

THE RESEARCHER

A publication of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association
"Interpretation is free, experience is sacred."

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Interview with Larry Warren
Taking A Trip Through The Looking Glass: A Journey Around
The Northwest of England's Number One Paranormal Hot Spot
Turning UFOs into IFOs - NOSS
Haunted Roads on The Isle of Man: Route 666 (part 3)

And much more....

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MARAS

A mara is an evil spirit that torments people at night, according to a tradition widespread throughout northern and western France. This misty form would settle on people while they were asleep and give them terrible nightmares—from which its name derived. Belief in maras is also widespread in Scandinavia, according to Elliott O'Donnell in his *Dangerous Ghosts* (1954) and in Jutland it is said that they take the form of naked woman to give men erotic as well as unpleasant dreams!

The Voice

By Bill Bimson

Well, the new millennium is here and as I predicted in the last Voice, there were no announcements about aliens, no second coming of Jesus Christ, no aeroplanes dropping out of the sky, no power cuts and it did rain in Liverpool about an hour or two before midnight. There was also heavy overcrowding in NHS hospitals as old people succumbed to the flu virus. The millennium bug hardly nibbled did it? At two separate conferences I attended earlier in 1999, well-known personalities gave dramatic advice on how to prepare for the new millennium. One said invest some of your money in gold in case there was a financial meltdown and another told us that he would be sitting on a can of beans with a machine gun on Millennium Eve'. I think he was joking, but you never can be too sure with this character. I hope you weren't taken in by the drama, I can honestly say, I wasn't.

This is the last Researcher I will edit. I have had to bring forward my planned retirement as editor after a deterioration in my health. However, the next edition of The Researcher will be co-edited by two MARA members, Sue McAllister and Colin Veacock. Sue has written the lead article in this issue, which is an interview with Larry Warren. Larry's UFO experiences at the joint airforce bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge 20 years ago culminated in the book he co-authored with Peter Robbins 'Left At East Gate'. In the article, Larry explains how the media, his publishers and UFO incident debunkers, have treated him. He also adds a new non extra-terrestrial theory as to what happened at Bentwaters.

Colin Veacock has a wealth of experience in investigating ghost, poltergeist and psychic phenomena. His sceptical, no nonsense stance will annoy some 'believers' but he has some very good points to make and his three articles in this issue make compelling reading. Colin is the artist for the majority of cartoons you see in The Researcher, and I think you will find that Colin's and Sue's artistic flair will liven the magazine a little compared to my straight forward nuts and

bolts style. The format of the magazine may well be different in the next edition but the content will be similar. I am hoping for a process of evolution rather than revolution.

In this issue we continue with John Hall's exploration of the Isle of Man with further myth, legend and observation. In addition, Tony Eccles displays his professionalism in cracking a potential UFO case and resolving it into a little known array of satellites in triangular formation. We also have reviews of two UFO conferences and the Blackpool UFO museum by Julie Boyd.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles to The Researcher while I have been the editor. I would also like to thank Eileen Shaw for proof-reading and John Hall for production of the magazine.

Ask yourself what it is that interests you about UFOs and the paranormal. Is it simply curiosity, or is it something more deep seated, a part of human nature. I think it is the latter as we all want to know something which is unknowable with our present understanding. Can UFO and paranormal research reveal some of nature's greatest secrets, and if so how will these discoveries be viewed in say a hundred years' time? If any of you have watched the recent series on Channel 4, "Six Experiments That Changed The World", you may be able to glean some answers. The series describes the trials and tribulations of six great scientists including Albert Einstein, Madame Curie and Isaac Newton. These characters all suffered ridicule during their initial work because they were thought to be oddball characters with ideas which were too radical for the scientific community of the time. I have no doubt that many great scientists of the past have given up their work because of the attitude of their peers. I hope MARA members will remember this and not be put off researching because of the bullying attitude which pervades the UFO community in particular.

Seek and Ye shall find.

Interview with Larry Warren. September 1999

By Sue McAllister.

In late December of 1980, several US Air force personnel including Larry Warren experienced a UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest England which would change their lives forever. The incident has culminated in the writing of a book 'Left at East Gate', co-authored by Larry Warren and Peter Robbins. In this article, MARA's own Sue McAllister interviews Larry Warren about his feelings towards the incident 19 years later.

SM - Larry how has life been since the completion of your book "Left at East Gate"?

LW - It has been financially worse than before I wrote the book, other than the fact that people have read it and enjoyed it and it's reached a lot of people outside of UFOlogy and that's what I wanted it to do. Unfortunately, our American publisher, (Marlowe and PGW) robbed us and broke every agreement they had made with us. It's been a miserable experience dealing with them from day one. However, Peter and I are very proud of the book just the same!

SM - How do you feel the media has treated you in general?

LW - I was first in the media concerning Bentwaters in early 1983, and can say the media has treated me in general the way it treats the whole subject dismissively. It never gets it right. It's kind of tiresome to use it as a vehicle. It's time to find other ways to get this information out I guess. The media just doesn't want to be bothered with Bentwaters because it's the only real one out there, in my opinion, that could end the cover up. The whole subject has been tainted by the media for 52 years, other issues as well. Wake up people!

SM - It's been almost 20 years. Have your thoughts changed on what you think happened after the incident?

LW - Yes.

SM - In what way?

LW - I think the mind control angle here is very important after the incident, because I think it was used to obscure the reality of what went on to confuse participants, and not just me. I don't think this was extra-terrestrial, first of all.

SM - You don't?

LW - No I never did at all, you're just trapped using words when you write about this stuff, but I don't think it was. I kind of go with the theory that it's us in the future, for my own sanity. That's more likely than aliens from another planet. But of course I may be wrong, and most likely am.

SM - So you think this was something from the future?

LW - I think so. Personally, I think it's us from the future. Peter goes with the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH) possibility and that's fine. You know, this whole damn subject comes down to personal opinion.

SM- What would you like to come from Georgina Bruni's book on the Rendlesham Forest incident?

LW - First a free copy, then a fair portrayal of everything I have said to her, because I have co-operated with her for quite some time now; a good balance, not just interviews with retired people on pensions, who only tell the official version and, hopefully, more people that were with me who she has had the opportunity to talk to but as far as I know has not spoken to, so I just hope for some fair treatment. But it's gonna be one more book and books don't change things, people and direct action do. I wish her luck, Bentwaters is not easy to tackle.

SM- What are your hopes for this ongoing investigation?

LW – Well, I don't know who is doing any ongoing investigation. Calling people on the phone and talking to them isn't investigating anything. That's rounding up opinion. The only people who have really done investigations on this whole thing (and I mean investigations, invested money, doing it honestly, straight up) is Peter Robbins and myself, and that's the truth. Some people won't like it but that's too bad. People like Nick Redfern can write his book and say well I didn't know you then, but please, be accurate, you know. England's got to get out of 1982, there's a lot of angles to follow in Left at East Gate. People just don't wanna look at it and they wanna play flying saucer games and still promote their own egos and things. I haven't seen that change and it's just as bad over here. In the States, Randles, Butler and Street spent a lot of time on the thing also, but for Pete and me it was our lives period for over a decade and for me still is.

SM- What do you think of Charles Halt writing a book?

LW – Well, I've been on record from the beginning and Halt wasn't able to talk about this until the nineties. Halt by the way, isn't doing a book, unless Bruni is writing it for him, who knows?

SM- Why do you think he said he was doing a book, for what purpose?

LW – Well, our book was out and all of a sudden it was going around he was doing a book and it was just by design to make it look like, well, his book is coming out, so it would stop anyone else from trying to look into this. Like he was gonna fix everyone's wagon, and, you know, tell it like it is, but he has told it like it is in fifteen thousand different ways, so I don't even think he knows what it is. You know, I went to see him. We sat, he wouldn't look me in the eye. He had the opportunity to explain things and he was cagey. I went to see him and I have seen that misrepresented. Some ankle biters have said that Halt put me in

my place, however it was my job to listen and I Heard a lot of interesting stuff.

SM- Do you think that the government will admit to an obvious cover-up in the near future?

LW – On Bentwaters, they don't have to, the cover up is self evident. The evidence speaks for itself and like we always say, the evidence we present just on one participant, me, would win this thing in a Court of Law, any Court of Law. I've never been challenged by any of the debunkers on any of the factual evidence in our book because, obviously, they're frightened to do it and don't have a leg to stand on. They resort to the only thing they know, distortion and character assassination.

SM- Do you think that humanity is ready for the admittance from our governments of a cover up of extra-terrestrial life in some form or other?

LW – No I don't. When I was younger I thought we were. But just watch your nightly news, I bet it's the last thing on the minds of people in Croatia, people have enough to deal with in life.

SM- Why?

LW – Come and live in Vermont for a while, you'll understand. People in general, are not well read, they don't think for themselves, they let the television think for them. Everything they read in the paper, they accept as fact. You know, whoever decided to cover this stuff up all those years ago knew this about society. You know, if you go through it, you want to fight back. If they'd explained things a little differently to us in the debriefings, I would likely have shut up. I think people are religiously screwed up and just too busy with their own lives to want to even know. I don't think we're ready yet, probably not in our lifetime and it will only be when this phenomenon decides to overtly say, "hey this is it, we're here"! Wait, it has, but who's paying attention?

SM- Is there anything in your book that you would like to have changed or approached differently?

LW – Yes. I think everyone who writes a book, if they're honest, look back on it and says, "Oh boy, there's some things that did not need to go in", and when one writes about oneself, it's hard to keep out of your own way. We didn't need to get into weather weapons; I just don't think it was something that we really needed to pursue, be it true or not. I just think that it was more of an interest of Peter's than mine, but you can see the damage in that forest. There's also some personal things that now I just don't think the UFO community is worthy of knowing frankly. But real folks appreciated the honesty and that's who I wrote it for in the first place, thank you very much.

SM- Some people think this was a significant part of the book (the weather weapons).

LW – It was Peter's thing and I believe secret R&D took place at Bentwaters. You know, you have to make a book kind of readable and Peter didn't go through the incidents. He wrote what he saw, what he knew. I'm not saying I disagree that there was weather weapon experimentation going on there, because I think there probably was. I think that was an accident that happened. I think we both should have focussed more on just the event. But then again, I've had people say the whole book is fascinating. Our best audiences have always been outside the UFO community. We didn't write it for UFOers, we wrote it for everyday people. I've had college kids do reports on it in school, all kinds of people who have never heard about this stuff or read about it and they came away going, "Oh my god"; and so that's been the satisfaction. But there's always something you wish you had done differently. I wish our US publisher was a little more professional and had corrected some typos. I wish they'd been more professional and not the criminals they are and let us update the book like we had intended, 'cause there was some soil analyses that didn't make it into the final

cut which is earth shattering but the reader never saw it. By the way, Peter didn't like some of the stuff I wrote, but it was give and take with us.

SM- What do you think was proven from the soil analysis results from the field where the UFO sat?

LW – In the book itself, only one analysis got printed because the other one hadn't come back from the lab by the time we went to press. The final one, and the whole thing all combined, proves one thing. It proves that I knew even back in 1988 that an anomalous event took place at a certain particular point in Capel Green and through analysis it showed anomalous growth patterns in the plants, anomalous discolouration in the soil, high concentrations of iron as if a high magnetic force had been present there at one time, only in that spot by the way. It also showed that something sat in that area. The final analysis which people won't see because whatever sat there was such a magnetic force-field that it pulled in iron throughout the field and concentrated in one area, it took the ground in that spot and froze it. Like you take it into a microwave oven and heat it until its highest until the soil turned to glass almost. Then you drop it into a sub-zero freeze. That was the analysis done by an accredited lab in the United States that deals with environmental sciences. Real scientists, not UFOers, and so it proved one thing, that when I pointed my finger in 1988 and said, it sat there, the object was there. In the following years, it proved that something happened in the spot I hadn't been to in eight years at that time. You couldn't hoax what happened and we treated this in the most corrective way and had it analysed by real scientists, not people with UFO interests, because we didn't write the book for UFOers. Unfortunately for the debunkers, it shows that an anomalous event took place, what kind of event, that's up to your own imagination. I'm not responsible for people's parameters of belief.

SM- How do you feel about the meddling or experiments that you add the others may

have experienced in the underground bases after you saw the UFO?

LW ~ I think it's appalling. It's a true constitutional issue. We were serving our country and our human rights were violated through the use of narcotics and hypnosis to obscure the truth of what went on, and what went on is that someone else was there. This wasn't any of Jenny Randles' theories or Ridpath etc, people like that just want to sleep easier at night and I won't let them.

I've been talking to other witnesses who were there with me and we're all feeling better, having been able to revisit this stuff now and kind of re-evaluate our lives twenty years later.

SM- So you do believe there was meddling?

LW -I do not believe there were aliens under the base. Everything that was put in our heads became pop culture of UFOlogy as the eighties progressed and that was done on purpose to confuse the issues. Makes the X-files world a reality. This thing is way bigger than that frankly. It's too complex for UFO fans and I've learned that too. There's got to be another forum to deal with this incident, and I'm biased because I went through it, you know. I've passed lie detectors and voice stress analyses. I have medical evidence of damage to myself as do others from exposure to this. Many UFOlogists have not, and I find debunkers to be a cowardly lot, and have seen that garbage come and go for years. Left at East Gate was a timeline, so if in 1982 I thought something was one way, that's what the chapter covering that period reflected. We all change, Christ, I'm not even the same person I was when Gate was published, we grow and move on.

SM- It's been said that mind control drugs, like MK Ultra, have been used on you and other security policemen. How do you feel about this?

LW -I think it's 100% true and MK Ultra isn't a drug, it was a programme and MK Ultra evolves into other programmes used

by the CIA. So whatever was done to us in 1980 wasn't called MK Ultra, it was a branch from that.

SM- So a programme used with mind control drugs?

LW -Yes and hypnosis, a combination of drugs and hypnosis. However, it does not mean that the events did not happen. All that stuff, mind manipulation and things, memory manipulation was done to confuse what we'd seen, to confuse what the guy next to you saw as opposed to you and that is when we all talked about it. It would be confusing to the listener.

SM- So to add confusion?

LW -Yes to add confusion. I believe they do that all the time. I think with me personally, and Halt agrees, that I was targeted because I fit the profile of someone who would talk. I showed that I would within hours of the event and I was really dealt with quite harshly, but I know other people were too.

SM- How do you feel this meddling has changed your life, if at all?

LW -It wouldn't not change your life. You know, it's self-propelling, you just keep re-programming yourself. Without me, to be honest, Bentwaters would never have captured the public's interest and it wouldn't have stayed in the public eye for the last eighteen years as much as it has and that is only through my efforts and Peter Robbins' and that's the truth. You know, Halt has popped up, but I have been keeping this thing out there in the open. Because of me, all that evidence came out, the documents, the tapes, all that and I'm damned proud of that. Others have made contributions, but I put my ass on the line.

SM- Do you think that is part of the control?

LW -I think that someone wanted me to put this out, just keep it out there. I don't know why and I think part of the 'cover up', some people want it and the others do not, and I think there is a constant battle there

between those two parties. I've met the intelligence community, I know how they deal with this stuff and UFO researchers aren't even on a par with what's going on, it's way beyond them. That's why we speak at universities, we're trying to reach people, 'cause this is a human rights issue, it's not a UFO issue. UFOs aren't important, because what they are is just a matter of opinion. But again, the evidence on this thing is the one where governments could fall, there is no doubt about it, it makes Roswell look like a cupcake, I call Roswell 'The Great Distractor'.

SM- Do you think there have been repercussions in your life because you spoke about the nuclear arms issue at the base?

LW -Because I exposed the nuclear weapons arsenal we had? Absolutely not, because I was having repercussions long before I ever spoke about nuclear weapons and the bases were closed when I finally did talk about nuclear weapons. It's funny that all the service people who are talking now still won't admit that we had them, so my point again is if they can't admit that, how can they talk about something that's classified above that. I've had repercussions years before that. By the way, it took me fifteen years to mention the nukes, but I wanted to show that this was a major defence issue for Britain.

SM- Would you have still written the book knowing the repercussions afterwards?

LW -Yes. You don't get into this 'cause it's easy. The only way writing about this stuff is easy, is for authors who don't go through it; write about other people's experiences and make their money from other people's pain. UFO witnesses, write your own damned books, OK.

SM- I believe there are alleged photographs of the Rendlesham Forest incident, can you comment on that?

LW - There are, and I always knew that they existed and they need to be looked at by people other than those in the UFO community. You know, analysed and there

will be more on that next year and it will once again destroy any lighthouse theories, destroy all the nonsense that's out there. I mean, there's a lot of evidence that's slowly coming out with good reason and people will be quite aware of it within a year or so. Witnesses have a vested interest in this, getting the attention these events deserve now and we'll see how the peripheral players do if they earn their allowance. Twenty years is a good cap off point for me. I will do what I can next year, when it reaches that mark, then I will close the door because I've done all I can. I would love to see some of these cowardly debunkers. One thing I'd really like is to debate Easton, Mathews, Ridpath etc, any of them in England and I would win and they know that, obviously. And now there's gonna be other people that they are gonna have to try and handle. I think we should use their exact tactics against them. It's bad enough that we can expose some of them to have fascist leanings and things like that. I think it's appalling. In America that wouldn't fly, we've got enough neo-nazi groups over here. But over there, people that follow and play up to that stuff where it's just a cover agenda to drum up membership, possibly. You know, present the UFO stuff and then bring them into the real agenda which is neo-fascist ideas and I don't think there's any room for that in this world. We had a guy named Bill Cooper over here, mixing UFOs with fascist crap, he should be proud he was one of Tim McVay's inspirations to blow up the Federal Building in Oklahoma city.

Over the years, I've had people say, "How did you even deal with some of these UFO researchers?". They were more perplexed about their behaviour than the phenomena itself, and I say it just draws some of the worst people you ever want to know and it draws some of the good people too. But in England, unfortunately, people are just kicking out books and getting gigantic advances and not actually doing very good research. I think I resent that because we spent ten years and a great deal of personal finances on our book and it was suppressed obviously. Ringing up large phone bills is not research, it just makes BT happy.

SM- Do you feel cheated by that?

LW – Well I just feel that the subject isn't meant to advance at all, they keep down the real stuff and they let other people just write whatever they want. You know, and they're the ones that get the big pay cheques and I resent it, but it's just the way it goes. These people don't do any research, they don't call you. I've seen it happen with a few of the darlings of the UFO literary world in England and USA. It's very disappointing to people who have really lived it and invested their blood, sweat and tears into it. We haven't seen a cent, yet our book was a UK best seller. Go figure!

SM- How do you think people in Britain have risen to the challenge you've laid out during your book tour to get disclosure on Bentwaters?

LW – I'm very disappointed with that. Many good researchers, writers and ordinary people wanted to and did help us promote Bentwaters.

There are always grass roots groups like MARA and others that have always maintained an interest, but if people want disclosure, then this is one that they could come as close as humanly possible to getting and I just don't think people want it. Over here, the event is quite well known thanks to us. It surpasses Roswell with evidence, it always has. Sadly some in the British research community still think that it is 1982, Hello it's 1999 kids.

SM – Do you think you will write another book on Bentwaters or on other experiences in your life?

LW- I'll leave the other books on Rendlesham Forest to the experts who weren't there, they do such a good job. I have two books and a screen play in the works. My next book is gonna be about UFOlogy, and I continue the same vein of it being an indictment of UFOlogy and yet showing that the phenomena is very real and effects people every day and in every part of the globe. It's called "Dirt from

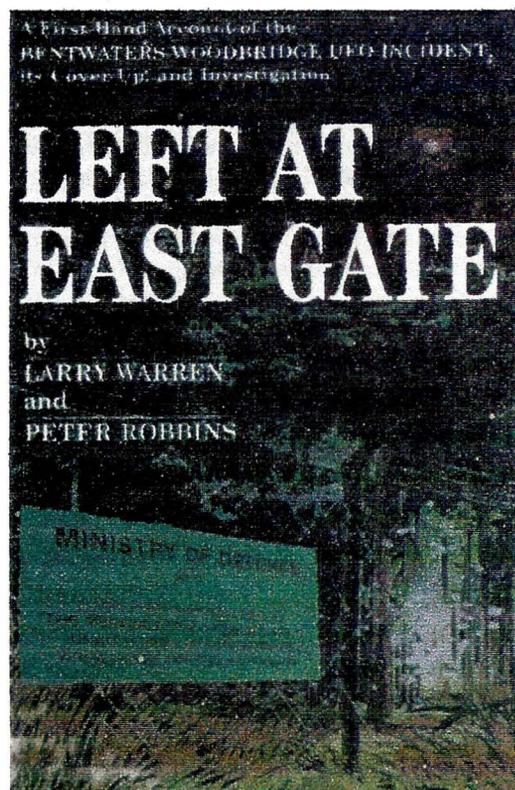
Mars: My twenty 'alleged' years in the UFO side show". I'll touch on Bentwaters and many, many events and the darn good people who hover around, suck it dry like vampires. I'll also praise all the great people I've met through the years and tell some naughty stories too.

SM – Do you think that you and the other witnesses will eventually get together and talk about the Rendlesham event openly?

LW- That is quite possible, who knows? Then again we could get together and beat the hell out of each other like Pro-Wrestling. I personally think we should cut a Christmas record called "The Way We Were Screwed". You know, get Colonel Halt to sing the middle eight with Streisand. That would be more fun than listening to the lighthouse theory again and again.

SM- Anything else you want to add?

LW – Yes, Happy 19th to my Bentwaters brothers and sisters and all the honourable researchers and our supporters in the UK.



Turning UFOs into IFOs - NOSS

By Anthony Eccles

During October of 1999, a UFO case came to my attention from the Thingwall area of the Wirral on Merseyside. A fifty five year old sales engineer called John was walking his dog in the fields on the Tuesday night of the 5th of October. John and his dog were located to the north of Prenton Brook, and to the east of Lower Thingwall Lane. It was ten o'clock at night and the sky was slightly covered with cloud, it was not raining and there was no wind. In fact, John could see a clear night sky. A slow moving point of light had caught his attention, and it appeared to pass through the constellation of Cassiopeia. The man believed that what he was looking at was a satellite. However, another detail had caught his eye, he noticed a second light and then a third appearing together to form a triangular formation, with one light being the lead light and the others forming a base line, an isosceles triangle formation. All three lights were moving together simultaneously. Satellites? Moving in formation? His initial thought was that he was observing three individual objects and not three lights that were fixed onto a single body. They appeared to move at the correct speed for a satellite and at the correct height. The lights disappeared from view "as they entered the Earth's shadow". Normally, most investigators, like myself, would probably connect the sighting of triangular lights with suspect prototype military aircraft. However, because the witness had submitted a number of important observational details on his sighting form, I was able to focus the investigation on astronomical phenomena.

My first point of call was my computer Skymap program and reference books of the Merseyside night skies, which are published by the Liverpool Astronomical Society. With this in hand I was able to locate Cassiopeia. From John's description of the lights the witness had observed them travelling from the west to the east. I had never heard of satellites travelling in formation before so my next move was to contact the British Astronomical

Association - Artificial Satellite Section, and also to look on the Internet for a satellite tracking site called Heavens-Above GmbH, which is based in Germany.

From this website I was first able to locate a satellite called Cosmos 1943 rocket which was close to the estimated object altitude and location. It is a single object which passes at 22:03:05 at a magnitude of 3.9 and first appears in the south west. This object fails to account for the lights witnessed, firstly because it produces a singular light in the sky, secondly because it appears below Cassiopeia and not through it, and finally because it moves in the opposite direction, from the south west to the north east.

Not the right solution, I know, but I was certain I was on the right track. Soon after, on the 25th October 1999, I received an email from the BAA with an explanation that it could well be NOSS. The email carried with it the following information.

"A couple of summers ago, meteor observers certainly became familiar with the 'NOSS Trio' of satellites, which were in an equilateral pattern. Onboard sensors apparently allowed researchers to measure precise distances between these, and how they were affected by gravitational perturbations over time. The NOSS satellites were also comparatively faint - visual mag. +3 or thereabouts."

Searching carefully through the net, I had come across a piece that had been written by CNI News, it was continuing a story that had appeared on the 1st September 1996 in the Toronto Star newspaper regarding the annual Perseid meteor shower. During the nights of the 8th, 9th and 10th of August of that year a set of three "unblinking" lights in triangular formation had "cruised across the star fields." These lights had never been seen before and were described as being fainter than the constellation of Ursa Major. The article goes on to say that Ted Molczan, a satellite orbit expert based in

Toronto had figured out what the three lights were...they were NOSS, and there was not just one set but there were actually three sets of satellites travelling in formation. They were code named Parcae, after the three daughters of Zeus, and were a part of the US Navy's spaceborne electronic intelligence system. NOSS was the name given to these satellites by non-military satellite specialists and stood for Naval Ocean Surveillance System. Until 1996, the US Government had denied all knowledge of these satellites ever existing.

Each group of satellites, apparently, fly at an altitude of 1100km and in formation approximately 100km across. The satellites are meant to track the position, speed, and direction of all military ships at sea. This is done by detecting communication, navigation and weapons control signals that are emitted almost continuously by naval ships. Three satellites can track these ships more accurately than a singular satellite could by measuring the time difference of signal receipt. According to this CNI News article, three sets of satellites were launched in 1990, 1991 and 1996. Each satellite measures approximately three meters in length, larger than the earlier versions of this system.

You can look at this page on the world wide web if you go to its original file name which is CNI: Triangle of Stars??

<http://www.cninews.com/Search/CNI.0475.html>

This sounded fascinating to me because it indicated that any ship belonging to any nationality could be identified and located anywhere in the world. It has some interesting implications with the use of satellite technology. I conducted a further search and found a number of question and answer pages from satellite enthusiasts. They not only enquire as to whether these satellites can remain in tight formation and how they manoeuvre in orbit. These satellites move with a leading satellite first and the remaining two following behind, they are not capable of remaining in tight formation but will appear in a triangular formation as well as a formation of lights that travel in a straight line. This actually ties in with a couple of other cases which fit just that

description. One of the answers given states this:

"The NOSS constellations consist of three visible satellites, each of which moves in a roughly geocentric orbit. The shape of the triangle formed cannot be maintained because the orbits must intersect one another when viewed from Earth's centre. Thus from time to time the satellites will even appear to be in a straight line from that point of view. All other times they form some sort of triangle, but its shape must vary continuously. I tried viewing them from above in simulation in Starry Night. It is possible to do so, but it is very difficult."

I recommend the following web pages:

<http://www.satellite.eu.org/sat/seesat/Aug-1997/0296.html>

<http://www.satellite.eu.org/sat/seesat/Aug-1997/0299.html>

<http://www.satellite.eu.org/sat/seesat/Aug-1997/0303.html>

Out of curiosity I wanted to know a bit more and fortunately found a few pages from The Federation of American Scientists (FAS), Space Policy Agency: Military Space Programs. From here were pages which described, White Cloud (NOSS). Its opening sentence begins:

"The White Cloud Naval Ocean Surveillance System (NOSS) performed wide area ocean surveillance, primarily for the Navy White Cloud which is used to determine the location of radio and radars transmissions using triangulation. The identity of naval units can be deduced by analysis of the operating frequencies and transmission patterns of the emitters.

Each NOSS launch placed a cluster of one primary satellite and three smaller sub-satellites (that trail along at distances of several hundred kilometers) into low polar orbit. This satellite array can determine the location of radio and radars transmitters, using triangulation, and the identity of naval units, by analysis of the operating frequencies and transmission patterns.

NOSS used the ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) technique called "time difference of arrival", TDOA, rather than

true interferometry. Conceptually, TDOA and interferometry are very similar, though distinct, techniques. They may also use the frequency-domain version of TDOA, FDOA, which exploits doppler shifts somewhat in the way the COSPAS/SARSAT's do."

The initial phase of Operation White Cloud was in operation from 1976 right through to 1987 when 9 satellites were sent into orbit. This phase used one main and three sub-satellites and used Atlas F rockets to project them into orbit. It is not explained how these satellites remained in formation flight, it is suggested that extremely long wires held them together but that these would have been several hundreds of kilometres long! From 1983 to 1987 a total of five groups of modernised SSU-1A satellites with upgraded stabilisation and data transmission systems were launched to replace failed satellites. By 1990, these satellites were launched using only three bodies. A number of infrared sensors were incorporated into these, and a company called Martin Marietta had manufactured these. By 1996 these satellites were using a stronger and more reliable Titan 4#17 rockets.

More details can be gleaned from the following:

<http://www.fas.org/spp/military/program/surveill/noss.htm>

Finally, there is also a paper given by a Russian military advisor called Major A. Andronov entitled "The U.S. Navy's "White Cloud" Spaceborne ELINT System". This gives an excellent explanation as to why three satellites are used. The first has a wide observation swath, but by itself cannot determine the coordinates of radio emitters. The second satellite, with the first, gets a fix on the ship-borne emitters, the position of the ship is obtained, but with some ambiguity. The third body gets the fix of the emitters' signals, enables their coordinates to be determined precisely and then transmits the information to navy ships for weapons employment. You can therefore take out an enemy surface craft long before it appears on radar.

The targeted information is not only relayed to US Navy ships but also to land

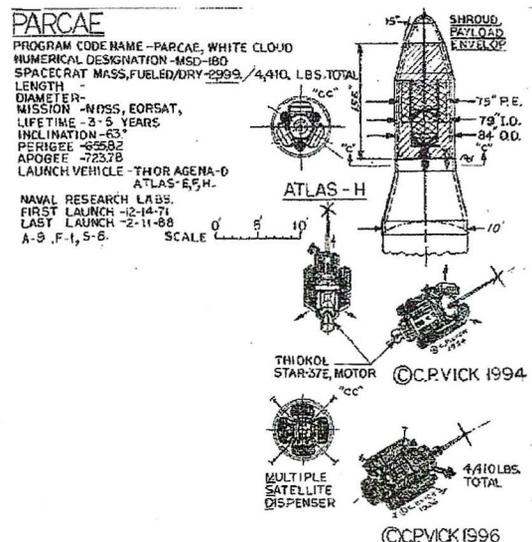
stations such as Blossom Point in Maryland, Winter Harbor in Maine, Edsel in Scotland, and smaller stations in the Pacific such as Guam and Adak.

Major Andronov states that a satellite group is able to receive signals from a zone with a radius of about 3500km on the surface of the Earth, and under clear conditions can monitor the same object 108 minutes later. A system of four satellite groups enables any region at latitude of 40 to 60 degrees to be monitored more than 30 times a day. This space based ELINT system is one of the basic means for over-the-horizon targeting for warships equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles. Today, these information receiver systems are employed by nuclear submarines.

For further details please see the following:

http://www.fas.org/spp/military/program/surveill/noss_andronov.htm

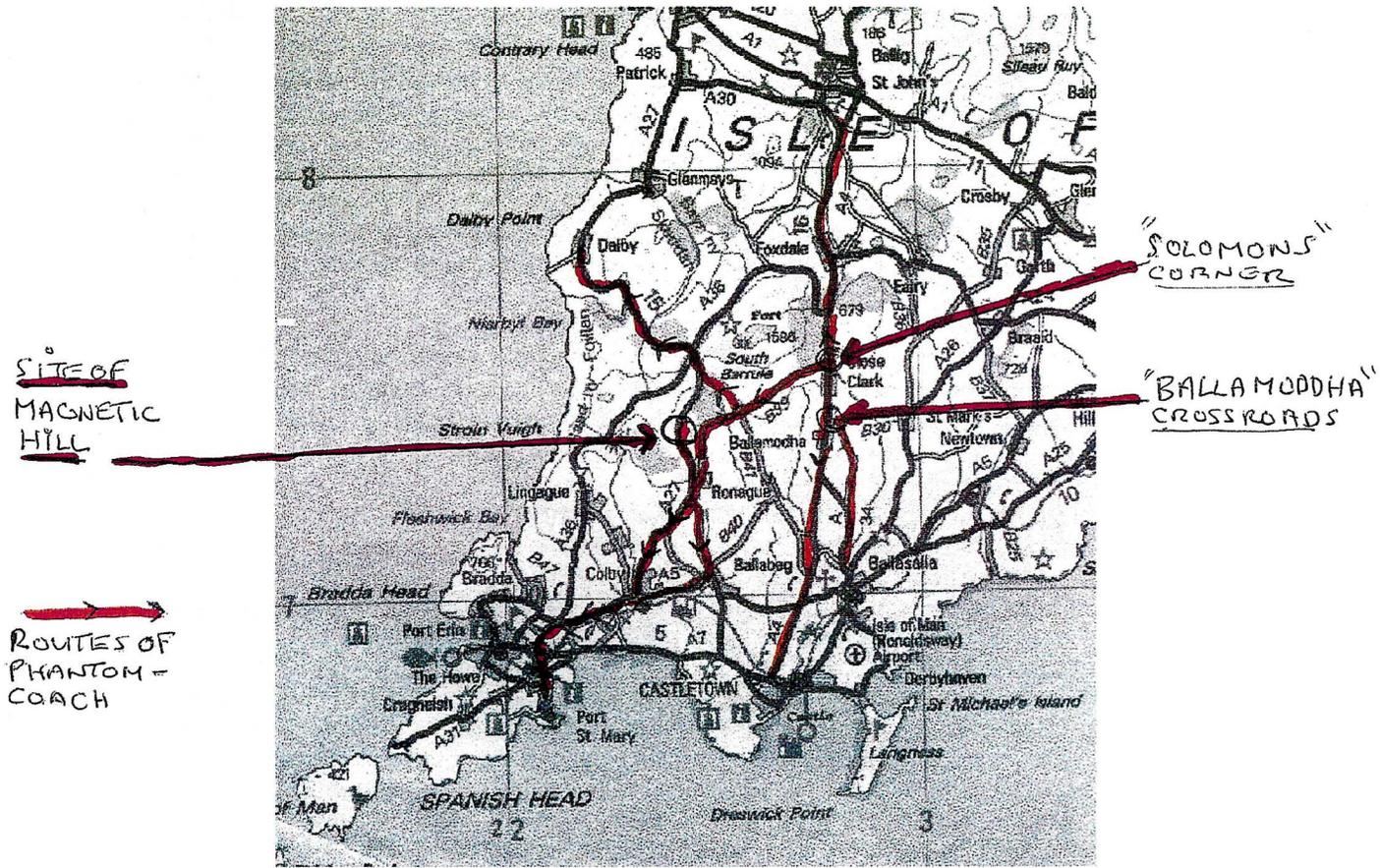
My interest in the field of UFOs entails the possible identification of satellites as an origin of the sighting. With this case, I feel that I have done so. I am now aware that certain satellites do travel in formation and they also create different shapes of lights. For me, in Merseyside, it also means solving a number of other cases which have been previously labelled insufficient data.



Diagrams of a PARCAE satellite and how it is carried in the launch vehicle.

Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man: Route 666 (part 3)

By John Hall



The Phantom Death Coach - Malew

At the highest point of the St. Johns to Castletown road, a Phantom Death Coach would begin its journey driven by a headless coach driver with coal black horses on wild stormy nights and it was reputed to be bad luck to meet it! Starting from Solomon's Corner (on the A34 and B39 where it ran down a mountain route via Colby or Ballabeg to Port St. Mary's Lime Street by the harbour. There are some suspicions that this tale was used to help conceal the smuggling trade across the island but it is thought that the original idea came from ghost stories of past times and hence there may be a degree of authenticity attached to the tale. A separate Death Coach also ran south directly to Castletown from Solomon's Corner, no doubt connecting Foxdale and Peel, etc. among the smuggling routes.

Solomon's Corner was so named because a sage who lived nearby the crossroads offered his wisdom and prophecies for

payment of some kind, although I have not been able to find any other details about this tale so far. According to WW Gills Manx Scrapbook, the whole area was alleged to have a bad reputation for strange happenings. (The film 'Sleepy Hollow' features much of the folklore here with the 'tree of the dead' and the headless horseman!)

Site visit walk

Armed with this knowledge, a site visit was made in June 1996 and a walk taken along the Ghost Road route of the Death Coach to Colby. My first aim was to find some of the place names mentioned earlier which are not on the standard Ordnance Survey map. Prior to starting the main walk down Solomon's Road (the B39 to Colby), we followed the route of the other Phantom Coach to a crossroads a mile or so down a dead straight road.

BallaModdha crossroads was supposed to be haunted by the Phantom Black Dog (Mohddey Doo), and something else too

dreadful to bare (possibly a Bugane). It was noted that a large Methodist Chapel occupies a position by the crossroads, no doubt a psychic counter measure to displace the Old Gods of the area and subsequently the phenomena! The name Ballamodtha means farm of the dogs and was found on the parish register of 1694 and signifies the Black Dog Ghost which haunted this isolated crossroads / boundary! Just across the main road, a field had a haunting of a fairy cat with fiery eyes. There is a possible link here with tales of the Alien Big Cat and a shape shifting type of Phantom Black Dog. Further back from Ballamodtha crossroads is Robin of the Gate, another crossroads and a road or path paralleling the main road. Robin Y Gate was also haunted by a procession of strange figures with lights in their hands whose starting point was also Solomon's Corner, a mile or so up road. The figures suggest monks and the parallel road leads to Rushen Abbey. The monks carrying lanterns may have been responsible for the ubiquitous Ball of Light phenomenon described in proximity to Black Dog Ghosts and others. The figures started at midnight from somewhere behind South Barrule Mountain or Windy Mountain and passed down an old track to Solomon's Corner then to a terminal point at Robin Y Gate. My partner (Elaine Hannah) and I walked along this track. I sensed nothing untoward but Elaine didn't seem too well at ease while on the track to Solomon's Corner.

Clough Ur is a place which is reputedly haunted. This was mentioned earlier as being noted for a Large Black Cat with eyes like saucers seen in this locality with other apparitions. From here we retraced our steps back to Solomon's Corner for the route walk of the main Phantom Death Coach.

We were unable to ascertain if anything of the previously mentioned strangeness has occurred at the locality in recent times as there was no one around to ask.

The Phantom Death Coach

Now starting along from Solomon's Corner down the B39 towards Port St. Mary via Colby, we followed the route down Solomon's Road. The coach is said to start from the corner, or alternatively reach the corner, from the opposite

direction and turn over and crash at the crossroads. The Death Coach is described as 'a moving body of blackness like a lot of people at a funeral', with wavering plumber, hardly distinguishable from the darkness of the night'. The witnesses would throw themselves face down to avoid seeing it go past or else they might be carried off by it with its grisly cargo of living corpses decaying on their last ride as the Grim Reaper driving the coach collects his latest clutch of souls. Witnesses have also been known to throw themselves face down to avoid direct vision of 'The Wild Hunt' described in Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man part 1, in the Summer 99 edition of The Researcher. The moving blackness, displaying intelligence, has been described elsewhere on the Isle of Man, also at Borley Churchyard and at the Devils Elbow, Langendale.

Corlea Corner marks a farmhouse on the road. Here, the Phantom Coach is allegedly supposed to turn over on its route in a fatal crash. This incident is said to have resulted in subsequent replays. Its journey is never completed and repeat viewings are available for anyone in the right place and time and the correct receptive state of mind. With no one to ask about recent sightings, we continued our walk and came to a location mentioned in the story but not on current maps. Cronk Ny Geay is about half a mile down the road and indicates an ancient tumuli with a temple or standing stones of Pagan worship. This signifies a connection with the old religion and invocation of spirits! The site has its own folklore connection as the word 'Geay' means fairy haunt. This suggests that Cronk Ny Geay may have had connections in the past with nocturnal mystery ball of light phenomena, ghosts, white ladies, black dogs, fairy processions and The Wild Hunt in addition to The Death Coach! Some have described The Death Coach as a mainly audible phenomenon with the sound of wheels and horses in the night time en route between Solomon's corner and Corlea corner. Even when the sounds are at close range, The Death Coach has been invisible to some witnesses and leaves them with an instinctive feeling that something dire is at hand. Other strange, unaccountable

sounds have been heard in the locality such as rustling and whirring noises.

We heard nothing anomalous ourselves during our visit, although quiet sounds would have been drowned out anyway by motor traffic, aircraft flying to Ronaldsway Airport which was visible only a few miles away and farm machinery. A strong wind was also a factor in concealing any quiet noises.

We noticed that the houses currently lived in and farms en route were surrounded by ruins of older farms / cottages which were roofless and overgrown. I wonder what tales their occupants would have had to tell of this Ghost Road in pre-electric days, or wartime years when the blackout would have been a throw back to those previous times. Also of note were huge chunks of quartz rock known to have exotic qualities and to deflect compass readings such as my own on a test later in the walk!

Ballagilbert Glen

Another example of a Phantom Black Dog story comes from Ballagilbert Glen at a crossroads on the road to Grenaby. This particular Phantom Black Dog is alleged to be headless and lurked in a lane at a farm nearby. It was thought to be haunting the boundary which divides two parishes and a stream. Once again, we have an example of this phenomenon in a rural isolated location and there may be a link with the BallaModdha Black Dog if it moves along ancient paths linking the two locations. I have no doubt that it was treated with great respect as these phenomena were considered to be harbingers of doom.

The Whallag Ford

The Whallag Ford further down the ghost road is one site no longer marked on an Ordnance Survey map. It could be one of two locations but is most likely to be the first one I will describe. However, it has changed out of all recognition from the story associated with it so there is some doubt. A reservoir is directly above it and a stone bridge now spans the stream from the reservoir. The glen below is Ballagilbert Glen and the field or marshy area has a St. Bridgits / Bride (explained later) dedication. The Whallag Ford and footbridge was a practical driving road

where travellers seemed to be stopped by an unseen force or presence. At the haunted ford, the force appeared to oppose their journey up the hill. The stone bridge lies between two hills and when viewed from the opposite direction from which the story is related, the location appears to be a very good candidate for The Haunted Whallag Ford.

The little footbridge is further haunted in a way that indicates the passage of wheeled traffic. The audible part of the Phantom Death Coach has been witnessed here. The sound travelled eastwards (which is the direction we walked) for about a mile and a half past Cronk Ny Geay where it becomes Solomon's Corner.

Another story told of how the Phantom Death Coach travelled from Ronnag on a narrow road to the Whallag Ford. "A crunching and swishing sound of wheels through water was heard", although the ford is now bridged. Further along the road towards Ronnag (now spelt Ronague on current maps), another ford bridge candidate crosses a small river. A new bridge now spans the stream and an uphill climb completes this part of the journey. There were fewer indications that this ford was the one in the story but a tree stump with a stretched skull-like face overlooked the bridge and hence the ghost road. A photograph was taken of the tree stump. The Phantom Death Coach continued its journey from Ronague to Colby via Ballabeg or directly onto Port St. Mary finishing its journey on the harbour Jetty at Lime Street. The reader should note that even though a modern road was available, a rough mountain route was taken in preference in a time-honoured way of doing things. It has been said that a corpse should never travel or be carried on a new road and the Phantom Death Coach travelled on a road that was nothing more than a muddy track in its day! If a church was involved in this story, it would probably be Kirk Arbory, the river crossing Parish boundary line followed by its long journey to Kirk Arbory.

St Bridgits Chapel and Holywell: Saints and Serpents

The area bounded by Ronague, Whallag Ford and Ballagilbert Glen is a site of ancient sanctity. The Methodists had Christianised the old gods in an attempt

to persuade religious conversion. For example, the Celtic goddess 'Bride', became St. Bridgit. A chapel stands at the crossroads and a standing stone called the fairy stone (and also the Wesleyan Stone) is also nearby. The Holywell and Chapel are in a marshy boggy field above Ballagilbert Glen, haunt of the headless Black Dog boundary. Quartz blocks on the opposite side of the road and elsewhere may be responsible for unusual phenomena generation and creation, possibly adding to the Ghost Road's activity.

Candlemass and Celtic Quaterday: Bride or Bridgits Eve on 31st Jan / 1st Feb

This event was associated with serpent worship in pre-Christian times. The serpent was a popular symbol for a goddess associated with water. Bride or St. Bridgit emerges from a mound, crossroads, borders, or junctions of streams which are thought of as hazy unstable boundaries of streams where fairies and spirits can gain access. Sacrifices were often made at the point near the fords to placate the spirits and old gods.

Saint, Goddess and Serpent

The parish of Bride in the far North of the Island is named after her, as is the church. Standing on a high hill overlooking a nearby marsh, the Holywell is located near a Water Bulls lair and some ancient, mostly Norse carved stones. One of the stones depicts a dragon which implies the connection with serpent worship. At our current location of St. Bride, an account states that St. Brideswell lies in a field on the left side of the CurraghVreesha road going up from the Whallag Ford up to Ronague - Arbory. Here is the ancient chapel of St Bride which tends to confirm the crossing point of the water bull haunting mentioned earlier in the text and the folklore account.

Well of the Fairy

The Curragh is defined as a boggy, marshy ground out of which fairies, ghosts and Bugganes tend to emanate, not to mention serpents, Black Dog Phantoms and ball of light phenomena! A well named Chibber Nerrish is near to the Whallag Ford and footbridge on the Silverburn River below the Whallag, Malew. Chibber Nerrish means 'Well of

the fairy' or 'Feeay Ushty'. This is yet another phenomenon on the ghost road surrounding the marsh.

Magnetic Hill

Just above the Whallag Ford at the Ronnague, there is a place shown on tourist maps which is referred to as 'magnetic hill'. There is a large piece of quartz stone embedded in the roadside called 'The Fairy Stone', or Wesleyan Stone after Christianisation. This is situated by the roadside of the A27 between Ronague and South Barrule Mountain (Grid Ref. 735W 245N OS map sheet 95, 1-50,000 Landranger). It is not marked on the OS map at all and only marked on tourist maps as Magnetic Hill. From the Fairy Stone to a point directly below it, a really odd effect takes place on motor vehicles and pushbikes (I can testify to the latter myself). If a car is stopped at the lowest part of the hill and the handbrake taken off, then the vehicle will roll back uphill finally stopping at the Fairy Stone. Of course it could be some sort of optical illusion created by the surrounding countryside. However, the attractive force as I observed it, seemed to be between three quartz blocks in a triangular formation, although the most obvious one is the Fairy Stone. Do the others have anything to do with the stated magnetic effects? One final thought on the quartz Fairy Stone, my compass, when placed near it was deflected off the true reading for north by several degrees!



The Quartz Fairy Stone, Magnetic Hill.

Continuing on the Ghost Road, we pick it up at the Methodist Chapel before going downhill to Ballabeg. As stated earlier,

this was one possible route of the Phantom Death Coach, the alternative being direct to Colby, although there are no reports of the Coach travelling the intervening road, so the Phantom Death Coach to Port St. Mary's is either an entirely different coach or it is a case of some folktales being missing .

Ronague to Ballabeg, Arbory Church and White Ladies

The road from Ronague to Ballabeg is a long winding downhill route which took our field visit walk to Ballabeg and Arbory Church. The church has a number of ghost stories with sightings within and surrounding it. The first story concerns a man who was walking home one night from nearby Arbory Church. After a short distance, he was gripped by a powerful invisible force and dragged back 200 yards from the way he came on the Rushen side of Ballabeg! He was found lying unconscious and treated in a Ballabeg house. He was found to have black imprints of four fingers and a thumb on his arm. This sounds similar to tales of various White Lady or Poltergeist attacks found elsewhere on the Island and in folklore. The area around the church has had sightings of a White Lady ghost and this was said to be responsible for an attack on a man similar to the last one, leaving the same tell-tale imprints.

The second White Lady story concerns another man who saw the apparition standing in the angle of the wall opposite the church gate, (I've been unable to decide if it is the front or the side). The man went over to talk to her (possibly thinking she was real) when he was taken by the arm and spun around until he was dizzy. She then let go of him and he fell down on to the road. The account goes on to say, "marks of fingertips remained on his bicep until he passed away". According to folklore related tales, White Ladies, wherever they were seen, were to be avoided. The story seems to suggest some sort of amorphous gaseous light phenomenon is present, maybe the passing person giving it the shape of a lady!

The church has another or possibly the same phenomenon in a different guise, visible as a mystery light form. A luminosity was seen around 10 pm in the gable window of the church, this is

known as a death light or corpse candle in other stories. It is quite possible that the same agent is responsible for White Lady, the invisible force and the luminosity

The church has changed since the report was made. It now has a tower where a gable end structure once stood. A church has stood on this site since very early times. Phantom funerals (as described in my article Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man Part 1, in the Summer 1999 edition of *The Researcher*) have been witnessed here. A photograph taken of the steps at the rear of the church appears to show a simulacra** of White Lady form in the white-washed steps and wall. This was not noticed at the time of taking the photograph.

Kirkarbory/ Ballachrink Glashtins

The Glashtin represents the hairy man and supernatural lover who abducts women in a nocturnal nightmare. It has the power to metamorphose into a handsome young man so that it can flatter and charm young women into its watery lair. The Glashtin is often described as a form of Kelpie (wild man covered in hair), but there are other more exotic fantastical forms of Glashtin associated with water monsters.

Ghosts on 'The Level'

The Phantom Death Coach travelling from Ballabeg to Port St. Mary would have picked up a few more souls by now. Ghosts have been reported in shrouds floating around the road at 'The Level' crossroads and at Kirk Christ Rushen Church. These may be more amorphous gaseous shapes, but some stories state that they are souls of the dead waiting to be picked up by the Phantom Death Coach. A free floating White Lady ghost is said to haunt the area just down the road from 'The Level' at Kentraugh Bridge. Once more this may be due to transient energy and amorphous gaseous forms.

Ballagawne

The Phantom Death Coach passed Ballagawne on its regular route to Kirk Christ Rushen Church. There are stories of spectral processions and phantom

* A simulacra is defined as spontaneous forms and figures and / or curious images.

funerals linking in with ball of light phenomena and fairy folk all around this church. A house in Ballagawne is said to be haunted by a brownish stain near the waistcoat of a room. This sounds like the bloodstain that never disappears which is sometimes associated with Poltergeists. My research so far has not found the exact location of the house and there was no one around to ask about more recent sightings at the time of our visit. The phenomena may not be active now as modern times have changed the road into an electrically lit, traffic-laden street.

The Phantom Death Coach turning at Ballakillowilley crossroads towards Kirk Christ Rushen Church apparently had one more soul to pick up in the form of another White Lady ghost. She was spotted at the church opposite the vicarage leaning on a wall. However, there is only one sighting of this apparition to my knowledge.

Phantom funerals have been sighted parading along the main road from The Howe (see part 1 of this series) and the hilly ridge overlooking the church to the flat marshy ground on which the church sits. When a phantom funeral was in progress, an invisible barrier was evident as it prevented movement across its path. The church has a curious link with a straight track to a mound known as 'Cronk Howe Mooar' which has its own folklore including phantom lights, fairy raids, Poltergeist activity, strange noises, mysterious apparitions, and wild hunts in and around the mound at Port Erin and Port St. Mary.

Ballakillowilley, 'Fiery Wheel' and 'Water Bull'

The road up to and beyond Ballakillowilley was itself haunted by a fiery wheel which barred people's way on the road. It sometimes appeared as luminous balls of light. A Water Monster was said to live in a roadside well called the Bulls-Well. Stories tell of it emerging from the well onto the road and attacking people and cattle. This was a water monster of the worm type, which although small, could double in size with every movement and was said to have a mucous viscous jelly-like consistency. As with other folklore tales, the Bulls-Well is on a boundary. Despite the reported attacks made, the Water-Bull was

generally regarded to be less aggressive than a Water Horse and more easily disposed towards humans and cattle!

Kirk Christ Rushen Church to Port St. Mary

The final run of the Phantom Death Coach was seen regularly in the High Street of Port St. Mary, ending its journey at the harbour breakwater come pier at Lime Street. At the harbour, the Phantom Death Coach is invisible, but sounds of horses hooves and wheels turning have been heard, in one case preceded by an actual funeral by a few days.

Mystery luminous balls of light have also been observed on the main street of Port St. Mary. In two cases, (1924 and 1928) a ball of light was seen to follow or precede a person as they moved about in Port St. Mary.

The Fairy Wild Hunt has been heard as loud audible sounds such as described in the Crash of the Horsemen on Port St. Mary's narrow roads. Folklore tells us that February the 6th and Halloween night are the most common times that this phenomenon was witnessed. One witness described it as a whole host unseen but heard with thundering sounds, whips cracking and dogs barking. I have not come across any recent reports of this phenomenon but I have yet to access the more contemporary periods at the local libraries.

So part 3 ends here for now and part four will describe another haunted section of the road.



A Review of the LAPIS UFO 99 Conference: 'UFOs: Nuts and Bolts or Flesh and Blood?'

By Julie Boyd

I always like to round off the year with a good conference and the LAPIS, (Lancashire Aerial Phenomenon Investigation Society), conference on Saturday 4th December 1999 was the last one of the millennium. Held at the Lowther Pavilion in blustery, cold and damp, coastal Lytham St. Anne's, (exactly the same weather conditions as last year when we went), Bill McGarry and I went along to see it host a number of interesting speakers.

Jonathan Downes and Nigel Wright. *Rising of the Moon: The Devon Triangle - UFO and Paranormal Events in South Devon.*

Jonathan Downes is a regular contributor to Fortean Times and other journals, and along with his colleague Nigel, has spent the last couple of years investigating the numerous strange events alleged to have taken place in Southern England. In 1997, there were increasing cases of missing persons, missing times, earthlights, crop circles, animal mutilations and UFO sightings. A possible future MARA trip perhaps?

Michael Lindemann (USA). *The New MJ12 Documents – Fact or Fiction?*

Michael Lindemann is a well-known UFO researcher and environmentalist who is best known for his work as editor of 'CNI News' which is on the internet's best UFO research sites. He discussed the so called 'new' MJ12 documents which have been recently disclosed and the controversy remains as to whether or not the documents are proof of a 'Cosmic Watergate', an elaborate disinformation programme or just a mere hoax.

Peter James (USA).

Peter James is Assistant State Director of Mutual UFO Network, (MUFON), Colorado. His talk was an in-depth account of the famous Betty Cash case which most of us know of. For those who are unfamiliar with this case, briefly it concerns a sighting of a diamond-shaped object by three witnesses who later saw a

collection of 23 Chinook helicopters either escorting the object or following it. The object was surrounded by an intense bright white light, which also emitted heat to the extent of causing a melting effect on part of the car. This became a legal case which went on for many years and unfortunately, Betty has since died.

He also made comparisons with this sighting and the Rendlesham/Woodbridge sighting in December 1980. The object was described as a similar shape and emitting the same ionising radiation effect and intense bright light.

Jose Escamillia (USA). *'Rods': Discovery of a New Lifeform*

Jose Escamillia claims to have captured his first UFOs on videotape at Midway near Roswell in New Mexico on 19th March 1994. Since that time, research has been conducted over the last five years on the phenomenon of 'rods' and 500 cases have been found in New Mexico with over 2000 hours of daylight footage, which makes it the largest collection of UFO footage of its kind in the world! The term 'rods' has been applied to describe the phenomena, as they seem like aquatic airborne objects. In other words, they resemble and display aquatic-like characteristics in their movement and appearance, yet the objects are in the air all around us. Truly Unidentified Flying Objects?! They display an intelligence and awareness of other objects in their vicinity. For example, there is a cave in New Mexico where rods can be filmed in abundance along with flocks of swallows that also occupy the cave. The rods can be seen flying around the swallows to avoid contact in flight. After intense analysis and research, Jose Escamillia now believes that he has irrefutable evidence that these undiscovered lifeforms are living, almost unnoticed, all around us.

Nick Redfern. The FBI UFO files: 50 Years of Secrets.

Nick discussed and overviewed the recently released FBI UFO files. I think that it is much like the laying of the red carpet exercise. The real truth of the matter will always be hidden away.

Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe. Unsolved Aerial Mysteries – Ancient and Modern.

For some reason the Reverend Father Lionel Fanthorpe of Fortean TV fame who

was billed to speak on aerial mysteries: UFOs Past and Present, did not materialise. Perhaps he was too busy ministering a sermon to Greys at his church that day instead!

Unfortunately, I did not have time to partake of the evening workshop with Jose Escamillia on 'Skyfishing' – or 'Rod Hunting', in which he was to explain how to capture these rods on camcorders.

A Review of the Discovery 2000 Conference: Worlds Without End *By Julie Boyd*

Well the 20th Century ended and the 21st Century began with no Armageddon, (yet!), no mass alien landings, (as far as we know of!), no little grey beings invading my bedroom, (I'm still waiting!), and certainly no small, dark young men, (16-25 only please), greeting me with a serving of sweetmeats, (although I'm still working on that one as well!).

However, when all else fails and the fantasies just do not come true, there's always a good conference to fall back on. I finished off the last century with a good conference and started this century off with another good conference! Saturday 29th January 2000 was a bleak blustery day, especially at 8:30 in the morning. This was the time that Bill McGarry and I set off for the Discovery 2000 conference held at Chorley Library. The speakers included an array of different people on different subjects and would cover almost 11 hours of the first conference of the 21st Century. The day passed quickly with such a variety of good quality speakers presented.

R.A.S. Hennessey

Author of the book entitled 'Worlds Without End – The Historic Search for Extra-Terrestrial Life', former HM inspector of Schools, latterly the Senior Inspector for History, Convenor of the Gloucestershire Philosophical Society, Contributor to Quest for Knowledge, Astronomy Now and History Today magazines, Mr. Hennessey presented a very interesting talk on the nature of pluralism throughout different cultures and religions down the ages, from Islam

to Christianity in the Middle Ages and up to the present day.

Brian Allen and Billy Devlin

Representing Scottish Paranormal Investigations, both of these speakers presented a very interesting talk on their research involving the Roslyn Chapel and its associations with the Knights Templars, Freemasonry and pre-Christian beliefs and practices, not to mention some of the even stranger happenings that have occurred inside the chapel during their investigations. Some of you may also remember this area of Scotland for its Dolly the sheep cloning work which was at the forefront of the media not so long ago. Well, the strange connections do not stop there. I found this fascinating not just because of the allegations made but because Scotland and Freemasonry are part of one side of my own roots and along with the pagan and occult connections, I feel compelled to check this one out. After listening to this talk and seeing the visual presentations of the chapel itself, I am going to make this a summer visit for myself, if only to view the pagan 'Green Man' and the Cherubim carvings on the chapel itself.

Jenny Randles

Everybody knows of Jenny Randles and she presented yet another interesting talk, this time on reincarnation. With a wealth of evidence for both sides of the coin on this subject, even some sceptical thinkers on reincarnation were left with a few new questions.

Steve Mera

Steve is the chairman of the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigations Team, (MAPIT), and related the strange case which his group have been investigating involving Winter Hill. For those of you who are not familiar with this area, it is a hill which is known for many strange happenings. It is also a focal point bearing the huge transmitter mast which can be seen from miles around and I saw it lit up bright red on the night I had my own UFO experience in Wigan. The particular case which Steve talked about involved an employee of a local farm who had gone missing after reporting a UFO sighting to MAPIT and then being visited by Men in Black claiming to be from the MAFF. Since this time all of the cattle on the farm have also mysteriously vanished and Steve and his colleagues have been followed whilst trying to make enquiries in the area about the missing man concerned. A good talk and interesting speaker.

Ralph Ellis

Airline captain, Mensa member, and researcher, Ralph Ellis presented interesting theories from his two books 'Thoth Architect of the Universe' and 'Jesus, Last of the Pharaohs'. Interesting ideas on sacred sites and ancient wisdom using Biblical texts to try and prove his point of view. However, I would have liked to see him compare notes with the

Qur'anic texts when debating his theories on the Prophets instead of just using the King James version of the Bible and relying on the Christian or Judaism writings.

Tim Matthews

Last but never least, Tim delivered an oversight of the main aims of the conference and the objectives of Discovery 2000, (combination of LUFOS and BUFOSC/British Paranormal and Fortean Studies Group). I was impressed by the enthusiasm of most of the researchers and the groups they represented. Discovery 2000 provided new and fresh approaches and methods of research to launch into the New Millennium which is going into directions which are fast leaving other 'research' groups far behind. Quite a lot has been going on and things are moving forward as far as new research is concerned. At least I hope so. I am personally tired with the lethargic, armchair hobbyists who have just been using the scene for an excuse for a social drink down at the pub, and basically just riding on the backs of serious researchers who have been burdened down by the hobbyists. It's time to shake off the passengers and get into some serious work. I hope this is now the time to do just that, new millennium, new change and all that!

The Alien and UFO Exhibition~ Blackpool

By Julie Boyd

Bill McGarry and I, (yet again!) drove up to Blackpool one Sunday to take a look at the permanent Alien and UFO Exhibition. Situated just off the main promenade, we found the entrance and went in. Well you couldn't really miss it as there was a little grey alien doll standing on guard outside, (and what a little darlin' he was too!). I was very impressed with this exhibition because it incorporated many levels of beliefs and philosophies and did not just isolate the alien/UFO subject as just the one phenomenon.

With video presentations, exhibition scenarios including a re-construction of

the Roswell crash site and autopsy complete with grey aliens, a walk in 'Adamski' type space ship, a two seater Therapy Pyramid, a whole host of different life-size aliens, and much more, we spent about three hours in there before browsing around the Exhibitions shop at the end. For £10, lectures can be arranged and booked in advance. The entrance cost without additional lectures is £6 and is well worth a visit.

For those MARA members who are stuck in their armchairs, you can visit this exhibition via their website. Unfortunately, it does seem to always be the same MARA members who are taking advantage of these trips.

Lucifer's Flight From Light Into Darkness

By Julie Boyd

I would like to raise a few points re. the article by Robert Blackstone entitled, 'Lucifer – Arch Enemy or Man's Best Friend?' in Vol.2 Issue 3 Autumn/Winter edition of *The Researcher*.

For this exercise, I would like those sceptical readers and atheists amongst you to suspend your disbelief and consider my response to Robert's affirmations.

Firstly, if we examine Biblical scripture in context, we will learn that God was actually speaking to his first created beings who were, of course, the angels, and in particular, the mighty archangel, Michael, who later incarnated on earth as Jesus Christ. These angels resided with the creator in his spiritual dimension. The angels, being intelligent, spiritual beings with individual personalities, do possess a degree of free will, as the Bible tells us that one third of the angelic creation rebelled against God. They could not do this if they lacked free will. So it was they and not another 'god' to whom God was addressing.

Also, the names of the angels most western people are familiar with are the English translation and could not be correct angelic names, so they vary. For example, Gabriel, becomes Jibril in Arabic, etc. El is the divine suffix at the end of an angel name, which denotes that the bearer is a good angel. Interestingly, 'al' in Arabic names can be used to denote a level of authority. If we read through the Bible, we will find that only TWO angel names are mentioned as all the other angels who were reported to have appeared to humans actually refused to give their names when asked by the humans. The reason for this is two-fold. By refusing to give their personal names, it acts as a preventative measure against the humans deifying them as gods, as angels tell us only God can be worshipped and his angels are only His messengers and not His equals. Also, the angel names are said to be so 'wonderful', (Biblical reference), and unspeakable that mere humans cannot

utter such 'wonderful' spirit names. This would also seem to act as a measure to prevent humans from trying to 'conjure' them up. However, what of these angels who, Robert suggested have been conjured up by mere humans? Judging by certain references he makes, I suspect that the group which Robert was involved in were concerned with invoking the Jewish fallen angels and such practices are not the usual practice of Wiccans and Pagans who would be aware that this sort of practice would lead to being deluded by certain malevolent forces. Who in their right mind would want to conjure up such a deviant being and in any case, who would be arrogant enough to presume that they could? Many mediaeval and modern occultists, who were and are just inverted 'Christians', have simply redecorated a melting pot of pseudo-religious theatricals and incorporated them into an occult theme. I do not doubt their abilities to contact and conjure at least 'something' up, but what that 'something' is and what its purpose is remains to be seen and should be questioned.

Eliphas Levi, self-styled magickan, (yes that is the correct spelling), was reported to have some successes and then there was that infamous character, Aleister Crowley. A self-deluding maverick and megalomaniac, he was a heroin addict and also suffered from a brain tumour, I am led to believe, so make of that what you will.

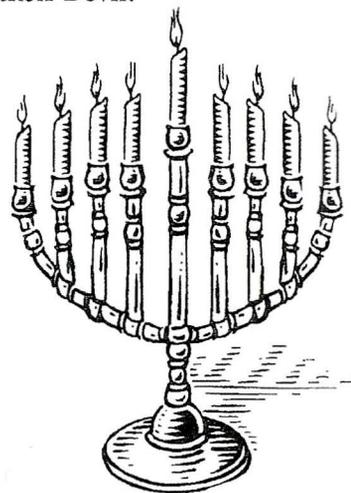
Also Robert makes reference to a Halloween party of Wiccans. I presume he means a Samhain celebration, as 'Halloween' is not a word that Wiccans or Pagans normally use. Halloween, referring to the church date of All Hallow's Eve, (the day before Saints Day), was superimposed upon the original Pagan Celtic New Year's Eve, (Samhain), before it became commercially known as Halloween and developed into the American 'Trick or Treat' we see today – a far cry from both the original claims of this celebration. Although unlike

Halloween, Samhain does not fall on a fixed date each year. Reading through Robert's description of the ritual, although I understand what he is referring to, I fail to understand the actual motive for such a ritual. I can only conclude that this was a group of occultist practitioners of the darker shade and as such I cannot agree with their particular brand of working. I am personally of the opinion that occult practices should be used for beneficial and positive ends and not just for the morbid curiosity of the kind of ego-centred characters that the subject does seem to attract at times. As most readers are already aware, I am totally opposed to dabbling in the occult just to satisfy idle curiosity. I am of course, not suggesting that Robert is of the kind, maybe he is, I would not know. He does say that this happened in his early days and so I presume he was a younger person who may have possibly been taken in by older persons who may have been consumed in their own self-importance. This does happen with individuals who like to set themselves up as self-appointed priests and priestesses, complete with flamboyant regalia and occult trappings and wielding certain influences over their younger and more inexperienced adepts to inflate their own egos.

Robert also makes reference to that much used but ill used term, 'hell', in which he seems to be perpetuating the myth that this is some terrible place presided over by Lucifer where tormented souls reside under the guard of demons as a result of their sinful lives on earth. This is another concept that most Pagans and Wiccans do not identify with at all. Research does reveal that this word actually means something completely different. I hate to disappoint all those Devil-worshippers out there but this place of torment does not actually exist, except perhaps in the mind of some very guilty, sado-masochistic and psychologically unbalanced medieval theologians, fundamental 'Christians', (inverted or otherwise), and perhaps some other individuals who like to believe in such a place for what ever strange reason.

At around the time of the Old Testament, fallen angels were mentioned as being under the control and jurisdiction of Lucifer. Such dark angels were opposed

to humanity. The name Lucifer does mean 'Angel of Light' – as this is what he originally was when first created by God, but such a beautiful and bright spiritual being became vain and arrogant, and with his free will, he chose to take it upon himself to rebel against the Natural Order and Law of the Angelic Dimension. The idea of Lucifer / Devil etc, as an ugly, gnarled, horned gargoyle-type creature is a medieval theologian concept and is quite false, being originally taken from the Pre-Christian archetype for the Nature Spirit known as 'Pan', (Greek), or Cerrunonos, (Celtic). In an effort to subjugate and erase Paganism from the land, the Church re-invented the Devil and gave him the features that belonged to the Pagan spirituality of the people. Hence if you believed in this imagery, you must be a Devil-worshipper. I believe that Lucifer exists as the beautiful but rebellious Angel of Light who became corrupted and fell from grace, but he was nothing to do and bears absolutely no resemblance to that silly imagery so often portrayed in the Dennis Wheatley movies of the Baphomet-type creature, (horns, goat features, cloven hooves, bat-like wings and glaring eyes, etc). Any occultist who believes in this image is a lapsed Christian and not a genuine Pagan! My own 'Green Man' wall plaque with his horns and red eyes may be mistaken by many ill-informed people for the 'Devil', but I assure you that he is nothing of the sort! He is the ancient Lord of the Woodlands and Forests, that kindly old soul whose spiritual archetype cares for Nature and the Animal Kingdom. In mythology, folklore and Pagan psyches, he has existed for aeons long before Christendom put his face upon their Devil!



The Greys “What are they like?” (Lucifer In The Sky With Diamonds!)

By Julie Boyd and Bill McGarry

Moving on from Bill McGarry's analysis of the 'The Song Of The Greys' outlined in the previous edition of *The Researcher*, I would like to take some points further. In the article in which the book, ('The Song Of The Greys'), was summarised and formed the subject of a critical appraisal, it was put forward that a species alien to humankind has interacted with us and inserted Mitochondrial DNA into the human host cell to provide genetic control. It was stated that this was not an original idea, since the article went on to explain how the Bible actually makes reference to such ideas with regard to the 'Fallen Angels' mentioned in Genesis (6:4,5,7). Even according to Dyonysius, an extraordinary development occurred with the angelic creation; "there were angels who were members of the lowest hierarchy who wished to develop an inner life of their own and to obtain independence from beings of the higher hierarchies, to have experiences in their inner nature which they did not have to manifest externally. Thus, were engendered the fallen angels who wished to be filled with their own being for selfish reasons."

Examining this subject matter further, such ancient scriptures allude to the concept of 'fallen angels', i.e. those angelic creatures which such scriptures state as: "Left their original positions, (in the heavens), and came down to earth and interacted with the daughters of men", (by having physical relations with the women of that time and became known as the 'Fellers in the land', the word fallen being a derivative of this word feller). They became known as the 'Men of Fame' and were recorded as being unusually tall, cross genetically mixed beings capable of extreme physical strength and power and who became worshipped as gods. Their corruption eventually led to extreme violence. So much was this in evidence, that the Bible says that most life in the region was brought to an end with the release of a

great deluge to cleanse the earth of such corruption and violence. This became

known as the Great Flood of Noah's time, (2370 B.C.E.). Noah was a prophet who warned that such a time would come but the people would not heed his word.

In each religious belief-system, myth and legend, throughout every tribal culture from paganism to Christianity in every corner of the world there exists the story of the Flood, a time when the world was covered with water and civilisation was submerged and ultimately destroyed. Contradictory to those sceptics who would have us believe that it never happened, or if it did then it was only confined to a small area which would be acknowledged by communities on a local level as their 'World', (hence 'the world'), evidence has emerged that such a flood or a great deluge of water did indeed occur and that it was widespread to the point of covering the globe and spreading to Makka, (Arabia) where the sacred Ka'bah was also partly destroyed by flood water (Islamic sources). Despite lack of modern transport such as motor cars, trains and aeroplanes, human beings did travel extensively across the continents and were well aware of other diverse cultures and peoples. Trade was prolific and civilisations and empires were being built and in existence. According to all the texts and religious beliefs, the Flood was sent by God to destroy the evil gods who resided on the Earth at the time....the 'sky gods' who came down and interbred with human women bringing forth hybrid children, themselves eventually killed by the wrath of God as abominations of all that was natural. There is a clear analogy here to the present-day phenomenon of alien abduction.

Whitley Strieber in his book 'The Secret School', suggests that the phenomena that lies behind all the human experience of aliens, ghosts, fairies, demons etc. is probably one and the same – a mask that hides many faces of the one intelligence. A multi-faceted phenomenon which

appears in the guise most suitable at that time, to that particular culture and belief system and to the specific mind-set of the human individual, appearing, manifesting and masquerading itself in many forms. Angels of light, demons, ghosts, spirits of the dead, aliens, whatever you want; misleading many and revealing its true self to no-one. We never get to see the real face...and the game goes on. The cosmic joker laughs as he plays with us. One game which is very popular right now in our time period, is the one involving the Greys. Who are they? Where do they come from? One particular clue to their actual origin is their attitude to Time.

Abductees and contactees often relate how the Greys regularly make statements or relay information as regards their own mortality. Comments such as "A thousand years of your time is just one day to us", "What is age? "Why do you have wrinkles?" and various other questions are asked of the humans by their alien contacts. Individual abductees who have experienced the abduction phenomenon personally from childhood up until maturity and retirement, have reported that on subsequent abductions years later throughout their life, the Greys are puzzled and sometimes downright annoyed that their 'subjects' have physically changed, i.e. grown older with grey / white hair and wrinkles. Abductees claim that their Grey charges are most questioning about human age, mortality and time, and are sneering towards our very limited mortality. This suggests that the Greys exist outside of our time and have been around, even on an individual basis for a very long time. Our 80 or so years are a pathetic drop in the universal ocean to them, and they make no bones about letting us know!

Are the Greys the same beings who were known as the 'sky gods' in Noah's time? Aliens exhibit and demonstrate a seemingly personal and deep knowledge of entire human history and affairs, scientific data, of religious belief throughout time and culture going back to Sumerian and Babylonian times and, in particular, make many detailed references to Biblical text. They communicate such knowledge and information as if they have been watching the whole of mankind's history

like some Saturday afternoon matinee film. The ancient Sumerians pre-dated the Egyptians and are considered to have possessed a knowledge and technical advancement far exceeding the time. Ancient Sumerian artefacts and writings suggest that they had a knowledge of the DNA, aerial flight, star and planet systems, etc, etc, but that all this knowledge was not wholly pure and it became corrupted. Then all this knowledge suddenly disappeared, was erased, and it was as if man had to start again from scratch. Where did the knowledge come from and where did it go? The legends again point towards the 'sky gods' who came down and taught great wonders to men; science, astronomy, etc, then the Flood came to destroy them and it was all lost.

Can there be any parallels in our time with respect to the above? 'The Song of the Greys' offers, as mentioned in the previous article, a number of interesting hypotheses. These Greys, the author concludes, are an automaton type creature, merely carrying out the wishes of its host master. They are programmed to basically abduct the human subject for medical, psychological and sociological evaluation and experimentation. Several other UFOlogists have questioned the legitimacy of the argument of a superior being such as the Greys needing to go to all the trouble of engaging in world-wide abductions of both human and animal species and subject them to all this scientific enquiry. It is also reported by many abductees of the apparent manifestation of stupidity in the carrying out of experimentation, i.e. lack of dexterity in procedures and also an apparent lack of overall awareness. Bob Oechsler, in an interview re: aliens and alien technology, (Nicky Campbell Show, Radio 1, 7th March 1993) alluded to the theory that the Greys seem to be acting as a servant class with a hive mentality who are under the control and authority of another superior race of intelligent beings.

If the above does seem to confirm that the Greys are merely a manifestation of a 'Drone Automaton' merely carrying out the wishes of a higher force, as suggested in the 'Song of the Greys', and with the intention of this higher authority requiring investigation of human

emotions, etc, then what is the actual purpose of this investigation and experimentation?

As mentioned earlier of the Biblical record of the interaction of the 'Fallen Angels' and the production of a hybrid, genetic cross-breed in early human history, the apparent objective of the above happenings was for the controlling forces, mentioned again in the Bible and other ancient texts, to use the baser level, former angelic forms, who had come down to the material world of our earth to interbreed with human females and in doing so to actually obtain important information for their hosts on the human condition both physically and psychologically. What better way of accomplishing this objective than by actually physically interacting with their subjects.

Now we are at a time again when we are gaining knowledge at a rapid pace. Abductees tell of the Greys imparting similar 'wonders', communicating information of science, prophecy, etc. Although when you really take a look around at the world and think about it, most of the knowledge that man has is useless.

Two thirds of the world's population is still starving in poverty, new diseases are appearing every day and are becoming resistant to medicine, violent crime is on the increase along with mental illness, suicide, stress, ecological and environmental break-down, ever-growing species and habitat destruction, questionable food and water sources, depression, isolation, lack of individual self-worth, high unemployment and yet meaningless jobs, never-ending conflicts and wars, weapons of mass-destruction and the list goes on. Not a pretty picture is it? Is this really an indication of Man's wisdom, progress and evolution and his gaining of True Knowledge? I don't think so. It seems more like a rotten seed which has been deliberately implanted in his mind to germinate a corrupted knowledge which will eventually turn upon him rather than enhance his potential as a human being. We are being struck down by the very knowledge that we are gaining. All this as we have entered the new Millennium is not a cause for celebration but rather a

warning that it is about time we woke up to reality.

Man might have his top of the range computers and information technology, etc, but he has become so isolated from the environment, Nature, other peoples, himself and ultimately God, (call it what you will), that he is in fact in Hell. (Hell representing the state of the severance of God Consciousness and our True Identity in relation to Existence). Existence without Meaning is worthless and equals Death and ultimately Hell. This hell like state of being is manifesting itself in symptoms of our sick society. And so there we have an interesting possible consideration of the 'Grey'. One may conclude that this ancient force of the attendant 'Fallen Angel' and its host may have its intended consequences in our time with the 'Grey' presence. The menacing of which has also formed the basis of the enquiries of both UFOlogists and religious groups.

Incidentally, many ancient religious texts also indicate that such occurrences in our time, if actually correct, signal that we are at the end of a corrupt world system controlled by malevolent forces. If this is true, then we have a lot to look forward to, or not. Whichever way we look at it, this book, 'The Song of the Greys' makes for some interesting reading and is food for thought for the serious researchers amongst us. What is more disturbing though, is that a lot of what has been suggested in the book is also being suggested by many other researchers who have delved deep and long, possibly too deep and long!

All in the best possible taste? I don't think so!



The Shadow of the Sorcerer; Myth Versus Reality.

By Robert Blackstone

On the whole, our society has, even today, an atmosphere of fear and abomination of those who practise the magical arts; and I have been astonished into speechlessness by the rampant superstition, horror and ignorance towards occultism I have found since recently revealing myself as such to a supposedly objective, scientific and 'open-minded' group such as MARA. Despite having no great mission to vindicate and justify my practices to the wider world, I think I deserve to have my say and even if most readers continue in ignorance and bigotry towards the occult, if just one person is mildly affected and provoked into their own investigations, having the strength to suspend tendency to pre-judge beforehand, I will consider my efforts here well rewarded.

Firstly, let's look at the past famous occultists: Merlin, of King Arthur's legendary court, Dr. John Dee, the Elizabethan Magus and adviser to the queen, Cornelius Agrippa, Paracelsus, Don Juan, our modern phenomenon, Aleister Crowley, and of course the infamous Dr. John Faust.

There is some evidence that Merlin existed, as there is a small legacy of his magic still passed on orally (word-of-mouth) in the secret Celtic traditions, although his name may have been Myrddyn – but there is little to show that he was a Druid as such. Much literature remains concerning Dr. John Dee, although the best stuff, including a manuscript of the real 'Necronomicon' (as opposed to the forgeries in print) which inspired the writer H.P. Lovecraft – is still unpublished. I have recently commissioned a private translation of the real Necronomicon by those who possess the only copy in Britain. The writings of Cornelius Agrippa and Paracelsus have been revised and printed by specialist publishers in recent years, and almost everything by Aleister Crowley is available, including his revamping of the Sumerian system and several medieval

Grimoires. There was apparently a historical Dr. Johannes Faust, who seems to have been a genuine academic, and exponent of thaumaturgy, but most legends of Faust are based on an idiot called George Faust, who lied and tricked his way across Europe, spreading incredible stories about himself on purpose and was a charlatan with no real magical knowledge, but used stage illusions and the children's games that our modern illusionists pass off as 'magic' – (very interesting to those of us with the strength and the GUTS to practice the real manly Art).

So many myths have been exploded in modern times about what Sorcery is and what it is not. Personally, I find it incredible that people who state an interest in the supernatural often totally fail to educate themselves about it, and then have the audacity to pass sweeping and erroneous judgements on something about which they are too scared to learn about themselves. They then sit around making up false world-views and expecting others to accept their own philosophy and standards. Tell me who is living in the 'dream world', the person who thoroughly tries things out before he passes judgement and sentence, or the pulchritudinous pseudo-mystic who claims monopolies of knowledge about the spiritual / psychic planes without even a shred of courage to investigate them properly, proceeding to pontificate and pour scorn upon the conclusions of those who do have the integrity to examine the truth in person?

Neither is magic properly practised even within many modern groups and 'orders'. The once promising Wiccan neo-pagan covens have largely become empty of substance, relying on simple, religious, devotional rituals that have no potential to influence the phenomenal world and varying degrees of neurotic political philosophy. To my mind, these people are not 'witches' at all, neither are most of those in 'magical orders' such as the

O.T.O., the A.:A.: or the masons, genuine magical adepts, often they do not even perform ritual, they just talk about it!

As far as I'm concerned, if one makes a claim to magical Adept hood, you will damn well prove it or keep one's mouth shut. At least what I have claimed, I have offered to show. I am in fact a doubting Thomas, I believe nothing unless I have either experienced it myself, or understood the objective and non-egocentric reasons why it is likely to be so. Therefore, my practices are not really subjective, I would say they are objective, and just because the instruments of measurement in basic forms of empirical science are still too crude to measure levels of psychic energy or thought forms, this does not necessarily mean I believe untruths. There are less direct ways which we could use to indicate something is happening in rituals such as those which I practice, for example, I usually develop a high body temperature as the ritual builds and energy is generated; various muscle groups will contract of their own accord as energy passes through my body, perhaps a plant or two could register an altered state of photosynthesis or something, especially if I ask a spirit to affect it. In the particular ritual form known as 'evocation', which calls a spirit in person, I could have a camera running or take a long exposure with a very slow film speed (ASA rating) and ask the spirit to make a mark or image on the photographic surfaces.

I am perplexed as to why paranormal investigators in this country, (there are more broadminded people in the USA), are reluctant to accept and examine occultism. Do you know, occultism encompasses the whole field of the supernatural; - ghosts, spirits, angels, demons, gods, elementals, fairies, aliens ley-lines, dowsing, divination, ancient mysteries, standing stones, Earth currents, not to mention all of the aspects and problems of human daily life. All the answers are here if you know where to look. Even the Screaming Skulls are answered by occultism, (although I think that the truth is sadder and more grisly than naive sightseers may suspect concerning these skulls!). It can also, because of its nature of magical art, help

in love problems, personal problems, health problems, protection from enemies, legal problems etc, etc. However, because of our society's disgusting ignorance and brainwashed terror, the way of the sorcerer can often be a lonely one, 'Lacrimae Mundi - the tears of the world', to know more than your peers, and hence be slightly isolated. In fact, I have found in my own experience that most people only forget their prejudices against the art when they come to me asking favours, - for me to do some magical work for them, and always secretly, of course - too concerned with their image to publicly admit they believe in 'such things' as magic! The most taxing thing I ever did was to get an innocent person out of jail, it took me nine months to recover!... NEVER AGAIN! never! I was emotionally exhausted for a time and my work lost its effectiveness for a few weeks.

Now the classic question: what about 'Black' and 'White' magic? Well, there is no clear-cut separation! 'Good', and 'Evil'? - There is never one without the other! A demonologist can help to heal others as well as self-empowering himself; many so-called 'white witches' are sickeningly self-righteous, arrogant and hypocritical, (worst of all, they won't admit it, and lie to themselves as well as others!) However, magical force is actually similar to electricity, being raw power, and just as electricity can be used to both constructive and destructive ends, so it is with magic. To the dilettante, the fear of evil magic looms menacingly. To the true and balanced occultist, it does not exist. Many ridiculous ideas such as neurotic and bogus notions of 'karma' are rife in new-ageism and pseudo-occultism today. These are largely influenced by nineteenth century - early twentieth century schools like Theosophy, Eastern philosophy and the churches idea of penance and sin.

There is such a phenomenon as psychic attack, or 'cursing', but one needs to understand that just as we do not say electricity is 'evil', whenever one person is electrocuted by another, neither is energy used in magical attack 'evil'! The difference between Black and White magic, is therefore, purely relative and depends mostly on one's personal opinion, and not some absolute truth.

Indeed the modern school of chaos magic may often imply there are no absolute truths at all anywhere! Since this universe apparently has the magical quality of tending to support and lay evidence for anyone's applied theories – both the materialist and the occultist seem to have their conflicting ideas 'confirmed' – then what is reality? Is it not malleable and plastic, if one applies one's theories with care and intelligence? Here, I quote the famous line, "All things are possible; everything is permissible!"

Which brings me to the technicalities: how does magic work? Well to elaborate, I must separate the different 'schools' of sorcery. There isn't room to explain them all, but a few will do here.

A) Ritual Magic, entitled 'Theurgy'. This is the type in which a witch / magician casts a circle, either of cord, or chalk or similar designs that are laid around the conjurer. The circle represents the world or universe, or the 'womb of the goddess' as Wiccans may call it. In 'Invocation', he calls a god-force such as an angel, or a planetary energy, or in the pagan systems, a Celtic god-form such as Cernunnos or the Moon Goddess, or the Egyptian Isis or Osiris or some other cultures god-form, to 'link' with the person and fill the aura with the God's energy, for almost any desire depending on the force one chooses. In 'Evocation', one summons an entity in person to manifest outside the circle, ~ usually in a 'Triangle of Art', and here, traditionally, it is the spirit that does the work, and is sent off then to effect the sorcerer's business. To make a spirit appear visibly is more complex, and rarely succeeds, I have only been able to do this three or four times, usually it will instead be a vague shape in the incense mist, or 'felt' psychically by me (and no, I don't accept it's my 'imagination', experience educates one to tell the difference). More often the spirit cannot find enough power to become visible, but it will usually communicate later to me on the astral plane (where magic holds we all go at night, and most people call it 'sleep'). It's possible but not easy to train one's mind to become conscious and articulate in a dream-state.

B) 'Spells' or minor rituals. There are many types of spells but almost all fall into two types: (i) Sympathetic magic,

(ii) Contagious or contact magic. Sympathetic magic works on a 'Like creates Like' principle, wherein usually the operator will act out his desires in microcosm, which then hopefully becomes reality in the macrocosm. For example, the 'Voodoo Doll' (correctly the 'Poppet Doll'), which is created to represent a particular person and then a spell performed on it, or healing or harming acts done on it. An outsider could do this but it probably wouldn't work though, because the mechanisms of spell casting aren't understood, (and which I'm not irresponsible enough to give away here, to God knows who!). There are many other forms of sympathetic magic, but this will do as an example.

Contagious or contact magic, works on the principle of 'energy passed on' by either touching an object / person while reciting an incantation or obtaining a personal link, such as hair or clothing, etc, and this works on the idea that what has been in contact with something will continue to affect it when separated, if the principle is acted upon. Many years ago, I myself was a victim to this. You see, I had an argument with a woman I was seeing at the time, and I went home, but woke suddenly at 6:30 a.m. with the overwhelming urge to go to her. So I ran outside and flagged a taxi, and ended up back in her arms at her flat. Only later on did she admit that, as I had left my shirt and ear-ring at her flat, she had gone to bed with my belongings and willed strongly for an hour that I was there with her! This was not coincidence, as the argument had been bad and I would never have gone back if she hadn't used the principle I had shown her myself, weeks before!

So as you can see, these 'direct' forms of magic are a form of telepathy, but it is done in a broader, more cosmic, sense and may also be combined with the issuing forth of spirits to effect the result. An effective sorcerer employs many more types of magic, but these are the two main types in print for the public to read. So, I conclude, ~ moralise, politicise, debunk, criticise, or witch-hunt, back away in terror like frightened children if you must, but there is a big revival in magic and the shadow of the sorcerer rises again in our own times.

CONNECTIONS?

By Colin Veacock

History repeats itself- What goes around comes around- Those who forget their past are likely to repeat it. Wise words of wisdom which have gone unheeded. But it isn't necessarily our fault! We humans have one failing and that is that we like to project our personal beliefs onto strange happenings or mysteries that pervade the current social and cultural climate of the time. Last century for instance, crop circles were thought to be a manifestation of the devil, whereas nowadays they are seen as landing sites or cryptic messages from the inhabitants of flying saucers. In 1880 the miners who worked and lived around Silver Cliffs, Colorado, believed that the crystal blue balls of light seen hovering over a cemetery were the souls of the dead, unlike modern day ufologists who think of them as alien crafts. In 1921 Alfred Watkins noticed that ancient sites and places of historical importance tended to fall along straight lines which he termed Ley lines. In his book published in 1925, 'The Old Straight Track', Watkins theorised that these lines were death roads for our ancient ancestors. In modern times ley lines have become guidance lines for ufo navigation.

Our popular mysteries adapt and evolve to fit the demands of the time. We love to weave fantasy, pseudo science and theoretical science into a sort of fabric onto which we can project our greatest fears and, ultimately, our sincerest hopes. We suffer from delusions of grandeur, kidding ourselves that we know it all. Time and time again we fall foul when we try to answer the important questions that have plagued and troubled mankind since the beginning of time. Where do we come from? Where do we go after our physical death? Are we alone in the universe? Three questions which every great scholar in history has pondered but had little success in answering. Just the process of attempting to answer these important questions tends to set in motion a chain of events which unfold in exactly the same way. This is never more true or obvious than when one studies and compares the rise and popularity of spiritualism with the modern day ufo and alien abduction experience.

In the 1830s something strange and rather odd happened. In the space of a few years, a virulent interest in the occult spread across America, the United Kingdom and Europe. In bars, shops and coffee houses, the topic of conversation involved

séances, secret cults and societies, witchcraft, ghosts and black magic. By far the most commonly asked question of the Victorian period was, 'Is there an afterlife?'

Victorian society was primed and in an expectant mood so it comes as no surprise that the Fox sisters claims of contacting the dead in the cellar of their home in Hydesville, New York State in 1848 was openly embraced and accepted without question. In the years that followed, spiritualism flourished and the heavy dread of our own mortality receded into the distant past.

A hundred years later society's fears and anxieties would be directed in entirely another direction. Once again there had been a subtle indoctrination of the public concerning aliens and ufos which had primed society. As well as the plethora of science fiction movies that the public adored and the daily trips of Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers to the stars, a certain radio programme aired in 1938 revealed how much the American people were willing to accept the reality of aliens. H.G. Welles, 'War Of The Worlds' written in 1898 was given the Orson Welles' treatment and consequently terrified an entire nation. The theatrical analytical annihilation of the human race was just too plausible in the minds of the American public. Before they had had time to truly vent their feelings at this cruel, if not entertaining, deception, war broke out in Europe and Welles' little practical joke was temporarily forgotten about.

To most Americans the war ravaging across Europe was far enough away not to affect their ordinary everyday life. Yes, of course their husbands and sons were risking their lives but most families were optimistic about the fate of their loved ones. December 4th 1941 and Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour soon changed all that! That attack still niggles the Americans as they feel they were caught, so to speak, with their trousers down. The attack dented the invulnerability of the American way of life and left a huge question mark hanging over whether the American forces' intelligence divisions were adequately doing their job. They became determined that America would never again suffer such a surprise attack. The American people became suspicious and cautious to the

point of paranoia. Near the end of the War the first jet engine planes began to fly across the skies at unheard of speeds and people wrongly deduced that the jet engine heralded the arrival of space travel and voyages to the stars. Who knew what they would find? And then the paranoia returned...What if aliens from outer space were already here? After all, earthlings, ie Americans, were about to colonise space due to the amazing advancements in jet engine propulsion. If we could go there it stood to reason that they could be coming here.

There is an old saying that goes, 'trouble comes in threes'. There were three Fox sisters, Leah, Margaret and Katherine who answered the most asked question of the Victorian era. Similarly, the catalyst for the alien visitation question was provoked by three incidents which occurred in quick succession shortly after the war. The sighting of nine crescent shaped aircraft by Kenneth Arnold flying over the Cascade Mountains in Washington State on the 24th June 1947, the Roswell crash which occurred several weeks later and the tragic death of Captain Thomas Mantell who crashed his F-51 Mustang after climbing beyond 20,000ft while in pursuit of a huge ufo on January 7th 1948. All three episodes were seen as conclusive proof that the aliens were already here, but the facts behind the fantasy are open to debate. Arguing about what caused the debris on Matt Brazell's ranch is a pointless exercise as it could have been an alien spacecraft or a conar reflector as theorised by ufo arch debunker Phillip Klass. Similarly, the Mantell sighting has been put down to the planet venus or a skyhook balloon. Kenneth Arnold's sighting, however, of the nine unknown aircraft flying in a peculiar fashion above the Cascade Mountains stands alone in ufo history. It was the wildly inaccurate reporting of the media who placed flying saucers in the minds of the eager awaiting public not Arnold. He described how the objects he watched flew like a saucer would if skimmed off a body of water, yet soon afterwards flying saucers were seen all over the United States and consequently the whole of the civilised world. In this case the public determined what ufos were and then built the myth up to gigantic proportions just as the spiritualists had a century before. The one thing that went unnoticed was Kenneth Arnolds point of view. He didn't think what he had seen was anything more than terrestrial in origin and wrote a letter to the American government stating as such.

In both phenomena, spiritualism and the alien visitation myth, the general public decided what it was they were dealing with and then

systematically planned and laid down the next step in the mystery. Photographs of ghosts and ufos reached such proportions that it was increasingly difficult to determine what was real and unreal, something that suited saucerheads and spiritualists alike. The ordinary people believed, the public face of government backed by science didn't, and a rift began to open between the two which the conspiracy theorists soon occupied.

The evidence would have to be more convincing than mere photographs which, at the end of the day, were easily hoaxed. As if in response, spiritual mediums and psychics appeared in their droves, all of whom were happy to put the average man or woman in contact with their deceased loved ones for a price. Similarly, certain unscrupulous individuals within the ufo movement claimed to be able to talk to the aliens through psychic means. It was what the public demanded and it had worked well for the spiritualists a hundred years before. Up to modern day these channellers still claim to be able to talk to aliens or spirits. You take your pick...Watching the antics of trance mediums like Alan Webb singing in a clearly false cockney accent or George King passing on messages from his aliens from Venus, and Robert Short scream, 'This is central control, standby for information to follow... in a rather Dalekesque tone would be comical if it weren't so sad. George King claimed to be a member of the Interplanetary Parliament speaking on behalf of earth while Robert Short struck up a relationship with Jon'al, an alien from Jupiter who he discovered after James Cagneys private secretary told his mother about her conversations with aliens out in the desert.

Ordinary everyday people lapped it up. It was morphine that deadened the pain of normality. Even so, science continued to pick away at the evidence and spoiled the fun for the masses so the phenomena evolved and took the next step. In the world of spiritualism mediums like Florence Cook and Daniel Douglas Home began to show that physical contact with the dead was possible while the ufo movement answered this question in a bizarre and dramatic way. Witnesses now began to come forward and describe their meetings with alien beings. George Adamski and Howard Menger spoke of their encounters with aliens with passion revealing for the first time the science behind the flying saucers and the reasons why the aliens were here. To listen to Menger describing how flying saucers achieve flight is awe-inspiring. Playing with miniature figures and a model of a flying saucer standing on tripod legs, Menger reveals that the saucers fly through electro-dynamics,

simplifying it for those uninitiated to the saucer myth by comparing it with a mini solar system, (What!) If Adamski's aliens were friendly, Mengers were definitely not. In one instance a human looking alien dressed in black visited his home on a 100-acre estate in Lebanon, New Jersey. He threatened Menger not with a ray gun or alien blaster but with a syringe, something unheard of in the pre-aids world of the 1950s. Howard wasn't to be outdone. He drew his revolver and the advanced alien being withdrew to the safety of his car before leaving in a hurry. Odd behaviour for an advanced alien creature don't you think? Maybe it wasn't an alien after all? Connie Menger, Howard's wife, didn't think so, as she thought the human looking figure was an insurance salesman with a pen in his hand. Rather than argue with his loving wife Menger changed his story. The alien visitor now became, wait for it, a member of the mafia intent on stealing the plans for the electro-dynamics powered flying saucer. One wonders if the mob had got their hands on the plans whether Eric Von Daniken would have revised the title of his book to, 'Chariots Of The Godfathers'.

Just as public interest began to fade in spiritualism and ufo related phenomena, their proponents raised their game. Unfortunately science had anticipated their actions and what followed was a stalemate where both sides of the argument battled for supremacy without there being an overall victor. That is until the believers began to add a new macabre twist to their tales which delighted the conspiracy theorists who resisted the urge to scream, 'I told you so!' Aliens were no longer our friends. On the 19th September 1961 Betty and Barnie Hill were to add a new dimension to the alien visitation myth which would spawn a whole new generation of believers eager to hear more about the malevolent aliens and their secret intentions for the human race. It wasn't good news!

The Hills were driving home to New Hampshire from Niagara Falls at night when they rounded a corner and came across a light in the sky which quickly descended to reveal itself as a huge flying saucer. Seconds later, to them at least, the saucer had gone and they were back in their car travelling down the road. On arriving home they found that they both had missing time which they couldn't account for and nights of restlessness and disturbing nightmares eventually forced them to seek help from their doctor who advised them to undergo hypnosis. This revealed in detail the alien abduction that is now popular to this very day.

The account of their examination was almost exactly like that written by John Campbell, real name, Don. A. Stuart, which appeared in *Amazing Stories* magazine in the early 1930s, and only weeks before their experience aliens like those described by the Hills featured on television except in one crucial and perhaps important point. Betty hadn't taken much notice of how the aliens were dressed, but her husband certainly had. In fact, it was something that disturbed him almost as much as the torturous physical examination that he was forced to endure. Under hypnosis Barnie described how the aliens were dressed in uniform not unlike that worn by the German Nazis during the Second World War. Could this have been down to the fact that they were a mixed race couple who were coping with the bigotted and racist atmosphere of the time. A racist atmosphere which also existed in Nazi Germany prompting some to theorise that Barnie had made a subconscious connection between the two while in an altered state of conscious and weaved them into his experience.

The viewpoint of science towards aliens and spirits was, and indeed still is, hostile and negative because of the lack of solid evidence. Proponents of both subjects began to look around for new and unheard of ways of proving their theories and improving their credibility and came up with an intriguing solution. They began to adopt other mysteries! Spiritualism adopted poltergeist disturbances, past lives and out of the body experiences as proof of an afterlife, while alien believers adopted earthlights, corn circles, ley lines, animal mutilations and ancient archeology. It would have been unnatural if ordinary inquisitive people hadn't turned their attention towards the subjects when they became so diverse and able to adapt to the individual's own needs. In fact, their numbers grew to such proportions that both became religions. As religions, the Spiritualist church, Aetherius Society and Heaven's Gate could fend off the unwanted attentions of the debunking world of science by playing their ace card. Not even science would dare question someone's religious beliefs! In the case of the Heaven's Gate sect and their subsequent mass suicide, it might have been better if someone had questioned it.

As religions, the two increasingly became difficult to tell apart. Past life experiencers who had for so long drawn solace and comfort from the sympathetic spiritualists now claimed to be alien beings in their past lives. Some even claimed to be aliens who had helped build the pyramids in their past lives, so increasing their popularity amongst the uncritical believers.

Those who had gone through the near death experience now began to describe how they arrived in flying saucers instead of Heaven after their deaths and described alien greys in place of angelic beings. The reverse was also true. Some described being taken from their beds up a bright shaft of light towards a hovering ufo only to find themselves standing at the pearly gates surrounded by angels. The scoop marks so evident on those claiming to have been abducted were now adopted by those who believed they had lived before. The scoop marks became scars, stab wounds and bullet holes, marks which they had brought with them to their present existence. Those who had claimed to use electronic voice phenomena techniques to record the voices of the dead now used the same method to speak to the inhabitants of the flying saucers. Quala, the radiant one, we are told, contacted a ufo group in America during the late 1950s and early 60s by using shortwave radio, modulated light beam reception apparatus, whatever that may be, and believe it or not, long distance telephone calls. At the end of each message Quala's departing words were, Farewell Good Brothers'.

The aliens, or a hundred years earlier, the spirits, had pretty much the same message to tell us. Mankind was immoral and would bring about its own downfall if it didn't mend its ways. As time went by these two completely different subjects appeared to be absorbing each other to the point that they are now virtually indistinguishable. There is no greater example of this than those Loch Ness monster hunters now claiming that Nessie is the ghost of an animal that swam the loch during the time of the dinosaurs or those that believe that what nearly collided with Flight 5061 on route to Manchester from Milan was the apparition of a Lancaster or Flying Fortress bomber heading for Burtonwood during the war; or that Spring Heeled Jack was an alien marooned on planet earth. They all follow the same path because they rely on the truly negative aspects of human nature. Our willingness to believe in anything as long as it's popular and trendy. Believing in aliens and spirits is fun and inoffensive and takes one's mind off the relentless boredom of the real world that can, at times, be downright ugly. Belief in fairies, aliens, spirits, even Loch Ness monsters doesn't do any harm, but when certain immoral individuals come forward and attach themselves to these people, making a tidy profit exploiting their passion, I tend to become a tad annoyed. If you want to believe in aliens or spirits you go ahead and enjoy yourself, but think hard and fast before you place your hand in your pocket and part with your hard earned cash when those

professing to hold secret information offer to share it with you.

Whether or not aliens or spirits exist is immaterial. The plain fact is that we humans need them. They have taken on parental responsibilities and consequently became our guardians, and we all remember just how easy life was when we sheltered from the real world beneath the wings of our parents. To remove them from our lives and consciousness could be devastating. To be forced to face the world as true masters of our own destiny, to be held responsible for our own actions and to have absolutely no one to keep us on the straight and narrow; to have to rely on our own judgement and learn to trust one another, - that could be a disaster of epic proportions.

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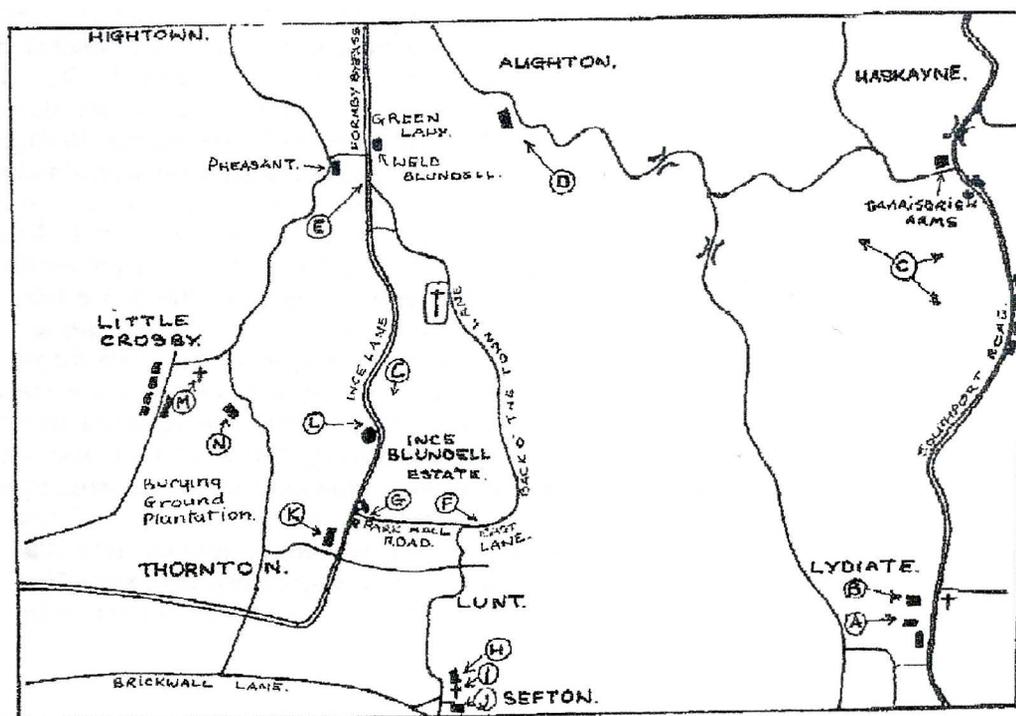
Taking A Trip Through The Looking Glass: A Journey Around The Northwest Of England's Number One Paranormal Hot Spot.

By Colin Veacock

It's amazing, but some people don't want their quiet cosy existence interrupted by ghosts! To some, the sighting of an apparition is a truly humbling and terrifying experience which forever changes their outlook on life. To these ghostphobic individuals, the Merseyside and South Lancashire area must be a frightening place as it is a statement of fact that there are more tales of hauntings here in the North Merseyside region than anywhere else in the UK. In fact, Lancashire stands head and shoulders above the competition for the heralded title of most haunted county in Britain, because this area was the last stronghold for the Roman Catholics during the English reformation. That is why most of our splendid historic halls and bolt houses come complete with priest hides and secret passages where Jesuits would hide from their persecutors while bringing the illegal mass to the people. During the hours of darkness these Jesuit priests would travel across the county from house to house desperately trying to avoid capture and certain death. Within the county there is one window area where mysteries abound and congregate. To travel through this area is to temporarily abandon normality and step, so to speak, through the looking glass into a twilight world where literally anything can happen.

Draw an imaginary line from Lydiate to Aughton, from Aughton to Little Crosby and from Little Crosby to Sefton before finishing back at Lydiate. In this area, covering no more than a couple of square miles there exist so many tales of hauntings and unexplained happenings that it would be hard to know where to begin. However, with your permission, I'll take a deep breath, steady my nerves and whisk you away across the lush green fields to our first port of call on our imaginary trip through the looking glass.

Behind the beautifully quaint Scotch Piper Inn, the oldest Inn in Lancashire, favoured by courting couples and leather clad bikers alike, stands the brooding remains of St Katherine's chapel (A) which was destroyed by Cromwell's men during the English Civil War. The chapel was once the private property of the Blundell family who lived a short distance away at Lydiate Hall. Late night drivers who happened to be passing this way have reported seeing the chapel blazing away behind the trees and have told of narrowly avoiding a phantom monk who floats out into the path of their car from the opposite side of the road. Lately the overgrown weeds and thorn bushes have been cut back and the grass cut. Around the periphery of the ruin the council



has placed benches and information boards and tidied the land at the back of the chapel where a handful of gravestones stand, some dating back to the 1700s. It was on a late August night last year (1998) that the chapel's resident ghost was, to my knowledge, last seen. A resident of Southport who wishes to remain anonymous, who had spent his evening at the Scotch Piper, decided to wait for his taxi home within the grounds of the chapel. No sooner had he and his friend sat down on the bench than both became aware of a black human shape leaving the side porch of the chapel, before feeling its way along the side of the building where it apparently, placed its hand in a hole and fished around inside as if it was searching for something. No more than twenty or thirty feet away, the figure began to wander back towards the porch before vanishing inside. Both witnesses searched the ruins and the grounds for the figure but found nothing that could explain what they had seen, and, on inspection, there was nothing found in the hole in the wall. Others have told of how occasionally you can hear chanting coming from the ruin and indistinct lights moving about the place at the dead of night which could, feasibly, be late night revellers from the Scotch Piper.

Across the ploughed field next to the chapel, in a small wooded copse at the back of Lydiate Hall Farm stands the sad remains of Lydiate Hall, once the home of the Anderton and Blundell families (B). Both families were devout Roman Catholics who harboured priests and clerics in the hall's hide. One young priest who was secreted within the hide spent his time writing a precise history of the hall which dated back to the Norman Conquest and the Doomsday book. He also wrote a personal diary which exists to this very day which describes his feelings and his fears for the future. The priest was apparently writing in his diary when his religious persecutors burst into the hall and began to torture and systematically murder the family who begged for mercy. During the family's execution the whereabouts of the priest hide was discovered, after which the cleric heard the wooden panelling that covered the entrance to the hide, being torn from the walls. Realising that it wouldn't be long before the hide was discovered, he opened his diary and in the time he had left wrote, 'Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit O' Lord'. On the paper after this single sentence there are drops of blood, obviously the priest's blood, evidence of his execution. In the years which followed the locals refused to go anywhere near the hall and its grounds and the building began to fall victim to the incessant ravages of the weather and time. The many sightings of a grey phantom seen

drifting into the grounds may have helped in keeping those that lived locally at bay.

Leaving the area to travel north along the Southport Road, it is worth taking some time to look across the fields either side of the road, as occasionally witnesses have sighted Roundheads wading through the tall corn fields looking despondent and dishevelled (C). Some have theorised that these are survivors of the Battle Of Preston leaving the carnage behind them, but in reality they could have been part of any of the minor skirmishes that took place in this area during the Civil war. Roundheads on horseback have also been seen in the wooded grounds of a paintball course near the Formby Bypass, travelling in single file between the trees. One brave paintballer even shot at one of the figures and fled the wood with his friends when the paintball passed straight through the Roundhead and splattered against a tree.

At the Scarisbrick Arms turn left onto Black O' Moor Lane and follow it for a mile or more until you round a bend and come across Mossock Hall Farm (D). This farm is haunted by two ghosts, a man who is seen at the foot of the stairs apparently searching for something, and the much travelled Green Lady, otherwise known as Katherine Mossack, the daughter of Nicholas Bickerstaffe. She has been seen in the farm for well over 150 years and has also become a common sight ever since travellers began to traverse the area.

Leaving the farm behind us, carry on down the lane to the Formby Bypass. Turn left past Tesco's Superstore and head back towards Liverpool until you reach the Weld Blundell pub, popular with Liverpool Football Club's players. In this area, be particularly careful as you are now in an area known as Green Lady, so called due to the frequent wanderings across the dual carriageway by the ghost of Katherine Mossock (E). Her last jaunt took her across the bypass near the Ince Blundell nursery where a motorist narrowly avoided hitting her. Once past the Weld Blundell take the first turn left and drive along Back O' The Town Lane until you reach the perimeter wall of the Ince Blundell estate. On this wall, a hundred or so yards further up the lane, you will find a white cross painted on the bare bricks, marking the spot where a horse and carriage has been seen to swerve off the lane and pass straight through the wall (F). It also marks the spot where funeral processions would pause for a few seconds while the De Profundis would be recited before continuing on to Ince Blundell cemetery. Maybe this is why some have theorised

that it is a horse drawn hearse that is seen rather than a carriage.

As you continue along the lane you will notice that the wall's contours tend to drop in certain places where some have pondered that long forgotten underground passages used by priests during the Reformation have collapsed. It is also rumoured that farmers travelling along this lane and Park Hill Lane that follows the wall past the Animal shelter, often came across the apparition of a headless man (G) who was always seen sheltering beneath the trees that skirt the lane during the early hours of the morning. In this area, farmers at the turn of the century would describe how a certain gate would open and close all on its own to let horses and carts pass through. The farmer's dogs, however, would not use the gate on these occasions when it would mysteriously open and would instead run up the lane and squeeze through one of the many gaps in the hedges.

Travelling up East Lane and following the bend through the tiny village of Lunt, you quickly approach Sefton Village where we find, nestled on the edge of Sefton Meadows, the quaint and beautiful Punch Bowl Inn (H). The Inn has many ghosts and an entire book could be written about the encounters of staff and visitors with the resident spooks. Before it became popular to destroy pubs that had character and charm, and turn them into fun pubs, drinking establishments for the yuppie clan, the Punch Bowl was a small pub frequented by those who wanted a quiet pint in a friendly environment. Its dark broody interior was sectioned off into small rooms where courting couples would spend their evenings in front of the roaring open log fires. It was in one of these rooms known as the Gun Room that the apparition of a sailor would often be seen sitting quietly in the alcove next to the fireplace. Another sailor, or rather a sailor's head and shoulders, has also been seen floating up the stairs by a resident of the Inn who was standing on the landing.

The most astonishing and sensational sighting of the ghost occurred in the late 1970s when a phantom sailor was seen digging up the grave of the unknown sailor next door in the graveyard of St Mary's church. When those brave enough went to investigate they found a freshly dug pile of earth on top of the unknown sailor's grave yet when it was removed they found the grave untouched. Even in the new neon lit fun pub bouncing to the noise from the resident disco, apparitions are still occasionally seen. Only a couple of years ago the bar staff watched in amazement as an indistinct figure wandered

around the restaurant and bar, stacking chairs on top of the tables. When one of the staff, thinking that the figure was a late night drinker, walked toward the figure to thank him, the image faded away.

There is a very good reason why the Punch Bowl is haunted by the apparitions of sailors. The Inn and church used to stand considerably nearer to the coast than they do today. Occasionally, when there was a high tide, the sea water would reach the Inn and flood its cellars. There is even a high tide mark half way up the doors of the church. Occasionally there would be a tragic accident out at sea and the landlord would be called upon to wander the coast collecting the dead bodies which had washed ashore and take them back to the Inn to store in the back rooms and the cellars. It is stated that these bodies could remain at the Inn for several weeks. Another of the Punch Bowl's ghosts has the annoying habit of pulling cyclists from their machines as they ride past the Inn's car park.

Next door at St Mary's church (I), and the mill behind it (J) rumours of ghostly goings on can be dated back to well before the beginning of the century. Some describe how, on moonlit nights, a procession of phantom cowed monks can be seen wandering in single file down the church path towards the front gate, while others have described watching a single light flitting amongst the gravestones.

Five years ago a friend of mine was doing a spot of courting at the bottom of the short lane that separates the church and the mill, a lane incidentally which is walled by gravestones, when something happened that scared the living daylight out of him and his girlfriend. An owl screeching in the graveyard had my friend coming up for air, during which time he spotted a light in the upper window of the mill. This was strange, as the mill's windows were all boarded up, and then the boards painted to resemble the windows which they covered. No sooner had he pointed this out to his girlfriend than his car suddenly lurched forward and two hollow bangs echoed from the back of the car. Within seconds my friend and his now petrified girlfriend were speeding away towards Maghull leaving the hidden horror of the mill to its own devices.

Leaving Sefton behind you, turn right onto Brickwall lane and drive down to the traffic lights where you turn right again onto Lydiat Lane. At the end of the lane turn right and drive around the left hand bend and along past the houses on your left until you arrive at the

Thornton Hospice (K) which houses a modern day miracle.

In 1981 a West Indian known as Les who resided in Bootle, entered the hospice as he was suffering from pancreatic cancer. The staff loved him and later described how Les radiated love. On the 9th March, only two weeks after entering the hospice, Les closed his eyes and died peacefully. Nurse Patricia Oliver helped remove the body and began the task of disposing of the pyjamas and sheets before she took a scrubbing brush to the plastic sheet that protected the mattress. During the time it took to clean it she noticed an image appearing which eventually became a human shape which corresponded with the way Les had been laying in the bed when he had died. An imprint of his upper legs, buttocks, back and shoulders could clearly be seen as well as the vague impression of the lower portion of the face. Father Francis O' Leary, the director of the hospice at the time, was called to view the sheet but could offer no reasonable explanation for how it could have got there. Many have viewed the Thornton shroud but nobody, yet, has been able to come up with a viable explanation, including academics from all over the country.

Carrying on along Ince Lane onto the Formby Bypass you eventually come to a sharp bend in the road near a round house(L); a bend which has the disturbing reputation of being a major accident blackspot. Dozens of motorists have met their ends negotiating this bend. Some have even stated that the bend is cursed...or haunted. It is known that drivers passing this way at night have reputedly seen the figure of a little girl sitting in the gutter outside the round house, dressed in a white dress. Could she occasionally rush out into the road in front of unwary motorists causing them to swerve and crash?

Continue past the round house to the stretch of road where the Green Lady is often seen and turn left at the Weld Blundell traffic lights. At the bottom of the lane turn left past the Pheasant restaurant and pub and negotiate the Hightown bends, much loved by bikers who weave through the bends at breakneck speeds every weekend. Finally you will come to a bend in the road on which stands St Mary's church(M). If you happen to be passing this way during Christmas time on a dark stormy night you may be fortunate enough to see the phantom white lady. Witnesses tell of how the white lady always smiles before instantly vanishing and is nearly always seen amongst the grave stones near the graveyard boundary wall.

Behind the church on Back Lane you will find Crosby Hall(N) complete with its priest hide where ghostly footsteps have been heard and where swings hanging from nearby trees in the hall's grounds have been seen to move on still days when nobody is near. Passed St Mary's church is the tiny village of Little Crosby where it is said that every house and building, including the main thoroughfare, is haunted. The land around Little Crosby and behind Crosby Hall may hold the answer to why there are so many hauntings in this out of the way area. This land is eerily called The Burying Ground Plantation!

So remember the next time you are out driving in this area at night and the clouds peel back to reveal the full moon and the branches of the trees creak and groan ominously in the evening breeze, keep your wits about you and head for home as quickly as you can. Above all else, no matter what, don't look behind you. Who knows what you may see?



Wake Up and Smell the Coffee!

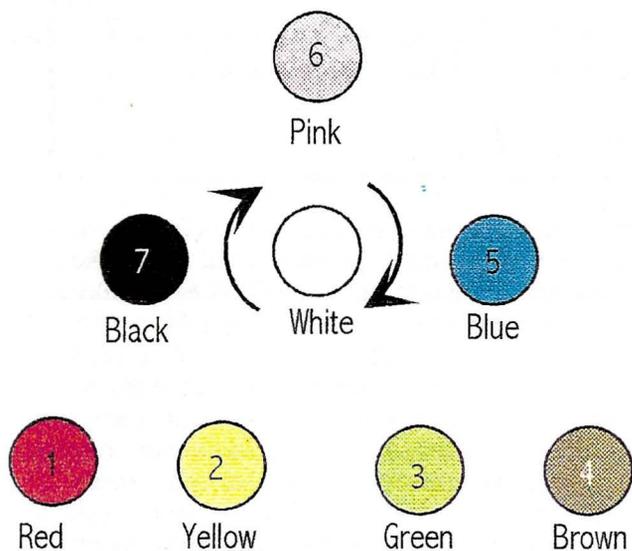
By Colin Veacock

Can people read minds? That is, can you or I have our memories stolen and then fed back to us as, for example, proof of contact with the dead? It's an interesting proposition, one which is infinitely more acceptable than the talking to the dead claims made by spiritual mediums and psychics. These abilities to apparently read minds and produce information not previously known is amazing-almost magical! Magic...Now there's a word not popularly used by psychics, and for a good reason. Once you look at the magicians' and illusionists' acts, past and present, you start to see that the psychics are using methods and techniques first known and used over a hundred and fifty years ago. The 1830s saw a tremendous upsurge in interest in the occult, especially subjects as diverse as witchcraft, secret cults, séances and ghosts, which probably explains why the Fox sisters' claims of contact with the dead were taken so seriously and without question. The magicians and illusionists of the day quickly picked up on this interest in the populace and began to devise bigger and better illusions to satisfy peoples cravings for all things paranormal. The invention of the magic lantern, the forerunner of today's slide projector, opened a whole new era in the history of illusion. For the first time illusionists could step across the dividing line between this world and the next and produce apparitions of the dead seemingly at will. As early as the 1790s, there were ghost shows like the 'Phantasmagoria', which had its origins in Vienna and finally ended up in Paris where its popularity faded. Later, a man named Robertson, was to perfect this technique in a most peculiar and alarming way. He would throw narcotic drugs into flaming braziers, producing hallucinogenic plumes of smoke which would envelope those attending the séance causing them to experience all manner of inexplicable happenings. Once those attending the séance were as high-as-a-kite Robertson would project a vaguely human image onto the smoke causing mayhem to ensue. Then in 1862 in London, John Henry Pepper refined and polished this illusion and came up with Pepper's Ghost, which used as its basic principle light reflection and angled sheets of glass. A good example of this principle is when you stand in a brightly lit room and look out of a window at night only to see your own ghostly reflection staring back at you. This

formula was embellished and refined further in Paris in 1890 when people could visit the 'Tavern Of The Dead' and watch the macabre sight of a woman, suitably laid out in a coffin, slowly decay into a skeleton in front of their very eyes. The Haunted Ballroom in Disneyland where visitors can watch transparent ghosts dancing and feasting at a huge banqueting table uses the very same principle that was made popular over one hundred and twenty years ago. The legendary encounters of apparitions in many of the early Victorian séance rooms could well be down to this deception which, when deployed properly, can be quite amazing as anyone who has visited the Haunted Ballroom will verify.

It's the best kept secret, and not something that followers of certain psychic superstars would want you to know, but Uri Geller, Mathew Manning, Sathyanarayara Ratnakaru Raya (Sai Baba) and Doris Collins, etc, are not a new phenomenon just a neatly rewrapped version of the mentalists, illusionists and slight of hand specialists who shocked the world over a century before. So what is mentalism? Quite simply mentalism is a theatrical act which appears to be psychic in origin but is actually accomplished through conjuring means. Those who become proficient in mentalism can actually fool the academics, and indeed, have done so several times in the past although the advent of the video camera has allowed psychical researchers an opportunity to look over the psychic's shoulder and see what's really happening. In the last decade or so a new breed of entertainer, using mentalist techniques, has come to light with an advanced and trendy title for their abilities- Neural Linguistic Programming- which some define as being the art of letting your subject believe they are in total control when, in fact, you are. NLP, however one looks at it, is just mentalism. For a good example of mentalism let you and me play 'psychic snooker'.

Psychic snooker isn't as hard as regular snooker, thank God, and relies on a completely different level of skill, namely my ability to predict which of the above numbered snooker balls on the next page you are going to end up on. So, pick a ball, any ball except the centre ball which represents the white and has no value. Now, starting at the next ball travelling clockwise around the



triangle, spell out your name. Done that-good. Next, using the next ball, once again, travelling in a clockwise direction, spell out the name of the road or street where you live. Okay, next using the same principle, spell out either your mother's, father's, or child's name. The choice is yours! You should now find yourself on one of the seven balls that surround the white ball. Each of the balls, as in ordinary snooker, has a certain number of points allocated to it, red= 1, yellow=2 etc. Starting at the next ball count your way around the triangle the number that your ball represents until you should now find yourself on one special ball. For the duration of this illusion we will call this your psychic ball. Think hard about the colour of the ball and at the end of this article I will accurately predict which ball you landed on. And remember this! I can only perform this feat because I am psychically gifted and the seventh son of a seventh son...!

Henry Slade (1840-1905) was the first prominent mentalist to use his slight-of-hand abilities to claim to show conclusive contact with the dead, and this came about, of course, because of the emergence of the Fox sisters and the birth of modern spiritualism. These amateur magicians and illusionists quickly realised that there was an awful lot of money to be made from the gullible public if they claimed their abilities were psychic in nature. Henry Slade's routine involved strapping two slates together which, when they were released and separated, would miraculously have messages written on them which he would display as proof of contact with the dead. Somehow or other he managed to get away with this blatant deception for quite a long time until amateur conjuror, J N Maskelyne took offence and investigated his claims ultimately uncovering Slade as a fraud. It was also

Maskelyne who revealed another accomplished mentalist, Irving Bishop, as a fraud.

Bishop's (1856-1889) act involved finding his way around obstacles while blindfolded. A trick he learnt from another mentalist, John Randal Brown, who specialised in muscle reading, a method whereby the so called psychic holds on to the wrist or hand of a subject and finds his way around obstacles, or accurately guesses words and numbers from the audience, while blindfolded. This is achieved by the psychic feeling slight movements in his accomplice's wrist caused by intricate finger movements. Bishop, though, had a skeleton in his cupboard which would later prove to haunt him. He had gone on record years earlier denouncing psychic abilities until, that is, he realised just how much money there was to be made from people who needed their daily dose of the paranormal to keep them ticking over. Another of his routines included Psychic Cluedo where members of the audience would be asked to pick out a room, weapon and suspect and Bishop would accurately guess each in turn. It was while touring Britain exhibiting this very trick that Maskelyne took a lawsuit out against him due to the fact that he objected to Bishop's psychic claims. Maskelyne eventually won his case. This, however, didn't stop one Charles Howard Montague stealing some of Bishop's ideas and setting himself up as a psychic who could duplicate drawings made by his audience while he was blindfolded. A trick now demonstrated by Uri Geller and those professing to be remote viewers.

The Davenport brothers were another Vaudeville act who claimed they were psychics. Ira (1839-1911) and William (1841-1877) would be bound hand and foot to chairs which were then placed in a cabinet with a black curtained front. An assortment of objects, including tin trumpets and pieces of cloth, flags, balls etc, would be left inside the cabinet with the two brothers which, when the curtains were drawn, would be thrown about or thrust through the curtain. Sometimes hands and legs would appear through the curtain which could be opened by anyone in the audience at any time. When this did occasionally happen, the Davenports would always be found slumped in their chairs, apparently, in a trance. They toured the USA for ten years with this illusion before making the journey across the Atlantic to England with their father who managed them and a gentleman named William Fay who was very important to their routines. Waiting for them was a Presbyterian minister who assured everyone that the Davenports had divine powers given to them by God. When

William became ill and subsequently died it was William Fay who learnt the act and took the deceased brothers' place in the cabinet. I have seen this same act and variations on it performed by children as young as six, but still the bonds with the unexplained and mysticism remain. The six year old performer named the illusion Silly Spooks! In the USA today Glenn Falkenstein and his wife Frances carry on the routine made famous by the Davenport's but they openly reveal that what they do is a trick and nothing more.

A most unusual Danish couple, Julius and Agnes Zancig (1857-1929,?-1916) were another couple whose abilities were strongly supported, in their case by Lord Northcliffe who used the advertising powers of the Daily Mail to promote and embellish the duo's claims. Their act was, by all accounts, nothing special and involved Agnes, who was a hunchback, being blindfolded and accurately guessing what her husband was looking at while talking to members of the audience. Claude Alexander, billed as 'The Man Who Knows', was far more entertaining than the Zancigs who pale in comparison. Alexander would strut around the stage in robes and a huge turban, reminiscent of Ali Bongo, asking members of his audience to write down questions on slips of paper before folding them in half. Once all the pieces of paper had been gathered and placed in a hat Alexander would pick one out at a time, hold it up to his forehead and accurately read out the question. Sounds amazing, but this trick is easy and is often referred to as 'The One Ahead Trick'. The illusion is made possible by the fact that you are always one question behind. So for example, the first question that I picked up would be read out as the second and so on...When carried out competently this routine can look quite impressive.

In fact, an awful lot of academic psychical researchers got carried away with the various psychics who toured across America and the United Kingdom displaying their powers. The incomparable Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was that astounded by the spiritualists that he eventually became one, and was also a fervent supporter of the now known to be fake Cottingley fairy photographs. In 1882 Douglas Blackburn and G.A Smith somehow managed to get the approval of the Society for Psychical Research which was fooled by their act, the straightforward blindfold act made famous by the Zancigs. That is not to say that the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) was, or is, easily fooled. Make no mistake about it, the SPR is the finest society investigating such claims that has ever existed and its professionalism and sincerity has

never been questioned. But it is the fact that it supported such individuals which shows how, and to what depth, blind faith and belief can effect one's judgement and make us look at an event in an uncritical light. Intense shock and utter amazement is as virulent and infectious as the common cold and can be caught by even the most critical amongst us. Their claims would still be taken seriously if it wasn't for the fact that in 1908 Blackburn came forward and revealed the methodology behind their show. Amazingly, he only told his story because he thought Smith had passed on, but he hadn't and a fierce battle proceeded, Smith forcefully denouncing the claims of trickery and deception made by Blackburn. One method they used, according to Blackburn, involved utilising cigarette papers in a most unusual fashion. While copying a drawing he would reproduce said drawing on a cigarette paper that would be rolled up and concealed in the hollowed out end of his pencil. Then Smith, hidden beneath a thick black blanket would scream that he had tapped into Blackburn's thoughts and wanted a pencil to draw what he perceived. The pencil would be handed to him and the deception was complete. Simple when you know how!

The academics were sadly fooled again by the daughters of the Reverend A M Creery. The Creery's were finally uncovered as fraudulent in 1888 when a committee set up by the Society for Psychical Research, not satisfied with the first investigation's findings, discovered subtle, well hidden verbal commands in the dialogue of their show. In the 1940s the SPR announced themselves duly satisfied with the abilities of another psychic couple, Sidney and Leslie Piddington, who effectively gave a demonstration of mind reading under controlled conditions which was no different from the Zancigs or Blackburns act.

However, the most famous mentalist of his time, and a man who captured the imagination of the public, was Joseph Dunninger(1892-1975.) The young Dunninger was an exceptional conjuror as a boy and got most of his ideas from watching John and Anna Fay. Anna Fay was billed as 'The High Priestess of Mystery'. Dunninger in turn delighted in his title as 'The Master Mind of Mental Radio', something which was given to him after he successfully deduced an address written on an envelope pulled out of a sack by the US Postmaster General in New York in 1943. The interesting thing about Dunninger was that he never ever stated he was psychic or a mind reader. "I was doing magic", Dunninger once told Walter Gibson, (an accomplished magician in his own right), but the audience didn't know

it. If I changed a silver dollar into a twenty dollar gold piece and back again, they were sure it had to be a trick, no matter how completely I fooled them. But if I switched a folded piece of paper for a duplicate, then opened the original and read it before switching it back, they thought it was mind reading. This is a good example of people providing their own mysteries even when none exist. The effect that Dunningers act had on his audience was so startling that within weeks of perfecting his mentalism act he was able to dispense with all his magic props and replace them with simple cards, chalks and slates, papers and pencils etc. Some of his larger props were bought by Harry Houdini.

Dunninger's magical show had been replaced with his new polished and aptly named show, 'Miracles Of The Mind'. Slowly he left behind him the theatres that had been his bread and butter and began to develop routines which would work on radio where he saw his future. The Philadelphia Metropolitan Opera House and The Egyptian Hall of New York were now replaced with trips to the White House to entertain the President and regular appearances on KYW Radio in Philadelphia and WJZ Radio in New York. Dunninger never tired of telling his army of admirers that what he was doing was a simple trick but they never believed him. Joseph Dunninger spent over twenty-five years astounding people on his radio, and later, television shows, and it was only in the latter years when his fame was subsiding that he began to claim that he was using thought reading powers.

Looking back over the decades at these supposed psychics one thing becomes apparent, and that is that once their time is up and the trick is rumbled, and their credibility is left in tatters most use their persuasive patter to sell horoscopes!

Robert Nelson (1901-1972) was a mentalist who went into the wholesale / retail business and eventually ended up writing and selling horoscopes as did Dr Faustus, otherwise known as David May(1930-1981) who was a minister who studied mentalism until he was good enough to represent himself as a psychic. May eventually sold magic paraphernalia as well as horoscopes. The story behind Kashmiri mentalist and fire walker, Bux Kuda was perhaps made all the more bizarre when his career was cut short by glaucoma. Define irony? Kuda, known as 'The man with x-ray eyes' losing his sight...

In later years Live TV aired a series of programmes hosted by mentalist Marc Paul

called Mind Games. Paul gave demonstrations of supposedly psychic skills which he openly revealed were down to Neural Linguistic Programming. He is just one of many individuals openly displaying his skills who has the honesty, integrity and dignity to reveal that it is just trickery; an act that relies a great deal on people dispensing with their common sense and simply accepting what they are told. That is how irrational magic is. You know the magician is using slight-of-hand or misdirection to accomplish his illusion but you ignore common sense and hope there's something more to it! We dismiss the obvious and accept the impossible... Penn and Teller, Max Maven, James 'the amazing' Randi, Kreskin, Ian Rollands and Simon Drake are easily the best at utilising these principles. If you asked a magician how he did his act he would most probably reply, 'Ask no questions, tell you no lies'. If you continued to annoy him for an answer he would undoubtedly tell you that he was psychic. The word has become a convenient camouflage for hiding the facts. In effect it is the perfect get-out clause for not revealing the truth.

When next you watch Uri Geller bending a spoon or David Copperfield flying over the Grand Canyon or making the Statue of Liberty disappear,- Lance Burton flying about in a sports car or levitating around a Las Vegas stage, or even our own diminutive magical superstar (with the drop-dead-gorgeous wife), Paul Daniels, successfully using a planchette, remember that it is just an illusion. They are manipulating reality with more than a little help from you the audience. In the 1850s Michael Faraday exposed the spiritualists who used table tipping to deceive the public and in the early 1920s Harry Houdini toured the United States showing how psychic mediums used well known techniques commonly used by magicians to elevate themselves to super stardom. Nobody took any notice! In later years Harry Houdini himself has become the focus for some magicians who attempt to contact him through elaborate séances held at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles. Mark Edwards, a magician, claims that while performing the 'Houdini Séance' many have experienced cold chills and invisible hands touching them on the shoulder and head. Considering the poor conditions and what transpires at the Houdini séance, it isn't too surprising that some have strange experiences. Edwards conducts the first half of the séance by the light of a single candle until this is extinguished, plummeting the room into total darkness. Then almost immediately a rather masculine voice claiming to be Beatrice Houdini whispers that she is going to give them all a sign.

What is this sign you ask? From somewhere in the darkness the sound of a tambourine begins which lasts little more than a couple of seconds before it fades away and the lights are turned on to reveal Edwards slumped in his chair completely exhausted. What Edwards is doing in essence is providing the stimulus that feeds the over active and receptive minds of the sitters who, when they experience sudden sensory deprivation, succumb to their own imagination's unlimited boundaries and the tendency for the subconscious mind to deceive itself. Alas, his clients' claims have prompted him to break ranks with most of his fellow illusionists and claim that the line between magic and the paranormal is non-existent. Instead he theorises that there is a grey area where the two subjects touch and overlap. Houdini himself would roll with laughter at such claims. His investigation into spiritualism after the death of his mother uncovered nothing but fraud. His findings eventually led him to write, 'A Magician Among The Spirits', an exposé of fraudulent mediumship. For the next ten years after Harry's death in 1926, his wife Beatrice held séances on Halloween night until the final attempt in 1936. Nothing ever happened...

In the 1980s and 90s there are still a few stalwarts trying to make the public see that they are being conned and openly misled and still nobody is listening. Dr Ray Hyman went on New York radio as the mysterious Mr X and proved that using cold reading he could easily reproduce the psychic mediums act and James Randi and a host of other illusionists have proved with monotonous regularity that they can recreate the mind reading, spoon bending and compass deflection tricks made famous by the Israeli psychic, (and once amateur conjuror!) Uri Geller. Still the argument goes on. The highly entertaining and controversial radio and television presenter, James Whale, who hosts a highly rated late night phone-in programme on Talk Radio UK has become increasingly bitter at the claims of the mediums and psychics. On Wednesday night, 4 August, he issued a challenge to the psychics, pleading for any who were listening to phone the show and prove that they were telling the truth. During the previous nights James had even gone as far as to accuse all mediums of being charlatans and asking them if they had taken offence at his insults and provocations, to take him to court and sue him. Only one medium took up the challenge, although it is said that many more complained to the radio authorities. Wolf Greystone said on the Tuesday night that he could prove that the spirit world existed and was invited to the studio the very next night. He didn't show! A more than

annoyed James Whale phoned him at home and during the heated argument that followed Greystone admitted that he couldn't prove that the spirit world existed. A startling admission from someone whose whole life is dedicated to mediumship and contacting the dead.

At the end of the day it's up to you to decide! The question is not, do I want to believe? The question to ask yourself is, is the evidence of a high enough standard that I can allow myself to believe?

To some, I'm afraid, ordinary everyday life isn't good enough. To these people alien abduction, channelling spirits, mind reading, remote viewing and fortune telling are a welcome release from the mind numbing boredom that pervades their sad existence. The intrusive world of science has removed all that was mysterious and replaced it with cold hard facts which are unpalatable to those who need their fix of weirdness. The paranormal is addictive! In fact, belief in alien visitors and spiritualism are now replacing orthodox religion which most are gradually becoming disillusioned with. If real aliens are out there, if spirits of the dead can return and interact with the living, indeed, if certain individuals can break the law of physics, then they haven't come forward as of yet and probably never will. The human need for mystery will no doubt be matched by the imaginations of certain groundbreaking magicians who will satisfy man's desire for thrills and suspense with bigger and better illusions that will stretch our imaginations and consequently take our breath away. Sadly, some of these entertaining illusions will rely on our individual, unquestioning belief in all things paranormal and, perhaps inevitably, will be accepted as such without investigation. There are still an unfortunate misinformed few who believe they saw Harry Houdini walk through a brick wall at one of his stage shows and still many who will openly admit to believing that David Copperfield somehow truly managed to make The Statue of Liberty vanish... But as most honest magicians will tell you, 'The magic is not in the trick, but in the presentation of the trick'... And I would like to add to that, psychic abilities only appear to be psychic because they are presented as such!

Oh yes, before I forget, the snooker ball you ended up on was the black.....wasn't it?

Your Letters

Letter to the editor

Dear Bill,

In my article, "Chasing Shadows", in vol.2 Issue 3 Autumn/Winter 1999 of *The Researcher*, a spelling error occurs which may cause confusion to the reader

In paragraph 4, line 3, the word printed "defying" should read "deifying", (as in to deify or give worship to an object). Anyone check reading this would surely be aware of this simple error?

Unless spelling and grammar is 100% accurate it can not only change the whole context of a sentence resulting in misinterpretation but can also make the author seem illiterate and ultimately does not convey the proper standard expected of a publication such as *The Researcher*.

As I always double check my own work using the Oxford English Dictionary as well as the Wordprocessor Spellchecker, I suggest that any proof-reading should follow suit, as this is not the only instance in which poor spelling and grammar is occurring in the magazine. There really is no excuse for such shoddiness in an otherwise well produced magazine.

Julie Boyd

Reply from the editor

Dear Julie,

Let me first apologise for the error in your article and a couple of errors in Sue McAllister's article in the same issue. I must point out that the error was entirely of my own making and had nothing to do with the authors or our proofreader.

You state that there is no excuse for such shoddiness, but I would like the opportunity to explain how it came about. Most of the articles I get for *The Researcher*, including your own, come in printed or hand-written form and not as wordprocessor files. Inevitably, I have to type the articles out on my own computer

at home and errors occur in this process. I get around the problem by giving back the articles to their authors and invite them to correct mistakes before it goes for final proof reading. I then print the articles from floppy disc on a laser printer away from home. The error occurred because I picked up the wrong floppy disc and printed the non-proof read version.

You imply that spelling and grammar should be 100% accurate in *The Researcher*. I would argue that this is unrealistic. For example, I am a subscriber to *Quest for Knowledge* magazine and I have a copy with a whole page missing. This occurs in a magazine with full time staff and presumably people with journalistic qualifications. On occasion both myself and the proof reader have had to alter sentence structure in various articles to improve their readability. I do not expect perfect grammar from authors and I think it is unfair to expect perfect grammar from myself. It is ironic that in the second paragraph of your letter that expresses the virtues of perfect grammar, there appears to be missing commas. I would normally have inserted these, but I have left them out on this occasion to demonstrate the point that nobody is perfect.

You will recall from the November 1999 MARA meeting that I announced my retirement as editor of *The Researcher*, but gave a full 12 months notice to enable others to take over. My reasons for this are that it is very time consuming editing *The Researcher* and it is not something that I enjoy. It is in fact a great chore to me. My worst subject at school was English and I never thought I would need to use my poor grasp of the subject as an editor of a magazine. In addition, I feel that I can offer the field of UFOlogy a great deal of help in research into detection instrumentation, but only if I can commit the time I spend editing *The Researcher* on new projects.

I am glad to say that there appear to be two other MARA members who are willing to take over as joint editors of the magazine. However, since I gave the 12 months' notice, I have suffered deterioration in my own health, which has meant that I have had to re-prioritise many aspects of my life. This is therefore the last edition of *The Researcher* which I will edit. I will help the new editors in any way I can, but I hope you will lower your expectations of grammar and spelling in the magazine in future. After all, *The Researcher* (even with its imperfections) is, in my opinion, one of the biggest achievements of MARA to date.

Bill Bimson

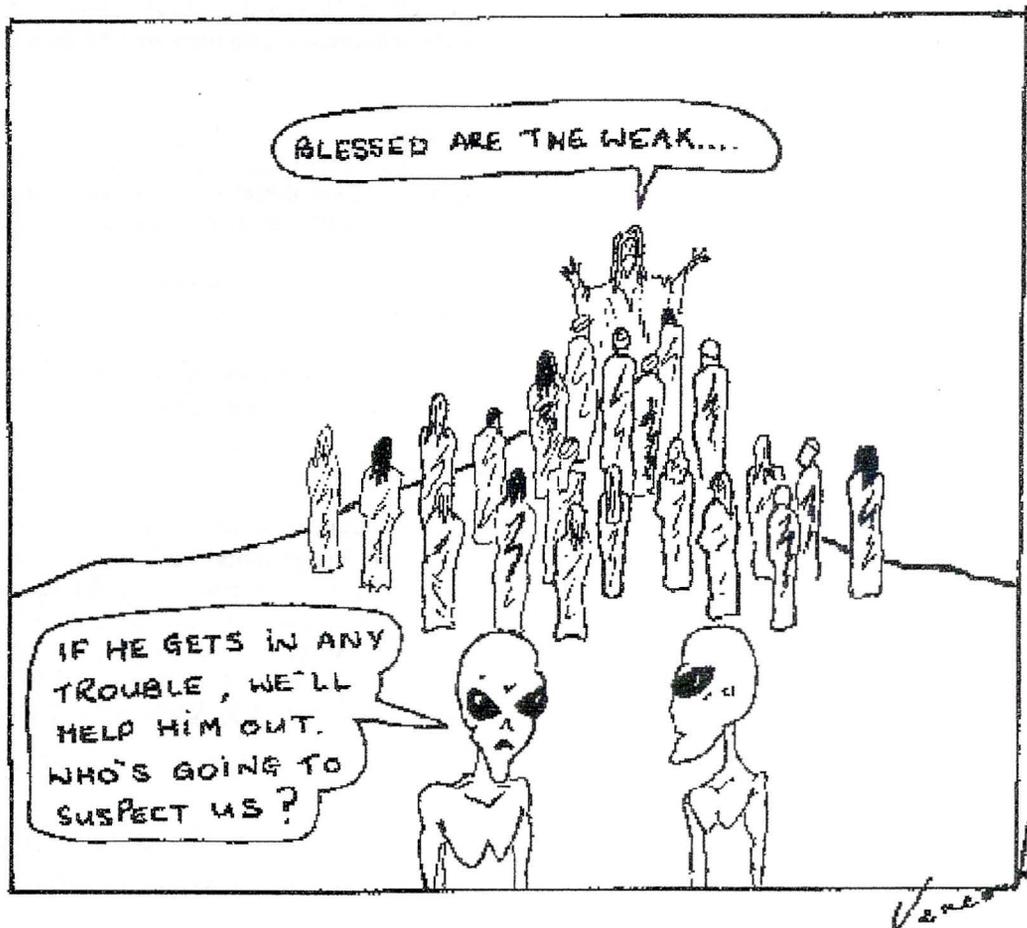
Remember the letters page is a forum for you to write about what bugs you and what pleases you about paranormal research, *The Researcher* and other publications. You can't say that you aren't given a chance to have your say or that nobody listens to you any more because that is what this page is for.

For the time being, all of your letters should be sent to:

*Bill Bimson,
73 Eaton Gardens,
West Derby,
Liverpool L12 3HN
England.*

I will pass them on to the new editors and we should have a new address for you to send your letters too in the next edition of *The Researcher*.

Remember that MARA is non-political and does not have any fixed beliefs, which means we will tolerate anyone's belief even if we don't agree with it. What we will not tolerate is public libel. So if you disagree with someone and decide to call them idiotic or pathetic, your letter will not be published here. There is enough of this on the internet discussion groups. By all means point out the error of someone's ways because the person being criticised and the rest of us may learn something from that but please refrain from making it personal.



About MARA

The Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA) was founded in February 1996. It is a non-profit making organisation whose aims are to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased objective investigation and research into UFO/paranormal phenomena. It aims to collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to anomalous phenomena. The association will also co-operate with persons and organisations engaged in similar research in all parts of the country. MARA also provides support for University undergraduate research.

MARA consists of an informal group of people of all backgrounds and a variety of ages over 18. The group limits itself to a relatively small number of people, composed of individuals with mixed backgrounds who want to actively investigate and research UFO/paranormal phenomena. The primary objective of the group is to be active in investigating and researching such phenomena within Merseyside. Investigation by members has to be done at their own expense (something other societies fail to mention). Association members are open minded and objective in their approach and investigative training is given. All members abide by a code of conduct, treating information pertaining to witnesses and cases with confidentiality. The Association and its members operate under the Data Protection Act. Membership application to MARA is free and space permitting, is open to any interested individuals. If you would like to apply to become a member of MARA, you will find a membership application form on the next page. Simply take a photocopy and return it to the address on the form.

The Association is jointly run by its group organisers called co-ordinators. They are amateur investigators and researchers in their spare time, and members of well-known national organisations. They are responsible for any major decisions involving the group in addition to the association's membership, activities, functions and research.

It is a policy of MARA not to have any fixed beliefs and to remain apolitical. MARA is not responsible for the opinions expressed, or implied, by guest speakers, items within The Researcher, or by any arbitrary views of the Association's members. MARA is affiliated to the British UFO Research Association, Northern Anomalies Research Organisation, The Northern UFO Network, the Incorporated Society for Psychical Research, and works with the Association for Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena, and the Pendle & Hyndburn UFO Network.

Group Co-ordinators

<u>Anthony Eccles</u>	<u>Julie Boyd</u>	<u>John L. Hall</u>	<u>Paul Rogers</u>	<u>Colin Veacock</u>
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No personal visits please!

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or have a look at our website on <http://www.mara.org.uk/>

About The Researcher

This publication serves as a voice for MARA members who want to write about their research and interests in anomalous phenomena. We will also print letters from readers and include articles and advertisements belonging to those people who are not a part of MARA but who would like to contribute their research to this small publication. It will not involve payment for the article but it will mean that your article will be read by a larger number of people involved with UFOs and the paranormal. Please send your letters and articles to Bill Bimson at 73 Eaton Gardens, West Derby, Liverpool L12 3HN. Keep it clean and objective, know what I mean? MARA reserves the right to edit all articles as necessary.



M.A.R.A.

Merseyside Anomalies Research Association

Membership Application Form

Terra incognita

Full Name.....

Title (Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. etc).....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....Tel. No.....

Date of Birth.....Occupation.....

Specialist / academic qualifications.....

.....

Interests / hobbies.....

Are you a member of any other paranormal / UFO organisations.....

If so please give details.....

.....

How long have you been interested in UFO / paranormal phenomena?.....

.....

Have you had any UFO / paranormal experiences?.....

If so, please give brief details (use extra sheets if necessary).....

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Would you like to be involved with active investigation and research?.....

Additional information.....

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I hereby certify that the above information is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

.....

.....

Signature.....Date.....

All information contained on this form is completely confidential and

protected under the data protection act.

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Please return to: MARA, 52 Hawthorne Avenue, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 9XD

