


Investigation Report		
Investigation Site	Harfield Canal and St Mary's Church	
Investigation Date	29.06.2019	
Report By	Andrew Fazekas	
Team Members	Andy F, Maria, Ocean, Connie	
<p>Environmental factors</p> <p>It was very hot, dry day with no notable breeze. Whilst on the canal footpath investigators encountered several cyclists, walkers, narrow boats and their owners, and the typical associated sounds could be heard – water, talking, footsteps and so forth. There was the occasional whiff of BBQs.</p> <p>Notable sounds at St. Mary's included bird song, buzzing of insects, the occasional car passing by and the odd dog bark. The wooded area smelt of decay, no doubt resulting from stagnant water pools, rotting wood and foliage debris. A light fogginess is observed in the woodland area.</p> <p>Generic to both sites is the typical rustling sounds associated with investigators' clothing and footwear, and movement in and settling of chairs at St. Mary's.</p> <p>Equipment Used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ovilus Three Ghost Voice Box Silent vigil EMF meter Olympus recorder Infra-red cameras Temperature tracker <p>Historical Background Grand Union Canal</p> <p>From about 250 years ago before the rise of the railways, the canals and waterways of Britain were the arteries that sustained the country's burgeoning industrialisation.</p> <p>The locks and bridges, the canals themselves, and the aqueducts and the tunnels supporting them were cut by hand into the landscape by teams of navvies - itinerant labours employed on a construction site - often at a terrible human cost.</p> <p>And it seems that the ghosts of those lost navvies, as well as the families who eked out a colourful existence on the canal boats of Britain's waterways, still haunt the network along with other poor unfortunate souls who just disappeared one dark night never to return.</p>		

Then there is the sprightly figure of Spring Heeled Jack, who accompanies narrow boats beneath a bridge over the Grand Union Canal, just west of London, jumping from arch to arch, his steps echoing in the gloomy silence.

The Grand Union Canal is the longest canal in the UK running 137 miles with 166 locks from London to Birmingham. The canal in its current form was comprised via a series of mergers and connections during the late 18th and early 19th century. The canal was a busy route for commercial and passenger boats and was one of the last in Britain to keep commercial traffic alive up to its decline in the 1950s following growth of road transport. Today the Grand Union Canal is well used by leisure craft.

Pre-Investigation Grand Union Canal

A pre-investigation of the Grand Union Canal was not physically conducted, rather investigators intend trajectory from the bridge located on Moorhall Road to the Coy Carp was viewed on a map prior to the investigation.

Investigation Grand Union Canal

Investigators walked the stretch of canal from Moorhall Road, South Harefield to Black Jack's Mill, Harefield. Allegedly a headless swordsman and a monk have been sighted along this stretch. The team covered a large area in hot and sweaty conditions and got to see some interesting non paranormal scenery but no sign of the monk or the headless swordsman.

Bridge number 179 catches the attention of all investigators, it is blocked off at midpoint preventing crossing. A young couple on the bridge examining the barricade state they do not know why it is there, but the bridge has been closed for a number of years and on the other side is a business of some sort. Investigators draw parallels of the bridge to that built in Season 9 of the Walking Dead.

Marie is drawn to a narrow boat moored on the opposite side of the canal; she feels uneasy. The boat looks tired and unused. Ocean notes that the boat does not have a nice feel to it.

Further down the canal just past Jack's Mill investigators stumble across a small footpath leading to an area of overgrowth flanked by trees. Marie and Andy state, they feel drawn to the area but cannot pinpoint why. Ocean says a man in a neighbouring village is missing, he is believed to have ventured into nearby woodland and taken his life.

Due to overbearing heat, lack of water and walkers' fatigue, investigators decide to head back along the canal to Moorhall Road bridge. On the return journey Marie picks up on a Tudor presence in the area and describes associated smells (burning, etc.) and activity for that era (farming etc.).

Historical Background St Mary Church

St Mary's Parish Church is Harefield's oldest building, and has been its spiritual heart for centuries, despite being sited away from the geographical centre of the village. It has been described as "the Westminster Abbey of West Middlesex" because of its wealth of monuments. At the Domesday Survey of 1086 Harefield had a priest, and therefore presumably a church which was probably on the present site.

The Living was first owned by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, the Hospitallers who had a

Priory half a mile away near the present Moorhall Road. After the Dissolution of the Order in England, the Living passed to the Newdigate family, for many years also Lords of the Manor, and patrons of the Living to the present. Day. The church remained a "private peculiar" outside the jurisdiction of the Bishop until 1847 and became a Parish Church in 1898.

The building has been extended and renovated over the centuries with much of the work conducted intact or incorporated into the buildings current form. The Church and its cemetery are surrounded by woodland and nestled away from the village hub and main road. The cemetery's Anzac graves are home to over 100 soldiers of the First Australian Imperial Force (WW1) who died of their war injuries at the now Harefield Hospital. The cemetery is also home to seven members of the Marshall family of Denham. The Marshall's were bludgeoned to death with a sledgehammer at their home in Denham by John Owen in 1870; thirty-eight-year-old Owen was hung at Aylesbury on the 08th August 1870.

Pre-Investigation St Marys Church

Investigators viewed St. Mary's Church and its cemetery from just outside of the perimeter wall on arrival. The overall impeccable upkeep of the cemetery and church building was noted. The Anzac war graves were noted just inside the eastern cemetery entrance. Graves closest to the perimeter wall seemed largely to be of considerable age, it was very difficult if not impossible in some cases to read inscriptions. Newer graves seemed to be located to the rear of the church cemetery. The footpath along the western side of the Church leading to the northern end was overgrown with nettles and bramble, but it was passable.

Investigation St Marys Church

22:06 Investigators commence a silent vigil in a small woodland opening approx. 10 feet from the Church's northern most perimeter wall. Torches are turned off and an ambient temperature of 73°F is recorded. Ocean hears movement from an area approx. 8 feet or so in front of her, this is put down to animal activity. Shortly after Ocean is drawn to an area just outside of the perimeter wall, approx. 6 to 8 feet away.

22:12 Ocean observes a shadowy mass move from right to left across the area she is drawn to; it is a mass of about waist height. Connie hears footsteps in the woodland to the left of the group. This is followed by an intense breeze whipping around the treetops for approx. 10 to 15 seconds. Connie has a bad feeling and believes the team should leave the area, but investigators remain. Ocean observes another waist height shadowy mass move quickly across a very old gateway about 5 feet from the perimeter wall. Marie asks if anyone is in the woods, inviting them to interact with the team. Andy also asks the energy to come forward.

Andy checks the temperature and it has returned to 73°F, it had dropped to 72°F. Marie asks the energy if it is 'looking at us and wondering who we are', she asks for it to reveal its identity. Marie and Connie then hear footfall noise from within the woodland and say it feels as though the team are being circled. Ocean observes another shadowy mass cross the gateway from right to left and experiences goose bumps.

Investigators decide to relocate the vigil to the gateway area. The gate and rails are very, very old and embedded in the trunk of a very old tree, seemingly through considerable passage of time.

The gateway vigil commences at 22.23pm. The ambient temperature is recorded at 74°F which then drops to 73.5°F and then 72.6°F in less than a minute. Ocean asks the energy to show itself, throw something or make a noise. Andy activates Olivus and the following words

are spewed out – country, foliage, leaves, green, story, cough, deplete and very. Olivus is switched off as it is not making much sense.

Marie and Connie detect movement to the left of the group and hear what sounds like walking. Marie, Connie and Ocean hear further footsteps, and Connie hears an opening gate. Marie hears a low groan / moan in her ear. Ocean and Andy try to explain the sound away as a fly, but Marie is adamant it was not a fly. Ocean senses the energy is circling, stalking the team and there may be more than one energy present. Marie and Connie agree. Connie senses the energy is unfriendly, but Ocean interprets it as more scared or excited. Both agree that intent cannot be determined, and the overall sense is of being circled and watched, possibly by a more than one energy. Investigators observed a notable increase in insect activity. Marie feels the energy is behind this.

Ocean observes a further shadow in the woodland and a heightened smell of vegetative decay and mustiness. Connie hears a sound akin to someone or something trying to remove something stuck between teeth, like a grinding teeth noise. Marie senses a build-up in pressure, as does Ocean. Marie says she is being drawn to the cemetery and she feels apprehensive. She then spots something on the footpath, it has eyes. Marie and Andy discuss this might be a fox.

Olivus Dialogue; In the woodland

Country, foliage, leaves, green, story, cough, deplete, very,

22:45 investigators draw the woodland vigil to a close and walk through the cemetery towards the Anzac graves. Along the way the team notes a strong vanilla scent and the absence of a breeze. As investigators settle in on a bench near the Anzac graves the scent gets stronger, it has a cinnamon undertone. The ambient temperature remains steady at 75°F.

Connie feels uneasy about the area behind investigators, at the same time a strong breeze develops among the treetops, the breeze is not felt a ground level. Andy sets up the Ghost Box and Marie asks if the energy is watching us. Andy hears the box output the name 'Lenny'. Andy and Marie then hear a knock to their right. The box outputs another word which is indecipherable, investigators ask for the word to be repeated. More knocking sounds are heard, it's akin to knocking on wood.

Ocean senses the energy encountered in the woodland does not come into the Church's grounds. She explains when she briefly left the grounds for a comfort break, she felt the presence experienced in the woodland again. Connie face gets cold and Marie experiences neck pain.

Investigators continue to ask the energy to communicate through the Ghost Box. Marie feels the temperature drop and Connie experiences coldness on their left side, and Andy hears the name 'Connor' from the box.

Olivus is deployed and outputs Rabbit, solo, fiddle, six, window, rewind and observe. As it does so Ocean, Andy and Connie acknowledge the vanilla scent again. Ocean suggests the scent is being carried on a breeze, but there is no notable breeze, it is a very still evening.

Olivus outputs 'Kite' with a very strong signal. Andy notes that a Kite was a WW1 plane. Olivus outputs 'Hole'. Andy then hears a sound like a revving bike, but states it sounds distant. Olivus then outputs 'Hose'. The vanilla scent is back, and it is really strong, like before there is no breeze. The scent is so strong Andy likens it to someone vaping.

Investigators continue to ask the energy to communicate with them and asks for a name. Ocean received the name Fabien in her mind. Connie asks the energy if it is inside or outside of the cemetery, Olivus immediately outputs 'seek' accompanied by a very strong signal.

This is followed by the name 'Jim'. Andy asks why we should seek, and Connie hears the word 'devour' in her mind.

23:24 Olivus outputs 'Saturn' then 'video' and investigators experience the vanilla scent again. The smell is giving Marie a headache.

23:26 Olivus outputs – Veronica, Pat, verb, D, and the vanilla scent is again experienced. Olivus outputs – foe, Africa and climb. Connie and Marie hear a knock to group's right. Marie feels ill, she has a head and neck ache but says she feels calm. Olivus outputs 'Died' with a very strong signal. Connie and Marie hear footsteps on the outskirts of the cemetery near the trees.

The team discuss the scent and fact that there has only been a couple of breezes throughout the investigation thus far. Olivus output's 'new moon' - Ocean notes we are approaching new moon phase – 'loving' and 'warm'. Andy asks the energy why they are here and Olivus outputs 'hide'. Andy asks why we should hide, Olivus outputs 'glance'. Andy asks 'OK, where', Olivus outputs 'double' then 'Rasta'. Andy asks if the energy is called Rasta, Olivus outputs 'possible', followed by 'zoo' and 'mercury'. Andy and Marie note that Rastafarian originates from Ethiopia, Africa. The strong vanilla scent returns. Olivus outputs – camel, mattress, apple, door, human, holiday and down.

23:28 Marie continues to feel unwell and investigators decide to end the investigation.

Olivus dialogue Anzac Graves

rabbit, solo, fiddle, six, window, rewind, observe, kite, hole, hose, seek, Jim, Saturn, video, Veronica, Pat, verb, D, foe, Africa, climb, died, new moon, loving, warm, hide, glance, Rasta, possible, zoo, mercury, camel, mattress, apple, door, human, holiday, down.

Ghost Box Dialogue Anzac Graves

Lenny, Connor

Summary

Whilst the investigation of the Grand Union Canal did not throw up anything startling, the overgrown area adjacent to the canal maybe worthy of further investigation given two investigators experienced a sense of unease. It is documented that during Tudor times the land of Harefield was split as Brackenbury and Moorhall and farmed by tenants, this lends weight to the observation of the investigator who picked up a on Tudor presence within the Moorhall area.

St. Mary's Church cemetery and the woodland setting proved very active. In hindsight Olivus output makes sense, the words country, foliage, leaves and green certainly describe the investigators' setting, perhaps an opportunity was missed to hear a 'story' by its premature deactivation. Shadowy masses and footfall were observed in abundance within the woodland. Whilst investigators tried to explain many of the instances away by animal or insect activity, it became clear that this was not the case in many of the observations. Three investigators experienced a strong sense of being circled and watched, one investigator heard a moan/groan in their ear and another experienced piloerection (goosebumps), caused by extreme emotion, on observing a ghostly mass for a third time.

Activity continued whilst in the cemetery more notably via Olivus and the Ghost box. Research following the investigation lends weight to the importance of the output – Connor, Pat, foe, Africa, died and camel. The graves of Patrick Bryan Flaherty, a driver, Australian Brigade who died on 24/10/1918 and Roy Connor, private, Australian Infantry, who died 29/10/2018 lay within the Anzac cemetery. Is it possible that one or both fought in North Africa during WW1 and was the output 'camel' reference to the Australian Imperial Camel Corps Brigade who fought in the Band of Oases?

There were several other unexplained occurrences, the team inexplicitly experienced a strong vanilla scent with a cinnamon undertone on numerous occasions in the absence of any notable breeze. So strong was the scent that it resulted in one investigator feeling unwell. Might this be a residual scent? The team heard a knocking on wood sound several times whilst in the cemetery and could not locate a source for the noise. Furthermore, Olivus outputted the term 'New Moon', the investigation took place on the 29th June 2019 during the third quarter of the 1194 lunation, a new moon commenced on the 2nd July 2019.

Overall both locations warrant further paranormal investigation and in-depth research needs to be carried out on the output given in the cemetery.