left UK airspace at the time. But it is not the only gap in the official record. In 2002 the MoD received a request for information from Lord Hill-Norton. He wanted to know about reports of a UFO sighting made by HMS Manchester while on exercise in the 1990s. It emerged in the file that HMS Manchester's log for one of the periods was lost overboard after "a gust of wind" and the vessel's captain cannot remember anything unusual taking place. This latest tranche of documents covers not just people who contacted the Ministry of Defence after seeing lights or objects, but also sheds some light on official thinking about this aspect of the paranormal. Concern about

UFOs and what they might be went up to senior level and lasted several years. Officials were dismayed when in 1977 the then Prime Minister of Grenada Sir Eric Gairy wanted to call for the United Nations to set up a unit to investigate the phenomenon. Sketches of UFOs are among the files released by the National Archives. The files show how Britain was concerned the idea would drag the UN into disrepute. The premier was persuaded to withdraw his proposal but went on to call for 1978 to be designated "the year of the UFO". He was deposed in a coup the following year. UFOs have only ever received one debate in Parliament. It came in the House of Lords in 1979, at the height of the "winter of discontent", and the files show how officials laboured to prepare a government position on the topic. At the end of the discussion the government spokesman Lord Stabolgi summed up what remains the official position now. *"There is nothing to convince Her Majesty's government that there has ever been a single visit by an alien spacecraft. As for telling the public the truth about UFOs, the truth is simple. There really are many strange phenomena in the sky, and these are invariably reported by rational people. But there is a wide range of natural explanations to account for such phenomena."*

The recent MOD UFO Files released on March 2011 can be found at:
<http://ufos.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>



We've built a flying saucer, boasts Iran (even if it does look like it belongs in a 1950s B-movie)

Mail Online
By Michael Theodoulou
March 18th 2011

It's not clear how far or how high it can fly – or even how big it is and what makes it take off. But an aircraft created by scientists in Iran is, they claim, the world's first flying saucer. Called the Zohal - or Saturn in English - it said the unmanned spaceship is designed for 'aerial imaging' but added it can be used for 'various missions'.

The headline Fars news agency illustrated its story with a photo of a flying saucer, akin to one appearing in a 1950s Hollywood B-movie, hovering over an unidentified wooded landscape.



For president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the advances demonstrate Iran's ability to push on with its science programme despite international sanctions over its nuclear programme. The reports gave no indication of the spaceship's size. But they indicated it was small by claiming, somewhat bizarrely, that it can also fly indoors. 'Easy transportation and launch and flying, making less noise, are some of the advantages of the device,' said ISNA, Iran's students' news agency. 'The device belonging to the new generation of vertical flyers is designed for aerial photography.'

'It is equipped with autopilot, image stabiliser and GPS and has a separate system for aerial recording with full HD quality!' Iran, which prides itself on its 2,500 year-old civilisation, is also keen to show that it is at the cutting edge of modern science. Tehran's ambitious space programme alarms the West because the same technology used to send missiles into space can be used to build intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Last year the country announced it had successfully fired a rocket that carried a mouse, a turtle and worms into space. Tehran insists it will be able to send a man into space in nine years' time. For president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the advances demonstrate the country's ability to push on with its science programme despite international sanctions over its nuclear programme.

The flying saucer was said to have been unveiled at an exhibition of 'strategic technologies' attended by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. At the same time Iran's Space Agency launched a test spacecraft designed to sustain life in orbit.

The state IRNA news agency said the capsule was carried by a rocket called the Kavoshgar-4 (Explorer-4) 75 miles into orbit before returning to earth. Iran's often outlandish scientific claims usually prove difficult to confirm. American naval forces in the Persian Gulf have yet to come across a 'super-modern' radar-evading flying boat Iran claimed to have tested four years ago.

Or maybe Iran's spaceship looks like this...?



'A typical flying saucer shaped craft, seen in the movie 'The Day the Earth Stood Still'. I guess we will just have to wait and see what this mysterious Iran Flying Saucer looks like ...

Panther on the prowl

Could there be a panther on the loose in Golborne? Police are investigating a series of animal mutilations, which could be the work of a panther. The partially-eaten bodies of three adult swans and two dead lambs were found at Three Sisters Recreation Area on Golborne Road, Golborne, and at an adjoining farm. The discovery comes a fortnight after at number of civil servants from the DWP's benefits call centre at nearby Griffin House, in Bryn, told of seeing a panther-like animal sunning itself in a tree, and on the roof of a building from their office windows. Police today would not comment directly on the claims that a potentially dangerous wild animal is stalking the site.



However, officers from Bamfurlong Police Station are known to have interviewed Julie Fairclough, who first spotted the big cat, specifically about her shock sighting. A spokesman for Wigan Police said: "On Friday, February 11, police were called to Golborne Road, Wigan, following reports two lambs had been found dead. "At just after 10am on Sunday, February 13, police were called to the Three Sisters Recreation area following reports three swans had been found dead. Officers from the Ashton-in-Makerfield Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Hindley Neighbourhood Policing Team and the division's wildlife crime officer are supporting inquiries being made by the Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust Ranger Service." A spokesman for Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, which manages the Three Sisters site, said: "We can confirm that three swans have been found dead since Sunday. We have been liaising with the police and are investigating the matter. We have contacted experts to help us identify the type of animal that may have carried out these attacks." Mrs Fairclough, who has completed 30 years service for the DWP, said today that she was pleased that the police were taking the issue seriously. But she made a plea that if a big cat is at large on the sprawling Three Sisters site, it must not be shot. She wants experts to mount a humane operation to have it captured safely, and then released into a zoo park. Mrs Fairclough, of Hindley, plus half a dozen of her colleagues at the DWP, spotted the mysterious black beast from their office windows.



The creature was observed for some time at about 150 yards away, at one point climbing a tree and settling in to survey its unlikely territory. It then jumped on to a wall and a roof, before disappearing into the undergrowth. Three Sisters, formerly a colliery site named after three now-flattened volcano-shaped pit rucks, connects with open land as far away as Bickershaw and Abram. Mrs Fairclough said: "I've got a tom cat called Oliver who weighs in at a stone and four pounds, so I know the difference between a big pet and this amazing animal."

But Wigan Leisure Trust's countryside manager Graham Workman, who was once called out by police after reports of a lion stalking through the undergrowth of Worthington Lakes, still believes the six benefits staff were mistaken. Three Sisters wardens fear that the attacks could be the result of lurcher-owners illegally training their dogs to hunt – or a large dog fox. Mr Workman warned: "Animals seen at that type of range with the naked eye can be very difficult to identify accurately. Animals like this have to be registered with the local authority under the Dangerous Wild Animals legislation, but there are none registered here, so there are none that were living legally in captivity here in the borough or the surrounds. I believe that the staff have seen, literally, a big domestic black cat, and the perspectives have been playing tricks on them. I have been over there in the snow many times this winter. I have never seen any tracks that could suggest we have a creature anywhere near that size ranging around Three Sisters."

Frodsham Mystery remains unsolved.

MAPIT was recently contacted by the BBC in regards a couple from Frodsham claiming that they were having to stay in hotels because it was simply too frightening to stay at their flat, due to regular paranormal disturbances. As seen on BBC Look North west, Steve Mera of MAPIT attended the location and carried out a number of interviews. The couple explained that they would regularly hear footsteps in their hallway and something would knock on their bedroom door and scratch at the walls. On one occasion, the couple described how their bed suddenly lifted from the floor and then dropped, causing a supporting piece of wood underneath to break. They also claimed to have seen strange balls of light and dark moving shapes. CCTV had been installed throughout the building and now, the couple claim to have captured something strange on video.



Steve Mera looked over the video and concluded that what they had captured was nothing more than an illuminated dust particle, due to the infra-red camera lens. Steve went on to demonstrate how such things can be filmed and replicated the footage whilst the couple watched. However, Steve believes that they may still be something strange going on. 'It would seem that the couple have experienced many different things in their home. Things that cannot be easily rationalized'. 'Either the couple are not being honest, or there is something going on here' - Steve said. The couple have also reported the sound of crying coming from their bedroom wall. Steve have talked with local residents who confirmed that they were aware of the couple's story. Steve was planning on revisiting the location to conduct further research, however, the couple have now decided to flee their home and move back to France.

What was it that driven this couple to pay more than £3000.00 in hotel costs and to finally drive them from their home. Maybe we will never know... Steve is continuing his research just in case the next tenant to take over the Frodsham flat reports similar disturbances...

NASA scientist finds evidence of alien life?

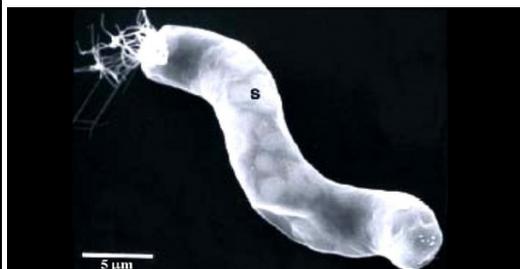
By Andrew Coutts – March 5th 2011

Aliens exist, and we have proof!

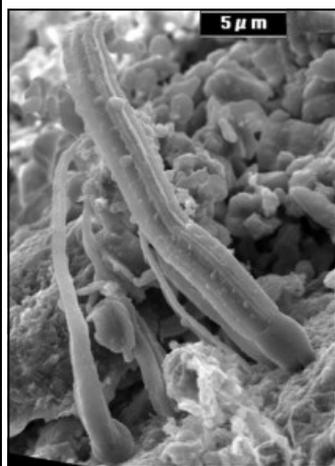
That astonishingly awesome claim comes from Dr. Richard B. Hoover, an astrobiologist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, who says he has found conclusive evidence of alien life — fossils of bacteria found in an extremely rare class of meteorite called CI1 carbonaceous chondrites. (There are only nine such meteorites on planet Earth.) Hoover's findings were published late Friday night in the *Journal of Cosmology*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

"I interpret it as indicating that life is more broadly distributed than restricted strictly to the planet earth," Hoover, who has spent more than 10 years studying meteorites around the world, told FoxNews.com in an interview. "This field of study has just barely been touched — because quite frankly, a great many scientist [sic] would say that this is impossible."

Hoover discovered the fossils by breaking apart the CI1 meteorite, and analyzing the exposed rock with a scanning-electron microscope and a field emission electron-scanning microscope, which allowed him to detect any fossil remains. What he found were fossils of micro-organisms (pictured below), many of which he says are strikingly similar to those found on our own planet (pictured below).



"The exciting thing is that they are in many cases recognizable and can be associated very closely with the generic species here on earth," said Hoover. Some of the fossils, however, are quite odd. "There are some that are just very strange and don't look like anything that I've been able to identify, and I've shown them to many other experts that have also come up stump."



In order to satisfy the inevitable hoard of buzz-killing skeptics, Hoover's study and evidence were made available to his peers in the scientific community in advance of the study's publications, giving them a chance to thoroughly dissect his findings. Comments from those who decided to sift through the evidence will be published online, alongside the study.

"Given the controversial nature of his discovery, we have invited 100 experts and have issued a general invitation to over 5,000 scientists from the scientific community to review the paper and to offer their critical analysis," writes Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics scientist Dr. Rudy Schild, who serves as the Journal of Cosmology's editor-in-chief. "No other paper in the history of science has undergone such a thorough vetting, and never before in the history of science has the scientific community been given the opportunity to critically analyze an important research paper before it is published."

Needless to say, if conclusions are found to be accurate, the implications for human life will be staggering.

Update: While the *Journal of Cosmology* says that "no other paper in the history of science has undergone such a thorough vetting," some highly respected names in the scientific community are challenging the validity of *Cosmology*, and the findings of Dr. Hoover.

"(The Journal of Cosmology) isn't a real science journal at all," says PZ Meyers in Science Blogs, "but is the ginned-up website of a small group of crank academics obsessed with the idea of Hoyle and Wickramasinghe that life originated in outer space and simply rained down on Earth."

So... Is this proof conclusive? Hmmm. Not really! First seen on 14 May 1864, in the shape of an enormous fireball in the sky over southern France, the Orgueil meteorite is making headlines again – though this time its appearance has mostly been ill-received. NASA scientist Richard Hoover at the Marshall Space Flight Center near Huntsville, Alabama, published a paper in the *Journal of Cosmology* claiming that fragments collected from the Orgueil meteorite and two similar meteorites contain fossilised bacteria. Hoover made nearly identical claims in 2004 and again in 2007. This time, Hoover says that fibrous structures in the meteorites are almost exactly the same size and shape as photosynthetic bacteria found on Earth, especially one relatively large bacterium called *Titanospirillum velox*.

Scientists are currently debating whether there is enough evidence to accept that the filamentous structures inside the meteorites are, as Hoover claims, biological organisms from outer space, whether they are in fact terrestrial bacteria that wormed their way into the meteorite after it crashed or whether the squiggles are nothing more than naturally occurring mineral structures that, to an eager researcher's eye, may very well look like bacteria. So far, the consensus is that the last of these possibilities adheres most closely to principle of Occam's razor...

A Virgin Mary on the rocks: Religious apparition in couple's holiday snaps of rugged cliff face on Cornish coastline.

The Daily Mail: March 3rd 2011



When she took this photo of dramatic cliffs soaring above a churning sea, Caroline Gray was hoping for a memorable landscape shot. What she got was a portrait – of a ghostly figure she believes looks like the Virgin Mary.

Mrs Gray, 38, said the grey figure of a woman, who appears to be holding a lamp aloft, was not visible when she focused her digital camera at the rocks on a visit to Western Beach in Newquay. But when she got home from her Cornish holiday and went through her snaps, she said the woman had mysteriously appeared in the cliffs.

'There was absolutely nobody else on the beach at the time, which makes this all the more intriguing,' Mrs Gray said from her home in Chester. 'It looks like a pregnant woman and she appears to be holding a lamp. It certainly looks like the Virgin Mary.'

The mother of three was in Newquay on a Valentine's Day break with her husband Stephen, 53, last month. She took the photo at about midday on February 14. It is not known whether Mrs Gray holds any religious conviction of her own although she, for one, would not be surprised if pilgrims flock to Newquay to search for Mary in the cliffs.

'I don't know if it would still be visible if you went there to see it, but I'm sure that won't stop people from trying,' she said.

Suggestions that the figure may be nothing more than a trick of the light were brushed aside.

'Some people have suggested that it may be just a light reflection, but the sun was behind the rock face at the time and it would have filled the whole cave instead of just forming a perfect image,' she said. 'The image was definitely not a natural part of the rock formation as it was not visible at the time.'

But she is at a loss to explain how the figure appeared in the rocks. The Virgin Mary was said to have appeared before a 14-year-old schoolgirl in Lourdes, France, in 1858, telling the child to dig a spring. The water was said to have healing properties and up to six million pilgrims a year now visit the site to pray. Thousands also flocked to Limerick, Ireland, in 2009 when an image of the Virgin Mary was said to have appeared on a tree stump. And in 2004 a toasted cheese sandwich said to show an image of Mary sold on eBay for £17,000.

Below is another Virgin Mary recently taken from a low flying aircraft. The image was seen whilst flying over a construction site near the M6 Motorway during March 2011...



A SAUCERFUL OF SECRETS

STEP BACK 40 YEARS TO THE HEADY DAYS OF 1967 AS ANDY ROBERTS EXPLAINS HOW THE SUMMER OF LOVE WAS IN PART SHAPED BY THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT'S FASCINATION WITH FLYING SAUCERS.

"...UFOs were not just in the air, they'd become a religion and the word a common sacrament to everyone who'd tripped." - Neil Oram

The word hippie conjures visions of brightly clad youth rebelling against society while advocating peace, free love and the right to alter their consciousnesses in whatever way they chose. But behind the fashions and fads, the hippie underground movement in the UK was responsible for the greatest expansion of interest and belief in fortaean phenomena in history. Social historians invariably associate the hippie movement with Eastern religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism, sources of both inspiration and imagery, and the hippies' interest in these belief systems has been well documented. But there was another alternative to the blinkered Western worldview of the 1960s already deeply embedded in the British cultural psyche, and already present in the lives of those who would form the movement known as the Underground – the flying saucer culture.



In the mid-1960s, although flying saucers were being discussed among the influential group of post-beatniks and modern mystics who would form the core of the Underground, the nascent movement lacked a voice. A figurehead was needed, someone who could breathe life into the background hum of belief in flying saucers, articulating it for the burgeoning subculture.

That voice came in the form of John Michell, whose influence on the Underground, and fortaean in general, cannot be overestimated. Like many of his generation, Michell was disillusioned by the acquisitive post-war society: "When I was at Cambridge, the whole atmosphere was extremely rationalistic, materialistic. Everyone believed the current academic orthodoxies of the time and there seemed no way of questioning them."

UFOs first caught Michell's imagination in the 1950s when he noticed that "it was quite obvious that people were having experiences that weren't allowed for within the context of our education. There was a split between the view of the world we'd been taught and accepted unquestioningly and the world of actual experience." To Michell, flying saucers were more than just 'nuts-and-bolts' craft; they were one of a number of phenomena which became attached to the 'Matter of Britain'. This corpus of belief largely concerned itself with the legends of King Arthur and the Holy Grail and was focused on the Somerset town of Glastonbury.

The View Over Glastonbury

Glastonbury is firmly embedded in the public consciousness as a centre of all things strange. Since the early 20th century, it has been the pulse of alternative Britain and has seen wave after wave of settlers arrive there, each seeking their personal Holy Grail. This vortex of the weird was well known to John Michell, who decided to experience the 'Glastonbury effect' for himself:

*"It was, I think, in 1966 that I first went to Glastonbury, in the company of Harry Fainlight... We had no very definite reason for going there, but it had something to do with... strange lights in the sky, new music, and our conviction that the world was about to flip over on its axis so that heresy would become orthodoxy and an entirely new world-order would shortly be revealed. At that time I was writing the first of my published books, *The Flying Saucer Vision*. It followed up the*

idea, first put forward by CG Jung in his 1959 book on flying saucers, that the strange lights and other phenomena of the post-war period were portents of a radical change in human consciousness coinciding with the dawn of the Aquarian Age. A theme in my book was the connection between 'unidentified flying objects' and ancient sites, as evidenced both in folklore and in contemporary experience."

'According to Mitchell, UFO's were constantly being sighted over St. Michael's Tower on Glastonbury Tor'

In this statement, Michell encapsulated an entirely new way of looking at flying saucers and their meaning.

Michell may have been the catalyst and helmsman for the hippies' interests in flying saucers but the motive power was provided by the drug LSD, which had hit London during 1964–5. LSD, or acid as it was known, was quickly taken up by the countercultural mystic vanguard and suddenly everything was not only possible, it was likely!

Art gallery owner and Underground luminary Barry Miles summed up the effect of the drug on the hippies: "From the mid-Sixties onwards you have what would have to be called a sort of LSD consciousness permeating the whole of the counterculture side of British society. And you get it in the songs of Pink Floyd... all these bands incorporate LSD-inspired imagery, and that of course was not the normal imagery of love songs and picking up girls, it was much more to do with a sort of specifically British form of psychedelia which involved dancing gnomes and flying saucers".

The combination of a new generation of seekers with powerful psychedelic drugs revived Glastonbury as a spiritual centre. Now, in addition to



Andy Roberts has been interested in strange phenomena since he was a child. He began active investigation and research of UFOs in 1983. He has been active in many investigation groups, including BUFORA and the IUN and is one of the country's leading ufologists.

His main fields of study are: the social history of ufology in the UK, UK contactees, UK UFO crashes, specifically the Berwyn Mountain UFO crash, foo-fighters, the Warminster phenomenon, UFO hoaxes, and witness perception.

His position statement on UFOs is: Humans have witnessed unexplained aerial phenomena for millennia. Each generation has its own interpretation of what these phenomena are, from flying dragons to phantom airships to extraterrestrial craft. As no physical evidence for any of these interpretations has been found it is a reasonable assumption that all UFO phenomenon is a mixture of witness perception and belief, together with the processes of folklore and mythology, well stirred by a compliant media.

*Besides a dedication to the subject of ufology Andy is also active in the field of Fortean research and has written widely about such diverse subjects as *The Big Grey Man* of Ben Macdhui, *Screaming Skull Legends*, *the Genius Loci* and the telepathy experiments carried out by the *Grateful Dead*, among others.*

When not answering the call of the weird he manages several hostels for homeless young people in Wrexham and pursues many other interests including hill walking, kite flying and UFO hoaxing.

King Arthur, the terrestrial zodiacs and other landscape legends, flying saucers were also woven into the tapestry of belief. Issue one of the Underground magazine Albion, edited by Michell, provides the visual clues; dragons and UFOs appear in the skies over Glastonbury Tor, while swords, serpents and geomantic imagery are visible in the Earth below. A new meaning for flying saucers was being forged, and to the Underground this blend of saucers, sacred sites and mythology was a damn sight more interesting than the nuts-and-bolts, sci-fi derived vision of the UFO orthodoxy.

‘It would be easy to dismiss the Underground’s fascination with saucers if it weren’t for the fact that 1967 was a huge ‘flap’ year for UFO sightings in the UK’.

Andy Roberts is the author of:

Catflaps: Anomalous Big Cats in the North, Brigantia Books, 1986/CFZ 2001

Phantoms of the Sky (with David Clarke), Robert Hale, 1989/90

Earthlights Revelation (contributing author), Blandford, 1991

Ghosts & Legends of Yorkshire, Jarrold, 1992

Twilight of the Celtic Gods (with David Clarke) Blandford, 1996/97

The UFOs That Never Were (with Jenny Randles & David Clarke - Feb. 2000)

Out of the Shadows (with David Clarke), Piatkus, 2002

Strange Secrets (with Nick Redfern), Paraview, 2005

In addition Andy has contributed chapters to the following compilations:

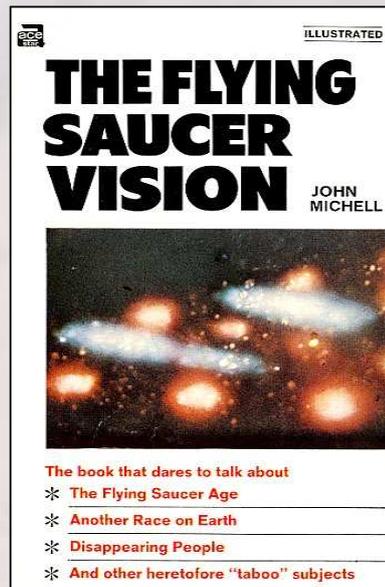
UFOs 1947-87, Fortean Tomes, 1987
Phenomenon, Macdonald & Co., 1988

Fortean Studies 3, John Brown Publishing, 1996

Fortean Studies 5, John Brown Publishing 1999

Barry Miles was also aware of the attraction Glastonbury held for those in the counterculture: “The King’s Road led straight to Glastonbury in those days... The people we knew led double lives, experimenting with acid, spending entire evenings discussing flying saucers, ley lines and the court of King Arthur. Other people waited patiently at Arthur’s Tor for flying saucers to land.” And as word got around that Glastonbury was the new ‘window area’ for UFO sightings, more and more hippies made it a place of pilgrimage. According to Michell, “UFOs were constantly being sighted over St Michael’s Tower on Glastonbury Tor. Mark Palmer, Maldwyn Thomas and their group were then travelling with horses and carts on pilgrimages across England. They often camped near the Tor, and while I was with them we used to watch the nightly manoeuvrings of lights in the sky. Jung’s prophecy of aerial portents being followed by a change in consciousness was evidently being fulfilled.”

Craig Sams, who set up England’s first macrobiotic restaurant, was also a Glastonbury enthusiast: “I didn’t see a flying saucer till October 1967 when I went to Glastonbury. One day I got a ’phone call from Mark Palmer saying that it would be a good idea to come



down, that there was a lot of UFO activity, that John Michell, who had just written *The Flying Saucer Vision*, was camping down there, and Michael Rainey. So here we are in the field and up come the UFOs. We weren’t tripping, I’d given up acid. I was completely normal, maybe I’d had a cup of tea about half an hour before... Mark Palmer saw them – they were definitely there. They were in the classic cigar-shaped mother-ship form. Little lights emanating from them. Then at one point you saw these other lights coming up towards them and the smaller lights just shot into the cigar-shaped mother-ship, which then just disappeared at high speed. The other lights had been RAF jets. It was obvious that the RAF had scrambled some jets.”

It would be easy to dismiss the Underground’s fascination with saucers if it weren’t for the fact that 1967 was a huge ‘flap’ year for UFO sightings in the UK. This wasn’t just a ‘hippie thing’ – it was even happening to policemen, who chased them for hours in their patrol cars. The MOD was so inundated by UFO reports it radically changed its UFO policy and set up a team of investigators to interview civilian UFO witnesses, the first time this had been done.

Saucer Rock

As flying saucers became further embedded in popular culture, rock musicians were becoming interested in them as a means of expressing the psychedelic experience. Music promoter Joe Boyd consolidated the link between drugs, music and flying saucers when he named one of the first hippie clubs, on London’s Tottenham

Court Road, ‘UFO’. Although ‘Unidentified Flying Object’ was only one of its meanings, advertisements in *International Times* (it) showed a flying saucer hovering over the head of a dancing hippie. Most musical histories of the psychedelic era use Eastern influences – sitars and raga-like instrumentals – as the primary indicator of how ‘far out’ the music was. But there was another aspect of psychedelia steeped in saucers and space.

Pink Floyd’s first album *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn* included the atmospheric pæan to deep space *Astronomy Domini*, possibly the first song to use outer space as a metaphor for inner space. By their second album, Pink Floyd had further absorbed saucer culture, entitling it *A Saucerful of Secrets*, and were mixing ideas of UFOs and the secrets of the mind (with, perhaps, a nod toward a particularly potent batch of LSD called ‘flying saucers’). The sleeve artwork left fans in no doubt that space – inner or outer – was the place: swirling universes and spinning discs mixed with signs of the zodiac (adapted from the Marvel Comics encounter between Dr Strange and the Living Tribunal). The album’s keynote song, *Set The Controls For The Heart Of The Sun*, became the backdrop for many psychedelic journeys toward dawn.

Even the Rolling Stones – possibly the least spiritual band of the Sixties generation – took an interest in saucers. John Michell accompanied them on a saucer-spotting mission to Stonehenge, while singer Marianne Faithfull recalls the Stones’ ill-starred rhythm guitarist Brian Jones taking a great interest in Michell’s ideas on the subject; “Like a lot of people at the time, myself included, he was convinced there was a mystic link between druidic monuments and flying saucers. Extraterrestrials were going to read these signs from their spaceship windows and get the message. It was the local credo: Glastonbury, ley lines and intelligent life in outer space...” Similarly, the Stones’ Keith Richards was more than curious about saucers: “I’ve seen a few, but nothing any of the ministries would believe,” he told a *Melody Maker* journalist. “I believe they exist – plenty of people have seen them. They are tied up with a lot of things, like the dawn of man, for example. It’s not just a matter of people spotting a flying saucer. I’m not an expert. I’m still trying to understand what’s going on.”

Throughout his career, David Bowie has flirted with the idea of ‘the alien’,

often mentioning extraterrestrials in songs such as Starman, and creating the Ziggy Stardust persona. In the late 1960s, before he was catapulted to fame with the single Space Oddity, he claimed to have been closely involved with flying saucer research. In 1975, he revealed to Creem magazine: "I used to work for two guys who put out a UFO magazine in England about six years ago. And I made sightings six, seven times a night for about a year, when I was in the observatory. We had regular cruises that came over. We knew the 6.15 was coming in and would meet up with another one. And they would be stationary for about half an hour, and then after verifying what they'd been doing that day, they'd shoot off." The fact that the '6.15' was so regular over south London should have given Bowie a hint that it might have been an aircraft rather than a UFO! Bowie's active interest in UFO research dwindled as his fame as a performer grew, but it can't have been helped by this event, recounted in a recent issue of *The Word*: "An early attempt, while living in Beckenham, to attract extraterrestrials involved standing on his roof at dusk pointing a coat hanger into the skies. He gave up, dejectedly, when a passer-by enquired, 'Do you get BBC2?'"

Notes From the Underground

If music was one way of spreading the flying saucer message through the Underground, then poster art was another powerful method. Artists created lavish posters for even the smallest-scale event, incorporating the myths, signs and symbols of the era with visual images of the music and musicians. Barry Miles recalled: "The symbol of the flying saucer on the posters of Michael English and Nigel Weymouth and the references in all of the songs wasn't just used as a graphic symbol or a convenient lyrical device. People did feel that flying saucers were shorthand for a wider, deeper understanding, a sort of god figure I suppose or a sense of an external spiritual deity of some sort. There was one clothes shop called Hung On You that Michael Rainey had, and he very much believed in flying saucers, and there was a lot of flying saucer imagery all over the shop."

As saucers permeated the hippie subculture, they began to appear more frequently in the underground press. *International Times* featured many articles and book reviews concerning saucers, engaging John Michell as its 'UFO correspondent'.

In the 16 June 1967 issue, it reviewed *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, the first UFO book by French scientist and influential ufologist Jacques Vallee. Reviewer Greg Sams used the argot of the period to express what a significant book it was: "Do you believe in flying saucers? Most people with even a slightly open mind accept their existence, if only because so many reliable people have seen them... The book itself doesn't turn you on. You must read the book and turn yourself on... If you are just beginning to be interested in saucers then read his book. If you are already convinced and want a beautiful rave with your mind, read other further out authors." Quite!

Oz was less keen on UFOs, editor Richard Neville being more interested in provoking the establishment through explorations of radical politics or sex than through modern myths. But when Neville took his eye off the ball for issue nine, leaving the work to poster artist Martin Sharp and designer John Goodchild, he was shocked at the result: "To my embarrassment, it was devoted to flying saucers." Enraged, he asked Sharp, "How can you indulge your intergalactic delusions, when Asia is a bloodbath?" Sharp's reply typified the zeitgeist: "There are far more things in heaven and earth, Richard, than are dreamt of in your philosophy".



The cover of *Flying Saucer Oz*, as it became known, featured a large flying disc, taken from a collage by the Dadaist/Surrealist Max Ernst, with six coloured pages featuring a variety of quotes about the saucer phenomenon from 'hip' people ranging from Charles Fort to Mick Jagger.

John Michell's influence on the hippie movement, coupled with his erudition, was such that the 'establishment' couldn't just ignore him. Following the screening of UFOs and the *People Who See Them* on BBC1 on 9 May 1968, *The Listener* devoted most of that week's issue to a discussion of flying saucers. Michell was asked to contribute an essay, simply entitled *Flying Saucers*, which clearly laid out the hippie philosophy in relation to

aerial phenomena – a blend of sightings of inexplicable lights in the sky, snippets of folklore, Glastonbury ley and dragon lines and other ephemera from the Underground's dream world. *Listener* editor Karl Miller contributed a critical piece, *Midsummer Nights' Dreams*, analysing the 'UFO cult' and Michell's place within it. "He is less a hippie, perhaps," opined Miller, "than a hippie's counsellor, one of their junior Merlins." *Recognising Michell's influence, but critical of his stance, Miller wrote that "Michell behaves like a visionary, though his language doesn't always avoid the current jargon of the pads and barricades. He likes to talk about how the light from the midsummer sunrise shot across the land, travelling a line from holy place to holy place, starting the crops, bathing the feasts and fairs that saluted its passage. I would say that... his book is relatively weak, busying itself with sundry mysteries like that of the Mary Celeste and converting them to extraterrestrial proofs."* 'Straight' society was intrigued by the hippie take on flying saucers but then, as now, saw no real evidence it could take seriously.

Just as straight society dissociated itself from the hippies, mainstream UFO enthusiasts kept their distance too, the nuts-and-bolts saucer buffs considering the newcomers to be just a bunch of drug takers with strange views (the irony that mainstream society viewed the nuts-and-bolts crowd as being equally strange was completely lost on them!)

Saucer Camp

Nevertheless, some influential individuals from the orthodoxy saw that the hippies were receptive to new ideas, and that mercurial aristocrat of flying saucer culture, Desmond Leslie, decided to organise the UK's first flying saucer convention for them (see FT225:40–47). The conference, held during the summer of 1968 on Lusty Beg Island on Lower Lough Erne in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, was jointly organised by Leslie and Camilla, Countess of Erne. Camilla was a wealthy socialite with an interest in flying saucers who frequented the edges of the Underground.

The Lusty Beg event was small, with attendance estimated at about 80 people, but many of those who attended were influential movers and shakers from the Underground, including Nicholas Saunders, editor of *Alternative London* and founder of the Neal's Yard shopping complex in



In 1960s music the UFO club is a legendary venue that, in its short existence, saw the grooming of a supergroup and top performances from some of the most influential bands of the time.

The venue for the club was located in the basement of 31 Tottenham Court Rd in Camden Town, London W1 (I believe near to where the Odeon Cinema is now) in 1966.

The first group booked was the emerging supergroup Pink Floyd who played for the first few weeks and, as the club got going, their music with augmented with extravagant and unusual light shows and later student and avant garde films along with dance troupes.

Pink Floyd, of course, grew quickly in popularity and their days with a small club like the UFO was short lived so it was then that one of my favourite bands of the 60s – Soft Machine – was booked.

After Soft Machine, many 60s groups appeared such as Alexis Korner, The Incredible String Band, Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, Ginger Johnson, Jeff Beck, Ten Years After, The Move, Zoot Money, Arthur Brown, Tomorrow and Procol Harum ('A Whiter Shade of Pale').

Covent Garden. Saunders recalled: "I was fascinated by what John Michell was saying about UFO's and ley lines and so on, but felt pretty guarded about it too. I did go to a Flying Saucer conference on an island in the middle of a lake in the northwest of Ireland. There were all these people plodding about in the rain and the mud and there were very serious talks by people who either said that flying saucers had visited, that they'd been on flights themselves or that they'd seen them."

"It made my hair stand on end when we learnt that he'd picked up unidentified craft, whose estimated diameter was in the region of three hundred miles!"



John Frederick Carden Michell

(9 February 1933 – 24 April 2009) was an English writer whose key sources of inspiration were Plato and Charles Fort. His 1969 volume *The View Over Atlantis* has been described as probably the most influential book in the history of the hippy/underground movement and one that had far-reaching effects on the study of strange phenomena: it "put ley lines on the map, re-enchanted the British landscape and made Glastonbury the capital of the New Age."

In some 40-odd titles over five decades he examined, often in pioneering style, such topics as sacred geometry, earth mysteries, geomancy, gematria, archaeoastronomy, metrology, euphonics, simulacra and sacred sites, as well as Fortean phenomena.

An abiding preoccupation was the Shakespeare authorship question. His *Who Wrote Shakespeare?* (1996) was reckoned by *The Washington Post* "the best overview yet of the authorship question."

Another key member of the Underground, Neil Oram (See FT217:44–49), was also there. Oram had morphed from beatnik wanderer to hippie philosopher, later writing his semi-fictional memoirs as *The Warp* trilogy. In *Lemmings On the Edge*, he describes the scene as he arrived at the shores of Lough Erne: "At the water's edge, we were met by Michael Roner, who took us across the choppy lake in a battered rowing boat which was equipped with a noisy, erratic outboard motor. Apart from the big white house on the lawn, the rest of the island was overgrown, without a trace of permanent habitation. Although now there were camp fires and tents scattered all over the wooded hills, which rose quite steeply from the beach."

Desmond Leslie was responsible for organising the conference lectures, held each evening in a large marquee. Scant information now exists as to exactly who spoke, but Neil Oram remarks that they consisted of "rather dull pronouncements of what lay in store for the human race". According to Oram, "It wasn't until the fourth night that we were given some real information, by an ex-Australian Air Force radar expert." This impressed Oram: "It made my hair stand on end when we learnt that he'd picked up unidentified craft, whose estimated diameter was in the region of three hundred miles!"

MILES! Travelling in excess of one hundred THOUSAND miles an hour!"

Johan Quanjar, another attendee, recalled: "[D]ozens of people had descended on the island for fun, jollity and invocation of higher energies. By the end of the week, the entire hippie UFO community had gone native. They had formed separate tribes with some not speaking to others."

This event was as close as the hippies ever got to organising the subculture's fascination with flying saucers, but they were rapidly losing interest. Too many other fantastic possibilities vied for their attention, and when you'd explored inner space, outer space could seem positively tedious. Essentially, those among the Underground who took an avid interest in flying saucers did so not out of certain belief, but from a desire to explore the possibilities. When the flying saucer experience didn't deliver the goods or, as the hippies saw on *Lusty Beg*, it descended into conflict and argument, they didn't want to know.

Poet and author Barry Gifford, whose novel *Wild at Heart* was used by David Lynch as the basis for his film, sojourned as a hippie in late 1960s London. In *The Duke of Earls Court*, Gifford writes of his interest in UFOs and refers to an incident in which a friend called Ace invited the editor of *Flying Saucer Review* to dinner. The clash of cultures was inevitable: "It was obvious upon his entrance that the editor, an ordinary-looking, balding, middle-aged man in a dark grey three-piece suit, was visibly shaken by the den of freaks to which he had unwittingly lent his presence. He had no idea, he said, attempting to smile, that the dinner was to be such an event."



"After answering a few desultory questions about saucers, it was clear that the editor wanted to be anywhere else but with those people. The food was macrobiotic and when he enquired what was in the meal was told, 'Brown rice, kasha, bulgur, soy, miso. The food of the people. It makes you high'."

Mention of the word 'high' caused the editor to drop his fork, obviously afraid that the meal had been spiked with drugs of some form. He left soon afterwards, pleading a prior engagement."

Selling Saucers by the Pound

Flying saucers continued to be courted by the Underground in the dying embers of the 60s, but by 1970 the hippie movement had become subsumed into the broader spectrum of youth culture: now, you could buy kaftans in Marks and Spencers, and like all youth movements, it had been diluted and repackaged by commercial interests; it was being sold rather than invented.

Those who had been heavily involved in saucerdom moved swiftly on. For everyone else, the subject of UFO's was now just another hip belief to be 'into'; the publishing floodgates opened and books on *Earth Mysteries*, *witchcraft*, *folklore*, *astrology*, *occultism* and *mysticism* offered other ways of thinking and being.

But were it not for the hippies' interest in flying saucers, nurtured by John Michell, it's doubtful that the continuing interest in such subjects would be part of our cultural landscape in the 21st century. This brief burst of drug-fuelled exploration cross-pollinated many fortean subjects, the results of which we see today. Where mainstream ufology was mired in the yes/no argument about the physical reality of UFOs, the hippies treated the subject as just one in a long line of possibly useful ideas.

This difference of attitude between the hippie and straight views of saucers was aptly summed up in an exchange between Barry Gifford and his friend, after the FSR editor had fled their dinner party. Referring to the editor's 'stuffy' attitude Ace pointed out to Gifford:

"But it's OK man, it really is; he's a dedicated cat. I mean he's never seen one, but he really believes in them flying saucers."

"So do you," Gifford said.

Ace nodded. "Sure, man, sure I do. The difference between him and me is that I'm not so bloody serious about it."

Photo to the left: John Michell - Fortean Author Dies.
By Andy Roberts.

In Space, Everyone can here you Lie They just don't realise it!

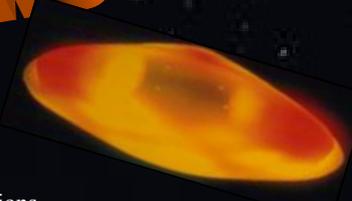


Photo to the left: Astronaut Dave Wolf of the STS 127 Mission.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the Moon's surface after Neil Armstrong, says space agency bosses covered up their sighting; And the Apollo 11 astronauts were also careful not to talk about it openly.

He said: "There was something out there, close enough to be observed, and what could it be?"

"Now, obviously the three of us weren't going to blurt out, 'Hey, Houston, we've got something moving alongside of us and we don't know what it is, you know?"

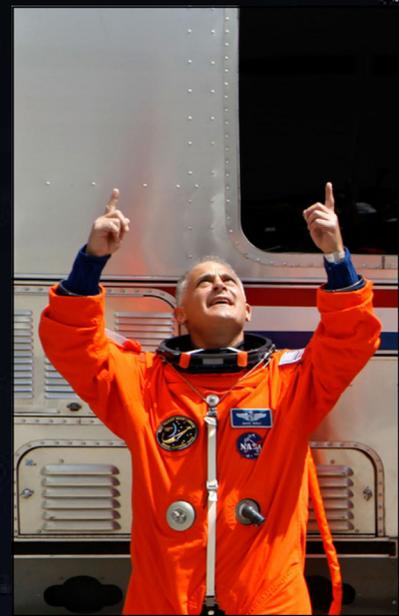
"Can you tell us what it is?"

"We weren't about to do that, because we knew that that those transmissions would be heard by all sorts of people and somebody might have demanded we turn back because of aliens or whatever the reason is."

In the cramped conditions, someone's bulky spacesuit had snapped off a circuit breaker essential for starting up the engine. To this day, Aldrin treasures the everyday object that saved their lives.

He said: "I used a pen, one of several that we had on board that didn't have metal on the end, and we used that to push the circuit breaker in."

discovered man made (artificial) structures in at least forty four regions of the moon.



Although it has now come to light that none of the Apollo missions truly passed without incident there are a few missions where the astronauts were so taken aback by what they were seeing that procedure went out the window and they seem to have blurted out what they were laying eyes on in front a live audience listening eagerly back on earth. This seems to have happened more during the last three Apollo missions...

Apollo 15. David Scott, Alfred Warden, James Irwin. 26th July 7th August 1971. The Appenine Mountains.

During this mission Command Module, Pilot, Alfred Warden, found himself alone orbiting the moon at a height of 100km while he studied the lunar surface with an array of state of the art equipment including a gamma ray spectrometer. Meanwhile, below in the Palus Putredinus (Marsh Of Decay) region both Scott and Irwin came across a set of uniform tracks that ran down a slope and out of sight.

IRWIN- Tracks!!! Here, as we go down the slope...

MISSION CONTROL- Just follow the tracks huh?

SAGA- "But Barbara is an odd name for something on the moon Isn't it?"

EL BAZ- "Yes... An enigma. As I suggested, perhaps a code but I don't really know."

El Baz then went on to admit that NASA were looking for "something" which he wouldn't elaborate on, and discussed a bridge like structure they had discovered in Mare Crisium, but later got very agitated and back tracked when pushed on the question of artificial moon based structures.

EL BAZ- "No, no, I am not admitting such a thing. But when you start to think about it almost anything is possible. There's almost no limits to how you can interpret the many things astronomers have been observing and reporting for several centuries. Now the astronauts are seeing many anomalies close up..."

Farouk El Baz Isn't the only one to hint that the moon is a far more enigmatic and mysterious place then we have ever been led to believe.

In 1979 former chief of NASA communications systems, Maurice Chafelain, claimed that Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the moon, reported to Houston that he could see two saucer shaped craft sitting on the rim of a nearby crater from the LEM window. This was confirmed by Christopher Kraft, NASA's first flight director, who watched the dramatic landing of Apollo 11 and Armstrong's hesitant first steps, on the moon from the comfort of Houston's mission control. Another NASA scientist, Otto Binder, also claimed that the story was not only true but that the conversation was heard by Soviet scientists, such as Dr Vladimir Azhazha and Dr Aleksandre Kazantsev, as well as hundreds of amateur ham radio enthusiasts.

Then, on the 21st March 1996, NASA scientists and engineers who had participated in the exploration of the moon and Mars reported the alarming results of their discoveries at a briefing held at the Washington National Press Club. In front of an astonished audience it was claimed that NASA had

The first duty of a man is the seeking after and the investigation of truth...
Cicero. (106BC-43BC)

Since it's now common knowledge that NASA airbrushed out anomalies and manipulated their photographs taken on the moon, and in space, to keep up the pretence that there's nothing of interest on our nearest celestial neighbour, it stands to reason that those brave astronauts taking the pictures must have seen whatever it is that scares the proverbial pants off the space agency. You don't have to stretch your imagination too far to accept that the rush to the moon may have been prompted by America's need to investigate the lunar anomalies. In fact, it may have been the one overwhelming reason why billions of tax payers dollars were thrown at the Apollo programme?

What must it have been like for those who walked on the moon to stand in front of these truly massive structures and yet not be able to tell the truth to the masses here on earth who idolise them and hang on there every word? Then again, maybe they did and we just didn't realise it!?

In an interview given to Saga magazine NASA's Farouk El Baz, the man who helped train the astronauts and select the lunar landing sites, and Joseph Goodavage, discussed a curious incident which took place during Apollo 16 when John Young and Charles Duke made an unexpected detour when returning to the LEM (Lunar Excursion Module) in the moon rover after investigating a mysterious colour change in the subsurface dirt near the Flag and Buster craters.

CAPCOM- "Okay, just a question for you John. When you got halfway we understand you looped around South... Is that right?"

YOUNG- "That is affirm. We came upon Barbara..."

"What do you suppose Young meant when he said they came upon Barbara?" Goodavage asked.

EL BAZ- "I can't really say. Code perhaps!"

IRWIN- Right. We're (garbled). We know that's a fairly good run. We're bearing 320 hitting range for 413. I can't get over there lineations, that layering on Mount Hadley.

SCOTT- I can't either. That's really spectacular.

IRWIN- They sure look beautiful.

SCOTT- Talk about organisation.

IRWIN- That's the most organised structure I've ever seen.

SCOTT- It's (garbled) so uniform in width.

IRWIN- Nothing we've seen before this has shown such uniform thickness from the top of the track to the bottom.

We can only ponder on what the two astronauts found when they followed the tracks around the edge of the slope but it's clear from the excited tones of their voices that it came out of the blue and was totally unexpected. It is also worth noting that Harrison Schmidt of Apollo 17 also reported to Houston that he could see similar tracks in Taurus Littrow at which point he was told to go to Bravo-Whiskey-Whiskey-Romeo... Evidence of more code words or perhaps a secret radio band on which prying ears here on earth couldn't listen in on.

Apollo 16. Charles Duke, Thomas Mattingley, John Young. 16th April - 27th April 1972. Descartes Highlands.

After landing Charlie Duke could hardly believe his eyes when he looked out of the LEM window and saw a blue glass like structure reflecting sunlight not so far away on the horizon. Unsurprisingly both Young and Duke were sent to investigate... It is now that Charlie Duke appears to give us a first hand description of a lunar complex or city complete with smoky blue glass domes and tunnels!

DUKE- We felt it under our feet. It's a soft spot. Firmer where we stand. I tell you one thing, if this place had air it would sure be beautiful. It's beautiful without air. the scenery up on top of Stone Mountain...you would have to be here to see this to believe it. Those domes are incredible!

MC- Okay, could you take a look at that smoky area there and see what you can see on the face?

DUKE- Beyond the domes the structure goes almost into the ravine that I described and one goes to the top. In the northeast wall of the ravine you can't see the delineation.

To the northeast there are tunnels, to the north they are dipping east to about 30 degrees.

Apollo 17. Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmidt. 7th Dec- 19th Dec 1972. Taurus Littrow.

Although there is more evidence of tampering amongst the photographs taken on this mission by Cernan and Schmidt than any of the previous missions, it is to Ronald Evans alone in the Command Service Module who we must turn to for more evidence of the amazing structures on the moon. As Evans peered down at the moon rushing by below him the CSM began to pass over the 600 mile wide bullseye looking ringed crater known as Mare Orientale (Eastern Sea) when he noticed something large that was reflecting light. After reporting his sighting mission control in Houston asked him a very strange question... "Do you think it could be Vostok?" Vostok was the first of the manned Soviet earth orbiters, one of which took the first man, Yuri Gagarin, into orbit on the 12th April 1961. The Vostok orbiters never left earth orbit and any member of mission control worth their salt would know that so one can only ask what were they referring to? It is an interesting coincidence (perhaps) that the Russian Antarctic Research Station, an artificial environment built to withstand the worst weather that mother earth can throw at it, is also named Vostok! Could the Russians be secretly using the same system on the moon?

It is clear that Vostok was a code word which is supported by the fact that capcom immediately ordered him to switch channels to Kilo Kilo so he could give a better description of what he was looking at.

Another instance that shows that not only were code words used, but that the astronauts sent to the moon were specifically told before they left earth what to look out for, comes several orbits later when Evans was zipping across the southern lunar skies over the 2500 km wide and 13km deep Mare Aitken.

EVANS- Okay Robert (Robert Parker on capcom) I guess the big thing I want to report. From the backside is that I took another look at the...the... cloverleaf in Aitken with the binoculars. And that southern dome (garble) to the east.

MC- We copy that Ron. Is there any difference in the colour of the dome and the Mare Aitken there?

EVANS- Yes there is. That Condor,

Condorsey, Condorcet, or whatever you call it there. Condorcet Hotel, is the one that has got the diamond shaped fill down in the Floor.

MC- Understand. Condorcet Hotel...

EVANS- Condor, Condorcet Alpha. They've either caught a landslide on it or it's got... And it doesn't look like (garble) in the other side of the wall in the northwest Side.

MC- Okay, we copy that. Northwest wall of Condorcet A.

EVANS- The area is oval or elliptical in shape. Of course the ellipse is toward the top.

This interesting, but admittedly confusing, conversation seems to show that even the Command Module Pilots left alone to orbit the moon were actively searching out and describing objects they were asked to seek out. We can only imagine what the Condorcet Hotel looks like but one thing is for sure, if its been there a day its been there an awful long time!

When you consider the marvels that the heroic moon walkers may have seen you can't help but wonder why they don't come forward and reveal all? Death threats? Bribes perhaps? Maybe they have somehow had their minds erased either entirely or partially, removing their memories of what they walked amongst and cast eyes on while on the moon? It is a fact that once the ticker tape parades and all the platitudes ended some of the astronauts lives simply fell apart around them. Buzz Aldrin had well publicised, drinking problems, and the ever cool, calm and collected Neil Armstrong became a recluse and vanished from the public eye. The outspoken and controversial Dr Edgar Mitchell of Apollo 14, has often bemoaned how he can't remember much of what he accomplished while wandering the plains of Fra Mauro; and perhaps the most likable of all the Apollo astronauts, Alan Bean, spends all his time painting incredibly beautiful pictures of astronauts walking on the moon. Perhaps he finds it therapeutic?

On Wednesday, 20th July 1994, the elusive Neil Armstrong broke cover to give a speech to students at the Whitehouse to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Apollo 11 landing on the moon. Struggling to hold back tears of emotion Neil gave a rather cryptic speech in which he hints that he remembers more about his time in the Sea Of Tranquility than he should! "Today we have with us a group of students among Americas best. To you we say, we have only completed a



What does NASA have to say in response to Buzz Aldrin's TV announcement that the Apollo Astronauts watched UFOs?

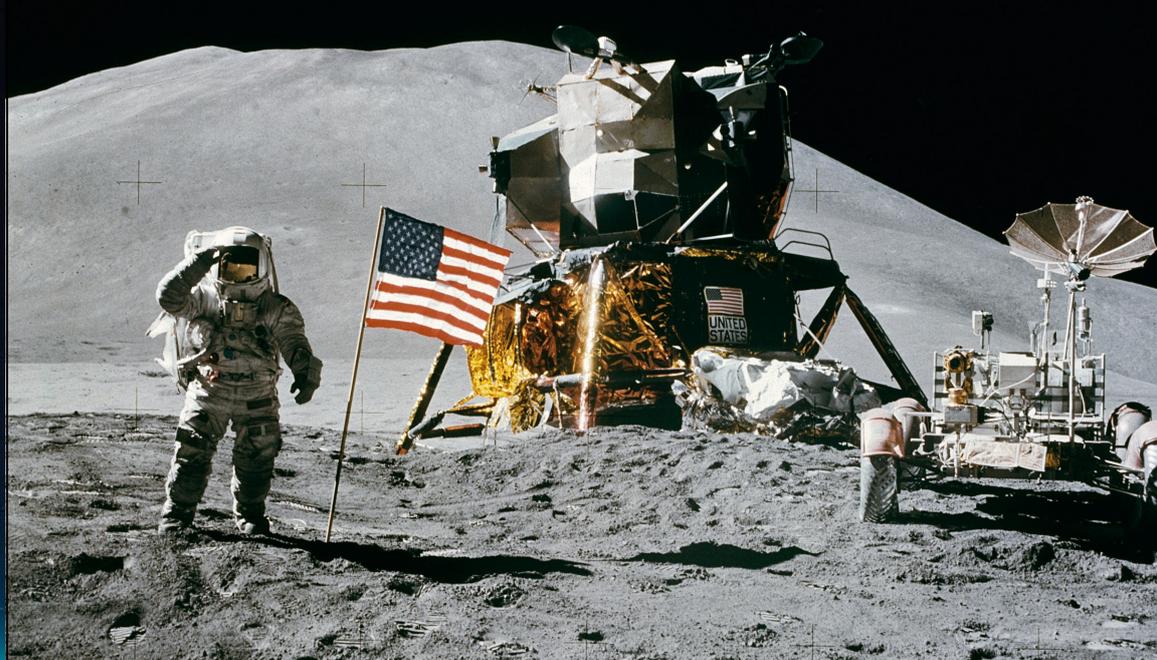
I just talked to Buzz Aldrin on the phone, and he notes that the quotations were taken out of context and did not convey the intended meaning. After the Apollo 11 crew verified that the object they were seeing was not the SIVB upper stage, which was about 6000 miles away at that time, they concluded that they were probably seeing one of the panels from the separation of the spacecraft from the upper stage. These panels were not tracked from Earth and were likely much closer to the Apollo spacecraft. They chose not to discuss this on the open communications channel since they were concerned that their comments might be misinterpreted (as they are being now). Apparently all of this discussion about the panels was cut from the broadcast interview, thus giving the impression that they had seen a UFO'.

David Morrison
NAI Senior Scientist
26 July 2006

Hmmm.

beginning. We leave you much that is undone. There are great ideas undiscovered... Breakthroughs available to those who can remove one of the truths protective layers."

I find it strangely ironic that as India, Russia, Japan and China prepare to return to the moon, President Obama's policies have all but killed off the dreams of an American adding to the array of footprints that remain in such outposts as Hadley Rille, the Taurus Littrow valley and the Descartes Highlands, unaltered and as pristine and crisp as the day they were made nearly forty years ago. Whatever the nationality of the next moonwalker is we can only hope that the truths protective layers mentioned so eloquently by Neil Armstrong will be removed so we can all revel in the truth. It is our right and maybe, just maybe, our heritage...



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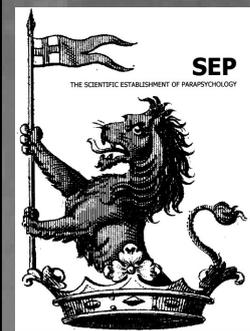
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SEP's SPOTLIGHT...

THE OFFICE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES



Throughout the years the Scientific Establishment of Parapsychology (SEP) have recognised a number of organisations for their efforts in investigation and research of the scientific study of anomalous phenomena and the attempt to advance the subject of parapsychology. Here is one such organisation... Stephen Mera BSc. - SEP Founder.

My fascination with the subject of the paranormal began at a young age. At school I dreamed of becoming a parapsychologist and investigating all manner of ghostly goings on, but courses in the subject were almost unheard of as was the subject of parapsychology itself. Most of my teachers would say to me *'What on earth is parapsychology'*? I knew then it was going to be a difficult task to go on and follow my dream. Now, in more recent times, through television shows and media interest, the subject of parapsychology has become a far more known area of study with college's and universities running courses on the subject, although unfortunately, to many mainstream scientists it is still considered a pseudo science.

'For those who want to become a qualified parapsychologist, you would first need to study psychology, then parapsychology, and finally submit a scientific paper to a recognised scientific establishment'

Parapsychology is the scientific study of anomalous phenomena associated with human experience. It's main areas of study are, Telepathy, ESP, Psychokinesis, Precognition, Clairvoyance, Poltergeist Phenomena, RSPK, Reincarnation and a number of other associated topics.

Around twelve years ago I had a very personal experience which would push

me much further a field in studying paranormal science. Although even then, I was fascinated by real ghost stories and the subject of UFO experiences. My personal experience set me on a quest of which I was destined to follow.

In 2005 I was invited to join an organisation of like minded individuals known as the North Derbyshire Paranormal Investigators. A year or so afterwards the organization unfortunately broke down and I was given the opportunity to reform the organisation along with my wife Sharon and friend Matt Palmer. Together we were able to remove the bad elements of the organisation and introduced new protocols. Finally, the last change was the name; 'The Derbyshire Ghost Society', that went on to become a solid well based team of investigators and researchers of the paranormal, the way it should be done... Scientifically!

During 2006, I went on to study anomalous phenomena and parapsychology under Stephen Mera BSc. and gained a BITC (British Investigators Training Course) certificate, both basic and advanced levels. I then went on to study under Ken Wood PhD. At the College of Management Science (Unifaculty of London), where I gained diplomas in numerous subjects which included paranormal investigation, parapsychology, psychology, quantum physics and other sub-related topics like Ufology. Afterwards I was fortunate enough to become an associate member of The Institute of Forensic Parapsychology.

Following this I was then awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in



parapsychology from Belford University in the United States for my field work in the subject. I am also currently associated with the Parapsychological Association in the U.S.

My wife Sharon, who assisted with the founding of the new organisation also holds a degree in paramedic science with emergency care practice and is our historian who specialises in Tudor history.

Last year we reformed Derbyshire Ghost Society and founded The Office of Parapsychological Studies (TOPS) which is now based in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. TOPS now incorporates studies in parapsychology. Our experiments are conducted under the guidelines and protocols set by SEP and the Rhine Institute at Duke University, U.S. We currently have twelve core members who have helped to achieve our goals and have sustained and contributed to our efforts. Our team have investigated many of Britain's allegedly most haunted locations as well as carried out residential investigations in hope of helping witnesses come to terms with what they have experienced. We offer assistance and advice and whenever possible and our services are free of charge. For more information you can contact me directly at: itstherob@hotmail.com or visit our website: www.parapsy.co.uk
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A good starting point for anyone interested in the subject is the British Investigators Training Course which comes in basic and advanced levels. Both incorporate Parapsychology units B1 & B2. To learn more visit the MAPIT website at: <http://www.MAPIT.kk5.org>

GROCERY GHOSTS

During January of 1996, I became aware of some unusual disturbances. This time, not in an old building, but a supermarket. Funny enough, this was not the first time I had been involved in alleged paranormal disturbances in a large store. Casting my mind back, I had investigated strange goings on in a Woolworth's store in Burnley Town Center, Lancashire.

The location was Booths supermarket situated in Knutsford, Cheshire. They had reported a number of strange and unsettling disturbances which had somehow found their way to the local Knutsford Guardian newspaper. I decided to jump on this quickly and deployed a couple of investigators to the scene.

On arriving investigators met with Pauline the store manager who had a number of things to tell us. She and other members of staff confirmed that there was an overwhelming smell of strong coffee that would often appear to emanate around the store at night, even long after the cafe had closed. Many of the staff were also unsettled due to a number of them catching sight of a tall grey figure that would suddenly disappear from sight. Checkout operators had also given up trying to work on till No.13. It would regularly go faulty for no apparent reason. Pauline had been forced to get engineers out to it on several occasions and each time the engineers could find no problem with it, yet it continued to play up, it would occasionally input numbers for no reason and even when powered of it would regularly spew out reels of receipt paper. The final straw was when check out operators kept reporting how cold they were whilst working that particular till. Finally Pauline had no choice but to close till No.13 permanently.

Security officers also had some interesting stories to tell. During the night, whilst the store was closed they would often hear whistling coming from one of the aisles. They attempted to locate the sound several times and could not find where the whistling was coming from. On one particular occasion, a security officer and the store manager arrived to open up the

store early in the morning. On entering they were both shocked at the sight. A large and heavy indoor plant had been taken down from a shelf situated approximately 9 feet above an aisle and it had been dragged up and down several aisles. Apart from it being difficult to reach off the shelf, it was also very heavy due to it being the only real plant in the store. All the other similar looking plants were artificial. How strange... why that particular plant? The clean up caused a delay in opening the store that morning and Pauline (the store manager) decided not to put the plant back up, in case of a similar occurrence happening.

The sound of shuffling and walking about had also been reported by three members of staff that regularly stock up the shelves in the evening. Again, on investigation, nothing was seen.

As for the apparition, it had only been seen three or four times by staff. After the initial press release a number of residents suggested that the strange activity may have something to do with the fact that the supermarket was built directly over the old Knutsford Gaol.

Could it be as simple as that...? Was the supermarket being haunted by the inmates of a former Gaol?

Some research was going to be required. Investigators managed to obtain old plans of Knutsford Gaol and discovered to their surprise, the local residents were correct. The supermarket did in fact sit upon the old Gaol courthouse and Hallows. Only 8 felons were apparently hung at Knutsford. The first being Owen McGill who was aged 39, an Irish born farm labourer who had beat his wife to death at Birkenhead. He was eventually hung for his crimes on February 22nd 1886. The next unlucky felon was that of Thomas Henry Bevan aged 20 who was an apprentice iron moulder from Crew. Thomas was charged of battering his aunt to death and was hung on August 8th 1887.

Richard Davies aged 18 was convicted along with his 16 year old brother George for murdering their bullying father on the outskirts of Crewe. Both were sentenced to death, but shortly before their executions, George was reprieved on the account of his young age.

Store Ghosts:

There have also been reports of a haunted supermarket in Much Wenlock, Shropshire..

When workers began carrying out improvements to the Spar shop, just off The Square in Much Wenlock, strange things started happening. Shopping trolleys began moving on their own, heavy breathing was heard and apparitions were seen. The problems started after the builders dug up ancient pottery and old bones underneath the building. In early 2002, trainee manager Michelle Willis told BBC Midlands Today:

"I was sitting over by the computer. I could hear breathing. I opened the door but nobody was there. What's been going on at the moment is enough. It's enough and I'm frightened of it."

Trolleys in the storeroom appeared to have moved on their own and one member of staff felt a hand on their shoulder. Shop supervisor Jody Anderson also witnessed an unexplained event:

"I was going out to the back to wash some cups, when I saw something appear. It stayed for something like 15 seconds and then it disappeared, totally,"

The shop is on the site of a medieval alehouse in the historic town. But when they were digging down, the builders found unexpected remains.

"Items of crockery, lots of bones, definitely human bones," said builder John Todd. "The abbey cemetery was moved here in the 12th Century and we came across all these human bones," he said.

Special Thanks to the BBC & the Knutsford Guardian Newspaper.

It's ghostbusters

Pair check out store for spooks



Alicia Leigh and David Tierney go shopping for spooks in Booth's yesterday (Tuesday).

GHOSTBUSTERS were checking out Booth's last week for signs of supermarket spooks. Paranormal investigators were speaking to staff after a series of strange sightings, sounds and smells at the Knutsford store. "One man said he had seen a grey manifestation in the shape of a man," said Alicia Leigh, from the Manchester Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Team, on Thursday. "Other people have reported strange whistling sounds." Staff also told Alicia, 29, and colleague David Tierney, 32, that a potted plant had mysteriously been removed from a shelf in the shop and dragged all around the aisles in the night. "The strangest thing is it was the only real plant among a number of plastic ones," said Alicia. "At the moment we believe this could be a classic haunting with poltergeist activity." In January, the Knutsford Guardian told how a grocery ghost was haunting check out 13. Strange goings-on included receipts pouring out of the tills. Since then, though, staff at the store — built on the site of Knutsford's old jail — have reported more ghostly goings-on.

By CHARLOTTE HARDING

Alicia and David now hope store bosses will let them to set up equipment, including an electromagnetic trace and temperature gauge, in the store overnight to monitor ghostly activity. "The work we do is scientific and we will document everything," said Alicia, who plans to visit local historians and sift through county records in Chester. "But we think there could well be a connection with the

fact that the site was a jail where people were hanged." But local historians Joan Leach, who has offered to help the pair, was sceptical. "There were only ever six or seven people hanged at the jail," she said. "There are stranger things in heaven and earth, but I'm not sure I believe there's a direct connection." But even if Alicia and David do find a ghost, they cannot force it to leave. "We know from experience that exorcisms never work," said Alicia. "A ghost will only leave if it wants to."

Above: Alicia Leigh and Dave Tierney of MAPIT investigate the strange goings on at Booth's Supermarket in Knutsford.

Till we meet again

Strange sounds spook the staff

By PAUL BROSTER

DON'T ask staff at Booth's supermarket to check out till number 13.

For they reckon it's haunted.

"We're sure there's a spook about," said supervisor Pauline Holman, 41. "It has a mind of its own."

Strange goings on in the store — built on the site of Knutsford's old jail — include receipts pouring out of the troublesome till when it is switched off.

Mysterious

"Most people here have a tale to tell," said Pauline, who has worked for the supermarket since it opened five years ago.

"Doors have flown open for no reason and there's always a horrible smell of coffee in the evening — long after the coffee shop has shut."

Pauline and her colleagues reckon the grocery ghost may come from the former prison.

"We've heard someone was



HAIR-RAISING: Till operator Mary Scatterson checks out the spooky spook

hanged there so perhaps it's him," she said.

But checkout staff will to continue manning the mysterious machine.

"We'll just have to see who pulls the short straw," joked Pauline.

Above: Staff at Booth's Supermarket complain of till No.13 working when not plugged in and other odd goings on...

Special Thanks to Cavendish Photo's.

Store Ghosts:

Throughout the years MAPIT have conducted 11 investigations of alleged paranormal disturbances in shops and stores.

In 2001 MAPIT was called in to investigate the strange goings on at the Woolworth's Store in Burnley, Lancashire. Staff were reluctant to go downstairs due to strange noises and sightings of a paranormal nature.

Stewart Greenslade (MAPIT Director of Investigation) had conducted a number of onsite investigations and was able to take several films of photographs which depicted several unusual things: White balls of light, strange glowing ribbon shaped anomalies, dark shapes and of course a possible apparition. What is interesting about this latter photograph, is that it was taken on a disposable camera and when developed it revealed an image of a boy wearing a parker type coat. Also, you could make the out the colours of his clothing. Strange: The most unusual thing was that the apparition was seemingly upside down???

However... this is where we came to a stand still. We met with Pauline on February 9th 1996 and she was quite happy for us to carry out our active investigation. Pauline just wanted rid of this thing. Unfortunately, word had come down from above putting the brakes on our proceedings. After three days of discussions, it was clear we were not going to be aloud to advance with our active investigation. Someone wanted to keep this quiet, even though it had already reached the local press before our involvement.

Our last resort was to write to Mr. Booth himself, granting us permission to carry out an on site investigation.... Unfortunately... We were denied. As to what exactly is going on at Booth's supermarket is anyone's guess. The staff and security officers certainly seemed sincere and we had certainly discovered some interesting historical information. I guess we will just have to leave it with them and see how they go on. So... Remember, when shopping at Booth's in Knutsford, best staying clear of till No.13...



The hangman James Berry recalled later that the face of Richard Davies repeatedly came back to haunt him. Davies was hung on the cold spring morning of April 8th 1890. Felix Spicer, and elderly man was the next to be hung. He had murdered two of his children and was caught in an attempt to kill his wife whilst living in New Brighton. Spicer was hung with grief on August 22nd 1890. Followed by William Hancock's aged 35 who had stabbed his daughter to death and was caught fleeing his home in Birkenhead. Hancock's was hung in family audience on August 9th 1905. Edward Hartigan was captured after battering his wife to death in brothers home in Stockport. Hartigan was hung at the age of 58 on November 27th 1906. James Phipps was convicted of a despicable crime. He was caught after sexually assaulting and murdering a young girl. Phipps was rather disliked and members of the community from Winsford visited Knutsford Gaol so to curse him as he was led to the gallows. Phipps pleaded innocent even though found guilty by witness and was hung on November 12th 1908. The last execution to take place in Knutsford was that of John Williams, a 38 year old farmer from Birkenhead. He had pleaded guilty to murdering his wife after an argument and was hung on March 19th 1912.

So... A nasty bunch of felons. But was any of them responsible for the strange goings on in the supermarket? It true to state that only 8 felons were ever hung at Knutsford, not a lot considering the crimes of the day. I would presume many prisoners were relocated whilst Knutsford Gaol tried to concentrate on lesser crimes. It is interesting to note that investigators came across some written accounts from inmates which had written about one particular gaol officer. He had apparently made it a ruling that no whistling was ever aloud, and so to mock the prisoners, he would often do his rounds whistling loudly. It is possible that the supermarket was not haunted by the felons of Knutsford Gaol, but that of the gaol officer himself? Maybe we'll never know...

After conducting several days of research and discussing our findings with the local press, it was decided that we move on with the investigation. It was now time for us to arrange a visit to the store at night so to take environmental readings and monitor of any possible disturbances.

THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

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