

# Investigation Report



**Investigation Site**

**Bormham Mill**

**Investigation Date**

08.09.2017

**Report By**

Andrew Fazekas

**Team Members**

Andy F, Elaine E, Dee L, Sarah C, Jill L, Marion L, Matt I, Vicky I, Paul S. Loretta Y.

## Background

Bromham Mill stands occupies a location next to the Great River Ouse where it is thought a mill is likely to have stood from Saxon times where no bridge existed as does today. For much of its history the mill belonged to the Manor or Bromham and from medieval times would have ground the lord's grain whilst his tenants would have been obliged to have their grain milled there for a charge (multure).

Commercial operations only developed from the post medieval period into the 20<sup>th</sup> century when in the hands of the Quenby Family though little milling was done there after the 1930's and by 1971 none was done at all. By 1973 the building was dilapidated and to secure its future it was brought by Bedfordshire County Council. However in 1974 it was damaged by fire (this is relevant to the LPS investigation). But subsequent restoration enabled the mill to be opened to the public in 1983. For further information please visit <http://friendsofbromhammill.org.uk/history/>

## Pre Investigation tour

### Stairwell

Starting with a pre investigation tour of the location, members had reached the landing of the second floor when some of the group instantly sensed the smell of burning wood which not everybody did. (See above reference to a fire which at the time was completely unknown to the group). Sarah smelt a strong smell of smoke as we were going up the wooden stairs at the end of the building. Sarah asked at the time if anyone else smelt it, and out of ten people present only four could smell it. This was Sarah, Vicky, and Matt and Andy.

### Art Gallery

During the tour Dee sensed a change in energy in the area between the art gallery on the first floor and the doorway into the mill room.

### Attic

When the team reached the attic, Sarah could hear talking like a radio. She immediately asked if anyone else could hear a voice. No-one else did at that time

## Investigation

### 20:45 Séance in the outside rest area

The investigation itself started in a rest area outside the building with a séance. Dee experienced a strong sense of water and a rushing feeling. She also 'heard'/sensed a dog barking persistently, even though there was no dog barking at that time. She felt very drawn to the river. Dee felt/sensed a

woman walk up from the direction of the river and stand behind Marion. Dee heard the dog barking and also heard a voice calling "Mill! Mill! Millie!" many times. Dee also heard "Eight" or "Eighty". Jill got what sounded like the number "18.

Subsequence research by LPS found that a woman had indeed drowned near the mill wheel in 1247 (Beds archives and record service).

Marion feels she has a young woman standing behind her. She feels this woman drowned in the millpond. She asks her guide to cross this woman over. A short while later she hears a female voice say 'In heaven now'. She sounds like a young woman (not a child)

Loretta had a headache behind her eyes during the séance, and Andy gets a cold shiver down one side as if someone is passing by him.

### **21:20 Séance on the first floor next to mill stones**

During a second séance by the group on the second floor members of the team heard voices from another group of people at the far end of the same floor. Whilst another member heard the sound of heavy footsteps coming up the wooden stairs on more than one occasion and when she investigated no one was there. Sarah heard voices coming from the stair area and a 'hello'? Sarah also smelt smoke again on the way into the area from the stairs. Sarah had the names Matt and Max come to her.

Loretta thought she heard ongoing noise from a group of people up the far end but no one was there and staff was outside the building.

When the team was in the room with the lovely painting of the Windmill Marion got the word lily's'. She hears a man's' lovely soft voice say Tulips and in her mind gets the picture of lovely red tulips. She gets the words 'Melody-sing a melody while I work'. Then for some reason she gets the word 'Bagpuss'. Next time she visits the mill she plans to ask if anyone knows why!

### **The group then splits into two smaller teams for the purpose of investigation.**

**Team one is Andy, Matt and Vicky and Paul.**

**Team Two is Elaine, Jill and Dee, Sarah and Loretta**

### **First Floor Craft Area - Team Two vigil**

The team in the top end area of the first floor by a table set out for kids colouring. Sarah felt a child was near and we were sitting where they like to sit. We all heard small knocks.

This investigation ended at 23:10 and the team moved to the attic.

### **Attic - Team One Vigil and séance**

Marion hears quite a loud bang like a heavy door slamming or something heavy being dropped. She can't make out which direction this noise came from. She hears the name Thomas and the words 'Help me'.

### **23:10 – 23:34 Attic Team Two Vigil**

Team members saw lots of lights in the attic, some were debunked as car headlights but others did not correspond to cars, or happened when there were no cars. Some were green and flashed.

### **00:30 Individual Investigations**

Following a break some of the team chose to stay on at the mill to cover areas that still needed investigating while others chose to go home. Matt and Vicky chose to go outside and investigate the grounds around the mill. Andy and Elaine chose to undertake some filming of the ground floor where strange things had been seen in the past (see summary report).

### **Post Vigil**

On coming back into the mill from the back door by the riverside Sarah said she did not like the dark area by the water mill wheel at the back, and it was also noticed that the storeroom cupboard door previously open with the lights on, was shut with the lights off. While team two rested in the café area a black shape was seen going across one room. Different EVP was picked up along with a number of names.

Marion goes and sits by the mill pond again. She feels this location is very peaceful now and any troubled spirits are at peace now.

### **Staff Reports**

Towards the end of the evening staff talked about their experiences while working at the mill.

### **Post Investigation Summary**

In conclusion, Dee surmises that it is of course likely that there have been accidental (and maybe not so accidental) drownings near the mill over the centuries. Maybe she was picking up on one of those unfortunate incidents. Dee did not feel that the Bromham Mill building is particularly active, though at one point during the investigation, Dee stood outside the door at the bottom of the wooden staircase and was once again strongly drawn out across the river, but couldn't go there.

there are a couple of hotspots that could warrant further investigation: the gallery/mill room adjoining area and the top floor. The outside of the Mill is, to Dee, definitely the most active - or it was on this occasion!

Marion had been hearing the woman's from the riversides gentle voice calling her name for days before the investigation. She told her husband and daughter this but didn't know who she was or why she was calling her name. She knows now.

Marion has now done some research on drownings 'at the Mill and finds a woman drowned by the mill wheel in 1247. (Beds archives and record service). Her evp picked up a woman quietly saying her name during the séance by the mill pond. She can hear it clearly through her headphones but is quieter on the computer.

Jill's conclusion is that any presence inside Bromham Mill is fairly benign, but also felt that outside was perhaps more active.

Andy found that his film from the final vigil on the ground floor contained unexplained light phenomena a small orb of light that could not be explained moving about near one of the main structure posts.

Finally it has to be acknowledged that at least one member of the team had no paranormal experiences whatsoever.

© [*Luton Paranormal Society*] [2017]