

INVESTIGATION REPORT – Team 3



Investigation Site	Luton, Wardown Park Museum
Investigation Date	13 th September 2013
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill and Dee, Margaret (staff member, part time)

Background

The ghost of a former housekeeper once haunted the museum in Wardown Park. In 1971 two heating engineers were working in the cellar late one night when they heard the sounds of footsteps coming down the stairs behind them. They turned and saw a woman wearing a long dark dress and carrying a large bunch of keys on her belt. The figure said nothing; she just turned around and went back up the stairs. The two workmen found the caretaker having a cup of tea and asked him about the woman, but he said that neither he nor anyone else had been near the cellar. After this the figure was never seen again but the sounds of footsteps were heard on the stairs late at night or early in the morning. Nothing has been seen or heard now for over twenty-five years.

This was not the first sighting in the cellar as LPS received a report from Anthony Roberts about his experience in 1955, part of which is reproduced below.

...we were changing a section in the boiler which had cracked. I was in the boiler and Hugh was standing outside by the boiler door. The only other person in the museum at that time was the curator who was upstairs in his office. The museum was closed to the public.

We knew that we three were alone. When we heard footsteps coming towards us we knew something was wrong as there was the sound of a light 'tap tap' and then we heard the sound of a dress swishing as the person walked nearer. There were no lights in the cellar in 1955 at all. The only lighting came from a 100 watt head lamp on a long lead which was plugged in upstairs which threw out a limited light around the boiler.

As we waited a woman appeared out of the gloom about ten feet from where Hugh was standing. She continued to walk towards us then turned the corner and was gone from my sight as I was in the boiler. But Hugh saw her for longer as I could see his head turn as he watched her until she was no longer to be seen.

Another report about the museum was provided recently by Vee Cockburn.

I visited Wardown when I was 14 years old with a school friend after going for a swim at Bath Road. On our approach, I saw a Lady by the window, middle-aged and dressed in a white bonnet, with a corset type dress with white lace in a 'V' shape to her bust. In her left hand was a cloth with which she was wiping the inside of the window. She stopped cleaning but still held the cloth to the glass and was staring at us walking in. When we got into the building, I said to a man at the desk that it was great that they had people dress up in Victorian costume for us visitors. I vaguely remember him laughing at me and replying that there were no such people in the museum. I'm 40 now but remember it so clearly and always wondered if she was the Housekeeper that I now know still makes her presence known there.

General

This investigation was an indoor one in a building that was centrally heated and quite warm though cooling down as the night progressed. Outside there was a constant rain.

There were occasional exterior noises (such as sirens, trains, wind, rain on windows etc.). Interior sounds included ticking of meters/alarms, security lighting (usually green), creaky floorboards, clicking

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and ticking of cooling spotlights, loud buzzing/humming on the first floor (presumably from the security system).

Prior to the investigation starting all of the exterior doors were locked to ensure we weren't disturbed.

Initial Walk-Round

Everyone was given a quick tour of the museum by staff members, which included the first floor, ground floor and cellar. When walking into the main stairway from the reception area, Dee experienced a momentary feeling of unease just before passing the bottom of the main staircase. Dee also felt a distinct change in atmosphere in the bar area of the first floor Luton Life Gallery. This sharp change in atmosphere was also detected simultaneously by Andy G. En route to the cellar, Dee felt momentarily very dizzy and disoriented on the staircase leading down. This persisted for a short time once she was in the cellar, but faded quickly. She felt this could merely have been a moment of vertigo because the steps were quite steep and narrow. In the cellar itself, Dee had a split-second in the main passageway heading towards the boiler room where she felt as though she had walked through a lot of busy people crossing each other's paths.

Séance 1: Local Life Display – to 22:49

For the séance the team assembled by the southwest window in the first floor Luton Life Gallery where Vee Cockburn witnessed a ghostly woman. For the séance we were joined by staff member Margaret. For the location of the séance see the plan on the next page.

The team formed a circle in the open area of the gallery between a piano and the doorway to the Childhood display. All team members linked hands. Several members had placed emf meters and sound recorders in the centre of the circle.

22:44 During the séance Dee asked what the time was. When told she reported that her analogue watch was 4 minutes fast, at the time she did not reset it. This was based on Bill's watch which he always sets to the nearest second, compared to the speaking clock, a couple of hours before an investigation starts. Dee was incredibly surprised, as this had NEVER happened before and even showed other members her watch to verify that she wasn't misreading it.

The notes below and for the second part of the séance in the Childhood display are made from Dee's digital voice recorder and memory (the times noted are the correct ones and not according to Dee's incorrect watch).

22:49 Dee hears a whisper coming from the next room (the Childhood display). Other members heard something also, which prompted Andy G to suggest that we needed to continue in that space

Séance 2: Childhood Display – 22:49 to 23:01

The team formed a circle in the open area of the toy section of the gallery close to the doorway to the area where the previous séance took place. All team members linked hands. Several members had placed emf meters and sound recorders in the centre of the circle. For the location of the séance see the plan on the next page.

For this séance Bill was standing in a corner of the room by a small desk (opposite the doorway from the Local Life display) and with a glass display cabinet on his left.

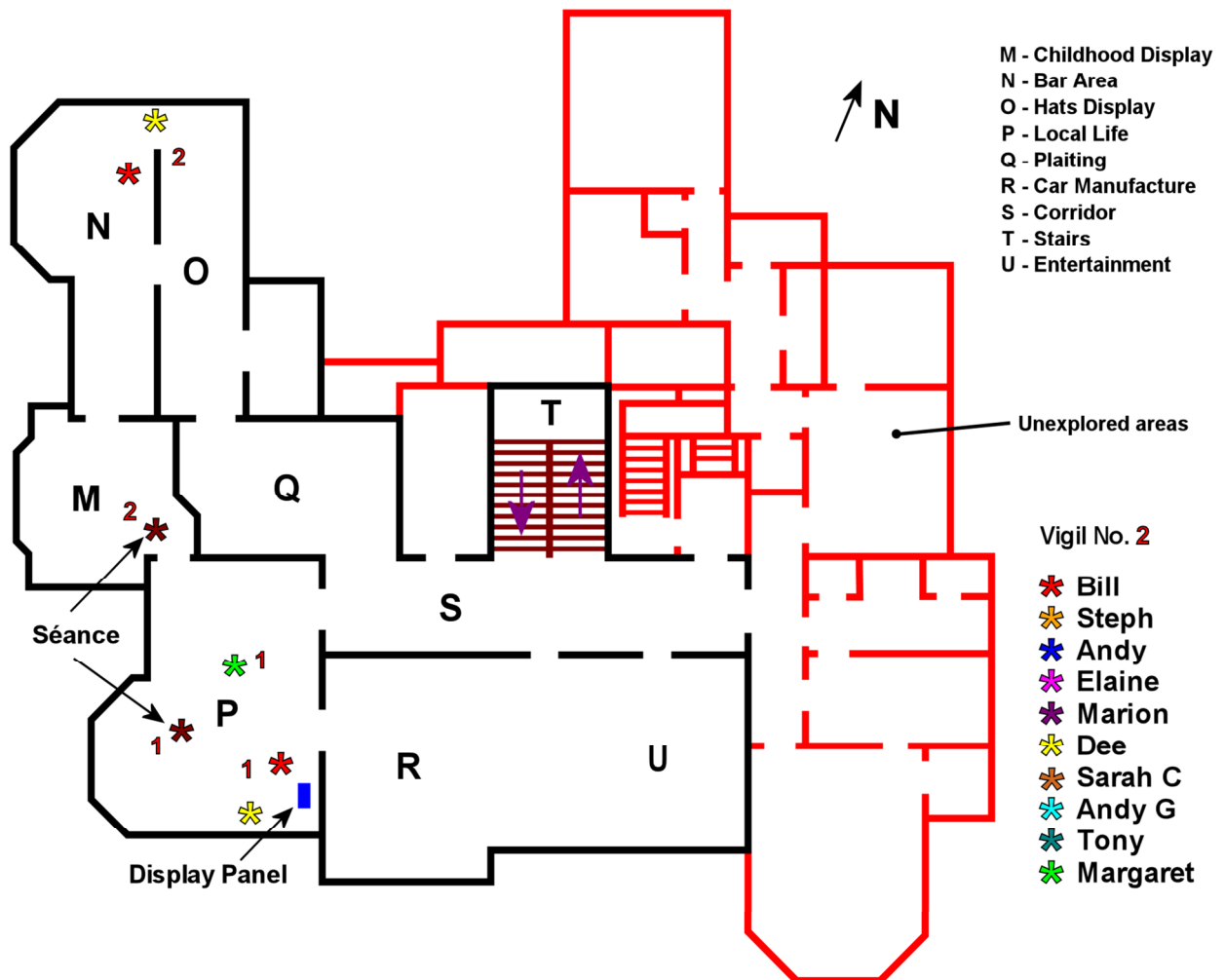
22:50 Dee mentions a strange noise close to her ear.

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Upon resumption of the séance, Dee sees something in her peripheral vision which makes her think there is someone standing behind Marion (to Dee's right).

22:53 While Steph is calling out, there is a female voice on Dee's digital recording talking over her at one point, but it's not clear what it is saying or who it is. (To be referred for further investigation/corroboration.)

22:54 Andy mentions the name *Laurel*, which he says has just popped into his head. Just after this, staff member, Margaret, says she feels that there is a woman's presence and she's not happy about being called a child. Dee also feels strongly that the presence is not that of a child.

22:56 Dee sees some reflected green light (from a security light on the ceiling nearby) on a sign above the partition wall suddenly brighten then dim. She watches it happen (i.e. not peripheral vision). Dee cannot easily debunk the occurrence.

22:57 Margaret mentions feeling sick, while Dee mentions feeling tense. She describes the feeling as that of being impelled to walk upright, like someone is ordering her to "stand up" with a balled fist against her diaphragm.

22:58 Dee suddenly gets the feeling that there's someone standing next to Andy G.

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Shortly after this, Dee sees the green light phenomenon she saw earlier (22:56). As she is describing this, it happens twice more. It is like something goes in front of the reflection causing the reflected light to dim then suddenly moves away, making it seem brighter again. Dee can find no obvious explanation for this, as nothing is moving.

22:59 Andy G mentions he is getting an impression of the name *Jacqueline*. Something about this triggers a sense of familiarity in Dee, who 'feels' that it might be a surname, such as 'Jacklin'. Dee feels strongly like the name is 'ringing bells' although she knows nobody with that name.

During the séance Bill looked in the cabinet to his left and saw two bright green lights. It looked as if they were reflections of two lights on the wall above the display cabinet on his right (to the left of the entrance doorway). Reflected in the glass on his left he could see the display cabinet (on the left of the window) which was lit up by the overhead green emergency light. The reflected display's glass panel windows appeared dark with a pale green wide border above and between the two glass panels. The two green lights Bill had seen appeared to be in the middle of the overhead panel just above the central divider. They were not due to the emergency lighting. The lights lasted for a second.

Post-Séance

Bill checked the area where he had seen the green lights to see if they could have come from outside but the only lights outside were some distance away near the cricket pavilion and none would have created the small spots of light that Bill had seen.

Pre-Vigil

For the first vigil Team 3 chose to investigate the Local Life display where the first séance had been held.

In the few minutes before commencement of this vigil, Dee is left alone in the area while Bill goes downstairs to get his video camera. Dee switches on her digital voice recorder and leaves it on one of the information panels. Dee wanders around the central display case to the piano side of the room before returning to the other side and settling on a chair in the corner near the electronic information point. It is extremely warm and Dee has to remove her cardigan.

23:09 At the start of the vigil Dee was sitting in the room near to the Luton Museum Picture Gallery computer display panel whilst Bill walked through the toy and hat galleries. As Bill entered the area where Dee was through the entrance from the main upstairs corridor, the computer panel suddenly turned itself on for no reason. Dee hadn't touched it (it is an interactive display with a touch screen) as she was at least 60 centimetres from it at the time.

23:10 Staff member, Margaret, comes in to sit near the piano for the vigil and Dee asks how the monitor works. Margaret is surprised, as she was under the impression that the equipment was usually turned off at night.

23:13 In preparation for the start of the vigil, Dee mentions to Bill that she needs to synchronise her watch, as it was running 4 minutes fast at the start of the séance, which is odd to her, as the watch has been extremely reliable for the last year that she has been wearing it. To her surprise, when Bill gives her the correct time, the watch is now running only 12 seconds fast! It is almost completely accurate. Dee cannot explain this at all.

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Vigil 1: Local Life Display – 23:15 to 23:45

For this vigil the team sat in the Local Life display in the area of the window where Vee Cockburn witnessed a ghostly woman. Dee sat on the left of the corridor to the window and about a third of the way from the wall opposite the window. Bill sat on the right of the corridor just beyond the east end of the central display stand and on the north side of the interactive panel. Bill set up his video camera at the east end of the central display and facing towards the window. Member of staff Margaret sat reading by the upright piano on the north side of the central display during the vigil. For the positions of the team members see the drawing on page 3.

The room was a warm one with a green emergency light in the roof (these were used throughout the museum).

23:17 Dee hears what sounds like men talking. She describes this as like ‘racing commentary’! Bill also hears what sounds like talking. It stops after a few seconds. Both Dee and Bill surmise that it is likely that it is the noises being generated by the electronic display’s drive. Dee then settles and tries to tune out all the noises in the room.

23:18 Dee asks Bill if he could hear sounds like people mumbling. Bill replied that he could but said he thought it was due to the fans in the display panel that were constantly on.

23:21 Dee suddenly gets a very clear impression of being outside the museum looking up at the window by which she and Bill are sitting (which is now covered up by the display). She asks Bill if the paranormal incident that occurred here was seen from the outside. He confirms that indeed the witness to the incident saw it from outside while approaching the house.

23:32 Dee gets an incredibly strong sense of nursing; images of people being cared for. She asks Bill if this building was once a nursing home. Bill confirms that it was, in fact, a military hospital during World War I. This makes total sense to Dee, as she is still feeling ‘nursing’ very clearly.

23:35 Bill sees a patch of flickering light, he saw it on the floor between himself and Dee and it appeared as two blobs about 3 centimetres across as shown in the drawing on the right.

Dee hears the name *Richard* or *Richards* in her mind, but can ascertain no further information.

23:39 Dee hears a very loud clock ticking somewhere nearby; a distinct grandfather clock “tick tock” sound. She gets the impression of lying here listening to the clock, the slow passage of time.

(Later note: Dee does not recall when the clock started or when it stopped – it just seemed to ‘be there’ and then it ‘just wasn’t’.)

23:40 Dee experiences a feeling of chest compression; a tightness across upper chest and she feels cold and shivery. She also gets the strong impression of a floor above/attic space.

23:42 Dee sees a flash of light in the glass of the display case in front of her. She thinks it is a reflection of her watch face, but rules this out when she cannot recreate the effect by moving her watch, or pen, or anything else on her person. There is nothing behind her except a fabric hanging.

23:44 Dee witnesses a flash of light to her left on the antique fridge, but when it happens again, realises it is Bill’s light pen!

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Post-Vigil

Bill noted that the display panel remained on during the entire vigil.

Margaret commented that her legs were very cold; Bill then noticed that his arms were cold even though the room did not feel cold. Dee also felt that the temperature had dropped.

Pre-Vigil

As Bill and Dee walked through the Childhood display to their second vigil site (near the Bar display) they both felt as if the cold they had felt at the first site was following them.

Before Vigil 2 started Bill went downstairs to get his coat as he was feeling very cold.

23:58 On returning upstairs Bill went back to the first vigil site and measured the temperature at +22.4°C in the area between where he and Dee sat. He also noted that the display panel was still on.

23:59 On re-entering the Vigil 2 site Bill measures the temperature at +22.2°C. Bill noted that he no longer felt cold.

Vigil 2: Bar Display – 00:00 to 00:30

For this vigil Bill sat on a bench facing the pub bar display whilst Dee sat at the north end of the display cabinet between the pub display and the hat display and between the display cabinet and the north wall. This was the place where she and Andy G had both felt a distinct atmospheric difference during the walkthrough. For the positions of the team members see the plan on page 3.

00:03 Dee asks Bill if he has taken any emf readings near where she was sitting because of how she was feeling. She did this to rule out that the 'fluttering in the chest' feeling that Dee was experiencing was not caused by some kind of electrical field/machinery. Bill measured the area with his KII meter but only got the low level reading of one green light. He left the meter on the arm of the bench he was sitting on so that it was close to Dee.

Bill notes that there is a constant hum coming from high up to his left.

00:04 Dee asks Bill if he can hear a ticking clock. Bill said that he couldn't. Dee then said that she also heard a clock during the first vigil. Bill responded by saying that he was sure he had seen a large clock in the display behind where Dee had sat.

Whilst looking into the pub display Bill saw a patch of light on the second shelf above the bar directly in front of him. When he saw the patch it was just outside his line of sight and shaped as in the drawing on the right. The patch was very pale and as he looked towards it he saw a very faint swirling pattern just to the right that lasted a couple of seconds.

00:07 Dee is hearing the constant ticking of a small clock (not at all like the tick-tock from the previous vigil). It seems to be coming from the area to her left (the hat making section) and cannot be heard to her right (the bar area). After a short discussion with Bill, Dee tries to tune out the sound of the clock via meditation exercises.

00:12 Dee hears *Harbour Master* in her mind but can ascertain no further information.

00:14 Dee feels the hairs on her arms stand up. She gets the strong feeling that someone is back in the toy gallery where the séance was conducted.

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00:16 Dee experiences a heightening of the 'creepy' feeling and is getting strong tingling in the backs of her legs.

00:18 Dee is still feeling very 'tingly' and extremely tense/apprehensive. The feelings throughout Dee's body are so strong that she mentions aloud to Bill that the atmosphere is changing.

Bill measures the temperature at +21°C to his right (towards Dee) and +21.4°C to his left, in the middle of the floor it was +21.8°C. As he turned to do the second measurement he noticed what felt like a cold breeze on his right side (face, hand and bottom of right leg). He informed Dee of this then thirty seconds later he felt it again.

00:22 Dee hears gentle footsteps out in the hallway somewhere. She asks Bill who else is on the first floor and is surprised when Bill says 'no one', as Dee thought maybe staff member, Margaret, might be nearby (as in the previous vigil).

00:23 Bill heard a sound like someone walking in cleated rubber soled or crepe soled shoes (a bit like scrunching up a balloon) coming from his left (towards the toy gallery). Dee also reported hearing it. Bill thought that the sound was going left to right towards the front of the building. (When he discussed the sound with Dee after the vigil she said the same.) This sound was very clear, but unfortunately is not captured clearly by Dee's digital recorder because of the loud humming of surveillance equipment (or whatever is making the constant humming/buzzing noise).

00:24 Dee feels that the area to her right has become warmer. Bill measures the same areas he measured at 00:18 and gets +21.7°C at both locations.

00:26 Dee notes that the air does not feel at all cold anymore, as though something has 'passed through'. Bill takes the temperature on both his left and right and pronounces it 'even'.

00:28 Bill felt a cold draught on his right again. He measured the temperature to his right at +21.3°C and to his left at +21.5°C. He remeasured both locations a few seconds later and found them both to be +21.5°C.

Post-Vigil

No response was seen on Bill's KII meter during the vigil.

Dee continued to record with her digital recorder as she and Bill walked round the first floor:

- a) They checked if anyone else was on first floor during the second vigil. There was no one.
- b) They also confirmed that there were large clocks behind the fabric hangings in the piano room (where Dee had sat during Vigil 1), but none were working, so could not account for the loud tick-tock that Dee had heard.
- c) After much searching, Dee finally located the source of the constant ticking during Vigil 2 – it was coming from behind a wooden wall panel in the hat making display and was probably some kind of meter or timer.
- d) They located another electronic information display point (off) and could not switch it on by jumping or walking around it, which ruled out vibration as the trigger for the monitor switching itself on during Vigil. Bill had to tap the screen several times (quite hard) to finally get the screen to come on.

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00:32 Bill returns to the team's Vigil 1 site and measures the temperature at +22.0°C. He also noted that there was a time clock, a clock on a water meter and a station clock in the display behind where Dee had sat. None of them were working.

Bill returned to the team's Vigil 2 site where Dee reported that she could still hear ticking, Bill reported that he could not hear it. Bill walked into the hat manufacturing display and could hear ticking which he traced to the wall to the left of the display (clearly audible when he placed his ear against the wall). As Dee had been sitting between the two galleries the wall was in front of her but to Bill it was behind a large display.

Vigil 3: Main Stairs – 01:30 to 02:00

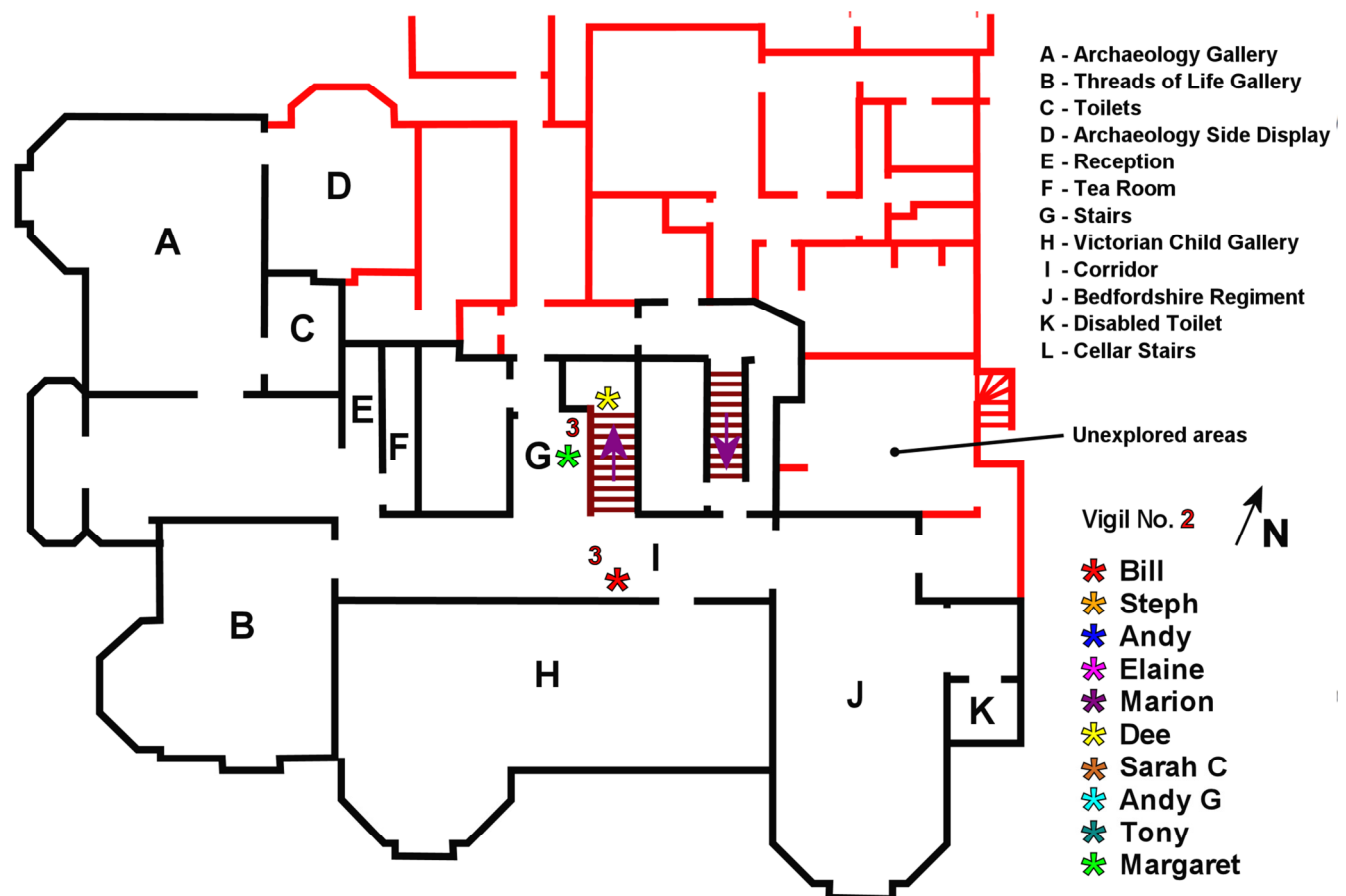
For this vigil Dee sat at the top of the first flight of stairs facing down the stairs as she had experienced a feeling of momentary unease near the bottom of the main staircase. Bill sat on a bench by the wall opposite the bottom of the stairs looking up. Margaret sat on a couch in the stairwell. During the vigil Bill videoed up the stairs towards Dee. For the positions of the team members see the plan below.

01:31 Bill measures the temperature at +23.1°C.

01:32 Bill placed his KII meter on a chest to his right (on which was his video camera).

A bang is heard by Bill and Dee. It sounded to Bill as if it came from the cellar and Dee thought it sounded like a door. A few seconds later the cellar light came on.

01:33 Bill suddenly has a very strong headache in his left temple over his eye.



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01:38 Bill realises that his headache has gone.

01:42 Dee hears a grandfather clock again for a few seconds (around 3 tick-tocks). She notices that there is a grandfather clock in the area below where Margaret is seated, but the clock is not working.

01:44 A rumbling sound is heard coming from Bill's left. He thought it sounded distant.

01:45 Dee's attention is drawn to the red light coming on several times on the alarm/detector above her in front and to her left. She can't quite understand how it works, as it seems to come on even when she is not moving.

Over the next couple of minutes Bill and Dee discuss the detector that she had noticed attached to the ground floor ceiling to the left of the stairs (as she faced down the stairs) and pointing up the stairs. From where Bill sat it looked as if it could be a passive infrared detector. Dee moved around in various ways to see what might trigger it as she reckoned she hadn't moved when it had previously gone off.

01:47 Margaret gets up and walks to the door under the stairs. She checked for draughts as she said she was feeling cold.

01:50 Bill measures the temperature at +22.7°C.

01:54 Dee notes that it feels exceptionally quiet and still (in all ways!).

01:56 Dee hears what sounds like a distant train.

01:59 Bill measures the temperature at +23.1°C.

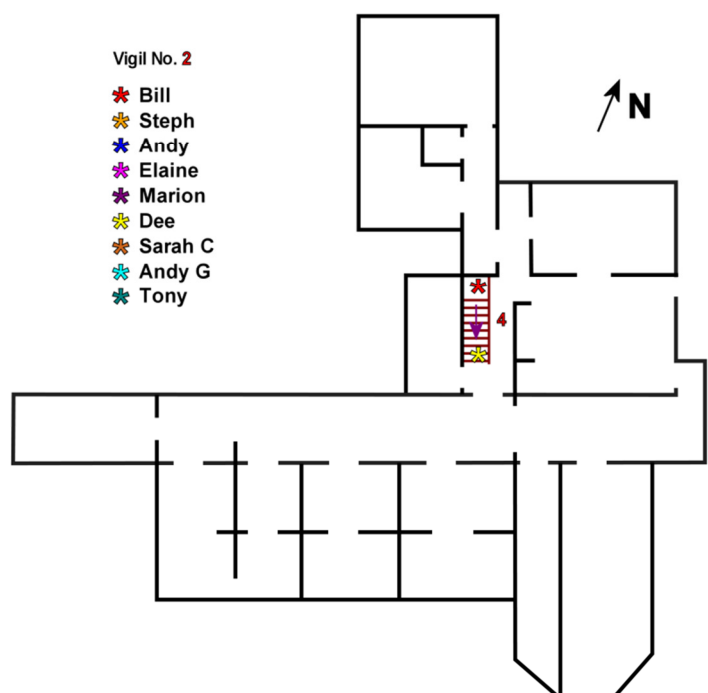
Dee notes a loud knock off to her right (Bill's left).

Vigil 4: Cellar Stairs – 02:15 to 02:45

Both Dee and Bill explore the corridor at the top of the basement steps to gain a sense of orientation within the house. It feels very 'busy' or 'industrious' to Dee (on a psychic level). The basement itself feels less 'busy'. Dee positions herself at the top of the basement steps and Bill is positioned at the bottom. Dee forgets to start her digital voice recording at the start of the vigil! For the positions of the team members see the plan on the right.

For this vigil Bill sat on the bottom step of the stairs whilst Dee one step down from the top.

02:23 Bill measures the temperature between +18.8°C and +20.3°C around him. It was higher down the corridor towards the boiler room and lowest opposite the bottom of the stairs.



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- 02:24 Dee asks Bill “How what?” Bill replies “Eh!” Dee said she thought she heard me say “How?” but Bill had not made a sound of any sort.
- 02:25 Bill hears a woman’s voice. It is very faint and only audible in his left ear as if it was coming from that direction. It lasted for 10 to 20 seconds. He could not determine words as the sound was too faint.
- 02:29 Tony comes through the door at the end of the cellar corridor and heads up the stairs, desperate for the toilet.
- 02.32 Dee notes that everything is exceedingly quiet and still. Dee can sense nothing of significance at all.
- 02.33 Dee realises she has not started her digital voice recorder, so starts it.

Post-Vigil

After the vigil the team head up the stairs to the door that leads to the main corridor through the ground floor of the museum. Dee opens the door to the main part of the house and almost has a heart attack when she finds Tony standing outside the door!! He had decided not to interrupt the vigil to return to the basement!!

Equipment List

- Bill Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-SR90E
 Digital Camera: GE E1480W
 Digital Infrared Thermometer: Karknee DT-300
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus WS-560M
 EMF Detector: K-II
 Infrared Light 48 LED
 Li-ion Battery: Mingtongda T-1248A
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch
- Dee Digital Camera: Canon PowerShot A3200 IS
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-5500PC
 Notepad, pen, torch and watch