

**SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION  
HERE IN YOUR HANDS!**

**Unidentified and  
unfiltered going deep  
into the mysteries of  
UAP**

**Confusion Reigns,  
Drones Soar  
The strange events  
surrounding New Jersey**

**STOP THE PRESS!  
WE'RE GOING SUPER!**

# seriously issue 162 strange

**The Calvine UFO: Another  
witness**

**Buggen Lane - where  
myths, tragic history and  
the supernatural coalesce**

**The past refuses to rest.  
Fraud, Murder inquiry and  
ghostly rumours.  
The Rhyl Mummy**

**Challenging the  
unknown that stands  
in the shadows**

**and so very much more  
inc the features and  
articles of SS 161**



**AS?AP**

[www.assap.ac.uk](http://www.assap.ac.uk)



## ABOUT ASSAP

Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena

ASSAP, investigating the weird seriously (and the seriously weird) since 1981.

ASSAP is a scientifically-orientated educational and research charity and learned society dedicated to a better understanding of anomalous phenomena. As well as education, we carry out investigations and research.

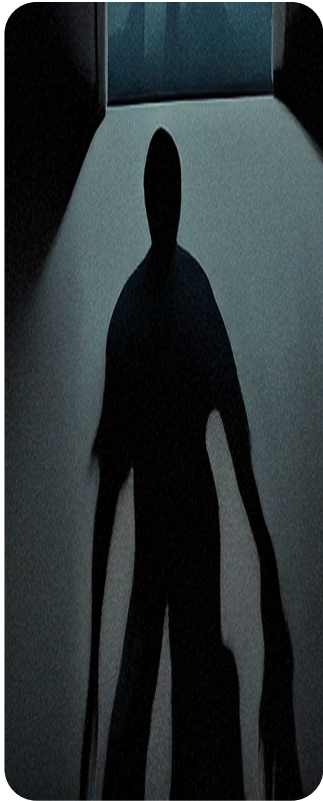
Over 43 years researching and exploring the topics of the anomalous.

Anomalous phenomena divide broadly into four areas: psychic phenomena (ghosts, telepathy, mediumship, etc.), Fortean phenomena (cryptozoology, fish falling from the sky, SLI, etc.), Earth Mysteries (leys, archaeoastronomy, etc.) and UFOlogy, a now perhaps outdated umbrella term that covers UAP/UFO/USO and the associated phenomena.

ASSAP was founded on 10 June 1981. Founders included well known authors Hilary Evans and Jenny Randles as well as Fortean Times editor Bob Rickard and scientists Drs Hugh Pincott and Vernon Harrison. Other founders included Alan Cleaver and Maurice Townsend.

Our president is the Rev Lionel Flanthorpe.

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Watching and stalking from unseen realms. You are never truly apart from your shadow.

Rick Hale challenges his dark passenger in *Boxing with Shadows*.



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Dr Mike Benburgh-Jackson leads our readers up the hill to experience 'Buggen Lane', a place where myth whispers from the locals as historical tragic events and supernatural accounts coalesce.



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In this chilling feature, Sheena Aspinall-Young covers the grim discovery of a mummified body hidden for 20 years in a Rhyl, North Wales home. A tale of deception, mysterious deaths, and lingering ghostly tales. Where the past refuses to stay buried.



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FEATURE

Kristian Lander examines the multiple events that captured the world's media attention, the drones of New Jersey. Exploring the narratives that were built and weaved as history repeated itself, with new twists and turns. The drones of New Jersey. Nukes, terror and confusion.

# INSIDE ASSAP



## ASSAP E-News

This monthly newsletter is brought to you by William Eyre, ASSAP's esteemed archivist and librarian. With over 33 years of experience investigating the anomalous with ASSAP

William brings unparalleled expertise and insight to our community. Don't miss out on his fascinating discoveries, inside track and updates – sign up today!

Bill always guarantees to get the conversation going! ;-)

The ASSAP E-News is a mailing list newsletter that you can subscribe to - being an ASSAP Member does not sign you up to this list automatically.

Available at [www.ASSAP.ac.uk](http://www.ASSAP.ac.uk)

## seriously strange

### ASSAP Membership

ASSAP e-membership £5 billed annually  
 ASSAP physical membership £20 billed annually.  
 Retired members subscription if £15 billed annually.

ASSAP membership gives you access to publications, like this one! Online access to a large catalogue of back issues, access to investigator training, use of our lending library of a number of books and content (by post), the opportunity to apply for a research grant. Early bird / membership price to the annual Seriously Strange Conference. Access to the popular ASSAP Paranormal Webinars, a continuing weekly series of presentations, talks and special events. The ability to participate in live Q&A and conversation..

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ISSUE 162 – GOING BUMPER TO BUMPER! PLUS MORE BELOW!

# EDITORIAL

Elementary mistakes allow for room for improvement, it's all a journey, not a destination.

Our members are valued, and this is for you. Fingers crossed, all being well, this issue and Anomaly, our journal, will reach you together. Finally, in your hands, we have asked for your patience to deliver the extraordinary!

In this issue, I delve deep into the topic of December's New Jersey wave, attempting to make sense of the fantastical accounts and claims. This issue is jammed to the margins of tremendous high-quality features, articles and more. A truly bumper edition! Huge thank you to the fantastic contributors and unsung heroes of support. Then it become SUPER (more on this on Page 8)!

For decades, the question of what form disclosure of the UFO topic could take was a frequent talking point. Do governments, private corporations and inner circles have a working knowledge of extraordinary matters happening in the skies above (and the waters below)? The speculation and conjecture always led one way, that answer being an obscured yes. Would they lie to the people to keep that knowledge secret? Very likely. Despite whistleblowers, officials, and credible witnesses, the line was always: "There's nothing to see here." Apply ridicule so the topic can never be taken seriously enough to even warrant a discussion.

Those layers are slowly being peeled back, and there is a persistant effort driving forward to seek answers. Across the ocean in Washington, Official documents, confirmation of Special Access Programs, gold standard quality of reporting ~ video/radar/sensor-data/sworn testimonies from professional observers on the government record. Reports from individuals who have legitimate clearances and backgrounds are necessary to know what they know when coming out and going public. The topic of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena now holds weight, becoming worthy of further study and discussion. Add to this the recognition that crash retrieval programs have been entered into the congressional record. A cautionary thought would be that many of these individuals have been in the capacity of working in the intelligence services. Disclosure appears to be occurring, taking form in a way not expected. Seriously Strange goes unfiltered as we go in search of the anomalous. Join us.

Kristian. Content and Media.

**Contributions and support, even if was just a conversation that helped this magazines development push foward – Bill Eyre, Robert Radakovic, Dave Hodrien, Kev Kerr, Caroline McKendrick-Gibson, Norie Miles, Mike Benbough-Jackson, Neil Nixon, Rob Gandy, Peter McCue, Dr Mark Fox, Rick Hale, Sheena Aspinall-Young, Trish LaSage, Arabella Mortimer Hendry, Ian-Liston Smith, Ben Emlyn Jones, David Clarke, Andrew Robinson and Sylvia Wix.**

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All submitted articles to Seriously Strange Magazine must be 'Original Works', commentary, features, articles and associated graphics/art. We are not responsible for articles that appear in the magazine which do not belong to the individuals submitting them. Some pieces may be reproductions and updates to pieces published elsewhere, owned by the author. We endeavour to credit individuals work and images. Some images are AI generated, used in context. If you are aware of any material featured in Seriously Strange Magazine that is not credited correctly, then please inform us as soon as possible. [publications@assap.ac.uk](mailto:publications@assap.ac.uk)

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We may not always get it right, we strive to learn and improve.

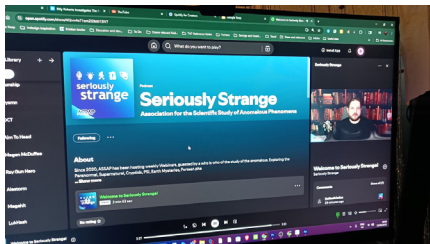
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Echoes of the Civil War: A Parallel Universe Encounter

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Prof Rob Gandy recounts an uncanny synchronicity and coincidence, literally!

The universe moves in mysterious ways to a delightful positive outcome for all involved!

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## Article

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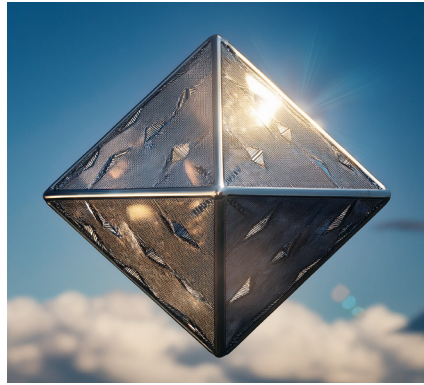
Arabella Mortimer Hendry looks at the impact of free will upon your life. The interference of spirits trying to mess with you because of it, and the life lessons gained along the way.

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The Calvine UFO; Another Witness

Kristian Lander explores the history of the Calvine UFO photo, as well as the new information brought to light by another witness, complete with a transcript of an discussion, that may have been missed by many.



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Seriously Strange there's nothing to see here!

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## Special



Walking through doors and walls, is it possible that a scientific effort to achieve such the task with potential uses in espionage, surveillance and in the battle-space was actively researched? The answer is yes.

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## Article

Rise of the New UFOlogy

Ben Emlyn-Jones of the popular HPANWO blog and podcast show. Ben is a regular face to the ASSAP Conferences argues that the next paradigm shift in human understanding will be the acceptance that UFOs, or UAPs, represent real, non-human intelligences visiting Earth, challenging our current view of the universe as a lifeless cosmic desert.



UNFILTERED UNIDENTIFIED 43 ONWARDS WE DELVE DEEP INTO THE MYSTERIES OF UFOLOGY AND UAP



STOP THE PRESS! WE'RE GOING SUPER BUMPER EDITION!

Legacy of Seriously Strange Issue 161

A journal entry and a sub-editorial combo!

Starting in January, I joined to rise above the noise. As an ASSAP member, stepping up, offering experience, skills to advance the organization rather than watching a 40+ year legacy struggle amid challenges.

My focus was simple: "How can I help?" (And yes, I'm encouraging you to ask the same!)

One of the first questions was about our publications—Seriously Strange and the Anomaly Journal. What was their status? With a background in media production and repro-graphics, I saw an opportunity.

Within a month, taking them from a stalled state –articles lingering in files—to something tangible. Reconnecting with the authors, aiming for substance over a fan-zine feel. Taking inspiration from National Geographic, Fortean Times, FOCUS, Phenomena, and New Scientist. I focused on clean articles, consistent fonts, structured layouts, original artwork, and thoughtful design. This doesn't happen overnight; it takes time. Expectations were high, and delays had mounted. So I said, "Let me handle this—I'll sort it out." Then the EGM came, and delivered: Added content from that event, a conference montage, an obituary, and a close.

Now, we're off to the races! A complete issue!



## Seriously Strange

## SUPER BUMPER CONTENTS

When we faced the reality of printing and distribution costs without accessible funds, the decision was clear: SS161 had to go digital. It made sense—immediate access for all ASSAP members, delivered straight to their inboxes and available on the website.

But as feedback poured in, the response was a mixed bag—celebration and thank you from some, deflation from others. Entrenched camps formed, and it was hard to see the success through a wall of circulating disappointment. We all felt it. “Where’s our physical copy?”, “This isn’t good enough!” No matter the effort and work put in.

Before SS161 even hit inboxes, the committee agreed: the next issue, SS162, would be a BUMPER edition. In my mind, 40 pages last time, let’s aim for 60 pages of exceptional content. Every journey is about learning, adapting, and pushing forward. If you stumble out of the gate, get up, keep going.

Decisions loomed. With Anomaly needing additional edits and SS162 both targeting an early April print date, ideas bounced around. Should we print SS161 after all, retro-fixing a few elements for the completionists? Printing and shipping it would mean extra costs, but as editor, I saw it differently—Digital distribution was the intention. SS161 was done, whatever the faults may lie and all, like a finished TV episode. Meanwhile, late March had us in the closing stretch of SS162—a true bumper edition, now at 64 pages with last-minute additions pushing it even higher. Communications were out, announcements feeding the frenzy, and excitement was building.

Then our archivist Bill Eyre raised a point that had not dawned. After the near-complete SS162 draft went to the committee, he asked “Where are the SS161 articles”, Bill assuming those articles had been folded into this issue to make it the Bumper edition as did Caroline. Having personally crafted a massive Bumper issue on content without those – woah! Yes, I could indeed add them here! D-oh! So a Super Bumper opportunity presented itself!

Design-wise, how would that even work? Tack SS161 onto the back? Create a flipped cover—SS161 on one side, SS162 on the other?—like ASSAP had done in the past combining a magazine and conference editions? How about incorporating them into the flow of the issue? Will Neil Nixon be happy, finally having his *Serious Strange Sounds* article in print after all?

Pragmatically, printing SS162 and Anomaly together is one set of costs—production, receiving delivery, and then P&P out to members in a single package. Adding a separate SS161 run doubles that effort. But the directors made the call: let’s do it. So here we are, on an ASSAP Thursday, after an afternoon and evening of wrangling in the features and articles –right up until tonight’s webinar with guest Marq English (and typing here after)

The result? Is what you have in your hands right now, not only A Bumper Edition, A SUPER BUMPER EDITION! blending the best of both worlds for your enjoyment. A win for all the members!

**Kristian. Thank you for your support, with a glimpse behind the curtain. March 27th.**

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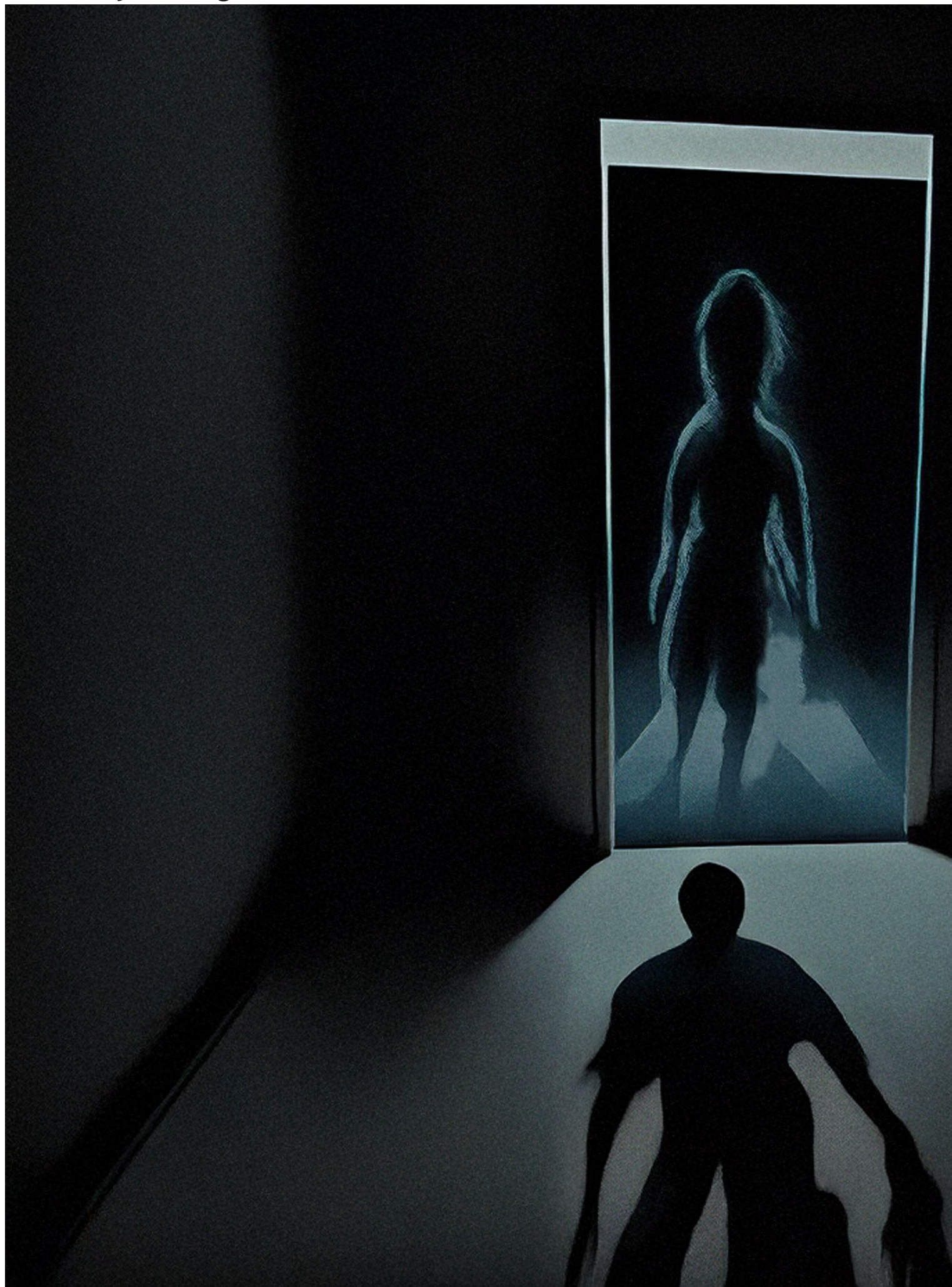
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Are Ghosts stuck in the Recycle Bin of a Simulated Universe





# **BOXING WITH SHADOWS**

Rick Hale

## **Behind the Author**

Rick Hale has been a lifelong paranormal investigator and researcher. In that time, he's experienced very positive ghostly encounters and some that would make you never want to come out from under the covers.

Rick Hale is author of *The Geek's Guide To The Strange and Unusual: Poltergeists, Ghosts and Demons*. Behold! *Shocking True Tales of Terror...and some other spooky stuff*. *Bullets, Booze and Babes*, the haunted history of Chicago and Illinois.

# Your fears watch from the darkness

It is finally time for bed after enduring one of the worst days imaginable, a day where nothing went right. The storm the previous night knocked the power out, causing you to sleep late. When you went to get in the car, you noticed the front passenger-side tire was as flat as a pancake. When you eventually arrived at work, your boss was waiting for you, a scowl on his face as he warned you not to be late again, or else.



We have all had days like that, days where life gives you the middle finger and mocks you inhumanely into humiliation. But right now, it doesn't matter anymore what the day was like; you successfully navigated the day from hell. It's finally time for bed, time to lay your head on the cool side of the pillow as you drift off to much-needed sleep.

Shortly after closing your eyes, you hear a strange sound, a sound you have never heard before. Your eyes are now fully open as you scan the room for the cause of the strange sound. As your brain tries to make sense of the noise, you hear it again; this time it seemed closer and sounded like a weird mix of raspy breathing and talon-like nails scraping across the wall. What the hell is going on here?

Suddenly, you are gripped with an undeniable feeling of terror as a cold sweat forms from head to toe. You begin to question your sanity as the sensation of terror engulfs you. You know someone, or something, is in your room. You can sense their presence and hear the raspy breathing, like the imperceptible intruder has been gargling with broken glass.

There is no denying it; something is with you, something terrible. Your first instinct is to scream and flee, but your scream is nothing more than a pitiful gurgle, and your limbs are paralyzed. Then you see it: a swirling black mass moving towards you, and as quickly as it appeared, it is on top of you, pressing your body into your bed. Your only thought at this point is, "I'm going to die."

## Seriously Strange

Sounds like some kind of cheesy horror film, doesn't it? If only that were true. Thousands of people the world over report very terrifying and similar experience that compels them to never want to close their eyes again for fear that the shadows will return and shatter their sanity.

Shadow people appear to be a hip, trendy field of inquiry in paranormal research. Numerous radio shows, books, and TV shows that cater to people with an interest in the paranormal devote a lot of time to the subject of shadow people. Many of the reported experiences are just as terrifying as the scenario I opened the article with.

Many researchers in the paranormal regard shadow people as being relative newcomers to the world of anomalous phenomena. However, there is nothing new to this terror that comes in the night. There have been reports of shadowy beings throughout history, and their intentions are anything but benevolent.

In medieval Europe, this phenomenon was known as attacks by the Incubus and the Succubus. These shadowy demonic creatures would attack the good Christian soul as they slept. The Incubus, a male demon, would rape women in an attempt to impregnate them. The Succubus, a female demon, would have her way with men, riding them until he was so exhausted he would be on the verge of death.

As Europeans crossed the Atlantic to the New World, they brought these stories of visitations by demonic entities with them. Those who endured such attacks believed they were being victimized by a witch or the Old Hag. The Old Hag was believed to be a woman in league with Lucifer and having an insatiable sexual appetite.

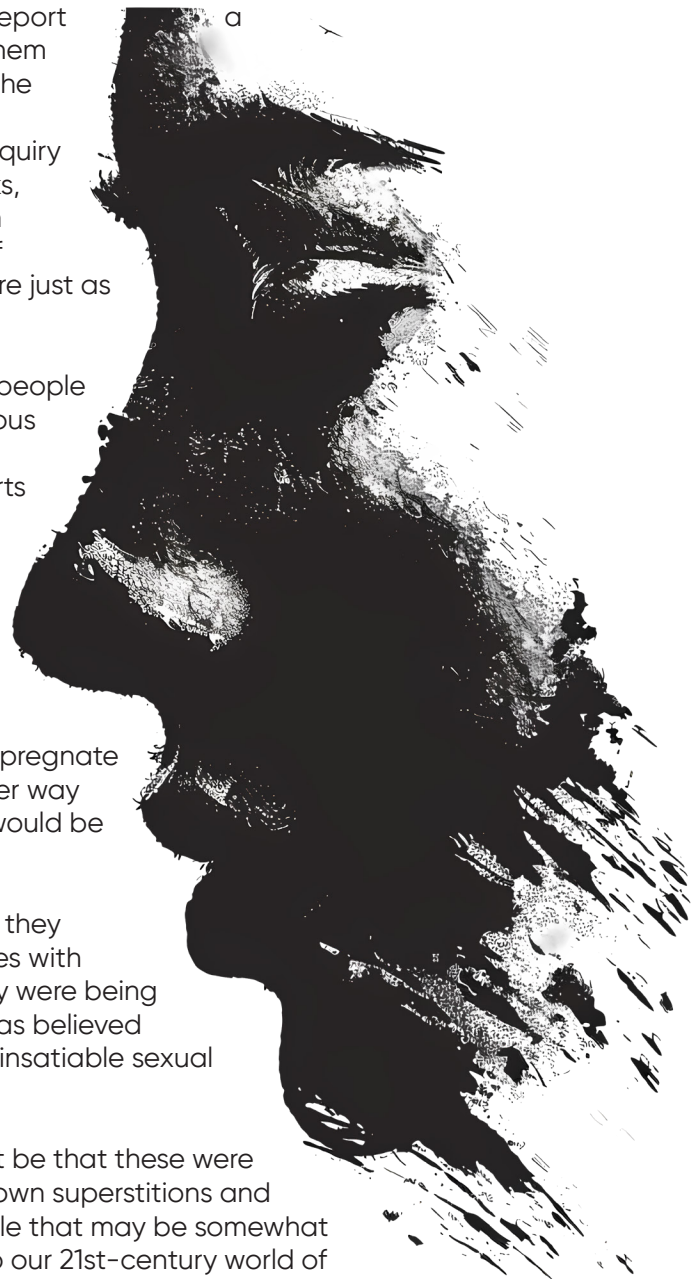
When considering such tales, your first thought might be that these were ignorant, uneducated people held hostage by their own superstitions and limited understanding of the world around them. While that may be somewhat true, encounters with such beings have persisted into our 21st-century world of high technology. Reports of these sinister beings are on the rise.

However, my favourite theory is truly out of this world. Another theory concerning these mysterious and disturbing beings is that they are believed to be some kind of inter-dimensional traveler. Those who accept this theory believe an alternate reality of darkness has overlapped with ours, allowing these shadow people to come and go at will. This could explain why they appear to be shadows rather than solid figures. Lastly, shadow people are alien visitors from another world sent to spy on us. Moving away from the fantastic, we have to wonder what mainstream science has to say about shadow people.

Mainstream researchers tell us the human mind is conditioned to find familiar patterns in shadow and light; this is called pareidolia. With pareidolia, your mind is literally playing tricks on you when light and shadow come together. I suppose this could explain why people who see shadow people say they see them from the corner of their eye. When they look at it dead on, the shadow person vanishes.

Mainstream scientists further claim that nighttime visitations of these shadow people can be blamed on sleep paralysis. Sleep paralysis occurs when the body awakes, but the brain is still in a REM, dreaming state. When sleep paralysis happens, the person mistakes regular shadows for aggressive, shadowy beings trying to attack them as they sleep. Researchers believe this hypnagogic state can last anywhere from a few seconds to several fear-inducing minutes.

When I was 17, I had an experience with an aggressive shadow being during an investigation. I was wide awake, and I have never used drugs. If it were not for my own encounter, I might be inclined to accept the mainstream's theory on the subject; however, I know that shadow beings exist, and they are very frightening.



# ANNOUNCEMENT >



### The BIG announcement

On 6th March, on the ASSAP Paranormal Webinar, we made the announcement that the Paranormal Webinars will be coming to Spotify in the near future, and are probably by the time you are reading this available!

### Podcasting

For a very long time, the idea of having an additional podcast is attractive, more over finding out many members go through the manual steps, of downloading the video, stripping the audio into an mp3 to listen to then listen as audio presentations and lectures, is quite some dedication and a lot of unnecessary actions - With some nudges and advice coupled with Spotify making some attractive incentives and accessibility, let's make this happen! Let's also provide the video presentation and audio through the platform, that can be toggled at will.

### The outline plan

The intention to publish the 2025 webinar catalogue on to Spotify has been achieved and that is now available for everyone. Now just days before going to print... we are available across all the podcast spaces too.



Spotify's search makes it really easy to find podcasts, music, audio books and more. Create playlists. Follow artists and creators. Like our friend Owen Staton, and his popular podcast the "Time Between Times."

YOUR FAVOURITE PODCAST APPS



## ARE NOW SERIOUSLY STRANGE!

ALL THE 2025 ASSAP PARANORMAL WEBINARS ARE ON SPOTIFY, APPLE PODCASTS, AMAZON MUSIC, POCKETCASTS, CASTBOX, OVERCAST, YOUTUBE MUSIC AND MORE!




Add and follow "Seriously Strange" ON YOUR FAVOURITE PODCAST APP

# On the drawing board

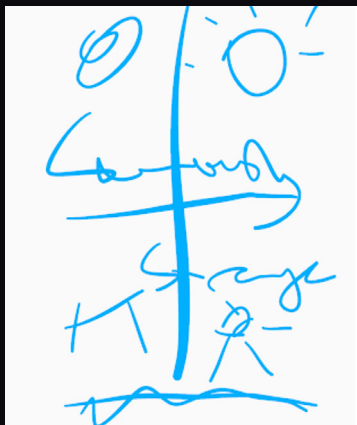
## Seriously Strange: Redefining the Anomalous Through Thoughtful Design

For years, “Seriously Strange” has been a hallmark phrase of the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena. It’s more than a catchy tagline; it encapsulates our mission to take the Strange seriously. This ethos underpins our magazine, our annual conference, and now, this audio venture too, a podcast. Embracing the familiar name and font style was a natural choice.

Yet, translating “Seriously Strange” into artwork and graphics posed a challenge. The paranormal podcast space is crowded with clichés: spooky houses, misty forests, and Ouija boards. While evocative, these tropes didn’t align with ASSAP’s distinct approach. Need to create visuals that were striking yet sophisticated, reflecting the podcast’s intent to explore the variety of anomalous phenomena. To get there, I went back to the drawing board—literally—soul-searching through motifs, slogans, and the essence of our brand.

The breakthrough came from visiting ASSAP’s own “Who We Are” webpage, where there is an outline of the four broad domains of anomalous phenomena, that ASSAP are interested in.

Left, centre and right, the embryonic stages of development. Before the final “in a line” version. The centre, would have included Nessie rearing itself from the water with text having a slight ripple.



Psi Phenomena: Ghosts, telepathy, remote viewing, and the mysteries of consciousness.

Forteania: Cryptids, bizarre events—like fish falling from the sky—and other oddities.

Earth Mysteries: Ley lines, archaeoastronomy, and monumental works like Stonehenge.

UFOlogy: Unidentified aerial phenomena and their cultural significance.

These pillars became the foundation of our visual identity. The goal was clear: create a graphic that tells this story, reflects these elements, and remains instantly recognizable. After careful consideration, I settled on using five icons to embody the podcast’s story and scope.

A Microphone: Symbolizing the podcast itself, our platform for discussion and discovery.

A Mind Projecting Outward: Representing psi phenomena and

the exploration of consciousness.

Bigfoot’s Iconic Stride: A nod to Forteania and the enigmatic world of cryptids.

A Dolmen from Stonehenge: Echoing Earth Mysteries and humanity’s ancient, mysterious achievements.

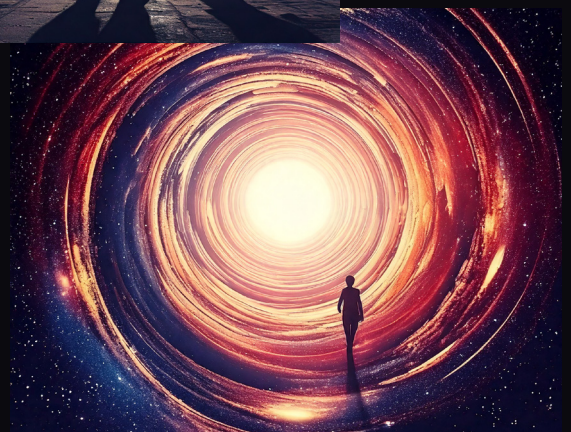
A Sport-Model UFO Outline: Capturing UFOlogy and the enduring intrigue of the skies.

Together, these icons weave a narrative, like hieroglyphics or emoji. They signal that “Seriously Strange” isn’t just another paranormal podcast—it’s a space where diverse, often perplexing topics are presented and dissected with thoughtfulness and clarity. The design is visually pleasing yet purposeful, balancing accessibility with the depths of topics up for presentation.

This final graphic isn’t just a logo; it’s a declaration. It reflects who we are and what we discuss—an invitation to listeners to join us in taking the strange, seriously.



Left and below, early concept drafts with AI assistance. Whilst striking, the spirals and silhouettes are too noisy, and don’t convey the ASSAP identity.





# BUGGEN LANE: A HAUNTED HISTORY

By Dr Mike Benbough-Jackson

Dr Mike Benbough-Jackson is a senior lecturer in modern British history at Liverpool John Moores University, who will take us for a walk down a lane filled with a plethora of events, history and strange encounters.



A lane is spookier than a street or road, though not necessarily as dangerous. That is not to say that those routes are without a reputation for the strange. As Peter McCue has shown, any thoroughfare has the

potential to bring people face to face with something unusual. Nonetheless, lanes are narrower than roads. A lane is also more likely to be in a rural location, or to have once been in the countryside before being surrounded by buildings.

Lanes rarely have a history dedicated to them. They are peripheral. Penny Lane, White Hart Lane,

or Cock Lane with its ghost are exceptions. But the weird events that have occasionally taken place on lanes are reason enough to dedicate some time to them. This short history explores how one haunted lane became a bone of contention among the living and produced a surfeit of ghosts. Sometimes lanes wear their spookiness with pride. According to lists provided by property-related websites, such as Reallymoving.com, there is a Ghost House Lane, Devils Lane, and a Broomstick Lane. Devon, according to Homeprotect, has the scariest street names in England. Many of these are lanes, along with some passages and ways.

These lists, however, reflect contemporary ideas and language. Black Dog Lane is not that unnerving, unless you are familiar with phantom canines. And Buggen (also spelled Buggin or Buggan) Lane just sounds strange unless you know something about the meaning of the word 'bogey' in English, which comes from the Middle English 'bugge' that covers hobgoblins, ghosts, and the like.

## Seriously Strange

Like Black Dog Lane in Waverton, Neston's Buggen Lane is in west Cheshire. Situated on the Wirral peninsula next to the Dee estuary, Neston was once the largest settlement on the Wirral peninsula. Large Georgian houses are a reminder of its former status on the trade route between Chester, Ireland, and beyond. It acquired a royal charter in 1728. The development of coal mines in nearby Little Neston and Ness from the second half of the eighteenth century increased the town's commercial standing.

In 1801, the township of Neston had 1,486 inhabitants while a mere 110 lived in Birkenhead. By 1831, however, the population of Great Neston, as it was then known, had been overtaken by Birkenhead. With the Dee becoming more difficult to navigate, its maritime role diminished. Even so, Neston remained a significant market town that benefited from visitors to the nearby resort of Parkgate, in addition to farming, fishing, and, until the late 1920s, coal mining. According to one account, Buggen Lane was part of a stagecoach route between Liverpool and Parkgate, where a 1789 trade directory proclaimed 'the convenience of sea bathing is inferior to none.'

For many years, Buggen Lane was on the outskirts of the town. It marked the boundary of what had been a medieval deer park of around 200 acres, from which Parkgate got its name. After the closure of the park in the seventeenth century, the area became agricultural land. The tithe map of 1847 (Fig. 2) does not display a name for the lane that runs uphill (14m) along the edge of plot 148, then owned by Edward Lloyd, 1st Baron Mostyn, a Flintshire magnate who sold his Cheshire properties in 1849. Today (Fig. 3), the lane has houses on both sides. Yet the route

kept a gently curved shape along its length of around 300m. As a result, you cannot see one end from the other. A 2019 pamphlet that outlines the Neston Town Trail explains the 'lane has a sunken appearance because there would have been a ditch and a bank, with a wooden paling fence along the top.'

Few lanes are named Buggen or any of its variants. Indeed, Neston has the only 'Buggen Lane'. There were probably more with the same name before thoroughfares were expected to bare more rational titles. John Fowles, author of *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, was upset when a Black Dog Lane in Uplyme, Devon, was renamed by the council in the early 1970s.

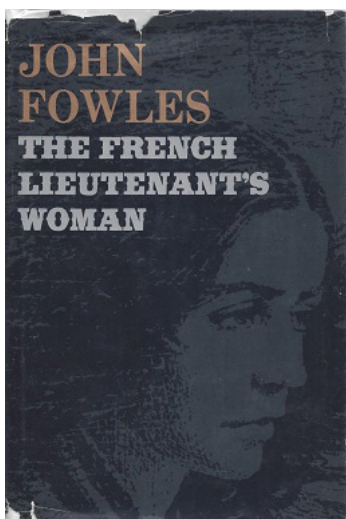
Given the concern about the difficulty of selling a haunted house, it is perhaps understandable why those residing on a potentially haunted lane agreed to the new name.



Fig 2: Tithe Map (1847)



Fig 3: Buggen Lane today



Buggen Lane itself was renamed in the mid-nineteenth century. On Ordnance Survey maps, the same stretch of road was called Prospect Road (Fig. 4). This was the case up until the 1960s when it returned to Buggen Lane (Fig. 5). That said, in 1890, a journalist noted that it was 'better known as Buggen-lane'. For a time, the route had two names, or three if we include 'Whineray's Road' (Fig. 6), named after a cotton merchant who owned the impressive residence Leighton Court at the top of the lane from 1899. The minutes kept by the Neston and Parkgate Urban District Council used the more mundane, official name that reflected the impressive views afforded by the unobscured prospect from the top of the lane. The victory of the buggen over a pleasant but bland name is something to be celebrated for those of us interested in all things strange.



Fig 4: Prospect Road / Buggen Lane in the 1870s.

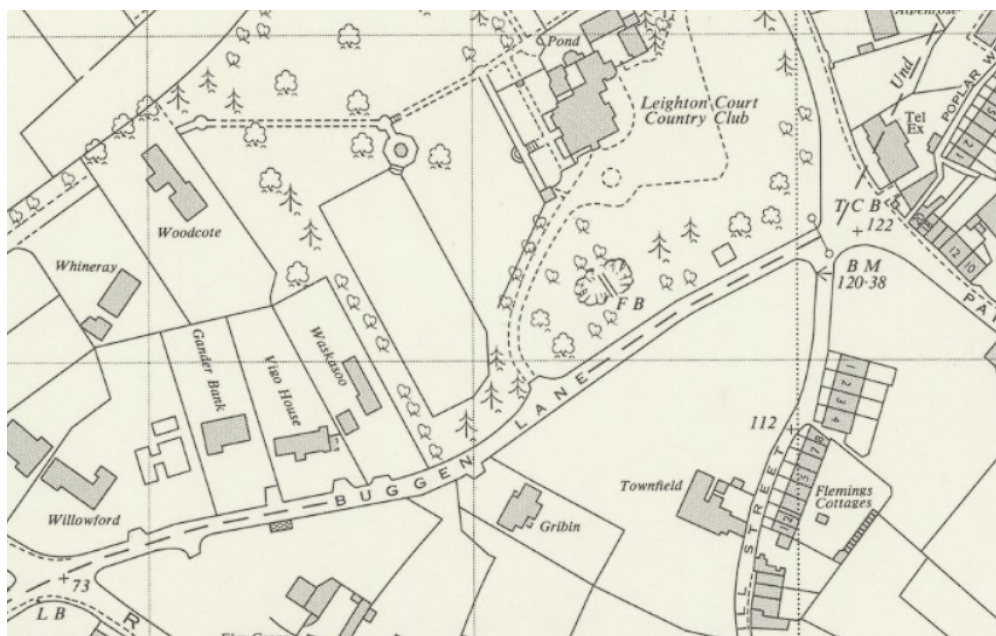


Fig 5: Buggen Lane in the 1960s.



Fig 6: The upper part of Buggen Lane.

Although the name had been preserved, the contours of the lane came under threat. In the 1970s, a preservation group was formed to oppose a plan to 'modernise' Buggen Lane by making it straighter and wider. As can be seen from Fig. 3, the lane kept its shape. In the early 1990s, additional properties were built off the upper part of the lane. A portion of the wall that gave the route what Geoffrey Place described as a tunnel-like character was removed to provide access to these new houses. Nonetheless, most of the high sandstone wall was preserved on either side, which meant much of its character was maintained.

But were the ghosts preserved, and is it possible to identify the original bogey? It is highly unlikely that the second question can be answered. The lane is thought to be well over 300 years old. As for the first question, it seems that the ghosts have experienced more changes than the lane they haunt. These changing spectral forms are described below and include the oldest one that I could find in published sources, as well as some thoughts on what might have given the lane its reputation.

Neston has its fair share of ghosts, but Buggen Lane is the busiest spot. Moreover, some of the other most documented sightings are not that far from the lane either. Here, however, I will only list those otherworldly beings that wandered the lane

itself. Descriptions that restrict the lane's spectral occupants to one or perhaps two inhabitants do the lane a disservice.

In the 1970s, it was thought that the ghosts of midshipmen from the Napoleonic Wars haunted the lane. The Georgian era also figures in the belief that smugglers perpetuated the story of the Buggen Lane spook. The phrase 'the ghosts walk tonight' was used to signify the imminent movement of smuggled goods. While this is not out of the question, and the idea of ghost stories being used to conceal criminal activity is common, it is hard to imagine the more rational-minded people of the eighteenth century, of which there were a fair few, falling for this ruse.

One of the most recent ghosts associated with the lane takes the form of an 'unhappy serving maid' or a distraught mother whose children went to the nearby marsh unattended and drowned. After death, she searches for them, wailing and weeping. This story has a neatness to it that is not present in earlier descriptions of the lane's ghosts. Yet a tragic tale gives the ghost a reason to be there. Its sorrow is understandable. However, in 1897, a report in the *Chester Courant* noted that despite its name, there was 'no tragic story' associated with the lane. If that was the case, then it looks like the grieving mother is of recent origin.



Another female figure appears at the start of the twentieth century. This was a well-dressed 'mysterious lady' who looks like she is going to a ball or similar function. Some speculated that she had lived in a house at the bottom of the lane. When one witness tried to catch up with her, they could not close the distance between them. Then suddenly, the woman vanished. The female onlooker was not frightened, just confused.

A man had already seen this ghost that appeared during January 1903. Indeed, it was his report that had encouraged the bewildered woman mentioned above to relate her experience. While walking his dog up the lane at 7pm, he stopped to talk to a lady in white who wore 'a low-necked ball dress ... a light gossamer kind of wrap'. The dog attempted to smell the apparition, then whimpered before its owner prodded the figure with his stick, only for it to pass through the torso and contact the wall. The ghost disappeared. The dog ran, hackles raised, up the lane, followed by its terrified master.

If it were not for a journalist who went by the nom de plume 'Quill Pen' and wrote a column entitled 'Deeside Gleanings' in the Cheshire Observer, we would know little about the history of this haunted lane. It is not clear whether they believed in ghosts, but they were far from dismissive either. Furthermore, Quill Pen provides plenty of detail, not only about the ghost but also about the responses of the witnesses. There is a Fortean suspicion of simple explanations too.

Other commentators, such as a Neston correspondent who wrote for the Cheshire Observer in 1883, some twenty years before Quill Pen, were interested in the history of the town but eager to dismiss any ghostly phenomena. Looking back 50 years to the 1830s, they spoke of how ignorant country folk would avoid the lane at night. Since the advent of School Boards, technological progress, and the 'march of intellect', they assured their readers, belief in such things had evaporated. The reports of 1903 suggest otherwise.

People interact with ghost stories, and this social side of ghost lore can be glimpsed in accounts of Buggen Lane. Where there is a haunting, a prankster is likely to follow or precede the supernatural event. That pranks can have a function beyond just being fun is seen in a story about a watchman employed at



Fig 7: Satellite image of Buggen Lane early 2000s.

the Neston sewage works at the top of the lane in 1902. Quill Pen observed that this caretaker had been replaced by another man, a native Nestonian. It is implied that the previous guard, who was from outside the area, had left after been scarred by some shenanigans. Perhaps the new guard was among the tricksters, who knows? One thing is for sure, a ghost tale can have many uses.

The origins of the Buggen Lane ghost are far from clear. Quill Pen indicated that the female ghost seen by the dog walker and others could have been Lady Janet, the wife of Sir John Reid Bart. of Barra who lived near the bottom of the lane in Elm Grove House (Fig. 8) on the main road to Parkgate. Her death aged 33 on 1 May 1844 followed soon after that of her husband on 25 April. Their only child, Agnes would have been around six when she became an orphan. Janet's ghost was observed in the window of her old home and some concluded that she must have decided to talk a walk from time to time.

Fig 8: Elm Grove House.



## The Elm Grove house

In 1863, about 20 years after the deaths of John and Janet Reid, a skeleton was discovered in a hedge bank (known locally as a 'hedge cop') at the point where Mill Lane met Buggen Lane. The bones were transported to the local police station where many gathered to see the gruesome remains of what was said to have been a murder victim. This discovery fitted the model of a restless spirit that had been denied a Christian burial. Yet Quill Pen was not convinced. Being a good proto-Fortean, the journalist felt that the skeleton theory was too simplistic. For one thing, they pointed out that the lane's name 'dates far beyond all local records.'

A clue to the lane's history was given by one of its bogies, but unlike the other apparitions this was not a human ghost. On a few occasions, many 'credible witnesses' saw a black phantom dog crossing the lane. It emerged from one wall before disappearing through the one on the other side 'as if they held open doors.' According to Mark Norman's detailed list of dog spectres in Great Britain, Cheshire is one of the more lightly populated counties. Now the other five have a new companion in the form of Neston's black dog.



Fig 9: The sandstone walls.

Like many other boggarts, Neston's black dog patrols a lane that was for a long time at the boundary of the town. This tendency to patrol the edge of a settlement has been charted in other northern towns by Simon Young. Not all boundaries necessarily had their own bogart though. There must be specific reasons why one lane rather than another would possess a spook. It is unlikely that any precise cause can be identified, but there are at least a couple of potential reasons why this lane acquired its reputation.

Firstly, the area to south of the lane was known as Town field and towards its eastern end there was a cockpit. In 1936 there was a request for an inscription on a lamppost to commemorate this location. While cockfighting does not necessarily result in a haunting the turn away from blood

sports in the Victorian era after the activity was outlawed in 1835 may have added to the lane's negative reputation.

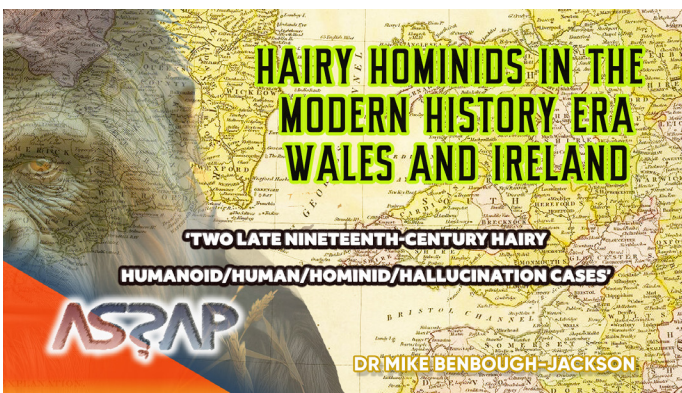
The second potential reason takes us back to the establishment of the park in the thirteenth century. When this hunting ground for the wealthy was created by the Steward to the Earl of Chester, it marked a social divide. Any creatures that occupied the land could not be killed by anyone. While not subject to the punitive Forest Laws, hunting parks were still out of bounds and the deer raised there were the property of its owner. Buggen Lane, therefore, was a significant boundary for around 350 years.

Whatever haunts or haunted Buggen Lane, the current residents do not appear to be overly concerned. A report from 2023 for Cheshire Live by a latter-day Quill Pen, Jonathan Blackburn, includes some variations on the spooky themes outlined earlier. Blackburn mentions the narrowness of the lane and the high walls, some of which reach ten feet. There are more tales of distraught mothers and maids. The article refers to Leighton Court at the top of the lane, which became a nightclub in the 1970s before it burned down in 1988. This social hub, with a 2am licence (Fig. 10) would have enabled rumours about the lane to spread and be embellished.



Fig. 10 An advert for 'The friendliest club around' The online recollections of a Nestonian in 2007 provide an appropriate conclusion to this haunted history. They recount one of the stories about the lane that was in circulation during the 1970s. It that focuses on an old doorway in the wall (Fig. 9) and its ghost is far removed from the sedate female apparition seen in 1903. Moreover, the tale illustrates that although the lane may have kept many of its original characteristics, its ghosts were too restless to retain the same guise: 'at midnight the gate opens and a ghost of a young woman comes running out in a white dress stained with blood and is chased all the way to Parkgate by her father's dogs. He sets them on her because she was going to marry an unsuitable man I think.'

Dr Mike Benbough-Jackson



Mike shares with ASSAP his New Year resolution is to see an ABC, alien big cat. Those prowling large wild cats that appear to be surviving in the British wilderness. He has published a number of works and research papers, currently researching into sea monsters cited between the World Wars.

Dr Jackson, presented an exceptional webinar "Hairy Hominids in Modern History Era Wales and Ireland" to a live audience and is available on the ASSAP Paranormal Webinars / Seriously Strange Youtube, Spotify, Rumble and Bitchute channels.



By Sheena Aspinall-Young

In 1960, a decorator's surprise for his mother turned into a chilling discovery: the mummified remains of Frances Alice Knight, hidden for 20 years in a cupboard in Rhyl, North Wales. What began as a tale of a landlady collecting maintenance money for her ailing tenant spiralled into a murder inquiry, ghostly rumours, and a legacy of unease. From a stocking ligature to eerie footsteps, uncover the haunting mystery of 35 West Kinmel Street—where the past refuses to rest.

## THE RHYL MUMMY CASE

On May 5th, 1960, there was a horrific find; the mummified body of a woman was found in a wooden cupboard at the top of the stairs at 35, West Kinmel Street, in the seaside town of Rhyl, North Wales. It was here that 29-year-old Mr. Thomas Leslie Harvey, who had been decorating the house as a surprise for his mother, Mrs Sarah Jane Harvey, while she was recuperating in hospital.

Mr Harvey had broken open the near seven-foot-tall wooden cupboard to gain better access for decorating when he found a mixture of heavy dust, thick cobwebs and insect-riddled fly paper. Then, to his horror, he saw the huddled and mummified remains of a body inside, clad in a faded dressing gown. For many years, growing up in the house, Thomas Harvey was told that the cupboard only contained bits and pieces and property belonging to a Mrs. Frances Alice Knight and that he was never to open it.

It was later confirmed that it was the body of Mrs Knight, who had been lodging at the

address, and her remains had been in the cupboard for approximately 20 years. Mrs Knight was slight of frame and aged approximately 50 years old at the time of death. Arthritis was to name but one of her ailments, which she found excruciatingly painful and it affected her legs more and more as time passed.

She found it very difficult to walk and was known to have a pronounced limp due to her condition and later unable to walk. Mrs Knight received £2 per week maintenance money from her former husband, since their marriage break up in 1936.

Mrs Knight had apparently arranged that her landlady, Mrs Sarah Harvey would collect the maintenance money weekly on her behalf as she found it too difficult to collect it herself and had scribbled her signature on a piece of paper for Mrs Harvey to collect Mrs Knight's money but continued to collect Mrs Knight's weekly £2 for the next 20 years after Mrs Knight's death.

## Seriously Strange

When questioned by the counter staff how Mrs Knight was during this time, she often replied that Mrs Knight was doing well and that she had later moved into an old folks home in Llandudno to better her care needs.

According to Mrs Harvey's statement, she had said that in 1940, Mrs Knight was in bed one evening, and Mrs Harvey heard a scream. She entered Mrs Knight's bedroom and saw Mrs Knight on the floor, having seemingly fallen from the bed. She was crying and had allegedly said that she couldn't take the pain any longer and would rather be dead. Mrs Harvey said she went to make them both a cup of tea and, on returning to the bedroom, found Mrs Knight dead. Mrs Harvey said she panicked and, without informing anyone, decided to put Mrs Frances Knight's body in the wooden cupboard at the top of the stairs, locked the door and kept the key about herself.

Pathologists had to immerse the mummified remains in a bath of glycerine solution for a week until it had softened enough for further testing. A stocking ligature and a groove around the neck suggested the cause of death was possibly strangulation, and the Police then treated the case as a murder enquiry. However, Mrs Harvey later explained to detectives why the stocking was on Mrs Knight's neck as it was a popular "old wives cure" in those days if one had a sore throat or a cold.

The inspection of the cupboard revealed the probable cause for mummification; there was a ceiling loft door just above the cupboard, and the draught from that, as well as vents in the cupboard itself, had created ideal conditions for mummification.

During an interview between Detectives and Mrs Harvey, they asked her if she had seen the body in the cupboard and asked, "Can you help us?" Mrs Harvey replied, "No, I cannot help you; I don't know anything about it." When asked about the cupboard key, she replied, "I haven't got it. A couple came to stay with me during the war, they had the cupboard to keep their things in. They had the key, and they kept it locked. After the War, they left and said they would come back for their belongings, but they never did. I never saw them.

They sent me a card for the first two Christmases after they left. They came from the South Coast during the war. I took them in at the door" The Detective then asked Mrs Harvey whether she remembered Mrs Knight living with her. Mrs Harvey replied, "Yes, she had the front room, a bedsitter, she was brought to my house by a couple called I think called Nicholson".

During this time, it came to the attention of the authorities after the mummified body was found that there had been several deaths reported within a 12-year period at 35 West Kinmel Street, during the time Mrs Harvey owned the property, which created much additional concern at the time.

There was a scramble to collect all of the deceased's death certificates. Unfortunately, one death certificate could not be found, that being the report of Miss Edith Mould, who died twenty-two days after her brother on December 23rd 1940. but the files at St. Asaph revealed no such report, and there was still a huge possibility for exhumation of one or more of the bodies. Exhumation of the bodies lay heavily

on the pathologist's examination report of the mummified body. The bodies of those who died on the various dates between 1926 and 1940 at the house are buried in Rhyl cemetery, about a mile from 35 West Kinmel Street.

It was concluded during the Trial that due to the position of the body at the time of death, the body, which was found to be nearly doubled over and the head forward and positioned to one side, it was determined that the stocking ligature found on Mrs Knight's neck could quite easily have tightened due to swelling of the body after death and therefore it couldn't be determined if the ligature had tightened prior to or after death. There were many discussions during the trial as to how a reef knot could tighten with little pressure, and it could not be proven how the ligature stretched. The prosecution thought Mrs Harvey to be a liar and of a devious nature. However, the conclusion was that there was no evidence to go on as they couldn't prove the death was caused by the ligature or natural processes.



## Seriously Strange

Mrs Harvey was cleared of murder due to lack of evidence, but was found guilty of obtaining money by deception between May 1940 and April 1960, and was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. Mrs Harvey died not long after from a stomach tumour.

In November 2023 the present owner of the property gave an interview to a well-known newspaper and spoke of the alleged ghostly goings on that have been experienced, where she explained how her brother who had rented the property from her before she moved in herself, had said it was "too spooky" to stay there once he had learned of the mummified body. It was only after the purchase that the owner herself found out about the notorious "mummy in the cupboard" case after heading to the library for further research.

Speaking to a filmmaking crew not long after moving into the property, the owner said: "When I originally bought it, my brother lived here with his wife and rented it for a year, then my younger brother moved in after that and he rented for a year. My older brother moved out, as far as I'm aware, because he found out about the mummy in the cupboard, and he was scared!

The owner's teenage daughter had told how her other uncle had fled after a supernatural encounter. She said: "My uncle actually told me that one night when he went to the toilet, he saw her and he ran back to his girlfriend and was very white in the face. I didn't really believe the story at first. I just thought he was trying to scare me, but we have heard other noises." Speaking in her uncle's former bedroom, she added: "This used to be their room; they have moved out, they said it was too spooky. When he first moved in here, he was decorating this room – he put the scissors on top of the ladder, and when he turned away to put a piece of wallpaper up, the scissors started floating towards him."

But it's not just her uncle who noticed some strange goings on at the address. "You sometimes hear her coming along the landing, she's quite heavy-footed. Things go missing around the house and she sometimes likes playing with your hairdryer and electrical goods". The owner explained where the cupboard would have been on the landing, adding, "It's a little bit weird, a little bit scary to think of it.

Standing where the cupboard would have been is a very strange, eerie feeling – cold – to think this is where someone was kept for 20 years, just

left to rot away." She added: "At the time, it made the house famous and they used to bring day trippers back and forth: 'this is the house with the mummified body in' – I wouldn't want to go and see a house where a mummified body was, but at the time it was quite historical." Touching upon the subject of ghosts, the owner added, "I always thought that if you die naturally then you automatically don't become a ghost but if you are murdered, I think it would come back to haunt you."



Rhyl Sands, created 1854. By David Cox - 1. <http://www.tate.org.uk/Tate Britain, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47651241>

However, several previous deaths were noted in the property, some just prior to Mrs Knight's death. Perhaps it wasn't the alleged ghostly sighting of Mrs Knight that spooked the owner's brother. Could it be one of the previous tenants? After all, the owner's daughter suggested hearing the heavy footsteps of what she believes to be Mrs. Knight. It is known that Mrs Knight was slight of frame, suffered greatly from arthritis in her legs and subsequently in later years couldn't walk.

Was it Mrs Knight, or a previous deceased tenant whose footsteps were heard, or is it the vivid imaginings of a young girl's mind filled with the knowledge of a gruesome find after hearing the story? Subsequently, a second uncle rented it for a year but has not mentioned anything unusual occurring. As for "other noises" heard, nothing was noted or mentioned. The coldness the owner says she feels on the landing could be attributed to the ceiling door just above the spot where the cupboard was once situated, which leads to the attic space above. Drafts are reportedly felt in similarly styled homes. The same ceiling door that aided the preservation of Mrs. Knight's body due to appropriate air circulation.

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## **CROSSING OVER INTO A PARALLEL REALITY**

**by Trish LeSage**

I have been feeding the wildlife in the woods behind my home since January 2010, and I have experienced many otherworldly and paranormal occurrences while feeding them. One of the most, if not the most, memorable experiences that I have had with the parallel universe phenomenon happened on a hot summer day a few years ago. I sat the bag that I carry the bird food in on a large, flattened rock like I usually do, and I walked over to where the wild mallard ducks were to feed them. I glanced over to where I had left the bag that I carry their food in, and I was shocked to see a camera on a tripod facing the rock and the bag of food.

What was surprising to me was that the camera was not a camera from our time at all; it looked like it was from the 1800s. The first thought that came to my mind was, 'What in the world is that camera doing there? Is someone spying on me?'. Then, I wondered why an old-fashioned camera was there instead of a modern-day camera. I thought that maybe someone was in the small woods behind my home doing a Civil War reenactment since history buffs sometimes do these in Michigan, especially during the summer months, but I did not see any people around.

Usually, they do reenactments at festivals around the state. So, I thought it was strange. Then I suddenly saw two men dressed in Civil War uniforms across the little river that runs through the woods, standing on the opposite shore that the ducks and I were on. They were there for only a few seconds, and then they vanished. I saw Civil War soldiers on two other occasions while I was in the woods behind my home feeding the ducks and other wildlife. On each occasion, the men appeared and then disappeared a few seconds later.

What I thought was especially odd was that the men were dressed in Confederate uniforms. I live in the state of Michigan, and Michigan was a Union state during the Civil War. I highly doubted that anyone in Michigan would be running around in Confederate uniforms. The soldiers vanished after only a few seconds, so at that point, I was starting to question whether they were even from our time at all.

## Seriously Strange

As you can imagine, all sorts of thoughts were running through my mind, and then I became a little scared, because I was wondering what in the world I would say to the soldiers if they were ever able to interact with me and ask me where I was from, especially if they were truly Civil War Soldiers from a past timeline and not Civil War reenactors. I could not tell them that I was from Michigan since it was a Union state during the Civil War, and that would more than likely lead to my certain death. I highly doubted that they would believe that I was from the 21st century when, to them, they were fighting the Civil War in the 1860s.

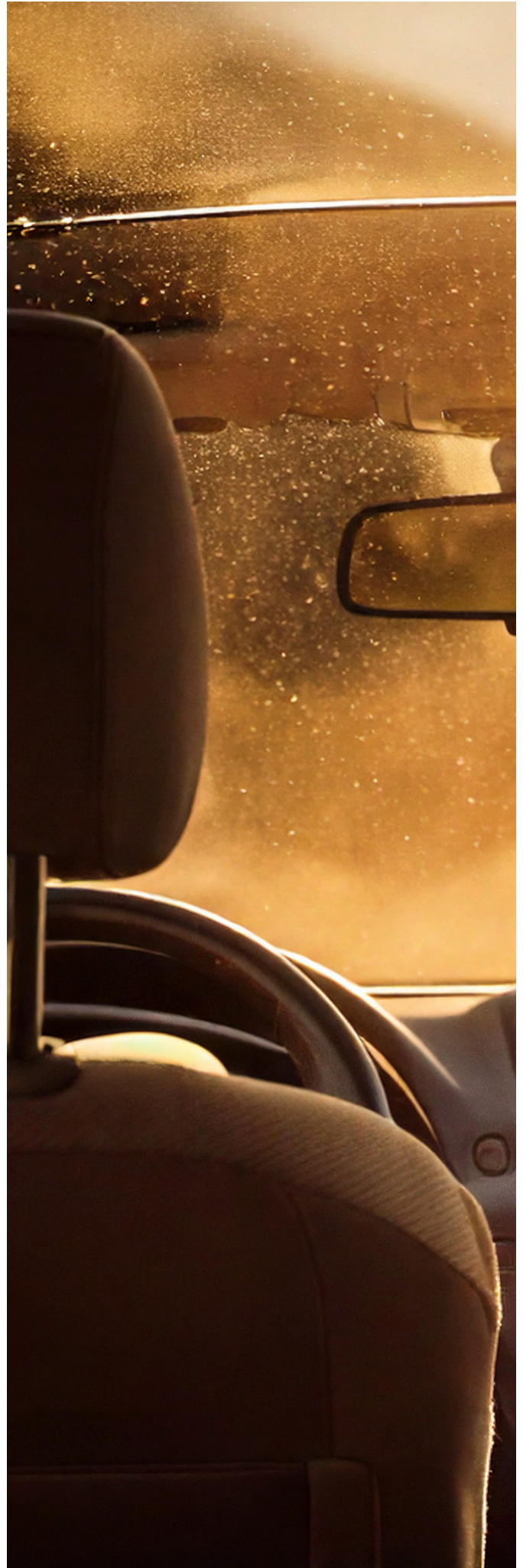
Then I heard one of them say: "She must be from another country." (I believe that my hearing this meant that they did in fact see me but assumed that I was from another country, because I was wearing baggy sweatpants and a tank top since it was a hot summer day, and my hair was pulled up in a short pony tail, and I have bangs which is not the way in which women dressed nor wore their hair back in the 1860's.).

I saw those Civil War soldiers in the woods behind my home on three separate occasions. However, my experience with that particular timeline / parallel reality did not end with only me seeing them.

Shortly after that, I was driving my car on a service drive near my home, close to some shops. I was driving no more than 25 or 30 mph, but I could feel myself start to cross over into the Civil War parallel universe again as I was driving my car. What was really strange was that although I was driving my car, and I had my hands on the steering wheel, I could also feel myself transition to the Civil War universe in which the character that I would have played there if I would have fully crossed over into that parallel reality was sitting on a covered wagon driving a team of horses. I could actually feel myself holding the reins in my hands as I was shifting away from driving my car to driving the team of horses! For a few brief seconds, I was straddling the two timelines, and I felt scared, because the speed at which my car was going down the road was apparently also being perceived by the woman/character from the Civil War era that I was transitioning to, and she was scared of the speed at which my car was traveling.

**Trish LeSage** has a degree in Marketing and BA degree in Spanish and International Trade. Frequent guest on CBS Radio, iHeart Radio and on *Paranormal Science* hosted by Mark Keyes.

Published in *Sedona Journal of Emergence*, *Watkins Mind, Body and Spirit*, *The Magical Times* and *Un-X-News*.



# JUST THE TICKET!

## Prof Rob Gandy

My good fortune friend David Adams and I were born on exactly the same day (a very long time ago!). The odds are that I am the eldest because I was born at 4.10am and he hasn't a clue what time of day he came into the world. Prior to our attending Danny Robins' Uncanny in Liverpool in June 2024, we met up for a meal. David told me that he was compiling a number of true coincidences, and then passed me one relating to one of his friends, which is as follows: In 2003, having seen Paul McCartney in Manchester during April, John and his wife decided to get tickets for his forthcoming appearance at Kings Dock in Liverpool on 1st June 2003. So he went on line to the official website and purchased two tickets for the event.

Sometime later, his daughter along with his wife's friend said that they would both like to see the show; so John went back on to the website to discover that it was a sell-out and no more tickets were available. Therefore, he decided to see if a pair of side-by-side tickets were available on eBay; but there were only individual tickets on offer. So, he bought one ticket from a seller in Cardiff for his daughter, and the next day bought another for his wife's friend from a seller in Manchester; because although it was not next to his daughter's seat, it was in the same block.

When the tickets arrived, coincidentally in the same delivery of post, he checked the tickets and found that, much to his surprise, the seat numbers were consecutive. Furthermore, when he looked at his original tickets, which he had purchased from the official website, he was amazed to find that all four seat numbers ran consecutively! So they enjoyed the concert neatly sat together.

I thought that this was excellent, but had to then tell David about my own pretty similar experience. It was back in the early 2000s when Eddie Izzard was breaking on to the comedy scene. My eldest son was desperate to see him at The Palace in Manchester. Given his own commitments, it was left to me to sort out buying the ticket. My enquiries determined that the gig was sold out, but the theatre encouraged me to keep calling because they would often get return tickets which they would then re-sell. After about

a week of ringing every day I was fortunate to be told that there was a ticket available for the stalls. Fantastic! My son was delighted when the ticket landed on the doormat.

Nearer the date I realised that my son's preferred mode of transport was for me to drive him the 45 or so miles from the Wirral to Manchester, and then back again. This would mean that I would be sitting around for hours drinking coffee waiting for the show to finish. I had seen Eddie Izzard on television a few times and found his innovative references to jam to be quite amusing.

Therefore I thought that I might try and get a ticket for myself, and rang The Palace again to see if there had been any more returns. After a few days I was informed that there were three; two in the stalls and one in the balcony. I bought one for the stalls because it would mean that my son and I would be on the same level. Therefore, you can

guess my surprise and delight when the ticket arrived, to see that it was immediately next to my son's seat! And, Yes we enjoyed the show.

David and I find it to be a curious coincidence that we both knew of such ticket coincidences. No doubt, others will have had similar experiences, but we consider it both intriguing and amusing.

Eddie Izzard, David Adams and myself all have the same birthday; so as to add a little more coincidence ;-)



Prof Rob Gandy is a frequent contributor to Seriously Strange and the Anomaly journal, a friend of ASSAP and has presented a number of webinars.

The Ruskington Horror  
 Memories are made of...  
 Strange Sports  
 Aintree Spectres  
[www.youtube.com/@ASSAPWebinars](http://www.youtube.com/@ASSAPWebinars)

(The Liverpool Playhouse theatre.  
 CC. 2018 Rex Williamson.)

# PRESIDENTS PIECE



Having been born on February 9th, 1935, and having greatly enjoyed my recent 90th birthday celebrations, I have been looking back analytically over those years trying to analyse what I have learnt about life.

Relationships with loving family members, with close and dependable friends, with work colleagues and neighbours are at the very heart of human life. The interactions between individuals and groups are absolutely vital. Such relationships: how they are formed, how they endure and how they can break down are among the greatest and most mysterious phenomena that ASSAP could investigate. From the moment we are born until the moment we die – we need one another.

Mutual understanding and mutual toleration are vitally important to keep a family together, to keep an organisation like ASSAP together and to keep a nation together.

If we were conducting a sociological experiment along these lines, we might request participants to ask one another the following questions:--

1. Is there anything I can do to help you?
2. Is there anything you need that I can help you to acquire?
3. Are you experiencing any difficulties that I can help you to overcome?
4. Are you looking for anything that I can help you to find?
5. Are you worrying about anything that I might be able to help you with, if we talked about it together?



**Robert Lionel Fanthorpe  
and Patricia Alice Fanthorpe**

By User:Jack1956, CC BY 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=34644704>  
By Kristian Lander at Seriously Strange 2024 Winchester



# When ghosts ride across the sky.

## Examining accounts of Phantom Concordes!

**Prof Rob Gandy**

When I was asked to say what were my 'best' half a dozen 'real-life' road-related ghost encounters[1].

I had no hesitation in including the multi-witness sighting of the 'Phantom Concorde' which I originally detailed in Fortean Times[2].

Apparitions relating to people or animals can be accepted, but one involving such a huge and inanimate object stretches credulity. Naturally, I assumed that it would be a unique, one-off event; but how wrong could I be!? Following his listening to my being interviewed by Paul Bestall for his Mysteries & Monsters podcast[3]

Magnus (pseudonym) contacted me to tell me, we that he too had witnessed a 'Phantom Concorde', but this was in Essex! Therefore, I repeat below the details of the original Shropshire event for readers who may not be familiar with it. I follow this with Magnus's experience.

### Shropshire Phantom Concorde

It was mid to late August 1975, and Len Chester (pseudonym) was 15 years of age. Together with his mother and father (now deceased) he had gone on a weekend trip to Shropshire in the old ambulance that his dad had converted into a mobile home/caravanette. They stayed at a campsite in either Arley or Hampton Loade, and visited the Severn Valley Railway, where there was a locomotive that he

was particularly interested in. It had recently arrived in an un-restored state and was at Bewdley Station that weekend. They travelled on a steam train, which got delayed for a while at Hampton Loade station. Everyone disembarked onto the sunny platform until the delay was over, including, as Len recalls, a carriage full of nuns. Just then, a Spitfire aircraft flew past and someone remarked that they thought there was an air show in the vicinity.

Later that day, a fine Sunday afternoon, they left for their home on Merseyside. They had not travelled very far, perhaps 15-20 minutes into the journey; Len's father did not drive fast and therefore they were probably north of Bridgnorth on the A442, which was the most direct route. This is reinforced by Len's clear recollection that nearer home they passed an overbridge of the old Ellesmere branch line, which is situated on the A525 between Whitchurch and Wrexham.

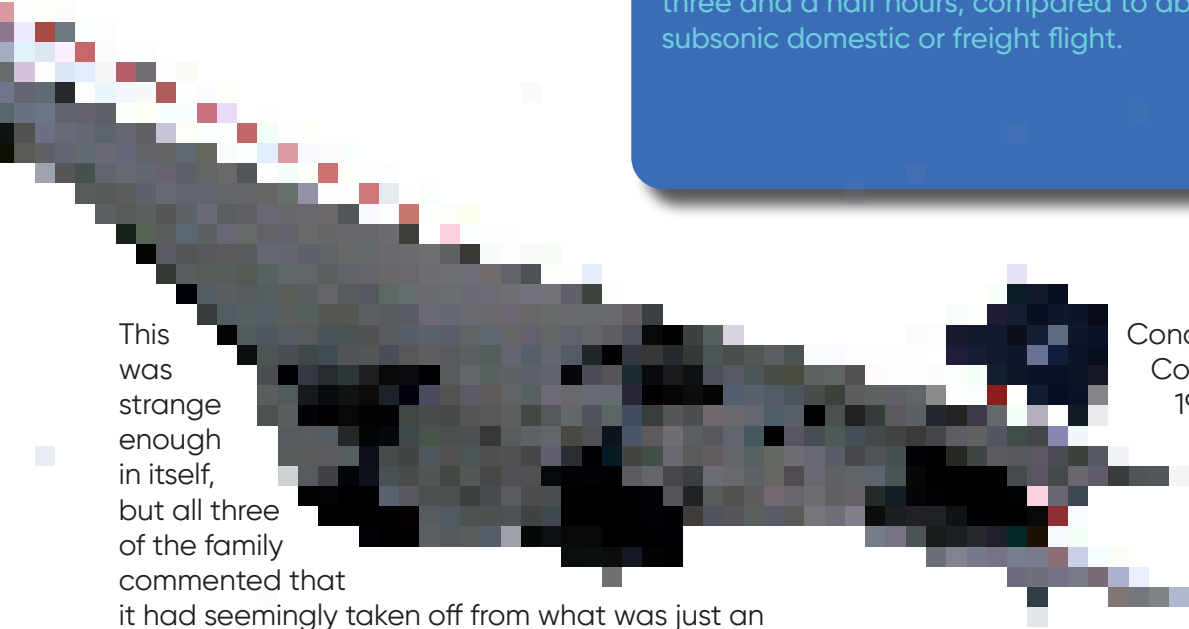
They were in open countryside when suddenly to their left, behind a low hedge, they saw the quite unmistakable shape of Concorde appear!

What was remarkable – or ridiculous – about this was that its height – some 10-15ft (3-4.6m) above the ground – speed and angle made it appear that it had only just taken off. (Len remembers that the undercarriage was still deployed, but he accepts that he may be filling gaps in his memory).

**Speed:** The Concorde could fly at over twice the speed of sound, with a top cruising speed of 1,354 miles per hour.

**Design:** The Concorde had a delta-shaped wing and four jet engines. It was the first civil airliner to use fly-by-wire flight controls.

**Flight time:** A flight from London to New York took less than three and a half hours, compared to about eight hours for a subsonic domestic or freight flight.



This was strange enough in itself, but all three of the family commented that it had seemingly taken off from what was just an ordinary farmers' field. Len is very clear about this fact because what struck them as being very odd was that they were not near any airfield. Len recalls that Concorde was parallel to them, also heading north, and about 100 yards away. He cannot remember whether or not they heard any noise from the aircraft, despite its close proximity; again, this might just be his memory. The aircraft disappeared from view behind hedges and trees as they continued up the road, and was then nowhere to be seen.

Len has tried to rationalise this event over the years. Perhaps it was part of the air show that had been suggested by one of the people who had seen the Spitfire (although spotting a flying Spitfire does not automatically mean that it is part of an air show).

But then why had it been so impossibly close to the ground? Enquiries have ascertained that Concorde was not involved in the Cosford Air Show, the main large air show in the area; indeed, there appears not to have been a Cosford show in 1975 (the modern event only started in 1978) and the one in Sleaf, Shropshire, 30 miles away, was cancelled that year.

Concorde only flew at two Cosford shows, in 1986 and 1987[4]

Maybe it was taking off from an airstrip somewhere in the Severn valley beyond the field. But no

other airstrip can be found anywhere nearby there that would be capable of accommodating Concorde, which required a runway that could handle a Boeing 747 jumbo jet[5]. Maybe it was on a normal flight but was experiencing trouble, and had to fly very low for a period.

But, if Concorde had experienced such serious trouble in its flight then it would surely have been reported in the national press. Perhaps it was something else altogether... but on this point Len has no doubt in his mind: it was unmistakably a Concorde! Therefore, this episode must be filed as both 'strange' and 'unsolved'.

### Essex Phantom Concorde

It was one bright and sunny weekday afternoon in the height of Summer in 1975, possibly July or August. 13-year-old Magnus was being driven to the shops by his mother, who was in her mid-30s. They were chatting and looking around as the car headed down Priory Road towards the junction with Whitchurch Road, in Harold's Hill, Romford,

## Seriously Strange

Essex. There was little or no traffic. To their left was a line of terraced houses, set back from the road, and to their right was a large open field, skirted by trees.

Suddenly, coming from the west towards them, across the open field, was an airplane. But it was no ordinary airplane – it was Concorde! Both Magnus and his mother recognised it from the shape of its nose and its delta-shaped wings. Its undercarriage was ‘down’ and it was coming in only 50 feet above them. When it crossed them, it filled the sky and everything went dark as it cut out the Sun, making the undercarriage appear black. But the most disconcerting thing was that there was no sound whatsoever coming from it – it was completely silent! The two of them watched it traverse the sky for what was probably 5 to 10 seconds, and then it simply vanished into thin air! Stunned, Magnus and his mother looked back to where it disappeared, not believing what they had witnessed. She exclaimed ‘What the hell was that!?’ Thinking back, they realised that they hadn’t seen the airplane coming from distance over the horizon, it had just been ‘there’ without any warning.

The flight of the airplane would have placed it as coming from across North London. Stanstead airport is the nearest airport to Romford (32 miles) but is in the wrong direction. But everything about the episode just didn’t – and still doesn’t – make sense to both Magnus and his mother. They have discussed it many times over the years and have stuck to their story despite the scepticism and ridicule of family and friends. It was reading about another Phantom Concorde in Fortean Times[2], together with listening to my interview on the Mysteries & Monsters podcast[3], that made Magnus decide to come forward. It is interesting to think that people always remember their seeing Concorde because it was so iconic, with its unique design. Therefore, watching it cross the sky was something that people did; and so, its appearance and disappearance was observed and noteworthy in both cases.

### Thoughts

I confess that I too have had a close encounter experience with a Concorde! In the early-1980s I was refereeing a cub football match in Bromborough on the Wirral (two of my sons were playing). It was the usual situation of kids running around chasing the ball and parents shouting encouragement or obscenities from the touchline. Suddenly, everything went quiet and everybody stood still, and looked up into the sky. There –

apparently ‘out of nowhere’ was Concorde – only a few hundred feet above all of us. Like the two experiences described above, the undercarriage was down; and then it disappeared over the trees and out of sight....

With Concorde gone, I blew my whistle and restarted the game. Was this yet another example of a Phantom Concorde? Absolutely not – this Concorde was on the flightpath coming in to land at Liverpool Airport just across the River Mersey. It was Grand National Day at Aintree Racecourse and, in those days, Concorde always brought the rich and glamorous from London to Liverpool for the meeting. But what I can vouch for is how people found the airplane totally awe-inspiring and would stand and gawp at it at close quarters. Therefore, I have every confidence that the witnesses to the Phantom Concordes did not misidentify some other type of airplane.

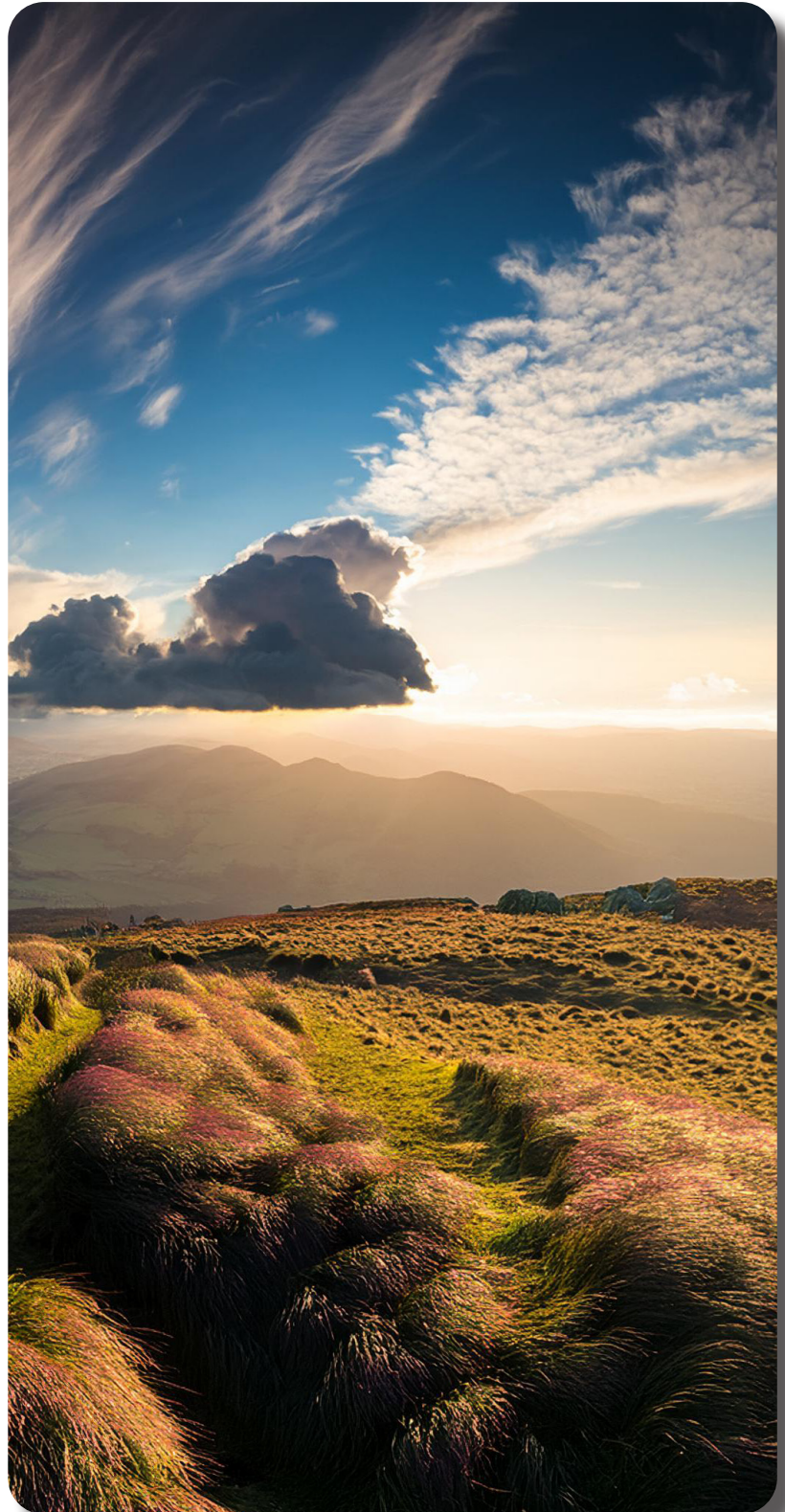
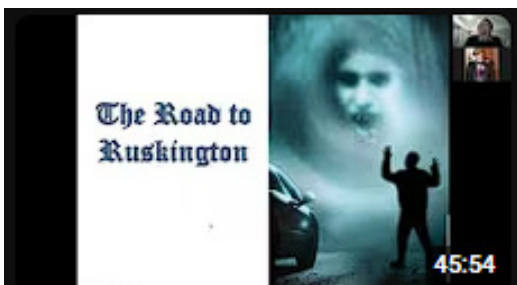
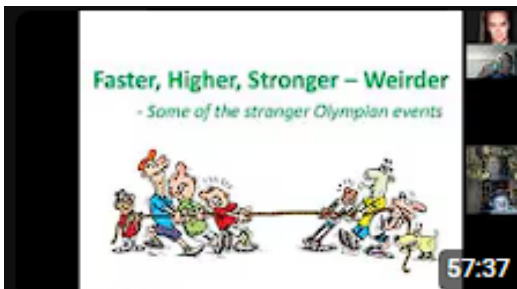
So, having more than one case of a Phantom Concorde, each with multiple witnesses, does beg the question of what the nature of the phenomenon might actually be? It seems sensible to exclude the possibility of timeslips, because no ‘real’ Concorde would have ever been present in those locations at those heights on any occasion. But what is truly remarkable is that both events took place at almost exactly the same time, i.e. Summer 1975, despite their being approximately 160 miles apart!

Surely airplanes cannot have departed souls!? Because if they did then that would ratchet weirdness up to eleven! Nevertheless, the skies above the Peak District are said to be haunted by WWII airplanes[6] and records show stories of phantom cars and motorbikes disappearing in front of people. Examples of ghostly horse-drawn carriages are legion in history[7].

If ghosts are simply the spirits of the dead, then how does transport fit in (let alone ghosts’ clothing!)? Passenger airplanes are ubiquitous in modern skies and little attention is paid to them unless there is something particularly noticeable or interesting about them. They will usually be a Boeing or an Airbus. You look up and spot one in the distance and then get back to whatever you are doing. You didn’t see whether it appeared from nowhere and vanished into thin air – it was just a boring airplane. Consequently, there might be many ‘ghost airplanes’ flying across the skies unnoticed. This is obviously highly improbable. The chances are that such aircraft are [Trigger Warning for a very, very bad pun] Mirages or Ilyushins!

Prof Rob Gandy is a great friend of ASSAP, contributing regularly to Seriously Strange, Anomaly Journal and presenting a number of ASSAP Paranormal Webinars. Rob Gandy is a frequent contributor to Fortean Times.

## Memories are made of .....?<sup>1</sup>



### NOTES

- 1 <https://www.selectcarleasing.co.uk/news/article/dead-end-ghosts-roads-uk-haunted-supernatural-halloween/>; Dead End - The top six road-related ghost encounters - Phenomena Magazine No.162 p.12-15
- 2 Rob Gandy, A Miscellany of Merseyside Mysteries, Fortean Times, FT382 p.38-43
- 3 <https://audioboom.com/channels/5053713-mysteries-and-monsters>
- 4 Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Pers. Comm., 22 Nov 2018.
- 5 [www.concordesst.com/faq.html](http://www.concordesst.com/faq.html)
- 6 <https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/urban-legendary/ghost-fliers/>
- 7 The curious thing about phantom coaches and horses is that they are sometimes said to involve headless coachmen and headless horses. In which case, how were the reins attached to the horses so that the coachman could steer them? Of course, this assumes that headless coachmen could see where they were going!

# Seriously Strange Sounds

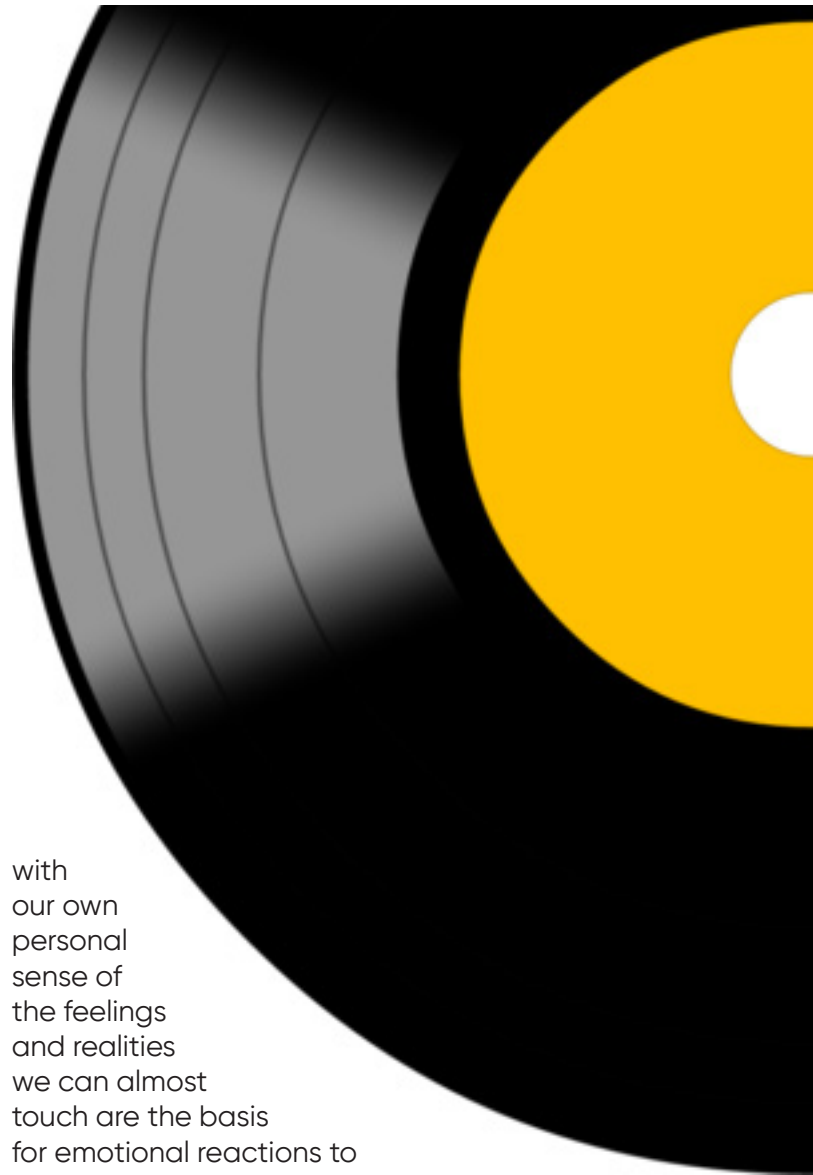
By Neil Nixon

Music – popular, cultish, and hugely unpopular – hasn't been found wanting when it comes to invoking the paranormal, and any trawl of song titles, record packaging or simply the imagery employed by acts in a range of genres will soon produce examples in which the same subject matter that keeps ASSAP in investigations is employed to make a creative point, or simply shift product. The current study aims for something a little deeper and a lot more nebulous in looking for a few insights into how, exactly, some musicians can invoke a sense of the seriously strange in their work. We don't have space to fully explore a complex subject but, hopefully, the sources and examples lined up here will provide anyone with the inclination and energy to explore the subject in more detail.

There is – at least in terms recognised by some audiences and critics for whom music is a serious and significant subject – such a thing as hauntology. It serves both as a description for a particular area of musical activity and as a useful tag for those seeking out a specific kind of music. Mark Fisher (1968 – 2017), amongst many other things a political theorist, lecturer, and music journalist, took the term from philosophy to build a body of argument focussed on the way music can play with perceptions of time and culture. Specifically, its ability to invoke a sense of lost futures, or bring about a strong sense of a past we wished we had. The mismatches between both the reality of the time we inhabit and the times we imagined, along

with our own personal sense of the feelings and realities we can almost touch are the basis for emotional reactions to the music Fisher recognised as providing hauntology. Fisher's arguments are frequently intense and are fully explored in *Ghosts of My Life: Writings on Depression, Hauntology and Lost Futures* (2014) and the posthumous *The Weird and the Eerie* (2017) the latter published by Repeater Books, which he co-founded. However, his opinions on music are frequently inseparable from observations on politics, philosophy and the depression that led to his death by suicide in 2017.

Consequently, those with a casual interest might find a more accessible start in the handful of general works out there exploring hauntology one of which summarises Fisher's influential thinking: "Fisher's formulation of hauntology consists of two component parts...the 'no longer' and the 'not yet'. The former haunts the present from the past, returning repeatedly...[making] its presence felt. The latter haunts the present from the future." Fisher's ideas honed observations on popular culture that had been in mass circulation for some time, notably in John Berger's discussion of the way publicity (i.e., advertising) plays with perceptions of time because "in essence [it is]





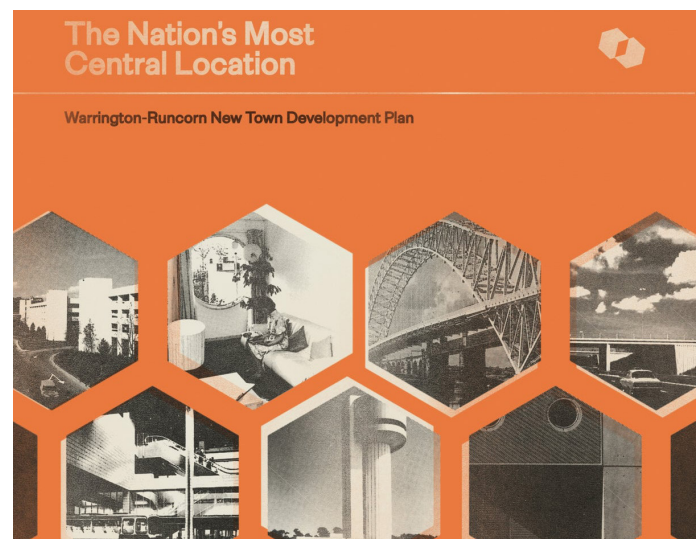
What these sounds do to us emotionally and the mechanisms by which they do it is slowly being unpicked. Consciousness remains a mystery though the last few decades have given us a picture proving firstly that our brain stem, particularly the cerebellum,

an aspect of brain design we share with many less-complex organisms, "generates affect" whilst the mid-brain located periaqueductal gray/grey (PAG) works as the "main output centre of all the affective circuits, channelling information... [to generate] 'emotion proper'" [Mark Solm's italics].

Humans are – literally – hard-wired to process sound and make sense of what they hear. Pitch, for example, "is so important that the brain represents it directly... we could place electrodes on the brain and be able to determine what pitches are being played" Daniel Levitin – a musician and recording engineer with a CV boasting involvement with the likes of Steely Dan and Neil Young – has devoted an academic career to understanding how our brain understands music, teasing out conflicting theories to a conclusion that humans "are storing both the abstract and specific information contained in melodies" and our processing of music in general is complex to the point that regions all over the brain light up and no specific model of music processing has yet been found that fully explains the complexities of how we experience these sounds.

nostalgic {selling] the past to the future" and noting "this future is endlessly deferred...it remains credible because the truthfulness of publicity is judged...by the relevance of its fantasies to those of the spectator."

A practical insight into this in music is readily available for anyone going online to sample the sounds produced by the Ghost Box or Castles in Space record labels. As an example, I got a promo earlier this year of The Nation's Most Central Location by Warrington-Runcorn New Town Development Plan and raised a few of the points in this article when I played some of it on my radio show. The name of the act, the graphic design of their visual material and their reliance on the analogue synth sounds and sparing timbres that appeared to represent and positive and highly productive future in the 1970s are now a haunting presence, offering up a strange and dislocating listening experience, similar in many ways to the manner in which the best British folk horror movies – like *The Wicker Man* – collide a sense of modernity with a pagan sensibility, evoking a force both old and indestructible, with a power to change our experience of the present.



We know definitely our experience is more complex than record keeping, or the "constructivist" model whereby we are thought to store an "abstract generalization" and that the best guesses on where a definitive answer will lie seem to be with "a hybrid of sorts" offering a "multiple-trace memory model."

## Seriously Strange

Crudely, music impacts us in an emotional, visceral way, has the capacity to create images, be understood intellectually but can also be enigmatic and for many of us finds links in our mind with very personal experiences.

This existence between an imagined past and a promised future that often lurks perpetually ahead without ever appearing is a familiar enough notion, seen perhaps most vividly in the recent past within populist political campaigns, like those offering to "Make America Great Again" or "Take Back Control in Britain."

The difference between advertising and political sleight of hand and the music discussed here is the particular focus of the music on creating an eerie and timeless dislocation, an ever-elusive emotional essence that comes with the tension between us existing in the present and simultaneously within imagined pasts or futures. Crudely, the music celebrates this strange and opaque state of being present and being somewhere in another time, advertising and populist politics draw on the same dynamic to persuade us to

immediate courses of action by promising us we'll be glad of the choices we made.

A select few musicians set out to create works that are deliberately uncanny and strange, it's only fair to let a couple comment on what they do and how they do it. My only suggestion at this point is that you could better understand the experiences on offer by starting at their online Bandcamp pages, listening, and then exploring via tags at the foot of the page to find more equally strange sounds.

The Falcons of Haunt exist in a timeless zone (that said, Dudley is tagged on their Bandcamp page), within which their music explores a universe informed by cult movies (some albums are alternative soundtracks) and things generally half-remembered. To me it's a haunting and beguiling experience capable of changing the mood in almost any situation in a day. The Falcons of Haunt (aka Dave) say: "I guess that I have been lucky in the sense that I have never had to look for music, it found me. I hear music 24/7, Snippets of melodies and tones in everyday noise. There

are not many mornings that I wake up and don't have the urge to put on tape what I heard whilst asleep. If anyone was to find my phone, they would discover humming and spoken word ideas that make no sense to anyone but myself.

"Nostalgia and memories

of a better yesterday are predominant in the sound I create. growing up I loved children's TV that touched on folklore and sci-fi, I guess now it's called hauntology? As I got older my appreciation for off-beat movies from the 60's and 70's began to trigger my imagination.

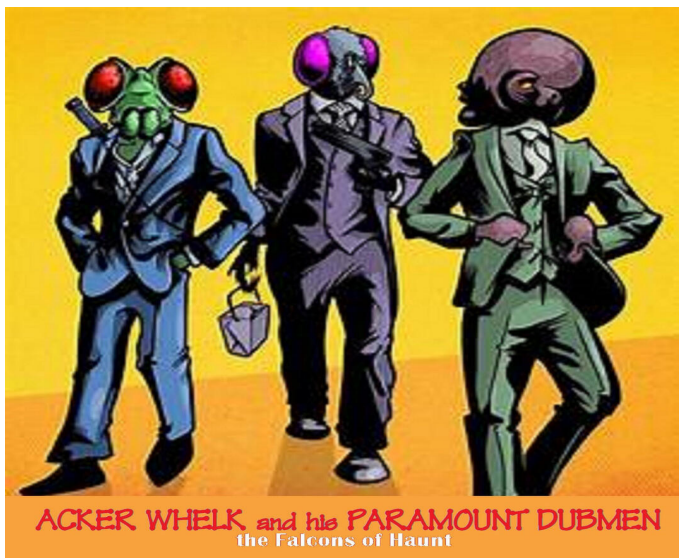
"During the recording of 'We are the damned' I hit a composer's block. Relocation to Weymouth and Portland where it was filmed, re-ignited the spark and the soundtrack was completed in less than a week.



A few weeks later I discovered two cousins were extras in the film, eerie?

"Sounds I hear are usually random and uncoordinated, but they are placed in some kind of sequence, much like a jigsaw puzzle. The music is subliminal and insular as it is always created through headphones enabling me to hear every nuance and timbre.

"I imagine that I am actually a collector and curator of sound. I possess hundreds of hours-worth of audio waiting to find a space in the ether. I realise that my craft will never make me wealthy but that one day it will be my legacy, I find that comforting. Bandcamp, Spotify etc. has made it possible to be remembered.



*Iconic with their 70s offbeat weirdness. Falcons of Haunt.*

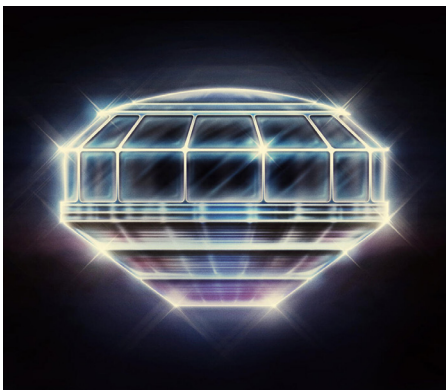
## Seriously Strange

"Today, I will be creating yesterday's music for tomorrow!"

The work of The Night Monitor (aka Neil Scriven) is firmly in ASSAP territory, in addition to conjuring up eerie visions with old school electronics The Night Monitor's catalogue is a litany of projects based on classic claims of the paranormal, a 2023 outing – Close Encounters of the Pennine Kind – tackles the famous Todmorden UFO abduction event of 1980. The Night Monitor says: "I can most simply describe what I do as creating instrumental synthesiser soundtracks for vintage (largely pre-1990s) 'paranormal' events.

"I've been fascinated with Fortean topics from a very young age, inspired initially by the Orbis partwork magazine 'The Unexplained' and Usborne's 'World of the Unknown' series in the early 1980s."

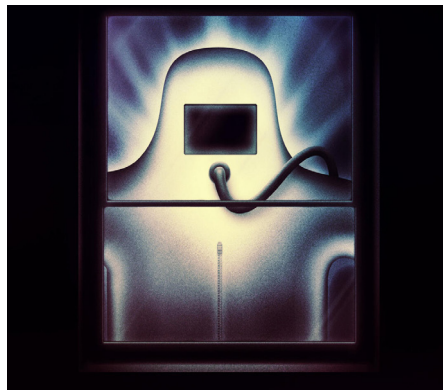
"Musically, my inspirations are the more synthetic, electronic TV and film soundtracks of the '70s and '80s, such as Arthur C Clarke's 'Mysterious World' TV series, 'In Search of...' with Leonard Nimoy, or 1970s Doctor Who and other examples of Radiophonic Workshop or library music of the time. "Topics so far



have included albums based on the 1977 'Welsh Triangle' UFO wave, and the Enfield Poltergeist, whilst my 'Perception Report' series of EPs takes some design cues from 1970s era Flying

Saucer Review and features musical odes to The Owlman of Mawnan and Jean Hingley's Mince Pie Martians.

"Each work has its own distinct musical approach, inspired by the era of its subject matter. Ultimately, I'm trying to evoke the same sort of feelings I had from reading about these topics in my youth. The wide-eyed, child-like fascination I had as a young boy – creeped out by supposedly real photos of ghosts, or eerie illustrations of UFO occupants. "Artistically, I take the subject



matter very much at face value, regardless of my own personal perception as to the reality or otherwise of the events in question. From a creative viewpoint, I approach things from a position of absolute belief. This is because it's an essential component of why I was attracted to the source material in the first place – it was generally presented as being true, or possibly true. I want to present that same non-dismissive attitude towards these strange experiences in my music. The Night Monitor is a true believer. I, myself, am generally more sceptical."

There's a point in my radio shows, after the opening triple shot and after I've had a brief rant about our Big Album for the week (to which we'll make three visits and bang on about why we love it even if others don't) where I point out that simply

ranting anymore about the music is pointless, because it's time to let that music speak for itself. Hopefully, the music and musicians here have introduced themselves well enough. Beyond that the point isn't so much to understand as to experience, so the sources lists include.

Bandcamp addresses for The Falcons of Haunt and The Night Monitor, from whose pages you can follow tags into a labyrinthine web of seriously strange sounds.

**Neil Nixon** has been interested in all things ASSAP for as long as he can remember and has been writing and researching these various interests for decades. His most recent books are UFOs, Aliens and the Battle for the Truth (2021) and Why Mystery Matters (2023). His live talks have included Seriously Strange Weekends and regular ASSAP webinars and he can be contacted via his website, especially if you want to swap ideas on anything written in this article:

<http://www.neilnixon.com/>

Merlin Coverley – Hauntology – Ghosts of the Futures Past, Oldcastle Books 2020, pp 266-267

John Berger – Ways of Seeing, Pelican 1972, p.139

John Berger – p.146

Most of the album is available to hear, here: <https://warrington-runcorn-cis.bandcamp.com/album/the-nations-most-central-location>

Mark Solms – The Hidden Spring: A Journey into the Source of Consciousness, Profile Books 2021, p.124

Mark Solms – p.136

Daniel Levitin – This is your Brain on Music: Understanding a Human Obsession, Penguin 2019, p.29

Daniel Levitin – p. 165

Daniel Levitin – pp. 162-164

"Yesterday's sounds for tomorrow" etc. are here: <https://thefalconsofhaunt.bandcamp.com/>

Cover highlighted above Acker Whelk and Paramount Dubmen

The Night Monitor's eerie oeuvre is available for audio perusal here: <https://thenightmonitor.bandcamp.com/>

2 Covers highlighted above Close Encounters of the Pennine Kind and Space Mystery of the Terror Triangle.



*Arabella Mortimer Hendry resides in Horsham Town. Freelance published author, her title Love Tie is available. Growing up in a haunted house only fuelled her interest in the paranormal and asking the grandest of questions.*

# Are you free under 'Free Will'?

One of the most important things to remember throughout your life is that Spirit cannot interfere with your God-given free will! For example, God gave Adam and Eve free will; they were allowed to make decisions for themselves. However, God warned them not to eat from the Tree, yet Eve did anyway. Spirit can only intervene so much in our lives—the rest is up to us!

You can call upon your guardian angel or God to help you achieve a goal or to support you through a difficult situation. They might even send you signs, such as a red robin or a feather in times of grief, just to let you know they are around you, supporting you. Another sign is loved ones visiting you in your dreams! You can always tell if it's a true visitation from Spirit because their preferred method of communication is telepathy; their eyes will be slightly larger than the average humans. From my personal experience, loved ones tend to visit in dreams shortly after they have passed because their energy is much stronger then, but as time progresses and they settle into the spirit realm, they only appear in dreams when you're going through a tough time. It takes a lot of energy for them to appear, even in dreams. That's why we must treasure the memories we have with them and look out for any signs they send! It could even be a song they used to like playing randomly on the radio!

The angels are always listening, and so is God—He knows you better than you know yourself. They know your deepest thoughts and desires! However, it's not just the good spirits that can read our minds; the bad ones can too.

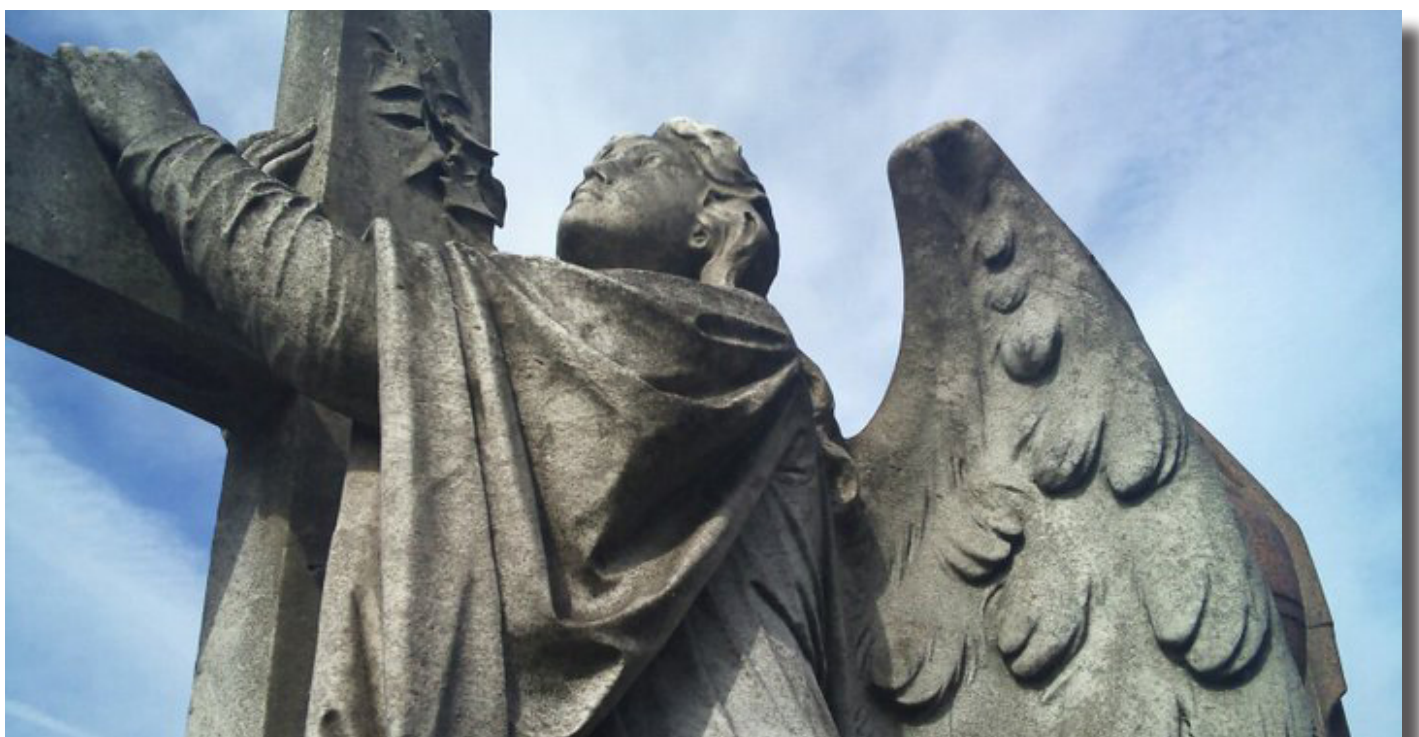
For example, if an alcoholic were trying to get sober and doing everything in their power to avoid triggers, a bad spirit could send a bus past their house with an advert promoting alcohol just as they were looking out the window. In that moment, temptation arises for the alcoholic, but the choice is theirs whether to act on that feeling because they have free will! We see another example of this in the Adam and Eve story with "the Snake of Temptation," which, as we know, was Satan himself. Unfortunately for us, Eve decided to listen to the Snake, who tempted her to pick an apple from the Tree and eat it.



As punishment, God cursed women, saying, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children." Thank heavens for epidurals, though! Another thing we must remember is that, ultimately, the decisions we make shape our future, and Spirit can't undo those choices or their consequences. Any medium who tells you they can perform spells to bring your love back or to get you what you want in life is lying.

I have been a professional international medium for the past five years. My readings are a mixture of counselling, motivation, and spiritual guidance. I've had my fair share of people asking me to perform spells because they automatically assume I'm a witch due to my spiritual gifts. However, I am not, and never will be, a witch. I do not perform spells, hexes, or even use traditional tarot cards. Instead, I find images that resonate with me and offer my own interpretation based on the person I'm reading for. As I tell everyone I read for, Spirit can only help you so far—the rest is up to you. I also advise them to steer clear of people who claim to do spells, as they'll be walking down a dark path if they entertain such entities. Of course, they have free will, so I can only offer suggestions on such matters. Still, I believe it's my duty to inform people about the dangers of the spirit world and to help them to the best of my ability.

Self reflection of your past behaviour and how you reacted to situations in your life is an important step in making a better future for yourself too. Many people say " oh if I lived in that time again I would of done things differently " but the only reason they say that is because they now have the knowledge in which they lacked at that present time. Each stage in our life will require a more wiser and stronger version of ourselves than the one before.



We never stop learning in life (or even in the afterlife!), so many of us put unnecessary stress on ourselves. As a result, we sometimes let our insecurities take over our minds, which then affects our physical well-being as well as our mental health. It's no secret that life can get overwhelming at times, which is why I advise you to recharge when you can—even if it's just going for a woodland walk, venturing deep into the woods until you're surrounded by aged oaks and sycamores, closing your eyes, and listening to the heartbeat of nature! I also find that anything with a lavender scent helps relax the mind, as does taking a bath with Epsom salts (which help release any unwanted stagnant energy attached to you). It's easy to neglect making time for yourself, but even closing your eyes and focusing on your breathing once a day is a start.

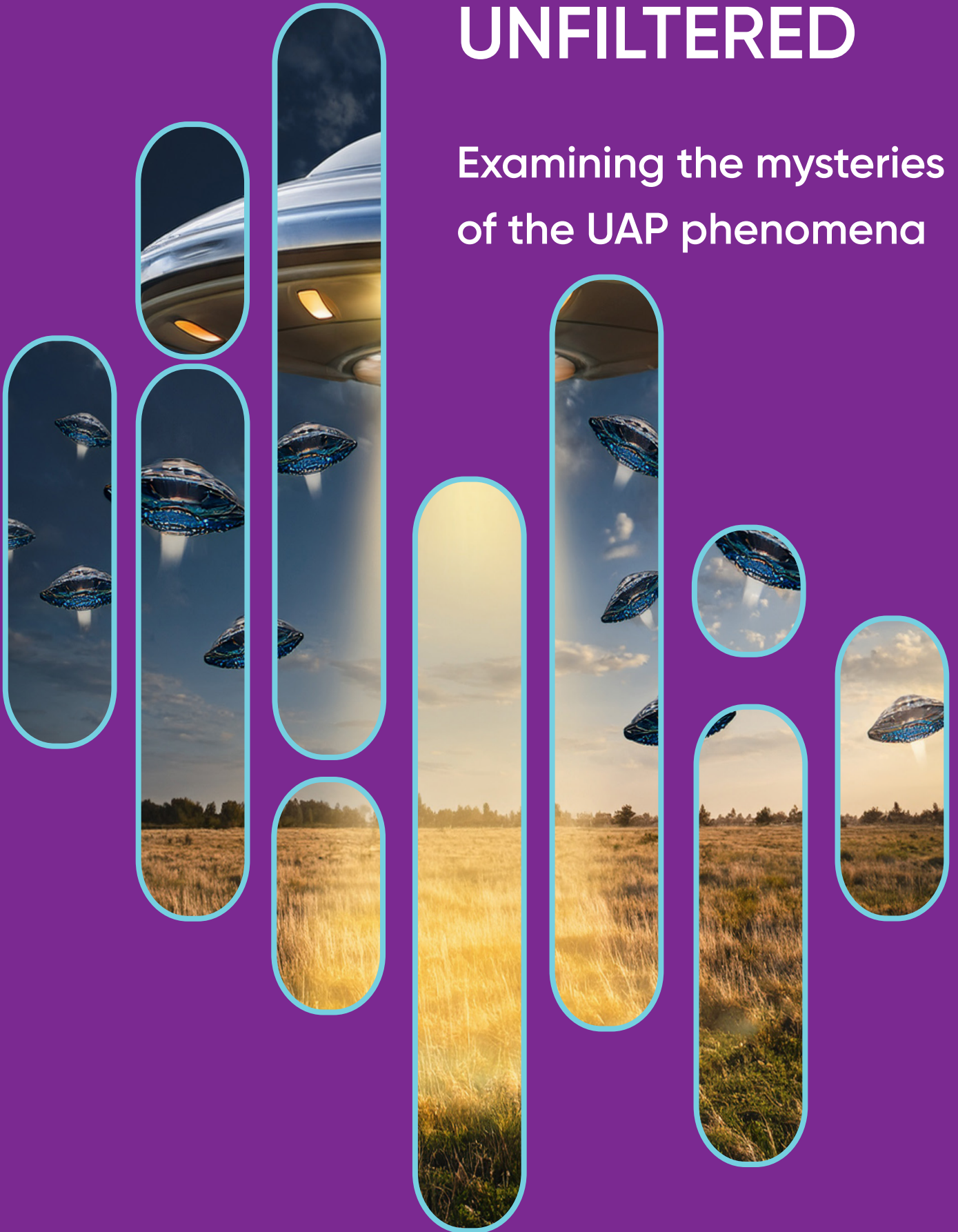
Whatever you go through in life, remember that you are not alone. Even though it may feel like it at times, we are not! Just because our prayers aren't answered when we want them to be doesn't mean they haven't been heard. They are answered when the time is right! Contrary to society's opinion, spiritual awakenings aren't pleasant to go through—they're uncomfortable and bring a whole range of emotions. But they are a necessary process we must all endure to become wiser, stronger versions of ourselves.



Photographs: Kristian Lander, The Rock Cemetery, Nottingham.

# UNIDENTIFIED UNFILTERED

Examining the mysteries  
of the UAP phenomena





DEEP DIVE

# THE DRONES OF NEW JERSEY NUKES, TERROR AND CONFUSION

KRISTIAN LANDER

## The timing couldn't be better

As unidentified drones began their nightly parade over New Jersey on 18 November 2024, they couldn't have timed their arrival better for James Fox. The director's new documentary *The Program*, exploring UFOs and government secrecy, was gearing up for its big reveal—just as these SUV-sized objects lit up the skies and the imagination of a nation. From unnerved residents to congressional briefings, the drones sparked a whirlwind of questions: Who controls them? What's their purpose? And could they signal something far more sinister?

## UAP is in the air!

Several key events aligned following the US congressional oversight hearing on November 13th entitled *UAP Exposing the Truth*. [1] In the skies above New Jersey, a plethora of unidentified objects began buzzing above the city and beyond. Waves of apparent phenomena swooping across the region, their purpose unknown, accompanied by a wide range of descriptions. NBC News details the initial sightings that began on 18th November 2024 and continued into December. [2]

"Large drones have been hovering in formation over northern New Jersey, officials said Monday, leading to 'unnerved' residents wondering what's behind these bright, unidentified flying objects appearing almost every night in the sky.

The FBI and Morris County Sheriff's Department are actively investigating the aerial phenomenon, which has been an annoyance but not yet any kind of safety threat, authorities said.

"We're all completely unnerved," a resident Shavalier told NBC News "I didn't sleep last night."

"When I would get up and look out my window at 2 a.m., 4 a.m., they were still hovering," she added.

"I got up at 5:30 a.m. this morning and they were still there as the sun was starting to rise. They went back in the same direction they came from, and I expect they'll be back as soon as the sun goes down tonight."

## Reports continued

Reports flooded in by the hundreds from concerned residents along the eastern seaboard, their unease captured in a growing stream of videos and photos shared across social media. Lights punctuated the night sky—some flickering, others steady—while strange objects darted and merged, weaving through formations with uncharacteristic, almost otherworldly manoeuvres. Some sizes defied convention, others small and light. The familiar buzzing rotor wash of hobbyist drones accompanied some sightings, yet others moved in eerie silence, deepening the enigma overhead. The incidents were drawing a comparison to the Chinese weather balloons of February 2023. A high-altitude balloon was spotted flying over the United States, drifting over sensitive sites sparking concerns about national security and espionage. The balloon was detected by US military radar and tracked by the Federal Aviation Administration. It was shot down by a US Air Force F-22 fighter jet off the coast of South Carolina. The incident heightened tensions between the US and China, with both nations exchanging diplomatic warnings and condemnations. It was revealed soon after that there was not just one balloon but many! Because of this incident, there was a growing demand for action against the drones.



Balloon Recovery. U.S. Department of Defense.  
Credit: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Tyler  
Thompson

Video and location analysis by the hivemind of the internet sleuths and professionals quickly disseminated many known aircraft from the volume coming in.

In the days that followed, the Defense Department held a briefing that has said that the military does not own them. Officials noted that the sightings occurred exclusively at night, with “little to no” reports of drones spotted during daylight hours. Despite the U.S. having a reputation and predilection for the guns-ho approach, the Federal Aviation Authority reminded people shooting any aircraft, including drones is illegal and the potential for incidents of falling objects poses a safety risk.[3]

Reports surged as drones brazenly encroached on high-stakes sites: President-elect Donald Trump’s Bedminster Golf Course and military installations like Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which was forced into a secure lockdown. To anyone with even a fleeting interest in UFOlogy, Wright-Patterson’s name rings bells—long tied to whispers of wreckage recovery, including the legendary Roswell Incident. News desks and inboxes overflowed with fresh accounts, sightings spilling in from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York, alongside Maryland and Texas, though pinning them to a single wave grew tricky as more eyes turned skyward.

## The size

A dominant feature in many of the reports was a remarkable size, often being compared to an SUV, or Sport Utility Vehicle— Yes, I had to Grok what an SUV is, “a type of car that blends the passenger comfort with off-road capability.” In Britain, we tend to call them 4x4s, or more playfully, ‘Chelsea Tractors,’ since they’re mostly seen on the school run. Think Range Rovers, Suzuki Vitaras, and the like. A considerable size, typically according to search results the average SUV dimensions are 14.2ft/4.3m long and 6ft/1.8m wide with a height average of 5.2ft/1.57m, a considerable volume and mass to be seen in the sky.



Promotional photo  
[www.Dacia.co.uk](http://www.Dacia.co.uk)  
2025  
Example of SUV.

As a Civil Aviation Authority-certified drone operator with a commercial license, I know many drones are also called Unmanned Aerial Systems, or UAS for short. UAS brought off the shelf or online will not be much bigger than a dinner plate. DJI and FIMI are popular brand choices. Batteries, their power source to stay airborne, may last up to half an hour. They can be affected by the cold and when they have to work in the elements, such as staying stationary in heavier winds. For many drones, like those from DJI, a minimum of 12 GPS satellites must lock onto the exact position before takeoff. Without this, the drone won’t lift off—or, if the signal drops mid-flight, it’s programmed to return to its home point. There certainly are larger drones available, and some build custom drones for purposes, for handling heavier payloads like large filmography cameras and for LIDAR operations. For safety and insurance purposes, you’re supposed to log your flight, informing air traffic control towers, police and adding a NOTAM (Notice To Airmen/Aviation), particularly if near locations like hospitals and helicopter sites. Always maintaining a Visual Line Of Sight. Regulations are in place in the U.K. and the U.S. by the C.A.A. and Federal Aviation Agency, respectively. FAA regulations were not being followed since nobody seemed to know or admit to knowing who they belonged to!

## Seriously Strange

Add to this the increased awareness and media hype of such phenomena being reported, many took it upon themselves to find answers by flying their own UAS. Drones seeking out the drones. Chasing them down and tracking their landing spots. As such the number of UAS in the sky increased, and the number of unidentified drone reports increased. Newscasts and official Washington spokespeople frequently used the terms "UAS", "UAP" and "drone" interchangeably. Muddying the water of communication and further confusing matters. Biden issued flight restrictions to the areas affected. New Jersey has a great deal of general aviation traffic. There are many corporations based there that use helicopters.

### Further escalation

Nebraska Police Chief Grooms, speaking in regards to his office and the nightly terror being experienced by ranchers by swarms of drones, ultimately reached out to US Strategic Command (STRATCOM), the Pentagon group responsible for missile defence and nuclear deterrence, as well as the FBI, Nebraska State Patrol and the National Guard. "All those agencies told us they didn't know what they were," he recalled, "or stated that it was not their equipment." [4]

Meanwhile, Ohio, Massachusetts and California are reporting seeing large drones flying overhead. Residents and officials are voicing their concerns about security threats and speculation of foreign involvement.

### The UK was not immune to an increase in incursions

RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, RAF Feltwell, and RAF Fairford. These bases, located in Suffolk, Norfolk, and Gloucestershire, are operated by the US Air Force. The incidents began earlier, with reports of unidentified drones spotted over RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, and RAF Feltwell from the 20th November through 26th November 2024, but continued into December, with sightings persisting over multiple nights. By late November, RAF Fairford was also included in the reports of drone activity. Germany and Chile are joining the list of countries facing apparent drone waves over sensitive sites. [5]



4 metres long, 2 metres wide and a height of 1.6 metres, that's enough of a size to be manned! Any vehicles match that description?

Modern Aeronaut Theorists say Yes!



The BlackFly is bigger than an SUV weighs 158kgs, lifts off and lands at about an 80 degree angle. Maintaining airbourne capability for around 20-30 minutes. Designed by father and daughter pilots John and Heather Chirtea. A number of versions and variants exist.

Multiple companies and enthusiasts, inc Red Bull, EHang, Ryse, Surefly and Jetson amongst them have produced prototypes and functional one manned pilot drones.



Chinese hypersonic boost-glide vehicle bodies being tested and elevated on aboard a high-altitude balloon. Similar sized payload to what was used over the U.S.

Chinese media screengrab - 2019 CCTV 7.

Left: [R.A.F. Lakenheath and Thetford Forest: aerial 2017 by Chris. CC attribution.](#)

# Seriously Strange

FEATURE

Across the pond, the call for investigation and action grew louder. New Jersey Police Chief Joseph Orlando of the Florham Park Police Department fueled the urgency, stating, "Their presence appears nefarious in nature," as authorities amassed over 5,000 reports during this active period.

Tim McMillan, a retired police lieutenant and intelligence analyst, executive director of The Debrief, highlighted that the UFOs spotted in Jersey closely resemble Russian Orlan-10 drones, secretive devices known to operate in groups of three to five, gathering data and sniffing out information. McMillan, alongside other experts, pointed out that these New Jersey sightings were concentrated around Picatinny Arsenal, the site of the US Army's CCDC Armaments Center, which plays a key role in producing Wand providing artillery ammunition to Ukraine. [6]



"No Drones!" the signs states at the Picatinny Arsenal gates. Google Street View Maps.

**U.S. senior officials** found themselves repeatedly pressed on television shows, fielding questions about the incursions and the government's response—or lack thereof. The phenomenon, which had unnerved residents for weeks, took on a sharper edge with reports like that of Rep. Chris Smith, who, on the 10th December 2024, cited police body cam footage showing 55 drones 'coming in from the ocean,' a claim first posted on nj1015.com [7] and echoed across X. Other accounts on the platform described the craft retreating over water when approached, some reportedly shifting into a stealth-like mode by going dark. Operating drones at night already pose challenges—lacking visual line-of-sight control—but these objects seemed to defy convention further, executing defensive manoeuvres and evasive tactics that fuelled speculation and concern.

Amid the growing unease, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy offered a counterpoint on WBGO radio in Newark, suggesting that 'overreporting' might be at play. [8] He posited that many residents could be spotting the same devices—or even mistaking mundane aerial objects for drones—tempering the alarm with a call for perspective. Yet, that same morning, a state police briefing for hundreds of local mayors and politicians painted a starkly different picture. Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia, who attended, took to X with a detailed statement, decrying how federal regulations 'shackle' state police from intercepting or downing the objects. Her conclusion was blunt: "Military intervention is the only path forward," a sentiment reflecting the frustration brewing at the local level.[9] "To state that there is no known or credible threat is incredibly misleading." [10]

The intrigue deepened with Rep. Jeff Van Drew's explosive claim on Fox News on 11th December 2024. Citing confidential sources, he declared, "I'm going to tell you the real deal. Iran launched a mothership that contains these drones. It's off the East Coast of the United States of America. They've launched drones!" His assertion, amplified on X [11] injected a geopolitical dimension into the mystery, though it met swift skepticism from other quarters. Still, the sightings' proximity to sensitive sites—like military installations and President-elect Donald Trump's Bedminster Golf Course—ensured they weren't dismissed lightly.



## Seriously Strange

How seriously the sightings were being taken at the federal level all the way to the top, still in seat Joe Biden reportedly personally rang for updates on the case. It was revealed that a classified Pentagon briefing with the House Oversight Committee was held on 6th December 2024, specifically addressing the persistent objects.[12]

### Whispers of missing nuclear material.

On 17th December 2024, The Warzone reported multiple drone incursions over Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, marking the first time a Marine Corps facility publicly acknowledged such activity amid a nationwide wave of sightings at military bases. The news, detailed at The Warzone,[13] intensified an already charged atmosphere, as pressing questions dominated press rooms and media circles: Who owns these drones? Are they adversarial? What's their purpose? Do they pose a risk? Official responses remained scarce, offering little clarity and fuelling unease. Lurking beneath the fear and mystery, a chilling notion gained traction in the background noise—the possibility of missing nuclear material, a dangerous idea that only deepened the intrigue.

### Missing Nuke? Was a dirty bomb active in the New Jersey area?

Online circles buzzed with a startling claim: material from a shipment arriving from Ukraine had gone missing—allegedly nuclear in nature. Could this explain the strange mix of tight-lipped secrecy and frenetic operations unfolding in New Jersey? Some speculated that detection might be easier at night, with drones possibly hunting for a telltale radiation signature using electro-optical systems, infrared, or thermal imaging. If true, this theory could unravel much of the mystery, though it remained firmly in the realm of conjecture.

The spectre of a dirty bomb looming over the Eastern Seaboard—one of the America's most densely populated regions—cast a shadow over the unfolding drone conundrum. Concealing an ongoing recovery operation seemed all too plausible; admitting it publicly could unleash chaos, spiralling beyond control. Might this explain the official silence and the puzzling inaction against the drones? Authorities possessed the tools to track, monitor, and neutralise such threats—unless, of course, the objects' origins were already known. This conspiracy-laden theory has ignited social media, where it has racked up millions of views and fuelled endless speculation.



By The Biden White House  
 - <https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse/status/1816298630141096339>, Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=150960157>



## Seriously Strange

On the 15th of December 2024, John Ferguson, CEO of Saxon Aerospace and a seasoned drone expert, dropped a provocative theory during an interview with On The Stacks Podcast, [14] that New Jersey drones might be hunting for something big—perhaps radioactive material. He took it further, asserting that over 80 nuclear warheads vanished from Ukraine

following the Soviet Union's collapse in the 1990s and suggested one could have been smuggled into the U.S., possibly slipping through a port like Newark. The Daily Express US [15] seized on the claim, running it under the headline "Expert says New Jersey drones are 'searching for nuclear warhead' " on 16th December, sparking a fresh wave of fear and speculation.

# Military contractor fears New Jersey drones 'are searching for nuclear warhead'

UAV specialist John Ferguson says he knows of at least one 'lost' nuke that could have been smuggled into the United States

By **MICHAEL MORAN**

09:02 ET, Mon, Dec 16, 2024 | UPDATED: 18:13 ET, Tue, Jan 21, 2025

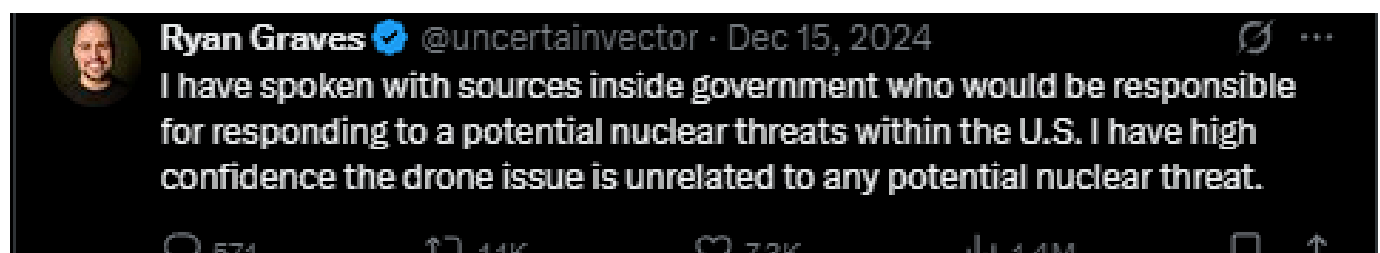
### Could this explain the dizzying mix of UAP types crowding the skies?

Picture military drones scouring the night for missing radioactive material, 'alien' UAPs—long rumoured to meddle with nuclear sites—keeping watch to ensure we don't obliterate ourselves, and curious hobbyists buzzing around, all aloft at once in a strange aerial convergence.



The

multi-million listener Joe Rogan Experience episode #2244, aired on December 17, 2024, put an end to the nuclear debate.[16] Ryan Graves, a former U.S. Navy lieutenant and F/A-18F pilot, was the first active-duty pilot to publicly disclose regular sightings of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). Today, he serves as the inaugural Chair of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics UAP Integration & Outreach Committee and Executive Director of Americans for Safe Aerospace. In the opening minutes of the discussion, Graves tackled the nuclear speculation head-on. He explained that the Department of Energy has specialised response teams dedicated to handling such threats, that gamma radiation is well-shielded, making drones—even at low altitudes—an ineffective tool for detection, especially at night. He emphasised that this approach doesn't align with standard investigation methods for such cases. The first to address and put that fear to bed.



## Seriously Strange

Belleville Mayor Michael Melham, in a 17th December 2024 Fox 5 New York interview, vaguely suggested the drones might be looking for “a threat that came in through Port Newark,”[17] possibly radioactive material. He didn’t mention Ukraine but tied it to a local incident – missing radioactive material in New Jersey involves a medical device, not a warhead.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported on the 12th December 2024, that a Ge-68 pin source (used to calibrate PET scanners) from Nazha Cancer Center in Newfield, NJ, was lost in transit on 2nd December. The shipping container arrived damaged and empty, sparking the rumours. The device contained 0.267 millicuries of Germanium-68, a low-level isotope. It was recovered on December 10th at a FedEx facility, repackaged, and sent to its disposal site in Tennessee, per the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and confirmed by CBS News on December 17, 2024.[18]

A fusion of misunderstood stories, hair-on-fire panic reaction and too many loud voices with people banging on the table demanding more and driving chaotic controversy. Much like a certain unofficial page. Whilst in truth all was controlled, routine practises and following best practise procedures. Some people not understanding the process. A few voices intent on causing confusion and amplified by social media. What needed to be answered was the facts. Not people, who are not involved, who stir up frenzies for attention.

Graves also shared further insights on the show, noting that while he hasn’t witnessed the drones first hand, countless people have sent him videos and clips. He highlighted reports of objects approaching from over the ocean, tracked apparently by radar and optical cameras, with some moving in coordinated groups. He mentioned reaching out to government contacts for answers, though the responses he received offered little clarity. Most striking, he pointed out, was that certain objects demonstrated multi-hour operations—lasting five to six hours—far surpassing the energy or battery limits of conventional drones.

Ryan also confirmed he had spoken to the pilots who responded to the UAP over Langley Air Force Base the previous year in December of 2023, and that their infrared and lock-on systems struggled to zone in and lock on the UAP, They were actively jamming the capability (12:00) [20]

### Wait, there was an incident a year earlier with drones over the same area?

“Yes, and also in 2022!” replied Graves

In regards to the breach of Langley restricted airspace, the U.S. Air Force confirmed that Joint Base Langley-Eustis experienced multiple unauthorised unmanned aerial system (UAS) incursions starting 6th December 2023, lasting over 17 days. As revealed by The Warzone in March 2024,[19] these events involved swarms of drones—varying in size (some estimated at 20 feet long) and configuration—entering restricted airspace after sunset.

The Pentagon, via Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh [21] stated on 15th October 2024 that they showed no hostile intent but posed a flight safety risk. It is worth noting that in several posts I have seen the misguided inclusion of the “17-day operation” as a flight time for the apparent UAP/drones in December, conveying the super-powered engineering capability.



## Seriously Strange

Over-saturation in the media, to a mere whimper.

With the handover of the Biden administration to the incoming Trump administration, a number of the statements made would involve the publication of the JFK papers, the matters of RFK and Martin Luther King Jr revealed, what is known about UAP and just what is going on with the drones/UAP/UAS over New Jersey. Within days of the announcement, at least one of those came true.

The Trump administration has confirmed that the mysterious drones spotted over New Jersey in late 2024 were authorised by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). During the first press briefing of President Donald Trump's second term on January 28, 2025, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt shared an update directly from Donald Trump.[22][23] She stated that, after research and study, the drones flying in large numbers over New Jersey were approved by the FAA for "research and various other reasons." Additionally, many of these drones were operated by hobbyists and private individuals for recreational purposes, with the situation escalating due to public curiosity. Leavitt emphasised in her expression that "this was not the enemy," addressing concerns that had arisen during the sightings. Though specific details about the nature of the FAA-authorized research remain unclear. The White House did not elaborate further on what "various other reasons" entailed, leaving questions tantalisingly unanswered about the full scope of the drone operations.

The mystery is what was the true purpose? Why the secrecy and pretence for more than a month? Government agencies, including the FBI and other lettered agencies, committing their valuable resources. Regional investigations and active calls for video/photos. Setting up dedicated report hotlines. President Biden himself personally checked in, several times... yet it was all known about? Is this a case of the left hand and the right hand not communicating?

Does this truly account for the SUV-sized sightings? Multi-hour operations and the reported objects coming in and retreating over the Atlantic Ocean? Not entirely. The mysterious events are seemingly on pause, our course of action is to see what occurs in the winter months of 2025, as the incursions may continue for a 4th-year pattern of operation.

Additionally, The RAF/USAF base incursions in the UK appear to have been instigated by Russian operatives, with known agents seen in and around the areas, as reported by The Independent [24]

A nagging sense persists that the truth might lurk somewhere in the messy middle—an authorised military or contractor operation, perhaps reacting to a routine yet pointed update on adversarial moves from Russia, China, and maybe Iran. It's a 'we're watching you watching us' standoff, each side probing the other's next play. Public reaction flared fast, churning out content and hot takes, with a media eager to pounce on any spark and trend, fanning it into a blaze. Then there's the odd timing: whispers of missing nuclear medical material, a Congressional briefing humming in the background—coincidences that feel too neat to dismiss. Into this swirl dropped James Fox's *The Program*, a documentary perfectly poised to ride the wave of intrigue to massive publicity. Some might call it a perfect storm; others might wonder if the storm was partly engineered...



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**Additionally beyond the scope and intent of the feature. Was there a natural suggestion for the observations being made?**

What people saw in New Jersey might not be drones at all but living, shape-shifting plasma entities from the upper atmosphere, like the thermosphere. There's a 2024 paper in the Journal of Modern Physics (Joseph et al.) arguing that these "extremophile organisms" exist up there, pulsating and morphing, drawn to electromagnetic hotspots—say, thunderstorms, military radar, or even ocean turbulence.

One X post from 1st January 2025 claimed a "morphing plasmoid" hovered over Manasquan Beach, NJ, which fits the theory: a coastal spot with plenty of electromagnetic activity to attract these things. From a post from @Worldwar\_3\_ titled "Morphing Plasmoid Over Manasquan Beach, NJ," describes a "mysterious morphing plasmoid" that "hovered over the area, leaving witnesses in awe." It asks if it's a natural phenomenon, UFO, or advanced tech, and links to footage. A post from @maniaUFO from 5th March, 2025, highlights the same footage, calls it "Another good sighting from last year" and also links to a video, suggesting it's older footage from 2024.



# THE CALVINE UFO: ANOTHER WITNESS

KRISTIAN LANDER

The Calvine UFO remains one of the most dramatic photographs ever taken of an apparent craft, a distinct large diamond hovering motionless and silently in the Pethshire sky, accompanied by a fast moving jet, likely a harrier. The subsequent pursuit of further details surrounding this image has become nearly as legendary within UFOlogy circles as the photograph itself.

Led in the most part by journalist Dr David Clarke of Sheffield Hallam University who throughout his career has been intrigued by the case. In 2022, a significant breakthrough emerged—the first in years—when Dr. Clarke contacted retired RAF officer Craig Lindsay, the initial officer to interview the witnesses, two chefs, following the incident in question. During their meeting, Lindsay revealed he had preserved something remarkable: a copy of one of the original 6 photographs, tucked away

in a drawer for over three decades, waiting for someone like Clarke to come seeking answers. The revelation was the image above. A black and white image on coloured paper, printed in 1990.

This revelation reignited persistent questions: Whose craft is it? What propulsion system enables its flight? Who—or what—is operating it? While these mysteries remain unanswered, the photograph's authenticity has been confirmed. Previously, only lower-resolution versions had surfaced through declassified documents released, but this clearer image has spurred renewed efforts to unravel the chain of events that began during a walk up a hill.

Many of the pieces have been put together, through tireless research so it is worthwhile to revisit with a summary.

# Seriously Strange

## The back story

The photographs were taken on August 4, 1990, two individuals described as hikers or hillwalkers near Calvine, a hamlet in Perthshire, Scotland. These two men, reportedly working as chefs at a hotel in Pitlochry at the time, captured six images of a diamond-shaped object in the sky, accompanied by a military jet. They submitted their photographs and negatives to the Scottish newspaper Daily Record, which then passed them to the British Ministry of Defence (MoD).

After this, both the original negatives and the photographers themselves seemingly disappeared from the public record. Despite extensive efforts to identify them, Dr. David Clarke, a gentleman who is no stranger to ASSAP, the photographers have not come forward. One name, Kevin Russell, has been linked to the incident, as it was written on the back of a surviving print by a Daily Record picture editor.

Russell is believed to have been a young Glaswegian working as a porter at the Pitlochry Hydro Hotel in 1990. However, despite attempts to locate him—contacting over 150 individuals named Kevin Russell across the UK and beyond—no one has confirmed being the photographer or provided a firsthand account. Another individual, Richard Grieve, who worked at the Fishers Hotel in Pitlochry around the same time, claimed the individuals were chefs there, but this lead has not definitively identified them either. The anonymity of the photographers persists, fuelled by the lack of official records and their failure to re-emerge despite the resurfacing of one photograph in 2022, regarded as one of the clearest UFO images ever taken.

Fellow Sheffield Hallam University alumni, Andrew Robinson, Senior Lecturer of Photography goes into minutiae to produce a comprehensive analysis on the photograph, from the kind of film and camera used, to the details in the photographs. Drawing conclusively regarding its authenticity, of a scene before the camera with no post-production or manipulation. Andrew provided the report of the "Photographic Analysis of the Calvine UFO photograph" ver 5, published in June 2024.

## How does the UK officially consider the phenomena of UFOs?

The last official statement from the United Kingdom regarding Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) or Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) was articulated on December 11, 2024, as reported by the UK Defence Journal.[2] This statement came from Jonathan Pollard, Deputy Head of Secretariat and Head of Corporate Services at the Ministry of Defence (MoD), in response to ongoing public and international interest in UAP, particularly in light of developments in the United States, such as the establishment of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) and congressional hearings on UAP.

The UK's stance, as outlined by Pollard, remains consistent with its position over the past several decades: the MoD does not consider UAP to represent a military threat to the United Kingdom based on available evidence. The statement emphasized that "in over 50 years, no sighting reported to the Department has indicated the existence of any military threat to the United Kingdom."

This echoes earlier positions, such as the one expressed in a 2021 House of Lords debate, where the MoD noted it had no plans to conduct its own UAP report, citing the lack of evidence of a threat after more than five decades of monitoring. The MoD has stated it "constantly monitors UK airspace to identify and respond to any credible threat," but it does not see UAP as falling into this category based on historical data.[3]



**Pitlochry Hydro Hotel.**

By David Dixon, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=125662809>

## The other witness.

In a recent video interview on the Joe Rogan Experience #2264 Guests are Lenval Logan & Jason Sands, Lenval Logan is a retired U.S. Air Force intelligence analyst and former UAP Task Force member. He is the CEO of Phenom LLC. Jason Sands is a retired U.S. Air Force veteran and former legacy UAP program member. His latest initiative, the Firsthand Fund, helps military UAP observers share their experiences. Lenval Logan shares information that builds even more layers to the famous case during his time in England, making for some revelatory commentary. When I was listening through on the day of this being made available, my ears and attention pricked up to his statements. The transcript of which can be read below, along with why this is so relevant to the case of Calvine.



## Joe Rogan Experience #2264

[01:47:34] Joe: And, Logan, have you had personal experiences other than the one when you were a child?

**Logan:** Yeah, but I didn't know what I was seeing. But, you know, like, after 'The Program' came out, I mean, not came out, but after James Foxx finished editing everything he sends me, he says, well, "you haven't seen everything put together, so here you go. And, you know, tell me if you, you know, don't like the way you look" or whatever and I'm going through the film and he starts showing. I see the stuff about Calvine. The Calvine Scotland image. Have you seen that one?

**Rogan:** Yes.

**Logan:** So that image was taken, if I remember correctly, in August 1990.

**Joe:** Pull that image up. [Joe to producer Jamie]

**Logan [to Jamie]** Yeah, you can just type in Calvine, ufo, whatever. So I'm going. I had just cross-trained from. Yeah, that one. [Jamie brings up the photograph on screen] I had just cross trained from maintenance into intelligence. And I was going to my first intel assignment. And I'm flying from Philadelphia to Frankfurt, Germany, to Rhinemein Air base somewhere between Iceland and Scotland. This thing [outside] is zipping around in the, in the clouds doing this Ziggy Zaggy thing. I don't know what he was doing, but he was doing this. The sun was just coming up and I'm eating a Philly cheesesteak

and the other guy's with me, he's eating a hoagie. And the other guy that's standing up over the top, I'm like, anybody know what that is? And they're like, dude, what is that?! And then all of a sudden, in my head, I'm like, oh, this is my first intel assignment. I'm gonna get clued into some cool ass shit. But I don't know what the hell that is. But I'm just thinking.

**Joe:** And it looks just like that?



## Seriously Strange

**Logan:** It looks just like that. And the way it was moving in the clouds, it was like, because of the shadow, it was like going from like that colour to like dark and then light again as it was moving in. And it would go into a cloud on one vector and come out on another vector. And I'm like like, what? What is that? So didn't know what was going on. So I called James Foxx back. I was like, dude, dude, where's this? Talk to me. You know, we're all excited. And he goes, explain to me everything. And what happened was I get to my unit and I talked to them and I go, we have a weapons tactics guy. He's, you know, they're the best of the best, and they're leading the group. And I was like, so what is that thing out there? And he goes, I have no idea what you're talking about. Now this is [happened] January of 1990. That picture is August of 1990. And what I didn't realize was that the Belgian wave, I don't know if you were familiar with that. A whole bunch of triangular devices were seen over Belgium for almost a whole year.

**Logan:** So they just call it the Belgian wave. Police officers saw it. They launched F16s after them, whatever.

**Joe:** Are there Photographs of that at all?

**Logan:** No, but the general that's in charge actually gave a briefing to everybody and showed what the F16 radar was seeing. And I guess every time they tried to get close to it, it would just pull away just far enough, you know, that they couldn't catch it. And then when they would try to cage it in the radar system, it would move to the left. You know, it was playing with them, so. But I didn't know any of that, so I just kind of was like, yeah, okay, I'm stupid. Maybe it was part of my imagination, but. But what I saw as a kid kept coming back into my head. So dead. The storm happens, whatever. And I'm at my base, and British AWACS shows up, and they're looking at me, and I still had my accent, my British accent. They're looking at me going, what are you flying with the Yanks for? And I go, what do you mean? They said, you know.

**Logan continues...** And I told them my family thing. They said, why don't you come fly with us? I'm like, sure. Let me ask my boss. My boss says, you ain't got nothing going on.

I go fly with them. So we're flying around, and finally I go. I go, hey, guys, what's that thing in the sky that does the Ziggy Zaggy thing? Do you know what I'm talking about? And they're like, you know. And I was like, no, I don't know. Don't play with me. And they're like, come on, Logan. You know? And then finally, they pull out this tape and they plug it in, and it shows Europe, with all of live current aircraft flying around. And you see this thing go through the middle of it real fast. Like all the other aircraft, the sweeper radar. You're just seeing these minute movements. This thing is like. It's gone. And I was like, who's that? And they go, you know? I was like, look, stop playing with me.

**Logan [AWACS crew to Logan]** "You know?"

**Logan:** Right?

**Logan:** Come to find out, they said, well, that's your SR71. And I was like, well, that ain't him. And they're like, okay. And then he looks at the other guy, and he said, show him the other one. And they show me this radar scope again. And this time there's a target in the middle of. Not in the middle of the screen, but off to the side. It was like. Could have been like, East Germany or whatever, but every sweep of the radar, he was somewhere else. And I was like, that guy. I was so excited. I said, that MF right there.

Who. Who's that guy, you know, and they go, you know, I was like, look, stop this. I don't know. And they finally said. Said, we don't know either. They said, we just assumed it was you Americans playing with us.

**[AWACS Crew to Logan]** Yeah, we don't know.

**Logan:** Everything's America if they can't explain it right.

In email correspondence with Dr David Clarke and Andrew Robinson, discussing the photograph and the composite image, crafted for a Channel 5 documentary in 2015, entitled "Alien Cover Up" for the series 'Conspiracies.' Former MoD staffer, Nick Pope working as consultant for the episode with a team involving an graphic artist. Sort to triangulate the location, with the intentional to recreate the image and making an animation. Using memory, references and the location area. David and Andrew highlight how this image is often referred to incorrectly as the genuine Calvine image, and has since been used in a number of documentaries and publications. Andrew also confirms a piece of information, it is not known conclusively the location where the famous photograph was taken.

A positive identification of the same, or similar vessel many months prior to the events of the Calvine UFO event, and then at a later date radar sweeps by a British AWACS crew, who aren't clued in to the identity, as Logan is asking them, and they think its exotic tech of the United States. The speculation is back to the forefront and we are left no closer to that definitive answer.

## Aurora

Some have suggested the unique craft may have been the 'Aurora' a fabled next generation successor to the SR71 Blackbird, with the designation of SR-91. The title of 'Aurora' has turned up in declassified and leaked documents over the years, allegedly capable of sub-orbital flight. In the mid-1980s, the term "Aurora" appeared in a U.S. budget document, tied to a \$455 million allocation for "black aircraft production" in fiscal year 1987, as reported by outlets like Aviation Week & Space Technology. This sparked theories that it was a top-secret project, possibly developed by Lockheed's Skunk Works. In 1989, Chris Gibson, an oil exploration engineer and Royal Observer Corps member, reported seeing a triangular aircraft refuelling over the North Sea, escorted by F-111s and a KC-135 tanker. He couldn't identify it despite his expertise.

The SR-71 Blackbird was retired from service in 1990, leaving a gap that suggests a successor must have been developed—or at least planned. In 2006, the British Ministry of Defence released a report, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region. As well as aviation writer Bill Sweetman interpreted as hinting at a replacement for the SR-71. This successor, potentially the rumored Project Aurora, was described as capable of Mach 4-6 speeds—a hypersonic leap beyond

conventional aircraft. Yet, despite its promise, Aurora may have been shelved. Post-Cold War budget cuts, combined with the rise of drones and satellites offering greater capability at lower cost and risk, likely shifted priorities away from such an ambitious manned aircraft.

## What are we looking at?

You have the eyewitness accounts adding intrigue to the mystery. Lenval Logan, for instance, described an aircraft whose behaviour didn't match that of a conventional jet—its movements too unconventional, too fluid, "ziggy zaggy!". Similarly, the photograph taken by the chef capturing the iconic diamond-shaped craft that defies the profile of traditional wing-lifted aircraft, which has rely on constant motion to stay aloft. Unlike the Harrier, a jet that hovers, this object's size and shape stand out as uncharacteristic. If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck—but this iconic, diamond-shaped craft is no duck. It hints at something extraordinary, perhaps a glimpse of the Aurora legend that never fully faded. But this looks to be something else entirely!

## Source:

Joe Rogan Experience #2264 timestamp 1:47:30 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ2YwE0R-xM>

<http://www.ukdefencejournal.org.uk>  
- 11th December 2024 - "Ministry of Defence responds to UAP questions"

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-30/debates/C3B3E127-A168-4315-A1C9-B4D7CC80895D/UnidentifiedFlyingObject>

Photographic Analysis of the Calvine UFO photograph, Andrew Robinson, Senior lecturer in Photography, Sheffield Hallam University.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11106737/Most-spectacular-UFO-photo-captured-glimpse-secret-Aurora-spy-plane-program.html>

Calvine UFO photograph "with permission of Craig Lindsay / Sheffield Hallam University".

<https://www.defenceaviation.com/sr-91-aurora-aircraft/>

"Secret WarPlanes of Area 51," published in Popular Science on June 4, 2006

"Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" - UK Ministry of Defence 2006. DEFE 24/3152/1 National Archives.

- "Research and development on hypersonic technology is expanding, principally in the USA. The projected (USAF) priority plan is to produce unpiloted air-breathing aircraft with a Mach 8-12 capability and transatmospheric vehicles which can operate between the upper air-breathing and sub-orbital flight regimes, as well as highly supersonic vehicles at Mach 4 to 6."

# Seriously Strange

## The Rise of New UFOlogy

by Ben Emlyn-Jones

Throughout history, there have been paradigm shifts; which is a bit of a fringe buzzword, but it does have a definition in mainstream science. Centuries ago, we used to believe that there were only three continents on the Earth, and then we discovered three more.

We used to think that life and nature were miraculous, beyond all rational understanding; then Charles Darwin and other scientists proved that wrong. Geologists and cosmologists joined biologists in proving that the universe and Earth are far older than is claimed by the Book of Genesis. Sigmund Freud and the other psychoanalysts revealed secrets about the human mind that were universally rejected before. There are still a handful of people living in the world today who rebuff the above revolutions of knowledge, but everybody else laughs at them.

Conversely, in the days those breakthroughs took place, the pioneers of the new paradigms had supporters. They were also ridiculed and persecuted. It looks like a pattern is emerging here. Human society currently exists in a paradigm that says Earth is a tiny oasis of life in an infinite cosmic desert, what Carl Sagan called a "pale blue dot". Of course, many people disagree, but it's one thing to think outside the paradigm privately or among friends, another altogether to have your beliefs confirmed by the fatherly archetype of government.

One can believe in aliens without your friends sending you X-Files DVDs in the secret Santa bag, so long as you think they're millions of light-years away on their own planets; which is the basis of SETI – the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence. We humans have taken our first tentative steps out into the cosmos and have made remarkable progress. It's only a hundred and twenty years since

the first aeroplane took off, but we have a permanently manned space station in orbit and plans to visit Mars.

Given another few centuries, we may well have reached distant planets orbiting the stars and become the UFOs in their skies. So why is it that on no account can they ever reach us? Maybe it's time to accept that it's likely that they not only can, but have?

Contrary to popular stereotypes, most UFOlogists have not forgotten what the U stands for. UFOs, or UAP as they're officially called now, are anything you see that flies which you cannot identify. (The term UAP was adopted so officials could drop the cultural baggage associated with the term UFO and its connotations with tin foil hats and anoraks, etc.

Ironically, "UFO" was coined by the CIA's Robertson panel in 1952 for the very same reason.) Some UFOs will be unusual aircraft, balloons, or even kites. One of the biggest secrets the government keeps is its secret aviation projects: new fighter jets and reconnaissance aircraft, and their capabilities. It is very important to test and operate them in places where nobody can see them; hence locations like Area 51 and RAF Machrihanish. Of course, it is impossible to be sure that nobody will see an experimental military aircraft while it is flying in the open sky.

I think some UFO sightings are of just these aircraft. Perhaps governmental officials breathe a sigh of relief if somebody sees one and mistakes it for an alien visitor. There is a notion that the UFO phenomenon itself is some kind of engineered neo-mythology created by the intelligence services as psychological warfare to launder more down-to-earth covert projects. This is not very original, and it is in fact somewhat fashionable at the moment.

However, it is actually rather implausible when you consider how easily and badly it could backfire. Drawing somebody's attention towards something with the

ultimate objective of deflecting it away is a very risky gambit, so much so that I think we can reject it on theoretical grounds.

Disinformation tends to be reactive, not proactive. I suspect we are dealing with some kind of elaborate double-bluff, but that's a long story. There are other reasons to postulate that some UFOs are made by a non-human intelligence. Firstly, their behaviour. Experimental aircraft avoid contact with the public, as I've already stated, so they would not be flying low over cities as they are regularly reported to do, sometimes almost at ground level. They would also not interfere with the missions of bona fide forces such as the US Navy. Another reason is their antiquity. People have been reporting what we call UFOs and aliens throughout history. They certainly predate the invention of piston engine aeroplanes and even balloons.

So what are they? If they've travelled through space, then they must have come from a long way off, many light-years. Are they living creatures or some kind of robot? Maybe they fly through wormholes to skip the long distances between the stars, or even come from parallel universes. Maybe they are more than one phenomenon that we have generically categorized incorrectly under a single umbrella term.

Up until now, UFOlogy has all been about the question: Are they real? Perhaps it's time to move on to new questions: Okay, they are real, so what are they? And what do we do about it? If I had to meet one of these beings and be some kind of representative for my species and my planet, what could I tell them? I'm not sure. We need to start finding answers quickly, though. Several statesmen across the world have now almost admitted that they exist. The next paradigm shift will be the understanding that we actually exist in a universe that is alive. We share it with other intelligent beings. The ontological shock will stun us, but I'm confident that, like with the other paradigm shifts, we will adjust.

# WEIRD SCIENCE

## PATENTS AND PUBLISHED RESEARCH BENDING THE RULES ON REALITY

### The Art of Walking Through Walls

What if the solid world—wooden doors, stone walls, the very fabric of reality—could part like a whisper before your stride? Such is the audacious dream of the “Walking Through Walls Training System,” a patented marvel (US 2006/0014125 A1, unveiled Jan. 19, 2006) that dares to blur the line between science and sorcery. Conceived by John Quincy St. Clair, this invention method aims to unshackle the human spirit, cloaked in flesh, and hurl it into the shimmering realm of hyperspace—where walls dissolve, levitation beckons, and the impossible unfurls like a rose in bloom.

Picture yourself as more than mere mortal: a hyperspace being, radiant with energy, housed in a vessel of 67% water—a liquid key to dimensional escape. The patent spins a tale of seven sacred vortices spiraling along your frame, each a portal to a cosmic frequency.

There’s the crown vortex, whispering secrets across 100,000 light years; the spiritual eye, a misty cone peering into infinity; the voice, echoing through vast gulfs; and the heart, a shield of ethereal light. Lower still, the abdomen guards, the plasma “battery”—a glowing orb—fuels, and the grounding vortex anchors. Hands, too, whirl with energy, threading a dance between palms. These are no mere metaphors but engines of transcendence, primed to lift you from this mundane plane. If these sound and read familiar, they resemble the Chakra system, Kaballah tree, Enochs/Metatron cube of 7 points down the human body once activated having the ability to create a field of hyper-dimensional physics to press forward and move through doors and walls.

Allegedly...



(19) **United States**  
 (12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) Pub. No.: **US 2006/0014125 A1**  
 St. Clair (43) Pub. Date: **Jan. 19, 2006**

(54) **WALKING THROUGH WALLS TRAINING SYSTEM** (22) Filed: **Jul. 14, 2004**

(76) Inventor: **John Quincy St. Clair, San Juan, PR (US)** Publication Classification  
 (51) Int. Cl. **G09B 19/00 (2006.01)**  
 (52) U.S. Cl. **434/258**  
 (57) **ABSTRACT**  
 This invention is a training system which enables a human being to acquire sufficient hyperspace energy in order to pull the body out of dimension so that the person can walk through solid objects such as wooden doors.

Correspondence Address:  
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**4A**  
**52 KINGS COURT**  
**SAN JUAN, PR 00911 (US)**

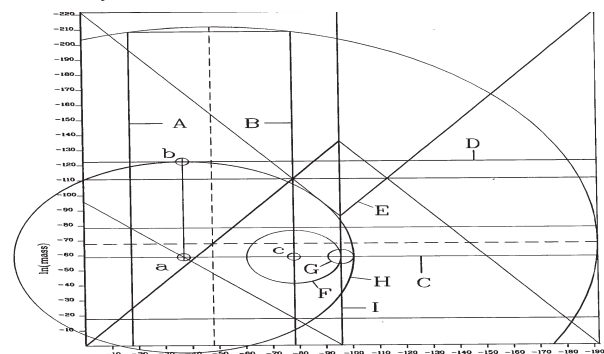
(21) Appl. No.: **10/890,635**

The method? A ritual of motion, a choreography of momentum. Cross your arms—right over left, as a Peruvian saint once did—and stride with purpose, each step a beat in a cosmic metronome.

### There’s math! A lot of math!

For a soul weighing 220 pounds, it’s 20.08 inches per second, a cadence etched onto a banner by a computer’s arcane calculations. Six strides, the patent murmurs, and a vortex swirls above your head, locking onto your heart like a lover’s gaze. Suddenly, you’re not here—not fully.

The Planck box, that gossamer edge where water’s mass kisses its energy, trembles. You slip through wood as if it were mist, a ghost in your own story.



This isn't mere fancy; it's adorned with the trappings of physics—tetrahedron diagrams tracing water molecules against Planck's mystic boundaries, frequencies humming at 1-5 Hz, momentum (50.91 kg·m/s) as the golden thread.

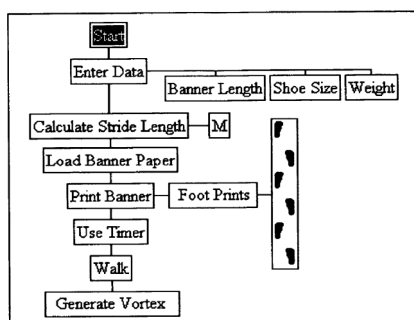
Along with historical references and contemporary to the author of strange phenomena. History nods to an individual named San Martin de Porres, a 16th-century friar, who glided through convent doors, a jail cell and his levitating form a testament to the apparent ability within us all.

The patent writers claim the experiments conducted, contain an account of a man and a dog moving through a door! Perhaps he stood before that door—oaken, weathered, bound the reality of the physical world—and felt the Planck boundary quiver. Beside him, his dog—let's call it a wiry terrier, eyes bright with canine curiosity—tilted its head, sensing the shift. A pat on the head and a treat later. Did the dog's tail wag as it emerged on the other side, unscathed, its paws clicking on new ground? The patent offers no flourish, only fact: he'd done it, and the dog came too. This wasn't mere trickery; it was proof, the inventor insists, of vortices vast enough to drag flesh and fur beyond our cage of space.

A modern disciple, with vortices apparently spanning four inches around his hand, mirrored this feat, motioning through a physical table, even hoisting others aloft with a touch.

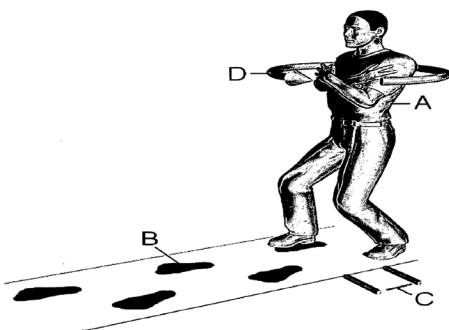
Patent Application Publication Jan. 19, 2006 Sheet 16 of 20 US 2006/0014125 A1

Figure 16



Patent Application Publication Jan. 19, 2006 Sheet 9 of 20 US 2006/0014125 A1

Figure 9



Reminded very much of Harry Potter and the 9 3/4 platform at Kings Cross. The Hogwarts Express beyond the wall within a magical realm, you have to be moving a certain pace and with the correct frame of mind otherwise, it's nothing more than a solid wall of brick.

Yet, its allure lies in its daring: a blueprint to waltz with the universe's hidden rhythms, to tread where saints and dreamers have ventured.

Step onto that banner laid out upon the floor, hear the beep, and dare to believe—perhaps the wall ahead is but a curtain, waiting to part.

For science...



So I prepared my willing guinea pig... \*cough I mean fellow scientist with instructions. Admittedly there was no methodical stepping method or pace prepped, just sent her towards the door with her arms folded like an Egyptian mummy. The wooden internal door prevailed in this initial test of matter.

To read the 27 page patent, "Walking through walls training system".  
<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/patent/US-2006014125-A1>  
<https://patents.google.com/patent/US20060014125A1/en>



# Seriously Strange

The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena

*The vastness beyond our pale blue sphere ignites both wonder and dread. Are we solitary in the boundless depths of the cosmos, or do others traverse the stars? The Drake Equation teases a galaxy rich with potential—its numbers suggesting a smattering of civilizations may have clawed their way off their native rocks, stated fires, pushed into the industrial age, before leaping to roam the void. Yet how many truly breach that frontier, and how long do they persist before flickering out? I asked some colleagues of the unusual for their views and thoughts to some fundamental questions.*



## Developed by Astronomer Frank Drake, the equation

The Drake Equation is a formula used to estimate the number of active, communicative extraterrestrial civilizations in our galaxy.

$$N = R \times f_p \times n_e \times f_l \times f_i \times f_c \times L^*$$

Where:

N = The number of civilizations in the Milky Way galaxy with which communication might be possible.

R\* = The average rate of star formation in our galaxy.

f<sub>p</sub> = The fraction of those stars that have planetary systems.

n<sub>e</sub> = The average number of planets per star that can potentially support life.

f<sub>l</sub> = The fraction of those planets that actually develop life.

f<sub>i</sub> = The fraction of planets with life that develop intelligent life.

f<sub>c</sub> = The fraction of planets with intelligent life that develop civilizations capable of interstellar communication.

L = The length of time such civilizations remain detectable (i.e., their "lifetime" of communication). 180.

With the declaration from the White House that the Drones of New Jersey were known to the F.A.A. and all was well, there is nothing to see here carry on everyone. Meaning the crafts were known and their purpose understood. The veritable mix of varied descriptions does suggest anomalous craft were possibly active in the period.

Reports of Black Triangles, Manta Ray shapes and like these images right, that were dropped recently onto the anonymous posting board of 4chans paranormal board, a few weeks ago with no context or source data other than the words "crash retrieval". Dropped in the midst of the world was recoiling from revelations of the acknowledgement of SAP Special Access Programs for exotic craft retrievals, followed by an additional account. Video footage presented on News Nation special report entitled, "Hunting UFOs: The Crash Retrieval whistle-blower", a programme featuring Jake Barber, a verified U.S. Air Force veteran, Barber told Ross Coulthart of News Nation. Of the recovery of an egg-shaped anomalous object, on a long tether.

"Just visually looking at the object on the ground, you could tell that it was extraordinary and anomalous," Barber said. "It was not human."

He added: "It's inconsistent with anything I'd ever seen before. I can also tell you that the reaction by my team, we all knew we were dealing with something extraordinary."

Human-made? Alien? Unknown-origins?  
Military contractor black projects?

**What's the best reason to think UAP's aren't just human-made, and how does that stack up against the idea they could be secret advanced tech from a nation-state?**

*Dave Hodrien of BUFOG, (Birmingham UFO Group)*

"There are thousands of cases on record, some extremely detailed and compelling, which involve non-human entities seen either on board or in proximity to UAPs. These cases include aerial sightings of UAPs with windows and beings seen inside, landing cases with beings walking around nearby, crash retrieval cases with dead beings discovered/live beings captured, and contact experiences where beings have either emerged from a UAP and interacted with one or more people or where people have been taken aboard a waiting UAP and later returned. Flight



characteristics of UAPs are sometimes extremely advanced, far in excess of anything we publicly have available or can probably be built in secret. These characteristics have been observed and reported for decades. They include instant acceleration, instant turns, trans-medium travel, appearance/disappearance in a clear sky, noted time distortion or other environmental effects. UAPs are regularly observed world-wide, this is a global phenomenon. They are regularly reported over areas of high population, if they were secret advanced tech they would logically not fly over such areas in plain sight of people."

**Dr Robert Radakovic:** Some of the observed physical movements of the UAPs would appear to be well ahead of current human technology, even assuming that common knowledge of technology is probably 30-50 years behind what military and private sectors are actually capable of.

## Seriously Strange

It is unlikely that any of the major technological nations has capabilities which far exceed that of the others. We would see other evidence as a consequence, such as an overly aggressive foreign policy without any real fear of retaliation."

"One should not forget to consider trans-dimensional (human or ET), trans-temporal (human or ET), parallel humanity (eg. long hidden human communities in areas such as Antarctica) or even a purely spiritual existence to explain the UAPs and associated phenomena."

**Alan Jones:** "...does not explain the burning questions often asked by academia and the ordinary punter, can our understanding of known physics explain the mechanics of that is coined by many today as the standard model of ufology? The 5 key observable that characterized the behaviours of UAP's do not fit within the current scientific understanding of our physics and aeronautics.

1, Instantaneous Acceleration:- UAP's have been observed to reach velocities thousands of miles per hour in mere seconds.

2, Hypersonic Velocities without Signatures:- This suggests that UAP's are able to operate under principles of aerodynamics and thermodynamics that are yet not understood.

3, Low Observability or Cloaking:- Many UAP's exhibit the ability to remain undetected on radar or other detection methods. This raises the questions about materials and technologies which far surpass our current stealth capabilities.

4, Trans-medium Travel:- UAP's have been seen moving seamlessly between different environments, such as air, water and possibly space, without apparent loss of control or performance.

5, Positive Lift or Anti-Gravity Capabilities:- UAP's seem to hover, ascend or move in any direction with apparent ease, suggesting a form of Anti-Gravity technology. This defies our current understanding of gravity and lift.

Hence we are not alone in the cosmos.

**Ian Liston-Smith:** Maybe not human made advanced tech because who was making them that perform this way decades ago? And if it was this advanced human tech back in say the 1940s, I'd have expected some wider evidence and use by now. I'm not sure they are 'craft' anyway, but maybe some sort of mass-less plasma of unknown (but maybe natural) origin.



If the occupants of UAP are of non-terrestrial origin, coming as observers or visitors and you were someone they greeted, what would you show them or tell them about humanity?

**Marc Brookes:** "As I imagine showing them the latest phone or electric car might be pretty underwhelming, maybe sharing some of our art and culture might be more impressive? So I'd share Break Stuff by Limp Bizkit naturally.

**John Wright:** If I was lucky enough to make first contact with a non-terrestrial being I would like to think I would be composed enough to show them that we are a young civilisation and willing to learn how the universe works bit by bit and very willing to trust in others to guide us with extra knowledge and wisdom.

**Dave Hodrien:** "I would tell them that we are a very complex species, capable of great things, but also capable of dreadful atrocities. I would ask them not to judge all human beings in the same way, Could potentially hitch a lift and tick them off my bucket list"



**Kelsie:** Take them to some of the world sites, you know like Balbek, the pyramids, but they might turn around and say, yeah we put them here.

Given that surviving space or other planets might require us to become cybernetic or biologically enhanced, what do you think that suggests about the nature of UAPs—could they be piloted by beings who've already adapted that way, and what might that look like based on current evidence?

**John Wright:** I feel that there pilotless crafts sent out to observe the distant planets and report back on the findings. When we send probes out into the universe we don't send human beings we send artificial intelligence not fragile beings, but yet again we don't have any hard evidence to back up any of it.

**Dave Hodrien:** From the many close encounter and contact cases on record it is clear that UAPs are highly technical in nature. They often appear seamless with no rivets, joins or bolts visible. They can seemingly phase in and out of our visible spectrum, and are often not detectable on radar, potentially suggesting they are multi-dimensional

in nature or have complex stealth capabilities. There are many aspects which suggest they are extremely advanced. The most commonly reported type/species of entity linked with UAPs is what we have coined the Greys. These beings are often reported as being devoid of emotion, cold and un-caring. They are often unclothed and do not appear to possess navels or reproductive organs. One theory supported by some is that they are biological or synthetic robots built to survive deep space (or multi-dimensional) travel. While this theory is certainly interesting, it should be noted that there are many cases where Greys have held detailed telepathic discussions with individuals or seemingly expressed emotions."

"In recent years there have been efforts, particularly in the USA, to get governmental and military bodies to come forward with what they know about the UAP subject. Many individuals who have held extremely high positions have stated that some UAPs are non-human in origin, and many highly credible witnesses have come forward to give testimonies on what they have seen or uncovered. I would say we are closer now than ever to getting some kind of official acknowledgement. However, what has been seen time and time again is that those who wish to try and reveal this information tend to hit a brick wall. Those in charge of covering up this information have too much to lose and not enough to gain from revealing what they know. It is widely believed by many that crashed/downed UAPs have been recovered. If so then those in charge of this recovery are going to want to use this advanced technology for their own benefits, military or otherwise. If disclosure were to take place then everyone would want to study this technology and want joint ownership of it. In addition to this people would lose trust in their government because they would realise that they have been lied to for many years regarding the true nature of UAPs. There are also darker elements of the subject including abductions and mutilations which would be very upsetting to many people. I feel that disclosure is the right thing to do, and I would be thrilled if it were to take place (It would vindicate all the time I put into investigating and writing case reports for a start). Something as big and profound as this should be openly known about by everyone. It has many implications for our future as a species and our views on the wider universe. But it has to be handled in the right way. I wait with baited breath to see what happens in the coming months and years, it's certainly an interesting time to be involved with this subject!"



# UFO close encounters and vehicle-engine failure

By Ian Liston-Smith

Discussing the general subject of UFOs (recently re-branded UAP - Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - by the US military) has become almost respectable since the June 2021 publication of the Pentagon's UAP report. The report didn't reveal anything dramatic, just more or less stating; "These objects have been seen by military personnel and recorded by various sensor platforms doing manoeuvres impossible for our technology. There's no suggestion that they are from a foreign adversary [or of alien origin], but the matter requires further research." [1] There is an interesting and fairly well documented aspect of the phenomena. Over the decades hundreds of reports from across the world have accumulated of motor vehicle engines cutting out during a close encounter with a UFO.

The vehicle appears to act almost as an instrument - independent of the witness - in reacting to the event, sometimes reacting even before the witness saw anything unusual. The data seems to reveal a particular response suggesting the effect is genuine, as we shall see later. But to illustrate the phenomenon, here are some typical examples:

The first reported instance I could find was from 1909 - not of a car but a motorbike - when on 19 May at 1130 pm in Wroxham, Norfolk, a lone motorcyclist saw a globular light travelling in a straight trajectory overhead. During its passage, the motorcycle headlamp failed to operate. He stopped his machine when this occurred, but the headlamp began to operate once the object moved away and out of sight. [2] [\*]

## Seriously Strange

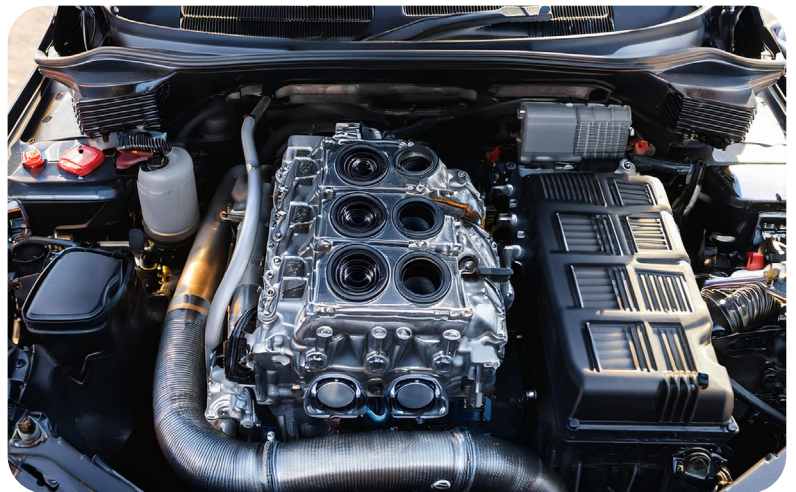
Another was near RAF Fairford, Wiltshire, in 1969 (exact date unknown) where a family felt the air become electrified as the engine stalled and the car lights went out. Their dog became quite agitated. They then saw three disc-shaped metallic objects moving in a V-formation high overhead. The car engine could be restarted after the discs had disappeared. [3]

Our next curious report is of an incident near Sopley, Hampshire, on 6 November 1967 where a cigar-shaped object - bright, phosphorescent green with a white bottom - approached a diesel lorry. The driver reported that the lights and radio went off but the engine continued running. He stopped his vehicle about 60 feet away from the object, which was moving now no more than 10 feet above the road. A Jaguar car approached the scene during the sighting and its electrics and engine failed. When the object moved slowly up into the sky both the truck and car then operated normally. [4]

In the final example a red luminous disc passed over two tractors in Forli, Italy, on 14 November 1954. One tractor had a diesel engine and the other a petrol engine. The diesel tractor continued to operate, but the other tractor's engine stopped and could not be started until the UFO had vanished. [5]

These last two cases reveal a very interesting response which I hinted at above; the observation that diesel engines have rarely been reported to stall during a UFO encounter. Diesel engines don't have spark plugs, and nearly always continue to run during such an event, although their lights may dim or extinguish until the object moves away.

This petrol/diesel engine anomaly is the sort of observation that is unlikely to be erroneous or fictitious as it shows up in the data only when there are a sufficient number of reports. I think it lends credibility to there being a real phenomenon that is yet to be explained. It also implies that whatever UFOs are, they are associated with strong electrostatic or electromagnetic effects.

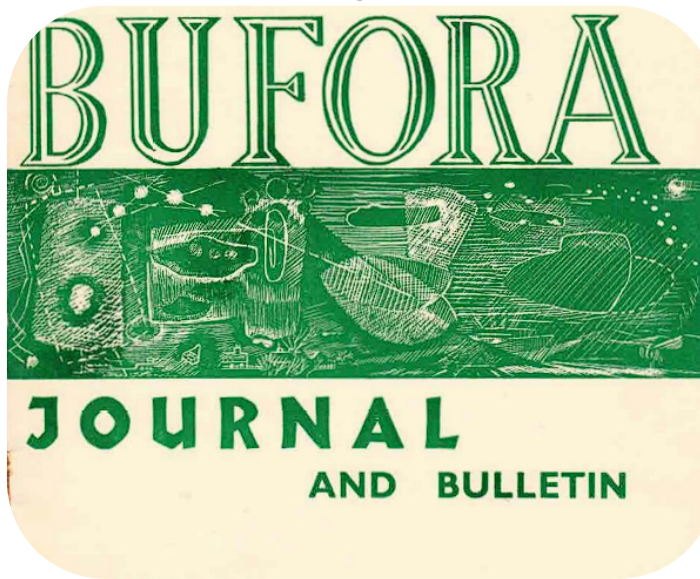


Most of the reports I have found are years, sometimes decades old. Unfortunately I have not found any contemporary reports relating to modern petrol and diesel vehicles having complex electronic engine-management systems. Such cases might give insight as to whether modern vehicles are more or less susceptible, and this data would very likely throw more light on the phenomenon.

There are two main theories as to what's happening regarding close-encounter engine stalling. One is that strongly ionised air reduces or prevents sparking at the plugs. The suggestion being that the glowing appearance around the object is a plasma, and this ionises the air around the object for some considerable distance. The ionised air prevents the the charge from building up sufficiently to allow a spark in the plug. Diesel engines (with mechanically controlled injectors) ignite the fuel by compression so they don't have an electrical input to keep running.

The other theory is that some form of very strong magnetic field interferes with the vehicle's electrical system, possibly by saturating the ignition-coil core and reducing its ability to generate high voltages for the spark plugs. BUFORA carried out an experiment in 1964 which, although not proving the case engine stalls were caused by strong magnetic fields, did provide some interesting supporting evidence. [6]

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I'm minded to think this latter theory is the more plausible explanation, as it would also help explain some of the other noted effects on a vehicle's electrical systems and the occasionally reported localised interference with power distribution, radio and TV reception. But wouldn't a strong magnetic field leave significant residual magnetism in the vehicle's steel parts so be easily confirmed as an after-effect? Yes, if the magnetic field is not changing and is unidirectional like a that of the Earth, or a magnet. However, some observations suggest that the magnetic field is slowly oscillating, and as the object moves away the alternating field diminishes and demagnetises the vehicle, in exactly the same way that professional magnetic tape bulk erasers work. Nevertheless there have been cases where

residual magnetism has been reported - including magnetising mechanical watches.

The magnetic field theory - whether it's an alternating field or not - is further supported by a case in Spain in February 1978 when a close encounter not only stopped the engine and magnetised the driver's watch, but it also apparently partially wiped a cassette tape. Unfortunately, given the number of cars that would have had music cassettes and cartridges, this is the only case I can find where the recording might have been demagnetised by the UFO. I expect the magnetic strip on bank and credit cards would also be affected - but again, I've not found any data for this. [7]

I recently came across a third aspect to this which may prove relevant. Ross Coulthart mentions in his recent book 'In Plain Site' that the US military have identified a very specific microwave signature surrounding some of these objects. Apparently this has been known about since at least the 1980s, since it was mentioned by research academic Jacques Valee Ph.D in a TV interview with Jeffry Mishlove back in October 1986. [8]

These electro-magnetic events are a special class of UFO encounter, which open the possibility for a UFO detection method. From the early 1960s UFO detectors of varying sophistication have been available to the public.

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- Ash Ellis

# Seriously Strange

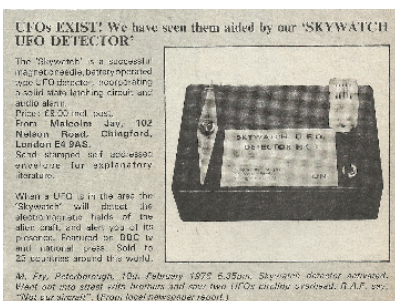
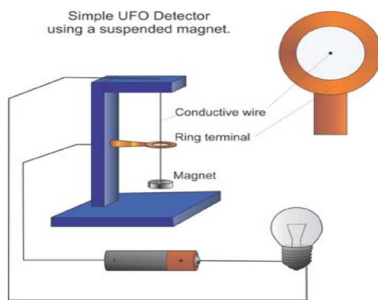
Serious UFO detection requires monitoring of many parameters. For example changes in background radiation; wide-band radio emission from ELF to beyond microwaves; radar interference; tiny changes in gravity and of course detecting the anomalous motion of aerial objects. This type of analysis is being carried out in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, where researcher Chris O'Brien is monitoring some of these parameters. [9]

This is a complex and expensive undertaking, but for decades followers of the UFO enigma have been encouraged to undertake their own monitoring using various magnetic anomaly detectors. Flying Saucer Review (FSR) published an all electronic detector circuit back in 1968. In the 1970s researcher Ray Stanford tried to establish a network of UFO detectors with his Project Starlight International, describing in his leaflet a couple of simple magnets-on-a-wire designs for people to make at home. As a teenager I remember saving up for the 'Skywatch UFO Detector' advertised in FSR for many years. Various electronics magazines have published construction details - often with a tongue-in-cheek attitude - and DIY plans of differing complexities are available from the internet. For the past few years even Amazon has been selling one. [10]

Some time ago I built one of my own detector/magnetometer using a Hall effect compass module. Like all the others mentioned, it is relatively crude and un-calibrated, but it has been triggered a number of times, although I doubt the cause was extra-terrestrial in origin!

All these designs are just basic magnetometers. There is already a network across the world of precision magnetometers for detecting changes in the Earth's magnetosphere caused by solar flares, coronal mass ejections, etc. But perhaps they are not sufficient in number nor designed to detect the relatively rapid changes the UFO phenomenon might create.

In the September 2015 edition of Fortean Times, Jenny Randles was prompted by 'Preston' - a mutual acquaintance - to write a piece about UFO detectors and how modern communications could create a network of devices. Although an interesting proposal, and an updated version of Ray Stanford's project that ended in the 1970s, nothing came of the suggestion. In conclusion, I have no idea what UFOs are, but I'm pretty sure a small percentage are a real, genuinely witnessed, unexplained phenomenon. To the surprise of many, the recent Pentagon report actually confirms this. The obscure reaction of different types of vehicle engine seems to indicate that these are not all just misidentified objects - they are real and create an observable specific pattern. Of course it remains to be seen what effect close encounters will have on electric cars.



## NOTES:

- [1] <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Preliminary-Assessment-UAP-20210625.pdf>
- [2] East Anglian Daily Times, May 21, 1909
- [\*] Newspapers at this time were full of reports of airships, including some on the same page this motorcycle story appeared. This is probably what the motorcyclist saw.
- [3] FSR Case Histories, Supplement no. 3
- [4] Spacelink, Vol. 5, no. 1
- [5] NICAP report, June 1960
- [6] <https://bufora.org.uk/documents/BUFORAjournalVolume1No.2Autumn1964.pdf>
- [7] FSR, Vol 30, no. 3
- [8] <https://youtu.be/sP10HPJkJ4Q>
- [9] [www.ourstrangeplanet.com/](http://www.ourstrangeplanet.com/)
- [10] <http://forteanblog.blogspot.com/2011/02/ufo-detector.html>

Ian Liston - Smith has contributed to ASSAP a number of times, offering thought provoking discussion from a grounded perspective - <https://otparanormal.wixsite.com/mysite-1/blog>  
'Are you A SLider?' examining reports of SLI (Street Light Interference) and 'Can you hear that?' Diving into the mysterious phenomena of The Hum are recommended reading.

# The Ghost Hunter, the Pigeon and a Victoria Sponge Cake...

By those who dare not speak their name

### Setting the story

Several weeks ago, I received a late morning call from a lady, who for the purposes of this narrative I will refer to as Liz. Liz lives in Kent, near to the coast. When I answered the call, Liz began by asking if I was "Steve, the ghost hunter?" When I replied that I fitted that description, Liz went on to explain that she had got my number from a friend of hers who lives in Pembrokeshire, adding that she herself lived in Kent but was calling on behalf of her mother, who I shall call Doris.

### The all

Liz continued, saying that I may find her enquiry a little bit odd; her mother had been hearing noises from upstairs in her house and that she was saying that her house was haunted, although she herself, was sure that it wasn't. Liz described how her mother and father had retired to Pembrokeshire more than fifteen years earlier and that her father, had died the previous year leaving Doris living alone. Liz did suggest that her mother move to live with her in Kent but Doris had no intentions of leaving her house and was a fiercely independent lady in her nineties.

Doris had mobility problems which prevented her from going up and down the stairs and as a result, she now lived entirely on the ground floor of the two-floor property. Doris had an agency employed carer, who visits twice each week and a family friend takes her to the shops once a week.

### The ghosts that never was

Liz explained that she normally calls her mother each evening and for the past few days Doris has been saying that she has been hearing noises coming from upstairs. The noises, according to Doris, sounded like someone moving about, opening doors and rummaging around. The sounds had begun a few days earlier but they were now beginning to worry Doris and she was becoming anxious that the house may be haunted. Liz then said that she was absolutely sure that it wasn't, although the house did look a bit creepy, it wasn't haunted. She then described how when her father was alive, he would often joke around and say that the house was haunted or blame the ghost whenever something fell or got lost.

She went on to explain that the property was originally built in the 1800's as a farm workers cottage and that when her parents first bought it, the property had needed a lot of modernisation. Whilst they were

excavating the old earth floor beneath the rear part of the house (now the conservatory and kitchen). A skeleton of a small mammal was found, maybe a cat, maybe a dog. Liz couldn't remember which. She described how her father who always loved a joke would often say that the ghost of the poor animal could be heard wandering around and knocking things over or occasionally stealing food from the kitchen cabinets. In reality, these incidents were almost always her father, who was fond of helping himself to an occasional snack and whenever Liz's mother asked where the food had gone, he would often reply that the ghost must have taken it.

In his later years, following a stroke, her father had become a little bit clumsy and would occasionally drop things or not put them away correctly so that they would fall and again he always used to blame the ghost.

### The sounds

Returning to the sounds that Doris has been hearing. According to Liz; the first time her mother mentioned she had heard the sounds was earlier the same week, just as she was settling down to watch the early evening news on television. Doris had apparently considered calling the Police but when the sounds quickly stopped, she wasn't sure if she was simply imagining them or if they had come from outside, though she lived in a quiet cul-de-sac.

On the following evening, while Doris was watching the evening news. She had heard the sounds again. She told Liz that the second time she heard them, she had muted the television and listened. They definitely seemed to be coming from the upstairs of her house but she couldn't place exactly whereabouts they were coming from. Doris said it sounded like someone was quietly moving about, rustling things and what she thought might have been a child speaking.

As she was listening, the sounds stopped and after listening for several more minutes and hearing nothing she turned up the volume on the television.

It was on the second evening, during their normal 9pm chat that Doris first mentioned that she had been hearing strange sounds coming from upstairs earlier that evening and also on the previous evening.

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Doris said that the noises didn't last very long but that she was worried that someone may have broken in to the house and that she had considered calling the Police but when the noises stopped, she thought that it was her imagination and she didn't want to worry the Police unnecessarily or appear to be foolish.

Liz said to me that she regretted what she said next but when her mother mentioned the sounds, she joked about it possibly being the ghost cat or dog wandering about up the stairs. Liz told her mother that if she heard the sounds again, then she should call the Police. Liz also suggested that her mother should ask the carer, who was due to visit the following morning to have a look upstairs to see if anything was amiss.

### **You need to call a priest**

When Liz called the following evening, Doris said that she had asked her carer if she would mind taking a look upstairs and had explained that she had been hearing noises on the previous evenings and that she was

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concerned that maybe someone was getting in and rummaging around. Doris apparently also mentioned what Liz had said during the previous evening's call about it possibly being a ghost. The carer declined to go up the stairs, saying that she wasn't having anything to do with ghosts and that Doris needed to call a priest and have the house blessed.

### Becoming anxious

On the fourth evening, Doris again turned up the television sound and was watching the news when she heard what she thought was a loud bump from upstairs. She immediately muted the television and called out that she was calling the police. She heard nothing further and again decided that perhaps it was just her imagination and not wishing to trouble the police or appear foolish she decided not to call them. Later that evening, when Liz called her. Doris told her that she had heard a bump and suggested perhaps the house is haunted as Dad once said. Liz explained that her father was only joking about there being a ghost but Doris argued asking why would he say such a thing. Liz then tried to explain, but it was clear that her mother became cross at this suggestion asking why he would ever do such a thing. Not wishing to start an argument or upset her mother, Liz said that she would speak to the agency who supplied the carer and ask if they would send someone to have a look around upstairs during their next visit. Liz said that her mother was clearly becoming anxious about the sounds so she reassured her and they said goodnight. The following day, Liz called the agency but was forced to leave a message asking for them to call her back as soon as convenient. They never did.



### The Lord's Prayer

Next evening, when Liz called, Doris told her that she had been listening for the sounds earlier and that she had once again heard what sounded like someone or something moving about upstairs. When she had heard the sounds, Doris called out asking who was there and telling them to leave her alone. Doris then said that she started to say the Lord's Prayer out aloud and that as soon as she had begun to say the prayer, the sounds had stopped. Liz asked her mother if she had called the police yet as she had instructed and her mother replied "What use would they be? The police can't get rid of a ghost and they would only think I was being silly and put me in a home." Liz told her mother she would try to get someone to come round to check the house and considered phoning the police herself. As it was by now almost ten o'clock so they probably wouldn't come

out that late for something that had happened hours earlier.

### Call a friend

The next morning, Liz called a friend who lived in Pembrokeshire, intending to ask if she would mind looking in on Doris and explained that her mother had been hearing sounds from upstairs and was now thinking that the house was haunted. The friend - we'll call her Pam said to leave it with her and that she would drop by and see how Doris was. Pam lived about 25 miles from Doris so she would try to call in the following day, after work.

After talking to Liz, Pam mentioned the call to her colleague who was in the office, saying that Liz's mum thought she had a ghost in her house and that she was going to pop in to see Doris, the following day as she was due to have family visiting that evening. Her colleague suggested that she knew of someone who investigated haunted houses and ghosts, maybe they could take a look.

It transpired that Pam had been a regular listener to the local radio station where I hosted a weekly show that featured local ghost stories and haunted locations in West Wales. Pam had a look on the radio station's social media page and got in touch.

### Who ya gonna call?

I took the call from Liz late morning and upon hearing the story I said that I might be able to visit in the next day or two. Liz explained that there was some urgency and that she was concerned that her mother might be worrying about this ghost even though it was not real.

### The visit

Mrs. P and I arrived at the house at about 5:35pm. Doris was expecting us and she opened the door, greeting us with a smile and asked if I was the ghost man and inviting us both inside.

She had already prepared a pot of tea and a plate of biscuits. As we sat in the kitchen. Doris described what she had been experiencing over the previous evenings. The account tallied with what Liz had already said on the telephone except that Doris thought the sounds had been going on for longer. Doris also said that her late husband had always told her that the house was haunted and said that she was worried that it might be the ghost that was disturbing her. She explained how at first, she thought the sounds were someone moving about and that perhaps a burglar had broken in but then added that the sounds had stopped when she

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thought it must have been a ghost.

I asked Doris if she heard the sounds at any other times other than during the early evening? She replied that it had been every evening and always around the time that the evening news was on the television. Doris gestured toward the TV which was on with the sound muted in the corner of the front room and I could see that the evening news had already started. We had heard no unusual sounds during the 15 or 20 minutes since our arrival and I continued to talk to Doris, asking about her recent experiences and also chatting more generally about what she likes to watch on TV.

Soon after, we all heard a series of two or three quiet but distinct bumps that seemed to be coming from upstairs. Doris pointed to the ceiling and said that was what she had been hearing.

### Ghost hunter vs a pigeon

I asked if I could take a look? and Doris immediately said 'yes'. Leaving Mrs P with Doris, I quietly ascended the stairs and upon reaching the top I paused and listened. Off a short landing corridor were four closed doors; after a few moments, I heard quiet but distinct sounds coming from behind the first door to my left. The corridor was illuminated only by the outside twilight coming through a small window in the sloped ceiling and not wishing to hunt around for a light switch or call down asking whereabouts the light-switch was, I turned on my pocket torch, aiming it at the floor as I slowly lowered the door handle and pushed the door ajar, pausing once more to listen. The sounds from inside continued, my impression being that they sounded like a fluttering, rustling noise which made me wonder if a bird was inside the room. I pushed the door wider and looked inside, shining the light ahead of me into the semi-darkness. Immediately I did so there was a commotion as a startled pigeon shot across in front of me to the far side of the room.

The bird, settled on top of a small wall cabinet. I moved the light around to see if there were any other pigeons but there was just the one. I could also see the room was a bathroom and that the window facing me was partially open. I pulled the door closed, and called downstairs saying I think I have found the ghost. I opened the door and stepped into the room, closing the door behind me. The pigeon flapped and scuffled about but remained on top of the cabinet. I went over to the window intending to open it fully so the bird would escape. In order to do so, I had to first pull back a curtain which was wedged into the hinge and which was preventing the window from moving. Once the curtain had been pulled clear of the hinge, I was able to open the window fully, and after some persuasion, the pigeon flew past me and exited through the window. As I bade the bird farewell, Mrs. P called to me from outside of the bathroom asking if everything was alright. I closed the window, located the light switch and opened the door, assuring her everything was perfectly OK. With the overhead light now on, we could see where the pigeon had been roosting over the previous nights. Pigeons, aren't the cleanest of birds and there were

droppings and occasional feathers all around the bath and on the floor. Further evidence of the bird was to be seen on the window sill.



( Editor Note: AI just cannot get numbers and text quite right ;- )

We returned to Doris, explaining how a pigeon likely entered through a window blown open by recent stormy winds and had been roosting there, sneaking in during the evening news.

### Operation clean-up and more tea

Mrs. P and I cleaned Doris's bathroom, finding a surprise. With no mobile signal, I used Doris's landline to call her daughter Liz, explaining the situation. Liz promised to send a tradesman.

As we left, Doris insisted on giving us something for our trouble. I refused cash, but couldn't resist her freshly baked Victoria sponge!

The next day, Liz confirmed the window would be fixed, and the pigeon presumably found a new spot to roost.



# Past Life Regression and False Memories

By Steve Bowkett

Two points I want to make immediately are that I'm not a big fan of age or past life regression for therapeutic purposes, and that the mind can spin false memories very easily if, in hypnotherapy, the therapist asks leading questions. Indeed, the subconscious can create false memories for other reasons, as we'll see.

Regarding the first point, the origin of the word regress is 'to go back'. So if age regression is used as a technique by a hypnotherapist, the client may go back to whatever incident(s) contributed to the problem to be resolved. This means that if the client regresses to re-experience an incident that happened when he or she was age five, it's possible that they will at that point only have the cognitive resources available to them at that time; i.e. the limited and childlike mental capacity that failed to make sense of or otherwise deal with the incident when it happened. This is especially likely to be the case if the client is 'deep in reverie', i.e. fully engaged with the scenario to the extent that consciously he/she isn't, as it were, standing back psychologically distant from the memory.

Past life regression is a fascinating subject and useful research has been done by authors such as Ian Stevenson (Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation), Raymond Moody (Life After Life) and Chris Carter (Science and the Afterlife Experience – the third of a fascinating trilogy that also includes 'Science and Psychic Phenomena' and 'Science and the Near-Death Experience'. Highly recommended if you've not come across them). However I think it's wrong for a hypnotherapist to assume that past lives are a reality, let alone suggest this to a client: as therapists we need to work with the world view and belief system of the client and avoid imposing ours on them.

That said, I've dealt with two cases where the idea of past lives was involved. The first client, Sheila, came to try and get rid of her migraines. One technique I use is a step-by-step approach to uncover sensitising and triggering incidents – incidents that prime the individual to 'do' the behaviour and then the experience that triggers it. Sometimes the sensitising and triggering incidents are the same.

So I began to ask Sheila, who was deep in hypnosis, if the incident 'that first set you on the path to the creation of the problem' happened in childhood. She indicated no. However, further questioning seemed to reveal that it must have been a very early incident indeed, although when I asked if the first incident happened when Sheila was a baby, she hesitated and then said, greatly shocked, 'Oh my God I'm a man!' That jolted Sheila out of hypnosis and she was able to tell me what she'd remembered all in a flash; which was that she'd lived before during the French Revolution. She (he?) had found herself in a large room panelled with dark wood. There was a high arched window overlooking a huge courtyard thronged with people. In the centre of the courtyard was a guillotine, with the executioner about to carry out the sentence. At that moment a lackey entered the room with a parchment for my client to sign – it was the order of execution and this was duly implemented.

Sheila immediately realised that her migraines were a 'punishment of guilt' for the people she'd condemned to death. To try and resolve this I used what I call the 'judicial rationale'. This is not an attempt to persuade, but a chain of reasoning for the client to consider. In the judicial system someone is guilty if they intend to harm and then carry out the act of harming, so by those criteria Sheila judged was guilty. I pointed out however that when justice is done, when the punishment has been endured, then the debt has been paid. Back in hypnosis, Sheila acknowledged, both consciously and subconsciously, that she'd 'served her time' and could now let go of the guilt. As a result of this, her

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migraines faded over the coming weeks.

Whether she had lived before in 18th Century France is something I couldn't be certain of; but Sheila believed she had and it was the power of her beliefs that led to the resolution of the issue. The next case is more clear cut. Angela came to see me asking to be regressed because, she said, 'I have a very puzzling but very strong affinity with Japan, and I'm sure I lived there in a previous life.' She was very amenable to being hypnotised and was soon deep in reverie. Also, although I'd set up the finger-reflex ideomotor response (a subconscious reflex where one finger twitches to answer yes and another to answer no), she was happy to verbalise what she was imagining. She said that she had indeed lived several hundred years before in ancient Japan and that she had been a geisha girl, one of whose functions was to 'attend to' the samurai warriors who visited the geisha house. She was using the present tense to relate her increasingly detailed and steamy experiences without any prompting from me. However, at one point I instructed her to keep talking but to lose all conscious awareness of my voice (though she probably had anyway by then). Speaking directly to the subconscious mind, and asking her to use the ideomotor response to answer, I asked her if she had indeed lived before in ancient Japan. She indicated no. Then I asked if the subconscious was creating these memories because consciously Angela so wanted to believe in her past life; and the answer was yes.

So here we have a case where the subconscious was deliberately creating elaborate false memories to satisfy the desire of the conscious mind to have lived before. This is in line with the general principle that the subconscious is usually supportive of the life of the whole individual. Before bringing Angela out of hypnosis I asked the subconscious if it would allow conscious-Angela to access her past life memories, without revealing they were fabrications, whenever she wanted to, and of course her subconscious complied.

Back in the here-and-now, Angela was absolutely delighted to have had her past life beliefs verified, 'And so spectacularly!' she added, her gaze drifting past me as she enjoyed those memories again. And who was I to disabuse her?

It was the theoretical physicist Werner Heisenberg who said, 'The universe is not only stranger than we think, it is stranger than we can think.' So although these two cases don't prove the reality of past lives and reincarnation, I for one will remain open minded until proof or otherwise comes along.



### About the Author

Steve began writing for pleasure in his early teens. He taught secondary English for 20 years, leaving the profession in 1994 to concentrate on a writing career, which includes visiting schools to run writing workshops for children and professional development sessions for teachers. To date he has published 82 books, most recently educational books on creativity, thinking skills, philosophy and wellbeing. He qualified as a hypnotherapist in 1991, initially at The Therapy Training College under its founder, David Lesser (<https://www.lessarian.co.uk/>) and subsequently with John Howard and Peter Delves. Over the years Steve has developed his own approach to hypnotherapy, which he has written about in two (as yet unpublished) volumes – 'Everyday Hypnotherapy' and 'The Story Behind the Problem', a collection of his most memorable cases. He is a member of the International Hypnotherapy Association (<https://www.ihahypnotherapy.com/>). [www.stevebowkett.co.uk](http://www.stevebowkett.co.uk)

# Ghosts in a Simulated Universe

## A thought, are ghosts just people stuck in the recycle bin of a Simulated Universe?

By Sylvia Wix

**Consider this idea:** you're not living in reality but in a vast, sophisticated virtual reality, a holographic universe. This might sound far-fetched, but scientific discussions across physics, astrophysics, biology, and neurology lend some credence to this theory, making it less outlandish than one might initially think.

Imagine our existence within this framework: we're like programs or files in an unimaginably advanced machine, akin to players in a Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game (MMORPG) like World of Warcraft, blending elements of games like "Creatures," "SimCity," or "The Sims." Here, each of us is an avatar, living out our narrative within the simulation.

Now, what happens to an avatar when it "dies" in this digital cosmos?

In the Artificial Life simulator game "Creatures," bodies of the digital beings lingered after death, The body of the generated Creature stuck around for a bit after death on screen. Sometimes, by quirk, glitch or evolution in each "game" the AI driven other Creatures would respond as if it were alive to them. However some Creatures couldn't see it at all. This struck me as fascinating. Consider now this old game where developers could not have anticipated that something like that could happen. This phenomenon, observed in a now-dated game, prompts me to ponder: could our universe, with its superior technology, harbor similar anomalies?

### Are ghosts people stuck in the recycle bin?

When you delete a file on your computer, it moves to the recycle bin, not immediately erased but awaiting final deletion. Applying this analogy to paranormal phenomena, could ghosts be residual data from a once-active program or file?

- \* Apparitions replaying death scenes might be like a video loop, stuck in a repetitive playback.
- \* Figures appearing incomplete or motionless could represent corrupted or incomplete data files.
- \* Disembodied voices might be akin to audio files left unpurged.
- \* Phantom hitchhikers who vanish after brief interactions could be transient glitches in the system.
- \* Phantom scenery phenomena might be scenes from the past, stuck in a loop due to unremoved code.

These could all be manifestations of "glitches" in our cosmic machine, where data or programs continue to run despite their lifecycle's end, much like files in a recycle bin that can still be accessed or played. With experiments like the Fermilab Holometer, we're on the brink of potentially confirming if we live in such a holographic universe. The implications for all fields of science, particularly in paranormal studies, would be profound.

This theory suggests that what we call ghosts might just be echoes of consciousness, data yet to be fully deleted in this grand simulation we call reality.

Originally published in SS 2013, incorrectly credited.

# Time to get back to ACTIVE research



Experiments  
and producing data

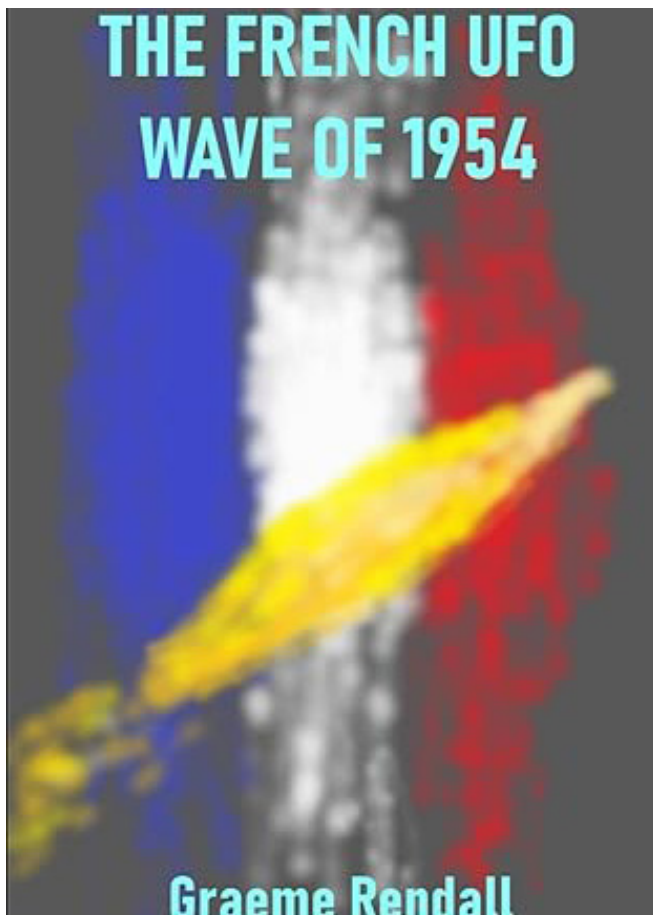
# REVIEW >

## Dr Mark Fox casts his eye on new release **THE FRENCH UFO WAVE OF 1954** by Graeme Rendall.

Reiver Country Books, 2024. ISBN 979-8333063991 [pbk] 318 pp.

I thought this book would be heavy-going at first and indeed it was: that is, until I went back to Graeme Rendall's introduction at the beginning to remind myself of the stated objectives of his endeavour. For it is here that his own story as a reader of UFO literature emerges, including his immersion in the UFO literature of the 1960s and 70s, and it is here, too, that we learn of his desire to write a new book on the French 1954 wave as an English language addition to the decades-earlier studies by Aimé Michel and others. By his own admission the author wanted also to adopt the homage style of those early 60s and 70s studies that had entranced him so, whilst resisting the temptation to theorize; leaving that, instead, to the reader.

And theorize I did; largely because the wealth of detail Rendall presents turns out to be just so darn fascinating. It is like stumbling over a treasure trove; a goldmine. And although any kind of quantitative analysis may be lacking here it is more than made up for by both the quantitative and qualitative possibilities for future studies that the book presents; based solely on the myriad reports it contains.



Example: about half-way through it occurred to me that I could compare any emergent patterns disclosed by Rendall's reports with Jacques Vallee's decades-old work on the 1954 wave's UFO landings. As is well known, Vallee showed himself early on to be fascinated by the 1954 wave's 'close encounters', recognising as early as the mid-1960s that they could be revealing contours and characteristics that might in turn lead to key insights into what the UFO phenomenon, essentially, was and is. Michel had already done this, of course, but there was a key sense in which Vallee went deeper, plotting 200 accounts -of which 156 were French - in search of a set of 'Laws': both negative and positive. The conclusions are well-known and, in a sense, part of UFO lore themselves: the fact that the 1954 UFO landing sites were inversely correlated with population density, the realisation that the 1954 witnesses 'held steady jobs, often positions of social responsibility...', the fact that the 1954 objects had an actual diameter of about five metres, and the fact that a 'vanishingly small' number of the landings took place during the day.

## Seriously Strange

How well does all of this fit with what Rendall presents? The answer is: it fits very well indeed. For we learn from his much bigger and more detailed study that the 1954 wave sighting-claims – many of them including landings – did indeed inversely correlate with population density, that many witnesses were indeed typical, socially responsible citizens (often, in fact, going about their daily jobs), and that their encounters typically occurred at dusk, during the night, or at dawn. In fact, Rendall allows us to go further here, for his three-hundred-plus pages of presented testimony-material reveal that as the 1954 French wave went on the vehicle interference cases increased in number, red and red-orange UFO colours emerged and until it seemed that they had come to predominate, and accounts of witness paralysis became, if not frequent, then nonetheless disturbingly common. His cases also confirm Vallee's decades-old contention that cases peaked in October, whilst his meticulous attention to collecting and presenting data – including follow-up reports – reveals a depressingly high number of tall stories: from self-confessed hoaxers to journalists in search of a laugh or a good story on a slow news day. There's a temptation to read intertextuality – or something like it – into the way that the cases Rendall presents appear, in some ways at least, to 'morph' over time, but that's the beauty of what he has assembled in this book: it invites you to do stuff like this, even if it stands outside of the author's own, clearly stated, remit.

Jerome Clark once sagely observed that: 'Waves are like snowflakes: no two are identical.' Graeme Rendall's absorbing, minutely-chronicled month-by-month detailing of the French UFO wave of 1954 – it actually all condenses into pretty much five months – is a compelling read: both for those in search of the distinctive patterning of this particular 'snowflake' and for those who are merely UFOlogically curious. He presents his wealth of collected, chiefly newspaper-based testimonies virtually sans analysis, stepping back to allow the stories to reveal their own content without embellishment or adornment and it all makes for a genuinely spooky read, particularly given the isolation of many of the claimed episodes and the unearthly hours at which many of them were said to have occurred. How much, however, these tales had attained their own shapes and forms before being presented in Rendall's meticulously-footnoted collection is, of course, another story: and a reminder that where testimonies are a researcher's exclusive source material it is they, and not the events they purport to reveal, which should be the primary focus of that researcher's work.



(Jerome Clark, 'The UFO Encyclopaedia', 3rd edition, MI, Omnigraphics, 2018 p.1263)

**Dr Mark Fox** is an independent researcher, writer and speaker with a wide range of interests in all things anomalous.

You can find him at [www.markfox.co.uk](http://www.markfox.co.uk).

Mark has presented to the ASSAP Paranormal Webinars twice, "Olfactory Scents and After Death Communications" and "Which Farm is Witch Farm?" Testimony and the Uncanny Heol Fanog.

You can find both available on ASSAP Youtube channel [Youtube.com/@ASSAPWebinars](https://www.youtube.com/@ASSAPWebinars) as well as on Rumble and Bitchute.



# REVIEW >

Deep reviews are generally found in *Anomaly*, the journal of Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena. As the *Journal 53* was broadly complete the space was limited to squeeze in any more, being shy of 200 pages. So choosing to include this review, here in *Seriously Strange* in its complete longer formatting. Dr Peter McCue casts his watchful eye for detail in one of the popular takes on the paranormal, *Uncanny*. The journey of Danny Robins, *Into the Uncanny* released in hardback in 2023, and in paperback in November 2024. The review times nicely into the conclusion of the Television shows most recent run on the BBC.

### **Into The Uncanny: A Real-Life Investigation into the Paranormal by Danny Robins. BBC Books, London, 2023. ISBN 9781785948091**

Danny Robins was born in 1976 and hails from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He studied English literature at the University of Bristol, and has gone on to become a successful writer, broadcaster and journalist, with a strong interest in the paranormal.

According to the dust jacket of *Into the Uncanny*, each case in it is 'brand-new', never having been shared before. But that's not entirely true. Some of them have received publicity before.

For instance, Alan Godfrey's UFO encounter in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, in 1980, mentioned in Chapters 14-16 of Robins' book, was discussed by Jenny Randles in her 1983 book *The Pennine UFO Mystery* (Granada Publishing Ltd, St Albans). Nevertheless, there's intriguing case material in Robins' compilation, some of which is new to me. I'll outline a couple of the cases below.

Many books and internet articles with a ghostly theme are little more than a recital of vague folklore ('Her ghost is said to appear on the battlements of the castle on the anniversary of her tragic death...'). But Robins' book is



refreshingly different, in that there's first-hand testimony and a fair amount of corroboration.

Another strength is that he discusses competing theories that have been advanced to explain anomalous phenomena. For example, in Chapter 7, he examines the so-called 'stone tape theory', the idea that events can somehow be recorded in the local environment and later be 'played back' as ghostly sights and sounds; and in Chapter 18, he considers the notion that focal persons in poltergeist cases may be unconsciously producing phenomena via psychokinesis.

#### **Case examples**

In outlining the following two cases,

I'll use the personal names that Robins has employed, although I don't know whether they're real or pseudonymous.

#### *Poltergeist phenomena in Rome*

In Chapter 1, we read that Andrew, a film and theatre producer in his mid-50s, told Robins about strange phenomena that he'd experienced one evening in the summer of 1983. He was 17 then and living in Rome, his father being a diplomat at the Australian embassy. Andrew, a film and theatre producer in his mid-50s, told Robins about strange phenomena that he'd experienced one evening in the summer of 1983.

## Seriously Strange

On the night in question, and not for the first time, Andrew was minding the daughters of one of his father's colleagues, Robert Wilson. This was at an apartment on Via di Monserrato. The embassy rented it from the adjacent Venerable English College (VEC), a centuries-old training establishment for men who go on to serve as Catholic priests in England and Wales.

Wilson's daughters, aged about seven and nine at the time, had been asleep for an hour or so when Andrew went to the kitchen to procure a coffee. He noticed that postcards of Rome, which had been stuck to the fridge with magnets, were now scattered across the floor on the other side of the kitchen, and that all the wooden cupboard doors were open. He reattached the postcards to the fridge and closed the cupboard doors. After making himself some coffee, he returned to the living room. An hour later, he heard running water. He went back to the kitchen, where there were two sinks. Water was gushing from the taps.

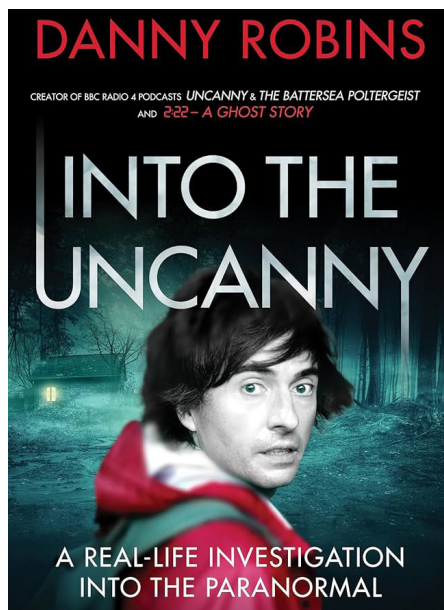
Once again, the postcards were on the floor, and the cupboard doors were open. Mugs that had been standing upside down on the washing-up rack were now lying on their side, and plates that had previously been stacked in the cupboards were now on the floor, face-up and unbroken, in five separate piles. Suspecting a prank by the girls, Andrew checked on them, but they seemed to be deeply asleep. Unsure what to do, he put back about half of the displaced items, leaving the others as 'evidence' for the Wilsons to see.

They returned at 11 p.m., accompanied by Andrew's mother. His father had evidently been with them, but had gone to collect the car to take them home. Tellingly, Robert Wilson's wife, Ailsa, asked Andrew, 'Did the kitchen behave?' She went on to explain that every couple of days, for about a month, they'd awoken in the morning to find that the cupboards were open, with plates on the floor, in piles, and the postcards scattered.

After tidying up the kitchen, they returned to the living room. As they were standing, chatting, they heard running water. They all went to the kitchen, where – again – water was gushing from the taps, the postcards were on the opposite side of the room, and the plates were in piles on the floor, although this time accompanied by glasses lying on their side.

Additionally, the doors of the fridge and freezer were open. Their entire contents were arranged across the floor. Containers with liquid in them (e.g. milk) were on their side, but with no spillage.

In Chapter 3, Robins explains that recently (within the last year or two?), via Zoom, he was able to speak with Ailsa Wilson, who lives



in a suburb of Australia's capital, Canberra. She confirmed that strange things had occurred in the Rome apartment.

Indeed, judging from what she told him, the phenomena went beyond those she'd mentioned to Andrew during his eventful evening there in 1983, and they weren't confined to the kitchen. For example, initially, and before the occurrence of decidedly physical manifestations, there was a foul smell in the dining room, for which no cause was found. (It's not entirely clear from the book whether the odour was continuous or intermittent.) It went on for months and was followed by a

feeling that the family were sharing the apartment with some sort of presence.

Shortly after his experiences at the apartment, Andrew mentioned them to a couple of trainee priests from the VEC. They insisted that he relate his story to 'the Monsignor', the most senior person there, which he did. The monsignor took him to a library in the college and pointed out a set of shelves containing books dealing with the Antichrist, Beelzebub and Satan. 'The monsignor further explained that on the other side of the wall behind the bookshelves was the kitchen of the apartment occupied by the Wilsons! (See Chapters 17 and 20.)'

He explained that the library was locked at night, but every two days, for the last month, when it was entered in the morning, the books about the Antichrist were found to be strewn about, some being found as far as 15 metres away, as if they'd been thrown.

It appears that the aforementioned library wasn't the only part of the VEC where strange things had been experienced. During their Zoom conversation, discussed in Chapter 3, Ailsa Wilson told Robins that trainee priests had told her of other phenomena, such as seeing a figure at the end of their beds.

And she learned that the apartment that she and her family were occupying seemed to have a reputation, with a former resident reportedly having seen his bedsheets pulled off him at night by something unseen.

In Chapter 19, Robins refers to a convent for Swedish nuns. It's on the Piazza Farnese, not far from the VEC. He explains that the nuns there rent out rooms, cheaply, to travellers. In 2012, on a visit to Rome, Andrew and his then girlfriend, Sarah, spent a night there. Their bedroom contained two heavy single beds. When they woke in the morning, they found themselves in the same bed, which had somehow been moved about 15 feet from where it had been the night before.

## Seriously Strange

After leaving the convent, Andrew and Sarah went for breakfast at a coffee shop directly beneath the apartment adjoining the VEC (see Chapter 20). While there, Andrew heard

Australian accents and saw a mother and daughter coming out of the gate to the apartment block. He initiated a conversation with them, with Sarah chipping in as well. They were invited into the apartment, where they were able to look around. Nothing unusual happened.

Andrew gave his hosts his card before he and Sarah left. About a week later, he received an email from them, relating that a couple of days after his visit, they'd returned to the apartment to find the kitchen a complete mess. For example, all the cupboard doors were open, and the rubbish bin had been pushed over, with its contents strewn over the floor.

Rightly, Robins raises the question of whether Andrew's visit had somehow reactivated phenomena in the kitchen. Recently (the precise date doesn't seem to be given), Danny Robins managed to visit the apartment and the VEC, accompanied by Andrew. But they didn't experience anything overtly paranormal. (See Chapter 18.)

Although the phenomena in Rome included the displacement of objects, the book doesn't (so far as I recall) refer to any destructive activity of the type that's often a feature of poltergeist cases. Indeed, in Chapter 3, we learn that something to the contrary reportedly occurred.

One day, Ailsa Wilson accidentally dropped and broke a coffee cup, one of a set of six that she'd bought in Australia. However, it later transpired that the family still had six of them. Did the intelligence behind the phenomena somehow reconstitute the broken cup, or replace it with an identical but undamaged one?

*Ouija board predicts a death*

Chapter 9 tells a creepy tale about

a Ouija board session in February 1988, involving three members of a family: a man called David, his sister and their mother. At one point, they asked who they were speaking to. The letters spelled out 'Aunt Connie', a name they were familiar with – that of the recently deceased wife of David's grandmother's brother Fred.

Asked how she was, they got the message, 'Fine now', and eventually, the board indicated that Connie was waiting for her daughter. Asked which one, the response was 'Sheila'. David's mother and sister looked at each other – they knew that 55-year-old Sheila had just been referred to a local hospital, but they had no reason to think that it was because of anything particularly serious.

Asked what was wrong with her, the board spelled out 'cancer' and then added 'liver'. Asked when Sheila would join Connie, the response was 'October'. In March of that year, several weeks after the Ouija board session, Sheila was diagnosed with liver cancer and went on to die in the October.

It's an intriguing story, but it was related to Robins by David decades after the events in question, and Robins doesn't mention any corroborating testimony. Of course, even if the events occurred as described, they would be open to interpretation. For example, one or more of the

participants in the Ouija board session may have picked up the information about Sheila's medical condition via ESP rather than from a communicating spirit.

### Concluding comments

To me, this is an interesting and readable book, although I found its contents rather 'fragmented' and insufficiently linear for my liking. For example, as I've indicated, the material concerning the events in Rome is spread across different chapters; and instead of describing things systematically, in the order in which they occurred, Robins jumps back and forth in time, often using the present tense when referring to the past, probably to maintain a sense of immediacy and drama. But for me, all of this is a bit too theatrical. I also feel that Robins could have been more specific about when certain events occurred.

### Notes

1. Godfrey's sighting occurred in the early hours of 29 November 1980, but Robins gives the date, incorrectly, as the 28th.
2. The college's website is: <https://www.vecrome.org/>

(Below) Danny Robins speaking with Alan Murdie at the Gala Dinner of the ASSAP Conference in 2022



Seriously Strange Magazine, the ASSAP Anomaly Journal and the weekly Webinars are platforms to announce, discuss and publish.

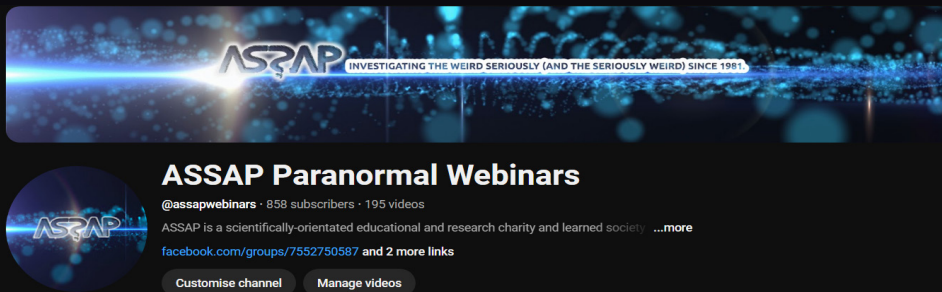


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# ASSAP Paranormal Webinars

Those eagle-eyed viewers of Youtube will have noticed a slight change in the title of the channel recently from ASSAP Webinars to ASSAP Paranormal Webinars.



The reason may seem obvious: despite hundreds of hours of exceptional content—featuring some of the best presentations and commentary across the Fortean spectrum, delivered by highly distinguished guests—this rich material often goes unnoticed. Unless someone specifically searches for a video title, presenter, or ASSAP webinars, the vast audience seeking paranormal-related content is missing out. A simple tweak, such as adding 'Paranormal' to the channel title, could make a significant difference.

On Rumble and BitChute, the respective ASSAP video channels are branded as 'Seriously Strange,' mirroring the name of the magazine you're holding.

The mysteries of the algorithm are still catching up to our new name. For you, it's the perfect moment to like and subscribe if you haven't already—it takes just a second, costs nothing. For us, it works a bit of hidden magic in the secret code, helping others discover that this content is out there waiting to be explored.

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# Seriously Strange



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# To the memory of Dennis Bury



<https://dennisbury.muchloved.com/>

One of ASSAP's leading founder members died on 29th December 2024

The Reverend Dennis Bury, aged 81, had been suffering for a couple of years from scoliosis, a degenerative condition of the spine. He worked tirelessly for the Association and Executive in its formative years and became its first Ombudsman. He was a one-time member of the SPR Council and its Survival Committee. The possibility of surviving bodily death intrigued Dennis, who for over a decade was Principal Trustee of the Survival Joint Research Committee Trust, a research charity established in 1963 between prominent psychical researchers and Spiritualists, including Maurice Barbanell.

A formative journey through science and academia, From chemistry, theology before a scholarship took Dennis across the ocean to the United States to complete an MA. Becoming a Health Care Professions Council Practitioner Psychologist on return to the UK in 1970. Further Dennis explored other pursuits at Royal Holloway College and Central School of Speech and Drama numbering amongst them. An associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, Adjunct Professor to the University of Syracuse. The boundaries between Science and Religion held significance in Dennis's thoughts. Delving deep into the many philosophies of the great journey.

"I have taken the view that what we perceive of reality, both interpersonally and also when we come to think about things, is that we can never see it. We can only see the results of what our instruments print out for us—that is reality and beyond that there is more but we shall never know it. I am a true Platonist in this vision." - Dennis Bury.

ASSAP will absorb the materials and content produced by the Survival Joint Research Committee Trust. Potentially to be made available by our library and archive. Future presentations, webinars and content based on the work of Dennis Bury and the SJRCT.

Dennis operated his blog for a number of years [DennisScience.com](https://www.dennisscience.com)  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20200924121409/https://www.dennisscience.com/dennis/is/>



**Current as of publication date.**

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Groups Co-ordinator: Lee Norton [supporting\\_groups@assap.ac.uk](mailto:supporting_groups@assap.ac.uk)

Welcoming onboard David Robins and Sarah Pilkington who will be supporting in the coming months in regards to Governance whose experience and knowledge in such roles may prove valuable.

Non-executive positions

President: Rev Lionel Fanthorpe

Vice-President: Dr Hugh Pincott

Webmaster: Jonathan Fost

### **Closing remarks and last minute thoughts**

"The People's Front of Judea and the Judean People's Front"

Enjoy both the Anomaly Journal and Seriously Strange Magazine, possibly one of the most content packed issues ever! Have lost count of the amount of hours, full days and through the nights effort bringing this together. Then additional work bringing in SS161 content making it a SUPER Bumper edition and late additional content. For the passion of the weird and wonderful, and to bring people together.

Truly hope you have enjoyed the journey and been engaged by the content of exceptional writers.

As this issue embraced a focus on the UAP topic, 'Unidentified Unfiltered' was a pleasure to craft. Would like to share that the next forthcoming issue will have a focus on Earth Mysteries.





Those following mysteries will continue to do so...

