



# LANTERN

NO 13. Spring 1976

## introduction

Thanks are extended to all who returned the questionnaire which accompanied the last edition of Lantern, and for giving what almost amounts to a massive 'vote of confidence.' In the light of this response Lantern will continue in more or less the same form for the foreseeable future. However, to remain a viable proposition and to keep our prices pegged, we must expand our circulation. This can be best achieved in two ways: (1) By attracting more subscribers who, by paying in advance, will give us a 'working capital', and (2) by finding more outlets with bookshops, newsagents etc. (to whom we can offer trade terms). To do this successfully the ideal situation would be by large-scale advertising. Unfortunately we do not have the funds for this at the moment. However if any reader would like to send us the name and address of anyone (either an individual or a bookshop etc) who they think would be interested in Lantern, we will forward them a complimentary copy. LANTERN NEEDS SUPPORT! So if anyone thinks that they can help in ANY way, please drop the Editor a line, we will be very pleased to hear from you. Finally, as always, we welcome contributions to the mag; be they articles, comments, information, in fact anything of interest. Please, keep the material coming in.

## notes and queries

TIM CHURCH, PO Box 932, Missoula, Montana 59801, USA, is interested in exchanging notes on unknown animals (lake monsters, sea serpents, yetis etc.) from the US with similar notes from the UK. • The journal of MYSTIC FORUM has undergone a change of name and format. The new publication is called KEY, it is still published quarterly, but the price has been reduced (no its not a mis-print!) to 20p plus 10p P&P per issue. (Free to members). Enquiries to: The Secretary, 114 Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey • The latest publication from MEGALITHIC VISIONS ANTIQUARIAN PAPERS is No. 10 THE SWASTIKA: concerning one of man's most oldest of mystical symbols examined in origin and usage, Illustrated with line drawings from world-wide sources. Price 30p • Two occasional papers from the newly-formed INSTITUTE OF GEOMANTIC RESEARCH are now available: No. 1 LANDSCAPE GEOMETRY OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND by M. Behrend; details of the latest researches from a founder member of the IGR (price 75p). No. 2 ANCIENT HILL FIGURES OF ENGLAND by N. Pennick; a guide to the ancient chalk and soil-cut figures of England, with history and folklore. (price 60p). All available from Fenris Wolf/IGR Publications, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill Cambs. CB3 8SD. (All prices inc P&P, please make cheques etc payable to N. Pennick or the IGR) • HILARY BELCHER, 36 Storeys Way, Cambridge, CB3 0DT, would like to contact anyone with information on folklore and beliefs connected with seaweeds, luminescence of the sea, ponds changing to blood etc. • THE LEY HUNTER is the only magazine in Britain devoted solely to Ley Lines and allied subjects. Published bi-monthly, annual sub is £1.50 from Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool • From May 3rd to 8th BSIG is holding its first public exhibition in the foyer of Lowestoft Library. So if you happen to be in the area that week, why not pop in and give us a look? • The latest edition of WATSUP JOURNAL contains articles on (over)

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# timberrr.... it's a sea serpent!

In 1938 a 'Sea-serpent' was seen off the Suffolk coast at Southwold by two local fishermen. It was reported to have been some 60 feet long, complete with a 'hump.' When approached by the fishermen it made off at a fantastic speed.

However, in a recent local paper Mr. A. Barrett Jenkins of 12 Pier Avenue, Southwold who also saw the creature, explains what it really was. He says that his father, a local photographer hired a fisherman to row him out to photograph the 'monster' but, when they got to the spot they found the object to be nothing more than some large timbers bolted together. The humps, he says were merely the impression given from a distance by the timbers as they bobbed in and out of sight on the swell. The object was subsequently towed ashore where "a few interested people gathered to see the monster."

The same article recalls that in the 1850's the skipper of a "somewhat decrepit little Welsh Brigantine", reported that his craft had been rammed and sunk by an enormous 'whale' off the Suffolk coast. His story must have been convincing because the insurers of his boat paid-up without a murmur.....

The 1938 report of the 'sea-serpent' off Southwold was not the first from this stretch of coast. In July 1912 two daughters of Rider Haggard (the famous author), saw a strange creature near Kessingland, which they described as "a sort of head at one end and then a series of about thirty pointed blobs". Rider Haggard subsequently wrote to the Eastern Daily Press about it.

In 1931 another creature was seen off nearby Thorpeness by a 'reputable lady' who, naturally, wrote to The Times about it. She described a creature some 50 or 60 feet long with black, rounded humps and a head that swung from side to side.

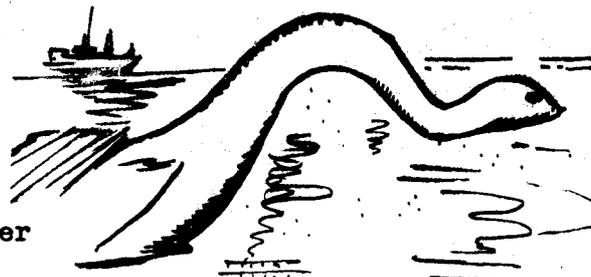
During the 1930's two more creatures were observed in the seas off Norfolk. The first was in 1930 when a steward on a small coaster off the North Norfolk coast spotted a strange creature with a neck and head like a camel. Perhaps this was only a baby for it was no more than six feet long.

Finally, in August 1936, the late Mr. H E Witard, a former Lord Mayor of Norwich saw, together with five friends (one of whom was a Member of Parliament - if that means anything?), what he described as 'a serpent....it appeared to be 30 or 40 feet in length and was skimming the surface of the water in a wormlike fashion. Its speed was terrific - 90 to 100 mph."

REFERENCES: Lantern No.3 - Autumn 1973.

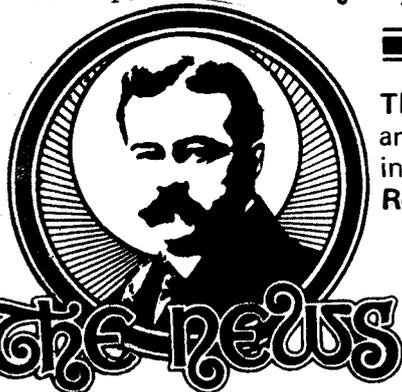
Lowestoft Journal - 16/1/1976

'In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents' } B.Heuvelmans; (Rupert Hart-Davies).



THE SOUTHWOLD SEA MONSTER  
(after A.Watteau - from 'In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents.')

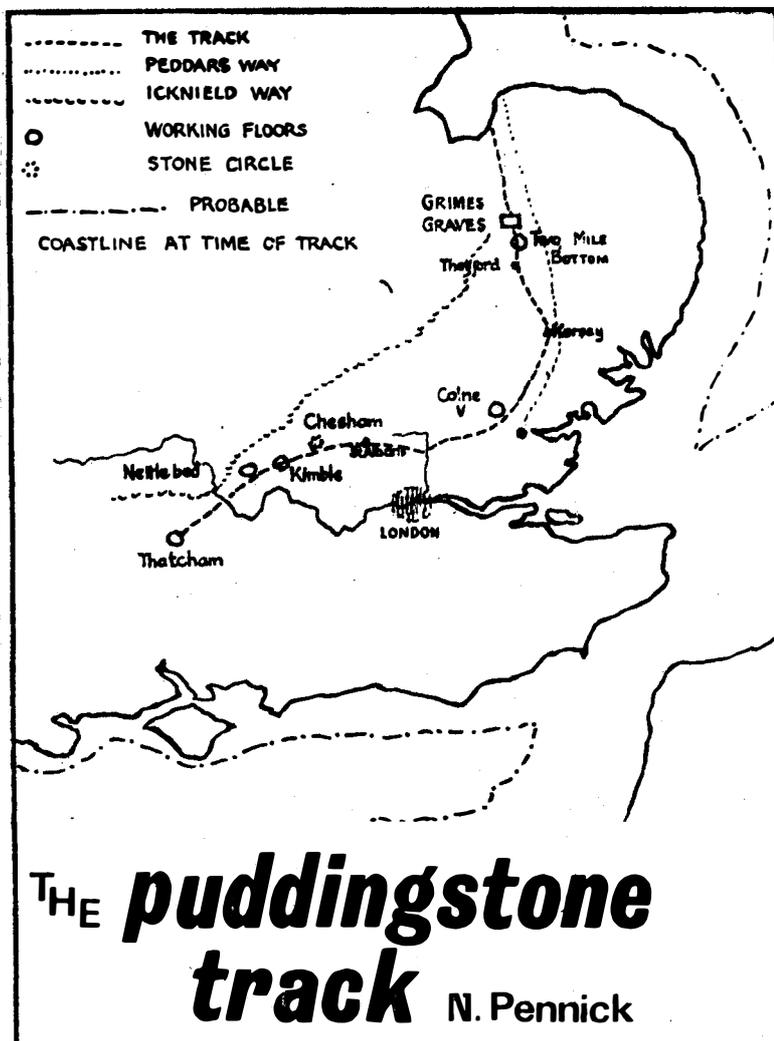
(Continued from page 1)....UFO'S; DOWSING; GEODETIC PHENOMENA. Also a CATALOGUE OF HAUNTED HAMPSHIRE (Part I), plus BOOK Reviews and much more. Published quarterly 15p plus P&P, from Nick Maloret, 180 Locksway Road, Milton, Portsmouth. • B.S.I.G. is interested in exchanging LANTERN for similar publications (which we will mention in this column, space permitting.) If you are interested in obtaining information on a particular subject, please drop us a line and we'll include your request here,



THE NEWS is a non-profitmaking bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news, notes and references; and is affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO) in continuing the work of Charles Fort (1874 - 1932). THE NEWS is edited by Robert JM Rickard: Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire, England.

No.13 has notes on MYSTERY DEATHS & PHANTOM ATTACKS, KILLER BEES, FALLS OF FROGS, plus UFOs, LEYS and much more. No.14 is a special 'monster' issue with notes on the latest 'Nessie' Photos, also the 'SURREY PUMA' and other MYSTERY ANIMALS. Annual subscription is £3, single copies 50p each.....

**EDITORS NOTE:** In past editions of LANTERN reference has been made to the 'Puddingstone or Conglomerate Track.' Unfortunately, we should have realised that there would be some readers who would be unaware of its existence. This short article does what we should have done many issues ago; it puts the 'Puddingstone Track' and its discovery into perspective. So, having said that, here goes.....



In the Autumn of 1949, Dr. E.A. Rudge, Principal of West Ham Municipal College, announced a remarkable discovery which was reported in *The Essex Naturalist*; an alignment of boulders leading from the alluvial plain of the River Lea eastwards through the county of Essex. Two years later, he and his wife read a paper before the Essex Field Club, in which they gave a detailed description of this hitherto unsuspected and undetected trackway of two hundred miles length (1).

The original discovery was that of a remarkable series of 5 conglomerate boulders at Holyfield, north of Waltham Abbey. These were in a straight line nearly two miles long, pointing north/eastwards towards the crest of the Epping Upland. The Ridges continued their researches and found a track of at least 125 stones towards Marks Tey, north/east to Kersey in Suffolk, thence to Thetford in Norfolk. From here the trackway led to the ancient flint mines at Grimes Graves. Westwards across the River Lea, the track was found leading through St. Albans and beyond to the eastern slopes of the Chiltern Hills, sweeping in a great arc through Chesham, Great Missenden and Nettlebed

Common to the River Thames near Pangbourne.

The most important feature of this trail of boulders is the use of conglomerate; from Berkshire to Kersey in Suffolk this type of conglomerate, known as Hertfordshire Puddingstone is used, and north of this the local flinty conglomerates. In Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the stone is known as 'Breeding Stone', 'Growing Stone' or 'Mother Stone'. The boulders vary in size from those small enough to be lifted in the arms of one man, to those six feet in length. They are geomantically sited, as Rudge writes:

"....stones were placed in full view upon hilltops and beside the fords, determined in their spacing and frequency by the features of the terrain.."

Many of the stones are associated with Saxon/Mediaeval antiquities, and no fewer than sixteen boulders are found in the structures or vicinity of Saxon Churches, either as foundations or as monoliths in the churchyards.

The track travels in a series of short, straight sections with a disregard for contours and coincides with three Mesolithic working floors. In the Mesolithic period (.5500 BC) the now much wooded land was heath, and stones in 'Druidic Groves' were in the open, the much later Druids having planted their Groves around the open - country holy stones.

Rudge did a great deal of field-work, as a study of the lists in his papers soon reveals. As can be seen from his original map (above), Rudge documented the track for a great deal of its length, positions of boulders being recorded in detail. In this way, and in the general tone of his works, he anticipated the opposition which Al-

fred Watkins (re-discoverer of Leys); Maltwood (re-discoverer of terrestrial Zodiac); and T.C.Lethbridge (re-discoverer of the Gogmagog hill figures), also experienced. After the Ridges' papers were published, Laurence S. Harley, in his Presidential Address to the Essex Field Club for 1952 attacked Alfred Watkins (2). (Rudge had mentioned alinements of churches etc); and of the 'Old Straight Track' Harley said:

"After a period of vigorous denouncements, the theory of the Old Straight Track seems to have been all but killed by that most effective and crushing device, professional neglect, so that in 'Antiquity' for March, 1951, Mr.O.G.S.Crawford can write; 'Where today are the Old Straight Trackers or the Phoenician Tin Traders? There is no room for these plausible hucksters in the crowded market place of modern archeology'...."

Thus the atmosphere was not one which would have been tolerant of 'outrageous' discoveries, and Dr. Rudge and his wife soon came in for direct, though polite attack by S.Hazzledene Warren (1852 - 1958), a longstanding member of the Essex Field Club (he joined in 1906). As an example of Warren's attack, I will quote him on the stone at Grimes Graves (3):

"....I should reject this stone even if aerial photographs proves a trackway...." Concluding, he wrote; "....I can see no reliable evidence...of a trackway of any date...."

Eventually Rudge published one more work on the churches (4). This was on the length to width ratio of 7:1 in Saxon churches. In the same journal Laurence Harley once more put down Ridges' research and from then on no more was published.

However, more and more evidence of the trackway was accumulated; Mrs. Robertson of Bury St. Edmunds, found the section between Chelsworth and Thetford in "an area where surface boulders are extremely scarce, and where the criticism that the track has been drawn abitarily through a line of stones haphazardly strewn about an area cannot apply." In June 1955, Major The Honourable Sherman Stonor reported to Rudge that he had found at and near Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames, further stones in obscure sections of the track.

Ley Hunters will recognise many names on the track as being significant mark-points. The Puddingstone Track is yet another thorn in the side of 'official' archeology; it is also proof that fieldwork is vital and that 'parlour research' will not do. Subsequent research has disclosed another puddingstone trackway at Coton in Cambridgeshire (5).

Dr. Rudge was alive three years ago, living in North London. When contacted he was surprised that anyone should have known of his discoveries, let alone be interested, because in the 1950's he wrote a book about The Track, which no publisher would handle. It is not known by the writer if Dr. Rudge is still alive today.

SOURCES: (1).Essex Naturalist; Vol.29; pp17-31: (2).Essex Naturalist; Vol.29 pp63-76: (3).Essex Naturalist; Vol.29, pp176-177: (4).Essex Naturalist; Vol.30, pp45-50: (5) Lantern No.12 (winter 1975/76); pp 2-3: A complete list of all the stones forming the Conglomerate Track can be found in 'Geomancy' by Nigel Pennick (Cokaygne Press, 1974).



THE MUMMIFIED CAT at Sudbury, referred to in Lantern 12, was buried on November 14th, 1975 but not by the local vicar as stated in the article. It was in fact buried by the Mayor of Sudbury, Mr. Tony Moore, in a special glass-topped casket. Canon Peter Schneider performed a special service in the building but explained: "My prayers were for the building - I could not become involved in a religious ceremony for a dead cat." (Eastern Daily Press 15/11/1975.)

It seems that the reason for burying a cat in a building was to protect it from fire. A few years ago the mummified bodies of another cat, together with her kittens, were discovered plastered into a cottage wall at Cricksea, Essex and are now on show at a local museum. (Cult of the Cat, P.Dale-Green, 1963).

# comment 1; ghosts at Westwood Lodge

In LANTERN I2, I see there is an article on Westwood Lodge, Blythburgh. I found it especially interesting since I was with the three policemen in question and spent the night in the house with them. Unfortunately I had no mention in the local papers since P.C. George Lincoln, who reported the incident to the press, thought the heading 'Three Policemen in Haunted House' made good copy. Our visit to the Lodge was a very amateur affair compared with that of the BSIG, however I thought I would clear up a few points in the write-up.

The weather on the night, as I recall, was very foggy with little or no wind. The fog appeared to be drifting across from nearby Walberswick Marshes, and was very dense. We looked over the house in daylight, before settling down for the night, and found no trace of life. We also did a search of the house after dark, and the only living creature was a small bat upstairs, which escaped out of a bedroom window. About six lengths of cotton were fitted across doors and stairways by P.C. Lincoln who was the 'spook-enthusiast' so to speak.

Unfortunately the dislodged piece of cotton was not caused by damp. I saw the piece of cotton and although it was dislocated, both pieces of tape WERE STILL INTACT. I cannot remember if the thread had snapped or pulled out, but it was definitely NOT dampness.

I can testify to the mysterious 'thuds' heard that night, several of which were very near and well defined. As far as I can remember there were no other noises at all inside the building. We also noted that there was NOT ONE RAT to be seen. I noticed a strange 'atmosphere', but I think this was due to the fact that I knew of the strange things reported. We walked round the outside of the house but did not observe anything unusual.

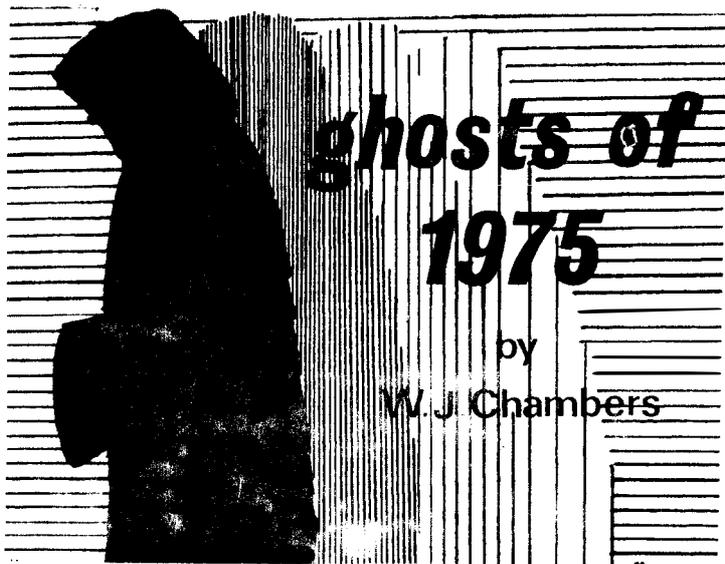
Regarding the reported tape-recording, I heard this the following day and was present when P.C. Lincoln made it. Unfortunately there were some rather obscene words as P.C. Evans fell over and the noises occurred as these took place, hence the reluctance to publicise these!!

P.C. Evans and I went along to the Lodge, to be very truthful, for the fun of it, but I don't mind telling you it was one of the most terrifying experiences I've ever had in my life!

Robert Collis, 10 Mimosa Walk, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2SR.

(Copies of LANTERN I2 are still available if anyone was unfortunate enough to miss it: Ed.).

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Last year produced a good 'crop' of East Anglian ghosts. The first note I have is of paranormal smells noticed by Mrs. B. Steele in her cottage at Bas-singbourne, Cambridgeshire. Coming in from shopping one day she noticed a strong smell of roses, lillies and hy-acinths. Her first thought was that her neighbour, who often does her little acts of kindness, had polished her fur-niture with sweet-smelling polish, but this was not the case. Later she smelt kippers and then ham cooking. This happened when her daughter and son-in-law were present. Mrs. Steele does not mind the smells, which she thinks are very nice, and wishes that they would

happen more often!

A smell of another kind occurs in a house at Newmarket, which was once the home of Nell Gwynne. There are no stories of a haunting, but from time to time the occupiers experienced a strong smell of oranges. It will be remembered that Nell started her career as an orange girl in Drury Lane Theatre, and it would be in accordance with her whimsical sense of humour to announce her presence in such a way

There is also a legend of a secret passage connected with this house.

A hairdressers shop in Bury St. Edmunds, occupied by Mr. Dennis Taylor, is haunted by a small brown, faceless monk, who has the annoying habit of turning water taps on, and Mr. Taylor has seen this happen in front of his eyes. When he is not seen, the monk's presence is often 'felt.' Mr. Taylor frankly admits that he often cashes-up at home to avoid the ghost, who always seems to turn up when he is on his own.

Another house in Bury St. Edmunds, a boutique in Abbeygate Street, is also haunted by a monk in a brown habit, who disconcertingly walked right through a wall in front of one of the assistants. The monk is about five feet, seven inches tall and his habit has a pointed hood. Footsteps are often heard and the young girl assistants will not go upstairs to the toilet, preferring to use a public one to avoid seeing the ghost.

Debenham's department store at Ipswich houses a grey lady, who looks like a nun or nurse, and mysterious noises are heard. She rarely appears, but a light was switched on in a padlocked storeroom, and then off again. The police were called in and one of them saw the light. Locked doors sometimes open of their own accord.

The Nutshell at Bury St. Edmunds, said to be the smallest pub in England, is haunted by a small boy who confines himself to a small bedroom on the third floor. He has been seen by the landlord's wife and by one of the regular customers. The landlord has experienced cold shivers, but the ghost does not bother him. He considers it appropriate that a pint-sized pub should be haunted by a pint-sized ghost! An elderly local man once told him that a child died in mysterious circumstances in the pub some time ago.

The most bizarre ghost of all was seen in the Maybush Inn at Great Oakley near Harwich, Essex. It is that of a Chinese girl. Her haunting is, as usual accompanied by peculiar noises, footsteps in empty rooms and other odd happenings. One evening the landlord came down to open up the pub when he heard a knock at the door, and when he opened it a Chinese girl walked in. He turned round to serve her, but there was nobody there. It is said that the wife of a former landlord was a medium and that the girl was her spirit guide. A Felixstowe lady, Mrs. Una Yates, who is herself a medium, claims to have contacted the girl and says that her name is Cing-a-Lee.



## **comment 2; biorhythms and psi**

Ron Hill's articles on BIORHYTHMS AND PSI have been interesting. I have been checking my biorhythms during the past twelve months, but it has not occurred to me to relate them to the psi faculty. A 'cross-over' does not always seem to have any effect, but I have experienced a 'triple negative cross-over' during the year; i.e. when all three rhythms go into negative on the same day, and it is something I am glad does not happen to often.

The theory of biorhythms puzzles me though; why should the rhythms only commence on the day of birth? In this it seems to link with astrology and indeed Dr. Lawrence Blair in his recent book 'RHYTHMS OF VISION' suggests such a link. The 3 rhythms can be readily related to the moon (sensitivity), mercury (intelligence), and the sun (physical). The orbit of the moon and the sensitivity cycles are almost the same

Then again there is the extraordinary theory of 'Vivaxis' proposed from the Canadian backwoods of British Columbia by Mrs. Francis Nixon, which suggests that the moment of birth is accompanied by an extraordinary magnetic phenomena which leaves a permanent sphere of energy at the site of birth to which one is linked all ones life, and from which can constantly be drawn if one knows how to 'channel it.'

### **They must be joking!**

"The villagers of Borley in Essex, which boasted Borley Rectory, the most haunted house in England until it burned down, are complaining because Braintree District Council are refusing planning permission for any new houses in the village.

'If this goes on,' they said at a special parish meeting, 'we will become a ghost village'....."

(Cambridge Evening News, 13/1/1976.)



Her book 'BORN TO BE MAGNETIC' makes difficult reading but is nevertheless very fascinating.

Could it be though that Ron Hill has in fact more than average psychic ability but, like many people in this category, is suffering from 'ownership resistance'? The normal consciousness has a powerful fear of the psychic and tends to disown it as something outside its control. Thus dowzers will use rods and pendulums, mediums will use guides, and healers will use God or other powers such as spirit doctors; and Ron is using a biorhythm crossover! The concept of 'ownership resistance' appears to have been put forward by K.J. Batchelor in his investigation into training PK skills. There is a very interesting discussion of this problem in the December issue of The Journal of the British Society of Dowzers, pp 13 - 15. See also my ESSEX DOWSER No.6 regarding the experiment with MENSAs Society which turned up consistent negative psi results, a classical case of 'ownership resistance.'

As a matter of interest, I consulted the I CHING oracles regarding Ron Hill's articles asking; "Is there any connection between Biorhythms and Psi as suggested by R.Hill in Lantern?" I received Hexagram 7; The Army, moving to Hexagram 15; Modesty. The image for Hexagram 7 is given as water in the middle of the earth:- "Underground water is invisibly present within the earth. In the same way the military power of a people is invisibly present in the masses." It is not too difficult to interpret this as psychic power being invisibly present in people.

In Hexagram 15 Modesty is dealt with at length, and there is more than a suggestion that 'ownership resistance' may be a protection of modesty. Nevertheless, the commentary ends with the significant paragraph; "The ultimate cause is never the outside world, which moreover reacts according to fixed laws, but rather man himself. For according to his conduct he draws upon himself good or evil influences. The way to expansion leads through contraction." If you think about it you will be surprised where it leads.

Frank Dineen, (Essex Dowzing Group), 4 Brentwood Road, Ingrave, Essex. CM13 3QH.

### 3; retreat farm revisited

Continuing our research into geomancy, and the metrological relationships between various ancient sites, we decided to do some work on Nigel Pennick's 'Retreat Farm Complex' (see Lantern 9; 'Suffolk Landscape Geometry'). Working with the same unit used by Nigel, which was discovered by Michael Behrend, where  $X = 295.3$  metres, we came across a number of discrepancies between the distances given as multiples of  $X$  in the article, and the distance actually measured on the I<sup>n</sup> Ordnance Survey map. Thus we consider it only fair, in that other people may have done geomantic work using this complex as a basis, that we now set this matter right.

Although Retreat Farm may still have some connection with the monastic system of that area of Suffolk, that complex itself would seem to be of little geomantic validity. The errors in measurement that we found ranged from tens to several hundreds of metres, and only a handful of the  $X$  multiples given were correct to within a specified limit of accuracy.

The results of our findings have been communicated to Nigel, who agrees with them. In his own words it demonstrates "a salutary lesson in not using I<sup>n</sup> maps. The problem seems to be the acceptable levels of error which, on I<sup>n</sup> maps are what you found - unacceptable."

This clearly illustrates a problem which many Ley-hunters are now coming up against; that smaller scale OS maps (I<sup>n</sup> to 1 mile or the metric 1:50,000 series) are only as accurate as the limitations of the scale allow. Road widths and many symbols on these maps are affected by conventionalisation, and church symbols suffer direct displacement because of their positioning next to conventionalised roads. Thus any line or geomantic construction obtained using this scale of map should not be automatically accepted as accurate. For this work, maps of 6", or even better, 25" to the mile are essential. Only in this way can a true picture be obtained of the way in which the landscape of this country, or any other, has been subtly altered to form geomantic patterns.

I.A.W.Bunn and M.W.Burgess. Lowestoft. 1976.



# LOCAL CURIOSITIES

A very strange creature is said to guard a hoard of gold at Clopton Hall, near Stowmarket, Suffolk. It has the body of a monk and the head of a hound.

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In Suffolk, the urine of a person believed to be suffering from witchcraft was boiled together with 9 nails, taken from as many horseshoes. Two people took part in the ceremony, working in complete silence. The proceedings started at exactly midnight, and went on until the force of the boiling liquid was strong enough to set 3, 5 or 7 nails in motion. If at this point the patient cried out, then the spell had been broken.

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In 1901, J.W. Dunne dreamed that the town of Lowestoft was bombarded by foreign warships. The bombardment actually took place in 1914, and happened exactly as Dunne had described it in 1901.

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The following back-numbers of LANTERN are still available: No.7, articles include MYSTERIOUS STONES and THE GOOD PEOPLE (East Anglian Faeries). No.10, articles include PHANTOM COACHES OF NORFOLK and SIGNES FROM HEAVEN. No.11 including UFOs OVER ALDEBY and MORE MYSTERIOUS STONES. No.12, including GHOSTS AT WESTWOOD LODGE and MIMMIFIED CATS. All at 18p each inc. P&P, from; LANTERN (Back-numbers) 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft. NR32 4RZ.

## the strange case of the *'phantom hedge'*

On Sunday, February 1st, 1976, Mr. Arthur Slater, CBE, was crossing South Green at Southwold, Suffolk. It was about 7.30pm and he was returning from a service at nearby St. Edmunds Church. Some of the street lights on the Green were out after the storm the week before; it had just stopped raining and everywhere was very dark. Mr. Slater was approaching his house, which stands on the edge of South Green, when he happened to glance to his right. "I was startled to see between me and the houses what appeared to be a leafless thorn hedge, waist high and covered in raindrops." He told the local press. "I knew very well that there was no hedge there, for the path is asphalted over from the Green's edge to the house walls.

"I looked left to discover whether there was something across the Green casting a shadow, but there was nothing except a second hedge just like the first between me and the grass verge. Both hedges stretched out before me in parallel the whole length of the block—about 40 yards."

"Not yet satisfied, I swung my walking stick against the hedge and saw the stems give way to the impact and felt a slight resistance through the stick. I next tried to grasp the hedge with my hand, but though it remained visible I could feel nothing, so I walked the remaining steps to my home with the hedges close to me on both sides until I reached the entrance to my flat, where, on looking back, everything was in its normal state."

Mr. Slater also told the press that there was nothing alarming about the experience, and but for the incident with his walking stick, he would have put it down to an optical illusion and thought no more of it.

Could it have been an optical illusion or a hallucination? Possibly, but the incident with the walking stick rather takes the edge off this explanation. It is very tempting to say that Mr. Slater had a 'glimpse of the past' and that he saw the South Green as it appeared many, many years ago. A photograph of the Green taken in 1898 apparently shows the Green looking much as it does today, so if this double

hedge did it exist it must have done so before this date. Mr. Slater himself is very interested in this aspect of the 'phantom hedge' and is trying to establish from old maps and pictures if such a hedge did ever exist on the Green.

This case is one of the most unusual and fascinating stories to come BSIG's way for many a long day. The Psychological Research Section has contacted Mr. Slater, and should any more information come to light on the 'phantom hedge of Southwold', we will publish at a later date in these pages.

Source: Halesworth Times & Southwold Mercury; 6th February, 1976.

# news round-up

## ALL NIGHT VIGIL IN 16th CENTURY HOUSE.

On January 30th 4 members of Cambridge BSIG held a ghostwatch at a 16th century Manor House in a village near Cambridge (anonymity has been requested by the owner). The house has been described by Mr.A.Cornell of the Cambridge Society for Psychological Research as "The most haunted house still standing in England." The two storey, red-brick house boasts a priest-hole and an oratory.

Psychical activity is almost to be expected in such a house, and much has been experienced by the present owners since they moved in in 1955. The phenomena include unexplained footsteps, ghostly music, rattling buckets in the former dairy, knockings, the smell of incense and several apparitions including a Cavalier, a Roundhead, two little girls, a phantom monk and the front half of a cat.

### STRANGE NOISES.

Before the ghostwatch proper had started, a mains tape - recorder was left on in the oratory for 15 minutes. When the tape was played-back 8 separate off/on clicks were heard, 2 of which were preceded by knocks and a clatter. Tests showed that the only way of reproducing the clicks was by operating the microphone switch. At the time everyone in the house was downstairs so the cause of the apparent switching is unknown.

### VOICES.

The investigators took up their positions at 11.55pm

Nothing happened until 1.45am, when a shout or cough was heard by a investigator upstairs. 5 minutes later an investigator downstairs felt a cold blast of air, which did not affect a candle flame nearby. At the same time both investigators upstairs heard a clatter (similar to that previously recorded) in the oratory, which links the two landings. A cassette recorder was switched on at random intervals during the watch. When played-back, one recording had loud 'hums' on it which were not heard at the time when the recording was made, and the low tick of a grandfather clock became speeded up on another recording. Shortly after the investigation, another visitor heard an inexplicable voice in the house.

This was the Cambridge BSIGs first ghostwatch, which was very successful and the Group hope to carry out another here in July, when further experiments with tape recorders will be made.

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS.



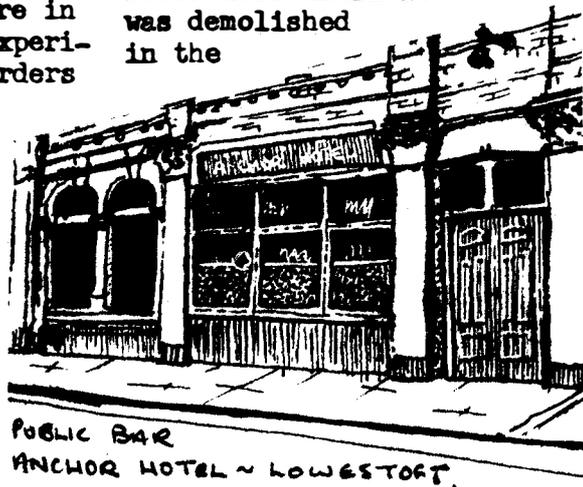
## COLD COMFORT FOR LOWESTOFT BSIG INVESTIGATORS.

3 members of the Lowestoft BSIG spent a cold, damp night locked in the cellars of the Anchor Hotel, Lowestoft, after recent reports of psychical activity there. Their all-night vigil was on 13th February, when they set up their equipment in the cold cellars - but unfortunately very little happened.

At 3.30am a noise was heard in the cellar and the temperature dropped by 1 1/2°C and did not pick up again for 2 hours. Then, at 4.45am, gentle footsteps were heard, but the investigation team could not decide if they originated inside or outside the building. Although these two incidents remain unexplained, the investigators think it very unlikely that they have any bearing on the alleged haunting.

### SITE OF PRIORY.

The Anchor Hotel is said to have been built over an underground chapel which belonged to St. Bartholemews Priory, reputed to have stood here until it was demolished in the



15th century. In the early 1900s, men working in the cellars of the Anchor Hotel, broke into this chapel which was about 15' square with groyned arches. A stone slab was subsequently placed over the entrance, which in turn was covered with a 6" layer of concrete. Two tunnels, one of which traditionally leads to the Parish Church, were also said to have been found here.

**HOODED FIGURES.**

During the last war a sailor was sleeping on a couch in the lounge of the Anchor, when he was awakened by an

icy blast of air. Looking up he saw the outline of a hooded figure standing in the doorway. The figure disappeared when he moved. Other hooded figures have also been reported in the vicinity from time to time. One was said to haunt a house which stood nearby until it was demolished in the late 1960s. Another has been seen in the street outside, and yet another is said to frequent Mariners Score opposite the Anchor Hotel. Unfortunately nothing quite so dramatic has happened in recent years, although just prior to the

BSIG investigation the landlord saw an 'inexplicable figure' in the cellars, and on another occasion a door was seen to open and close mysteriously.

**CREATE A GHOST.**

Whilst the 3 investigators were in the cellars, two other BSIG members tried to 'project' a ghost into the cellars. During the night they pictured a hooded figure and tried to project the image to the investigators, whose minds it was hoped would be in the right state. This attempt was completely unsuccessful.



**more early u.f.o.s? ~ ~ ~ ~**

In April, 1661, Captain Chelmsford of Ipswich was travelling by horse from Ipswich to London, together with the son of a lawyer. At about 10pm, somewhere between Ilford and Romford (Essex), they saw a fiery light appear between two stars. It approached at a great speed, emitting lightbeams and radiating a green/white glow. When it was overhead, it suddenly changed direction and disappeared below the horizon. Chelmsford and his companion had great difficulty calming their horses who had been badly shaken-up by the spectacle. The first thing the two men did when they arrived in London was to draw up a notarial deed relating their weird sighting.

In the summer of that same year, an Ipswich clergyman saw what at first he thought to be three suns in the sky. He soon noticed that the three luminous discs were moving. They vanished as suddenly as they had appeared.

Throughout the summer of 1661 many strange sightings took place. They were the topic of the day, because nobody could explain them. People believed that they were a sign from heaven and a warning to erring Mankind.

(*'Wonderworld; Encyclopaedia for Everybody.'* Vol.1; No.2 (1952). pp 18/19.)

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