

## SUBMITTED EVIDENCE ANALYSIS



**Where Evidence Obtained** Room 6, The Red Lion Hotel, Colchester

**Name of Evidence Supplier** Carol Pretty

**Date Evidence Obtained** 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008

**Equipment** Sony Ericsson Z610i Mobile Phone

**Site Conditions** Indoors, sunny day

### The Evidence

Below you will find the photograph, as submitted to us, which was taken in bedroom number 6 of the hotel. To the right of the bed is a vertical piece of timber and half way up this, about half a metre above the bed, there is what looks like a face.



The image at the top of the next page is the relevant area of the above photograph enlarged to show the detail. The relevant section on the enlargement is on the vertical timber to the left of the centre of the enlargement and just above the centre vertically.

### Background

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The Red Lion Hotel is located on the High Street in Colchester Essex, the oldest recorded town in England. The hotel is one of the oldest in the area and is a Grade I listed building dating back to 1465.

The building is said to be haunted by the ghost of Alice Katherine Millar who was a chambermaid and was murdered in 1638 by her lover. She haunts rooms 5 and 6 and has been seen to disappear through a wall where there was once a doorway that was bricked up 200 years ago. It is said that at one time the haunting became so bad that her old room was bricked up and forgotten about. Her ghost



has also been seen on the stairs and in the kitchen. One assistant manager had a shocking experience when he was woken at 3 am with the feeling that he had been hit by a bolt of electricity. Across the room a beam of moonlight illuminated a rocking chair next to his bed which was rocking backwards and forwards. As he watched Alice slowly appeared in the chair and asked him if he was alright. When he told her he was, she vanished.

Alice is not the only ghost that allegedly haunts the hotel as there is also supposed to be the ghosts of a monk who died in a fire and a small boy.

### Analysis

This one is very good as the face really does look like a spooky face which is partly embedded in the timber and looking to the left of the photographer. It is possible that the face is simply being created by lumps and hollows in the wood that is being illuminated by the light coming in from the window. That said I have rarely seen such an effective impression of a face. On photographs I have seen in the past, where someone claims there is a face, I have usually had to stare at it for some time until I can just about make out a face. People have a natural tendency to see faces in curtains, the carpet, rocks etc but not everyone can see the face even when it is pointed out to them. In this case it takes almost no effort. The only problem with the face is that it is considerably smaller than a normal sized face.

What is especially interesting is that the room, in which the photograph was taken, room 6, is one of those which is said to be haunted by the ghost of Alice Millar.

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### Conclusion

As with all evidence of this form, it is difficult to be absolutely conclusive without investigating the wood on which the face appears, so as to eliminate the effects of the light on the surface structure of the wood. Nonetheless it is a very effective picture and it's quite eerie as there seems to be shading for eyes, nose, mouth (including creases between the mouth and nose) and even under what looks like the chin. Considering the room in which it was taken one would hope there was more to it than just a trick of the light.

**Analysis By** William H. King

**Date** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. H. King', is written over the signature line.