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SSS



In search of Bigfoot

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2019 Seriously Strange
Conference - review

Ghosts & legends of
Hadrian's Wall

ASSAP Training
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What is Good Luck?

President and First Lady's Piece by
Lionel and Patricia Fanthorpe

If we pose the question to family members and close friends, there is a strong possibility that almost all of them will say that they have had experiences of *good luck* during their lives.

But what do we mean by *good luck*? One broad definition might suggest that it is just something unpredicted and unexpected which brings a better outcome than we had dared to hope for: something that seems to be entirely random and haphazard, which nevertheless averts a problem, or creates a good outcome.

If, however, we look at the scientific arguments for cause and effect, so-called luck cannot be fitted in easily – if at all. If we disallow the possibility of purely random, haphazard events as the cause of unexpected good fortune, we need to ask whether good luck has a cause. If we allow that searching for that cause is a worthwhile piece of ASSAP style investigation, where will our search lead us?

The human brain seems to contain a great deal of power that is still relatively unknown. The terrified person who has inadvertently strayed into the field where a huge bull reigns supreme will run faster than he has ever run before and leap a boundary wall like an Olympic athlete. A non-swimmer will plunge into a deep river into which a child has fallen and will somehow emerge safely with that child. With sufficient motivation, the brain can force muscle and sinew to perform with unbelievable power.

There are several interesting cases of telekinesis where the brain appears to have exerted some strange power to move an object without touching it. One witness described his visit to a restaurant where he watched another diner drop his spoon and then look at it intensely: the spoon lifted itself from the floor and back into his hand.



Can telekinesis – or some strange parallel power of the brain – be responsible for what is generally thought of as good luck? Let's consider how the brain is affected by emotion: the more powerful the emotion the more it affects our thinking. Is it reasonable to assume that when exceptionally strong emotion affects the brain, the deep subconscious power to influence people or things is stimulated *and the environment is so manipulated that we appear to be experiencing good luck?*

Many of those who believe in luck carry lucky charms with them – objects which they believe will bring them good luck when it is needed most – or stave off bad luck when the situation is precarious. They also have lucky places: a particular street corner, a room in their house, a pub or restaurant that they frequent. Is it possible that these objects and locations are associated with treasured memories of times when things went especially right for the person involved? By being associated with good luck in the past, do these charms or locations empower, or trigger, that section of the brain that can alter the environment?

If we can create our own good luck, it may well be an area of the brain which is worth investigating and developing.

Lionel & Patricia Fanthorpe

Ghosts, Humans and Bathroom Politics!

By Alexandra Holzer

I've had many inquisitors throughout the years ask "How did he (Hans Holzer) converse with ghosts?"

To begin with it took my father a very long time, in his seventies to be precise, until he himself became a Clairaudient, when one can hear words spoken in real-time around them buzzing like a bee in the summer time. He became a real-life Ovilus. Prior to that, conversations were always through the use of validated seasoned trans-mediums who acted like recording devices, your Polaroid cameras and Sony Tape Recorders. He also delved deep into Spirit Photography by utilizing experiments with mediums and developing paper. In investigative sit-downs and walk about sessions, mediums were speaking in the moment dictating if you will; for the spirit, guides or ghost communicating. This leads into another question about giving an example of such said conversation.

In his big black tome, Ghosts by Black Dog and Leventhal Publishers and Hatchette Publishing in Manhattan, there are massive transcripts between himself, the ghosts(s) and the medium so the conversations are recorded from a purported haunting. It is not to say you yourself, cannot record or work with a medium to achieve this research but it is used to help and pass along information and more so learn from the 'other side' (another term Hans coined back in the sixties). One inquisitor asked, "Could he do this while he was brushing his teeth or did he need to meditate?" You assume he brushed his teeth?

As you and I are here breathing in the now, is when one can communicate with the other side or a trapped soul which is what a Ghost is. Brushing one's teeth is no different as walking into a haunted home as they are always around us, just some in more concentrated clumps if you will then other spots globally speaking of course. Now, if it is meant for you

to see, hear, smell or feel the dead around you, you will. You have to have a nerve about you to just roll with it and see what happens and do it like an exercise like Yoga for Ghosts. Just because we can't see them, doesn't mean they're not watching us or are present. It is foolish to think it's just us 24/7. I let go of the bathroom paranoia a long-time ago and said, "Oh well I am not sucking in my gut in the shower anymore! Tough on them they'll have to look the other way!"

"How are the protocols and political powers in play after death? What does that mean?" Some think when we die that it's this blissful, perfect running amuck in a meadow of golden flowers and soft breezes scenario. However, as in life, the after-life has layers and their own 'political' system where you arrive there at a level and dependent on how you lived your life on earth, can and will dictate where you go in death. This is the theory and based on responses recorded over long periods of time we get a glimpse into the veil.

"Medium in training gals? Was he teaching classes or mentoring?" Ha! This was a loose play on words as Hans was known to have an eye for the ladies half his age as he claimed age was just a number, but how he lived would be telling of longevity and youth sexually. He taught for eight years at New York Institute for

Technology and was a real Professor, accent and all. Wearing many hats, still today we put to the test new theories and experiments that will lead to more questions or answers. Either way, keeping an open mind and have a hypothesis to formulate the next steps is key to advancing the field of physical research.

"The word 'belief' is a difficult thing for me. I don't believe. I must have a reason for a certain hypothesis. I know a thing, and then I know it - I don't need to believe it." ~ Carl Jung

"However, as in life, the after-life has layers and their own 'political' system where you arrive there at a level and dependent on how you lived your life on earth."

About the author:

Second Generation Ghost Hunter and Writer, Alexandra Holzer, is no stranger to the world of the supernatural, publishing or art. She attended The Fashion Institute of Technology following her mother Artist Countess Catherine Buxhoeveden (related to Catherine the Great), who also attended. She follows in her late famous father's (Parapsychologist Dr. Hans Holzer) ghostly footsteps (Original Ghost Hunter, NBC's In Search Of, Amityville Horror, WOR Radio with Joe Franklin.) Hans Holzer was also an Assistant Professor of Parapsychology at the New York Institute of Technology, Research Director of the New York Committee for the Investigation of Paranormal Occurrences, and a member of the College of Psychic Studies in London, as well as a lecturer at leading colleges. Alexandra is co-founder of her global organization, The Hunt with Holzer, in which her research continues into the unknown.

The ASSAP Training Weekend

14 & 15 March 2020, Arnos Vale, Bristol

To book visit www.assap.ac.uk

The ASSAP Training Weekend has, over the decades, prepared hundreds of paranormal investigators to take on and handle cases.

The weekend focuses on practicing the skills needed to handle a client from start to finish, including assessing a case, science and ethics, interviewing skills, analysing evidence and re-port writing.

It's important to note this is not a 'how to' guide for how to run a group vigil. There are many commercial events companies that offer such experiences.

The ASSAP Training Weekend is a client focussed introduction to serious investigation.

The weekend is also very friendly with group work and social opportunities galore.

Your journey will include a pre-training phone conversation to make sure this is the right course for you, a pre-training learning book and assessment, NRPI e-learning assessment and a post-weekend report.

Please note these events can sell out very quickly. Past Training Weekends have sold out in less than a week.

Costings: £50 (no Lunch) / £65 (including two Lunches) / £80 (including two Lunches and Dinner)

A two-course evening meal is available on Saturday, which will give you the option at checkout to Book with Lunch

Book accommodation for Arnos Manor Hotel through Bookings.com There are other cheaper Hotels locally.

The course runs from Saturday 10.00am to 6.00pm and Sunday 10.00am to 5.00pm

Seriously Strange Conference

7-8th September 2019

· Nick Howe and Andy Wilson review
ASSAP's Seriously Strange weekend

It's always good to reflect on a spent weekend and mull over what the best part was, better still if the answer is, "well all of it." a sentiment hopefully shared by all the attendees and speakers at this year's sold out Seriously Strange weekend.

So what made this year's Seriously Strange weekend such a memorable event? The surroundings, the facilities, the speakers, diversity, the chance to meet up with some old friends and meet new ones? It's probably all of that but the curious truth is that, as the saying goes, the sum of the parts exceeded the total; it added up to a cracking weekend.

For Andy Wilson and Nick Howe of PRI UK (recently added to the list of ASSAP affiliates) this was their first Seriously Strange weekend, so they've been asked to commit their thoughts to paper and give an overview of events, over to Andy and Nick.

Friday. We'd decided to arrive on the Friday so we could enjoy a long weekend and have a look around Bath. Having parked up at a very wet and windy University and got confirmation that the accommodation staff would be available to check us in later (much later) that night it was time for a quick bus journey into the city centre. The primary objective was to drink Bath dry, the bars not the baths, although we did the cultural thing and briefly visited Aquae Sulis before marching on to other watering holes to catch the close of play in the Ashes and later the rugby and football. We liked Bath!! This was a very good start to the weekend, so back to the Uni, check in (all very easy) and heads down for a good night's sleep.

Saturday. It's sunny, it's 07:30 and time for breakfast in Lime Trees refectory which got a thumbs up from us for choice with

the added plus that you could go back for more. Just what the doctor ordered for the long day ahead. A quick stroll around the campus and time to grab a bottle of water from the uni Co-Op before checking in at the Chancellor's Building; the centre of fun for the next two days.

Stepping into the venue, familiar faces, some hellos and quick catch ups and see you later's and then we're off. The programme had been changed as it was realised that the talks to be given by John Fraser and Alan Murdie needed to be switched to provide continuity, a case of getting the proverbial horse before the cart.

So it was Alan Murdie who kicked off proceedings. Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Alan or hear him speak will know that his knowledge of all things paranormal is encyclopedic to say the least. This was an inspiring talk entitled 'Powers of evil? Negative aspects of psi' drawing heavily on the works and thought of Colin Wilson. A very good start for the conference ahead.

Before one could say boo to the proverbial ghost (sic) Dr Hannah Gilbert presented her talk on Global Ghostlore: Anthropology of Spectres and Spooks, around the world in sixty minutes view of, well what else, the anthropology of spectres and spooks and very entertaining and enlightening it was too. Certainly an interesting insight into how different cultures view all things spooky and relate to them.

After a short break John Fraser stepped up to deliver his talk on The Black Monk of Pontefract: Should Investigation Protocol Include Research? We had seen this presentation at the SPR/The Ghost Club workshop in March but that didn't detract from this well structured argument that researching



the history of a location and making historical connections is an important aspect of any paranormal investigation. John's bone of contention is that ASSAP or perhaps more accurately NRPI don't encourage this because their primary consideration leans towards scientific analysis. It's an interesting point and no doubt one that will be mulled over by the ASSAP committee.

The morning's talks were closed by Ann Winsper who raised the point that like many in the field of paranormal investigation the title of 'Ghost Hunter' has been tarnished by the sensation seekers we all see on TV and throughout social media. So the title of her presentation 'The ghost hunter is dead or how I came to realise I'm not a ghost hunter at all' was not only witty but carried a fair dose of irony, we're sure that wasn't lost on the audience.

A break for lunch and then it was back to the conference hall for a ninety minute question and answer session hosted by none other than the eminent Steve Parsons. The panel comprised Prof. Chris French, Alan Murdie, Peter Laws and Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe. An open session with good questions and some interesting answers. Bearing in mind that each speaker took questions at the end of their respective talks the Q and A session was an added bonus and an opportunity for the audience to have their say in an open forum.

Following the break Patsy Sorenti was under the spotlight to give a moving tribute in honour of David Farrant who died earlier this year. The tribute was made even more poignant by the attendance of David's son and family. A larger than life character, David clearly lived his life to the full, endearing himself to those around him. Despite his death he will continue to be inextricably linked to Highgate Cemetery, a true eccentric and the epitome of the swinging sixties.

Unfortunately Matthew Savory (The Ghost of Captain Butt and The Haw Bridge Torso Case) was unable to make the conference due to illness so ASSAP's very own CJ (aka Christian Jensen Romer) stepped into the breach making an impromptu appearance by talking through some of his own experiences of the paranormal. Such was CJ's prowess he actually outran his time slot and was unable to deliver the punch line. Fortunately, we were able to grab him later that night and got to know what happened!!

Next a move away from things that go bump in the night with Amethyst Gray's presentation 'Hints of Atlantis'. Well researched with compelling theories and evidence not only of the location of Atlantis but the distribution of the Atlanteans, fascinating subject and another good talk.

The day was rounded off with a first for a Seriously Strange weekend, a video link with Keith Linder (he of the Bothell Hell House). It's probably fair to say that Keith has had a lot of bad press but having met and spoken to people who know him it's clear they are impressed by his openness and honesty, his story certainly comes across as consistent and honestly spoken. Keith recounted his story via the link on the big screen but even better the audience was able to ask him questions. A fine way to close the first day of the conference.

But the day was not quite over yet. The formal talking may have finished at 6 pm but that left only one hour for those who had opted to partake of the Gala Dinner to get ready and meet up again. Another opportunity for a chat over a meal and a few (few?) drinks. The after dinner speaker was Alan Murdie who in admirable fashion applied himself to the task of relating some entertaining personal anecdotes of the paranormal and associated kind.



Having already reduced the stock of beers in Bath's finest houses the previous evening we called it a day at about midnight but the more intrepid stayed until 4 in the morning. No wonder there were a few bleary eyes over breakfast, all part of the fun.

Sunday. Another sunny day and more to look forward to.

Prof Chris French opened the morning's proceedings with an entertaining and amusing talk "Hidden messages (that aren't really there)". It was a good opener because it engaged the audience with some hilarious examples of pareidolia and what can be "heard" by playing music backwards, a timely reminder to everyone that you just cannot take what you see or hear for granted. Led Zep's Stairway to Heaven will not be the same again but then it sounds better played forward anyway, doesn't it?

The next offering came from Dylan Jones who demonstrated his audio visual skills with a brilliant production "The ten most haunted castles in Britain"; again very entertaining and presented in the time honoured fashion of a Top of The Pops countdown, at number 10 this week....., well you know what we mean.

An early lunch and then Rev Peter Laws, an ordained priest, whose fascination for the macabre has also led him to become a celebrated and successful author of horror. So what better than to entitle your talk "GO TO HELL!". The gist of his talk? Near death experiences that ended up, for the unlucky few, with a peep over the precipice into the fires of hell or something similar. Time to take stock of one's life if it's not too late.....

Was it a coincidence that one reverend followed another in the form of Rev Lionel Fanthorpe? Certainly the presentation styles of the good reverends couldn't be more different and the audience was moved from the fires of hell to a gentler world. But then Lionel is known for his love of motorcycling so perhaps still waters do run deep? Either way we listened to tales of personal experiences of the paranormal all delivered in that soft Norfolk accent that has become so familiar.

Another short break after which Jackie Tonks presented "Bigfoot research and encounters in the Pacific North-West" a remarkable insight into her close encounters of the furry kind. The talk also touched on the people at the cutting edge of this research as well as the view of the locals including the police and the surprising disclosure that the judiciary may well have taken steps to ensure the protection from hunters of this so far unacknowledged hominin.

GLOBAL GHOSTLORE

An Anthropology of Spooks and Spectres

Dr Hannah Gilbert
Exploring the Extraordinary



Fittingly Richard Freeman took over the batting with “Relic hominins and mystery apes in Asia”. As an ex zookeeper Richard clearly knows his stuff and having travelled the world extensively is a mine of information much of which was shared during this presentation. The underlying message that previously unknown species pop up leads him to believe that in the vastness of areas such as Russia and the United States officially unrecognised species can exist including hominins.

Robert Moore’s “Trends in modern Ufology (and looking back)” moved us on to a review of things from the skies and beyond. Robert has clearly researched UFO’s to such an extent we wouldn’t be surprised if he’s next on the Alien list of abductees. With passion and gusto, Robert covered an immense amount of material in a short space of time just like a UFO bending space and travelling at unimaginable speeds. Well done for keeping the time slots on track!

Proceedings were wrapped up by Jackie Tonks and Richard Freeman with “insights into hominins, hominids and mystery apes across the globe” which expanded on some of the themes raised in their respective talks. This was a less formal presentation and they both took questions from the floor during it.

From a personal perspective we’ve always wondered whether the collective noun for Bigfoot is Bigfeet or Bigfoots? There’s probably well documented answers to this basic question but it’s always been a mystery and after all mystery is very much part of the human condition and the reason why we enjoyed such an entertaining and informative weekend. Amusingly, the discussion moved from Bigfeet to how big is their ‘well we all know the link’. We thought Richard tackling the enquiring minds with his little finger satisfied the seriously strange in the room.

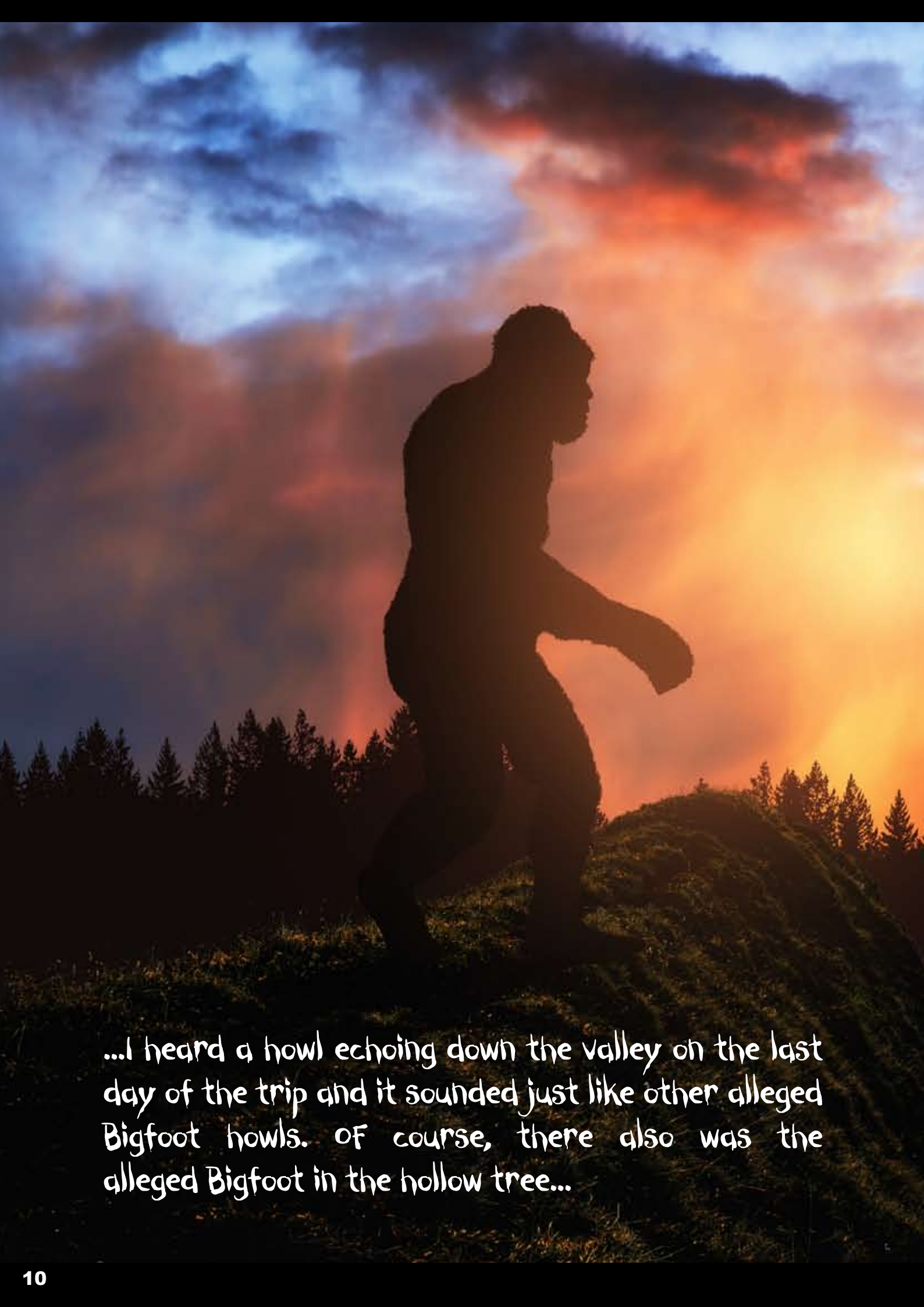
Our thanks go out to the speakers, Norie Miles and the rest of the ASSAP team for staging a great weekend. Throughout both days, everyone was approachable and willing to share their experiences. And, as is now customary, a round of applause for the attendees. As we said at the very beginning of this review the sum of the parts exceeded the total and it added up to a cracking weekend.



Nick’s involvement with the paranormal developed through an interest in religion, although of no faith it became apparent that the paranormal was a common theme of belief. Coupling this with personal experiences he was staggered by the number of events family, friends and acquaintances also experienced. On retirement, he felt it was time to devote more time to studying this which culminated in the formation of PRI UK. Nick is also a member of The Society for Psychical Research and the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena and the Ghost Club.

Andy’s interest in the paranormal started early in his childhood after some personal experiences which could not be explained rationally. Since the 1980s Andy has been researching the paranormal and is involved in regular investigations. During this time his understanding has evolved to incorporate a more rational and scientific approach. He is a member of The Society for Psychical Research and the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena and the pioneering Ghost Club established in 1862. Andy values his contact with clients while respecting their own paranormal experiences.





...I heard a howl echoing down the valley on the last day of the trip and it sounded just like other alleged Bigfoot howls. Of course, there also was the alleged Bigfoot in the hollow tree...

Bigfoot in the Pacific Northwest - objectivity in research

by Jackie Tonks

I remember as a child watching the iconic image of a female Bigfoot (now nicknamed 'Patty') walking across a dry creek bed on Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World. Little did I know years later I would be seriously pursuing research in that same area, and chatting to one of the men who filmed it! If you had said to me before my first Bigfoot expedition to the USA that Bigfoot exists, then I would have told you it was highly unlikely and would have given a few percentage chance of it being a real creature. Now I can very confidently say that it exists one hundred percent!

I first got an opportunity to travel out to the USA to explore the phenomena after being invited on an expedition with Adam Davies and Andrew Sanderson after meeting them at the Centre for Zoology Conference, The Weird Weekend, then held in Hartland, Devon. At that point I was just interested in seeing a bear and the Bigfoot interest was incidental.

This first expedition, in September 2012 was hosted by Lori Simmons, whose father was a famous Bigfoot researcher called Donald Wallace and she had continued the research after his death. We went out with her to a campsite in the North Cascade Mountains, Washington State. It became very evident after a few days that there was more to this Bigfoot thing than mere legend. Almost everyone we met had experienced something or knew someone who had seen one. After a few days we saw footprints which looked very genuine. You could see whatever had created them was very heavy. I jumped off a log and could make nowhere near the depth of impression. You could see where the toes had visibly flexed to gain grip on uneven ground. (not something you see in fake prints). Although, these did not have them, experts also say dermal ridges (like fingerprints) can be visible on some castings and these are impossible to fake. We used plaster of Paris to cast the prints. On this expedition we also obtained

a strange camera trap image in the middle of the campsite of something which looked very large and seemed to have massive shoulders and a domed head. It was far too large to be one of us (we tested that out by one of the expedition members adopting the same pose in the same location). Also I heard a howl echoing down the valley on the last day of the trip and it sounded just like other alleged Bigfoot howls. Of course, there also was the alleged Bigfoot in the hollow tree, which Lori and her father had researched for many years. Something did seem to be responding to and mimicking our knocks and food was taken out of wrappers with likely fingers use but it was too dusty and dry for any footprints. I am not sure about this one and the sounds were bear like (when I mentioned to Cryptozoologist Richard Freeman that it sounded like a Chewbacca from Star Wars, he noted Black bear sounds were used in the original movie to create the voice). The present research by Brent Dill suggests an embedded branch is the most likely candidate and Brent suggests confirmation bias may be a big factor in previous interpretations of the phenomena. Be it Bigfoot, bear or tree, it is still pretty amazing.

My Second expedition in June 2014 to Northern California, at the end of the Gasquet-Orleans (G-O road for short) was with Thom Cantrall (author and researcher with 40 years plus experience) and also present were a numbers of other researchers within the Bigfoot field, all members of the International Society for Primal people. They all have a very relaxed attitude to observing Bigfoot's and believe that they will come up to you if they want to and all interactions should be on their terms. They do not believe in tracking them and feel they should be treated with respect. Habituation as done with the Mountain Gorilla's is the closest things they do I can compare it with. Unlike the first expedition, I was not encouraged to wear 'camo' and instead make myself as



visible as possible. Researcher Autumn Williams has also identified that Bigfoots tend to feel threatened by camouflage gear as they identify it with hunters, threat and death. During this expedition, I did have some amazing luck, so perhaps this method does work! About 6 days into the expedition, myself, Thom and Arla Cailleach Collett were driving up a remote logging road and suddenly from a good distance I saw two upright figures running very fast across the road. Initial impressions were that they were two very stocky and large men in all in one dark overalls with the hood up but I was bemused as to why they should be running barefoot on such hard stony ground. Seconds later I heard Thom yell and they were suddenly right in front of the car and we had to prepare for an emergency stop and Thom slammed on the breaks. They had obviously run into the burnt out trees at the side of the road and panicked as there was no cover. For a split second they hesitated in the middle of the road. I still recall this as an intrusive flashback like image. I could clearly observe the following: domed heads; very large, all dark sunken eyes with no whites; flat but humanlike noses dark olive skin; abnormally board shoulders and chest; and long human like legs. They ran in an unusual and skittish manner, not

humanlike. We did not stop but drove on, in shock from our near miss encounter. For days my mind tried to fit things into paradigms I knew but I just could not do so, and on the third day I went into shock and shook for about two hours, finally coming to terms with what I had seen. My best analogy is that it was like seeing a Unicorn in the middle of the road!

An adult Bigfoot is nearly always described as; being well over 6 feet; having a domed or pointed head; having very wide shoulders and chest; having a thumb on the side of its hand; large all dark eyes and being covered in hair (not fur).

A further experience occurred on the Saturday night of the 2017 Sasquatch Summit in Ocean shores in Washington State. I and Brooklyn Francisco (who films the Summit) asked Johnny Manson who organises the event if he had any reports or any recent sightings we could investigate, as the Olympic Peninsula is a prime Bigfoot sightings area. Johnny said they had received reports of multiple sightings for the last few weeks in an area about two and half miles away, and so I and Brooklyn headed out there. We parked up and then walked for about half a mile up a narrow logging road, and made sounds typically attributed to Bigfoot's such as whoops, howls and tree knocks in an attempt to attract their attention. To be truthful, we did not really expect anything to happen and it

was rather a shock when it did! Brooklyn suddenly heard the undergrowth rustle and a deep growl. There was immediate anxiety it might be a bear. However, this idea was quickly put to one side when a small pine cone landed at our feet,

followed shortly after by a small stone, inches away from our face! Whatever it was appeared to have hands! We then did what we should not have done and panicked (experts say that if you act fearful, animals and humans generally tend to perceive you as a threat, unpredictable and potentially dangerous). Brooklyn pulled out his machete and waved it round and shouted and we both swung our torches around. The almost immediate response was a much larger projectile, a rock being hurled with such force that it smashed all small stones it hit, going into the hard ground a long way. Unless this was a random human sitting in a forest with a catapult, this must be Bigfoot! We were out of there! Some people say, why didn't you stay to see if you could get more interaction!! We did later try to get a thermal image but we got nothing. As this was the first possible Bigfoot experience for Brooklyn and he also tried to fit it into his known paradigm of 'human' but does now have to admit it doesn't quite fit!

Well if you want to do research on Bigfoot, how can you go about it in a scientific way? There are two various possible things. You can try to collect a biological sample such as hair, faeces, which will require the use of sterile techniques to avoid contamination with human DNA. You can try to look for signs of Bigfoot which appear to be unique and do not seem to relate to any other known animal. Some of these include: signs of animal disturbance in undergrowth creating gaps well over 6 feet high; and feeding suggestive of use of hands (e.g. no claw marks, or things not being ripped to pieces with claws), and tree branches clearly intentionally bent. Do try to rule out human activity in the area. Footprints can of course also be cast and experts in the field can be asked for opinions. For example, does the cast suggest it is an organic thing showing flexibility or does the cast suggest rigidity which we would expect in a fake, such as where a wooden carved foot has been used to make impressions. In any research you will need to be very objective and try a bit of falsifiability here, one of the yardsticks for experimental research as postulated by Karl Popper. In summary, do only Bigfoots seem to create the sound or can you create the same effect by other means? For example, can you create Bigfoot knocks by using a stick in a hollow tree. If you can, how do you know that, for example a Corvid wasn't just mimicking your sound by tapping inside a tree and using it like a sound box for amplification? I once played this game with friendly Blue Jay at a campsite and heard an almost identical sound! If it might be the case that different things could create the same effect, then how can you get more evidence? If multiple witnesses all saw an animal looking like a Bigfoot near the location then report also hearing a sound then it may be more evidence. However, is this just a spurious correlation? Just because two things occur together, does not mean they are connected.

The Olympic Project, a Bigfoot research group have come out with some useful statistics around Bigfoot in the Olympic Peninsula area of Washington State. They, amongst other things, have identified that you are more likely to see Bigfoot in the early hours of the morning on or near a road and that you have a good chance of seeing one at berry picking time (this makes sense when if you consider that picking berries takes a lot of concentration and so they are distracted). This and other observational and correlational studies help us get a consistent picture of a Bigfoot. An adult Bigfoot is nearly always described as; being well over 6 feet.; having a domed or pointed head; having very wide shoulders and chest; having a thumb on the side of its hand; large all dark eyes (sometimes reflecting light but sometimes 'glowing' red or green); and being covered in hair (not fur). Reports of its behaviours are also pretty consistent: bipedal; avoiding people; making bluff charges or throwing things when cornered.; being omnivorous; making beds or shelters out of vegetation, typically living on the ground but also climbing trees; making a variety of sounds such as whoops and howls (possibly also a primitive language); and also using wood knocking to communicate over long distances.

Such consistency in reports has caused myself and fellow researchers to postulate what it might be. The data very much support it being one of two things: a type of ape or a type of hominoid. It might be closely related to man or not. It may be a known species but also may well be an unknown species or an evolved version of previously known species. In terms of the latter, a robust form of Homo Erectus or Homo Habilis had been suggested. The Neanderthal theory is now seen as highly unlikely as its behaviour and description suggest an earlier genus. There are also almost no reports of it using fire or making tools, suggesting it is not a form of later Homo genus. However, it's facial features and almost exclusive bipedal stance would not suggest an ape, unless it is related to Gigantopithecus as some suggest.

As there is so much evidence of its existence, then why does the USA government not recognise it? This is likely due to various factors. The idea of a missing link may be far too threatening to a largely Christian population, a significant number of whom have fundamentalist beliefs. There is also the possible impact on the logging industry and economy, as logging would not be allowed in the habitat of a rare and likely endangered species. There is also the issue of whether we are yet ready for Bigfoot to be exposed to the world. Would we embrace its existence or not? I will leave that for the reader to consider.



Jackie Tonks

Jackie particularly has a keen interest in collating evidence of Bigfoot, via filming, using daylight and night vision photography and filming, thermal imaging, and camera traps, and is a keen tracker....She is also interested in the Anthropological ('personal/cultural meanings') of the Bigfoot field and also her Psychological background means that perceptual factors and eye witness testimony factors are of interest to her. Jackie studied Psychology at degree level and then went on to do Masters degrees in varying subjects and then qualified as a Counsellor. She now works as a Social Worker for the NHS. She is also a member of the Centre for Fortean Zoology, and ASSAP.

Ghosts & Legends of Hadrian's Wall

by Ian Topham

In 2013 I managed to fulfil a childhood wish and walked (hobbled and crawled) the full length of Hadrian's Wall. I was joined in my madness by my wife Alison and a close friend Michaela Waterhouse. Being unused to long distance, walking we took it fairly slow and covered the 88 miles in seven days. We also managed to raise £700 for a hospice in Oldham. Obviously, being me, I decided it would be a good idea to visit as many haunted and strange locations as I could along the way. As it turned out, this was not very many, as I was too tired. However, I have decided to pull them together in a mini Albion Project, concentrating on sites a short distance North and South of the Roman Wall, so effectively concentrating on sites and reported experiences in a thin strip crossing the North of England. Unfortunately it is still far too large to fit in an article. So here is my epic 'Hadrians Wall Walk/Ghost Guide/Pub Guide Diary' edited so as not to offend.

The construction of Hadrian's Wall is thought to have started in or around 122AD and after six years was mostly finished. The Wall ran from Segedunum at Wallsend, through Tyne and Wear, Northumbria and Cumbria ending at Bowness-on-Solway just west of Carlisle. Measuring between 11 and 20 feet high, the Wall marked the northern border of the Roman Empire, not the border between England and Scotland, which of course did not exist then.

Suitably dressed in heroic attire (a cross between Indiana Jones, Crocodile Dundee and Adrian Mole) the epic walk started at Segedunum and the first day took us along the River Tyne through Newcastle finishing at The Keelman in Newburn for a pint. We saw no Romans, living or otherwise, but Wallsend, reminded me of the devastation left by the Roman Army at the start of Gladiator and we nearly got run over by some 10 year olds channelling Ben Hur, charging a horse drawn cart loaded with possibly recently acquired car wheels along the foot path.

So, what ghosts did we miss?



Day One: Segedunum to The Keelman, Newburn

1

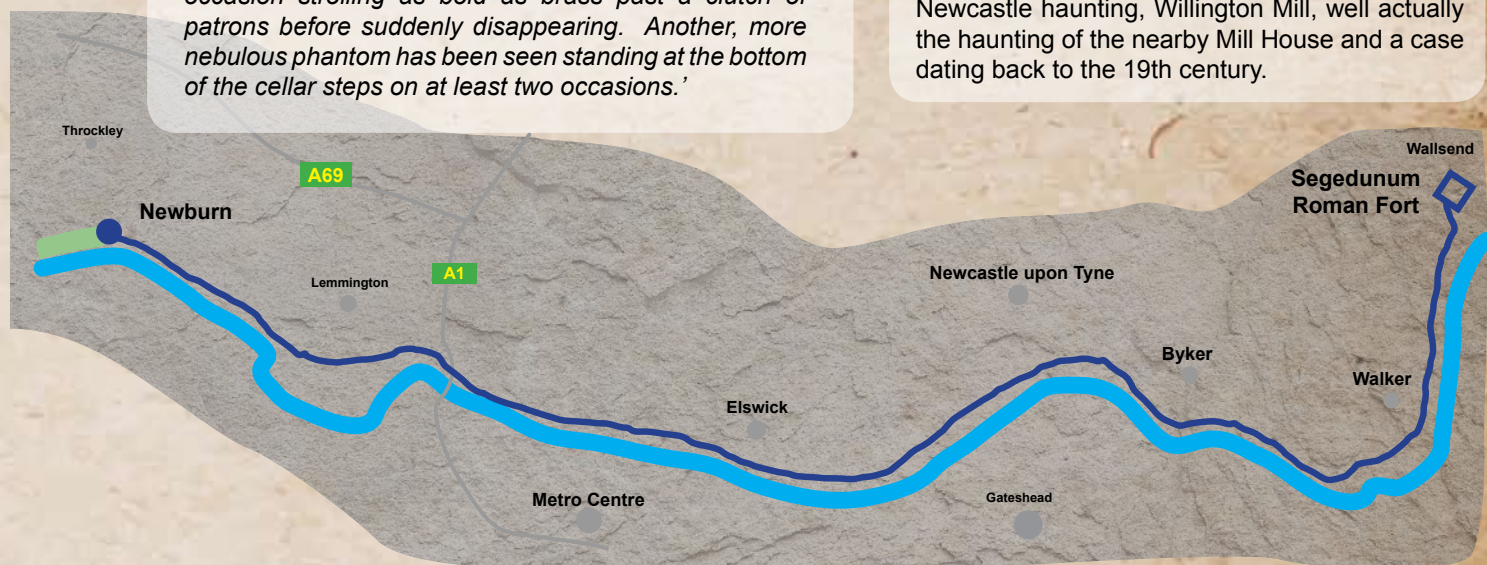
Starting south of the river we have our first Roman haunting, the **Look Out Inn, South Shields**. The pub is positioned opposite the reconstructed Arbeia Fort, which served as a maritime supply base for the Wall and according to a post in the Jarrow Life forum 'Some of the regulars said that they often saw one, two or three Roman soldiers around the pub at different times.

Not too far away is **The Marine**, another haunted South Shields pub. According to the Shields Gazette (14/06/2012) *'Most of the apparitions seem to have had short-term contracts, being seen only once. That doesn't make them any the less scary, but from an investigator's point of view it can be frustrating as it becomes impossible to accumulate information on any given case. One ghost has appeared several times; a spectral chap who's been seen in the bar – on one occasion strolling as bold as brass past a clutch of patrons before suddenly disappearing. Another, more nebulous phantom has been seen standing at the bottom of the cellar steps on at least two occasions.'*



2

Over in **Stevenson Street**, North Shields we have a haunting referred to by Catherine Crowe in her 'The Night Side of Nature, or, Ghosts and Ghost Seers' (1848). Also falling into our project zone is probably the most famous Newcastle haunting, Willington Mill, well actually the haunting of the nearby Mill House and a case dating back to the 19th century.



3

The walk also probably took us past the location of the now demolished Shop 17 of **Vickers Yard** in Elswick which was thought to be haunted by a former foreman called Freddie in the 1970's. According the Shields Gazette (2007) *'Bowler-hatted Freddie's job at the yard had been to look after a manufacturing unit called Shop 17. More than a decade after his death, workers in Shop 17 began to see flitting shadows dance across the walls with no obvious cause. A number of employees asked for transfers to other parts of the yard. One evening, a security guard in Shop 17 felt a hand on his shoulder "holding him back forcibly". He turned around, but there was no one there. Not long after, two fitters claimed to have had a lengthy conversation with Freddie, not realising who he was or that he was dead. Later, when shown photographs, they identified him as the missing foreman*

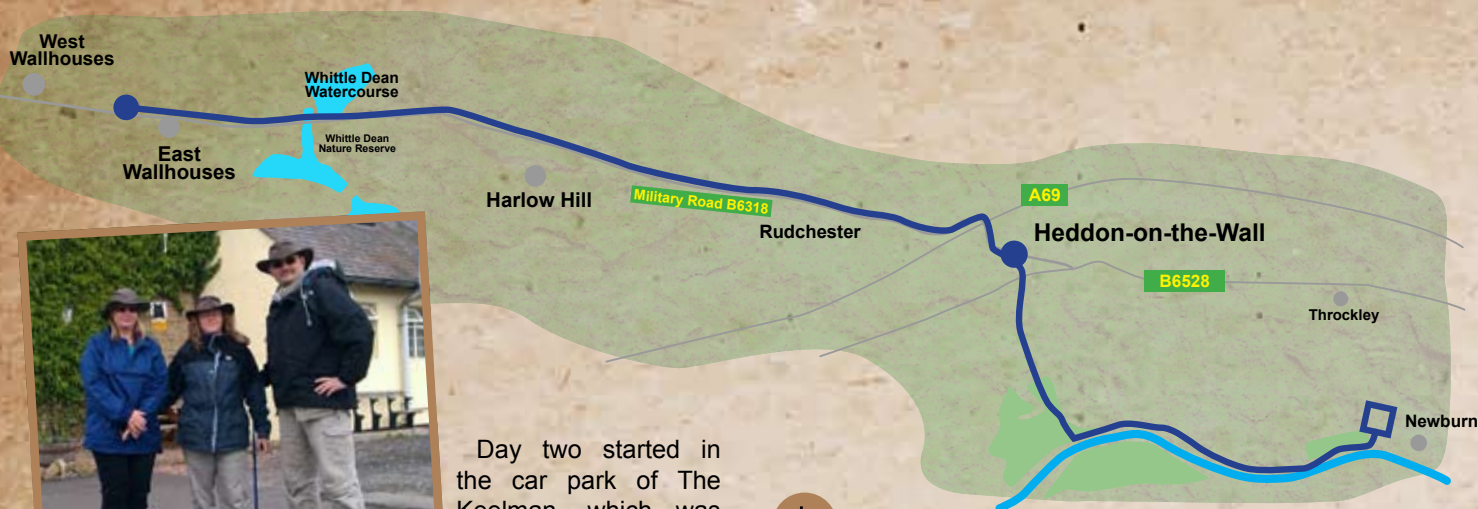
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Not too far from our route was the 17th century East **Denton Hall**, residence of The Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, and previous home of Elizabeth Montagu (Born 2 October 1718 – Died 25 August 1800) the famous writer and social reformer. This house was thought to haunted by a ghost referred to as Silky.



The first days walking taught me that in parts of Newcastle setting wheelie bins on fire and letting them melt must be a hobby and that my walking colleagues were not going to let me sneak off into each pub we passed, or any pub we passed to be honest.

Day Two: The Keelman, Newburn to Robin Hood Inn, East Wallhouses



Day two started in the car park of The Keelman, which was shut, so no breakfast pint for me that day. The route took us through Heddon-on-the-

Wall and following the route of the B6318 Military Road to the Robin Hood Inn. It was a slog. What made it worse was we walked into a storm. I have never been so wet with clothes on in my life and that includes when I ran into the sea at Weymouth chasing my drunken brother after we had been barred from a bowling alley. But I digress.

I remember meeting a Wall walker coming the other way who claimed that the rain in Cumbria was much softer than the rain in Northumbria and that we were heading the right way. Although I did return to this conversation later in the week when I was being rained on in Cumbria, I concluded that they were both just damn wet.

Our walk took us near **Harlow Hill**, where in 1985 a group of people watched a black cylindrical UFO for ten minutes.



Day Three: Robin Hood Inn, East Wallhouses to Chollerford

Day three began where day two ended and we followed the B6318 to The George at Chollerford. The B6318 here runs along the route of the old Military Road, the construction of which started in 1746. The purpose was to provide a quick method of transporting troops across the north of England in light of the recent Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The Roman wall was quarried and used as hardcore for the road.



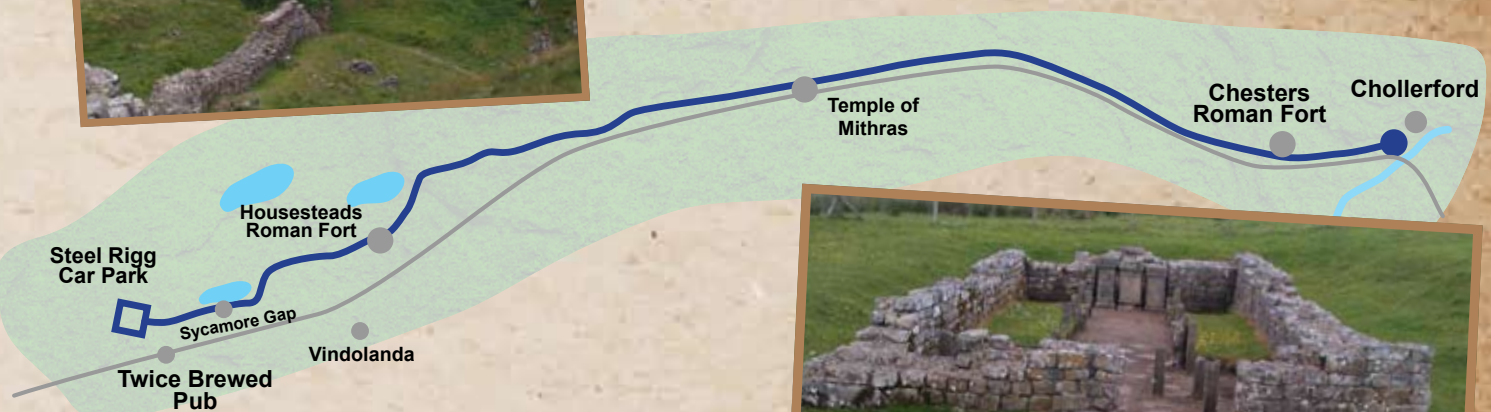
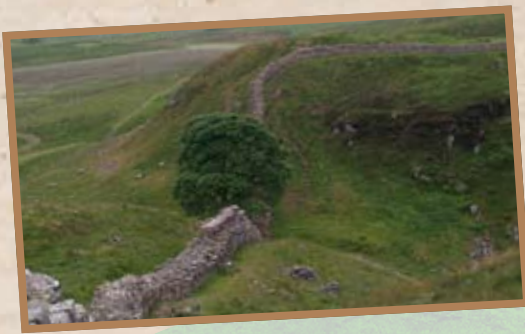
There is a legend of **Norse Huntsmen** patrolling the skies over the wall, searching for souls.

Day Four: Chollerford to the Twice Brewed Inn near Vindolanda

Day four took us from Chollerford, past Chesters Roman Fort and Housesteads Roman Fort, ending at the Twice Brewed Inn near Vindolanda. We were joined on our walk by Tim, a man nearing retirement who it turned out was easily ten times fitter than me. I was too concerned with keeping up and looking in shape that I forgot we were walking North of Hexham and it was a good job that we did not stray from the path, as we were entering Northumbrian Were-sheep territory. In 1972 two young brothers dug up some carved stone heads from their garden in Hexham which, according to the family attracted the attention of “half-man, half beast” creature entering their home a few days later.

In nearby Allendale reports of a wild wolf slaughtering sheep hit the headlines in 1904.

Beer and ice cream ended a thoroughly great walk which included passing the famous tree from Robin Hood Prince of Thieves. Strange, we were nowhere near Nottingham!



1 The Wolf of Allendale / The Hexham Wolf

“Wolf at Large in Allendale” was the headline of The Hexham Courant on 10th December 1904. The Courant reported that in the last three weeks, farmers around the village of Allendale were stabling their animals at night as loss of livestock had become a serious concern.

Further sightings, sometimes conflicting, were reported over the next several days, describing the beast as “black and tan” or “dun” coloured.

Despite the lack of success in tracking down their wolf, the locals adopted the continuing search as part of their folklore. Hunt days soon took on a sense of occasion complete with fancy-dress and sing-songs.

By the end of January 1905 reports of the wolf began to wane, culminating with a succinct report of a wolf sighted with a snare attached to its leg. Eventually, the sightings and livestock killings ceased altogether.



3 Temple of Mithras, Carrawburgh Roman Fort

Mithras was an eastern god who, according to legend, had captured and killed the primeval bull in a cave, which Mithraic temples, always small and gloomy, were intended to evoke. The temple was probably built by soldiers based at the fort in about AD 200. The three altars found here were all dedicated by commanding officers of the unit stationed here, the First Cohort of Batavians from the Rhineland.

4 Allendale Tar Barrel Burning

31 December – A version of burning out the old year, locals walk down the street with blazing tar barrels on their heads. Some of these are then thrown to light a bonfire.

2 The Hexham Heads

It was 1972, and at the Robson family home in Hexham, only ten minutes walk away from where the legendary Wolf of Allendale had roamed the woods, the two young Robson brothers dug up two small, carved stone heads whilst they were tending the garden.

Several nights after the discovery of the stone heads, neighbour Ellen Dodd and her daughter were sitting up late one evening when both of them witnessed a “half-man, half beast” entering the bedroom. The pair screamed in terror but, the creature seemed indifferent to them and simply left the room, heard to be “padding down the stairs as if on its hind legs”. Later on, the front door was found open. It has been thought that the creature had been in search of something, and had left the house to continue searching elsewhere.¹

Interest in the local legend of The Wolf of Allendale was rekindled by this event and the stone heads became associated with the possible re-appearance of the wolf.

Day Five: Twice Brewed Inn to Banks Turret

We had now walked from Newcastle to near where our base camp had been set up just above Haltwhistle. The morning started with striking camp and packing up and whilst my mate Lee drove the gear back to Carlisle, where he could basically watch my TV and drink my beer, we still had about 15 miles to walk!! Day 5's route took us from Steel Rigg, past Greenhead, Gilsland, Birdoswald Roman Fort and ended at Banks Turret.

We had camped near Cawfields Milecastle (No 42) which is reputedly haunted, by an actual Roman soldier! Cawfields Milecastle is thought to have been built by the Roman Legio Secunda Augusta (Legio II Augusta, Second Augustan Legion) and a ghostly figure described as being in Roman armour is thought to have been seen during daylight hours, hovering in the air at the height of the Roman Wall, which in some places could have been 5 – 6 meters high.

I don't know of any actual accounts of the ghost being witnessed, but there seems to be a story attached to it. Sometimes referred to as Lucius, the Roman soldier was a sentry based at Milecastle 42 and in love with a native Briton. Apparently her brother would smuggle goods across the wall in and out of the Roman Empire and she had gotten close to Lucius to feed her brother information about sentry patrols etc. When the brother was captured he implicated Lucius, who, realising his girl had been using him, committed suicide. Given that this must have been 2000 years ago, I have no idea where this story came from.

Needless to say, even though we camped close to the Milecastle and walked passed it enroute, we did not see Lucius, or any other ghost really.

That being said, we did come across a nice Australian walking the Wall in full replica Roman armour. I really felt sorry for that guy with the sandals and weighty armour but he was raising a lot of money for a cancer charity and enjoying meeting walkers along the way.

We were now in 'haunted country' I think as we would be passing: Blenkinsopp Castle, Featherstone Castle, Upper Denton, Birdoswald Roman Fort and Naworth Castle.



Blenkinsopp Castle

The following account of the haunting appeared in the 'Monthly Chronicle of North-Country Lore and Legend' (March 1888) and 'English Fairy and Other Folk Tales' by Edwin Sidney Hartland (1890).

'Like almost all the old Northumbrian castles and peels, Blenkinsopp has the reputation of being haunted. A gloomy vault under the castle is said to have buried in it a large chest of gold, hidden in the troublous times: some say by a lady whose spirit cannot rest so long as it is there, and who used formerly to appear--though not, that we have heard, for the last four or five decades--clothed in white from head to foot, and so was known as "The White Lady."

Today Blenkinsopp Castle is a Grade I listed partial ruin following a fire in 1954 when it was hotel.



2 Featherstone Castle

The story of the haunting of Featherstone Castle is old and has been written about many times with elements omitted and added over time. The basic story is that a medieval Baron of Featherstone Castle arranged a marriage between his daughter and a man she did not love.

The bride and wedding guests were ambushed by the new bride's lover and his men-at-arms who attacked in hope of stealing her away from her unwanted husband. During the fight the bride flung herself in front of her lover as her husband lunged with his weapon and she died of the mortal wound she received. The lover, being the last man standing was so devastated with the loss of the young woman that he stabbed his own heart and died holding her.

Tradition has it that on the anniversary of the wedding, the ghostly wedding party are said to be seen riding from Pinkyn Cleugh to Featherstone Castle or according to some accounts they appear in the banquet hall re-enacting their ghostly wedding feast.

This actual murder inspired Sir Walter Scott's 'The Death of Featherstonhaugh'.

3 Upper Denton

The local church made from the distinctive stones taken from Hadrian's Wall dates back to Saxon times. The churchyard holds the grave of Margaret Teasdale who died aged ninety-eight in 1777. Items found in her home after her death led the locals to believe she had an interest in the occult and she has been regarded as a witch since then.



5 Naworth Castle

Haunted by a 'White Lady', the spirit of a girl who was seduced by Lord Dacre without knowing his identity. She became pregnant and upon discovering Lord Dacres rank and social standing, she realised they would never be together as she was of a lower class.

She threw herself into a stream and drowned. The body was discovered by Lord Dacre, his bride to be and the dead girls mother. The girls mother put a curse upon Lord Dacre resulting in his death and that of his heirs.



4 Birdoswald Roman Fort

This impressive site is the remains of a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall. The area was occupied from much earlier times and recently a Neolithic burial has been found. There is also evidence of a large Dark Age Hall on the site. Traditionally the site has been identified with Camlan, the site of King Arthur's last battle.

A phallic carving on the wall dates from the time of occupation, and may have been carved as a fertility symbol during the construction of the fort. It is carved on one of the stones of Hadrian's wall just outside the enclosed area of the fort. There are other obscure carvings on the wall, their purpose now long forgotten.

Recently there have been reports that the modern building is haunted.

Day Six: Banks Turret to Carlisle

Day six did not begin in a pub carpark. This proved to be an ill omen as it rained the entire day!

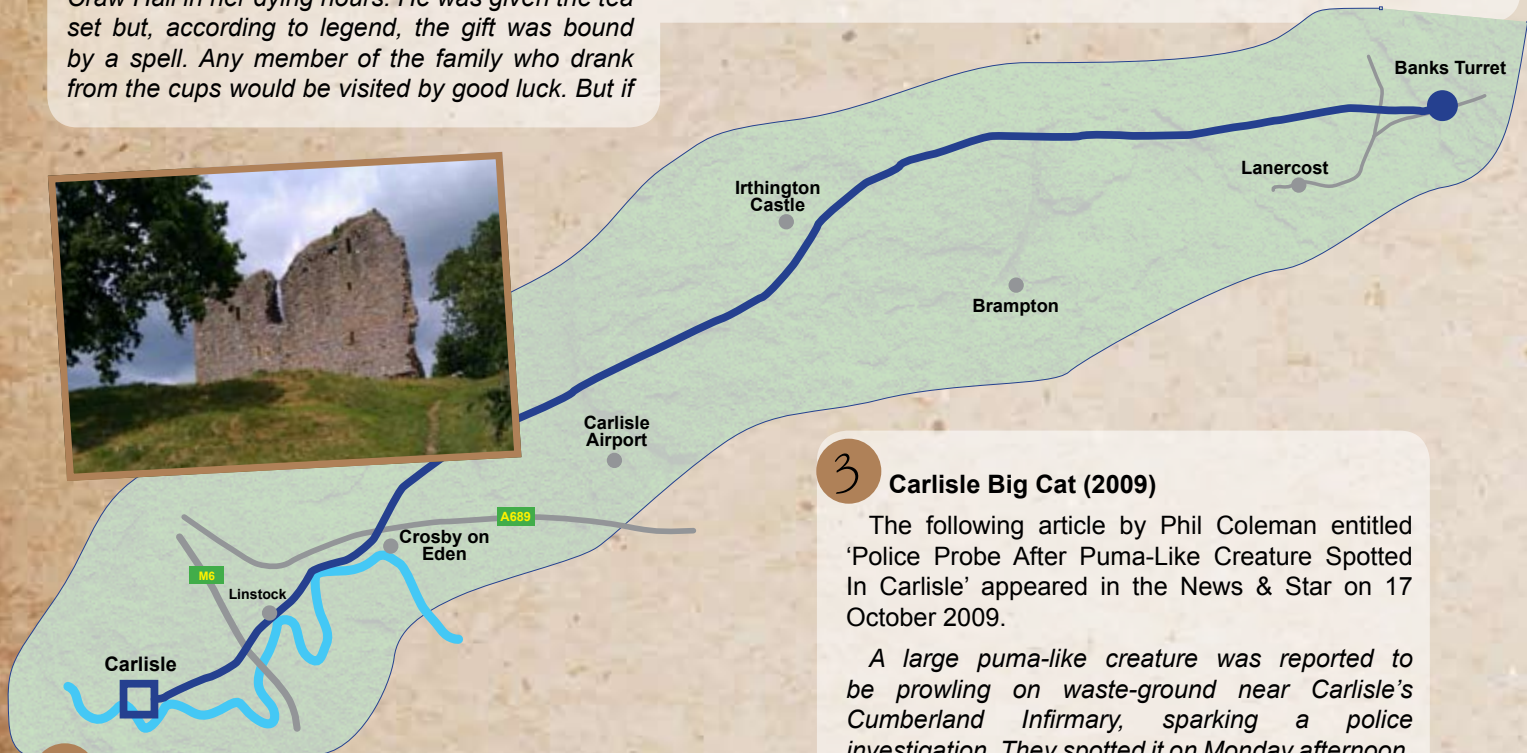
1 The Tea Set of Lizzie Baty, Brampton Witch

The following article entitled 'Cumbrian witch's cursed tea set promises disaster for new owners' appeared in the Cumberland News on Friday 10 December 2010. It concerns a legacy left by Lizzie Baty (The Brampton Witch) in the 19th century. Lizzie had a knack of finding lost objects and was said to have "acted in a peculiar manner, dressed curiously and generally acted the part (of a witch)"

In 1817 a mysterious old woman known as the Brampton Witch gifted a set of china to a local friend on her death bed. Builder John Parker was summoned to 88-year-old Lizzie Baty's cottage at Craw Hall in her dying hours. He was given the tea set but, according to legend, the gift was bound by a spell. Any member of the family who drank from the cups would be visited by good luck. But if

the china ever left the family it would be the harbinger of disaster for the new owner. Now, nearly 200 years later, the antique china is still in mint condition and being looked after by the extended Parker family at a house in Carlisle.

Jim Parker Templeton – whose mother Mary was John Parker's great niece feels he may owe his life to the superstition of the gifted china. When war was declared in 1939, he was in one of the first groups of young men called up to fight. But before he left for duty, Mary sent him to seek out some good luck. "She told me to cycle from our home in Belle Vue all the way to a family member's house in Brampton to drink a cup of tea from the china. At the time I wasn't convinced but did it because I was told too." Just days later Jim joined the Royal Medical Corps which is where he stayed until the end of the war in 1945. But of the 500 men sent to fight with him, Jim was one of only 37 who returned.



2 Carlisle Castle

This building is reputed to be haunted by a ghostly woman. A soldier in 1823 was so frightened when he encountered her, that he bayoneted the apparition, impaling the wall behind it. The soldier fainted and died of shock the following day.

In 1820 a woman clothed in tartan was supposedly discovered bricked up in the Captains Tower on a staircase. She was holding a young child and her costume apparently dated back to Elizabethan times.

In the Kings Own Border Regiment Museum based within the castle, alarms were set three nights in a row during 1992, indicating something moved under the arch between the downstairs exhibition and gift shop/main desk area.

The building the museum occupies may have been a chapel, and the area in which this movement occurred may have been the crypt of said building.

3 Carlisle Big Cat (2009)

The following article by Phil Coleman entitled 'Police Probe After Puma-Like Creature Spotted In Carlisle' appeared in the News & Star on 17 October 2009.

A large puma-like creature was reported to be prowling on waste-ground near Carlisle's Cumberland Infirmary, sparking a police investigation. They spotted it on Monday afternoon, strolling across a patch of gassy wasteland near bushes next to the infirmary's incinerator unit.

"I looked out of the window and just saw this creature coming out of the bushes," said dental nurse Bonita Curr, 50.

"I could see straight away that it was not a domestic cat: it was far too big. The back of its spine was the height of an Alsatian and the head looked like a lynx.

"It just took its time, wandered all the way down to the trees, sat down, then stood up again and walked on until it was out of sight. Within moments of it disappearing near the bushes, we saw a chap walking his dog coming towards us."

A spokeswoman for Cumbria Police said the investigation would be handled by its wildlife officer PC John Shaw, who is based in Keswick.

Carlisle's Cursing Stone

In 2001 a large stone inscribed with a curse was placed in the underpass near Carlisle's Tullie House Museum. It was designed by a local Carlisle artist named Gordon Young and made by Andy Altman. The wording came from The Monition of Cursing by Archbishop Gavin Dunbar of Glasgow in the 16th century. The curse was read out on every pulpit throughout the debatable lands (Scottish border) in a bid to excommunicate the thieving, murdering, raping and godless Reiver families of the region. However, for some strange reason, a few Carlisle residents blamed the stone and its apparent occult powers for some of the city's unlucky events. I am not sure why though, as these are the words of a holy man, a Bishop of Glasgow.

According to The Guardian on 9 March 2005 in an article entitled 'They're doomed!'

Has an art installation cursed Carlisle? A number of locals are blaming a stone sculpture for a series of local calamities. Tanya Gold visits the stricken city in an attempt to lift the spell. "Beware, beware," as Bela Lugosi would say. "Beware the cursing stone of Carlisle." This is not a Universal horror film, however, or a Hammer lesbian-vampire tale. This is northern England 2005, where a granite boulder, inscribed with an ancient curse, is torturing an entire city. Carlisle is in the thick of a Da Vinci Code-style drama, starring malevolent stones, bishops and archbishops, fearful locals, an angry sculptor and a Liberal Democrat councillor called Jim.

I have arrived in the Scottish borders on a clear morning to see if I can bring an end to the accursedness which, by all accounts, has been going on for too long. The prologue was almost five centuries ago, when, in 1525, the Archbishop of Glasgow, Gavin Dunbar wrought a whopping 1,069-word curse on the Reiver people, who were pillaging the district. "I curse their head and all the hairs of their head," said the archbishop. "I curse their face, their brain, their mouth, their nose, their tongue, their teeth. May the thunder and lightning which rained down upon Sodom and Gomorrah, rain down upon them."

The Reiver withered and the curse of Gavin slept until 2001, when, as part of the millennium celebrations, the city council asked Gordon Young, a local artist and descendent of the Reiver, to carve 383 words of Gavin's curse on a stone. It was placed in a gloomy underpass between Carlisle Castle and the Tullie House museum and then, if you believe, Carlisle fell victim to the curse once more.

There has been a cacophony of misfortune; foot-and-mouth disease, floods, a fire at Rathbone's Bakery, job losses at Cavaghan & Gray, which makes coleslaw for Marks & Spencer, and the footballing relegation of Carlisle United. But Carlisle is fighting back. A Witchfinder General has come, in the person of Jim Tootle, the Liberal Democrat councillor who represents the Castle ward where the stone sits. He has demanded the destruction of the stone, or its removal from the city, in a council motion that was debated last night.

The stone sits innocently in a gloomy underpass. The morbid and the curious are milling around it. I touched the stone when I first glanced at it, so, some say, I am already cursed by its malice. But too late, I have work to do. "Spell and magic be gone," I say three times to the stone, reading from a spell book. "Go back to whence you came." I then visualise a pyramid and intone, "I am under universal light and universal protection; nothing less than universal protection can touch me where I am."

Another way to break a curse is to burn the curser's name. I write "Gavin" on my pad and burn it; then, since another curse breaker is vibrational energy, I do some star jumps. My final act of redemption is to take my diamond ring, which I have "purified", and wave it at the stone. This lucky charm will protect me; I can leave Carlisle in safety.



La Pergola Restaurant, Carlisle

Sadly The La Pergola is now closed, it was one of Carlisle's oldest, and probably one of the best known, Italian restaurants found in the basement of a beautiful Georgian building at 28 Castle Street. Over the years the building on Castle Street has been used for many purposes but it is thought that the ghost of a maid haunts the basement restaurant.

I have not been able to account for the whole of the buildings history, in fact I have only found a few details. In 1831 the Quaker, Jonathan Dodgson Carr moved to Carlisle from Kendal and set up a biscuit shop in 28 Castle Street, baking out of a brick oven. He was not restricted to Castle Street for long and by 1837 he had built a biscuit factory at Caldewgate

which received a Royal Warrant from Queen Victoria in 1841 and started a long association (175 years) with Carr's biscuits and Carlisle.

The Castle Boutique opened as a coffee shop in the basement of 28 Castle Street during the 1960's and during the 1970's an Italian restaurant opened there. It became La Pergola in 1991. Above La Pergola are the offices of a chartered structural engineers.

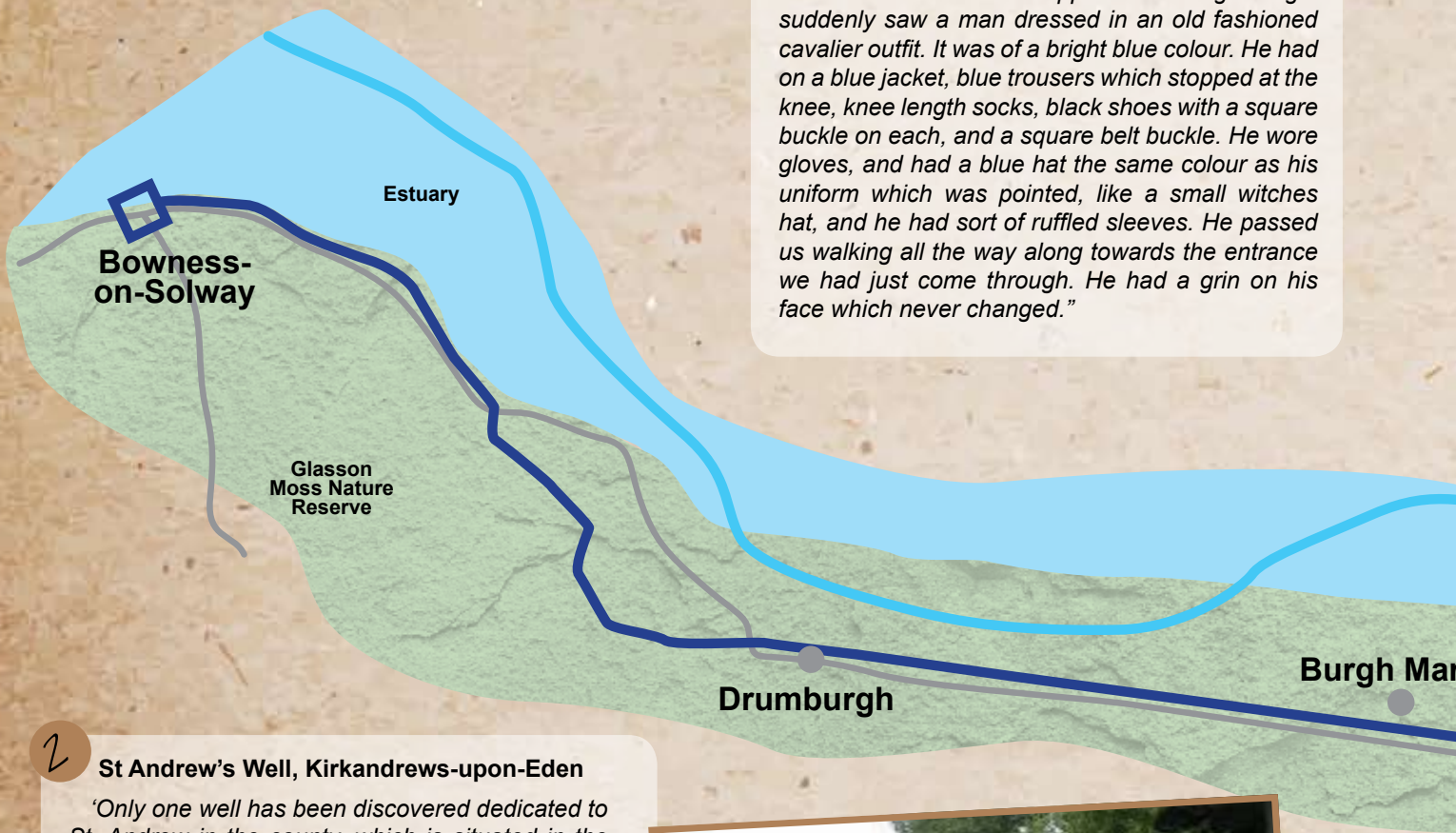
Ghost?

The ghost is thought to be a maid that connected to the building. A review of the restaurant stated she had been "sensed" and on occasion seen over the years.'

Day Seven: Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway

The constant rain on Day 6 and my inappropriate footwear proved crippling. I had a blister on the bottom of each foot the diameter of a mug. Day 7 was roughly 15 miles and set off with a packet of pain killers and grim determination. A mile from the end I had to sit down and my walking companions left me behind [Alison would disagree with this version of events]. After the latest pain killers kicked in I set off again.

200 yds from the end my knee give way. Luckily our support driver pulled up next to me wondering if I was ok. I almost cried with relief, unfortunately he saw me reach for the back door and promptly pulled off. I was still cursing when I reached the end and discovered the others were already in the pub! Needless to say I did not see any ghosts, big cats or strange aliens. Obviously the pain killers were not strong enough!!



West Walls, Carlisle

The ghost of a Cavalier has been seen close to the West Walls early some mornings, though I am unaware of anyone seeing him recently. The West Walls are the last remaining example of Carlisle's defensive wall that encircled the early city. They served the city well especially during the Civil War when Carlisle was besieged by Cromwell's soldiers during 1644 and 1645. It would appear that the apparition would date from this time period.

The following experience was e-mailed in by a Mysterious Britain & Ireland reader:

"About halfway along on the opposite side of the road near the wall opposite walking along I suddenly saw a man dressed in an old fashioned cavalier outfit. It was of a bright blue colour. He had on a blue jacket, blue trousers which stopped at the knee, knee length socks, black shoes with a square buckle on each, and a square belt buckle. He wore gloves, and had a blue hat the same colour as his uniform which was pointed, like a small witches hat, and he had sort of ruffled sleeves. He passed us walking all the way along towards the entrance we had just come through. He had a grin on his face which never changed."

2 St Andrew's Well, Kirkandrews-upon-Eden

'Only one well has been discovered dedicated to St. Andrew in the county, which is situated in the churchyard of Kirkandrews-on-Eden, and is not affected by the most intense frost or the longest drought. It is another of the many instances where holy wells were used for sacred purposes, placed conveniently for the service of the church.' [The Legendary Lore of the Holy Wells of England by Robert Charles Hope (1893)]

The well stood in the graveyard of the former medieval Church of St Andrew. The church itself is long gone and was probably demolished between 1687 and 1692.

The Roman Hadrian's Wall ran beside the site of the Well and a Mile Castle was situated very close to it.



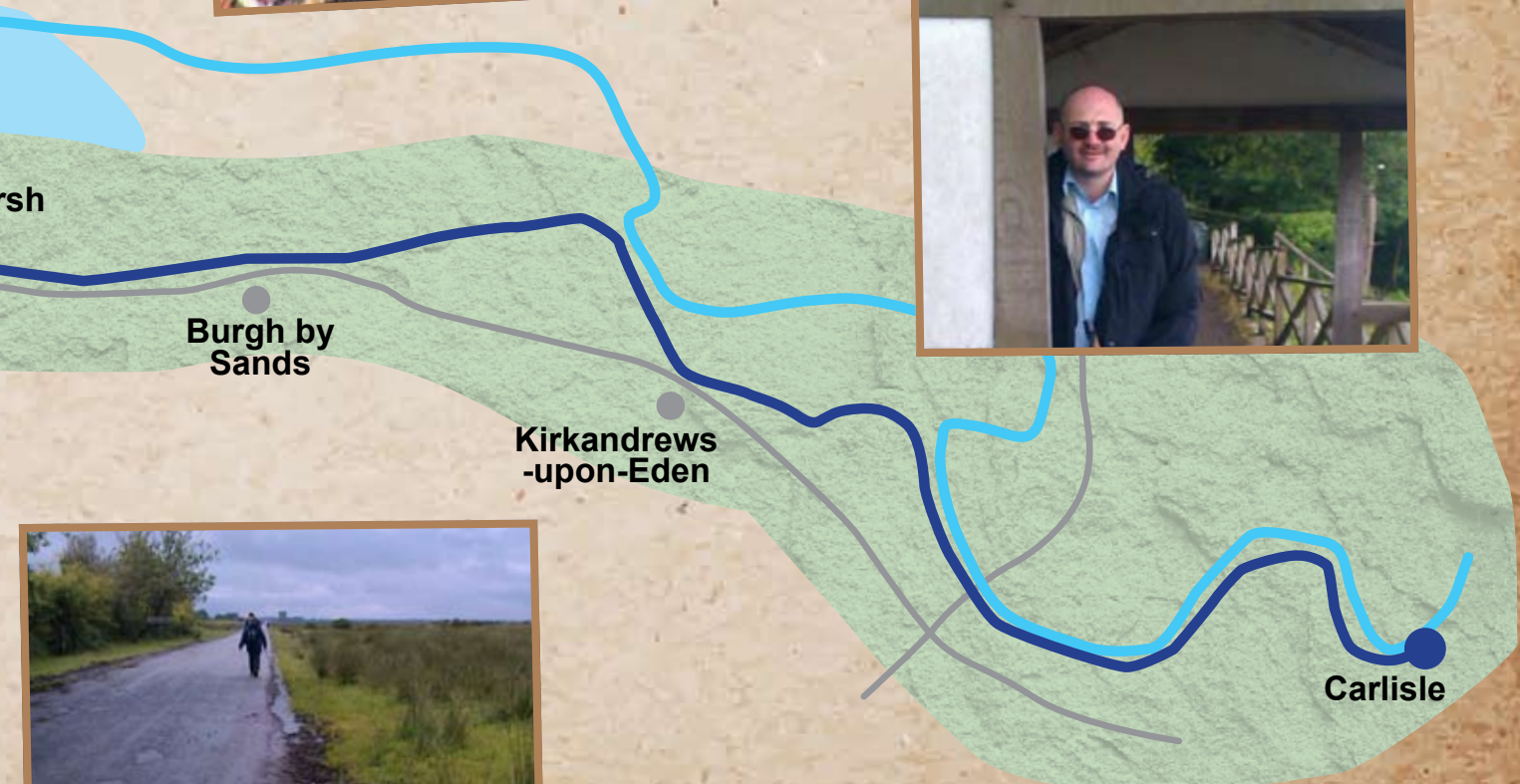
3 Burgh Marsh

24th May 1964, Jim Templeton (then 44) on an outing with his wife and two daughters, took a picture of his daughter holding a posy of wild flowers near a stretch of marshland by the Solway Firth. When this was developed it showed what appeared to be a white-suited entity wearing a black visor standing behind his daughter in a strange perspective. No rational explanation for this image has been forthcoming. The picture has become known as The Solway Photograph:



4 Edward I

7 July 1307, Edward I (Longshanks) died on Burgh Marsh roughly 1 mile North of the village of Burgh-by-Sands. Before his body was taken to London it lay in St Michael's Church. Next to The Greyhound public house there now stands a statue of Edward I which was commissioned in 2007 to mark the 700 year anniversary of his death.



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MEGALANIA

- the lizard of OZ

by Richard Freeman

In 1884 the great Victorian naturalist Charles Gould wrote a fascinating tome entitled *Mythical Monsters – Fact or Fiction*. This book was published only 25 years after Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, and postulated the zoological existence of legendary creatures. Herein Gould tackled such absentees from the ark as the unicorn, the phoenix, the sea serpent, and most importantly the dragon. After tracing draconic history for several chapters, he comes to the following conclusions on the nature of dragons.

*“We may infer that it was a long terrestrial lizard, hibernating, and carnivorous, with the power of constricting with its snake-like body and tail; possibly furnished with wing like expansions of its integument, after the fashion of *Draco volans*, and capable of occasional progress on its hind legs alone, when excited in attack. It appears to have been protected by armour and projecting spikes, like those of *Moloch horridus* and *Megalania prisca*, and was possibly more nearly allied to this last form than to any other which has yet come to our knowledge. Probably it preferred sandy, open country to forest land, its habitat was the high land of central Asia, and the time of its disappearance about that of the Biblical Deluge discussed in a previous chapter.*”

Although, it probably, in common with most reptiles, enjoyed frequent bathing, and when not so engaged, or basking in the sun, secluded itself under some overhanging terrestrial bank or cavern. The idea of its fondness for swallows, and power of attracting them, mentioned in some traditions, may not impossibly have been derived from these birds hawking around and through its open jaws in pursuit of flies attracted to the viscid humours of its mouth. We know that at the present day a bird, the trochilus of the ancients, freely enters the open mouth of the crocodile, and rids it of parasites affecting its teeth and jaws.”

In a way, Gould came closer to the truth than anyone suspected.

We have already met the Komodo dragon, but it had a prehistoric relation that was far more massive. The Pleistocene Epoch (2 million-10 thousand years ago), was typified by the proliferation of megafauna. Animals of huge size lived on all the continents (with the exception of Antarctica). Australia played host to some of the most bizarre and amazing. These included:

- **Diprotodon:** a semi-aquatic hippo sized wombat.
- **Procoptodon:** a 10 foot tall kangaroo.
- **Nototherium:** a marsupial “rhino”.
- **Palorchestes:** sported an elephantine trunk.
- **Genyornis:** a giant flightless, carnivorous duck!

To prey upon this surreal cavalcade of antipodean herbivores, equally strange carnivores evolved. The most spectacular reptilian macro-predator must have been the giant varanid *Megalania prisca*. This immense lizard reached lengths of 30 feet - rivalling the largest contemporary crocodiles. Much like a scaled-up Komodo dragon, *Megalania* preyed on the large herbivores of its time. Like the Komodo dragon it may have had a venomous bite. The projecting armour mentioned by Gould in fact belonged to a giant tortoise, *Meiolania*, whose fossil remains had been jumbled up with *Megalania*'s. The Aborigines arrived about fifty-thousand years ago. Sharing their environment with such a monster was daunting indeed, and *Megalania* – almost certainly a maneater - etched itself onto the Aboriginal culture. The vast beast became Mungoon-galli - ‘The Goanna Bunyip’. The natives believed that Mungoon-galli whipped-up sand-storms with his mighty tail, in much the same way as the Chinese believed that dragons

controlled the weather. This is one of the many 'coincidences' to be found when one studies dragonlore world wide.

Around ten thousand years ago, Australia's climate began to change. It became more arid, the rainforests retreated north, and the inland waterways shrunk. At the same time, the humans exploited the new dryness and began to light enormous bush-fires. Bush-fires are a frequent event in many tropical areas during the dry season, but sustained fires with climate change and human hunting was too much for many of Australia's megafauna, and the giant marsupials and birds disappeared.

With its prey gone, Megalania was presumed to have followed them into extinction. But this may not have been the case. The Komodo dragon survived the extinction of the dwarf elephants it used to hunt by killing smaller creatures. There is no reason that Megalania could not have done the same. It should be noted, that as well as the modestly-sized indigenous fauna, there are many introduced species in Australia. These include feral Asian water-buffalo and dromedary camels. Ralph Molnar - an Australian palaeontologist and Megalania expert said he examined what may have been an un-fossilised Megalania bone! It is part of an ileum or hip bone, and Molnar thought it looked to be between 100 and 200 years old! This puts a whole new light on the subject. An animal believed to have died out 10,000 years ago was possibly still around within living memory.

The Aborigines have always told of encountering giant-lizards, but as Australia began to be colonised by white men, they too crossed paths with the lord of the outback. One of the first sightings took place in 1890 at the village of Euroa, Victoria. A thirty-foot lizard came lumbering out of the bush causing panic and leaving a trail of king-sized footprints. A posse of forty men, armed with guns and nets, set out with cattle-dogs to trap the monster. The beast had other ideas, however, and vanished into the scrub to be seen no more.

In May 1961 three loggers encountered a huge lizard. They were in a remote part of the Wauchop forest (New South Wales). Having marked some trees for felling, the trio sat down to brew tea in a previously cleared area. This place was now covered in rotting wood and the loggers heard the crunching of something large approaching them. Looking up they saw a titanic lizard bearing down on them from an embankment. Fleeing in terror the three locked themselves in their truck and watched horrified as the dragon stalked across the dirt track and back into the forest. All agreed that its length was thirty feet, and that it held its body three feet off the ground.

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Perhaps the most important sighting happened in 1979 in the Wattagan mountains (New South Wales), as it involved a professional herpetologist - a scientist who specialises in the study of reptiles! Frank Gorden had taken his four-wheel-drive Landrover into the mountains to look for tiny lizards known as water skinks. After several unfruitful hours searching, Gorden returned to his vehicle and noticed a large “log” lying on a 6-foot-high bank next to the land-Rover. Gorden couldn't recall this log being there before but thought nothing of it until he turned the ignition, causing the “log” to rear up on four powerful legs and charge off into the woods.

Gorden, who was left in a mild state of shock, estimated it to be 28-30 feet long in comparison to his Land-Rover. It is highly appropriate that after failing to find any tiny lizards he found one very big one! When a recognised expert in the field sees an animal like this - close up and with a frame of reference for size - doubts about its existence are seriously eroded.

These giants are usually described as being a mottled grey-green, and as in the sighting above are often mistaken for fallen trees. Perhaps this is a form of camouflage employed by the Megalania in ambush hunting. In another case, also from the Wattagans, two farmers stopped their land-rover to move a log that was blocking the road. Once again, the dead-wood became animate, transforming into monster far longer than the twenty-foot road was wide.

Fortunately, (as the men were outside the vehicle and approaching the monster in blissful ignorance), it could not have been hungry as it merely sauntered off into the bushes.

Further north in New South Wales, is one of the largest subtropical rainforests in Australia - the Limpinwood Nature Reserve. The reserve is a vast plateau of undisturbed forest. It has sheer escarpments and forms part of the Macpherson Range that runs between New South Wales and Queensland. The northern portion is part of a 20-million-year-old extinct volcano whose lava-core now stands as Mount Warning.

In 1984, the late Peter Sleeman was walking through the forest. He was in a stand of what had been dry eucalyptus that had been logged and had subsequently been taken over by the imported Central American shrub lantana. As he walked round the bush, he clearly heard footsteps following him. Cautious as to who might be following him in such a remote area, he side-tracked down a natural pathway to a small clearing and waited for his stalker to emerge.

To his horror, it was not a person but a giant monitor that lumbered around the corner. It resembled the lace monitor (*Varanus varius*) except for its huge size. The lace monitor has a head around six inches long. This giant's head was



four times this size, and was held around three feet from the ground. He only observed the head, front legs and front-portion of the body. The animal flickered out its forked tongue and tasted the air. Sleeman realized - with dread - that he was being hunted.

Luckily, it seemed Sleeman's hiding-place was good, and the monster went upon its way. Sleeman left the area and never returned. Scaling his lizard up four-times from a lace monitor, we can estimate a creature between twenty to twenty-six feet long. He passed the story on to the brother of Gary Opit, a respected Australian zoologist with many years field experience, who hosts an environmental programme on 2RN North Coast ABC Radio. Gary and his brother explored the area but found no trace of the dragon.

Another report investigated by Gary was a sighting by a woman near Brunswick Heights at the mouth of The Brunswick River. The lizard was sprawled across the road on Fingle Street and covered the entire width - some twenty feet. It rose up and walked off into the bushes of the reserve.

New South Wales does not have the monopoly on dragons. Many other areas seem to be inhabited by them. The Nullarbor plain in South Australia is one such place. The plain is riddled with sinkholes and catacombs like a vast piece of stilton cheese. Like the caverns of ancient Europe these are said to be dragon lairs.

In 1940 an aboriginal family made camp close to the catacombs. They slept outside of their truck - off-road. One of the children wandered off at sunset, and despite a frantic search could not be found. Next morning a trail of out-sized lizard prints and the mark of a long, heavy tail were found leading into one of the caves. It was assumed that a Mungoon-galli had emerged during the night and eaten the child. Needless to say, they did not linger long.

In the same region in 1973, two men driving a Jeep late one night, found their headlights illuminating a weird pedestrian - an immense goanna, six feet high, and twice the length of the Jeep. Its skin was described as leathery and grey like that of an elephant.

Just how tough this skin is was demonstrated in an encounter from the Margret River area of the Kimbley region of north-eastern Australia in 1982. A stockman was mustering his cattle, when to his amazement, he saw a twenty-foot lizard stalking his charges through some long grass. He raised his rifle and fired two rounds at the dragon from a distance of only 150 feet. The animal seemed totally unharmed and wandered back into the bush.

Some think that the Chinese reached Australia centuries ago. In 338 B.C, Chinese scholar Shin Tzu, wrote of animals kept at The Imperial Zoo in Peking. One description is that of a kangaroo, obviously this must have come from Australia, either directly, or via-trade in the South Pacific. Missionaries who travelled to China in the 16th century, were shown a 6th Century map of Australia.

If this is the case could they have encountered huge lizards that added to their already rich lore of dragons?

Australia cannot claim monopoly on giant lizards. Its close neighbour New Guinea also has dragons. In the Second World War, Japanese soldiers caught glimpses of what they described as 'tree climbing crocodiles' deep in the Papuan jungle. Then, in the summer of 1960, panic broke out on the island, as rumours that people had been killed by twenty-foot-long dragons began to circulate. The monsters were said to breath fire and drink blood. Their victims were left with foot-long claw-marks in the flesh. The scare became so bad that the government authorities moved people in the stricken areas into stockades and offered substantial rewards for the

capture of one of the beasts. The reward went unclaimed, the dragons disappeared and the riddle went unsolved for the next twenty years

In 1960, Lindsay Green and Fred Kleckhan - two administration agricultural officers - found some skin and a jaw bone of one of the dragons in a village near Kariuku. Today, they would have been able to identify these specimens via D.N.A. analysis, something unheard of back then.

In 1969, David M. Davies, an explorer - was shown Papuan cave paintings showing what looked like a giant-lizard standing on its hind legs. His native companions reacted with fear at the picture.

Late in 1978 a specimen was finally filmed in Southern Papua by Jean Becker and Christian Meyer. However even this could not help determine if this was a new species.

In the mid 1980's, famed British explorer Colonel John Blashford-Snell was told of the 'tree climbing crocodile'. Locals called it Artrellia and seemed to go in great fear of it. He was told that it stands upright and breaths fire. From the descriptions given to him by an old chief, he sketched an animal looking much like a dinosaur. One story told of a young warrior -who, many years ago -was hunting deep in the forest. Feeling weary, he sat down on a log. The 'log' in now familiar style revealed itself as a dragon. It towered ten feet tall on its hind-legs, and possessed toothy, crocodile-like jaws. The man fled back to his village in terror.

Intrigued, the Colonel hit the trail. No less a man than the brother of The Premier of the Western Province, told him that an elderly man had died in the Daru hospital after being attacked by a female Artrellia protecting her nest. A village elder also said the creatures could grow to over fifteen feet long, and often stood on their hind-legs, lending them a dinosaur-like appearance. They were arboreal, and leapt down onto their prey, which they killed with their huge claws and infectious bite. Even small specimens were feared. A short time before, a small one had been captured and placed in a wooden cage. It swiftly broke free and killed a large dog before escaping back into the jungle.

The Colonel searched for the dragon himself but had no success. He then offered a cash reward for anyone who could bring him a specimen. Eventually, a village priest shot a small Artrellia. It was identified as *Varanus salvadori* - the Salvadori Dragon, (a previously known species but one that none suspected could grow so large). The Colonel later saw several twelve-foot specimens including one huge individual with a head as large as a horse was also seen. Such a vast specimen would be in excess of twenty-three feet.

At fifteen feet, the Salvadori Dragon is the world's longest lizard that is currently accepted by science. However it is not the largest. This accolade still goes to the Komodo Dragon. Over two-thirds of the Salvadori Dragon's length is taken up by its sinuous tail, whereas the Komodo Dragon's tail takes up only half its entire length and far outweighs its elongated cousin. Yet the possibility remains that specimens of this serpentine dragon grow far larger than currently known and lurk undiscovered in this huge island's ill-explored interior. This idea is supported by a number of accounts.

Robert Grant and David George were exploring the Strachan Island district in 1961, when they encountered a grey-skinned lizard some twenty-six feet long. The creature's neck alone measured three feet.

In 1999 two groups of people spotted a dinosaur like creature at Lake Murry near Boroko. It was six metres (twenty feet) long, with crocodile-like skin. It had thick hind-legs with smaller front-limbs and a long tail.

As recently as 2004 in New Britain, an island off New Guinea a giant lizard over twenty feet long, able to rear up ten feet tall and as thick as a 900-litre water tank

was said to be haunting a mosquito-ridden marsh just outside the provincial capital Kokopo, near the devastated town of Rabaul which was buried by a volcanic eruption in 1994. The monster killed and ate three dogs. The locals thought it was a dinosaur and police carrying M-16s and shotguns searched the area but found no trace.

"Australia cannot claim monopoly on giant lizards. Its close neighbour New Guinea also has dragons. In the Second World War, Japanese soldiers caught glimpses of what they described as 'tree climbing crocodiles' deep in the Papuan jungle."



Richard Freeman

Richard Freeman is a cryptozoologist, author, zoological journalist, and WebTV Presenter. He is also the zoological director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology (CFZ). Freeman has written, co-written, or edited a number of books, and has contributed widely to both Fortean and zoological magazines, as well as other newspapers and periodicals, including Fortean Times and Paranormal Magazine. He has also lectured across the UK at events such as the Fortean Times Unconvention, the Weird Weekend, Microcon and at museums and universities such as the Natural History Museum, the Grant Museum of Zoology, Queen Mary, University of London and the Last Tuesday Society.

The Water Wizard and the Bell - Viktor Schaubberger

by Amethyst Gray

Many people are familiar with the rumours that abound about the Nazi World War Two time travel or levitation device known as The Bell 'Die Glocke'. It may or may not have been whisked away to the USA as part of Operation Paperclip after the end of the war, along with other Nazi weapons and secret programmes. Nobody knows what deals were made or exactly who were allowed to escape justice as a result.

The nature of the purpose of The Bell or the technologies incorporated into it or its sibling projects in the far reaches of the Third Reich are still the subject of conjecture and speculation. However, one such technology was known to have been worked on by a relatively unknown Austrian by the name of Viktor Schaubberger.





Viktor Schauberg (1885-1958) was born in to a family of woods men In upper Austria. He refused the chance to go to university to allow him to continue observing nature, as he had done since childhood. He fought in World War One, eventually becoming wounded.

After WW1 he went to work on a large forested estate belonging to a Prince in upper Austria as a game keeper. He proposed a radical logging flume idea to assist with logging in the area. It was a high risk as he had to raise funds to build it, and if it worked, he would be refunded by the estate.

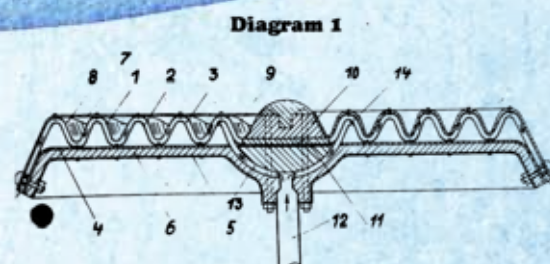
His design was incredibly successful, and as it had been built for his high profile patron he was asked to build them across Austria. He left the estate to do so and became known as the 'Water Wizard' as his design used his observations of nature rather than agreed fluid dynamic principles.

Whilst working for the go ornament in Vienna his designs were written up by an academic assigned to work with him. As a result his work was published in scientific journals and he patented several more inventions relating to water.

As his work became more widely known in the German speaking world it was not surprising that it also came to the attention of the Nazis. In 1934 he received an invitation to Berlin. The meeting at the Reichs Chancellery's office either went well or badly depending upon whose account you read! The pattern for the 1930s was that he was championed by a few distinguished supporters but scorned by the establishment as 'just a woodsman'.

He was called up for the war in 1941 but was too old for active service and troubled by his wounds from the first war. He was obliged to carry on his research in the service of the new German Reich. In 1943 he was transferred to the SS. Under risk of death he worked under Heinrich Himmler near Mauthausen concentration camp. He managed to gain some concessions for those working with him. The workshop moved near to Vienna and then on to the Austrian village of Leonstein. At the end of the war the USA cleared his workshop, whilst the USSR took his papers from his Viennese apartment. He was imprisoned by the Americans for a few month before being released and discouraged from his area of research. He tried other avenues of research including agriculture, but was always thwarted. In the final sad chapter of his life he was duped into going to the USA where he was forced to sign over all his present and future discoveries if he wished to return home. A broken man he died a week after his return in September 1958.

But what was his work for the SS during the war? He had made several attempts to develop machines powered by 'dynagen' (vortex) energy – one of Schauberg's radical terms for different states of water.



Natural phenomena undisturbed by man point the way to the realisation of a new technique. One needs a keen sense of observation.

We must understand Nature before we can adapt its way of working to our needs.

Viktor Schauberger.

The most famous was developed by him in the 1930s and early 40s. It could work with water, air or possibly even mercury. It looks like a small flying saucer – a circular disc with a slightly raised centre. Surrounding the central spindle are two circular horizontal plates, one above the other. The plates have the shape of concentric waves, like those around a pebble thrown into a pond. On the side of each wave facing the centre are slits that look like fish's gills. A small conventional motor sets the plates into rotation around the central spindle. This draws the fluid or gas into the spindle cup and disperses it outwards by motion. As with the gills of trout (that Schauberger studied at length) the outward flow pushes the liquid or gas through the slits. With the rest of the cleverly shaped mechanism vortices are created. If using water its quality is improved at the same time. The motor itself can be used for propulsion or for power generation.

It was the patent for this device that he patented in 1940 in Austria under Nazi control. It was this device that the

“It is notable that in the ancient Hindu texts that the Nazis were keen collectors of during the inter-war years, that the vimana flying machines were said to be powered by mercury vortex engines.”

Nazis were interested in as it had the possibility to become a levitation device. As the story goes, the first time it was powered up, it rose silently to the ceiling of the hangar, trailing a blue-green and then a silver glow. It crashed into the ceiling and was destroyed. It is not known if the project continued beyond this stage. It is notable that in the ancient Hindu texts that the Nazis were keen collectors of during the inter-war years, that the vimana flying machines were said to be powered by mercury vortex engines. We can only speculate how far they got or if

it was this propulsion system used by 'The Bell' or possibly the strange 'foo-fighters' seen by Allied bomber crews over Germany in the closing stages of World War Two.

Regardless of this Victor Schauberger was an interesting man along with the likes of Rudolf Steiner and Nikola Tesla.

For more information the book 'Viktor Schauberger- A life of Learning from Nature' by Jane Cobbald is a great starting point, and the main source for this article.



Amethyst Gray

Amethyst teaches Angelic Reiki, practices Access Bars, Future Life Progression and Past-Life Regression in the vicinity of Avebury stone circle.

She has given lectures on Atlantis and is in the process of publishing her Diana Garry book series. 'The Huntress' was released in August 2019 focussing upon Renaissance France, 'The Priestess', based upon Atlantis will be published in 2020. 'The Heiress' is slated for later in the 2020s with insights into survivors of the Titanic disaster.

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We also welcome proposals for submissions to our annual journal, Anomaly.



A pair of hands, one above and one below, are shown holding a glowing, spherical crystal ball. The hands are positioned as if they are gently cradling the ball. The background is dark, and the lighting is warm, highlighting the hands and the glowing ball. The text "Seriously PSYCHIC" is written across the center of the crystal ball in a stylized font. The word "Seriously" is in a black, serif font, and "PSYCHIC" is in a larger, bold, black, serif font, with the letter "Y" in blue.

Seriously PSYCHIC

Psychics,
mediumship, out
of body
experiences and
a lot more.

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