

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site Amersham Old Town

Investigation Date 23rd September 2011

Report By Bill King

Team Members Bill, Steph, Andy

St Mary's Church

Background

It was once reported that a hovering man with a wheel barrow had been seen in the graveyard of St Mary's church and along Rectory Hill in Old Amersham.

Investigation

The main object of our visit to Amersham Old Town was to investigate the Martyrs' Memorial but we first took the opportunity to explore St Mary's graveyard. The exploration was triggered by the planned investigation of Penn in early October as David Blakely is buried in Holy Trinity churchyard at Penn and the woman who murdered him and was executed, Ruth Ellis, is buried at St Mary's at Amersham Old Town.

Ruth Ellis was originally buried in the cemetery at Holloway Prison but in the early 1970s the prison underwent an extensive programme of rebuilding and her body was reinterred at St Mary's church. The original headstone was engraved 'Ruth Hornby 1926–1955' but this was later destroyed by her son Andy just before he committed suicide in 1982. Now it is said that the grave is overgrown by yew trees.

There is graveyard around St Mary's church and nearby, on the other side of the River Misbourne, can be found St Mary's Cemetery. Bill and Steph explored the cemetery some time ago but could not find any evidence of an unmarked grave overgrown by yew trees. This time it was decided to explore the graveyard by the church as there are several yews there.

In front of the south door to the church there are two massive yew trees, one either side of the path. These trees are very dense but it was possible to see into the area beneath them (with some difficulty) though it was not evident that any graves were located there. It is still possible that there could be an unmarked grave beneath them as any evidence of disturbance of the ground would have been masked by the tree growth. On the north side of the church is another, considerably smaller, yew which was also explored but with no success.

As we left the churchyard Bill turned on his EMF meter and left it in his pocket for the entire investigation.

Andy and Bill did not sense or experience any paranormal activity at this location.

Pre-Vigil

For the next part of the investigation the team left the churchyard by the northeast corner and crossed the River Misbourne by St Mary's cemetery. From there we walked east along the river until we met the path to the Martyrs' Memorial. Once at the memorial we undertook a vigil then followed a path into the middle of the field to undertake a second vigil. After that we followed the path into Parsonage Wood where we undertook the last vigil of the night. The route we followed around Rectory Hill and the sites we investigated are shown on the plan at the top of the next page.

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Martyrs' Memorial

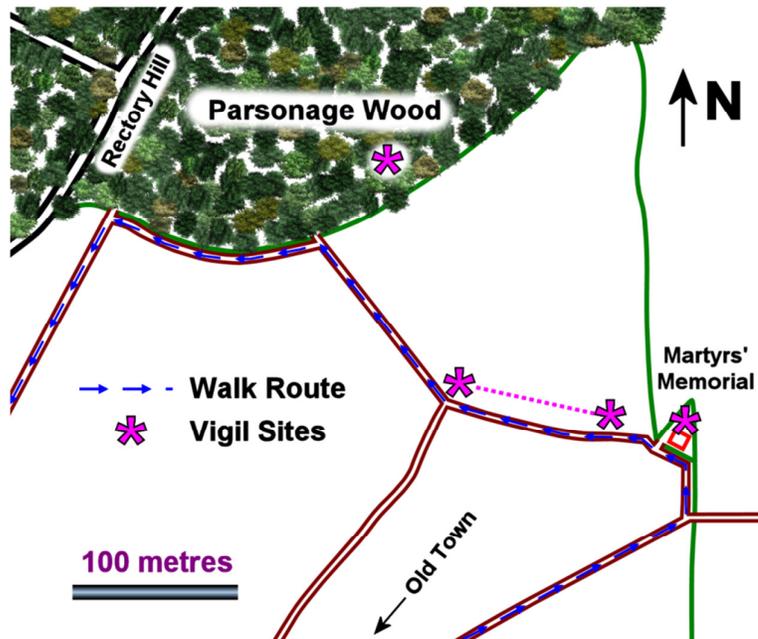
Background

The Amersham Martyrs were a group of Protestant dissenters, nicknamed Lollards, who wanted the Bible printed in English even though this was forbidden by the church. They were accused of heresy, condemned to death and burned at the stake at nearby Rectory (or Parsonage) Wood. Now a memorial stands southeast of the woods just to the east of where they were executed.

It is near the memorial that, it is said ghostly figures dressed in sixteenth century clothes have been seen.

General

The sky was thinly overcast with very little breeze and the air was quite moist. The site was a reasonably dark one, well away from street lights. There was a constant traffic noise coming mainly from the A355 where it climbs Gore Hill to the south.



Vigil: 21:35 to 22:15

For this vigil the team positioned themselves around the triangle of land where the memorial stands. Andy sat on a bench to the northwest, Steph sat towards the north corner and Bill in the south corner. The area had a high hedgerow to the southwest and tall trees to the northwest and east. For the positions of the team members see the plan on the next page.

21:35 Steph measures the temperature as +9°C.

21:37 Bill measures the temperature at +7 to +7.5°C on the grass using his infrared thermometer and +15.9°C with a pressure of 996.4mb on his compass/thermometer. The latter is attached to his coat so it does not record the ambient temperature but will show any local changes in temperature.

21:44 A flash of light is seen by Bill on the ground to the northwest by north and about 8 metres away. The light was blue-white in colour and arched, it almost seemed like a bounding rabbit or a pouncing cat but glowing brightly. It was located about halfway along a line between Steph and the memorial.

Andy takes a temperature reading of +12.4°C.

21:46 A bright dot of moving light is seen by Bill along the hedgerow to the northwest (towards the entrance to the memorial site). It was about a metre off the ground, just beyond the memorial and was moving right to left towards the hedgerow.

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21:50 Bill sees a dome-shaped patch of yellow-orange light on the ground and to the left of Andy (to the northwest by north). It was about 7 metres away and to the left of a line between Steph and the memorial. At the time Bill was looking straight at the place where he saw it and he watched it fade in then fade out over a one second period. It appeared to be about 15 centimetres across.

Andy can smell tobacco that smells like a cigar.

21:53 Bill kept having a line from a folk song going through his head. The line is the third line of the chorus of the song Poverty Knock, originating in the 1890s and collected from Tom Sykes Daniel, a weaver.

Poverty, poverty, knock, my loom is a-saying all day.

Poverty, poverty, knock, gaffer's too skinny to pay.

Poverty, poverty, knock, keeping one eye on the clock.

I know I can guttle, when I hear my shuttle,

Go poverty, poverty, knock.

This had started almost the moment he had sat down and he could find no reason for thinking about it and had not thought of the song for a considerable time. (Guttle is to eat greedily.)

21:54 Andy's audio recorder switches off (battery failure – non-paranormal).

Steph feels nothing here; as she has had hardly any thoughts, no emotions or feelings. She has felt very 'blank' which is unusual.

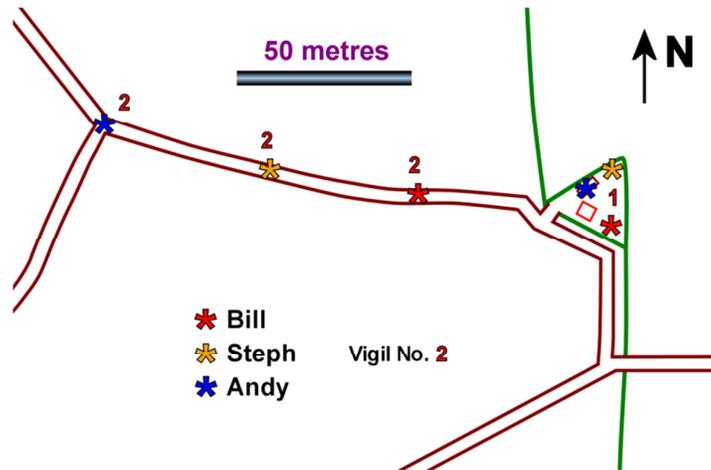
21:55 A massive light patch is seen by Bill lighting up the cloud layer above and to the left of the memorial moving across the line of the hedgerow going left. The patch was about the size of the full moon and was moving fast from right to left and downwards from the west by north to the southwest starting at an elevation of 45°.

21:59 Bill measures the temperature at +6.5°C on the grass using his infrared thermometer and +17.7°C with a pressure of 996.4mb on his compass/thermometer.

22:00 A small dot of light is seen briefly by Bill on the grass in line with Andy and about 3 metres away from Bill.

22:03 Bill sees a fast moving dot of light on the grass going from left to right and about 4 metres away in line with Andy.

22:04 A bright dot of light is briefly seen by Bill in the same place as the one he saw at 21:46 but this one was not moving.



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22:05 Andy gets a sharp pain in the back of his neck.

22:09 Bill sees a large bright yellow light to the left of the one he saw at 22:04 and close to the hedgerow. The lights seem to be by the trees to the northwest by west.

22:12 Andy sneezes.

Post-Vigil

After the vigil Bill investigated the area in front of him (towards Andy) and found that there were two patches of yellow flowers in two of the areas where he saw lights (at 21:44 and 21:50). Both patches were only just visible from Bill's vigil site as very pale patches which could only be seen if they were not looked at directly. Yet the lights he had seen were very bright and only one of them was yellow coloured.

During the vigil Bill had been reasonably warm but when he walked over to Steph's location he noticed how the temperature seemed to plummet so that Steph's area was considerably colder.

During the walk to the second vigil site Bill noted what lay beyond the memorial to the northwest by west to see if he could account for some of the lights he had seen coming from that direction. Beyond the memorial the land rises by almost 15 metres up to the edge of Parsonage Wood which lies 250 metres away. From there it is 170 metres through the trees to Rectory Hill. By the lie of the land it might be possible to see car headlights on the road if it wasn't for the woods in the way. Despite several cars going along the road Bill did not see any lights once they passed beyond the end of the wood or before they appeared from the wood. It is still possible that the lights may have been visible from his vigil location by a purely coincidental arrangement of the trees leaving appropriate gaps but one of the lights he saw was moving and did not flicker as it would if it had passed through the woods and the nearby hedgerow.

Rectory Hill

Background

Before he was executed the ringleader of the Dissenters, William Tylsworth, was placed in a barrel filled with pegs and sharp sticks and rolled down Rectory Hill, now it is said nothing will grow along the path where his blood was spilt.

General

This area felt a lot colder than the memorial site and there was a slight breeze coming from the southwest, across the valley. The traffic noise was now very noticeable especially on Gore Hill and the island south of the Tesco store (on London Road West). This area was quite brightly lit as it looks down on Amersham Old Town. By the start of the vigil the clouds had thinned and the sky was now covered by altocumulus clouds.

Vigil: 22:29 to 23:00

For this vigil the team positioned themselves across the line of the hill between Parsonage Wood and the River Misbourne on what is effectively a field boundary with no hedgerow (where the land drops sharply). Bill placed himself closest to the Martyrs' memorial with Andy at the corner of the lower field where the path turns northwest to Parsonage Wood. Steph was located between Bill and Andy.

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Bill sat facing west by north along the path towards Steph. For the positions of the team members see the plan on page 3.

22:30 Steph measures the temperature as +8°C.

22:37 Steph has 'I only want to be with you' in her head (the phrase not the song) coming from a woman.

22:38 Andy observes a light near the woods but this is found to be car headlights.

22:40 Andy observes an aircraft flying overhead.

22:42 Andy observes a shooting star.

22:43 Bill measures the temperature at +6.5 to +7°C on the grass using his infrared thermometer and +14°C with a pressure of 995.6mb on his compass/thermometer.

22:43 Bill measures the temperature at +6.5 to +7°C on the grass using his infrared thermometer and +13.7°C with a pressure of 995.6mb on his compass/thermometer.

22:50 Andy begins an EVP experiment.

Parsonage Wood

Background

It is said that many years ago the ghost of Dick Turpin was seen riding through Parsonage Wood (also known as Rectory Wood).

It was here that the Amersham Martyrs (Protestant dissenters, nicknamed Lollards, who wanted the Bible printed in English even though this was forbidden by the church) were burned at the stake.

General

The wood was a dark one even though we were located only 10 to 20 metres from the edge of the wood. The lights of Amersham Old Town were visible through the trees. Within the woods there was no breeze. The traffic on Gore Hill was still noticeable as were occasional cars going along Rectory Hill.

Vigil: 23:19 to 23:50

After entering the south end of the wood we turned northeast by east and walked about 50 metres just inside the wood until we came to a large clearing. Andy positioned himself on the path just before it reached the clearing, Steph was located on the north side of the clearing and Bill was positioned about 15 metres along a path to the west of the clearing. Bill was facing southeast by south towards the edge of the wood. Andy stood up during the vigil and faced into the wood. For the positions of the team members see the plan on the next page.

23:21 Bill measures the temperature at +8.5 to +9°C on the grass using his infrared thermometer and +12.9°C with a pressure of 994.3mb on his compass/thermometer.

23:22 Steph measures the temperature as +11°C. Steph notes it is not as cold in the woods as it was out of the wind.

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23:28 Steph notes it is very dark in the woods but gets the image in her mind of a dark figure walking along the path past her coming from the area where Bill is sitting.

23:33 Andy has a feeling of uneasiness and wanting to leave the area as something is going to happen.

23:36 The ground 5 metres away in front of Bill (to the southeast by south) and in the undergrowth lights up almost as if someone was shining a torch on the ground from close by. The patch was about 75 centimetres wide and very bright, lasting for several seconds. When he saw it he had a major cold-shiver.

23:38 As a car went down Rectory Hill a light appeared briefly in the same area as the light Bill saw at 23:36 but it was not as large, or as bright, not in the same place and did not last as long.

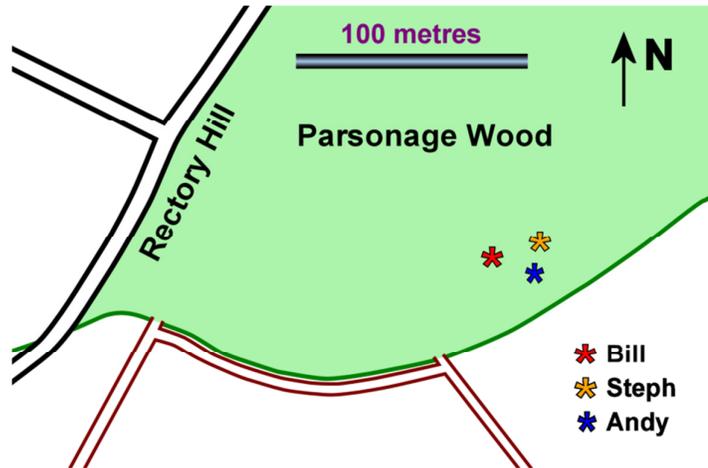
23:40 Another car goes down Rectory Hill but this time there is no light on the ground in front of Bill.

23:42 Andy investigates the bottom of a nearby tree where his DVD camera has been picking up a light source but nothing is found.

23:43 Bill measures the temperature at +9.5 to +10°C on the grass using his infrared thermometer and +14.8°C with a pressure of 994.4mb on his compass/thermometer.

23:47 Another light patch is seen by Bill in front of him as a car goes down Rectory Hill. Each patch was nowhere near as large and bright as the original patch at 23:36. It is likely that the first patch was due to a car but was very unusual.

23:48 Steph notes a small area of the wood to her right lights up briefly now and again. She observes this and concludes that it is car headlights from the road in the distance.



Post-Vigil

During the vigil Andy has observed a dim yellow light go on and go off in the middle of the area he has been observing and, because of this, Andy kept himself hidden behind a tree so as not to disturb the supposed team member with his DVD camera infrared light as he has assumed that another member has been sat in the middle of the area and the yellow light has come from a pen being used to write notes.

When the investigation ended Andy asked both Bill and Steph about where they were sitting and the colour of their pens they were using. Both stated that they were not sitting in that area for the vigil and that both of their pens emitted blue light.

No explanation could be found at the site for this, except for the possibility of car lights if yellow?

Post-Investigation

No paranormal activity is noted on Andy's audio or film recordings.

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Equipment List

Andy Digital Camera: EasyPix NV500
 Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-DVD306E
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-480PC
 EMF meter: K-II
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: IR-102
 Notepad & pen, torch and watch

Bill Digital Camera: Samsung PL81
 EMF Detector: Hutech
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: CHY 110
 Digital Compass/Altimeter/Thermometer: WS110
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Steph Digital Camera: Samsung PL81
 Gauss Meter
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: Tecpel DIT-512
 Digital Compass/Altimeter/Thermometer: WS110
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch