

# LANTERN

WINTER  
1973-74

BORDERLINE SCIENCE INVESTIGATION GROUP

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## ❄️ INTRODUCTION ❄️

Readers of the last issue will have gathered that it was something of an experiment to determine if the 'new-look', commercially printed and widely distributed LANTERN was a viable proposition. The result was a success and here therefore is LANTERN 4, the second, slightly larger, of the 'new-look' editions.

The more localised theme, which was introduced in our last edition, has been maintained and the idea has been expanded somewhat so that more of East Anglia can be covered.

Articles in this issue range from the ghosts of Essex, a county which has hitherto been sadly overlooked by BSIG, to the hooded figure of Beeston Regis, a north Norfolk town in the heart of 'Shuck Country,' plus a fascinating account of the activities and subsequent trial of two 17th century 'witches' of Lowestoft. Two BSIG reports are also featured; the first concerning the three ghost-watches at the Oxfam Shop in Norwich, as mentioned in last issue's 'News Round-up.' The second being the full story of the New Hainford UFO sighting, recounted in part in LANTERN 2.

In future issues we hope to begin a regular 'Personal Experience' series and also include more BSIG Investigation Reports. We would welcome comment from anyone on the contents of LANTERN, for publication or not. If you are interested in, or would like to know more about BSIG, or know of a local legend or ghost story, indeed anything remotely connected with BSIG or the supernatural, we would like to hear from you; please write to:- The Editors, LANTERN, c/o 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

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WANTED:                    YOUR OWN PERSONAL STRANGE EXPERIENCES.....

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A STRANGE EXPERIENCE FOR WHICH YOU HAVE NO EXPLANATION? IF SO, WE THE BORDERLINE SCIENCE INVESTIGATION GROUP, WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT. PLEASE WRITE TO:-

 THE EDITORS(LANTERN),   
c/o 3 DUNWICH WAY, LOWESTOFT.



# THE LOWESTOFT Witches



Little over 300 years ago, 10th - 13th March, 1664, to be exact, two elderly women from Lowestoft, both widows, were tried before Magistrates at Bury St Edmunds Assize.

The charge was Witchcraft, 13 indictments having been brought against them, alledging that they had bewitched several people, including children, following quarrels. The trial lasted two days, during which time, apart from pleading Not Guilty, the accused made no attempt to deny the charges made against them. On the afternoon of Thursday, March 13th, the verdict of Guilty being returned, Sir Matthew Hale, Kt., Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, sentenced the accused to be hanged. The execution took place on Monday, March 17th, with neither of the 'Witches' confessing their guilt. Thus ended one of the most controversial of the East Anglian witch trials.

The person responsible for bringing the 'Witches' to trial was one Samuel Pacy, a merchant by occupation, described in later years as an 'Eminent Dissenter.' Believing his two daughters bewitched, his suspicions fell upon Amy Duny a poor Lowestoft widow, who upon his request was set in the stocks. Apparently this did not ease the condition of his children for in 1664 he had Amy Duny and another woman, Rose Cullender, brought before the courts.

Once arrested the suspects were searched for Witch's or Devil's marks by a team of six matrons. These marks, any spot or blemish of an uncommon sort, were believed to be either a brand made by the Devil at the signing of the pact, or the spot which their Imp, or Evil Spirit in animal form, sucked blood. In this instance they were probably of the latter sort, being described in the court record as 'divers teats,' although no mention of Imps was made during the trial. Such marks were found on Rose Cullender and this information, considered evidence of being a witch, was presented before the court. After an oral examination. they were committed for trial and duly appeared before the Circuit Judge, Sir Matthew Hale, at the next Bury St Edmunds Assize.

Samuel Pacy died in 1680 and was buried in St. Margarets Church, Lowestoft. His grave, which is in the South-East corner of the church in front of the altar, is marked by a simple slab of grey slate bearing the inscription:

HERE UNDER RESTETH THE BODY OF SAMUEL PACY THE BROTHER OF NICHOLAS PACY WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 17TH OF SEPTEMBER ANNO DOMINI 1680 AGED 56 YEARES.

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The legal system of the 17th century was far removed from that of today, no laws of evidence existed and testimony was therefore accepted from all, even children. Also at this time there existed no provision for a Council for the Defence, in consequence, those brought to trial were largely unrepresented. It was in this situation that Amy Duny and Rose Cullender found themselves when they were brought into the crowded courtroom.

As they waited in the dock, three children, Anne Durent, Susan Chandler and Elizabeth Pacy, due to give evidence against the accused, were led in. Upon seeing the unfortunate widows they fell into screaming fits and were subsequently removed. Dorothy Durent, mother of Anne, then took the stand and testified that after an argument with AMY Duny, the latter had said something to the effect that the witness should have known better than to criticise her actions. Following this, she claimed, her son was taken with a strange fainting fits which persisted for several weeks. Concerned at his condition she sought the advice of one Dr. Jacob, a physician of Gt. Yarmouth, who had something of a reputation for aiding children who were bewitched. Upon his advise the child's blanket was hung up by the fire place and watched lest anything try to escape from it. In due course a toad was seen nearby and was seized and flung, as Dr. Jacob had instructed, into the fire, whereupon it exploded with a loud report, much to the amazement of the onlookers, who were convinced by now that the child had been bewitched.

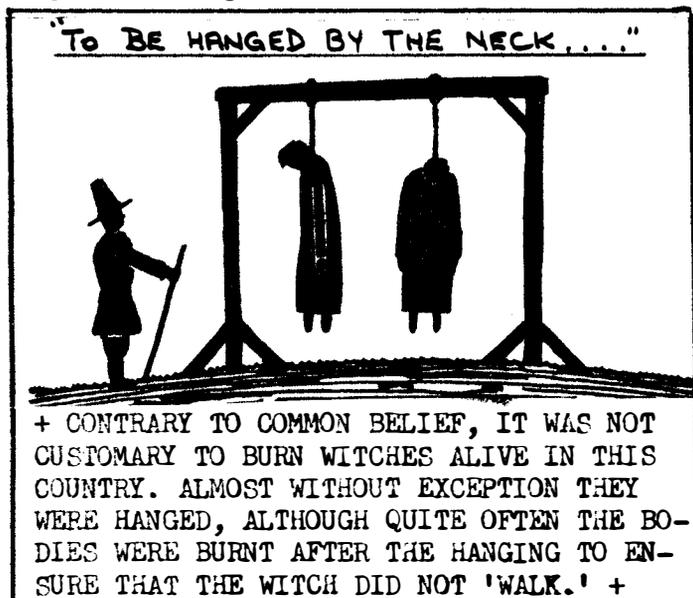
During the course of the trial much more evidence was presented before the court, in many cases involving the vomiting up of pins by children. It was alledged that Anne Durent, Jane Bocking, Susan Chandler and Elizabeth and Deborah Pacy had been thus affected. Much of the trial was taken up with the supposed bewitchment of the Pacy sisters.

These children became ill after Amy Duny, trying to buy herrings, was turned away from the Pacy household, they suffered from swooning fits and vomited up crooked pins. In an effort to cure them, they were sent to stay with an aunt in Yarmouth for a change

of air. The symptoms persisted however and the aunt, suspecting trickery, removed all pins from their clothing. Despite this they managed to raise 30 in her presence and upon questioning they declared that the pins were brought to them by bees and flies. They also claimed to see invisible mice and other animals, including ducks, running around the house.

Another form of evidence was presented before the court. The Pacy children, when suffering from fits of sensory deprivation, held their fists so tightly closed that not even the strongest man could open them. However, when touched by Rose Cullender they would scream and open their hands. Experiments were then performed in the court room involving the blindfolded children being touched, first by the accused and then by another person. The screaming reaction happened both times. Samuel Pacy ascribed this as being due to the accused deceiving her into thinking that she was doing the touching.

Evidence such as this, considered ludicrous by today's standards, was not accepted unquestionably at that time, indeed Mr. Sargeant Keeling protested to this effect and was privately asked by Sir Matthew, together with Lord Cornwallis and Sir Edmund Bacon, to repeat the experiment outside the courtroom using other people. The result being the same



they voiced the opinion that the charges thus far made were groundless. This tended to acquit the prisoners and the court proceedings were stopped for a considerable time whilst a course of action was decided upon. Eventually it was agreed to seek the advice of an impartial observer, one Dr. Brown, a knowledgeable physician of Norwich. He told the court that in his opinion the girls were obviously bewitched. Furthermore he pointed out that similar methods of enchantment by proven witches had been employed in Denmark. In the light of this information the trial was resumed and turned against the accused.

Further evidence was then presented by John Soam, a Lowestoft Yeoman, who testified that about two years earlier his cart had collided with Rose Cullender's house, whereupon she chastised him. Later his cart overturned three times and became stuck in a gateway on the same day. John Sherringham testified that he was threatened by Rose Cullender after his cart touched her house, after this many of his animals died and he himself became lame and plagued by lice! The final witness was Anne Sandeswell who claimed that Amy Duny had declared that a certain chimney would fall if left unattended, which it duly did.

The accused, when asked if they had anything to say relating to the evidence presented before the court, replied "Nothing." Sir Matthew Hale then directed the jury to consider two questions, whether the children were actually bewitched and if so, were the accused responsible? He then reasoned that, since witches are mentioned in the Scriptures and since many countries had laws for punishing them, then they must exist. The jury, after due deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty on all counts and, in accordance with the statute, the death sentence was pronounced. By the next day, all the children had recovered, although Susan Chandler still looked pale and wan.

Thus the unfortunate widows were executed, as were many more during the following two years, the peak of the career of Matthew Hopkins 'Witchfinder General.' The Lowestoft witches were not Hopkins's discoveries however, being brought to trial in a private prosecution. This case is especially interesting because evidence which would hitherto have been accepted, was brought into question, resulting in the trial being stopped. Indeed there must have been many who would have liked to see the widows acquitted and a clear end to the witch hysteria which had gripped the country for so long, but this was not to be and many more were to die before sanity prevailed.

From the evidence it seems as though Amy Duny and Rose Cullender were the victims of superstition and parochial vindictiveness. Much of the evidence brought against them was due to coincidence, for example; a farmer who hits a house with his cart seems likely to be an incompetent driver and it is not really surprising to hear that it turned over or got stuck in a gateway! Equally one does not have to be a witch to say that a chimney in an obviously bad state of repair is likely to fall if left unattended. Much of the rest could be a fabrication. The accused did seem to have something of a bad reputation in Lowestoft, and Pacy's attitude in not selling them fish was obviously unfriendly. Thus Amy Duny and Rose Cullender died having committed no crime save that they were unpopular, at a time when a scolding tongue and witchcraft so often went hand in hand.



# the GHOST and the STONE



It is not very often nowadays that one comes across a legend which is not only original but can also be substantiated. However, earlier this year I received a letter from a person living in Sheringham about one such story that she had heard.

It appears that some years ago a farmer in the Sheringham area often had a strange and frightening experience. At dusk, as he was driving his horses past the ruined gateway of Sheringham Priory, along a track which went past a pond called 'The Abbott's Fresh-water Spring Pond,' and out onto farmland, a hooded figure would leap out from behind a large stone which stood near the gateway. The farmer claimed that this apparition would grab hold of his horse's reins as if trying to stop him.

Apparently this happened to him many times and the farmer vowed that when he died he would have the large stone placed on his grave, in this way he hoped to lay the ghost. The farmer died in 1947 and true to his wishes the stone was duly placed over his grave in Beeston Churchyard where it can still be seen today.

Last September Denis Fletcher and myself were in the Sheringham area and so of course we made a point of visiting the Priory and Beeston church and there, sure enough, was the stone. From the inscription on it we discovered that the farmer's name was Reynolds and that his wife had also been buried in the grave only a few years ago. Unfortunately, more than this we were unable to find out.



THE STONE  
BEESTON CHURCHYARD

and so we hoped that we too might catch a glimpse of a shadowy, hooded figure around the ruins. Unfortunately, we were disappointed for we saw nothing at all and were also unable to ascertain whether or not the apparition had been seen in recent years. Perhaps the farmer did in fact manage to lay this restless spirit when he had the stone moved. Who knows.....?



## LOCAL CURIOSITIES

Just inside the south gate of Belle Vue Park, Lowestoft, is a large pile of stones. It is said by those knowledgeable in such matter that these stones are the remains of an old beacon which stood here long before the lighthouse. However, according to local legend, the stones are far more mysterious than that. They are known as 'The Witches Stones' and it is said that when they hear the clock strike midnight at midsummer, they leave their cosy corner and go down to the seashore.

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Up until a few years ago there was a curious superstition in East Suffolk concerning the Primrose. When picking the first bunch of the spring, it was considered dangerous to bring fewer than 13 primroses into the house. A smaller number than this indicated the number of eggs each hen belonging to the household would lay in the coming year.....

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It was recorded by the 13th century chronicler, Ralph of Coggeshall, that a creature resembling a man, with a bald head and a long ragged beard, was caught in the nets of some Orford fishermen. Known as 'The Wild Man of Orford' he was handed over to the Governor of Orford Castle who discovered that he would eat only fish. He never spoke but seemed quite happy in the castle and for months he did not try to escape, even when taken for a swim. But one day he slipped from his keepers and swam out to sea, never to be seen again.....

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# THE NEW HAINFORD UFO

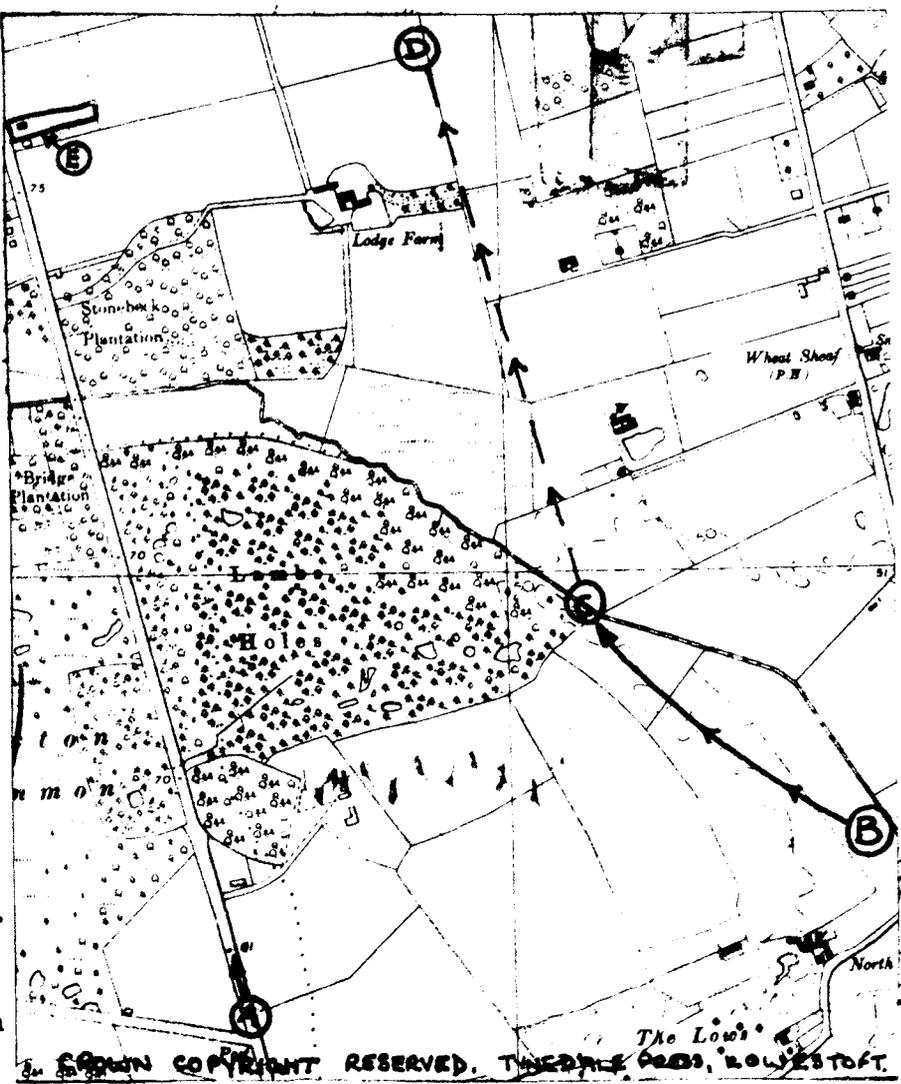
The most frustrating aspect of UFO research is the fact that of all the reports received, about 95% of them are inconclusive. That is to say that the information about the object is of such an obtuse nature that it is impossible to reach a definite conclusion one way or the other as to the identity of the object. Most objects reported could easily have been UFOs, while on the other hand they could just have easily have been man-made or natural objects with quite a logical explanation. The problem is, in most cases, deciding one way or the other and more often than not, a definite conclusion as to the nature of the object reported, has to be left open.

It is very exciting then, for UFO investigators to receive details of an object, seen locally, which by no stretch of the imagination could be classed as man-made or natural. Such a report was received in August 1971 and which has been mentioned from time to time in articles, but no full account of the facts has ever been put down.

The story starts on August 27th 1971, when a Mr. Arthur was driving to his home at New Hainford, along the Cromer New Road. It was 9pm and he had just passed Norwich Airport and was about a mile or so from his home, when he saw hovering low over the fields, glowing bright orange, a domed disc. Curious, he stopped his car for a better look at which time the object started moving fairly rapidly towards him at an angle. As it approached, the orange glow faded to be replaced by what the witness described as '5 red flashing navigation lights' around the base of the dome. At one point the object disappeared behind some trees and reappeared glowing orange again. The last the witness saw of the object was when it descended behind the trees again, its bright glow illuminating the area around. The duration of the sighting, from the onset until the object disappeared behind the trees, was about 15 minutes, during which time it was completely silent. It was this eerie silence which impressed the witness as much as anything. The object was about 1/2 a mile from Mr. Arthur's house when he last saw it. He arrived home and reported the sighting to the Evening News, however, while he was on the telephone his mother saw a bright orange object rise rapidly into the air from behind some trees at the bottom of their garden, some 400 yards away, and disappear into the sky.

We read of the sighting in the paper the following evening and quickly contacted the witness. He was adamant that what he had seen could not have been an aircraft or the such like and was certain that what he had seen was somehow different. He had been offered various explanations but would not except any of them. Our next step was to contact Air Traffic Control at Norwich Airport to find out if any aircraft had been in the vicinity at the time in question, which might have given rise to the sighting. We were assured that no aircraft had been flying from the airport at that time. From both the RAF and the USAF, we received the same negative reply. In fact, as far as we can ascertain, there were NO aircraft in the vicinity at all at the time of the sighting.

Our next move was to visit the place where the object had disappeared behind the trees. Unfortunately the witness was unable to accompany us as he had to go away. As we were very limited for transport facilities we decided to go ahead and visit the site without him. This proved to be a fortunate decision as will come to light later. We arrived at New Hainford on the afternoon of Sunday, September 12th, some two weeks after the sighting. Our first move was to visit the people living in the vicinity to find out if there were any-



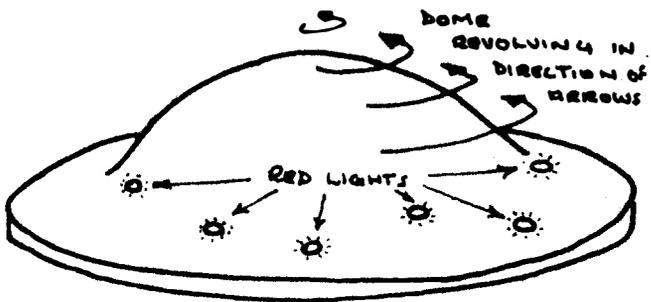
- Ⓐ POSITION OF WITNESS. Ⓑ POSITION OF OBJECT WHEN FIRST SEEN.
- ← COURSE TAKEN BY OBJECT. Ⓒ PLACE WHERE OBJECT DESCENDED BEHIND TREES. — — PROBABLE COURSE OF OBJECT.
- Ⓓ APPROX POINT FROM WHICH OBJECT TOOK OFF VERY RAPIDLY.
- Ⓔ WITNESS'S HOUSE AND GARDEN.

point the place where the object had last been seen. Fortunately this did not prove to be as difficult as we had imagined. Working from the relevant details in the report, the only location that seemed possible was about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile down the road from the witness's house, for here were to be found the only trees which would tie in with the story.

We approached the eastern side of the wood along a track that followed the northern edge. This led us to the area which seemed to be the most likely place where the object had last been seen. As we approached the eastern edge of the wood we decided to get to it by cutting through the wood itself, this would give us a chance to examine the trees. The wood was very overgrown and our way was very difficult, not only because of the dense undergrowth, but also because the ground was very marshy.

After some time and nearing the point we were heading for, we came across a small clearing in which the long reed-like grass appeared to be slightly flattened. Soil and vegetation samples were taken and we pushed on. About 20 yards further on the trees began to thin out noticeably, they eventually gave way to bushes and clearings full of long grass. Here we found another clearing in which the grass had been somewhat flattened and once more soil and vegetation samples were taken. A few yards further on another clearing was discovered. Here the long grass had definitely been flattened and was all laying in the same north-south direction. Once again soil and vegetation samples were taken. It is interesting to note that although the grass was completely flat in this area, it was not confined to this one particular clearing, but could still be traced, flattened to some degree or the other, for about 25 yards or so in a southerly direction. These areas were not so open as the clearing, being broken up by bushes, but the grass was still flattened around the bushes. After about 25 yards or so the long grass once more gave way to marshy ground and dense woods. The complete area of the clearings, which were natural, was surrounded by dense woods and undergrowth. One further point worthy of note came to light in the third clearing; here the leaves of the bushes surrounding it were covered in what appeared to be a grey coloured dust, this could not be found elsewhere in the wood. Furthermore, it was also noticed that a lot of the flattened grass in this area seemed to be dead or dying at the ends. This was not noticed elsewhere.

Our findings were very exciting and interesting, but there was one small snag; we could not associate them with the object, as we were not certain if the area in which they had been found was the same as that in which the object had descended. To put this right, a map of the area was sent to the witness and he was asked to mark on it the point where, in his opinion, the object had descended. Naturally we did not disclose to him the area in which we had found the flattened grass. When we received back the map, we had our most exciting discovery since the start of the investigation; he had marked the map almost exactly over the spot that we had visited!



THE 'NEW HAINFORD UFO' (TAKEN FROM THE WITNESS'S ORIGINAL)

At this time everything seemed to be fitting together nicely, except for one thing. we could not rule out the possibility of the whole episode being a hoax because we had no independent witnesses to corroborate the story.

However, during that following October we heard of a lady, Mrs. Moore of Motum Road, Norwich, who had seen a strange object in the sky. An investigator visited her and collected the relevant information. She reported seeing a bright orange object descending slowly. It disappeared behind some trees on the skyline and then re-appeared flashing red. The object was too far away for Mrs. Moore to make out any details. The date and time of this sighting corresponded exactly with that of the Hainford sighting and during the course of the interview it seemed more and more possible that in fact it was the same object. Mrs. Moore lost sight of the object as it disappeared behind the houses on the skyline. A compass bearing was taken of this spot, which when it was plotted on a map of the area the line crossed almost exactly over the spot where Mr. Arthur had seen the Object. We had found our independent witness.

In the meantime, analysis of the samples taken in the wood had been carried out. These proved to be rather disappointing to say the least. Unfortunately we were, through lack of resources, unable to carry out perhaps the most important test of all; that for excess radiation. All the other tests carried out, excess acidity etc., proved our samples, as far as we could tell, to be completely normal. The grey dust-like deposits on the leaves turned out to be minute grey hairs and the dead and dying tips of the grass seemed to be a completely natural phenomena.

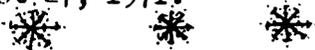
#### CONCLUSIONS.

It seems safe to say that on the night of August 27, 1971, a domed disc-like craft of some sort was seen near New Hainford. It travelled in a NW direction under observation and at one point its colour faded from a bright orange glow, to be replaced with small

red flashing lights. Half an hour later, a very similar object was seen to rise rapidly from a point just over half a mile north from where it had been seen to go down, by another witness. The story is supported by a third, independent witness, who observed the object from a point some five miles away. Subsequent investigation on the ground around the area where the object descended, revealed extensive areas of flattened grass which could have been attributed to the object. There is no evidence to link the grey hair-like growths on the leaves, or the dying grass, with the object, except that they were both only found in the areas where the grass had been flattened. It does not seem possible that an animal or vehicle of some kind could have been responsible for the flattening as the spot was surrounded by dense trees and undergrowth on all sides. It would have been simple for us to trace the path in and out of the wood. To date we have been unable to come up with any natural explanation of any sort for the flattened grass.

As with most cases of this sort, some anomalies immediately spring to mind. Why for instance, had nobody else reported seeing the object? Although this area is not densely populated there are quite a few farms and houses within a mile radius of the area and to the south-west lies Newton St. Faith. Mr. Arthur observed the object for 15 minutes and his mother saw it, assuming it was the same object, some 30 minutes after that, which means that it must have been in the area for at least 45 minutes, yet no other reports of the object were received from the vicinity. One final point is worth noting; the course followed by the object coincided almost exactly with power lines across the fields and it is interesting to speculate whether or not there might be some connection.

This then is the case. Theories and hypothesis can be built around it in profusion, although that is not the aim of this article. We have set out to suggest, perhaps even to prove, that an Unidentified Flying Object of some nature did land, or came very close to landing, at New Hainford on August 27, 1971.



Most of us at some time or the other have used Mistletoe at Christmas to obtain the traditional kiss and, in doing so have unwittingly enacted the remains of a pagan fertility rite pre-dating Christianity. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant which grows on most trees. It was believed by the Pagans to contain the life source of the tree when it appeared to be dead in the winter. It was considered to be particularly powerful when found growing on the Oak, which was the sacred tree of the Druids. The white berries were thought to hold the seminal fluid of the Oak and therefore the spirit or god of the Oak tree, consequently it was considered a powerful charm to induce fertility. The Mistletoe was ceremoniously cut with a golden sickle on the 6th day of the moon. The sprigs were caught in a white robe and then distributed amongst the people to ensure fertility among themselves and their livestock. The sprigs were also hung over the doorway as symbols of peace and hospitality. Mistletoe also formed part of the celebrations of the Summer and Winter Solstices and protected houses from thunder, lightning and all evil. Because of its heathen and pagan associations the plant was banned from all churches after the onset of Christianity.



**'GREY LADY' SEEN RECENTLY IN NORWICH.**

The apparition of a lady, clad from head to foot in grey, was seen recently in Tombland Alley, Norwich. The ghost was watched for some time as it glided along the alley, finally disappearing through a solid wall. This sighting was reported in the Evening News on December 6th, but unfortunately they could not supply us with further information. If anyone can shed any light onto this mystery, we would be pleased to hear from them. Apparently this is not the first time such an apparition has been seen in Tombland so if any reader can supply information regarding previous sightings, we shall also be pleased to hear from them.

INTERESTED IN  
**B.S.I.G.**  
AND ITS ACTIVITIES

THEN WRITE TO...  
MR. I. BUNN  
3 DUNWICH WAY  
LOWESTOFT



for further details



WERE YOU UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MISS THE AUTUMN EDITION OF LANTERN? IF SO, DON'T DESPAIR, WE STILL HAVE SOME COPIES OF IT LEFT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM 3 DUNWICH WAY LOWESTOFT, PRICE 10P POST FREE.



# ESSEX GHOSTS

I begin with a very dramatic case of an apparition after death. In December 1938, Mr and Mrs. Dawson of Great Dunmow, were driving to London when they saw walking by the side of the road, a lady who was their neighbour. They nodded and smiled at her and she responded suitably. At the very moment this happened, her body was laying dead in the garden. She had shot her husband and then committed suicide. Ghosts of the road of another type were seen by Mr. Edwin Charlton of Jaywick Sands, who was out on a country cycle ride with a friend when two other cyclists, vague shadowy figures, whizzed past in silence. Their sudden advent caused the two friends to swerve and considerably startled them. They were just about to make some uncomplimentary remarks about them when they just disappeared. This happened in bright moonlight.

The oddly shaped building at Chingford, known locally as Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, harbours a spectre of a terrifying type, which attacks its victims in the darkness. A tale is told of a tramp who crept into the building for a night's sleep and was found the next morning raving mad. Within a few miles is the site of Wanstead House, where the Queen herself is said to appear in a spectral coach. She often visited the Earl of Leicester when he lived here. Another royal (at least by marriage) ghost is Anne Boleyn who haunts Rochford Hall, where she is supposed to have lived as a girl and where she was courted by Henry VIII.

Chickney church near Tdaxsted, is the scene of supernatural music, which was heard quite recently. A foreign gentleman who was staying with one of the villagers was interested in old buildings and was taken to see the church, but when he and his friend arrived they heard music and supposed that a service was in progress. They waited for some time and then went in, to find the church empty. It is very old, being small and simple in outline, so there was nowhere anybody could have hidden. In 1950, a man and his wife were walking past Waltham Abbey when they noticed a pale light shining from within, although it was dark and the last service long over. The wife began to tremble violently and then began hurrying down the road. She said later that as she passed the church an overwhelming sense of evil had suddenly attacked her and she had to get away as soon as possible. When I visited the church in 1948 there was a small museum at the rear of the Lady Chapel, in which was part of a stake said to have been driven through the body of a suicide to prevent him 'walking.' Perhaps this had something to do with the unpleasant manifestation.



QUEEN ELIZABETH'S HUNTING LODGE - CHINGFORD

Haunted inns figure frequently in the annals of ghostland and in Essex we have our share. An old pub near Braintree contains an haunted room where quite a number of people have been disturbed by knocks, scrapings, cold draughts and the like. Black shapes have been seen and the cries of a child heard. There is a legend that a child was murdered in the room in front of its mother. The Cross Keys at Saffron Walden is haunted by footsteps said to be those of a cavalier from the time of the Civil War. The town was occupied by Cromwell and his men in 1647 and it was probably no pleasant place for a Royalist agent or straggler. I have a note of a pub in Essex which is haunted by the ghost of a former landlord, an old man who smokes a pipe, but unfortunately the precise location is not stated.

A ghostly monk is said to glide across the road near Holy Cross church at Basildon. This apparition caused consternation among cleaners at the Ford factory there, by whom it was frequently seen as they cycled to work. Processions of ghostly monks have been seen in a field near Southend where there was once a religious house, and a single spectre of this type is seen in the grounds of Prittlewell Priory, now a museum.

Ghostly ladies are not uncommon. At Canewdon the apparition of a woman wearing a crinoline and poke bonnet walks from the old churchyard to the river. Anyone who approaches her finds that the bonnet is empty; she has no face! A grey lady haunts Wanstead churchyard, riding in a coach pulled by four white horses. She is said to be the ghost of a woman who was widowed two days after being married. There is a white lady at Hadleigh Castle. She offers to dance with anyone, male or female, she encounters. The

dance usually ends with her partner being thrown into the dry moat!

Spectral animals are reported from several places. Danbury is haunted by the phantasmal figures of a sow and twelve piglets which cross Moor's Bridge. The quite modern village of Ford End is frequented by the apparitions of a white horse and a headless cow. In Hopping Forest there is a white stag, a kind of fairy creature which is said to foretell national disaster. Attempts to photograph it or get near it always fail. It was last reported, as far as I am aware, in 1959.

Finally we have the best known of all Essex ghost stories, Borley Rectory. The hauntings comprised the apparitions of a nun and other figures, poltergeist phenomena, noises, paranormal writings and the displacement of objects - the lot! They were extensively studied by the late Harry Price, who wrote two books about them which became world famous. After his death the Society for Psychical Research published a volume in which it was stated that they were all faked and that Price was the faker. The book however contains its own refutation. It admits that manifestations were experienced as long ago as the 80's of the last century, but Price did not appear on the scene until 1929. He was in fact not born until 1881 and he could not have faked the phenomena while still in the cradle! He may have taken a somewhat rose-coloured view of his results due to his anxiety to have psychical research recognised as a subject suitable for academic study, but that there were genuine phenomena appears, to me at least, to be beyond doubt.



# INSIDE B.S.I.C. THE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH SECTION

PART TWO  
THE  
EQUIPMENT

In LANTERN 3, a brief outline was given of the various types of equipment used on a ghost-watch. This has prompted many people to ask what these various devices are and for what they are used. It is the intention of this short article to clarify this matter,

First of all it should be pointed out that the equipment used on ghost-watches is NOT ghost detecting equipment. Its purpose is solely to monitor and record all such physical activity that is associated with ghosts and hauntings. Quite often, perfectly normal happenings, such as draughts, noises etc., can easily be mis-construed as the activities of a ghost, especially in the middle of the night! The purpose of our equipment is to eliminate these normal happenings and leave us with only the un-explained. In some respects we like to think of this equipment as an extension of ourselves. The basic equipment used is as follows:

**VIBRATION DETECTORS:** These are designed so that any small vibration on the floor will trigger them off. They are placed at random in and around the haunted area.

**DRAUGHT DETECTORS:** Cold draughts are often associated with ghosts and hauntings. The Draught Detectors are built so that they will register any draught in the vicinity which might be associated with the haunting, or help us eliminate any superfluous draughts.

**THERMOSTATIC SWITCHES:** The most common phenomena associated with hauntings is a distinct drop in temperature or a 'cold spot.' The Thermostatic Switches will register any drop in temperature of 3 degrees F or more. They are usually used in conjunction with a watcher whenever possible, that is, kept near him in the haunted place so that if he complains of feeling cold, a check can be made to see if there is an actual drop in temperature at the time. In this way enabling us to ascertain whether these temperature drops are subjective or objective.

**LIGHT SENSITIVE DEVICES:** These are put into darkened rooms in the haunted area, which are then sealed. Should a light source of any sort appear in that room the device will register it and inform the watchers outside.

**SOUND MONITORS:** This device, which consists of a sensitive microphone and pick-up dish, is usually situated in the haunted area away from the watchers, sometimes in a sealed room. In this way any sounds in that particular area can be monitored. The monitor is connected to a tape-recorder, through headphones, so that any unexplained sounds can be recorded. This then is our basic equipment. All these sensors, there are four of each apart from the Sound Monitor, are placed in the area which is supposed to be haunted. Each is then connected to a CENTRAL CONTROL UNIT which is operated by one person, who can tell at a glance exactly what is happening. The positions of all the devices are plotted on a plan of the area and by reference to this the operator can tell exactly where any activity is taking place. All such times when the sensors register activity are noted, should excess activity occur at one particular spot over a short period of time, then watchers will go to investigate. As we consider the reactions of people to be far more important than those of the equipment, we never take the reactions of our sensors on their 'face value', but always back them up with a thorough investigation by the watchers for the brain can still register many things which electronics cannot.



# THE MAGDALEN STREET HAUNTINGS

Scouting hurriedly through the local paper in my usual manner one evening in August 1972, I noticed a note about the alleged haunting at the Oxfam Shop in Magdalen Street, Norwich. No sooner had I put the paper down than I commenced enquiries into the matter. After two or three days, research had shown me that the original building was built some 300 years ago and hid beneath it an area of Norman roadway and buildings. It was used for a variety of purposes in its long lifetime, amongst them a cobblers shop, wine and spirit merchants, a public house, television shop and finally now the Oxfam Shop.

Armed with a certain amount of historical background at my fingertips, I was able to track down all the witnesses of the various happenings, except one, who is now unfortunately deceased. After a while it became obvious to me that there might not be one alleged ghost, but two.

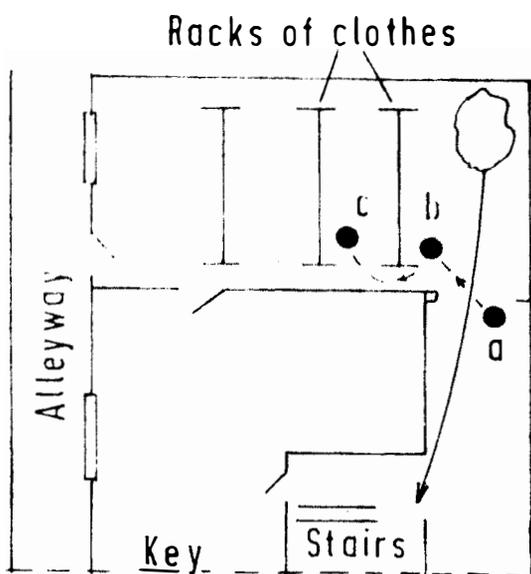
In the days when the shop was used by the television rental firm the first 'ghost' made a quiet and almost insignificant appearance. It seemed as though the people working in the shop became aware of unaccountable footsteps and slamming doors, which intrigued rather than frightened them. Being of an enquiring nature the manager at the time decided to stay the night in an attempt to finally locate the phenomena. Unfortunately nothing untoward happened although he confided to me that usually, when he heard the noises, no matter where he went they always seemed to emit from another part of the building. He also stated that once he was startled to see a patch of greyish smoke in the corridor upstairs, but could really find no explanation for this. One by one the employees substantiated the truth of these happenings and I had no hesitation in re-establishing contact with the Oxfam Regional Office to arrange an investigation of their newly acquired premises with an intrepid and fearless band of 'ghost-hunters' from BSIG.

The evening of August 26 saw us silently watching and waiting beside the equipment for anything out of the ordinary to manifest itself. We did not have to wait long before all the lights in the front showroom were unexplainedly turned off and the source of light had to be physically reinstated. A little while later I was in the upstairs toilet, when to my



astonishment the originally locked door swung violently open with no apparent physical explanation, but no-one was there to substantiate this. As if this wasn't strange enough a tape recorder picked up a woman's voice saying something which sounded like "we know you're there" or "who's there?", but this voice was not heard by the watchers themselves. Just previous to this a 'trump' was heard upstairs and the next morning I couldn't help reflecting that some form of haunting was in fact affecting the premises. After our visit the unexplained happenings seemed to die down and fizzle out.

Any thoughts I might have had about hearing the last of the Oxfam Shop were squashed when nearly a year later I was informed of a spiritual revival. Apparently the manager of the shop had encountered a supernatural cascade at the premises. One night he was tidying up and making the doors secure for the night. He had hardly reached the entrance to the back room (see Fig 2) when he was 'paralysed' from the waist downwards by an icy draught emitting from the room. Suddenly he saw a rack of clothing move and thinking that someone was hiding on the premises, he managed to move into the room only to witness the rail of clothing next to it undulate backwards and forwards. Despite searching the room thoroughly he found no-one present then, to his amazement, he was aware of a bluish cloud that was forming above the hangers and floating from sight out of the room and up the stairs (see Fig. 2). On another occasion he paid a visit to the toilet after clearing up for the night, when he was surprised to hear the outside door open and see the toilet door open, needless to say there was no-one there. As a result of these latest



- Position of witness
- Windows
- Doors
- ☁ Alleged ghost and its movement

FIG. 2 SHOWING THE BACK ROOM AND THE ALLEGED EVENTS.

happenings some mediums were asked to visit the buildings. Consequently they were convinced that they had contacted the spirit of a deceased lady who had returned because her favourite dress had coincidentally found its way onto a rack in the back store room. After some conversation she was persuaded to leave, the dress having been sold a few days earlier. Although the two hauntings have a common factor in the cloud of smoke and opening doors, I still feel that there are two different ghosts because the second one would not haunt the shop a year before the dress arrived. It is interesting to note that the evening after the medium's exorcism, a loud knocking was heard on the door of the adjacent building and the next morning objects were found displaced and a large mirror had fallen mysteriously onto the floor. This seems to have been the ghosts last fling and perhaps its finest hour!

Looking at the whole matter logically, it is certainly a matter for conjecture whether there was in fact ever a haunting in the accepted sense, but as it is I am prepared to concede that the accumulated happenings are too uncanny for plain coincidence alone. Whatever form the phenomena took, it seems as if it has now left, perhaps with the mediums help, to find some respite from a troubled world.

EDITORS NOTE: This article was a personal assesment of the haunting at the Oxfam Shop by the writer, and does not necessarily reflect the feelings and opinions of BSIG as a whole.

# U.F.O. REPORT

LOCAL  
U.F.O. REPORTS  
IN  
BRIEF

In the three months since the last edition of Lantern, local UFO reports have been conspicuous by their absence. Only two have been received, both of which are included below.

OCTOBER 11th 1973.

TIME: c7.50pm.

LOCATION: WESTWOOD AVENUE, LOWESTOFT.

WITNESS: MR. R. A. HAXELL.

A SMALL POINT OF LIGHT TRAVELLING RELATIVELY FAST IN A SOUTH-NORTH DIRECTION. IT PASSED IN FRONT OF SOME CUMULOUS CLOUDS AND THEN DISAPPEARED INTO A CLOUD. THE CLOUD INTO WHICH THE OBJECT DISAPPEARED BECAME SUDDENLY ILLUMINATED BY A PERFECT CIRCLE OF WHITE LIGHT. THEN A GOLDEN RAY OF LIGHT, SHAPED LIKE A 'TEAR DROP', BEAMED DOWNWARDS FROM OUT OF THE CLOUD FOR ABOUT 3 SECONDS AND THEN WAS GONE. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS THE OBJECT APPEARED AGAIN FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOUDS, TRAVELLING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS BEFORE, BUT NOW FOLLOWED, IN A PERFECT STRAIGHT LINE, BY THREE OTHER LIGHTS. IN ABOUT 3 MINUTES ALL HAD FADED FROM VIEW.

OCTOBER 26th 1973.

TIME: 8.04pm.

LOCATION: LONDON ROAD SOUTH, LOWESTOFT.

WITNESSES: MR. M. MARSHALL AND HIS WIFE.

A SMALL, LIGHT BLUE LIGHT, ABOUT THE SIZE OF MARS, TRAVELLING VERY SLOWLY FROM THE SOUTH EAST. WHEN FIRST SEEN THE OBJECT APPEARED TO BE HOVERING, BUT WHILST UNDER OBSERVATION IT MOVED SLOWLY ACROSS THE SKY AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE CLOUDS.

(NB; It would seem that this object demonstrated, apart from its apparent hovering, all the characteristics of a satellite. However, at the time of writing, this has not been checked against the satellite prediction tables).

IN OUR SPRING EDITION —

"BLACK SHUCK"

AT GT. YARMOUTH

PLUS

MORE ARTICLES, FEATURES ETC.

PUBLISHED MARCH 1974



# NEWS ROUND-UP

this time without the paraphenalia of the TV people.....

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS..NEWS.

## BSIG INVESTIGATORS ON TV.

On Tuesday October 9th 3 BSIG Investigators took part in a ghost watch at Kirstead Hall in Suffolk at the invitation of Anglia TV. The 'watch was subsequently broadcast on the programme 'About Women'.

## LOCAL REPUTATION

The old Tudor hall was built in the 1570's and at the moment is in the process of being renovated, the staircase and one wing still being in a sad state of repair. The hall has, for a long time, had a reputation with the local people as being haunted. On dark nights strange lights have been seen in the upstairs windows.

## GHOSTLY SWORD FIGHT

The ghost of a young girl, who lived there in the 18th century, has been seen by Mrs. C Reynolds who lives at the hall. The ghost, when seen by Mrs Reynolds was standing on the old staircase, listening intently. The stairs appeared in their original state complete with carpets and heavy drapes. The noise of swords clashing was heard fr-

om below and Mrs Reynolds feels that it was Claudia's husband and another man fighting. The girl went downstairs to stop them and in the process had her hand chopped off. She says that she got a definite impression that one of the ghost's arms was not complete.

## PRESENCE FELT

The ghost has only been seen this once by Mrs Reynolds although she often senses her presence and is convinced that she is looking for something. No other member of the family has been aware of any psychical phenomena.

Together with Ellis Hill and the production team from Anglia, the BSIG Investigators set up their equipment for the long vigil. However, nothing was seen or heard of the ghost, although two watchers did claim to sense something and Ellis had an overwhelming sensation of sadness when she first entered the room. It is hoped to visit the hall again at a later date,

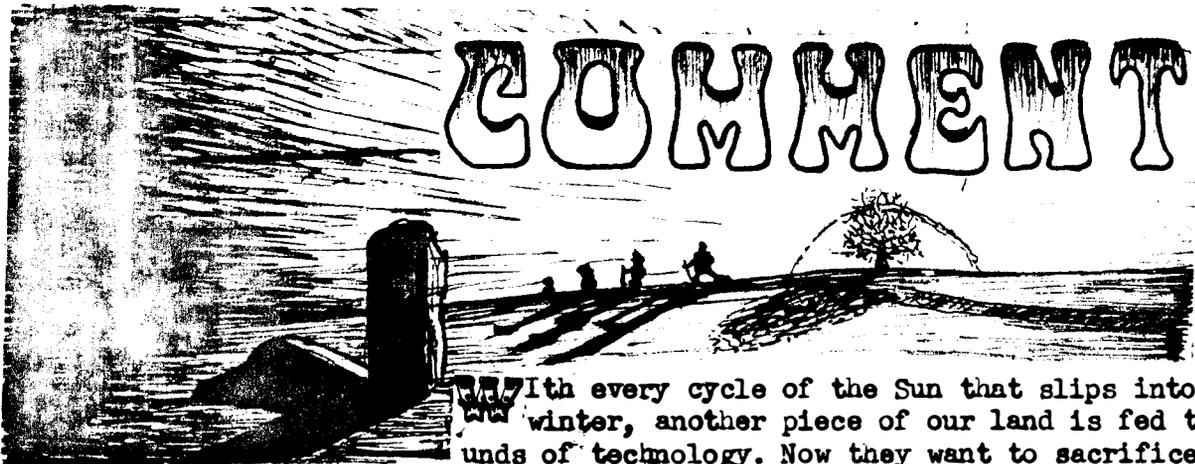
## 'WITCHCRAFT IN EAST ANGLIA' SURVEY COMPLETED.

The mammoth survey of witchcraft in East Anglia during the 16th and 17th century, which was commenced some 20 months ago by the joint editor of Lantern has now been finished.

## DETAILED.

The complete survey covers over 1000 people who were convicted of witchcraft and gives a detailed coverage of their crimes, examination, and subsequent trial. The article in this issue on the Lowestoft Witches, written by the compiler of the survey, Denis Fletcher, is based on material taken from the survey.

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS.



# COMMENT

With every cycle of the Sun that slips into haggard winter, another piece of our land is fed to the hounds of technology. Now they want to sacrifice the largest expanse of Holly in England that we have on our doorstep, in Corton Woods. And what of the Old Things?

The old roads are dwindling fast into barely used footpaths, the mark stones are being broken and their rocky roots torn from the earth. How many people know that the names Ellough and Hoveton, neither more than trekking distance away, mean that there were once Pagan Temples on the site. How many so-called wise-people know that there is a dole stone in Flegg which trundles down to the nearest water to drink on darksome nights, or that Worlingham Church aligns exactly with three other churches and a moat in a distance of less than ten miles?

I'm interested in finding out these old things before they are gone from the land forever. If any reader of LANTERN knows anything about Stockton Stone, the Bungay Stone, Leys, the ancient road that ran from Yarmouth to Blythburgh, part of which may be Roman, or any other trackways or remnants of the peoples we never knew and, if we are not careful may never know, would they please contact me by way of this magazine. If anyone is just interested in the subject and would like to have a talk about it, then please get in touch as well.

In Love of the Greenway,

Michael Burgess.

21 Kirkley Gardens,  
Lowestoft,  
Suffolk.