

LANTERN

NUMBER 16 + WINTER 1976

introduction

First of all we must apologise to all our readers for the unfortunate, but necessary, increase in the price of LANTERN as from this edition. The reason for this is summed-up in one, ever present word - INFLATION! Costs of ink, paper and printing have soared during the past 12 months and because of this we are unable to hold our price down any longer. However we still think (and we hope that you agree), that even at 15p Lantern is still 'value for Money'. The new subscription rates in the UK are now 85p per year (4 issues), but to allow for the decreasing value of the £, overseas subscriptions remain the same. These new rates come into effect on renewed subscriptions and to new subscribers.

Whilst on the subject of Subscriptions, Lantern is dependant on them for its existence so, if you know of someone who you think will be interested in Lantern, please tell them about it; or better still, drop us a line and we will send them a complimentary copy.

The B.S.I.G. has just launched a new publishing venture in the form of the 'PROCEEDINGS' of the Group. These will be published irregularly and will contain details of the Group's investigations and researches, primarily in the field of Psychical Research. The Proceedings are intended mainly for B.S.I.G. members, but a small residue will be printed to enable other interested parties to purchase them. The price is 15p per issue, or ten issues for £1.35 (inc p&p). Volume I, Nos 1 & 2 have already been published and contain details of the two recent investigations at Borley Church (see news-roundup, this edition). Copies of these are now available but supplies are very limited. If you would like to receive copies please place a regular order to avoid disappointment.

NOTES & QUERIES: + The East Suffolk and Norfolk Antiquarians (ESNA) have just published a booklet entitled LOCAL CURIOSITIES; being a miscellany of ghosts, legends and unusual historical facts from the Lowestoft area. Over 40 interesting 'curiosities' are described, ranging from ancient trackways to ghosts. Illustrated, price 35p (inc p&p) from M.W.Burgess, 21 Kirkley Gardens, Lowestoft, Suffolk. + The Institute of Geomantic Research (IGR) have recently published Vol.I, No.I of their quarterly JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY. Articles in it include 'East Anglian Church Towers', 'The Mathematical Case Against Ley Lines etc' and 'The Underground Tunnels of Glastonbury' plus much more - illustrated - price 60p from Nigel Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs.CB3 8SD. +

Issue No.73 of the new-look LEY HUNTER contains articles on 'Ancient Sites & Folk Traditions', 'Castlerigg Alignment', 'The Maeshowe Anomaly' plus news, views and reviews. Published bi-monthly, annual sub. is £2 from Paul Devereux, PO Box 152, London, N10 1EP. + Another new (well, new to us) magazine to come our way is MUFOB, an informal journal devoted to ufology and related subjects. It is an independant publication and has no connection with any UFO group. Articles in the Autumn 1976 edition include 'Visions of the Night' (being one family's experience of strange phenomena) and 'winged Creatures'. An important feature of each issue is 'Intcat', an international catalogue which aims to list every known close encounter and landing case in UFO records. MUFOB is published quarterly and the UK sub. is £1.00 (inc. post) from John Rimmer, 11

(continued on back page).

Lantern is edited by Ivan Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR32 4BZ. All articles in this magazine are copyright of the authors or the BSIG and unless stated otherwise the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the BSIG or the Editor.

THOUGHTS ON THE 'PUDDINGSTONE TRACK'

BY: M.W. BURGESS.

Following Nigel Pennick's article in Lantern 13 about the 'Puddingstone Track', I began to have a few 'heretical' thoughts on the subject, in that I realised that all was not what it seemed. So here is another article about the Track, parts of which are taken from my forthcoming book 'The Old Stones of East Anglia' (hopefully).

Every mark-stone, so Dr. Rudge claimed, was a 'puddingstone' (a composite or conglomerate rock of rounded, sometimes flint, pebbles in a silicious matrix), set on hill-tops and besides fords to guide the traveller to the important flint mines at Grimes Graves, Norfolk. Although not forming a continuous ley line, Rudge stated the Track to be composed of a series of short alignments between the stones.

However, the evidence for alignments between puddingstones, at least in East Anglia, can only be described as minimal (in fact there is NO ley line which consists only of puddingstones). What few alignments there are will be dealt with shortly.

Puddingstones can be found either side of the conjectured track in just as significant positions as those on the Track itself, showing only that the stones were considered important from a sacred or utilitarian viewpoint, and not necessarily forming part of any continuous trackway. Also, although I can only comment on those stones of which I have personal knowledge, it seems to be fairly certain that a large number of Rudge's 'markers' were and are not puddingstone at all. I cannot claim to be any sort of geologist, but conglomerate is such a distinctive type of stone that it cannot be confused with any other. This particularly holds true in the northern areas of East Anglia where the only form of puddingstone is that containing flinty pebbles. I have personally visited the sites of 18 of these stones and have definite knowledge of one other. Of these 19, only 10 are still in existence, and of those that remain only 2 are actually puddingstone. Even the celebrated 'Cowell Stone' west of Swaffham, Norfolk, which Rudge describes in some detail with directions to its location, even this is sandstone.

It becomes apparent after a little study that the line of the Track is far from being a smooth curve as Rudge drew it; deviating and branching-off as it does in many places. Neither does it follow the level of the highest ground supposedly along the "gravel-capped ridges". From White Notley in Essex, to Kersey in Suffolk, it traces a circuitous route through the low-lying sands and gravels, which nowhere rise beyond 250 feet above sea level. Whereas, if it had struck north from the area of Magdalen Laver in Essex, it could have followed high land from 300 to 400 feet right to Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, and thence straight to Grimes Graves.

But why head for those mines in any case? Radio-carbon dating shows that Grimes Graves were worked between 3000 and 2500 BC; in other words in Neolithic times. Yet Rudge proclaimed the Track to have been laid down by the Mesolithic Tardenoisian people, several thousand years earlier - actually predating Grimes Graves by at least twenty centuries! Now, the Church Hill flint mines on the South Downs of Sussex were in use 4300 BC. Therefore, if we assume that Dr. Rudge has given his track too early a date, there is no reason why flint could not have been obtained much more easily from the southern area, or indeed, many other even earlier workings.

It seems more and more likely that, if the Puddingstone Track does in fact have an objective existence, then it is a comparatively late route that has coalesced, like the much older Icknield Way, into a single track from a number of smaller ones.

And yet, there still seems to be no real evidence for the Track at all. The vast majority of the mark-stones are far too small to have ever been sighting points, but perhaps Alfred Watkins' ley line theory applied here will

help to justify Rudge's claims? (admittedly, using one tenuous hypothesis to prove another is not-very scientific, but there is very little else to go on).

As far as leys are concerned, the three stones along the length of Kersey seem to align with the village church, and with the churches of Layham and Holton St. Mary.

The stone at Chelsworth Church aligns with: Great Waldingfield church - Barking church - site of castle at Milden - Hall at Chilton - and a moat near Swingleton Green.

To the north-west of Colchester there is a ley line which brings in three puddingstones and a church, viz: stone at Nayland Court Knoll - stone at Little Horkesley Church - stone at Gallows Green - and Aldham Church.

A number of other examples exist in this area in which three stones align, but of course three points do not constitute a ley line. As far as I can see then, there are no other leys in this region involving stones of the Track.

It seems then that the Track is no more than a series of (possible) short routes which Dr. Rudge unfortunately envisaged as composing on complete track. But there was, in fact, no need for such a track, since the Icknield Way followed the natural routes along the watershed, beginning and ending at approximately the same places as the puddingstone 'track', and even paralleling it for a good way.

If one surmises such a track marked by puddingstones and look only for those, then all one will find, naturally, is puddingstones. Anything else is likely to be ignored.....

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From: The Evening News (Portsmouth), January 5th, 1901.

A GHOST STORY.

The inhabitants of Steeple Morden on the borders of Cambridgeshire are agog with excitement over a report that one of the cottages in the little village is haunted. The house was until the other day occupied by a gamekeeper and his wife, who however positively decline to set foot in the place again. They tell of a gruesome experience in the darkness, declaring that they had heard the rustle of a woman's dress in their bedroom, followed by a gun report, an agonising scream, a heavy thud and silence. Morning came and the same thing happened again. The villagers have recalled the fact that the cottage in question was part of a farmhouse in which in 1734 a packman and a 'kitchen Wench' were murdered and no-one can explain it. The villagers avoid the cottage after nightfall.

LOCAL CURIOSITIES

In the churchyard at Wangford, Suffolk, there is an old oak tree. It is said that if you run around this tree three times at midnight the Devil will appear.

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According to local tradition on 'certain nights of the year' the Fairies can be seen dancing in the graveyard of St. Michael's church, Oulton, Suffolk. Another story says that the graveyard is also haunted by that ubiquitous 'woman in white.'

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Pin farm barrow at Gazely in Suffolk, is beleived locally to contain a hidden treasure in the form of 'Silver Bells'.

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About 30 years ago the remains of a medieval Leper house stood in Thetford Warren, Norfolk. It is beleived locally that the Warren is haunted by a 'phantom leper' with burning eyes and a white two-dimensional face. At one time this apparition was reported wandering about the Warren uttering 'horrible gibbering noises.'

UFO REPORT 1

HAINFORD

NORFOLK

The following is a summary of a UFO report concerning the alleged landing of a dark, silent object in the Hainford, Norfolk area. It is particularly interesting for two reasons; firstly because of a similar object reported in different parts of Britain during the same week(1), and secondly because the location is within a mile of another reported UFO investigated by the BSIG in 1971(2).

The Report:- On 7th January, 1975 at about 1800hrs, the witness was walking

from the farmhouse where she lives to fetch two ponies from a field several hundred metres away. Nearing the field, she looked up ready to open the gate when she saw a large dark object hanging in the sky over the next field. It was elliptical in shape from the angle the witness saw it, and had about twelve or thirteen lights around the lower part. The object was stationary to start with but as it started to descend the orange lights started to flash on and off at a regular rate. The witness watched from behind a hedge as the object slowly descended out of view behind some trees. She then gathered the ponies and went back to the farmhouse. She assumed the object to have landed behind some trees in the next field (which was approximately 250 metres away), but she did not go back to investigate.

The Investigation:- Two investigations were made, the first being on 25th May, 1975, nearly five months after the sighting. Since this was the first time since the witness had openly said anything to anyone about her experience it was still relatively fresh in her memory. The second investigation was conducted on 6th July, 1976, fourteen months after the first interview and eighteen months after the sighting. At first the witness said that she might not be able to remember all the details, since after the first interview she had not given the matter much thought. However, after visiting the site of the incident once more, the story was retold with amazing accuracy. The only discrepancy being in the sketch of the object made afterwards. In this second investigation, the position of the lights on the sketch were slightly different to those on the sketch in the first investigation.

An interesting point must be mentioned, this being that during the second investigation I found a large circular patch of ground where no crops were growing in the field immediately behind the trees where the object was alleged to have landed. (It is still there to some extent at the time of writing). After querying this with the witness's husband (the farmer) he said that the crops would not grow there because a pile of salt had lain on that spot for some time, and had obviously been absorbed into the soil.

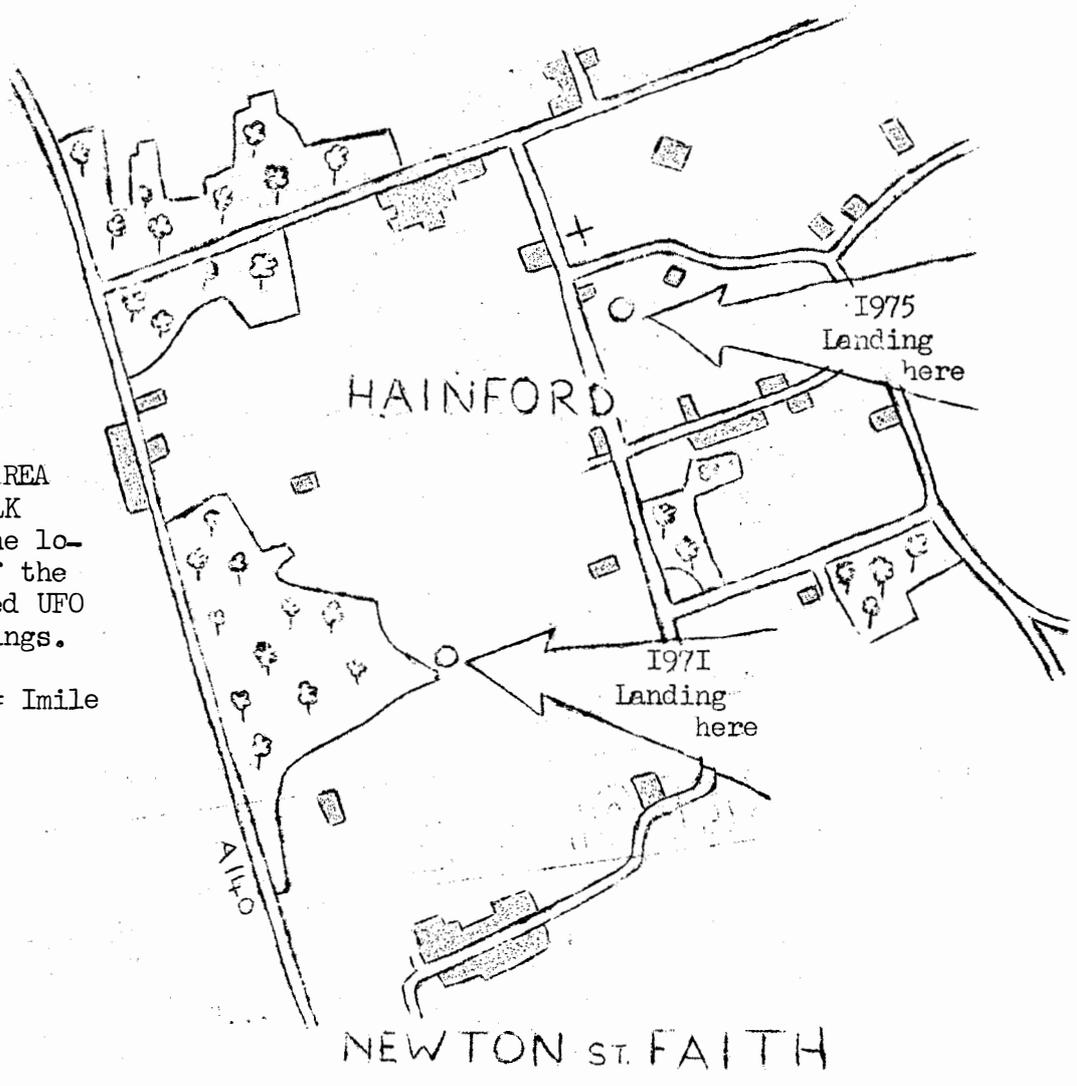
This, I feel, strenghtens the authenticity of the case somewhat, since a hoaxer would no doubt have been pleased of the chance to contribute the bare patch to an "after effect" of a UFO landing. As far as I am aware, no one else saw the object.

REFERENCES:

- (1). see BUFORA Journal Vol.4, No.10
- (2). see LANTERN No.4, Winter 1973. (The object seen here was described as a domed disc with 5 or 6 red flashing lights around the bottom of the dome. It flew low across the fields, hovered above some trees and then slowly descended out of sight behind the trees, as the object descended behind the trees its red lights were replaced by a bright orange glow which illuminated the area in the immediate vicinity.)

FOOTNOTE: This report was investigated by Keith Williamson, BSIGs UFO Research Officer, who also supplied the reports on page 9 following.

HAINFORD AREA
 NORFOLK
 Showing the lo-
 cations of the
 two alleged UFO
 landings.
 SCALE: 4" = 1 mile



BOOK REVIEWS

Two recent booklets, 'Southwold: The Fortified Anchorage of Sole Bay', and 'Ancient Dunwich', both by Jean I. Carter and Stuart R. Bacon, contain some interesting scraps of ghost-lore. The Southwold booklet says that the old guns of Gun Hill were fired on the birthday of the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), and on one occasion the charge in one of the exploded prematurely, killing the volunteer gunner. From this time there has been a story that one of the guns is haunted, although no details are given.

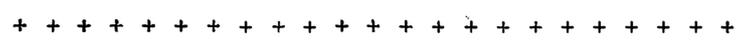
In its section on Underwater Exploration, the Dunwich booklet says that many people believe Dunwich to be haunted, and a number of divers have reported a strange presence or odd feeling. The diver who discovered the remains of St. Peter's Church was aware of the presence of something or someone beside himself, although there was no other diver down that day.

On the path which runs beside the graveyard of the former All Saint's church, one can often sense an uncanny silence, although no hauntings have been reported. It is always worth paying attention to a place which has a 'feel', as this is often a prelude to manifestations.

There is a section on the legendary bells of Dunwich about which I wrote a note in the Summer 1974 issue of Lantern. The authors keep an open mind, but do not preclude the idea that the sounds are of supernatural origin.

The booklets, which are very well produced, can be obtained from the College Gateway Bookshop, 3/5 Silent Street, Ipswich; price 50p each plus postage.

W. J. Chambers.



BOOK REVIEWS (continued).

Soon to be published in paperback form is 'Ghost Hunting - A Practical Guide' by Andrew Green.

This is an invaluable guide to all aspects of practical ghost hunting and psychical research in general. Mr. Green, who is a member of the Society of Psychical Research, has been investigating ghosts and the paranormal for 25 years and his knowledge and advice on the subject is very sound especially in the field of investigation.

Naturally, a book of this sort does tend to reflect the autho's personal views on the subject which, although they may not be acceptable to everyone, in no way detract from the wealth of invaluable information and advice contained in the book as a whole.

On the theoretical side, Mr. Green covers such subjects as telepathy and psychokinesis, whilst his down to earth investigation advice ranges from ghost-hunting equipment and its uses, to interviewing witnesses and historical research. Throughout the book the author uses examples of paranormal phenomena from his own files to illustrate points, often in a humourous and entertaining vein.

This book is well worth reading and is a 'must' every serious psychic researcher's bookshelf. 'Ghost Hunting' will be published on December 23rd by Mayflower and will cost 60p.

I.A.W.Bunn

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UFO REPORT 2

NORTH WALSHAM 'BATMOBILE'

One moonlit night in winter at 7.20 pm, a practical and down-to-earth retired solicitor's clerk, Miss Bertha Humpries of North Walsham in Norfolk, stumbled upon the inexplicable:- She recalls..."It had been snowing heavily, and when I took my little dog for his evening walk the ground was thickly carpeted with snow, so I decided to go for a short walk down one side of the road and up the other". Sooty was on a lead, and at the bottom of Mundesley Road (where she resides) near to Crows Lane, they crossed and re-

turned on the other side, walking slowly because it was slippery underfoot. She recounts:- "I glanced ahead and at the top of the road where it swerves at the bend I saw a dull, red glow moving above the ground from side to side.

"At first I thought it was the rear lights of a car reversing. Then, as the glowing still persisted moving, I thought possibly it was snow spots I was seeing, just as one sees sunspots. I rubbed my eyes - we walked on. Then I stopped and stared, as the object had now emerged from the narrow part of the road and was floundering along.

It was a jet-black oblong shape, dark and bat-like, and in the centre was a circle of dull-red light. I stood still, mystified, when the next thing I knew it was coming towards me slowly and taking up the complete crown of the road.....

When It reached the wider section of the road, near the Orchard Gardens public house, it floundered and fluttered and slowly rose into the air across the open space until it reached housetop level, the red circle still glowing and the black shape flapping and billowing like a cloak....Then I observed it was dragging behind, as if it were the tail of a kite, a miniature of itself - black, oblong, with a glowing red circle in the centre.

It stayed for a second or two at rooftop level, then with renewed effort shot up to a much higher level, floating again. Then it shot up higher still and disappeared in the clouds. All this was in complete silence as

the object made no noise what ever, although it struggled hard to get airborne....It would seem that the object got caught in the narrow section of road, as the red glow was drifting from side to side.

It was not until it came floundering to the wider part that I could see its shape, which took the form of an oblong sail and it floated towards me ... After it became airborne and had disappeared from sight a gentleman came along. I asked him if he had seen an unusual object in the sky. He, unfortunately, had been gazing down watching his step, as it was very dangerous walking ... He had seen nothing and suggested that the object might be something sent out from the radar station to warn ships ... Needless to say, I did not tell how the object became airborne - and that it had previously been floundering along the Mundesley Road!"

She told no one of her uncanny experience as she was sure that nobody would believe her, but stressed it was perfectly true. She later wrote to the Astronomer Royal about the incident, but no explanation was forthcoming.

(This article was first published in the Fountain Journal (No.2, 1976 Vol) and is re-produced here by kind permission of the Editor).

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From: Eastern Evening News: 20/2/1966.

NORFOLK 'TIGER HUNT' HALTED.

'In the cold light of day, Norfolk police were wondering today what - if anything - should be the next move in the hunt for the tiger-like animal sighted on an East Runton railway embankment last night. It has been decided not to send out more search parties until further reports have been received of anything similar being seen, or of a creature resembling the "tiger" being missing from somewhere....A veteran North Norfolk gamekeeper has suggested to police that it could have been a dog fox that 30 year old Mr. Tom Matthews, a plumber, of Buxton Close, East Runton and his parents watched silhouetted against the twilight sky for about 3 minutes last night.

All farmers and gamekeepers in the Cromer-Runtons-Sheringham area have been warned to keep a sharp look-out for the mystery creature and to check their livestock. Dead or missing poultry, for instance, might be an immediate clue that a hungry wild animal was at large.

Supt. Albert George, chief of the North Walsham police division, told the 'E.E.N.' today that nothing further had transpired since the hunt was called off near midnight. "I have not heard a word today" he said.'

Editor's Note: The Cromer-Runtons-Sheringham area is one of the traditionally favourite haunts of Norfolk's most famous spectre 'Black Shuck' who takes the form of a large, fearsome dog.

THE EDITOR AND EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH LANTERN TAKE THIS OPPURTUNITY TO THANK ALL OUR FRIENDS AND READERS FOR THEIR PATRONAGE, AND TO WISH THEM ONE AND ALL A VERY ENJOYABLE YULE-TIDE AND A PROSPEROUS COMING YEAR + +

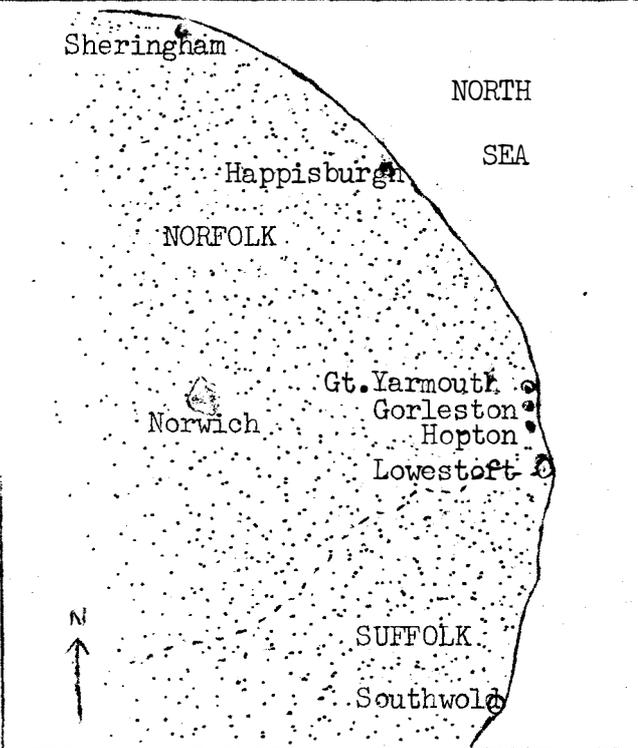
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UFO REPORT 3

NORTH SEA MYSTERY FLARES

In recent months a number of unexplained flares of various colours have been observed off the coast of Norfolk and Suffolk.

The local newspapers carried some of the reports, one of which was in the Eastern Daily Press of 12th November this year. This stated that a red flare was observed by several people including a motorist at Hopton, an angler at Gorleston and a former coxswain of Gorleston lifeboat at sea in a fishing boat. Both Gorleston and Lowestoft lifeboats were called out to search the area. The next day, 13th November, the newspaper reported that the flares seen on the night of the 11th were now thought to have come from the land at Pakefield just south of Lowestoft.



Almost a week later on the 17th November, both the Southwold and Lowestoft lifeboats were called out to investigate the sighting of a flare offshore to the north of Southwold. The search started late on the 17th, but the lifeboats and a fishing boat failed to find anything to account for the flares.

Then, on the evening of the 19th November, a big air and sea search coordinated by Gorleston Coastguard was started. In the search for the origin of more flares were the Gorleston lifeboat, two oil rig supply ships, a tanker, several merchant ships and an RAF helicopter from Coltishall. The source of the flares remained a mystery after the five hours search.

Even more puzzling were the series of green flares seen offshore along the Norfolk coast between Happingburgh and Sheringham on the night of 9th April 1976. Reports reached Gorleston coastguards from a rig supply ship and Sheringham police, among others. Widespread enquiries were made by coastguards and police but the source of the flares remained a mystery.

The answer to the green flares mystery appeared in the Eastern Daily Press on 12th April, 1976. Apparently "coastguards recalled that April is one of the months for meteor showers." The newspaper then went on to say that other areas had reported green, yellow and red meteor showers during the same week. End of mystery!

POSTSCRIPT: UNDERSEA OBJECT MYSTERY.

From the Eastern Daily Press during May, 1975, we learn that the dredger 'Deepstone' struck a submerged solid object which slightly damaged the ship's propeller. The incident happened 30 miles off the coast of Gorleston, where the water is nearly 150 feet deep. Although the ship's course was retraced and echo sounders used, no trace of the object was detected. A coastguard message said that "the object was extremely solid."

While a completely natural explanation might account for the above incident, we are reminded of the very similar cases described in Ivan T Sanderson's book 'Invisible Residents'.

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NEWS ROUND-UP

BSIG'S FIRST PRESIDENT.

The Borderline Science Investigation Group is very pleased to announce that Mr. Andrew Green, the well known author and psychical researcher, has accepted their invitation to become the Group's first Honorary President.

BSIG takes this opportunity to welcome Mr. Green to its ranks in the knowledge that his long experience in the field of psychical research can only be of great benefit to the Group.

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

SUCCESS AT BORLEY!

Since the last edition of Lantern, the Psychical Research Section has carried out two investigations at Borley Church, Essex. The first was on the night of Saturday, 11 September, and it involved seven members of the Group; 2 from Lowestoft, 2 from Cambridge and 3 from Norwich.

The investigation consisted mainly of setting up a stereo tape-recorder in the church together with various 'controls', the church was then locked and the tape-recorder was switched on and left running for most of the night.

The main object of this

investigation was to try and obtain similar noises to those broadcast by the BBC last year.

On this count the investigation proved to be very worthwhile, but unfortunately because of extraneous noise (mainly from the investigators who were positioned in the porch) it proved to be impossible to decide on the definite origin of the noises recorded.

SECOND VISIT

Prompted by the apparent success of the first investigation, the Group returned to Borley Church on the night of Saturday October 23. On this visit only 4 investigators went along and the tape-recorder was set up in the locked building as before. However this time the investigation team retired to positions outside the churchyard so as not to interfere with the recordings. On this occasion 12 hours of recordings were made and the most noticeable thing when compared with the first recordings, was the lack of extraneous noise. From the whole 12 hours of recordings, only one significant noise was recorded. This was at 8.6pm

when the recorder picked up a very loud noise which sounds remarkably like a door being unlocked and opened. (Which of course could not be the case as the church doors were all securely locked by the investigation team. To date no explanation has been found to account for this noise.

Because of the success of these two investigations, the Psychical Research Section plans a third visit to the church in the Spring.

Full details of these 2 investigations can be found in Vol. I, Nos. 1 & 2 of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE BSIG.

RETURN VISIT TO THE HALL INN, SEA PALLING.

On May 30, 1975 3 BSIG investigators visited the Hall Inn, Sea Palling, Norfolk to investigate reports of a phantom 'grey lady' seen there (see LANTERN No. 10). During this investigation an impromptu 'seance' was held at which some rather interesting results were obtained.

To try and verify these results BSIG took along a 'medium' to the Inn on 15 November last. Unfortunately he did not come up with anything remotely like that obtained on the first visit, although some of his statements were interesting and are still being checked by the Psychical Research Section and will be published at a later date.++++++

(contd. from P.I.): Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4AW. + THE NEWS has recently moved and is now available from the same address as the LEY HUNTER (see p.I). If you are interested to know what an incredible 'Fortean Year' we have just had, then read the latest issue (No. 18) which includes an incredible 15 page 'Diary of a Mad Planet'. + UFO researchers in Essex will find the JOURNAL of the ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP invaluable reading as its pages are full of UFO reports from that area; plus reviews, articles and the latest Group news. Published bi-monthly, annual sub is £2. Full details of the JOURNAL and EUFOSG from Mrs. Jean Easton, 17 South Park Road, Ilford, Essex. 'SAE please). + Finally the editor of Lantern apologises to the producers of any mag who have sent us details but which have not been included in this issue. Unfortunately, because of lack of space, there has to be a limit to what we can use in any one issue. If we missed you out this time we'll do our best to include you in the next issue. So, keep those exchange mags coming in!