



LANTERN

Number 32

Winter 1980

INTRODUCTION

As this edition of LANTERN coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Borderline Science Investigation Group, and to mark this auspicious occasion, Mike Burgess (a founder member of the Group) has compiled a brief history of the Group and, in particular, LANTERN. We include in this Introduction as a fitting opening to this 10th Birthday edition of LANTERN.

* * * * *

On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 13th, 1971, about half-a-dozen people with similar interests gathered round a table in the library of the Grammar/Denes High School in Lowestoft and laid the foundations of a remarkable society. According to the minutes of that meeting, recorded by Richard A. Haxell, most of the time was spent in deciding on a name for the group. Suggestions ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime (one favoured name was the Paranormal Investigations Society - but unfortunately, that was seen to abbreviate awkwardly as P.I.S. and was dropped!) but finally Richard's own suggestion was adopted, and thus we became, for better or worse, the BORDERLINE SCIENCE INVESTIGATION GROUP (B.S.I.G.).

The aims of the BSIG, which have never changed, were formalised later as being to discover, investigate and document all manner of unexplained and unusual phenomena in EAST ANGLIA, with the added proviso that it be done in "as scientific and unbiased manner as possible". Considering that most of us were around 17 years old at the time, perhaps it is not surprising that several of the early investigations fell somewhat short of those ideals! Less than four months after that activity, an all-night vigil in the echoing corridors of Lowestoft Town Hall, vainly searching for a non-existent ghost with the most primitive of equipment, and five days later, the first 'skywatch', on which virtually every meteor, satellite and 'plane was greeted with cries of "It's a UFO!" Time and experience soon modified the Group's natural exuberance.

In December that same year, 1971, LANTERN No.1 was published, a foolscap magazine of 20 pages, duplicated on the School's own machine, and mainly for the use of the membership (at that time, 23) and friends. Its content, edited by Nigel Colman, was markedly different to that of today's LANTERN. Little of it was concerned with East Anglia, much was speculative, and some of it was decidedly 'esoteric'. Wording and illustration in both Nos. 1 and 2 show that the Group had yet to emerge from the 'flower-power' era (indeed some copies of No.1 had an actual dried leaf pressed between the pages - truly a collector's item!) That very first issue cost the princely sum of £4.61 to produce, and only £4.20 was returned in sales!

By the time of LANTERN No.2 (it was delayed, and finally emerged in August 1972) BSIG had completed 33 activities; ranging from ghost-watches and sky-watches, through investigations of many UFO sightings, to experiments in ESP, astral projection, magic and dowsing, and a certain amount of 'professionalism' was beginning to assert itself in the Group. BSIG had then coalesced into fairly distinct sub-sections, each with its own group-head, dealing with psychical research, UFOs, the occult, and one hangover from earlier days - the 'Thought Group'. The latter's aims were always ill-defined, but it dealt generally with the analysis and correlation of data from the other sections, plus consideration of the more 'metaphysical' aspects of the unexplained.

Between LANTERNs 2 and 3 was a gap of well over a year. Difficulties in production, contributions, and of course costs, served to delay its appearance

until the Autumn of 1973, by which time it had undergone radical changes. According to the Newsletter of November 1972, it had been decided to change the name of the magazine to 'Candlewax', but this was never put into effect. Three months later, the Newsletter ended: "At the present moment we have no method of producing the next edition of the magazine, except to have it done commercially, and this would prove to be too expensive from our funds' point of view... unfortunately, it seems that until we can find a cheap way to get the magazine printed, no further process can be made with it." And there, for many months, the matter rested. In the interim all the 'driving-force' of the membership had left school, and the communications link was broken. LANTERN appeared again in the Autumn under the editorship of Denis J. Fletcher and Ivan A.W. Bunn, and was indeed commercially printed. Its content was more topical, regional and varied, and despite an initial financial loss was hailed a success by all concerned.

From No.8 (Winter 1974) two changes occurred: in accordance with the metrification of paper, LANTERN was reduced to A4 size, and Ivan Bunn assumed sole editorship, which position he has held ever since. In 1976 the cost of printing increased drastically, and the magazine was forced to revert to duplicated format, but with a photo-litho cover. Between Nos. 20 and 28 an extra page of litho work was included regularly, mainly to facilitate better illustrations. But as from No.29, again because of rising costs, all photo-litho work had been dropped, and LANTERN is now duplicated throughout, with the cover, titles and illustrations being electro-stencilled.

LANTERN remains, as from its inception, the only magazine dealing with the unexplained in East Anglia, and subscribers can be found in all parts of the world. As with the BSIG itself, LANTERN now concerns itself less with current investigations than with researched material. The early days of both were filled with hectic activity, much of which could have benefitted from a less hasty, considered approach - but the groundwork was laid down for a solid, exoteric group and journal whose status, capabilities and expertise are, in my own view, unparalleled. It is to the lasting astonishment of all that BSIG has endured for 10 years, despite the numerous upheavals which it has encountered. LANTERN has lasted for 9 years, and is likely to continue even if the Group itself should ever fade away (the gods forbid!). It has earned itself a place in the hearts of many people, not least for those who have a hand in putting it together - though I'm not sure anyone could say exactly why they feel this way. As Ivan Bunn said in No.31, "After all, Lantern is...well...its...LANTERN!

Here's to the next ten years!

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EASTEL

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B.S.I.G. ON PRESTEL.

EAST ANGLIAN GHOSTS

Information supplied by
BORDERLINE SCIENCE
INVESTIGATION GROUP

(All frames 0.1-1p)

- 1 Further information about BSIG
- 2 LANTERN - The magazine of East Anglian mysteries
- 3 Ghosts in East Anglia
- 4 Investigating Ghosts
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During the month of December information concerning BSIG, and LANTERN was put into the PRESTEL view-data system for general availability to the public. At present 17 'pages' of information are available dealing primarily with the investigation of ghosts in East Anglia - but it is hoped in the near future to extend the information to cover other aspects of the Group's activity. The service is being provided by 'Eastel' and the number to call if you have access to PRESTEL is 40878.

Left is the 'title' index page showing the information so far available.

In previous issues of LANTERN Michael Burgess has written of the Rev, Arthur Cross and his letter to the Eastern Daily Press on the geomancy of Norfolk. (1) Arthur Cross was in fact one of the first members of the Straight Track Club and in the three years 1927 - 1929 regularly contributed to the Club's Portfolios. (2) Each Portfolio consists of a collection of members' papers, together with the remarks and comments added during the Portfolio's circulation. Most of the Portfolios are now held at Hereford Library and a guide to this collection is available (3). The guide however gives title of each paper and the following notes give a better idea of Cross's views and researches.

I must apologise in advance for the errors that be be found in the place-names given. Cross's handwriting is far from clear and not being familiar with the area concerned, I may well have mis-read some names.

Abbreviations Used:

PF - Portfolio. P - Paper. Q - Query. c - circa. ST Straight Track (this term, rather than 'ley', was generally used in the early PFs). ? - used where a word is indecipherable.

I. PFI, P4: Gately, Norfolk

c March 1927

A study of Norfolk church alignments describing two "clusters" of alignments, one around Elham and the other around Caistor. "Secondary Clusters" are also described, with a map of an example centred on Gately, with the sites (from north, clockwise): Kettlestone, Wood Norton, Guist, Bintree, Elham, Bilney, Bittering, Horningtoft, Whissonsett, Oxwick, Toftress and Hempton.

There is also a diagram of a ST through Gately - Kettlestone, Fox Hill, May Green, Ryburgh, Hill Farm, Gately Church, ? Hall, Silverstone Farm, smithy, moat, Hall Farm and Bilney church.

Remarks:

The paper elicited praise from Alfred Watkins. However Major Tyler noted on the diagram - "This is not accurate by the map."

2. PFI, Q1: Has the Religion of Primitive Races any Bearing on the ST Theory?

3. PFI, Q2: Were STs Laid by an earlier Race and Blocked by a Later?

Cross notes the Korean Belief that evil spirits can only travel in straight lines and that short walls were sometimes built to interrupt straightness in paths etc. Cross then suggests that a race of men laid out the STs due to a belief similar to the Korean one described.

Remarks:

The various replies generally posit that tracks straightness was simply a reflection of taking the shortest distance between sites. Alfred Watkins noted how Christian churches often blocked tracks a suggested a likeness to the Chinese situation in which ancient geomantic traditions were no longer respected, and often thought evil.

4. PFI: Remarks on Paper IO:

The Paper concerned a 'M' like inscription on a stone near Matlock. Cross suggested the stone could be a boundary marker, like a stone he had seen on the Yorkshire Moors, marked with a 'G' which he found marked the boundary of Goathland parish.

Early East Anglian ANTIQUARIANS

4: The Rev. Arthur Cross
and the
Straight Track Club

by CLIVE HARPER

merely the
will, I hope,

FROM: 'LOWESTOFT JOURNAL' August 1st, 1980

Unidentified falling objects in Oulton Broad have had weather experts puzzled. Small balls of sand dropped out of the sky on to parts of Oulton Broad on Thursday week. But no one seems to quite know why. The weather department of the University of East Anglia could not come up with a watertight answer. "Without analysing the sand," said Mr. Chris Sear, "and studying the lie of the land, it would be very difficult to say." He thought it could have been from the local beaches - lifted and then dropped by a mini whirlwind. "But whatever it was," he concluded, "it was very unusual."

The Waveney Council weather experts, on the other hand, believe the small balls of sand travelled a bit further than the few miles from the sea to the broad. As far as they are concerned the sand could have begun its journey about 2500 miles away - on the Sahara Desert.

"It is reasonably common", said Mr. White, "for south-east winds - as they were on Thursday night - to carry sand all the way from North Africa. Moisture binds the sand together into balls, and later, with changes of temperature, drops them again," he said. As if we didn't have enough sand here already - without importing it from Algeria.

REV. ARTHUR CROSS - contd.

5. PFI: Remarks on Paper I3. c May 1927
 This wide-ranging paper covered amongst other things, mounds, gradients, Water-sheds and water crossing points. Cross describes a long low mound in Brisley (Norfolk) called 'The Heol', situated on low ground at the commencement of a gradual incline.

6. PF2, P4: Potton Church, Beds. - ST Sanday to Royston. 2 June 1927
 Cross refers to the church cluster around Gately, and describes a similar cluster around Potton. An accompanying map shows (from north, clockwise); Gamlingay, Cockayne Hatley, Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth, Sutton, Sanday, Everton and a ruined church all centred on Potton.
 He also gives a nearby ST - Redstone Hill, Gyworth Church, hill top, Guilden Morden Church, Hall and moat, Lithlington Church, Royston Church and Burloes Hill top.
Remarks:
 Major Tyler linked the clusters to "an original land survey, and mentioned W. Evans' 'Meini Hirion and Sarns Anglesey' as also demonstrating the existence of prehistoric surveying.
 Alfred Watkins commented, "I wish Mr. Cross would make more plain whether his place names on his excellent charts are really good ley mark points or not."

7. PF2, P5: Straight Track Through Amesbury. 3 June 1927
 A ST is described passing through Eastbury, Chisbury, Amesbury bridge, Bishopstone, Badbury Ring, Bailey Gate, to Flowers Barrow on the coast. There is also a diagram of an isosceles triangle - Avebury, Stonehenge, Silchester - with a comment that the base distance, "approximately 20 Roman units of measurement", is found again and again between important sites.
Remarks:
 Alfred Watkins urged caution when constructing geometric figures, pointing out that wherever 2 leys cross there is $\frac{2}{3}$ of an isosceles triangle. Douglas Wintle added an extensive note, drawing heavily from Harold Bayley's ideas of Phoenician influences in Britain.

8. PF3, P3: Shefford Ley. 26 June 1927
 Cross presents a map with some notes, describing a 9 church ley - Shefford, Newton Farm, Eyeworth, Tadlow, Croydon, Arrington, Wimpole, Little Eversden, tumulus, bridge, Barton, tumulus, bridge, Cambridge.

Remarks:

A.E.Christy noted that the ley runs in the direction of the Mayday sunrise.

9. PF3, P4: Seven Barrows (A & B).

16 June 1927

A further analysis of the Avebury, Stonehenge, Silchester triangle described in PF2, P5, expanded to include Oxford, Reading, Waylands Smithy, Old Sarum, Old Winchester Hill and two sites called Seven Barrows (one approx 10 miles SW of Silchester, the other approx 23 miles NW of Silchester).

Remarks:

This paper stimulated some controversy, with several members commenting more than once. Major Tyler noted that the geometric attributes of the plan were in accordance with what would be expected from the Roman system of centuriation. He emphasised how figures such as circles and triangles could be derived from a regular survey:-



Alfred Watkins displayed scepticism of triangles etc., and noted how no tessellation or grid had been satisfactorily demonstrated.

10. PF3: Remarks on Paper 4.

c December 1927

Cross notes how market towns "frequently" lie equidistant from one another, e.g. in Norfolk - Dereham to Fakenham, Swaffham and Wymonham. Cross comments that there is no reason why STs should not connect with other features and suggests that a civilisation other than Egyptian, Roman or Druidic could have been responsible for the ST.

11. PF3: Remarks on Paper 6.

c December 1927

This paper concerned the menhirs of Anglesey. Cross remarks on the similarity of the 'hated menhirs' to the statues of Easter Island.

12. PF3: Remarks on Paper II.

c December 1927

The paper concerned a ley across Dartmoor. Cross comments that the track being laid out by travellers is most unlikely, as it crosses the river 3 times, when a slight detour would produce a far easier route with only 1 river crossing.

13. PF3: Remarks on Paper 12:

c December 1927

This paper by N. Woodhead concerned the extent of primitive forest. Cross briefly commented, "Interesting and illuminating paper."

14. PF4: Remarks on Paper I.

c March 1928

The paper concerned roadside markstones and featured an illustration of a stone embedded by a house. Cross relates how he had previously thought of such stones as stirrup stones used for mounting, but that in future he would check for their presence on alignments.

15. PF4: Remarks on Paper 12.

23 March 1928

The paper on 'Pillar Worshippers' mentioned groupings of dots as Druidic symbols.

Cross illustrates examples he had seen in churches which had been described as penance marks e.g.:-



At Barnham

16. PF5, P6: Ley; Turvey, Beds.

12 March 1928

Cross gives a map and brief notes on two intersecting Leys:-

i). Stoke Goldington, Weston Underwood, Clifton Reynes, Newton Lodge, Cold Brayfield, Turvey, Great Oaks, Church Holme, Milton Mill, Ravensden Grange, York Farm,

ii). Haversham, Little Linford, mill, site of church, Emberton, manor, Clifton Reynes, Lavendon.

REV. ARTHUR CROSS - contd.

Remarks:

Major Tyler commented that map references would facilitate confirmation of Leys.

17. PF5, P6: Ley:Amphill, Bedfordshire.

5 February 1928

Cross gives a 29 mile long ley:} Bradwell, Gt. Woolstone, Milton Keynes, Salford, Lidlington, Amphill, Maulden, Clophill, Campton, bridge, Newnham, tumulii.

There were no remarks.

18. PF5, P7: Norfolk - Noted sites.

12 March 1928

Cross gives a map of "practically all the important sites" in East Anglia, with various alignments marked on it. Two primary alignments are shown:- i). Kings Lynn, Castle Acre, Newton, Gt. Dunham, Wendling, Mattishall Burgh, Norwich, Burgh Castle. ii). Brancaster, Castle Acre, Thetford. The section of alignment i. between Kings Lynn and Norwich is treated as the diagonal of the top-most of two squares- (vertices: Warham, Norwich, Dunwich, Bramfors? Stone, Thetford and Kings Lynn).

Cross refers to "an authority in Norwich" (P.A.Nash) being of the opinion that squares and diagonals were the basis of early land survey. Cross also comments on the alignment of old manor houses and suggests a link between "manor" and "maen-hir", the term used for markstones in Welsh. As for markstones as such, Cross states that there are few in East Anglia, but that those in Dutt's book(4) "approximate to alignments".

Remarks:

Major Tyler stated that he thought further analysis worthwhile and that geometric patterns were clear evidence of design. H.M.Cobbold alternatively stated that leys being stright were bound to form regular patterns.

19. PF5, P8: Silchester - Position of Church.

9 April 1928

Cross gives a plan of Silchester and comments that no physical (Cont. on p.7)

+ + + + + BOOK REVIEW+ + + + +
± PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE UNKNOWN by Robert Rickard and Richard Kelly. 144pp, 300+ photographs. New English Library, £7.95.

+ Nothing - except a personal encounter with the unexplained - shakes ones scepticism more than a photograph and the photographs in this book, some of which have never been published before (or so says the jacket blurb), are enough to give you the shivers. The sense of wonder does tend to diminish after you have been through the book a couple of times and scepticism reasserts itself with a gentle reminder that photos can be and are faked. Fabrications are often produced for fun, sometimes with the deliberate intention to deceive and occasionally by accident as the result of a camera malfunction. There are also cases of ordinary objects photographed under unusual conditions or from an odd angle being mistaken for, say, a UFO, and there is a chance that interpretation can be influenced by preconceptions; a disturbance on the surface of a lake would probably go unnoticed, but if the lake happens to be Loch Ness....

+ It is easy to be sceptical of photographs and although I beleive that a book should be judged by its contents and not by what the reviewer thinks it should contain, I have to say that I think this one would have benefitted from more text relating to the authenticity of the material, particularly the authors' own opinions, and to the available methods of analysing photographs. However, despite this criticism the book remains a fascinating survey of photographic evidence of the paranormal and although £7.95 is a lot to pay in these hard times you could easily spend your money less rewardingly. In short, if you are a serious student of the unexplained then this book should be up there on your bookshelf.

Paul Begg.

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REV. ARTHUR CROSS -contd:

features can explain the polygonal walls. He suggests that there may have been a radiating pattern of sites centred on Silchester church (similar to ones previously described at Gately and Potton) and that the wall vertices were placed on these sites.

Remarks:

Alfred Watkins pointed out that the position of Silchester Church, in relation to the walls had been fully described in "The Old Straight Track".

20. PF5, Remarks on Paper 4:

12 January 1929

The paper concerned the orientation of Leys. Cross questions why no north-south or east-west leys are found.

He also comments on the use of towns as confirmation points on long distance leys. He suggests that they be treated as confirmatory only, as the close proximity of ancient sites in old towns reduces the sites' "proof value". He also suggests that in towns the rebuilding of churches, possibly off the original site, often occurred.

21. PF7, P3: Caistor Camp, Norfolk.

21 July 1928

I. Cutting from the Eastern Daily Press - photograph of "phantom lines" in growing corn at Caistor Camp, with an article by Percy Nash.

II. Remarks by Cross: - He discusses Nash's views of ancient survey, and the positions of ancient sites in East Anglia. Cross gives a diagram of the area showing various alignments, also a diagram showing how a survey might have included circles. The latter diagram shows three circles, i. and ii. being interconnected:- (from north, clockwise)

i. Roman Camp, Tasburgh, Ickburgh, Castle Rising, Brancaster.

ii. Smallburgh, Burgh, Blyburgh, Wyverstone, Thetford, Foxburgh.

iii. Norwich, Rumburgh, Burgh, Castle Hedingham, Chesterton, Castle Rising, - centred on Thetford.

Remarks:

Major Tyler queries the place of pre-Roman sites in Nash's ideas of Roman survey.

22. PF7: Remarks on Paper 3:

C. November 1928

Cross replied to Major Tyler, "I am of the opinion that very many sites and alignments commonly classed as Roman, or British are of earlier origin...that there are overlapping ancient surveys or lay-outs, appears probable from observed facts".

Alfred Watkins commented critically upon Nash's ideas: "Mr. Nash's account...shows no connection between the well known layout of a Roman Settlement by alignment and his supposed discovery of a systematic lay out of the whole countryside". He later added a note that the 1929 excavations supported his criticism of Nash's interpretation.

23. PF7, P4: Fenland Tracks.

30 September 1928

Cross discusses how the landscape of East Anglia must have differed before the draining of the Fens. He gives two STs that might have been used in ancient times:-

i. Langham, Bridge Castleton, Tallington, Peakirk, Thorney Abbey, Cold Heart, Nordelph, Fordham, Diddington, Langford, Tottington, Breccles.

ii. Fotheringay Castle, Chesterton, Stanground, Rings End, Friday Bridge, Holme, Titterhill, Castle Acre.

Remarks:

Major Tyler suggested that with the known land sinkage, marshes may have been dry land c 3000 bc.

24. PF7, P5: East Dereham, Norfolk.

I October 1928

Cross describes a "curiosity" in the siting of churches equidistantly around Dereham - i.e. Hoe, Yaxham and Westfield all two miles away, and

29. PF9, Remarks on Paper 2. 15 June 1929
Cross gives a diagram showing a circular arrangement of sites, the circle's centre being to the south of Caistor Camp - (from north, clockwise) Arminghall Church, Poringland, hall, hall, Flordon church, hall, road intersection, Bracon Ash church, Intwood church, Harford cross-roads. There follows a note from Alfred Watkins pointing out that only three of the sites are actually on the given circle.
30. PF9, P4: Hemel Hempstead. 18 March 1929
Cross attempts to show a cluster of church alignments centred on Hemel Hempstead and gives a diagram showing the alignments. Cross also comments upon the lack of relation between present day towns and the cluster rays,
31. PF9, P5: Hatfield, Herts. 18 March 1929
Cross gives a map and notes on a cluster of church alignments centred on Hatfield and a secondary cluster around Welwyn. He discusses the possible relationship between the Hatfield and Hemel Hempstead centres and comments upon their equidistance from St. Albans cathedral.
32. PF9, P7: Biddenham, Beds. c March 1929
Cross gives a map and notes on a cluster of church alignments centred on Biddenham and a secondary cluster around Goldington. Cross remarks on Biddenham's importance as a prehistoric site.
33. PF9, P7: Summary of Observations. c March 1929
I): i. If Roman sites examined, triangular patterns found rather than STs.
ii. If Neolithic sites examined, no patterns found.
iii. If modern towns examined, no patterns found.
ST sites therefore belong to a special historical era subsequent to the Neolithic, but pre-Roman.
II): If every church on a map of a large area is marked, groups of clusters are found.
III): Although the direction of leys appears haphazard there are certain points "suggestive of something".
i. Lines due north or south are absent.
ii. Most general direction is SE-NW or NE - SW.
iii. Parallel lines are frequently found over long distances.
iv. Sites not infrequently form isosceles triangles.
v. Sites never form squares.
vi. Sites often lie in a circle around a central site.
IV): In a group, equal distances between sites are found.
V): The sun-rise ley theory would apply to certain lines, but is not generally applicable.
Remarks on Papers 4 - 7.
Major Tyler reiterated his views on a square based survey. Alfred Watkins described Cross's work as "a very promising field of investigation".
34. PF9: Remarks on Paper 8. 12 June 1929
The paper concerned Devonshire alignments. Cross gives three diagrams -
i. A circular alignment (from east clockwise): Stockleigh, Upton Hel, Clamna Borough, chapel, Three Hammers, Thelbridge, Washford, Puddington.
ii. A circular alignment (from east clockwise): Mill Cross, Upton Hel, Sandford, Beacon Cross, Sandford Ash, Morchard, Wonham, Puddington, Bough-hil.
iii. A map of Tiverton area with a grid of parallel alignments.
G. Laddell and Admiral Sommerville in later remarks emphasised the practical difficulties in surveying circular alignments. Alfred Watkins dismissed the circles and stated: "they do not bear out strict investigation."

heard on the staircase and in part of the first floor of the buildings. About 2 months earlier, the occupant together with a friend (one who was sleeping up stairs and the other downstairs) simultaneously heard a noise as if someone or something was falling downstairs. They both rushed to the staircase but, to their astonishment, found nothing to account for the noise. A few nights later, the occupant and another friend had just arrived home at around 11.30pm and were settling down to watch television, when they heard the sound of someone running the full length of the building up stairs - starting at one end, across the landing and then continuing to the other end. The occupant rushed upstairs thinking that burglars were in the building (he has a valuable collection of antiques) only to find the place completely empty. The whole business seems to have culminated in an event that happened a few days before the occupant contacted the BSIG. One of his secretaries was alone in the house one morning waiting for some removal men to come and collected some furniture. She was in the kitchen on the ground floor when she heard a noise "like someone rolling a barrel about" in a bedroom that opens immediately onto the landing. Thinking that the removal men had arrived, she went upstairs to ask them if they wanted coffee; when she opened the bedroom door she found that the room was empty but that the rolling noise was continuing! Very frightened, she rushed back downstairs and phoned the occupant. He arrived not long after to find her in a near hysterical state. It was this incident that prompted him to contact the BSIG to investigate the building.

After an initial visit to the house by 2 investigators from Group on 7th October, 4 investigators spent the weekend of 18/19th October in the house where they set-up various 'controls' and monitoring equipment. The whole building was closely examined from Attic to basement - but nothing could be found that might have produced the noises. Unfortunately, nothing out of the ordinary happened during their visit and so the noises remain as enigmatic as they had been before the visit. However, since then, it seems as if nothing else has happened.

Another ghost that cropped up in October was that of a Roman Catholic Priest who was murdered 300 years ago in Burys Hall, Ashill, Norfolk. The story appeared in the Beccles & Bungay Journal of October 10th in an advertising feature regarding the opening of Burys Hall as an Hotel. When the present owners of the Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Stangeland, first moved in they were told that the Hall was famous in the area for its ghost - a claim that Mrs. Stangeland dismissed. The Journal takes up the story: "...now, however, she is convinced...It appeared that in one room things started moving about. One day a couple of months ago Mrs. Stangeland locked the door to the room and kept the only key with her. After the cleaner reported hearing noises she unlocked the room and went in. 'The whole room had been turned upside down,' said Mrs. Stangeland, "I had the police in and they said there was no way anybody could get in the room." A fire screen, mirrors, ornaments, lampshades, a sofa and other items had been disturbed. As a result of the experience representatives of the Society for Psychic Phenomena (?) visited the hall and expressed belief that it had a poltergeist...Similar things have continued to happen since..."



One of the most interesting stories to come the way of BSIG investigators for a number of years, concerns the experience of a Lowestoft man on the new Hopton bypass on the A12 road a mile or so north of Lowestoft. At 5.15pm on November 23rd PC Frank Colby, who has been 29 years in the British Transport police, was driving back to Lowestoft with his wife. As the car reached the southern section of the by-pass he saw what at first he thought to be a man crossing the dual carriageway in front of him. Mr. Colby described it as being "...about 5 foot 6" or a little more, stocky in build and was wearing a calf-

length shapeless garment. Its head was hunched into its shoulders and it appeared to have what I thought was very spiky hair. There appeared to be trousers or some sort of thing on its legs but what caught my eye - I know it sounds daft - was its fantastically huge footwear. These boots were very big and he was lifting them up well as he plodded across."

Mr. Colby braked and remarked upon the figure to his wife, but she could not see it. The figure was just outside the range of his headlights, but as it crossed the centre-line, he realised that he could see it continuing through it. When the figure reached the central reservation it disappeared. Mr. Colby immediately stopped his car and examined the spot where the figure had disappeared. There was nothing there. He then returned to his car and made notes of what he had seen and drew a sketch of it. (Copies of both are now in the hands of Ivan Bunn, to whom Mr. Colby gave full details of the apparition). Ivan contacted the Lowestoft Journal asking if they were going to feature the story and if so would they include details of the research into ghosts on this stretch of road which he had been collecting since 1974. The result was a first-class report which appeared in the Lowestoft Journal of December 24th, with a repeat of the story in the Sunday Express of December 28th. Both articles elicited a number of new stories relating to the ghost of a man on this stretch of road, together with one possible explanation as to whom the ghost (assuming it is one) might be. A follow-up article appeared in the Lowestoft Journal of January 2nd which briefly outlined some of these other stories. A full report of Ivan Bunn's investigations will appear in the next edition of LANTERN.

Finally, the last story took place on December 28th. Once again it was on the A12 road, only this time some 15 miles to the south of Lowestoft just to the north of Blythburgh. At the junction of the A12 and the A145 to Beccles, the road swings sharply left as it approaches Blythburgh. It was on this unlit bend at about 9.15pm, Anne Clarke of Lowestoft was travelling with three companions to visit the White Hart Inn, Blythburgh. Anne was sitting on the back seat of the car and as it turned the bend she saw what appeared to be a hooded figure sitting on a fence across the road from the car. Wondering who might be sitting in such an odd place at that time of night Anne watched the 'figure' as they approached it. The figure then appeared to get down from the fence and walked to the edge of the road - followed by a second figure. Both were dressed exactly the same - long cloaks with hoods pulled so far over their heads that no face was visible - both figures appeared to be holding something in front of them in hands that were clearly visible. Anne watched the figures until the car had passed them; she then turned her head around to look at them out of the rear window and saw, much to her astonishment, that the roadside was empty; the figures had disappeared! She immediately mentioned the figures to the other occupants of the car, all of whom said that they had seen nothing.

Anne said that although the figures seemed solid enough and their walk appeared to be purposeful, there was something very strange and "un-real" about the whole episode.

* * * * * BOOK REVIEW * * * * *

+ GHOSTS OF TODAY by Andrew Green, Kaye Ward Ltd., 269pp - Illustrated, £5.25. +

+ This book is in 'gazetteer' form, produced in much the same way as Mr. Green's +

+ earlier publication Our Haunted Kingdom (1973). The difference between this +

+ latest volume and the latter is that Ghosts of Today deals only with cases +

+ of hauntings experienced during the last 20 years in England, Scotland and +

+ Wales. In all, 463 cases are cited county by county in alphabetical order - +

+ with an additional section at the end of the book on haunted Hospitals. For +

+ East Anglians there are 6 cases from Cambridgeshire, 7 from Norfolk and 16 +

+ from Suffolk - some of which will not be unfamiliar to LANTERN readers. +

+ I found this book very interesting and a worthwhile addition to any 'ghost- +

+ hunters' bookshelves. I suppose that those who equate the price of a book to +

+ its size will say that Ghosts of Today is expensive. However, considering the +

+ large amount of well-researched material contained in it, I consider it to +

+ be excellent value. +

+ IAWB +

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U.F.O. NEWS...

From the Eastern Evening News, November 29th, 1980

'THE BIG NORFOLK DIM-OUT MYSTERY'

The riddle of the great Norfolk dim-out was baffling power chiefs tonight. For the truth is they just don't know how it happened!

But the freak dim-out threw Norwich and most of East Anglia into chaos. As power went haywire in the city...

- +Burglar alarms went off evrywhere and the police had to check them all.
- +A Pensioner had to be rescued from a lift in Somerley old people's home in Somerleyton Street.
- +Fifty people were told to leave the ABC Cinema in Norwich and evening-rush customers queued outside in the cold until operations got back to normal.
- +George Melly's audience at the Theatre Royal began to arrive just as the lights began to flicker - making it hard to find their way around. An emergency generator was put on.
- +All three TV stations went off the air, and
- +Police radios failed.

A police spokesman said, "It was sheer chaos."

And Norwich power distribution engineer Len Bacon said, "Several people even thought the Martians had come. I don't remember anything like it happening before. It was very strange and eerie - particularly because it affected such a wide area." The EEN newsroom even got a report of UFOs sighted over Thorpe (the site of Norwich Power Station - Ed.) during the dim-out. Sowhat went wrong?

Electricity experts say the trouble was on the national grid. Some circuits feeding into Norwich failed. But the reason is a mystery. Two faults - both unconnected - happened on 400,000-volt overhead lines within minutes of each other in different parts of East Anglia. "It won't be an easy job to find out exactly what happened," said a spokesman, "When they tripped, they tripped lots of other circuits, too, so there is plenty of work to be done. But it was very unusual."

The problems began about 7pm. Lights began to dim and flash - making a spectacular sight in the city - Eastern Electricity's Norwich switchboard was jammed with calls. Staff were called in specially to man the switchboard and cope with hundreds of enquiries. A spokesman said, "Vast numbers" of engineers were called out. But Mr. Bacon said power was restored quite quickly, although there were big fluctuations in voltage over a wide area of Norfolk and the rest of East Anglia. The only supplies completely lost were at Cringleford, where the sub-station automatically disconnected.

A police spokesman said: "It was a darned nuisance more than anything else."

Despite intensive inquiries the BSIG were unable to establish the identity of whoever it was who reported seeing the UFOs over Thorpe on the night of the big dim-out. However, we have since received a report from a reliable source that two inmate of Norwich Prison saw an unexplained light/object in the sky at approx 10.45pm that same night. They first noticed that their radio was crackling and, upon looking out of the north-facing window, saw a "pulsating orange star" which they compared with a double decker bus seen at about 5 miles distance. The object was visible for about 30 seconds during which time it executed two manouvres both of which consisted of travelling horizontally, and then upwards and backwards at an angle of 45° and then downwards at backwards to finish at the starting point; neither of the witnesses knew about the power failure and the object was seen in the opposite direction of Thorpe.

Two other reports have been sent in by John Copsey of NUFOIN. The first is dated August 4th, 1980 when an inhabitant of Wymondham, Norfolk, report seeing a star-like object that rapidly approached him and then receded again and disappeared. The seconded (undated) report came from a 15 year old Norwich boy (via Norwich Police) who reported seeing an object (shape, size & colour not known - Ed.) which flew rapidly across the sky over Norwich from west to East. A little while later he saw the same (or similar) object traverse the sky from east to west.

