

## **Research - Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales by Melony**

### **History**

The Castle was home to the Williams family for about two hundred years.

From 1920 - 1982 it housed Lowther College, a private girl's school.

It was refurbished as an historic house in the 1980s.

The building has had many phases of redevelopment, the latest one being in the nineteenth century, which transformed the structure into the castle we know today. It was during this rebuilding that a gruesome find was uncovered.

In 1829, during one of the periods of restoration, it is noted in the diary of Sir John Hay Williams that human bones were found near one of the chimneys.

It is also said that the bones were built back into the wall, which means they are still there to this day. Could this be the cause of the paranormal activity at Bodelwyddan Castle? Or is there something else in the Castle's history, which we don't know about?

Interestingly many of the castle documents were destroyed in a fire, which took place in a peripheral building of the castle in the 1920s. Therefore much of the history of the building is lost.

### **Paranormal Sightings/Experiences**

Parts of the house date from the fifteenth century when the building was a simple manor house, although there was probably a dwelling of some sort on the site long before this.

#### **Reported Paranormal phenomena have been broken down by area:**

##### **In the Victorian Games room**

An elderly lady (approx. 60 years old) who died through accidental causes has been observed in this room.

'Robert Thomas', a soldier was shot in the leg and is thought to have died at the castle, is said to be in this room and other areas of the castle.

A confused and angry lady, 'Margaret', is present. She may have been pregnant.

Victorian children have also been observed here.

### **In the Terrace Tea room**

A 'blue' lady has been seen in this room.

### **In the Dining room**

A 'Lilac' lady has been observed here near the piano

### **In the corridor**

A Matron-like figure has been reported in this area of the building.

### **In the Library**

'Henry', who may have once worked at the castle, is believed to visit this room.

A dog (Irish Wolfhound) has been reported in this room.

'Elizabeth', a teacher, is also present in this area.

### **In the Sculpture gallery**

This room is said to be visited by 'John', a 35 year old man who resided at the castle and died of natural causes. A Victorian lady has also been reported here.

### **In the Galleries**

A soldier has been seen in one of the galleries (during WW1 Bodelwyddan Castle was used as a recuperation centre and officers mess)

### **At the top of the stairs**

Two children have been observed sitting at the top of the stairs along with a 'negative male energy' called 'Frederick'.

### **In the Cellar**

A young boy (approx. 6-10 years old) and a man who was responsible for a fire have been present in this area.

### **Additional unexplained phenomena include:**

- 'Grey mist' which makes people feel nauseous and sounds of Billiards being played in Billiards room
- Unexplained noises (footsteps, sighs) and lights (inc. orbs), temperature and EMF variations, orbs, physical sensations of being touched, tingling sensations and even being choked!
- Overly emotional reactions in various rooms/areas

## **Bodelwyddan Investigation**

### **Mel**

Upon arrival our group was introduced to the three Bodelwyddan Castle Paranormal resident representatives who would accompany us throughout our investigation. They started by giving us a guided tour of the building and we used this opportunity to take baseline temperature readings, initial impressions and photographs.

After this we split into two groups, so Kev, Donna, 1 Bod Rep & I went to the Ladies Drawing Room. We took further baseline temperature readings and various pictures using digital cameras, some of which picked up anomalies that we believe to be caused by the many reflective surfaces (glass covered pictures) in the room. There were also some orbs caught on camera, but this was not unexpected given the abundance of reflective surfaces.

We conducted a vigil, which produced no results on camera and no sounds or changes in temperature. Upon larger reviewing the camcorder footage after the vigil we noticed an anomaly which appeared like a feather or piece of fluff 'floating' across the image after the vigil which could not be explained. I had not noticed anything at the time and I then checked the flooring thoroughly and could not find anything there which tallied up with this anomaly.

We also tried glass divination as a group before leaving the room, but I felt the results were inconclusive as the small folding table used was extremely unsteady and the glass itself unsuited to this experiment.

After regrouping at the base camp we again split into two group and Jodie, Kev, 2 Bod reps and I investigated the cellar. I found this a difficult room as there were lots of noise from both freezers/electrical appliances and the sound of footsteps and voices from the second group above. We again conducted a vigil, which did not produce any conclusive results and no anomalies were picked up on the cameras or camcorders.

We met at the base camp as agreed and split into two groups' a third time, Martyn, Paula, Jodie and 1 Bod rep conducted a vigil in the Sculpture room, which produced no results on camera, camcorder or audio. This room did make me feel extremely uneasy throughout the vigil, but it did not appear to have this effect on anyone else in the room as they all appeared quite at ease!

We split again for a fourth vigil in the Library, which produced no results. Light anomalies and orbs appearing in camera photos can most likely be attributed to the many reflective surfaces.

We regrouped and conducted a final vigil as a full group in the Victorian Games room, which produced no results on camera or audio, but camcorder footage has picked up movement on a toy carousel previously in the evening, which I did not observe at the time.

I found this a difficult investigation for a number of factors, the use of the building as part of the National Portrait Gallery meant large amounts of reflective surfaces were present and we also had two new members in the group along with the three resident representatives.

### **Paula**

As most of the team have also noted, this castle certainly looks the part. However apart from one incident in the Victorian Games room, it remained extremely quiet for most of the evening. It felt a very calm and peaceful venue, with no hint of menace, apart from at the top of the stairs heading into the games room. On arriving in this room, I was struck by the feeling that it wasn't all it appeared to be. It had a clinical feel to it and didn't seem to 'match' the rest of the castle. As it turns out, it used to be a kind of sick bay and was sectioned off into smaller rooms. The highlight of the investigation for me, was turning around in the toy room and seeing the carousel turning of its own volition. I can report that the hairs on the back of my neck were most definitely standing on end! We established that none of the floorboards were unstable enough to create the effect, nor were any of the team or the Castle representatives near it at the time and hadn't been for a good 5 minutes or so. I personally would like to go back again to conduct a more thorough investigation of this fascinating place.

### **Kevin**

This location certainly looks the part from the outside. The trees seem to shroud the castle in a blanket and you only get glimpses of the building whilst walking up the path. It looks very Hollywood movie style but, despite this, the inside felt warm, comfortable, cosy and inviting. It felt like walking into a completely different building.

The investigation itself, for me, was a story of two halves. It started off very well and then quickly fell flat where it remained for the rest of the investigation. The team took a very analytical approach to the investigation.

The first vigil seemed to be where all of the activity occurred. What with the strange... dare I say "orb-like" footage on my camera and the Carousel footage on Paula's. These were caught by separate groups during the same time period. This fascinates me as I wonder what could cause this surge in activity. Perhaps it ties in with, say, a daily event in the Castle? Or could it just have been our presence that seemed to encourage the activity? Or not forgetting pure coincidence. This, of course, then raises an important question... why the sudden drop off in activity? I feel this matter requires much more investigation and research before a serious conclusion can be made. I also wonder if this type of occurrence has been witnessed by the staff of the castle before?

### **Jodie**

Arriving at the Castle I thought we were in for an active night. The castle certainly looked the part of a "haunted castle"!

Walking through the castle I didn't really pick up on much apart from in the main hall and by the stairs. It felt as if someone was watching over the stairs. Walking up the stairs it felt cold and as if a presence was there.

In the Victorian Games room it felt strange, like it wasn't part of the castle at all. It felt as if it wasn't as old as the rest of the building but there was something else about the room. It felt as if there was some kind of "illness" to the room. We later found out that the room was used as a hospital wing. This room I believe was the most active. Taking part in an experiment made me feel uneasy in the room, as if a point was being made.

In the cellar I didn't really feel anything, we had been told that a table tipping activity had been carried out here but I did not pick up on anything else in the cellar. It was very crowded with old bits of furniture and boxes that didn't really help. There were some sounds that we couldn't prove but they did not sound paranormal.

I found it interesting that one of the group felt uncomfortable in a room where there didn't appear to be much activity. We were told that bones were buried in the walls in this particular room, but the person in question is a sceptic!!

I would like to return to the castle again, I felt being tired made me less "open" to some of the happenings during the night.

### **Martyn**

Unfortunately little to report on this one.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team did report on some strange activity, however the night was far from active for my group with only 1 wisp caught on camera which could be explained as a dust mote or hair caught in a draft.

I can see that the staff at the castle have put a lot of thought into their paranormal tours and the way they are organised was impressive.