

# seriously strange magazine

## The Per Lane, Yorkshire, Incident.

A summary of the investigation  
conducted by Kevin Berry, Steve Coop,  
Jenny Randles and others.

### Also inside:

- The most unusual case of phantom wall writing
- ASSAP groups and training update
- Sensory hauntings
- The mysteries of Life after Death



# ASSAP

ASSAP will be celebrating its 40TH Anniversary in 2021  
and we would like to share it with you  
300 year old coaching  
and an

**POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19**  
**NEW DATES TO BE ARRANGED**

Mermaid Inn, Staffordshire

The Mermaid Inn Staffordshire is an  
Inspiring locations for a great get together,  
with having everyone with the same interests  
in one location over a 4 night period.

It has a stunning dining room which will  
seat us all around a single table with amazing  
panoramic views.

Not to mention our very own “pub” with pool  
table, table football, darts, and Karaoke.

If there is an interest in beer, we can order  
in a barrel of Ale and share the cost amongst  
those who are interested.

For more information contact [events@assap.ac.uk](mailto:events@assap.ac.uk)

# Welcome to the latest issue!

It has been a strange kind of year, and fortunately not the type that any of us will have to live through again – at least that is my pious hope! The COVID-19 pandemic completely disrupted our sense of what is normal, and left us all learning to cope in a world changed suddenly. The good news is ASSAP has changed too, and our midweek webinar series has proven very popular with those members who attend. You don't need a camera or a microphone to watch: you don't need special software, you should be able to watch a Zoom meeting on your computer, smartphone or tablet. If we have an email for you then you should be getting weekly invitations from the Treasurer, Becky, and you just click on the link to join in.

Webinars vary wildly in tone, how academic and topic, so give a few a try and see what you think. We have some wonderful speakers coming up over the summer and the webinars provide you with an extra opportunity to get involved with ASSAP. I know also that the National Investigations Committee have been busy, and with lockdown ending we will be assigning cases to our NRPI team members, and I know Mark has some exciting plans for the year to come.

Physical events should be back next year, and we have also a new website in development, which hopefully you will all see soon. In the meantime, you have the magazine in your hands, and the next issue will include details for those wishing to stand for ASSAP Executive roles – maybe one of you will replace me as Chair in November?

Don't forget to check out the magazine, which features case reports on ghostly highwaymen, the Sandwood Bay case, the Cheltenham ghost, UFOs, as well as Helen Duncan and much more! And if you would like to write for the magazine or journal or have another idea just drop me a line at [publications@assap.ac.uk](mailto:publications@assap.ac.uk) and I will be in touch.

Until next issue,  
Best, CJ x

*Please note that ASSAP does not express corporate opinion, and publication does not equate to endorsement*

# Contents

<b>Membership and groups</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The mysteries of Life after Death</b> <i>by Lionel and Patricia Fanthorpe</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>ASSAP Webinars</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The most unusual case of phantom wall writing</b> <i>by Steven T. Parsons</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sensory Hauntings</b> <i>by Peter A. McCue</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>The Per Lane, Yorkshire, Incident</b> <i>by Robert Moore</i>	<b>20</b>
<b>Nikola Tesla's Violet Ray</b> <i>by Amythest Gray</i>	<b>24</b>
<b>ASSAP groups and training updates</b> <i>by Mark Davey</i>	<b>26</b>
<b>Anecdotes, science and flogging a dead horse</b> <i>by Mark Wallbank</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>Confessions of a Paranomal Investigator: Part 1</b> <i>by Marq English</i>	<b>30</b>

# Membership and Groups

Welcome to new members, you'll find details below for access to the members area on [www.assap.ac.uk](http://www.assap.ac.uk)

Username: [assapmember](mailto:assapmember)  
 Password: [ectoplasm](mailto:ectoplasm)



The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena was formed in 1981 to research and educate about a wide range of anomalous phenomena.

These fall into the broad categories of psychic phenomena, earth mysteries, ufology and Fortean phenomena. ASSAP holds no corporate views and the views expressed by individual authors are their own. ASSAP is a registered charity (327422) and a company limited by guarantee (2075226).

Tel: 020 8798 3981 [www.assap.ac.uk](http://www.assap.ac.uk)  
 Registered office: ASSAP, 43 Berkeley Square, Mayfair, London W1J 5AP  
 (Please note: Address not for general correspondence)

© Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena  
 Contact us at [secretary@assap.ac.uk](mailto:secretary@assap.ac.uk)

## ASSAP Committee

Chairman: CJ Romer ([chairman@assap.ac.uk](mailto:chairman@assap.ac.uk))

Deputy Chair: Dave Wood

Secretary: Laurie-Emma Buckley  
 ([secretary@assap.ac.uk](mailto:secretary@assap.ac.uk))

Treasurer: Dr Becky Smith ([treasurer@assap.ac.uk](mailto:treasurer@assap.ac.uk))

Publication Coordinator - Alison Topham  
[publications@assap.ac.uk](mailto:publications@assap.ac.uk)

Education & Affiliation: Mark Davey ([nrpi@assap.ac.uk](mailto:nrpi@assap.ac.uk))

Research Officers: Robert Moore  
 ([research@assap.ac.uk](mailto:research@assap.ac.uk))

Investigations Contact & Liason - Keeth Eley

Heritage & Facebook - Ian Topham

## Non-executive members:

President: Lionel Fanthorpe;

Vice President: Hugh Pincott

Archives Officer: Terry Porter;

Webmaster: Maurice Townsend.

eNews Editor: Gary Fellman;

Media Representative: Sarah Spellman

## £5 E-membership

Our most affordable option! In addition to standard membership, ASSAP now offers an e-membership choice at only £5 annually. Through e-membership you will receive the same publications, but in PDF instead of paper form. All other benefits remain the same, such as access to training and free entry to our lecture series. If you would like to switch, please email [membership@assap.ac.uk](mailto:membership@assap.ac.uk).

## Are you on Email?

We like to keep in touch with members from time to time by email. If you haven't received an email from us please send your name and email address to [chairman@assap.ac.uk](mailto:chairman@assap.ac.uk) so you can keep up to date!

## Don't miss our monthly e-newsletter

The best way to get ASSAP updates throughout the year is to sign up to our e-newsletter if you're not already receiving it. Email [publications@assap.ac.uk](mailto:publications@assap.ac.uk) to subscribe.

# Affiliate Groups

Groups provide incidental support for ASSAP's charitable objects by acting as forums for research.

Should you wish to affiliate or start a group please contact [assap@assap.ac.uk](mailto:assap@assap.ac.uk)

GROUP NAME	Group Contact
<b>Bristol Society for Paranormal Research and Investigation (BSPRI)</b> w: <a href="http://www.bsprri.org.uk">www.bsprri.org.uk</a> e: <a href="mailto:bsprri@live.com">bsprri@live.com</a>	Mark Davey
<b>Cymru Paranormal</b> w: <a href="http://www.cymruparanormal.com">www.cymruparanormal.com</a> e: <a href="mailto:enquiries@cymruparanormal.com">enquiries@cymruparanormal.com</a>	Sarah Liney
<b>Ghanon</b> w: <a href="http://www.ghanon.org.uk">www.ghanon.org.uk</a> e: <a href="mailto:enq@ghanon.org.uk">enq@ghanon.org.uk</a>	Kevin A Griffiths-Boden Julian Perkins
<b>Gwynedd Paranormal Society</b> w: <a href="http://www.gwynedd-paranormal-society.co.uk">www.gwynedd-paranormal-society.co.uk</a> e: <a href="mailto:gwyneddparanormalsociety@yahoo.co.uk">gwyneddparanormalsociety@yahoo.co.uk</a>	John and Carol Budge
<b>Midland Paranormal Investigations</b> w: <a href="http://www.midlandparanormal.org.uk">www.midlandparanormal.org.uk</a>	Mark Cave
<b>Pembrokeshire Ghost Club</b> w: <a href="mailto:pembrokeshireghostclub@gmail.com">pembrokeshireghostclub@gmail.com</a>	Greg Hardman
<b>Plymouth ASSAP</b> w: <a href="http://assap.ac.uk/Plymouth">assap.ac.uk/Plymouth</a> e: <a href="mailto:eustacetuttle@yahoo.co.uk">eustacetuttle@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Lee Norton
<b>PRI UK</b> w: <a href="http://www.paranormalresearchinvestigators.co.uk">www.paranormalresearchinvestigators.co.uk</a>	Nick Howe Andy Wilson
<b>Spirit Team UK</b> w: <a href="http://www.spiritteamuk.com/">http://www.spiritteamuk.com/</a>	Alan Clifford

# The Mysteries of Life after Death

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

Of all the paramount unsolved mysteries in the universe, this is arguably the most relevant and the most important. What happens to the real person, the soul, the spirit, the psyche, when the physical body dies? From the many reported psychic phenomena that we have investigated for more than sixty years, it seems highly probable that something survives physical death. The great unanswered question remains: what is it that survives?

One of the most intriguing theories concerns the nature of the stellar universe and suggests that stars and planets may be components of the brain of some immeasurably vast super-being, or a number of such super-beings. In which case, this theory goes on, human beings may be cells in that enormous cosmic brain, or brains. If thought is non-physical, then thought goes on after the physical brain cells from which it sprang cease to exist. Our self-awareness will persist – possibly eternally – long after our brain's physical oligodendrocytes, microglia and astrocytes have died and decayed.

Many of the great major religions teach that the soul and body separate at death, that the soul or spirit – our real personality – continues to exist independently of the physical body that once housed it. These great world religions are also concerned with faith, ethics and morality and teach that the soul's future depends upon the faith that we held during life and the ethics and morality that we practised during life. Some teach that there is a physical resurrection, as well as a survival of the soul or spirit.

Reincarnation – being reborn after death into a new body – is a totally different concept. The 1956 film "The Search for Bridey Murphy" tells the story of Ruth Simmons who undertook a number of hypnotic sessions in 1952 with Morey Bernstein. During these sessions Ruth testified that she recalled details of her previous life as Bridey Murphy, living in Belfast in Ireland. She recalled buying food from two grocers named Carrigan and Farr during her Bridey Murphy days and the Belfast Directory dated 1865 list them both as grocers.

Another very interesting example of what might appear to be reincarnation concerns Shanti Devi, who was born in Delhi in India in 1926. As a four year old she told her parents that her home was not in Delhi but in Mathura that was nearly 100 miles away. She had memories of being married and dying from complications following a difficult birth. She recalled that in this previous life her husband's name had been Pandit Kedarnath Chaube and that he had been a shopkeeper near the Dwarkadhish Temple. When further investigations were made later Shanti claimed to recognise Pandit, and it was revealed that his wife, named Lugdi Bai, had indeed died following a difficult childbirth.

So are we part of the stellar cosmos? Do our souls leave our bodies when our bodies cease to function? Or do we reincarnate? All very intriguing possibilities and well worth the type of scientific study which is integral to ASSAP.

# ASSAP

## WEBINARS

Join in every Thursday evening at 7.00pm via Zoom

Member's of ASSAP should receive an email inviting you to take part. Do check your email and any spam folders for your weekly invites.

If you can't find it but would like to come then please email the secretary at [secretary@assap.ac.uk](mailto:secretary@assap.ac.uk)

Email or physical address changed? Don't worry, drop an email to [treasurer@assap.ac.uk](mailto:treasurer@assap.ac.uk) and Becky will update.

For those who wish to join, membership starts at £5.00 per annum via our website [www.assap.ac.uk](http://www.assap.ac.uk)

## Speakers past and present:

### **Steve Parsons**

**Alan Murdie** – *'Powers of evil? Negative aspects of psi revisited'*

### **Dr Ciaran O'Keeffe**

### **Dr Ann Winsper** – *Time Slips*

*Whilst time slips seem to occur anywhere at random, there is a particular street in Liverpool where there have been multiple reports of time slips over the years*

### **Dr Jack Hunter** – *Greening the Paranormal*

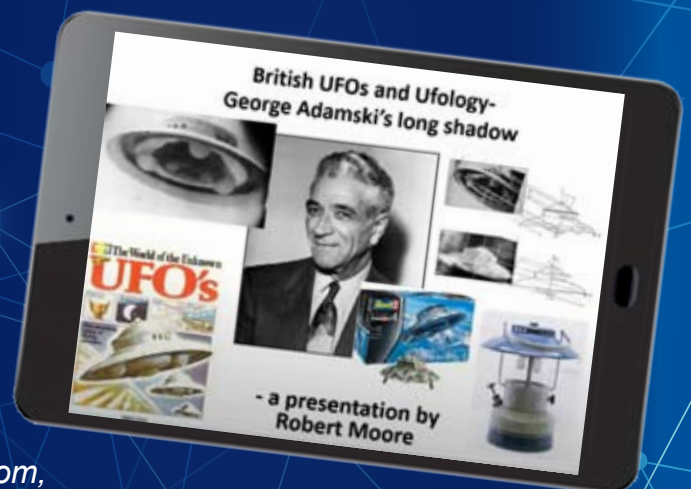
*Jack will explore parallels between anomalistics (the study of the paranormal in all its guises), and ecology (the study of interconnected living systems).*

### **Dr Peter McCue** – *Communication with the dead: Fact or comforting delusion?*

*Peter will address this issue, along with others related to supposed evidence of communication between the living and the dead.*

### **Jackie Tonks** – *Seeking and finding Bigfoot in the Pacific-Northwest.*

*Exploration of possible scientific explanations behind some of the stranger phenomena associated with Bigfoot and planned future research.*



**Richard Freeman – On The Track of Unknown Animals**

*Here Richard will talk about some of his research and expeditions in search of creatures such as the yeti, the Tasmanian wolf, the giant anaconda, the orang-pondok, The Mongolian deathworm, the almasty and the Caspian tiger.*

**Robert Moore – Adamski and the British UFO movement**

*This webinar discusses the backdrop, brief case studies as well as the possible solutions to this paradox.*

**Dylan Jones – Paranormal Media and the Modern Ghost Hunter**

**Kristian Lander**

**CJ Romer – Theory of Ghosts**

**Dr Hannah Gilbert**

**Beth Darlington – Demonology vs Exorcism - what's the difference?**

**Keith Linder – Bothell Hell House**

**Amethyst Gray – The Real Cloudbuster - Wilhelm Reich**

**Prof Chris French**

**John G Sabol**

**William Eyre**



# A MOST UNUSUAL CASE OF PHANTOM WALL WRITING

by Steven T. Parsons

The primary purpose of every investigation is always to seek an explanation and to attempt to gain an understanding of the experiences and events that have taken place. Often, this can result in a lengthy process that requires multiple interactions with witnesses and perhaps numerous visits to the location over an extended period of time to allow each avenue of exploration to be properly and fully considered and examined. Sometimes, despite the diligence or perseverance of the investigator, no plausible explanation will be discovered for some, or even any, of the reported occurrences. In some circumstances, the investigator may be tempted or asked to give an opinion or make some suggestion regarding the cause of the reported experiences at too early a stage in the proceedings and without them having the opportunity to adequately consider all of the evidence. Such haste is cautioned against in the Guidance Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases published by the SPR;

“The investigator must avoid offering any suggestions about what may have transpired, neither should they attempt to diagnose experiences at this (early) stage” without an adequate examination of the evidence. (Parsons, 2018)

However, in rare instances, the cause of the reported phenomena reveals itself during the earliest phase of the investigation process and a satisfactory explanation can be swiftly provided. Such examples are perhaps the rarest that any investigator are likely to encounter, but from time to time either by chance or good fortune, the case can be quickly resolved to the satisfaction of all of those involved.

## Introduction

In late August 2019, the author was contacted via a social media direct message by a woman who claimed that her family were experiencing a series of unusual events that she thought may be paranormal and was seeking assistance.

This type of enquiry has become a commonplace in recent years and the majority can usually be effectively dealt with through an exchange of messages, emails or in some instances, through a series of telephone conversations. Generally, these enquiries rarely require any further intervention by the investigator. When we exclude those instances in which the person is obviously seeking publicity, either for themselves or the location, the person making contact merely wishes to ask some questions relating to their experience or simply desires to tell their story or share their views and opinions. Seldom does the person ask for, or desire any form of investigation to be carried out. Occasionally, a visit to the location or a face to face meeting may be sought but even these rarely lead to any substantial investigation taking place.

The reasons for the low conversion rate from enquiry to investigation are numerous. Often, any further intervention is simply not desired by the witness or warranted by the circumstances. Occasionally, there may be instances when a more detailed investigation is requested or indicated. Although, for a variety of reasons and constraints that include practical, ethical or social, it may be that this is not a viable option.

The message, the author received in late August was not dissimilar to many other messages that are received but it became quickly apparent that the woman appeared to be genuinely concerned for the well-being of her family and was seeking more than just a sympathetic ear or outlet for her story. To ensure the anonymity of those involved; names have been substituted, throughout the remainder of this account the individuals shall be referred to as Mother, Father, Child A, Child B, Sister and Medium, in each case capitalizing that substitution of their name for clarity. Some editing of the message transcripts has also been necessary in order to improve readability, but chiefly, in order to remove information that may potentially compromise the identity of those involved. As no transcripts are available from the telephone conversations and face-face meeting I have referred to notes which were made shortly after each of the interactions.

## The initial contact

The woman, Mother, contacted me via a social media direct message. Her first message was received on the day following a local radio show which I host. The particular show she referred to had included a general discussion regarding several ghost cases which had recently featured on television and film, including the Enfield Poltergeist and the Price investigation of Borley Rectory.

**"Dear Mr Parsons,**

***I always try to listen in to your radio show on WXYZ which I really like and I was especially interested in last night's show where you talked about the Nun who wrote messages on the walls of a house. I think our house might also be haunted by a ghost of a little boy who writes on the walls. We have also had other things happen too like noises and voices. I wonder if you would be interested, my husband doesn't believe in ghosts and thinks that I am imagining it.***

**• Mother"**

I replied, briefly thanking the woman for her comments. I was intrigued by the mention of the wall writing ghost of the little boy and requested any additional information that she may wish to provide regarding the events and the circumstances in which they had taken place. The radio show regularly includes listeners own stories and from time to time listeners contact the show wishing to share their experiences, so I was also considering the possibility of featuring her experience in a future episode.

**Hi Mother,**

***Thank for getting in touch and for the kind words about the radio show which I hope you enjoy. I am grateful for the information about your own experiences too and would be interested in hearing more about them. If you have some time, could you give me some further details regarding the nature of and background to the events. I look forward to hearing from you.***

**• Regards**

**"Hi,**

***Thank you for replying so quickly this might sound mad but since Easter we have found writing on our walls which we can't explain, this has happened 3 or 4 times.***

***A medium visited the house and said that it was done the ghost of a little boy who used to live in our road. Since we moved in 3 years ago, we have experienced other things too. We hear noises and voices at night and I have found doors that have opened after I closed it (sic). Last week, I found the bathroom light was on in the morning and my daughter is starting to get upset by the things that are happening.***

***My husband works shifts at (named industrial complex) he is on nights this week. I am at home looking after the children. Child B is 6 months old and the eldest Child A is 4. Before Child A was born, I worked at (named large supermarket). My sister who lives in (named adjacent street) visits me most days before we collect our kids and she said that she thinks the house might be haunted but I never really believed in ghosts before this started and I am still not sure what to believe. My sister said that I should get Medium to come and visit. Medium came last month and she said it was the ghost of a little boy who used to live in a neighbour's house before he died of Tuberculosis during the war and who is trying to play with Child A. She did a clearance but I don't think it has worked as things are still happening.***

***My husband says that I watch too many ghost programmes on TV and that the noises are just the neighbours. A couple of weeks ago I found some more writing on the walls but I couldn't read the words but I think one of them said God. The writing freaked me out a bit so I cleaned it off but a couple of days later my husband found more and thought it had been done by Child A. I don't think that Child A is doing it, when I asked her she denied it and got very upset. After what Medium said am worried that it might be something bad. Do you think we have a ghost and can you help us get rid of it, can it harm the kids?***

**• Mother"**

I replied to the message, reassuring the woman and suggested that she might wish to contact me by telephone in order to more quickly put her at ease and discuss the events and her concerns in more detail.

**Hello again Mother,**

***Thanks for the extra information. It seems from your brief description that you have experienced a number of things that concern you and which you are asking about.***

***First of all, let me reassure you that I have no doubt that you and your family will be absolutely fine and really have nothing to be concerned about. I think that the quickest way to put your mind at rest might be for us to have a quick chat on the phone, so that we can talk about things in more detail. Or, you may prefer to continue using messenger instead which would be O.K.***

***If you do wish to chat, I am happy to call you at a convenient time, or if you prefer, you can call me anytime during the day. My number is 07XX XXY YYXX.***

**I look forward to hearing from you.**

**• Regards**

## Telephone Conversations

### The first conversation.

The lady telephoned, the following morning and during the conversation she described the following events that she and her family had experienced. During the conversation, it was possible to ascertain some further information relating to the property and the circumstances surrounding the recent events.

- The family moved into the terraced property in 2015. The house was built in the 1930's as part of a military housing estate although all of the properties are now privately owned. The house is adjoined on both sides, with an entryway between each house. On one side live a family of three, two adults and a teenage boy, on the other live a married couple in their 50's whose children had moved away to attend university. Both sets of neighbours are friendly and there have not been any disputes. The neighbour with children living away from home, has occasionally looked after child A whilst the mother had to attend hospital appointments during her pregnancy. Both sets of neighbours work although they are often at home during the day.
- The family consists of two adults and two children. The father works full time at a large industrial complex, the mother remains at home caring for the children. The eldest child, Child A, is four years old and commenced school part-time during the spring of 2019. The youngest, Child B, was born in February 2019.
- Mother's sister lives nearby in an adjacent street. She is married and has a single child aged five years who attends the same school as Child A. The sisters meet most days at Mother's house for about an hour prior to collecting their respective children from the school. Both sisters are close and have a good relationship, which also extends to their respective partners and children. Both families share days out and holidays. Both sisters regularly undertake babysitting duties for one another.
- Mother's sister frequently watches paranormal television programmes. Mother watches them occasionally. Both believe that ghosts are a reality and that sometimes ghosts can be harmful. Mother stated that "she wasn't certain that ghosts were real" but also said "but there must be something in it, mustn't there? Otherwise why would they show that stuff on television?".
- The sister, has attended several public access paranormal investigations in the past year, organised by a local paranormal group. Mother has not yet attended any due to her husband's shift patterns and their recently born child. Mother stated that she wanted to go on a ghost hunt and hoped to do so in the future when child B was a bit older. Sister has also attended several psychic evenings held at local public houses and hosted

“Most of the writing was across the kitchen radiator with more on the wall between the radiator and the kitchen door.”

by Medium. Mother had attended one of these psychic evenings given by Medium early in 2018, prior to learning she was pregnant.

- Mother said that her husband didn't believe in ghosts at all and had said that she watched too many ghost hunting television programmes and that the noises were coming from the neighbour's house. She added that she could sometimes hear the neighbour's talking and could sometimes hear the sounds of their television and of music being played but that it didn't bother her, "she quite liked the music anyway". Mother said that from time to time she could also hear the neighbour's teenage son stamping up and down the stairs and that sometimes his friends visited and she could hear them shouting and laughing.
- From when they moved into the property in 2016 until early 2019, nothing untoward had happened and that Mother not noticed anything unusual. The first instance she could recall was just before Easter 2019, when she heard sounds like someone was moving around upstairs during the late morning. The event lasted about ten seconds. Apart from herself and child B the house was empty at the time, child A was at nursery that morning. Mother couldn't recall if either of the neighbours was at home at that time, although she thought that they might have been at work. After hearing the sounds, she had considered if she should go upstairs to check but decided against it and the sounds did not re-occur and she forgot about it.
- Several days later, Mother couldn't recall precisely, the same sounds happened a second time during the late morning whilst she was alone in the house with child B. This second time, the sounds lasted for about a minute and she said it sounded like someone was walking back and forth along the first-floor landing. Mother walked to the bottom of the stairs and called out, asking if there was anyone there? She then went into the lounge to check on child B who was asleep before taking a kitchen knife and went up the stairs to investigate. Mother said that she wasn't frightened but felt angry that perhaps someone had broken in. The noises ceased before she got to the stairs and upon checking the rooms, she found nothing out of place or untoward. When I asked if she had considered calling the Police or leaving the house with Child B, instead of going up the stairs? Mother replied that her phone was in the bedroom on charge and that she didn't want to seem foolish if there was nothing wrong. Mother added, that after discovering there was no apparent cause for the sounds, she was a bit frightened. Here sister did not visit that day as her child had a doctor's appointment. When her husband returned from work that evening, she mentioned the noises that she had heard that day and also mentioned the sounds she had heard a few days earlier. She said her husband said that it was probably just the kid next door sneaking off school but that he also went upstairs and looked into all of the rooms upstairs. He said that nobody had been in and that there was nothing to worry

about. The following day she mentioned the noises to her sister when she visited.

- Sister said that sometimes when she was in the house it felt like someone was watching her whenever she went upstairs to the bathroom but that it didn't feel bad. She suggested that Mother should get in contact with Medium and ask her to help.
- Later the same evening, Mother contacted Medium via a social media message. Medium replied and agreed that she would help and they arranged for her to visit the house the following week.
- The next few days were uneventful. Mother began to worry that she might have been wasting Medium's time and was thinking about cancelling the visit. The following Sunday, Father was at work on a 6am to 6pm twelve-hour shift. Mother was at home alone for most of the day, with the two children. In the early afternoon she was putting away clothes in the children's room. Child B was asleep in her cot in the same room and Child A was downstairs in the lounge watching the television. Mother was upstairs for about twenty minutes before returning downstairs and entering the kitchen. She immediately noticed that there was writing across the kitchen radiator and on the adjacent wall. She called to Child A and when the child entered the kitchen the mother pointed at the writing and asked why she had done this. The child denied responsibility, to which Mother accused her of lying and warned her that she would be in trouble. Child A persisted in her denial and began to cry saying that she had been watching the television and had not been in the kitchen. Mother scolded the child again and warned Child A that if she ever did it again, she would be in big trouble. Child A left the kitchen and Mother cleaned off the writing. Mother described the writing as scribble but said that several words were apparent, including what she thought was the word 'God' and what looked like Child A's name. After cleaning the writing off, she had to attend to Child B who had woken up and was crying.

### **I Enquired about the writing?**

Mother described it as being not proper writing, more like scribble, like a child would do, written in blue pen. Most of the writing was across the kitchen radiator with more on the wall between the radiator and the kitchen door. Mother said that she didn't think it looked like Child A's writing and she could not make out the words, although she could read some individual letters. One word she thought she could read said 'God' and what she thought was Child A's name. Mother also said that Child A had been taught to write her name at school and that she could write it legibly. When asked, Mother said that up to this point there had never been writing seen on any other wall and that Child A had not previously written on walls or other surfaces before, Mother said that Child A did have some bath crayons which she used to sometimes draw pictures on the bath sides under supervision at bath time. Mother then had to terminate the phone call as she needed to feed Child B who could be heard crying in the background.

### **The second conversation**

About an hour later, early afternoon, Mother called again, apologising for the interruption. The conversation returned

to the writing and she said that after cleaning it off, she once again warned Child A not to write on the walls and that by the time her husband returned from work, she had forgotten about the incident.

### **Asked if Medium had actually visited?**

Mother replied that Medium attended the house on the pre-arranged Tuesday afternoon and that her sister was also present. Child A was at school.

### **Asked about the actual visit?**

Mother said that her sister did most of the talking at first as she knew Medium from her visits to see her, Mother said that she felt a bit shy. Medium said that she had investigated and cleared many other cases and that there was nothing to worry about. Medium said that she would try to get whatever was causing the problems to communicate with her and then tell it to leave. Medium asked the sisters to remain in the kitchen with Child B whilst she walked around the house on her own for five or ten minutes. Medium returned to the kitchen and said that she had sensed the spirit of a little boy who had lived in a neighbour's house and that he had died during the war of a serious illness. Medium also said that the child was scared of being on his own, without his family and was trying to befriend Child A. Mother asked if Medium could do anything to help the little boy. Medium replied that she thought that a clearance ceremony would work and that she could get the little boy to cross over and that she would help him to find his family. Medium agreed that she would return on the following Thursday evening to carry out the clearance.

On the Thursday evening, Medium arrived with another lady whose name Mother couldn't remember. Father was out visiting his parents but he was aware of the planned visit.

### **Asked about Father's views?**

Mother answered that her husband had said it was all nonsense but if that is what she wanted then provided it didn't involve him, she could do what she wanted. On this occasion Sister was not able to be present, although she had planned to be there but had been prevented by her own child coming home sick from school that day.

### **Mother then described the actions of Medium and her friend.**

The two ladies walked around the house for about ten minutes with Mother. Both the children were in bed asleep, so the women didn't go into the children's bedroom, instead they peeped in around the door for a few moments. The three of them then returned to the lounge and Medium said that she had sensed that the little boy was sitting on the stairs and that he was upset and was refusing to speak to her. Medium asked Mother if she had a toy that she could borrow. Mother gave Medium a Disney character (a small stuffed Simba lion toy) from the toybox. Medium took it and asked Mother to wait back in the lounge doorway as Medium and her friend went into the hallway and stood at the bottom of the stairs. Mother said that she could hear Medium whispering to the boy but couldn't hear all of what she was saying, but that it sounded like she was asking

the boy his name and where he lived. Medium placed the toy onto the stairs just below half way and said some other things, Mother said she heard Medium again asking the boy if he had a name and what was the matter? She heard Medium say to her friend how it was so sad that he had died so young. The women remained on the stairs for about five minutes. Following this, Medium and her friend went up the stairs and stood at the top before moving to outside the children's room. Mother followed and stood at the top of the stairs.

Medium continued talking to the phantom little boy. Mother can't remember exactly what was said but she did recall Medium using the name John or Johnny and saying that he had died of TB in 1943 and that he was frightened that the planes would come back and drop bombs on his house and that he wanted to find his parents and his sister.

Mother then said that Medium's friend had pointed towards the door of the children's room and told Mother that the boy was standing just inside, the door being about half way open. Mother looked at where the other woman was pointing but she was unable to see anything.

As Medium and her friend stood outside the room, whispering to the little boy, they all heard a noise from inside the children's bedroom. Mother said it sounded like someone moving about which she thought was one of her children. Medium said that the boy had now gone right inside the room and that he was now hiding. Medium opened the door fully and looked inside. She then stepped into the children's bedroom several feet and Mother could hear her quietly whispering something. There were more noises of movement from the room although Mother could not see directly into the room, she said she thought that one of her children was moving about as the sounds seemed to be like the bed creaking.

After less than a minute, Medium came out and said that the little boy had rushed out and had now ran downstairs. Medium and her friend also went downstairs, Mother looked in at the two children who both appeared to be asleep, she pulled the door to and followed the women downstairs. Medium said that the little boy was hiding in the lounge behind the furniture and that Mother should wait in the hallway as the little boy was scared of her because she was a stranger and he had been warned about speaking to strangers.

Medium and her friend went into the lounge and closed the door. Mother remained in the hallway near to the stairs. The two women were in the lounge for about ten minutes before they opened the door and came out. Medium said that Johnny had gone back to his own house and was reunited with his family and that he was now safe. Medium said that whilst she had been in the children's room, she had also picked up from her aura that Child A was sensitive and this might mean that other spirits could be attracted to her as she grew up. Medium said that the house had an open portal which was allowing the spirits to come in, she

did specify where in the house this portal was. She said that she would close the portal to prevent anything else coming through and that if Child A continued to see ghosts that Mother should contact her.

Before leaving, Medium went around the house, into the lounge, hallway, stairs and landing and finally the kitchen. She burned sage and what the Mother described as 'small twigs which stunk the house out' wafting the smoke about using a big feather. Medium said that this would cleanse any residual bad energy that might still be around and close the portal. Before Medium and her friend left, they suggested that Mother should get some sea salt and sprinkle it around the windows and the doors to prevent any more spirits coming into the house".

#### **Asked if the intervention and cleansing by Medium had been beneficial?**

Mother replied; that over the following days she had continued to hear the voices but whenever she mentioned it to her husband, he continued to reiterate that the sounds were those of the neighbours and she had begun to think that, that was indeed the case. She also added that she thought that she could recognise some of the sounds as being the teenage neighbour and thought she could hear his voice. Mother then described a further incident of writing that had appeared, again on the kitchen walls and on the radiator. She said that this took place three days after the visit by Medium and her friend.

#### **Asked about the second incident?**

Mother told me that her husband returned from work at around six in the evening and that she had just finished bathing Child A and was about to bath Child B, when she heard her husband shouting from the kitchen.

She enquired as to the problem and was told that Child A had been writing on the walls. Mother went into Child A, who was in the bedroom and asked why she had done it, to which Child A replied that she hadn't. Mother then told Child A off who immediately burst into tears and insisted that she was innocent, repeating her claim that she was not responsible. By the time Mother came downstairs, Father had cleaned the writing from the wall and radiator and was making food. Later, when Mother raised the matter of the writing with her husband, he was insistent that Child A must have been the culprit although Mother said she felt less certain this was the case. Mother said that it was unusual for her daughter to behave in this manner, getting so upset so quickly was not like her and that the child hadn't written previously on the walls.

Mother needed to collect Child A from school but as the call drew to the end, I suggested that it might be helpful for Mother to commence a diary of the events, noting the dates and times and who was present, together with a brief note about the event itself. She readily agreed to do this and I added that I would give her a further call later in the week to check how things were.

**“The whole episode lasting about 30 to 40 seconds before I smiled and indicated towards Child A and said I think we've found your ghost writer.”**

## The third conversation

About two hours later, early evening, Mother again called me asking about the diary. Particularly, if I would mind if she used sheets of paper or if it would be better for her to go out the following day and buy a book especially for the purpose. I replied that I would be passing her house the following afternoon and would be happy to drop off a notebook for her to use. She said that she would be pleased to see me and that she would have the kettle on, I said that I needed to attend an appointment so it would be a brief visit in order to drop-off the notebook for her to use. I also suggested that she might like to have a friend or perhaps her sister with her for support as she and I had not met up to this point.

### We arranged the time and the call ended.

Based upon the information that had already been provided I was mindful that when considering the wall writing in particular, then the most likely explanation for this was Child A. As a parent, I was aware that occasionally children have a tendency to write or draw upon many surfaces and that walls and similar surfaces are often particularly favoured for this activity. I made a note to explore this possibility further if the case developed.

### Visit to the house and the phantom writer revealed

The following afternoon at the arranged time – 3:45pm, I knocked and introduced myself. Mother invited me and we sat in the kitchen. Also present was her sister and Child A. Mother said that Child B was asleep in another room.

Initially, Sister was the most talkative and keen to share her own thoughts about several ghost hunting television programmes. She also talked about events at the property and that she thought the visit by Medium had been a good idea, saying that obviously now that they knew that it was the ghost of a little boy it was less of a worry.

Mother agreed and both expressed their sympathy towards the boy, adding that they hoped that Medium would help him to move on to join his family on her next visit. I had not been aware that an additional visit by Medium had been arranged. I enquired and was told that Medium had suggested this would be the best course of action at the end of Medium's previous visit. Mother apologised for having forgotten to mention this in our conversation the previous day, saying that it had been Medium who had indicated that the spirit of the boy might try to return to play with Child A and that she wanted to be certain that he moved on and reunited with his family. Mother or Sister then mentioned that Medium had requested a payment of £20 to cover the expenses of her first visit and which had been paid upon arrival. Also, that a further payment of £20 had been requested for the upcoming visit. I ascertained that at the time of this meeting, only the initial payment of £20 had been made. Mother also asked if I charged anything, to which I assured her I did not.

For several minutes, myself, Mother, Sister talked generally about our local authority and some recent planned changes to the waste recycling and collection arrangements. During this part of the conversation I was aware that Child A who had been coming in and out of the kitchen since I had arrived approximately fifteen minutes before, was now sitting on the floor behind Mother and Sister and was quietly writing on the radiator which was

located to my right and behind both Mother and Sister. I watched for several seconds as we talked, while Child A continued to scribble quietly on the radiator and onto the wall, the whole episode lasting about 30 to 40 seconds before I smiled and indicated towards Child A and said "I think we've found your ghost writer".

Mother and Sister, both looked around and immediately, Mother shouted at Child A by name. Child A instantly dropped the pen she was holding and cried out "It wasn't me mummy, I didn't do it!" Mother, scolded the child for being naughty and Child A promptly burst into tears and was insistent that she hadn't been responsible. Child A then fled the room in tears. Mother then began to apologise to me and appeared to be much embarrassed. I assured her that as a father, this was something I had also encountered and that she had nothing to apologise for. I then quickly finished my tea and left shortly afterwards. I left the notebook and said that I would call her the following week to see how things were.

## Follow-up telephone call

One week later, I called Mother in during the evening and asked about the situation.

She replied that she had heard the voices on one occasion during the previous week and that she had put that into the notebook. She once again apologised for the actions of Child A and said that afterwards Child A told her that the school had a writing wall which the children were permitted to write on and draw on and Mother believed that this had been the cause of the wall writing behaviour which had appeared at the house.

Mother said that she had messaged Medium the day after my visit in order to cancel the planned second visit and had explained to Medium that she now didn't feel it was now necessary as the culprit for the writing had obviously been found. Medium accepted this information and suggested that the little boy might have caused Child A to do the writing and she could be contacted at any time in the future if needed. Mother, added that she now thought that Medium's suggestion regarding the writing was "rubbish" and "made no sense". Mother also said that she also now doubted the rest of what Medium had said about the little boy as she had spoken with elderly neighbours living several houses further up the street. The neighbour's family had lived in the street for almost sixty years and they could recall no such little boy or indeed think of any child who had died whilst living in the house or any other in the street. They did mention a young girl from an adjoining street who had been hit by a car and killed in 1978 but said that she was a teenager. They also added that no bombs had ever been dropped in the area of the house, the only bombs they could recall being the (well-documented) attack which took place in August 1940 on an oil storage facility at Pembroke Dock. This location lies about ten miles away from the house as the crow flies.

I suggested to Mother that as the situation seemed to be under control that it might be best to leave things as they are rather than continuing with any further actions on my part. We arranged that she could contact me at any time if the situation changed and that she felt that it might be helpful to talk someone.

Two weeks after my visit to the house, I had a chance meeting with Sister in the local supermarket. During the brief exchange, I enquired about the situation with her sister (Mother) and the children. Sister replied that everything was fine and nothing else had happened, adding that Mother was a “a bit of a worrier” and that she had told her several times that it was all normal and nothing to worry to about.

### Some additional thoughts

To all intents and purposes, we may assume that this case can be considered to have been resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned. The case did not require very much by way of an intervention by the investigator and due to the particular circumstances and the unusual rapidity with which it was resolved meant that several lines of enquiry which might ordinarily have been considered were not explored.

Nevertheless, are we able to discern more about this particular case by considering the limited information that is available in more detail.

Overall, less than week elapsed between the first message from Mother and the conclusion of my involvement. The only information pertaining to the events had come from a limited number of exchanges between the investigator and the witness. To a lesser extent, information from the sister may also be considered, even though this amounted to just a few brief exchanges. The sum total, of all the interactions was in reality just two social media messages, three telephone calls, one of which was very brief, and a single location visit, lasting around twenty minutes.

It is apparent that some significant details had been omitted from the initial information provided by the witness. These omissions were subsequently revealed in later exchanges and by further questioning by the investigator. The information provided in the messages, was to the effect that a number of events had been experienced by the mother. Specifically, that she had heard noises and voices at night, had found doors to have been opened and a bathroom light discovered switched on after being turned off. I also learned that a medium had visited and that she had pronounced that the cause was the ghost of a little boy who had died as a result of tuberculosis and that he was trying to play with Child A. Perhaps the most intriguing item was that writing had been discovered on the walls on more than one occasion and which had no apparent cause.

This basic information was expanded upon in the later conversations when it was revealed that the medium had already visited the property on two occasions and had conducted some form of ritual in order to move the spirit of the little boy on. During these visits the medium had apparently communicated with the ghost of a young boy and claimed to have persuaded him to return to his own house and family. Medium had also said to the mother that Child A was sensitive and suggested that the child might attract further spirits in the future and that she had located and closed a portal through which spirits were able to enter the house. Perhaps the most perplexing was the statement by the medium that she should be contacted in the future if Child A continued to see ghosts. This seems particularly unusual as at no point during any of the exchanges with the investigator had the mother indicated that Child A had reported seeing anything untoward. Also, Medium had

never spoken to Child A who had been not present or asleep in the house during the medium's two visits.

Regarding concern for her children; in her messages, Mother had asked if the ghost could harm her children. Mother had said that her daughter – Child A, was starting to get upset by the things that are happening and this prompted me during the second telephone call to enquire about the children and Mother had replied that they were perfectly fine and had not been affected. Mother added, that Child A had burst into tears and had become upset when her parents had accused her of writing on the walls. During our conversations, it became apparent that her concern for the children's welfare was not the result of any specific event involving the children but was an understandable expression of concern by the mother for their well-being.

Conversation with the mother also revealed that the medium had suggested an additional visit would be needed to ensure the ghost of the boy had been fully reunited with his family.

This raises a question regarding the motives of the medium, particularly, after the discovery during that the medium had requested and had been given a fee for her services. Unfortunately, this does seem to be a fairly normal practise by some mediums and of this person in particular, who is known to the investigator from other instances that I am aware of when people have called upon her services. It was also noted that the medium had suggested an additional visit the possibility of further future visits too. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to ponder the motives of the medium

We might also consider the true nature of Mother's belief and interest in ghosts. At times this appears to be somewhat contradictory, for example; in her second message the mother states that she “never really believed in ghosts before this started”. This at odds with her statement in the following paragraph where she writes that “My husband says that I watch too many ghost programmes on TV”. The mother had also claimed during the telephone conversations that she only watched ghost hunting programmes occasionally and that her sister was the more frequent and regular viewer of such programmes. During the same conversation, she also said that both she and her sister “believed in ghosts and that they might be harmful” before saying a little later that she was she “wasn't certain that ghosts were real” then adding “but there must be something in it, mustn't there otherwise why would they show that stuff on television”. Another indicator as to the mother's level of interest in the subject is contained within the opening line of her first message where she writes that she is a frequent listener to the radio show I host. The particular show she is referring to deals almost entirely with local ghost stories and other paranormal subjects and has an emphasis on accounts of ghosts and hauntings. Taking all of the above into consideration, it is not unreasonable to assume that the mother was more likely to be inclined towards a belief in the actuality of ghosts than she was sometimes admitting. Mother's apparent reluctance to be more direct regarding her own belief might also be due in part to the stated opinion of her husband. Mother had said several times that her husband had no belief in such things and that he considered all of the events that transpired to have entirely normal explanations.

In view of the mother's likely belief, the fact that she watches some of the ghost hunting television programmes and the stated interest of her sister in the subject, it might have been helpful if the opportunity had arisen to explore her views and expectations further. Knowledge and expectation can be a significant factor in the perception by witnesses of events and experiences, which the investigator must take into consideration. It is not improbable to assume that the representation of the haunting in many television ghost hunting the mother as being harmful or malevolent may have influenced her to consider her own experiences as possibly harmful. She asked the investigator in her follow-up message if he could help them to get rid of the ghost and had already contacted the medium and had already agreed to some type of ritual being performed to remove the ghost of the little boy.

Speaking to Mother, it also became apparent that her sister had played a key part in influencing several of the mother's decisions and also several of her subsequent actions.

It was the sister who had first suggested that the house might be haunted and that Medium should be contacted. I was told that the sister had attended several public access ghost hunts and had also attended a number of psychic evenings hosted by Medium. Mother had also said that her sister regularly watched various ghost hunting television programmes.

The nature of this case meant it was not possible to explore the relationship between the two sisters, and in the short time available it was also not possible to discover more about Sister's level of interest in the subject or the true nature of the mother's belief and her expectations. The only other indication regarding Sister's actual degree of interest or prior knowledge of the subject, beyond that already provided by the mother, came from the conversation in the kitchen. During this meeting, the sister talked at some length about several of the more recent ghost hunting television shows she had watched. Even from this short conversation it was clear to the investigator that Sister was a frequent viewer of such programmes and that she held strong positive opinions regarding the phenomena that had been portrayed on the shows. The sister strongly stated her opinion that the mother's house was haunted and repeated several times that she didn't feel comfortable whenever she went upstairs in the house. She said that she had not spoken out about these impressions until after the mother mentioned the noises that she had heard, this was confirmed by Mother.

From the limited amount of information provided and the impression I gained during the meeting with the two women, it appeared that the sister had a strong personality and was probably the more dominant of the two. From the way in which she took a lead in the conversation and from her demeanour throughout the meeting it is likely, indeed quite probable, that the mother was to some extent being influenced her sister and that the views and opinions of the sister were a significant factor in shaping her perception of the events.

## In conclusion

Phantom's apparently writing upon walls and other surfaces is not a common occurrence, but there are several well documented examples in the archives of psychical research. The most famous, is of course the writing which appeared at Borley Rectory in the 1930's and was attributed to the anguished spirit of a Nun who sought assistance in the form of Light, Mass and Prayers (Price, 1940). In the nineteenth century in Amherst, Nova Scotia, a phantom hand was said to written a death threat to Esther Cox, a teenage girl living in the farmhouse of her married sister (Carrington, 1913) and in the summer of 1971, writing in the form of hundreds of signatures of deceased persons was said to have covered the walls of the young Matthew Manning (Harrison, 1994).

Overall, this was an unusual case, not because of the events that were reported, except perhaps the appearance of writing on the wall and radiator. The initial social media messages and the subsequent telephone conversations also followed the usual trajectory for these sorts of enquiries. However, what was notable in this case was that the child chose the exact moment when the investigator was present to sit and begin writing on the radiator and on the wall. It could be suggested that this moment of good fortune prevented the situation from developing further into one that could have potentially resulted in a significant amount of disruption or distress for the family. We may only speculate what might have happened if the medium had been allowed to persist with her own form of assistance and what the sister might have said or done as a result.

A little over six weeks after the mother's first message I telephoned Mother to check on the situation and she informed me that there had been no further episodes of wall writing and that they had bought Child A, a chalkboard for her to write and draw upon. She also said that from time to time she continued heard the noises but that she was now sure that the cause of these sounds was the neighbouring family and their son. She also added that thought her daughter had been responsible for turning on the bathroom light as she had been getting up in the night to use the bathroom.

## References:

- Carrington, Hereward. (1913). Personal Experiences in Spiritualism. pp. 95-124. T. Werner Laurie. London.
- Harrison, Vernon. (1994). The signatures on the walls of Queen's House, Linton, Cambridgeshire and some of the automatic scripts and drawings of Matthew Manning. Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research 58(218) July.
- Parsons, Steven T. (2018). Guidance Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases, Apparitions, Hauntings, Poltergeists and Similar Phenomena. p.19. Society for Psychical Research. London.
- Price, Harry. (1940). The Most Haunted House in England. pp. 144-152. Longmans, Green and Co. London.

## About the Author



An investigator and researcher of Ghosts, Hauntings and related human experiences. Author of three books and numerous published articles on ghosts, ghost hunting and related subjects, cited or referenced in many more. A regular speaker at conferences and conventions throughout the UK, Ireland and the USA. Advisor on numerous paranormal documentary shows for UK and overseas broadcast networks including; The Discovery Network, National Geographic, The BBC, ITV etc. Appeared and advised on 'edutainment' TV shows including Most Haunted, I'm Famous & Frightened & Paranormal Investigation Live. Hosted & co-hosted radio shows for the BBC and other broadcasters.

# SENSORY HAUNTINGS

by Peter A. McCue

## Introduction

Spontaneous paranormal phenomena sometimes recur in certain locations. These cases are usually described as 'hauntings'. The phenomena might entail sensory manifestations, such as apparitions, sounds of footsteps, and cold feelings. The manifestations could be hallucinatory or they could have an objective, physical basis. However, there can also be phenomena of a clearly physical character, such as the displacement of household objects or personal possessions. Indeed, it's sometimes hard to decide whether a case should be regarded as a place-centred haunting or a person-centred poltergeist episode. In cases given the poltergeist tag, the manifestations are often, but not always, shortlived. Sometimes, they're quite destructive (e.g. glass and crockery might be broken, or fires might break out). But in place-centred hauntings (including those of a purely sensory character), the phenomena might recur over a very long period.

In what follows, I'll use the expression 'sensory hauntings' for cases that don't include clear-cut physical phenomena, although I don't mean to imply that hauntings with physical phenomena lack a sensory component. Obviously, if there are clear-cut physical manifestations, it may be easier to confirm that anomalous phenomena are truly occurring. This is recognized by John Fraser in his 2020 book *Poltergeist!* But he goes further, questioning whether hauntings of a purely sensory type often occur. He contends that because 'of the way the subject of hauntings is presented by authors, there is a whole subcategory

of "haunted places" that are not really haunted at all. Take away these cases and it might just be possible that what you are left with is a core of mainly [...] hybrid "intermediate" cases' (p. 148).

Fraser is using the word 'intermediate' to refer to cases with both haunting and poltergeist-type features. Arguably, though, credible reports of sensory hauntings aren't rare. To illustrate my point, I'll cite some accounts (mainly first-hand) that came to my attention in past years (Cases 1-7). They're uncorroborated, although I believe they were given to me in good faith. Considered individually, they might not be deemed evidentially strong. But regarding the reported phenomena, they're reasonably representative, and there are many similar accounts in the annals of psychical research. Furthermore, it's worth bearing in mind that phenomena of this type may go unreported.

The quoted material presented below has been edited for presentational purposes, but I haven't changed the substantive content. I first presented these cases in issues of the 'Psi Report', a newsletter of the Scottish Society for Psychical Research. I'm grateful to its former editor, Mrs Daphne Plowman, for permission to reproduce the material here.



## Case 1

In June 2001, I exchanged some correspondence with John Burke (real name), who was then semi-retired. He'd worked in the publishing field, and was an author in his own right. He noted that 'a few people might know that I've written a large number of short ghost stories and novels on weird subjects, and might therefore say, "Oh, it's another of his bits of fiction" – which I assure you isn't the case.' He added that: 'On every occasion, the "visitation" came as a complete surprise.'

While he was living in a basement flat in London, Burke woke one night, feeling that a rather jolly, middle-aged woman was sitting at the end of his bed, chuckling to herself about something.

*It was pitch dark and I saw nothing, but I was very conscious of her presence and of her amusement. I switched the light on, and the sound ceased immediately. It didn't happen to me again; but several weeks later, a friend from Guernsey came to stay for a couple of nights, and I let him have the bedroom while I slept on a bed in the sitting room. I'd forgotten the incident of the woman, and certainly never said a word to him about her. Next morning at breakfast, he said that he'd had a weird experience, waking up and being sure that there was a middle-aged woman sitting on the end of the bed and laughing at him. [He didn't actually see a woman – P.A.McC.] 'But she wasn't frightening, was she?' I said immediately. He said that he'd been very frightened, and had left the light on for the rest of the night.*

## Case 2

John Burke also experienced phenomena of the haunting type at a house in East Anglia. He wrote:

*When I married and we moved to a house in Southwold, Suffolk, we left the door of our first-floor bedroom open in case our two-year-old son woke and called out. A number of times, I woke up with the certainty that a tall, ungainly man had just stumbled down the stairs from the floor above and was swaying in the bedroom doorway. I didn't see him, but knew he was there, and knew that he was over six feet tall and very heavily built. I wasn't frightened, but I was aware of a waft of misery from the phenomenon, whatever or whoever it was. What did scare me was the thought that if my wife experienced the same thing, she would be terrified, since before buying the house, we'd turned down another one on the grounds that she and a friend had, immediately on entering through the front door, said it was a horrifying place and must be haunted.*

*After a year or so, the visitations faded away rather than ceasing abruptly. Much later, my wife said casually: 'Our friend seems to have disappeared.' I was taken aback. She told me that she, too, had several times been aware of exactly the same process of this lumbering figure stumbling downstairs and swaying in our doorway; but somehow she hadn't been frightened. It occurred to me that perhaps I'd communicated my experience telepathically to her, since throughout our marriage we've frequently had clear telepathic transferences. But in this case, we felt that we'd had individual experiences.*

Burke explained that based on information from a local plumber/handyman, it appeared that the haunting was connected with a former occupant of the house:

*The man's wife had died, and he'd installed a housekeeper on the top floor, with her own bathroom and a separate doorbell. Most evenings he would go up to her, chain-smoke, and drink heavily. Jack, the plumber, didn't know whether anything else went on, but doubted it. On a couple of occasions, the man had lurched so heavily on his way downstairs, back to his own bedroom, that he'd crashed through the stair-rails. He ultimately drank himself to death.*

### Case 3

In 2002, Jim Hunter (real name), then 62 and a retired civil engineer, informed me about an apparitional experience that he'd had in the 1990s. His job was related to the oil industry. He worked on the construction of rigs and platforms in the UK, the Middle East, India, Indonesia, and Azerbaijan. Before the incidents described below, he was, as he put it, a 'down-to-earth typical construction engineer, with rather dismissive opinions on paranormal events'. He wrote:

*I was staying in a hotel in the town of Ras-Al-Khaimah, which is some 150 kilometres north of Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. I'd been in the hotel for about nine months and stayed in a small suite comprising a sitting room and bedroom. One night in mid-1994, I awoke feeling the presence of someone in the bedroom. The atmosphere was cold. I switched on the bedside light and saw the figure of an Indian man standing at the end of the bed, looking in my direction. The figure, which appeared to be quite solid, then turned its back on me and walked through the outside wall, i.e. a wall that formed the gable end of the building. As you can imagine, I was pretty spooked, and I subsequently kept the light on for the rest of the night. I told a few people about it that morning when I went to work, and I took a lot of ribbing. I came to the conclusion that it had been a bad dream, although I asked the head waiter whether anyone had died in any of the rooms, and, in particular, in my suite (No. 304). He'd been at the hotel for 25 years, but he said that he knew of no incident. The whole matter was slowly forgotten. Three months later, I was moved to another suite, as they were going to convert my rooms into a flat for the manager.*

*A year later, we had two engineers visiting from our head office, both Indian and both graduates. One of them was allocated Room 303, a single room adjacent to my former sitting room. (The bedroom in my former suite was off the sitting room.) On his first morning at work, he and my secretary came into my office. He was in a state of severe agitation and looked awful. It turned out that he'd experienced what I'd experienced one year previously. He'd awoken to see an Indian man standing at the end of his bed. The figure then turned and walked through the wall into my old suite. The engineer refused to be given another room and insisted on being moved to another hotel, which was arranged. I stayed at the hotel for another year, without experiencing any further apparitional incidents, and I didn't hear of anyone else having such an experience.*

### Case 4

This case involved Brian Parry (pseudonym), now deceased. At the time of his experience, which occurred around 1980, he was an officer with a volunteer ambulance corps. He had access to a small room in an old nurses' home at the site of the old Woolmanhill Infirmary, in the centre of Aberdeen. He wrote:

*I was in the storeroom, which was on the first floor, when I heard a woman's footsteps coming along a wooden-floored corridor, through a nailed-up door, across the cement floor of the landing, to the wooden floor outside the room I was in. I spoke to the person I thought was standing in the doorway, but got no answer. I thought it strange, but got on with the job of stocking up for my exhibition stores. On my way out, I checked the toilets, to make sure that nobody would be locked in the building. Before locking up the main door, I shouted that I was leaving and checked the building from the outside for lights being left on.*

In a subsequent letter to me, Parry added that when he told a female member of the first-aid unit about the sound of footsteps, she said that she'd had the same experience on occasions when she'd been tidying up in the storeroom.

### Case 5

Dr John Fleetwood (real name) wrote to me from the Republic of Ireland.

*I'm convinced that I saw a ghost on one occasion. I'm a medical historian. Some years ago, I got permission to check on old famine records held in what was a Midlands of Ireland workhouse, which is now completely out of bounds for safety reasons. I was absolutely alone in this old building and I'd locked the hall door behind me. I worked for several hours on these records, which were heart-rending. Whole families were admitted to die off one by one. The misery in the building must have seeped into the very walls. As I left the room in which the records are kept, I became aware of a shadowy figure, which faded as I watched. Later that day, I was speaking to a nurse who'd worked in the modern part of the unit. I mentioned that I'd been looking at the old records, but made no reference to my ghost. The nurse turned to me and said, 'That building is supposed to be haunted. Many people won't go there alone, even in daylight.'*

In a further letter, Fleetwood stated: 'I certainly didn't feel any fear, and would go back to the same building on my own at any time.'

## Case 6

A number of years ago, I exchanged some correspondence with William Laing (real name), who was based in Australia but hailed from Scotland. He'd been a boy entrant to the Royal Navy. He related that in 1961, as a naval telegraphist, he'd come home from two and a half years overseas and was waiting to be drafted to another ship. During this interlude, he was sent to Pitreavie, near Dunfermline, Fife, to work in an underground facility. 'One signed a book when entering or leaving, and this was witnessed by a quartermaster. Then, one proceeded down in a lift to a tunnel.' The tunnel was straight, several hundred yards long, and very well lit. Every 25 yards or so, there was a heavy door with a very large pane of glass. Consequently, it was possible to see for a long way in the tunnel.

On the occasion in question, Laing was coming off watch at midnight. Walking back up the tunnel, he saw, through the glass panels, a Wren (a member of the Women's Royal Naval Service) coming towards him. They met at a door, which Laing held open for the woman, a very attractive, dark-haired second officer. He said, 'Good evening, ma'am' as she passed within 18 inches of him. Without replying or looking at him,

she continued walking, as if he didn't exist. Not surprisingly, he thought she was very stuck up. A few days later, someone in the mess commented that the tunnel was supposed to be haunted by a Wren officer. Fearing ridicule, Laing said nothing. However, that night, when he was going on watch, he checked the logbook, but there was no signature from a Wren on the date that he saw her, neither entering nor leaving. Furthermore, he explained that there were no Wrens at the establishment.

It's maybe worth mentioning that in 1957, Laing walked into a Suffolk village, Kersey, and reportedly saw it as it may have been centuries before. In the late 1980s, he brought the matter to the attention of the writer and researcher Andrew MacKenzie (now deceased), who carefully investigated the case (with the help of Laing and others) and reported it in his 1997 book *Adventures in Time* (pp. 3-30). At the time of the experience, Laing was with two companions. They were contacted in the course of the investigation. One of them partly corroborated Laing's account, but the other told MacKenzie that he hadn't noticed anything.



## Case 7

Cyril Clark (real name) informed me about an experience that his late father, William, had had while being treated for pleurisy at University College Hospital, London, in the early 1950s. Aged about 70 at the time, the father was in the hospital for around 10 days.

He told me, on one of my visits to see him, that he was wakened in the early hours of the morning to find a nurse standing at the foot of his bed. He spoke to her, but got no reply. She gradually faded away, not to be seen again. Later that morning, he mentioned this to the sister of the ward, who became very interested and asked him for a description of the nurse, as she'd been seen before on odd occasions. Apparently, she was in a Victorian uniform and was quite tall. The story goes that she gave a patient the wrong medication and the patient died. The nurse was so upset that she threw herself down the lift shaft.

Clark was unable to recall which ward his father had been in, or on what floor it was, although he thought that it may have been about the fourth floor. He didn't think that his father was delirious around the time of the experience. His father died about ten years later, following a stroke.

## Comments

One might surmise that a sensory haunting depends on two main factors: (1) something in, or about, the location that generates ghostly experiences (let's call it 'factor X'), and (2) the psychic sensitivity of the residents or visitors. Certainly, some of the above-quoted witnesses reported having had more than one psychic experience in their lives; and from some of the case reports (e.g. Case 2), one gets the impression that the witnesses somehow 'tuned in' to past events that may have left some sort of impression on the place concerned. It may be that if 'factor X' is very strong at a site, more or less anyone present will be prone to experiencing phenomena, irrespective of his or her psychic sensitivity.


## References

- Fraser, J. (2020). *Poltergeist!: A New Investigation into Destructive Haunting*. Winchester: Sixth Books.
- MacKenzie, A. (1997). *Adventures in Time: Encounters with the Past*. London: Athlone Press.



## About the author:

Based in Scotland, Dr Peter McCue is a retired clinical psychologist with a longstanding interest in anomalous phenomena. He's the author of numerous articles and three books with a paranormal theme. Peter is a member of ASSAP and the SPR.



# The Per Lane, Yorkshire, Incident.

A summary of the investigation conducted by  
Kevin Berry, Steve Coop, Jenny Randles and others.

Account written by Robert Moore

## Synopsis

This article describes the observation of a mystery light over Per Lane, West Yorkshire, at circa 17:16 hrs. BST on the 09 November 2019. While allegedly a multiple witness event, investigators were unable to acquire meaningful statements from those reportedly involved. The event is notable for the claim that 2 “jets” were observed pursuing said light.

The case is also significant in that most data required for a quality sighting investigation (aircraft movements, metrological data, astronomical and summaries of known fireball and satellite re-entries) were acquired with relative ease via modern digital and online resources.



Figure 1: Macro Perspective of Sighting Region (Google Maps).

## The Sighting Event.

On approx 1716 hrs. on Saturday 09 November 2019 at “Per Lane” a road just north of the northern village of Illingworth, West Yorkshire, England, UK (itself located 5.3 km NW of Halifax, Yorkshire, England), a couple in their early thirties – a man and a woman – observed a “white streak” in the sky, reputedly moving “very fast”. The female witness compared this form to “a comet” which she said was moving “too fast to be a drone”.

During the course of this observation her male companion took around 9 seconds of footage of said form with his mobile phone.

- Unfortunately, this footage is shaky and of low information quotient; although it is consistent with the main report as cited by the media.

Both witnesses claimed other people in the same vicinity also stopped, reportedly flashing their car headlights and sounding their horns to get the attention of others. It is further alleged that one or more of these witnesses also took footage of this light with their mobile phones.

Finally, the main witnesses reported that (shortly after seeing the light), they heard the “roar” of “fast (military?) jets” and observed said aircraft heading towards it.

NB: the presence of aircraft potentially instigating this observation were located by subsequent investigation (see below). If so, their direction of travel suggest light was located in southern portion of sky.

The local news website/newspaper (the ExaminerLive) in a later account also reports that at 09 November 2019 at around 05:25-05:33 hrs. another observer saw a light over North Dean Woods, Copley, that appeared “out of



Figure 2: Micro perspective of sighting locus (derived from Google Maps image)



Figure 3: 3D image of sighting locus (taken from image capture by Kevin Berry).

no-where”. This light remained visible for “a few seconds”. Thereafter, another light was reportedly seen heading towards the first one, followed by an additional “small silver coloured object” which reportedly “shot away at incredible speed.” This other sighting locus is approx. 10 km South East of Per Lane.



**Figure 4: Screen captures of Per Lane light footage (taken 09 Nov 2020)**

### The subsequent investigation:

On the account being posted online on around the 13th November 2019, the event was noted by numerous UFO researchers and posted on a diversity of UFO related Facebook pages (most notably ASSAP UFO Overview and Northwest Bureau for UFO Research).

### The sighting “account”- attempts to clarify and document:

The ExaminerLive news item reports that the main male witnesses’ mother posted an appeal on her Facebook page for other witnesses to come forward. While this page was located by both Robert Moore and Steve Coop no sign of this appeal could be found by either.

Steve Coop attempted several times to contact both the journalist responsible for the original news-item and the main witnesses mentioned in it. Coop gained no details from the journalist... who (reports Coop) “(he) said he had the photos.. (but).. was reluctant to give me copies of them after I mailed him requesting them”. but managed to get a brief email from the main female witness, confirming it happened but providing no additional sighting details. None of the reputed other observers have seemingly to date (Feb 05 2020) approached anyone with additional accounts of this event.

### The “jets”:

The claim that two aircraft were seen overfly the vicinity while event was ongoing was, in a few respects, confirmed by using online resources. The first to note this was Jenny Randles, via use of the Flight Radar website. This has also been confirmed by others enacting the same process (mostly notably Kevin Berry). However, their very presence on Flight Radar demonstrates they were civilian in nature, as this system does not display military flights. Furthermore, they transpired to be Partenavia Observer propeller driven aircraft. Thus, while two

aircraft were present in the sighting vicinity at the reputed time of this event they were neither “military” or “jets”.

### In Randles’ own words:

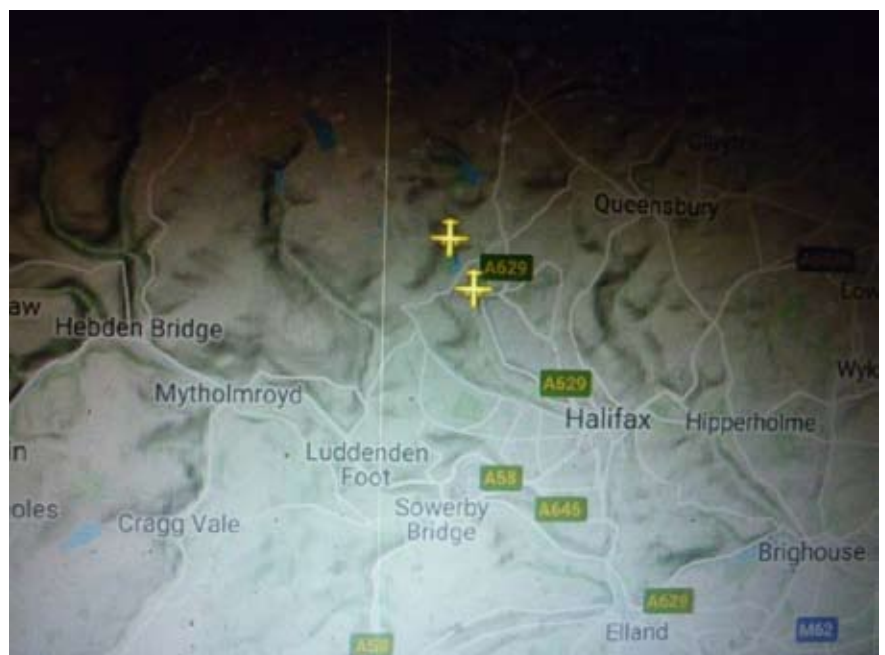
“I just checked the location with flight radar 24 playback and at that time on Saturday; two Partenavia Observer planes were flying over that area in tight formation at 2000 feet in an interweaving pattern.”Military jets would not show up on Flight Radar but these two aircraft originated their flight north of Caterick somewhere. And it would be some coincidence if their presence flying low over that area was not linked to the sighting in some way. ... The left plane was G-OBSR (height 2200 feet); The right one G-HUBB (2300 feet). Track 175 degrees airspeed 272 kts The first one G-OBSR was tracking 233 degrees at airspeed 143 kts. They left the area, flew over Rochdale and Ormskirk, south over Wallasey... and landed together at Liverpool around 25 minutes after the screen shot.”

### “Flight RADAR 24 Playback”

A filmed sequence of this same web-page made by Kevin Berry on the 16 November 2019 shows the above two aircraft appearing in the vicinity a short time circa 17:13 hrs. flying from a NE direction, heading due SW. At around 17:15 hrs. they turn towards Halifax, heading in a Southerly direction. At around 17:16 hrs. they turn to fly in a SE direction, likely taking them near the vicinity of Per Lane. At 17:17 hrs. they veer roughly SW and continue to fly on that bearing until they vanish off-screen at circa 17:19 hrs.

### Astronomical events.

The 12.1 day’s old Moon (Waxing Gibbous or mostly full) was visible in Eastern part of sky, having risen at 15:49 hrs. that day. Saturn and Jupiter were both visible in the Western sky – Jupiter (magnitude -1.88) setting in the SW portion of sky around 18:00hrs (at roughly 227° Azimuth). Saturn was around 0.58 magnitude, 197° Azimuth and 12° altitude at approximate time of sighting. Two notable



**Fig 5: Screen capture made by Jenny Randles from the online resource**

meteor showers were active during period of sighting, namely the Northern and Southern Taurids located in the NE portion of sky, each rated at 5/ZHR. The Sun set at 16:20 hrs. that day.

The ISS was not visible over the UK at time of sighting, but was viewable at 0509-5014 hrs. within the southern portion of sky earlier than day.

### **Metrological conditions:**

The weather (taken from the Venture-sky and World Weather Online website by Kevin Berry and Robert Moore, respectively, was ascertained as being overcast, drizzly, cool and notably windy. Temperature was 04° to 02° Centigrade, wind blowing 16 km/h ESE-E (with gusts up to 40 km/h) with 90% humidity, 100% cloud cover and 0.4 – 1.0 mm of precipitation.

### **Earthquakes**

Kevin Berry accessed the British Geological Survey (BGS) website and discovered that a magnitude 2.3 quake occurred on the 08 November 2019, 16:12 hrs. UTC in the vicinity of Halifax, West Yorkshire.

### **Fireball meteors:**

The website <https://fireball.amsmeteors.org/> do not have reports of any significant fireball meteor events occurring over the UK on the 09 November 2019; they have various accounts of an incident occurring on Friday, November 8th 2019 around 18:30 UT; mostly observed over Belgium and northern France.

### **Satellite Re-entries:**

The Aerospace website has no details of any satellite re-entry event visible over the UK on the 09 November 2019.

### **Conclusions (Robert Moore):**

In some ways this case is unspectacular in some respects, but also significant in others. The sighting account, despite efforts by Steve Coop and others, remains obscure in several respects. Despite being a multi-witness observation none of these alleged other witnesses came forward and no additional footage of this light has surfaced on the internet. While the main witnesses were contacted little of any note was acquired from the brief returned message received by Steve Coop. But from what we do know, the light observed seems relatively mundane in form and appearance.

Jenny Randles (in the February 2019 issue of Fortean Times) suggested that Jupiter, visible at the time, could

have instigated the event. While suggestive, the light seems to have been reportedly in rapid motion when observed – but it is equally acknowledged the account we presently have lacks detail). It is also noted that two meteor showers (the Taurids) were active at this time. While, again, this also presents an attractive option, the likely duration of 9 seconds (and possibly greater) seems too long for a meteor. We could of course opt for space debris – which have a longer duration – but no such re-entry event was scheduled to have occurred that night over the UK. The process of evaluation is not helped by the paucity of data in regard to the sighting itself...

The two main witnesses claimed two “jets” were observed heading towards the light. Various investigators have noted the presence of two (propeller driven) aircraft in the sighting vicinity – but they were neither military in nature or jets in function. Nonetheless, data retrieved by Kevin Berry (based on the time and bearing of said aircraft) is consistent with the idea they were reacting to the presence of something novel in the sighting vicinity. Of course, if the witnesses had not reported the presence of said aircraft it’s likely they would be being proposed as a possible solution to this case! But they were clearly both separate events.

Do we therefore add their pilots to the list of witnesses that never came forward? The writer feels that a Freedom of Information Act request might prove fruitful, in both determining whether the two pilots also observed this light and the reasons why these aircraft were airborne to begin with. Was the change of course merely down to curiosity - or was this apparent correlation mere co-incidence?

These factors aside, this case may be significant in demonstrating the power of modern online information tools in Ufology. Data that was once extremely difficult, time-consuming and expensive to acquire is now available, online (or off it), courtesy of a few careful Internet searches and considered web page inputs. It is ironic that – thanks to the knowledge of people such as Randles, Berry and Coop – the technical aspect of documenting this report was enacted with relative ease. This goes equally for acquiring images of the sighting locus as with metrological and aircraft movements. This can only be of benefit to critical UFO investigation in a time when it faces some notable hurdles (i.e. drones).

I personally recommend that this case study be still considered OPEN and ONGOING in the hope that further data relating to it will surface in the future.



### **About the Author**

Robert Moore does many things and has followed many paths. One of them lead to a degree in archaeology at the University of Bristol.

He is the co-author (with Jenny Randles) of the second edition of UFO STUDY along with the Guide to UFOs written for BUFORA (online). Robert is research officer for ASSAP.

# Nikola Tesla's Violet Ray

by Amythest Gray

Many people are familiar with Nikola Tesla and his Tesla Coil. But very few people are aware that in the late 1800s he combined his Tesla Coil with a sealed glass electrode tube that was filled with one of various gases such as argon (violet) or neon (red). This device was presented to the world by Tesla at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair (Columbian Exposition).

The 'Violet Ray' machine puts out high-frequency electricity of around 50,000 V with a very low current. It was once widely used to treat 'strep throat' (Streptococcal pharyngitis) and other infections before the introduction of antibiotics.

In the 1920s and 1930s, many pharmacies and chemist shops around the world had these devices to alleviate the aches and pains of customers. Nikola Tesla's fame in power generation and lighting had helped to assure their success. Several electrical companies produced many machines before the Great Depression. After the depression, there were fewer manufacturers, and the remainder switched to making radio coils and other war components during World War 2. During the 1940s and 1950s, makers of Violet Ray machines were subjected to numerous lawsuits and multiple actions by the US government and the FDA (as was also the case with Wilhelm Reich's Orgone Generator).

Despite being side-lined and largely forgotten the Violet Ray machine remains FDA-certified to this day for treating signs of ageing and skin conditions as well as hair loss.

The Violet Ray machine (pictured) is usually a hand-held device with a variety of glass electrode tubes, such as a comb-rake, a bulb and a flattened mushroom-bulb (pictured), any of which can be inserted into the plug base and used on the part of the body being treated.

Other electrode shapes were designed to improve the effectiveness of treatments by the Violet Ray machine.

- A Point electrode is used for the eye, small areas, and cystic or acne spots.
- A Mushroom-bulb is used to cover larger surface areas such as legs, arms, chest, and back.
- A Spoon electrode has a curve which makes it a useful tool for rounded areas on cheeks, forehead, neck, and scalp.



Tesla c.1896  
(Unknown Author, <https://historyrat.wordpress.com/2013/01/13/lighting-the-1893-worlds-fair-the-race-to-light-the-world/>)

- The Comb-rake electrode is specifically used to benefit the scalp and stimulates hair growth to reduce a thinning scope.

When the machine is turned on, a violet-coloured (or another colour, depending upon the gas) electrical charge can be seen (pictured).

The 'sleeping prophet' Edgar Cayce recommended the Violet Ray in his readings for a lot of different conditions such as poor circulation, nervous disorders, arthritis and rheumatism, hair and skin issues, problems with digestion and elimination of toxins, female reproductive disorders, prostate disease and cataracts. He even recommended it for possession and schizophrenia!

Cayce most frequently recommended the Violet Ray for problems related to poor circulation. When the Violet Ray is applied, blood surges to oxygen-starved tissues, stimulates lymphatic and capillary circulation, clearing cellular toxins and strengthening bodily organs. The length of treatment can range from one to thirty minutes at a time.



The Violet Ray was also recommended as a tonic for exhaustion and lethargy. Now, this was how I was first exposed to the Violet Ray machine myself. I had spent much of the preceding night putting together a presentation for a stall at an 'Alternative View' conference near Heathrow several years ago. By the time I arrived to set up my display, I was looking distinctly exhausted. A couple of fellow stall keepers happened to have a device with them that they attributed to Nikola Tesla. They plugged it in, turned it on and offered for me to hold the glowing tube in each of my hands in turn for five or so minutes. This I did, after which I felt very much rejuvenated. It also had the side effect that for the next hour or so I could see people's 'auras' around the conference centre. This device was a Violet Ray machine.

It was many years later that I next came across a Violet Ray machine. I was at a small talk by a nutritionist. At the end of the evening, he got out his Violet Ray machine and offered to demonstrate it. I instantly recognised it as the device that I had experienced years before. As my back was quite sore from sitting at my desk all day, I allowed him to use it with the spoon-bulb attachment directly on my back to help alleviate the soreness. This it did admirably in less than five minutes. The pain level reduced from an



uncomfortable six out of ten to a much more tolerable one. It also demonstrably helped a couple of others who had been in acute pain before the application of the device.

The electrode tingles when in contact with the skin. It glows to a varying degree, and the machine itself makes a distinctive high voltage electricity noise when in operation. But the effect upon the area is very soothing, warming and relaxing.

I will admit that as it glows brightly and it can spark if applied at an awkward angle, it has a certain amount of Frankenstein's monster Steam Punk nostalgia to it. This charm may indeed lead to a certain amount of placebo effect in itself. But whatever the cause it certainly appears to have a positive effect on the person and area to which it is applied.

The Violet Ray machine is another example of one of the many fantastic inventions by Nikola Tesla that are largely forgotten in our current era. At least his name is once again more widely known due to the car company.

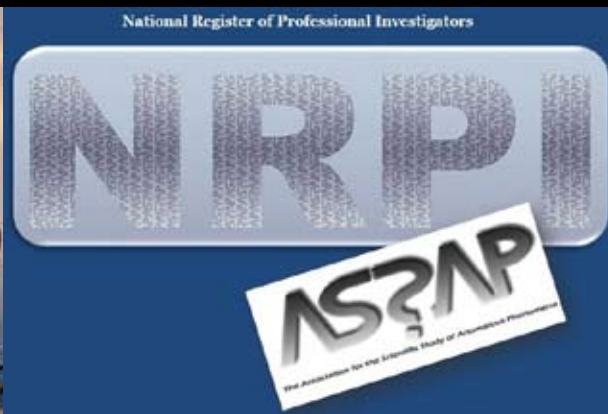
For more information, the book 'Edgar Cayce Cures - Using The Violet Ray for Alternative Treatments' by BA. Anderson is a good starting point.

Please note. The use of the Violet Ray machine should not be considered as a substitute for conventional medicine. If you have a serious health issue, you should consult your doctor and make any complementary healing that you receive part of a complete health care programme.

#### About the author:



Amethyst Gray was born on the Isle of Wight where her proximity to Carisbrooke Castle, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World and fossils on the beach plus crystals gave her a keen interest in history, hidden history and how everything came about. She was always good at Mathematics so ended up taking a Physics degree at Queen Mary College, University of London. That led to a career in IT before rediscovering her interest in crystals, alternative history and energy healing after moving to the Pewsey Vale of Wiltshire in the early 2010's.



# NIRPI and Affiliated Groups

By Mark Davey, Education and Affiliations officer and  
Co-ordinator National Investigations Committee (NIC)

The National Register of Professional Investigators is an assurance to the outside world that members of the register are ethical in what they do. It is a voluntary scheme designed to help raise the investigation community to a minimum level of ethical practice. This was created to help protect clients and investigators alike. It was created and is administered by ASSAP (Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena). ASSAP is a national body: a professional body, learned society, registered charity and limited company established in 1981.

The NIRPI is one of ASSAP's professional body schemes. ASSAP's professional body status was examined closely by UK government lawyers who ensured that ASSAP constituted a professional body. The UK government formally registered ASSAP as a professional body for investigators of anomalous phenomena as a result of this.

ASSAP's professional Code of Ethics was drawn from an initial public consultation in 2011 in which hundreds of people gave their opinion on what should form a code. The code was compiled by the ASSAP National Investigations Committee and approved by the Board of Directors and was informed by a) the consultation responses, b) peer-reviewed articles of investigation ethics, c) the codes of bodies like the Parapsychological Association and British Psychological Society and d) learning materials from ASSAP as a recognised learned society. The code was then subject to a further public consultation, to government consultation and was subject to academic peer-review before being published in ASSAP's journal *Anomaly* in December 2012. The code will be subject to further consultation six months and twelve months after implementation.

Investigators of anomalous phenomena cover a wide range of subjects and working practices. Some investigators are full-time professionals, others are related professionals (such as academics) who investigate as part of their job or pro bono, others are volunteers. Volunteers are capable of being 'professional' if they have the attitude and training. Volunteers can join the NIRPI and will be considered 'professional' if they have signed up to the code, completed the learning and passed the examination. NIRPI insurance applies to qualified investigators only and does not cover spiritual practitioners (acting in that capacity) or profit-making events organisers (acting in that capacity).

Membership of the NIRPI sends a message to the outside world that an investigator's ethical procedures are of a professional standard. However this should not be mistaken for representation of ASSAP. NIRPI members are not assigned ASSAP cases unless they have also successfully completed ASSAP Investigation Training. This is because ASSAP cases must be dealt with to the higher scientific standard as well as the minimum ethical standard. The purpose of the NIRPI is to build this minimum ethical standard for the benefit of the wider public.

ASSAP affiliated groups are investigation teams in the UK which contain NIRPI members who have completed ASSAP's investigation training. They adhere to the Code of Ethics and the high standards of investigation expected by ASSAP. You will see details of the affiliated groups in our magazine and on our website. ASSAP would like to create a network of Groups and Investigators throughout the UK, who are able to receive investigations from the NIC. Affiliated group status is also open to international teams who complete NIRPI training and show that they follow the ethical and scientific approach advocated by ASSAP.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the NIRPI or becoming an affiliated group contact [nrpi@assap.ac.uk](mailto:nrpi@assap.ac.uk) or enrolling in investigation training contact [events@assap.ac.uk](mailto:events@assap.ac.uk)

# Anecdotes, Science and Flogging a Dead Horse

by Mark Wallbank

Science and religion have always been at each other's throats, never in agreement, so many people outside the field don't tend to think of any scientific aspect of paranormal investigating. People instead tend to scoff and claim that there is no science in the paranormal - that it is pseudo-science and nothing more than a joke or waste of time. I've heard the term 'flogging a dead horse' many a time in my years of paranormal investigation, usually from those that have never set foot through the paranormal research door.

On the classification of paranormal subjects, Terence Hines in his book *Pseudoscience and the Paranormal* (2003) wrote:

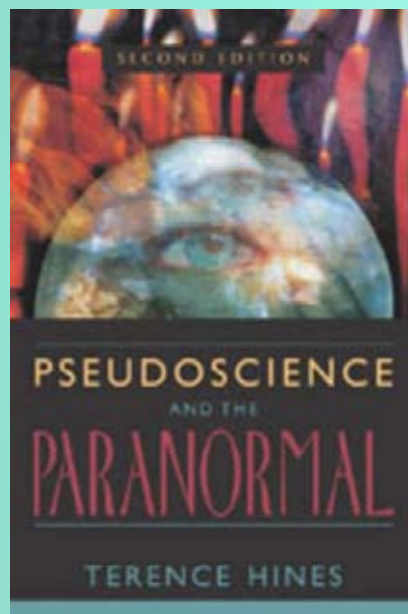
*"The paranormal can best be thought of as a subset of pseudoscience. What sets the paranormal apart from other pseudo sciences is a reliance on explanations for alleged phenomena that are well outside the bounds of established science. Thus, paranormal phenomena include extrasensory perception (ESP), telekinesis, ghosts, poltergeists, life after death, reincarnation, faith healing, human auras, and so forth. The explanations for these allied phenomena are phrased in vague terms of "psychic forces", "human energy fields", and so on. This is in contrast to many pseudoscientific explanations for other non-paranormal phenomena, which, although very bad science, are still couched in acceptable scientific terms."*

While no one has conclusively proven that ghosts do not exist, researchers have proposed a number of alternate explanations about physical or psychological causes for strange experiences. Some are simple - people can hallucinate or mistake reflections, shadows and unidentifiable noises for ghosts.

The power of suggestion, something I have been delving into through the years out of personal curiosity, could also play a big part in why, or how people are experiencing things. Suggestion, as well as fear. When we become afraid, blood flows from the extremities to the major muscles of the body as you get ready to run or fight, and that can make you feel cold. You also become hyper-vigilant, so you start noticing footsteps or voices you wouldn't have noticed before and start assuming this is some sort of weird paranormal activity. In some instances a person will claim to have been touched if you simply mention the idea of it. I have tested this many times with some success.

When someone claims to be a scientific investigator, they are usually saying they tend to look for tangible fact-based explanations before labelling an event as paranormal. Any readings from "scientific equipment" they have may or may not support whatever conclusions they come to. Use of equipment is a problem of its own. Most people are "learning" to use equipment based on what they see on television. Unfortunately, most of the characters on T.V do not know how to use the equipment properly themselves, nor do they fully understand what the equipment is actually designed to

do, and they certainly don't conduct their investigations using anything remotely approaching scientific method regardless of what equipment is available to use. The result is a lot of erroneous data they don't understand therefore they do not know how to use it as evidence one way or the other. They end up disregarding the data as soon as they get a "creepy feeling" or happen to capture an EVP.



As we learn and experience, we grow. Experimenting with new gadgets, DIY projects, trialling assorted tools, toys, as well as light- and atmospheric-generating and data gathering devices, to hopefully uncover an answer or two. It's about thinking outside of the proverbial box: breaking away from the commonly used and now mainstream ideas and investigation tools, which, after all these years, if we're honest, haven't really turned up much in the way of evidence at all. In this field, everything is worth trying. Every angle is worth looking at. Nothing is absurd. Every idea is valid - no matter how ridiculous it may sound at first. If the world-standard practical options aren't showing up anything but data that is vague, obscure, impossible to see, hear and are failing to gain any actual scientific or rational momentum or interest, then maybe we should be expanding our minds and ideas a bit more.

The simple fact is, after all these years of paranormal research, no one has solid, conclusive proof that ghosts exist; what they are, what they are made of, how are they created or where they come from.

Most of the good evidence for the paranormal I've heard or read about is anecdotal.

While it may be true that most evidence for paranormal events is anecdotal, it is by no means true that the evidence is worthless or invalid. Many anecdotes, or personal accounts, can check out (be confirmed by other witnesses to the event or to other similar events at the location), or point to something real and valid.

I'm guessing it'd be a rare thing for an anecdote to be based on simply nothing at all. (Most stories are not total fabrications, but are at least based on some observation, even if the story is embellished.)

This means that someone has related it as an experience. This is not to imply that these people are lying or misinterpreting things, only that their personal experience is rather subjective. Anecdotal evidence does have its place (I believe that the paranormal is a personal journey and needs to be experienced first-hand to be fully appreciated. Maybe not understood initially, but at the very least, appreciated for what it was/is) but there must always be other kinds as well before a subject can become scientific. Unfortunately, many subjective experiences are a result of the way the brain works. Even when experiences are objective, they are frequently misreported.

In humour, if the sceptics of the world truly believed that anecdotal evidence in general is invalid, then would they not find life difficult to function in, for they would not believe anything told? They would refuse directions when they are lost, they would disbelieve every story told to them during their family reunions (even by the most honest and credible of their family members), invalidate all reports given to them in their workplace..... It is clear that anecdotes do have their place in this field and should not be dismissed.

It is widely agreed upon, that with anecdotal evidence, a degree of validity needs to be measured. This can be based on several applied factors.

- The accuracy or consistency of the observations and reports
- What the witnesses/experiencers stand to gain from their testimony or claim.
- The credibility level of the witnesses
- The physical descriptive detail of the observation and the proximity distance and positioning of the witnesses
- The state of mind of the witnesses
- The number of claims and eyewitness reports

I'm not saying that we should believe every anecdotal claim out there, which would be foolish. But just because an anecdotal claim doesn't fit one's world view, doesn't mean that it must be due to mistake, fraud or hallucination.

**“Anecdotes are widely and seriously utilised in a court of law, so why not paranormal research? Every piece of evidence has its place in this field, every one a further contributing piece in the jigsaw.”**

True, science requires questions, hypothesis, plausibility, and methodical data. Science-fact evolves, it is never 100%. Many proven things are found to be inaccurate or even incorrect once newer data and knowledge is applied. Likewise, many fringe-science and paranormal things have become science fact when newer data and knowledge is applied. Approaching the paranormal from a research perspective is often difficult because of the lack of acceptance of the physical reality of most of the purported phenomena.

By definition, the paranormal does not conform to conventional expectations of the natural.

The paranormal strays outside of mainstream, “human” thinking. Human ego and arrogance then often

states that if we can't explain, define or file it swiftly into a pre-determined box, it therefore can't and doesn't exist.

While it is still considered pseudo-science, it is our hope that someday it will gather a little more seriousness as more concrete and verifiable evidence comes to hand and move it into becoming an actual science. There must be a conclusive repeatability to the findings or they are summarily dismissed.

I have had a few personal, but fleeting, experiences of what I would consider possibly of a ghostly nature, (hence my untiring and focussed life search) but they were not measured using any scientific tools and they were not analysed with any scientific workings, just by a practical mind thinking through every possible cause or rationale in my head. Since science, properly done, would require that I be able to duplicate the conditions of my experience for another person to objectively analyse, we are probably out of luck getting a very good answer to this question. Scientific method dictates I need to be able to repeat the experience to confirm it by physical documentation from all possible angles.

I simply don't know that I could duplicate any of my experiences. The fact that they all have been spontaneous and sporadic, with no apparent pattern or reason, means I have nothing to plan ahead with, no way of knowing when I might experience these things again, if ever.

Sure, what I've seen could just be some natural phenomenon easily explained away by a person with a degree. Ultimately it doesn't matter though. They most likely wouldn't trust my opinion or version of what I've experienced, and I don't know if I could confidently trust them to make an honest, accurate and fair assessment of my experiences, considering the fact they weren't there.

Personal anecdotes are widely and seriously utilised in a court of law, so why not paranormal research? Every piece of evidence has its place in this field, every one a further contributing piece in the jigsaw. Occam's razor often leads to explanations that are just as wrong as they are simplistic. (The principle states that among competing hypotheses that predict equally well, the one with the fewest assumptions should be selected.

Practically, it means you should go with the simpler explanation, the one that doesn't involve anything paranormal, in other words.) The principle, Occam's razor, has been used for centuries with some success just as the scientific method has been used. It's even been reinvented a couple of times since the friar, William of Ockham, first invented it. He got into some trouble with the Pope, during his time, for stating something to the effect that God's existence cannot be known through reason alone. Personally, I think he's mostly right, but I'm certainly no authority on these matters.

One theory about the paranormal that is widely accepted within the paranormal community is that a spirit is made up of energy. One of the most basic laws of energy conservation is that it cannot be created or destroyed.

All the energy that already exists will always exist in some form or another. The human body contains an enormous amount of energy. If energy cannot be destroyed then what happens to that energy when we die? Through research it has been observed, and widely documented, that where paranormal activity occurs there is an increase in the electromagnetic field (EMF). One theory is that the human spirit, when we pass on, is that very release of energy.

So where does the energy go? This is where one's spiritual beliefs come into play. Throughout history every culture and religion has held some varied belief in a spirit that survives death. Most of them share the belief that, for whatever reason, some spirits don't pass on to the next level of existence and remain here on earth in spirit form until they can pass. This is what most people think of when they hear the words spirit or ghost. Because of that, the belief in paranormal is often considered a religious aspect more than a scientific one.

So, what should we do? We keep doing what we are doing; seeking evidence, discussing this evidence, and trying new ways to gather and improve the quality of evidence.

Yes, progress toward acceptance is and will continue to be painfully slow. If we aren't asking the questions and putting forth hypotheses, then the science will never happen and we will never move beyond the current state of acceptance of the paranormal.

With regard to these rare and frustratingly elusive events, there are a great many things in the universe we don't understand yet – many specifically due to their infrequent occurrence and therefore our inability and opportunities to study them in greater detail.

I definitely believe that people can 'see' things, and that their minds can fill the void for certain emotions they feel or for things they believe; but I've seen things despite having a practical mind, no religious belief or no fear.

I've seen things. Not just vague things moving around, or in the corner of my eye, but clear and obvious, straight in front of me, with both eyes and all senses directed, with others with me to witness it, not just by myself.

The answers we seek may not be coming as hard and fast as we would like them to be, but, as they say, good things take time. I do believe though that the answers (and ever important corroborating data) will come to light, with or without science by our side. It's only a matter of time and perseverance. I'd like to see paranormal investigators actually doing the needed research and following a defined and productive investigative process; and the science communities admitting that perhaps, (just perhaps) science doesn't have all the answers and therefore could be something more to learn in all this and actually show an interest in investigating allegedly haunted locations alongside investigators in an open-minded, non-condescending, non-ignorant manner and in an inquisitive fashion. Learning and growing together.

I do like this quote from Albert Einstein; "Pure logical thinking cannot yield us any knowledge of the empirical world. All knowledge of reality starts from experience and ends in it."

#### About the author:



Mark Wallbank is the founder of New Zealand based paranormal research group, Haunted Auckland, and has been fascinated in all aspects of the paranormal spectrum his entire life. From Ghosts and hauntings, UFOs and aliens, Cryptids and mysterious creatures, through to our country's intriguing urban myths. His team is New Zealand's most active and recognised paranormal research group.

He has written three books on the paranormal subject; *Voices in the Walls*, *Talking to Shadows* and *Haunted New Zealand Roadtrip* with a couple of others currently in the works. Plus many articles and reviews for numerous print and online magazines through the years.

# CONFESSIONS OF A PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR PART 1

I'm sure many readers of Seriously Strange have experienced for themselves a paranormal investigation, either privately or with one of the many event companies that run investigative experiences throughout the country. I've had the good fortune to have visited many supposedly haunted places all over the UK and had a few experiences that I could, at a push, say are unexplained!

I find it flattering that people kindly send me their photos of alleged phenomena and as I look at a variety of digital imagery (oh look, more orbs!) all I can do is offer an opinion as to what they might be? On investigations as well I'm frequently asked about things such as light anomalies caught on camera and the conversations usually go something like this:

***'Can you see it?' I am asked with eager enthusiasm.***

***'See what?' I politely reply.***

***'The face in the orb?'***

***'Err...'***

***'Look closer...'* I am told rather excitingly. *'Now do you see it?'***

***'Umm...!'***

***The camera zooms in for a close up and blurred view of the offending anomaly.***

***'Look, its there...I can't believe you can't see it, looks like a woman's face?'***

***'I can't see anything I'm afraid' I say apologetically 'it's hard to see anything on a view screen that small but hang on - I think I can make out a fire engine and a small dog!'***

OK I wouldn't say that last bit. Probably. But the photographer will promptly leave me to accost someone else with the image viewed from a screen the size of a credit card! To quote the writer and social commentator Christopher Hitchens 'we are pattern seeking mammals' and maybe that's the error our primate species makes? Is it a natural human instinct to join the dots up? There are folk of course who will be convinced something is paranormal without any critical analysis to back up their claim even if some natural evidence is glaringly obvious – 'excuse me while I just shut that very draughty window, sorry, you were telling me about a cold spot?'

But we are all susceptible to occasional misinterpretation of phenomena and I am just as guilty as anyone. Whilst investigating a haunted bedroom at The Red Lion Hotel in Colchester, I actually thought I saw a ghost. Honest folks. The team were all in the adjoining bathroom, in the dark, gathered together after hearing a loud constant 'thumping' noise from this area. I was suddenly stunned to observe a transparent figure looking straight at me wearing the most puzzled expression.

Did I just see a ghost? Afraid not. It was this very columnist's own reflection staring back from a glass panel by the bath! We spent the next ten minutes laughing our little spooky socks off!

But you'll have to excuse me now as someone has just come up to me wanting a second opinion on another image they've just captured on camera:

***'Can you see it?' I've been asked again with still eager enthusiasm.***

***'See what?' I've replied.***

***'The face in the mist?'***

***'No I can't' I say 'but I think I can make out.....oh never mind!!!'***

About the author:



Marq English has had a life long interest in many aspects of the paranormal including researching crop circles and ley-lines but has a particular fascination with the phenomena of spirits, ghosts and hauntings. Ever rational in his approach to the subject, he strives to offer alternative explanations for alleged phenomena although very open minded to the possibility of continued consciousness and phenomena. He is the author of Paranormal Surrey published by Amberley Books in 2011.

from

Marq  
English

# Find us on Social Media...

ASSAP has an active Facebook page, and a growing twitter account so you can keep in touch easily and quickly - share your stories and join in the discussions!



Facebook/ASSAP: the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena



Twitter  
@ASSAPParanormal

## Want your name in print?

Do you have something you want to share in an upcoming edition of Seriously Strange magazine? We're always looking for interesting contributions. We prioritise articles from our members but also welcome pieces from non-members. If you'd like to write up your research summary, original account or topical thoughts into a short article, please get in touch on [publications@assap.ac.uk](mailto:publications@assap.ac.uk).

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





# **Seriously Strange 2022**

**WATCH THIS  
SPACE!**

**Dates to be confirmed... keep an eye out on  
the website and Facebook page for details.**