

# LPS INVESTIGATION

## Whitney-on-Wye

Cwmmau Farmhouse

30<sup>th</sup> November 2013

For a week at the end of November/beginning of December, two LPS members hired the Cwmmau Farmhouse in Herefordshire. This is a very large half-timbered 17th century building which had been converted into accommodation to sleep up to 10 people in 5 bedrooms. The two members who hired the farmhouse made it available for LPS to investigate on the night of Saturday 30th November.

This was a rare opportunity to investigate an old building that is nearly 300 years old, and at a fraction of the cost of other, similar investigations with other groups.



Cwmmau Farmhouse

Background: Cwmmau Farmhouse is a National Trust property that is accessed along a single-track road from just south of Brilley Mountain. At a 4-way junction the road to the farmhouse is signposted with the National Trust oak symbol. Follow this road for 1.2 kilometres (0.75 miles) to the farmhouse (across a cattle-grid and follow any other signposts). The farmhouse lies in a dip in the hill side in an area where two brooks meet. It is this situation that is believed to have led to the name of the farmhouse as in the Welsh language a confluence is 'cymmer'. In English the farmhouse is known as 'The Cummey'. At one time Brilley lay in Wales as King Offa (757-96) had his dyke built about 8 kilometres (5 miles) to the east. The road through Brilley follows a ridge which today has England on the east side and Wales on the west as it approaches the turn to Cwmmau, this route also follows a prehistoric trackway. From this ridge you get superb views of the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons in Wales.

The land on which the farmhouse stands was purchased in 1621 by Philip Holman, Esq., of Warkworth, Northamptonshire, to use for boar hunting. When Holman was appointed as High Sheriff

of Herefordshire he needed a suitable residence where he could entertain distinguished guests so he had the farmhouse built as a hunting lodge in 1620.

Pre-Investigation: Andy has a sense of warmth and friendliness coming from a painting of a woman in the room being used as an equipment store, the Hall.

Tim arrived at around 8:30pm, it was already very dark and quite cold, it was a clear night. The house felt very comfortable and at no time during the night did he feel anything negative or experience anything negative, He slept very well in his room (the Porch Room).

Séance: Back Bedroom: When Bill left the bedroom the team observed that Tim's torch placed on the window sill switched itself on and off while Bill was out of the room and EMF meters nearby spiked. After Bill returned to the room he inspected the torch when it came on again. Bill checks the torch and feels that, maybe, it was not turned off enough and maybe the cold could be causing the switch to toggle on and off. He noted the torch was very cold due to the draught from the window. Two other torches in the room did not come on. Bill had left the room to go downstairs to check that his mobile phone was off which could explain why EMF meters were going off, which had been seen earlier in the séance. As Bill went downstairs his own torch had gone off and on. Later Andy realised his mobile phone had been on which could have accounted for the EMF meter responses.

During the séance Richard felt as though his neck was hot as if a rope was there, Tim did feel hot during the séance but it didn't last long.

Back Kitchen: Andy observes flashes of light outside that appear to be coming from another room in the building and Andy assumes it is another team taking photographs.

23:55 Andy's camcorder, which has a fully charged four hour battery, switches itself off. Andy feels the hairs on the back of his neck raise and feels something is standing very close to his right. The atmosphere feels intense as if something is about to happen but then fades. After this session Andy checks his camcorder and finds the battery dead. Andy installs a new battery and the camcorder works fine

During Tim's vigil in this room he used an SB7 Spirit Box. During this session his torch came on and off several times which he did catch on camera, he decided to swap the torches around and reset them, it didn't happen again after that. 6 minutes 15 seconds in he asked for a name and thought he heard a response, so he asked for it to say it louder, at 6 minutes and 28 seconds he got a response but he was not sure exactly what it said, it sounded like Monsieur.....something he also heard the phrase "The country of" these could just be radio interference. 9 minutes into the investigation his torch turned on and his camera turned off by itself. There were no KII hits at all and no temperature fluctuations.

Parlour: This room is the most comfortable in the farmhouse and is used as the main living area.

00:48 Andy feels a sense of hostility coming from the painting of the man with a pineapple. This painting is of a Mr. Presley holding a pineapple which was used as a symbol of prosperity. The painting has no association with the house and was simply one taken from National Trust storage.

01:10 Andy can hear a man whistling outside and this is followed by a man's voice coming from the kitchen area.

Dairy: This room is a small, cold room at the end of the property now used as a utility room.

01:38 Andy observes a shadow of someone moving across the opposite wall from where he is seated at the table.

01:44 Andy hears a knocking sound.

01:50 Andy hears people moving about on the stairs.

02:01 Andy hears two knocks on the stairs.

Alison's Bedroom This bedroom is the smallest and coldest with twin beds.

02:15 Andy has to change another battery on his camcorder.

Back Bedroom: This room is a large double bedroom in which Andy F slept.

23:34 Tim's camera shut down by itself.

02:00 Bill briefly sees two blobs of red light, about 20 centimetres across, in the direction of the fire, whilst he was lying on the bed.

Andy leaves his camcorder and sound equipment running overnight in the bedroom he sleeps in.

02:40 Andy goes to bed and during the night can hear breathing when he is half awake but assumes that he is hearing himself.

08:44 Andy is woken up by a man shouting the name "Mark" and it appears to be coming from outside Andy's door on the landing. As a result Andy gets up and dressed and packed up and goes downstairs and finds out that everyone else apart from Tim is still in bed. Andy has checked camcorder footage for 08:44 and there is no recorded evidence of a man shouting "Mark". Also Marion, John and Tim have also confirmed that they heard nothing. If the shout had come from outside the building then it is plausible one of them would have heard this.

Hall: This room is the largest in the farmhouse and was used for LPS equipment storage.

23:33 Bill was sitting at the table in the hall facing towards the stairs when he had a brief glimpse of something light on the landing. It was about the height of a child but only the head, shoulders and chest were distinguishable. It was moving down and right as if it was taking a step down the stairs towards the hall from the landing. When he saw the shape it was just to the left of the landing window and it moved across the window. The top of the head was about a third of the way up the window.

23:45 Bill notices that it has suddenly become darker and stays dark.

23:59 Bill notices a brief flash of light on the ceiling over the stairs. It was where the ceiling was cut away where the stairs turn a right-angle, appearing to radiate away from a corner and to be jagged in shape and at least 20 centimetres long.

00:31 Whilst taking a break Bill was sitting at the table near to the kitchen door and was looking towards the parlour door when he briefly saw a dark shadow, like that cast by a broom handle.

***Report by Bill King***