



# LANTERN

## Introduction

Over the past eighteen months or so we have been absorbing the slow but steady costs of printing LANTERN which has meant that the planned growth of the magazine has been somewhat curtailed. So, to give us a bit more cash to play with, we have decided to increase the price of LANTERN as from this issue, from 15p to 18p. The annual subscription will likewise be increased from 85p to £1.00. In turn the Editor of LANTERN and the B.S.I.G. guarantee that each issue will contain a minimum of 10 pages plus on litho page (or the equivalent) plus 'SPELLTHORN' the Newsletter of the E.S.N.A. We also guarantee that the price of LANTERN will not increase for at least another 12 months.

This would be a good time to thank all those who have given LANTERN their support over the years and hope that you will continue to support us in the future. During the last year the sales of LANTERN have increased quite well and the number of regular subscribers has doubled. It is with our subscribers that the future of LANTERN lies, so please tell your friends about us and persuade them to take out a subscription as well. As always we welcome letters and articles (preferably with an East Anglian 'flavour'), comment, suggestions and press-cuttings - in fact anything that will interest our readers.

It only remains for me to wish you, one and all, a very happy Yule-tide and a prosperous New Year - and, THANKS FOR YOUR MUCH APPRECIATED SUPPORT!

Ivan Bunn-Editor.

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### EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. EDWARD BROWNE OF NORWICH (1663 - 4)

Edward Browne was the son of Sir Thomas Browne (1605 - 1682), the famous philosopher and thinker who wrote such works as 'Religio Medici' and 'Pseudodoxia Epidemica' amongst others.

January 30, 1663: "...A magical cure for the jaundise;- Burne wood under a leaden vessel fill'd with water, take the ashes of that wood, and boyle it with the patient's urine, then lay nine long heaps of the boyld ashes upon a board in a ranke, and upon every heap lay nine spears of crocus, it hath greater effects then is credible to anyone that shall barely read this receipt without experiencing."

February 5th 1663: "I went to see a serpente that a woman living in St. Gregories church yard in Norwich vomited up, but shee had burnt it before I came.

February 13, 1663: "We drew valentines and danced this night at Mr.Howards. Hee was gat by Ms. Liddy Houghton and my sister by him" (contd on page ).

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were flabbergasted. There before them was only a ditch and a wilderness of tumbled earth, weeds and mounds all overgrown with the trees which they had seen on their first visit. Miss Wynne thought at first that the house and wall must have been pulled down since their last visit. But closer inspection revealed that the mounds and a pond had obviously been there a long time. When questioned in later days, no-one in the village had heard of a house on the site.

Miss Wynne wrote to a wireless programme on March 11th, 1934, about the spectral mansion. In a letter to Sir Ernest Bennett who had appealed on the air for cases of ghostly apparitions, she wrote: "I am convinced that the house either once stood there, or else I shall meet it again somewhere else. I have often been past its site since, but I have never seen it again." She added, "I am not what might be called psychic and this is the only experience of the kind I have ever had."

Miss Allington, the former pupil, also wrote to Sir Ernest some years later confirming the story. The astounding tale has been retold by two or three authors of successful ghost-hunting books.

But one man who has been busily compiling and sifting through the evidence is Mr. Leonard Aves of Mon's Oak, Bradfield St. George. Mr. Aves, who moved to the village on his retirement four years ago, has privately published a history of Bradfield St. George, written by himself and his wife Doris.

His love of local history and keen eye for detail has resulted in a first class little book, in which he devotes a chapter to ghostly tales.

"Miss Wynne died some years ago. But I have found a number of middle-aged women who had been pupils of Miss Wynne including a titled lady. They all remembered her and spoke highly of her

but none could recall her telling them about this incident," he said. "Frankly I'm hard-headed and can't believe in ghostly apparitions. But I have no reason to doubt that Miss Wynne was a perfectly honest and reliable witness. I trust her integrity. I can offer no explanation. I have considered that it might have been a mirage, but I have had some experiences of mirages and I believe this apparition too large to be encompassed in one. At least, I have

never heard of a mirage that large in this country.

"Furthermore, for it to have been a mirage would mean that there would have to have been such a house not too far away and we cannot find any traces of one within a reasonable radius.

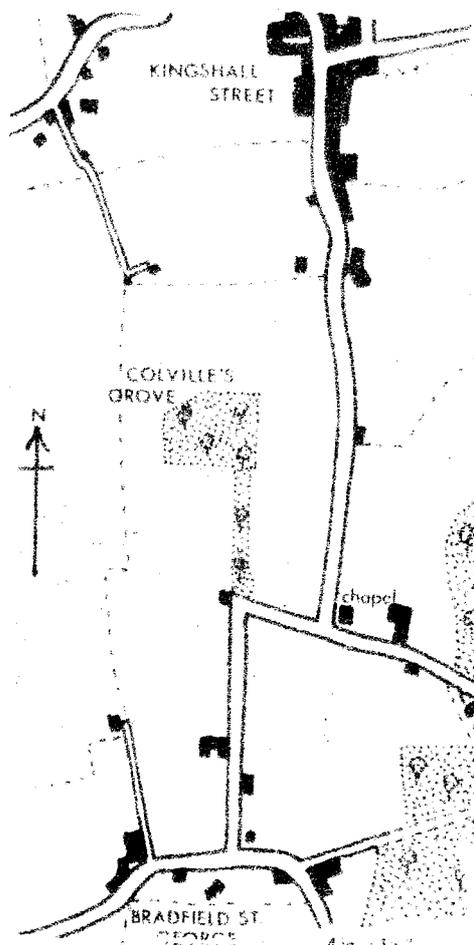
"But I wonder - did something used to stand there? I believe that this was the older part of the village near the church. And on the road from Bury and Little Welnetham there is a vicious right turn there, as if the road had veered to go around a building of some sort."

But Miss Wynne's is not the only uncanny tale of appearing and disappearing houses that Mr. Aves has to tell. He goes on to re-

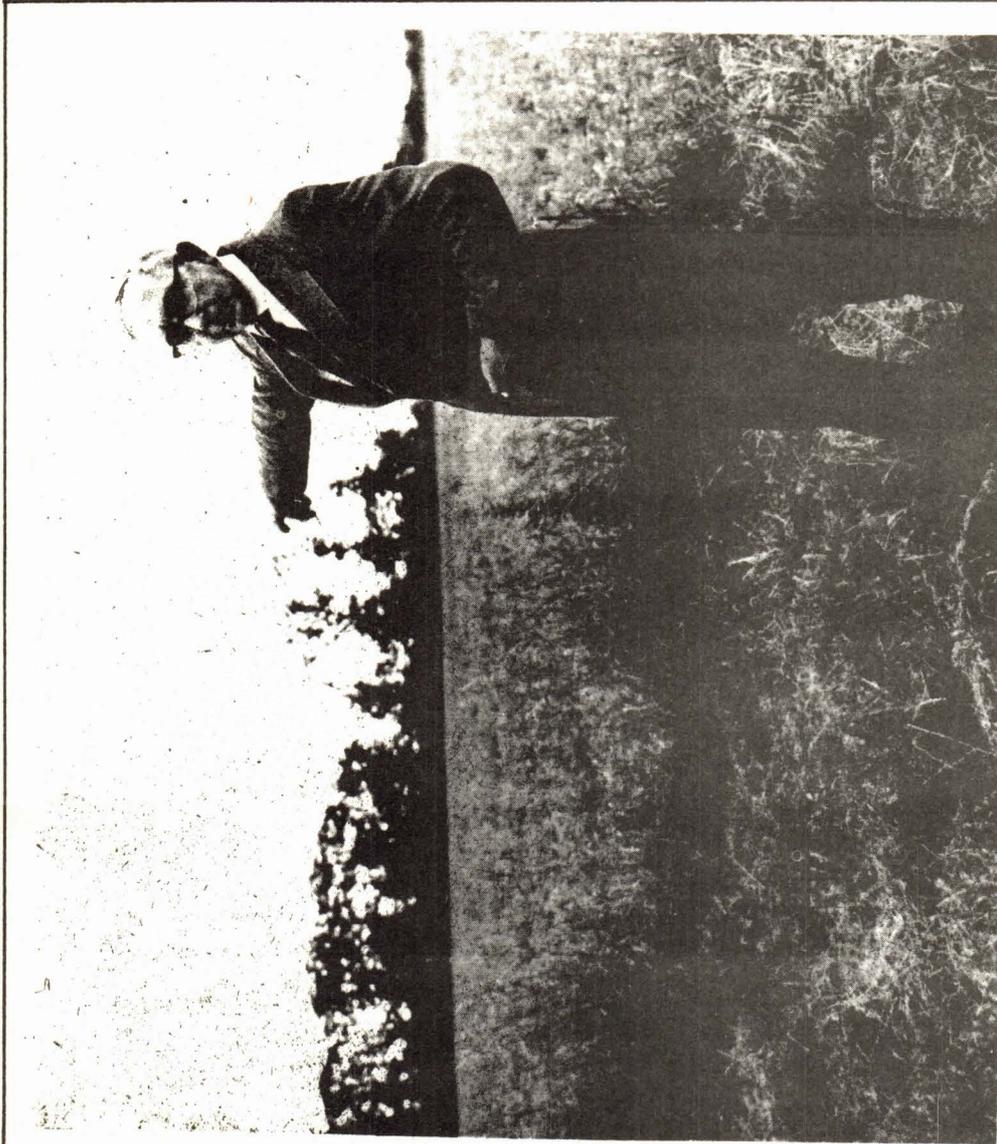
count a story which first appeared in print a few years ago, written by a man who used the nom-de-plume James Cobbold.

Mr. Cobbold now retired, tells of a curious incident which took place in his youth when he used to go with an old butcher, Mr. George Waylett, on his rounds on Saturdays. They travelled by pony and trap around Rougham and the Bradfields.

On one particular Saturday in June the trap was jogging along Kingshall Street towards Bradfield St. George. Suddenly there was a loud swishing noise and the air all round became very cold. The butcher whinnied in terror and bolted. The butcher was thrown over the back of the cart while







Mr Leonard Aves points to the spot where the spectral mansion appeared. In the background is Catville's Grove.



Mr Aves takes a close look at the earth bank where the spectral mansion was seen by Miss Wynne and her pupil.



# CROSSROAD & ROADSIDE BURIALS

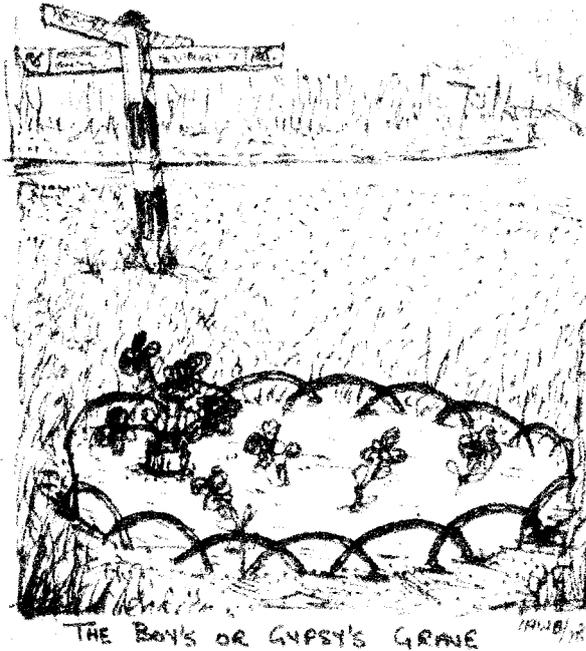
M.W. BURGESS

Surprisingly enough, although the idea of someone being buried at a particular crossroad is one that is firmly rooted in all our traditions, very little seems to have been written about it over the years. I must admit that I have always been unable to find very many from East Anglia, and most of those that I have come across originate from Suffolk. Previously I had thought these tales to be no more than local legends, but one or two discoveries lately have led me to believe otherwise.

A crossing of trackways has always held an important position in mythology, being as it was an obvious and convenient place for gatherings of all kinds. Wayside inns would often be built nearby, thus forming a focal point for the growth of a new settlement. As time passed and the structure of settlements became more permanent, a notable tree or perhaps a stone would be placed there, and the spot used as a marker on a Saxon estate boundary. Crossroads were also held in a kind of mystical reverence, for they were deemed to be the haunt of the Hag, the third or 'deathly' aspect of the pagan Mother Goddess. They were the sacred domain of Diana/Hecuba/Hecate, whose worshippers were alleged to practise the sacrifice of living creatures at the crossroads.

As Christianity made its way into the countryside, burial at the crossroad, or simply under the road, became the province of suicides, heretics or murderers; in short, anyone who had forfeited the right to interment in a Christian churchyard. For centuries it was the custom to bury suicides lying in a north to south position instead of the Christian east to west, and with a stake (preferably of whitehorn) driven through the heart with a single blow. Although reserved for the vampire (rather scarce in Suffolk), this pinning of the heart was used on most restless spirits in an attempt at preventing them from rising again. The burial at a crossroad was an added precaution, since even if the spirit did manage to escape the stake, it would not know which path to take (this was presumably in the days before the advent of signposts). Suicides and the like were regarded with utter abhorrence by the people. A law passed in 1823 (but repealed in 1882) even stated that the body of one who had taken his own life had to be buried privately, and without any religious service whatsoever, only between the hours of 9pm and midnight(1). Witches too were sometimes buried there, and it was a favourite spot for the siting of a gallows or gibbet, as in the case of 'Black Toby' of Blythburgh reported in the last issue of *Lantern*(2).

There are many sites all over the country whose names have the prefix 'deadman's' or variants of this, and one can be fairly certain that here is an example of unsanctified burial. For instance, in the 1683 record of the perambulation of the boundary of Walberswick, Suffolk, can be found the extract; "....and so through the park to Deadman's Cross, by the heap of stones...", so called from a suicides grave(3). Also here is 'Deadman's Corner', from the tradition that someone was once burnt at the stake here(4). A fairly well-known tale comes from near Tollesbury in Essex, where a man (presumably named Jordan) is said to be buried with a stake in his heart at 'Jordan's Green'. This also seems to be a haunt of the ubiquitous Black Shuck(5). There is a crossways near Stanton in Suffolk with a similar legend attached; nowadays it is called 'Alecock's Grave', but on early maps it is marked as 'Ape's Cross'. Again, there is a 'Deadman's Grave' in the parish of Spexhall, Suffolk, which I have probed and researched, but the tale here seems to be lost. The big crossroad on the Newmarket to Bury St. Edmunds road near Moulton is perhaps one of the most famous of all, for on the grassy verge is the 'Boys' or 'Gipsy's Grave', supposedly kept in trim and flower-decked by the gypsies themselves (though no-one ever sees them doing so). Some think it to be the grave of a gypsy shepherd-boy who hanged himself many years ago when falsely accused of sheep-stealing,



the next man committed such a crime, I do not know, but an entry in the Palgrave parish register for December 30th, 1587, reads: "Johannes Bungey sepultus in via"...."John Bungey buried in the road". (9)

A definite proof of the practise of driving a stake through the heart comes from a note in the Ipswich Journal in 1783, and it reads:

"Last week we mentioned that a man named Hurwood, millwright of Ballingdon, took arsenic in a fit of discontent. At the inquest the Jury returned a verdict of 'self-murder', and on Sunday morning early he was buried in the crossway, with a stake driven through his body, near the pound on Ballingdon Hill." (10)

At the corner of the road from Hadleigh to Layham, Suffolk, just outside the park called Holbecks, used to be a grassy mound that was still visible in the mid-1940s. An old lady of Hadleigh always said that a suicide by the name of Mary Miller was buried there. (11) Another spot named after a 'self-murderer' is 'Bond's Corner' in the parish of Grundisburgh, Suffolk, where the road from there to Otley crosses that from Clopton to Tuddenham. (12) Where the Suffolk parishes of Kesgrave, Foxhall, Brightwell and Martlesham meet, at a crossways on the heath is 'Dobb's Grave' or 'Corner', and leading to it 'Bobb's Lane'. Here is a low, wide mound marked by concrete head and foot-stones, said to be the grave of a suicide of that name, who again had a stake hammered into his heart. According to the legend, he was a shepherd who hanged himself in a barn on Kesgrave Hall Farm. (13) The name Dobbs appears several times in the parish registers, but there is no mention of a suicide. It appears that a few local men doubted the tale, but "...to put the matter at rest a midnight visit was made to Dobbs' Corner and the grave opened up...The question was settled when poor Dobbs' remains were found. Before refilling the grave one of the party, a man named Reeve from Bealings, took a tooth from the jaw and, to the day of his death, wore it on his watch-chain..." (14)

Although any traces of a burial are now gone, a corner of the road near Yoxford, Suffolk, still retains the local name of 'Deadman's Grave'. This seems to be one of the most confused accounts that I have so far come across. Two graves were formerly visible here, and were tended by the respective highway surveyors up to the turn of the century. Apparently there was a partial subsidence of the road at one time, and bones were definitely seen in the resulting hole. Although there is a basis of truth behind it all, the stories are both many and varied. They may be the graves of two suicides, one perhaps called Rayner who killed himself in Yoxford House; OR they may be two gypsies hanged for stealing; OR they may be those men who are now ghosts of Darsham Rectory;

and modern cyclists when passing the spot tell of a strange force emanating from the small mound (6). It is also said that, if flowers appear on the grave during Derby week, then a Newmarket horse will win that race, and the colour of the flowers will even foretell to which stable the horse belongs (7).

But, as stated previously, crossroads were not always used for this purpose. Sometimes any section of a road would suffice, as long as it was away from holy ground. Somewhere along the road between Redenhall and Harleston in Norfolk, is or was a willow tree called 'Lush's Bush', said to have sprouted from the wooden stake driven through Lush's body. One variant of the tale says that the unfortunate person is a woman who took her own life because she had killed her child (8). Whether or not

OR they may be two men who shot each other in a duel; OR they may be two men of the 19th century who quarrelled, one shooting the other and then hanging himself on a nearby oak tree (I5). But the final account is the most interesting. One grave is said to be that of a suicide who hanged himself in 'Martins Barn' at Yoxford, and the other is allegedly "wherein Danbrook was buried." Not many yards away from this corner is a little bridgeover the river Yox or Winsmere, "which used to be called Danbrook Bridge, after the suicide." (I6) It was this reference which led me to at least a part of the truth behind the legend. "The Times" newspaper for June 26th, 1801, contains this fascinating peice of information:

"On Monday last Mr. Danbrook, a respectable shop keeper at Yoxford...shot himself at the breakfast table, where his wife and Mr. Rutland, surgeon in that place, were present. Jury's verdict, felo de se. The body of the deceased was, of course, interred in the highway."

The casual use of those two words "of course" seems to put the seal on it. That suicides and other such 'miscreants' were buried in the public roads, often with a wooden spike in their hearts, is certain.

Unfortunately the same fate occasionally seems to have befallen even those who were slain through no fault of their own. Violence, however, always plays a part. On 'Jay's Hill' near Sotterley Park in Suffolk is a spot called 'Kate's Parlour', where the road dips down about a hundred yards beyond a gamekeeper's cottage. The whole road is lined with trees and hedges except this particular area, and the local tradition is that, no matter how many times they are planted, the hedges will never take root and grow. Under the spot is said to be the body of young Kate, who was a maidservant, murdered at nearby Sotterley Hall.

In Thetford was a site known as 'Chunk Harvey's Grave', where the line of the ancient Icknield Way crossed that of the old road to Euston. Harvey was traditionally a pirate who had been betrayed by an ex-comrade, executed and buried there. Although not a suicide, he seems to have had a stake thrust into his heart, since a tree was still standing in the early years of the 19th century that had supposedly grown from the wooden spike. (I7) Not very far away, and where the Icknield way crosses the road from Barnham to Elveden, is a location called 'Marmansgrave'. 16th century references to this site in the records to this site in the papers of the Court of Augmentation call the area 'Deadman's Grave' and 'Deadman's Lands'. According to the tradition, there was once a gamekeeper called Mar who had been threatened many times by local poachers, and one day when he was found off his beat, they shot him. (I8)

It seems that many victims of violence were once liable to be interred in unconsecrated ground, whether they were suicides, murderers, witches or simply innocent sufferers. The taint of 'unnatural' death was something that could not be permitted to sully the holy soil of a churchyard.

#### REFERENCES:

- 1) Peter Underwood: 'The Vampire's Bedside Companion'; p.24; 1975.
- 2) Ivan Bunn: 'Black Toby', in LANTERN No.23; pp.6-10; 1978.
- 3) Carol Christies 'Walberswick Notes'; p.?.; 1911.
- 4) *ibid*, p.32.
- 5) James Wentworth Day: 'Essex Ghosts'; p.12; 1973.
- 6) A.D.Hippisley Coxe: 'Haunted Britain'; p.109; 1973.
- 7) East Anglian Magazine; Vol.18, p.655.
- 8) 'Local Curiosities' in LANTERN No.12; p.9; 1975.
- 10) 'Ipswich Journal'; October 4th., 1783.
- 11) East Anglian Miscellany; *op.cit.*
- 12) *Ibid*. No.10, 959 $\frac{1}{2}$
- 13) A.D.H.Coxe; *op.cit.*; p.109.  
also 'East Anglian Miscellany': Vol.1909/10; No.2, 692.
- 14) (East Anglian Magazine'; Vol.2; p.496.
- 15) *Ibid*; Vol.II; p.504 & 636
- 16) 'East Anglian Miscellany'; Vol.I; No.232.
- 17 & 18) W.G.Clarke; 'In Breckland Wilds'; p.164; 1925.

# U.F.O. NEWS

The East Anglian Daily Times of November 11th last, reported two UFO's which had been seen in Suffolk the day before (Friday November 20th). The first object was seen by Mr. Owen Bean of Felixstowe who said that he saw a silver-coloured object hovering over a field near his home at about 5pm. Mr. Bean observed the object, which he described as silver in colour with a red tail, as it hovered stationary in the sky for about ten minutes.

That same day, at 7.10am, Mrs. Eileen Holland of Westerfield also saw a 'UFO'. It was shaped like a "sort of squashed saucepan lid and was sort of red or orange in colour", said Mrs. Holland. When she first saw the object it was hovering, then it moved off, slowly at first, then it gathered speed. There was no vapour trail and although she could not estimate the distance Mrs. Holland got the impression that it was "quite big".

The local police said that they had had no reports of a UFO made to them that night and EADT weatherman Ken Blowers said that, after speaking to experienced observers who saw the phenomenon, the cigar-shaped object seen in the sky was an aircraft condensation trail illuminated by the rising sun! (What at 5pm? - I know Suffolk's a rum place but that's incredible - ed). According to the EADT 'The section of the "contrail" was in the precise area of Red One airway (flight path) off the East Anglian coast.

During the month of October last the area around Lowestoft has been visited by what can only be described as a 'mystery' airplane. The first report of the 'plane was on Wednesday October 4th when a number of witnesses saw a bright light approaching the town from the sea. As the craft got closer the bright light resolved itself into three separate lights which all appeared to be attached to the underside of a very slow-moving aircraft of some sort. As the craft flew almost overhead the witnesses report an engine noise not unlike a WWII vintage bomber. Two nights later the aircraft was seen again this time at 2200 bst., travelling in more or less the same direction and exhibiting the same characteristics. Similar sightings were also made on Wednesday October 11th and Monday October 23rd. Despite extensive enquiries from nearby airfields etc., no-one wants to admit the aircraft is theirs. Interestingly enough, at least two, independent witnesses, describe the object as having the appearance of a Lancaster bomber, and their description is very reminiscent of that given by Mrs. Clarke of Lowestoft concerning another 'strange' craft seen in the sky over north Lowestoft on April 17th this year (see 'UFO REPORT' in Lantern 22, pp 7/8).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Living in Lowestoft as I do, I have been involved in the investigation of all these reports and I personally feel that the only thing odd about this aircraft (unless it's a phantom bomber from the last war) is the fact that no one seems to know anything about it. However one thing has emerged from all this that has given me an insight into the attitude of at least one witness. Owing to the fact that I had quite a number of these reports to follow-up (plus other excuses) I was rather slow following up one or two reports after they were given me. In particular I had promised to visit one witness but on the morning in question my 'bike broke down and I had to phone and say I couldn't make it and would send a sighting report form instead. It was almost ten days before I finally got around to sending the report forms together with an accompanying letter apologising for the delay. It was at this point that the investigation took an unexpected turn. Upon receipt of my letter and report form, one of the witnesses immediately telephoned me to say that he would no longer say anymore about the sighting as he was sure that I was being 'got at' by the Government!! Adding that he was sure that if he was sure that if he continued talking about it there would be a knock at his door and 'Bang?' that would be his lot!!! My wife, who took the call as I was at work, went to great lengths to assure him that I was not being got at and that we only needed the info for our (and BUFORA's) files. However he would not be shifted from his point of view. He then went on to embellish his original report and added in conclusion that he had also heard that The US Airforce in the area had been

(Cont. on p.5)

# EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

SANGREAL: Litho'd; quarterly. An illustrated journal of the mysteries, crafts and folk-traditions of Britain. Single copies 65p. Annual sub £2.50 post free. From: BM SANGREAL, London, WCIV 6XX.

THE CAULDRON: duplicated, quarterly. Newsletter of witchcraft, folklore and the Old Religion. 20p for sample copy from Mike Howard, 18a Church Hill, Purley, Surrey.

SKYWATCH: duplicated, bi-monthly. UFOs and related phenomena. Journal of the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team (MAPIT). Annual sub £2.30 from: D. Rees, 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5SE.

MUFOB: litho'd, quarterly. An informal publication devoted to UFOlogy and associated subjects. Annual sub: £1.25 from J.Rimmer, 11 Beverly Road, New Malden. Sy.

FORTEAN TIMES: litho'd, quarterly. THE magazine of curiosities, mysteries and fortean phenomena. Annual sub: \$3.00, single copies 75p from R.J.M.Rickard, c/o DTWAGE, 9/12 St. Annes Court, London W1.

THE LEY HUNTER: litho'd, quarterly. THE magazine of 'earth mysteries'. Annual sub for UK £3.00 from P. Devereaux, PO Box 152, London, N10 1EP.

PICWINNARD: litho'd, bi-monthly. The magazine of Wessex leys and folklore. Annual sub \$2.00 from Vince Russett, Hythe Bow, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3EH.

JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY: now in litho'd A5 format. Quarterly journal of the Institute of Geomantic Research (IGR). Single copies 60p, annual sub £3.00 from Nigel Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs. CB3 8SD. (Or send SAE for full list of IGR/Fenris Wolf publications).

NORTHERN UFO NEWS: Duplicated. Monthly newsletter of the Northern UFO Network (NUFON). Details from Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Manchester.

AWARENESS: Duplicated. Quarterly journal of Contact(UK). All aspects of U.F.O. research, interesting articles and reports. Full details of Contact/Awareness from J.B.Delair, 19 Cumnor Road, Boars Hill, Oxford.

ANCIENT SKILLS AND WISDOM REVUE: Duplicated, quarterly. Reviews of books and mags on leys, folklore, earth mysteries etc. Annual sub £2 from Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland. TS25 2AT.

EARTHLINK: Duplicated/litho'd, quarterly. Journal of the Essex UFO Study Group. UFOs and associated phenomena. Single copies 62p four issue sub £2.50. From The Secretary (EUFOG), 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM9 5JR.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW: Litho'd, quarterly. Journal of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society. Scientific approach to UFO research. Single copies 25p, full details from NUFOIS, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB.

WARK: Litho'd. Reviews of Fanzines, comiczines and fortean publications. Single copies 30p or 3 issue sub 85p. From Rosemary Pardoe, Flat 2, 28 Sandown Road, Liverpool 15.

## E.S.N.A. PUBLICATIONS

**JUST OUT!!!: 'HOLY WELLS & ANCIENT CROSSES OF NORFOLK & SUFFOLK'** (20pp plus illustrations) by M.W.Burgess. A companion to 'STANDING STONES OF NORFOLK & SUFFOLK', a definitive guide to the subject, contains details of Wells and Crosses, their location, situation and folklore. 50p inc. postage.

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LOCAL CURIOSITIES: An illustrated guide to some of the curious legends, ghost stories and folklore of East Suffolk. 40p inc postage.

All available from:  
M.W.Burgess,  
21 Kirkley Gardens,  
Lowestoft,  
Suffolk.

(Please make cheques & POs payable to M.W.Burgess).

# SPELLTHORN

NO.2.

First of all, I must apologise for the non-appearance of 'Anglian Research Paper' No.1 about the Bury Zodiac, which was due to be published in October. Due to the unforeseen amount of work still needing to be done, this has had to be postponed, and will now be available at the end of January.

Supplies of ESNA Occasional Paper No.1, 'The Standing Stones of Norfolk and Suffolk', I'm happy to say are dwindling rapidly, but a few are still available at price 60p each (inc.p & p.)

ESNA Occasional Paper No.2, 'HOLY WELLS AND ANCIENT CROSSES', has just been published, again written by myself. The format is similar to that of the first paper, being a gazetteer of the various wells, springs, ponds, and crosses in Norfolk and Suffolk that have interesting folklore or history attached. Quarto, duplicated, with two pages of litho'd illustrations. Price 50p each (inc.p & p.)

Both the above papers are available from the usual ESNA address, given at the end of 'SpellThorn'. Please make any payment out to M.W.BURGESS.

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That's enough talk for this issue, and so to the info:

\*\*\*\*\*Confirmation (of a sort) about the peculiar Parham thorn tree mentioned last time comes from the 18th century diary of a chap who lived in the area; "Near Parham Hall is a white thorn bush which blossoms by Christmas Day, and the people of the neighbourhood flock to it in great companies upon Christmas Eve. I had some of the buds just blooming brought to me on Sunday, the second of December, 1734."

\*\*\*\*\*Some more tunnel legends have turned up since the last 'SpellThorn', including one said to run from St. Mary's church in Bungay to the ruined Castle.

Volume XX1 of 'Norfolk Archaeology', p.177 tells us of Langley in Norfolk: "When the Abbey Farm was destroyed by fire in 1801, a 'large subterranean passage' was discovered. (The usual underground passage of abbey sites.) This should have been somewhere adjacent to the present house, which was built on the site of the old, but local men point vaguely to a spot far out in the fields. This was probably the great culvert."

The same volume speaks of a tunnel said to run from Wiveton Hall in Norfolk to the remains of the Carmelite friary at Blakeney, adding that traces of a passage were found in the early 1900's, but that from its size, it was probably a drain.

Another is alleged to stretch from the same friary to the Blakeney Guildhall, and another source gives the usual 'blind fiddler' story for this one.

\*\*\*\*\*Alan Murdie of Bury St. Edmunds sends us a couple of ghost stories, and a plea for info. He tells us of "...a banshee-type ghost which manifested itself at Gunton Hall in Norfolk. Lord Suffield had apparently told a Dr. Woodward, a physician, that servants had heard the cry of the ghost, known as the White Lady, and he himself had heard an unearthly cry one evening and, going to the window, had seen a pale figure glide across the lawn. Lady Suffield died the same night.

I myself collected a story from an elderly resident of Fornham St. Martin... concerning the ghost of a white dog said to appear at the bottom of Barton Hill, just off the A134 (TL854663.) This ghost was said to

haunt the spot at midnight and was supposed to be connected with an accident that occurred there many years ago in which a woman was killed...  
...There was, however, a man who claimed to have seen it about 50 years ago whom my informant knew; the ghost apparently being seen to 'run across the road and into the meadow where it disappeared.' "

And here Alan adds a query, "...namely, does anyone know anything about the ghost of a child said to haunt the bridge near Brundon Mill, Sudbury? "

\*\*\*\*\*Another query now, about an object at Carlton Colville known as the 'Pirate's Grave'. Our info on this is very vague, so any help would be useful. Apparently, if one runs about this thing a certain number of times, the Devil will appear. So where and what is it?

\*\*\*\*\*In Occ. Paper No. 1, I mentioned a stone once said to have stood near Henstead church, but that I had been unable to find it. Now Jill Bruce of London has sent a photograph and details of a stone at the edge of that churchyard, aligned on the axis of the church. So I'd like to make an appeal for more info on this particular object. Are there any good leys through it?

\*\*\*\*\*We have very brief notes of three more 'megaliths' in Suffolk, not previously known to us: one at Hall Farm, Wattisham; one at a crossing of tracks on Plains Farm, Hitcham; and one extremely vague reference to a boulder "on the edge of Peddar's Way." Does anyone know of these?

\*\*\*\*\*Peter Coupland of Witham in Essex has sent photographs of some stones that he found at Copdock, Suffolk, whilst ley-hunting there. There is a rough semi-circle of large, jagged stones outside the gateway to a house which stands "on the footpath between the church and the village of Copdock, at a crossroads with another path..." Just inside the gate, on either side of the path, stand two extremely large megaliths. We ask the readers of 'SpellThorn' for extra info since, as Peter says, "neither the occupants of the house, nor any local people, could give me any information on the stones other than 'they have always been there.' "

\*\*\*\*\*And now something for the geomancers in our midst, from a book called 'Under Three Crowns' by A.J. Forrest (1961), p. 136, where we are told "...a pretty story about certain markings when showing visitors the Prior's Grave in Nlythburgh Church. This alleged resting place is covered by a flat stone, shaped like an arrow but headed towards the east, not to the west as for laymen. Lines or breaks in the stone score its face. One line, the sexton said, pointed to Arthur's Seat at Tintagel, another line went direct to Norway." (!?)

\*\*\*\*\*Forcean Section: We have the following two items relating to Southwold in Suffolk, the first from the 'State Papers Domestic'.....  
" 21st July, 1666 - A great storm of hail with thunder and rain has broken the windows very much and damaged the corn; the hailstones measured were six or seven inches round and perfect ice."  
" 15th August, 1931 - A remarkable hailstorm occurred, with hailstones of unusual size, weighing two ounces and over, some were reported to be as big as a cricket ball. Many windows were broken, and shop blinds torn."

The next item seems rather topical, considering the recent spate of mysterious explosions and bangs in the sky, and is taken from a letter addressed to the 'London Magazine', and dated July 26th, 1760, the author writing from Diss: "On Wednesday, June 11th, about 50 minutes past 4 in the afternoon... of a sudden I heard a very loud noise, like the explosion of a cannon fired near, and it seemed full as loud; I immediately stepped abroad, and found the noise appeared to be in the air; it seemed to burst westward of the place where I was, and gradually to roll towards the east... it was likewise heard at Norwich... Beccles... Bury... and Thetford... Whether it was a collection of sulphureous particles, or other homogeneous matter, I hope some of your ingenious correspondents will satisfy us in. "

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Michael W. Burgess.

Any more odd notes, queries, info etc please to me at: 21, Kirkley Gardens, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

END OF 'SPELLTHORN' NO. 2.