

Skirrid Inn – Abergavenny
24 November 2007
Investigation Report

Draig Paranormal

Jodie

I had been looking forward to the Skirrid Investigation for a while and when we arrived I wasn't disappointed!

The landlord was very welcoming and we took our equipment up to the rooms we would be using as base. As the Skirrid is a working pub we waited for closing before the landlord showed us around. We used this time to take a wander up to the graveyard nearby.

I felt at ease as soon as we entered the Skirrid but when I went up to the attic I was stopped by a feeling of dread about three steps from the door leading into the main attic. I felt very cold and very uncomfortable and did not want to see what was beyond the door so naturally I turned and half ran back to the rest of the group a couple of whom thought this was highly amusing!

For the first half of the night we decided we would investigate the bedrooms (yes the ones we would be staying in for the night!) In room one we had a couple of weird pictures and during a séance I became cold, shortly after that there was a noise that came from behind me, but were unable to find a reason for this. This was all we had from the rooms, room 2 and 3 seems quiet.

We then spent the rest of the investigation downstairs in the pub and restaurant. In the pub we held a glass séance and we had quite a bit of movement from the glass, there was also an unexplained noise over by the restaurant. From the questions asked it appeared that the person was someone connected to the Skirrid. I didn't feel uncomfortable with the séance, it seemed quite relaxed but the movement became quite pronounced so we decided to move onto table tipping. The first time we tried this we did not get much response so decided to go into the restaurant.

The restaurant seemed quite eerie to me, we started with the glass séance and got quite a bit of movement but my attention wasn't really on the glass, I was more concerned by the fluctuating temperature and the fact that I became very emotional, I felt like there was a presence in the room connected to me but couldn't explain why. There was movement in the corner of the room near the kitchen but we couldn't get a clear look due to the darkness, it could have been a trick of the eye but who knows!

We then went back to the pub and started a very enthusiastic table tipping, which seemed to suggest that whoever was trying to communicate with us was connected to the Skirrid.

Following this we decided to call it a night and head to our rooms for the night. I was feeling quite settled and not at all bothered about spending the night in a haunted room..... This all changed once I was in bed and became convinced there was something in the room with me and my roomie, I was just about to say this out loud when there was an horrendous noise outside the room followed by a bang. I would probably have the part in a horror movie where everyone shouts at the screen “no don’t do it!” because I went to see if I could find what made the noise... I got to the door and opened it a small bit, I could see no one else was up but that was it as I couldn’t bring myself to open the door any further! Needless to say I didn’t get much sleep after that!!

Kev

Well... another interesting investigation. I witnessed a couple of strange events directly I am glad that we were able to investigate the Inn as it gave me a chance to return to the location in the hope of answering some personal questions from a previous investigation. In terms of Draig Paranormal it, again, helped us to develop better practices when carrying out certain experiments & tests. The more experience we can have the better.

What strikes me as odd about this particular investigation is that the activity we did get seemed to be of a personal nature. By this I mean that the activity tended to be witnessed by an individual and not the team as a whole. This has occurred on both occasions I’ve been there and fascinates me greatly. For example... even before the investigation started I witnessed a figure walk past the open door of bedroom No. 2 and upon searching the area of the stairs we found no-one around. This was not the only time I witnessed an event like that. A similar incident happened when we were in the restaurant on the final vigil and I witnessed, what I can only describe as a large white shadow, move towards the kitchen door. I cannot understand why I was the only one to experience this kind of event that night.

The earlier vigils were relatively un-eventful as nothing occurred for/to me & despite spending time alone in the Condemned Mans cell. For me...the investigation began to gain momentum when carrying out our Table Tipping & Glass Séance experiments.

The experiment with the Glass in the bar area took a while before we started to get definite movement. Early responses to questions were vague and it’s important to have clearly defined answers in these kinds of experiments. This is why we needed to re-confirm questions at various times. The séance was extremely interesting although, ultimately, did not provide us with much information about the person we were supposedly communicating with. One thing to bear in mind about Glass Séance’s and that “involuntary movement” might be a possible cause is that ... If this were true ... Why does the glass not move right from the start?? Why did our glass take a while to start moving and secondly... why did we not always get movement in these experiments? Some food for thought in future investigations.

Again... The Table tipping séance was fascinating for me as this a relatively new experiment carried out by us and it seemed to produce a result. Although I would have preferred actual movement across the floor of the bar we did get some rocking of the table. This rocking would be quite pronounced at times. I’m fairly certain we checked

the table and it's positioning on floor to ensure there was no chance of rocking so was pleasantly surprised when we got the movement. Having participated in this type of experiment in the past and having seen amazing results I know that this can work and am keen for us to incorporate this in future investigations where ever possible.

Overall... this was an enjoyable investigation. The Inn seems to be a great venue for spirit communication via the Glass or Table & more so than any other location we have been to.

Paula

I'd been looking forward to visiting the Skirrid Inn for some time now and I have to say it's a fabulous place, in terms of its history, it's activity, not to mention the warm welcome we received and lovely food they serve!

Although others witnessed shadows etc during the course of the investigation, this was not something that actually happened to me. I was of course present during the glass séance and the table tipping experiments and was suitably impressed. One note of caution however on Kev's point of why the glass didn't move straight away if attributed to involuntary movement – it may be the case that as people sit in one position for a length of time with their arm outstretched, it may well be that the muscles in their arm begin to become fatigued and perhaps twitch which could cause the momentum. This point could equally be argued in terms of the table tipping, it can cause your back to ache considerably and there may be some unconscious shifting that causes the table to move. However, although I'm not convinced by the glass séance we held, I am more inclined to place more credibility in our table tipping. All efforts were made to ensure the table was relatively stable and at certain points, various members all removed their hands from the table and it continued to shift.

At the end of the evening, after everyone had retired to bed, it was down to me to let Kev out the back door and bolt it after him. This was done and the bolt made a horrendous and very distinctive screech as it was put in place. Approximately 20 minutes later, the very same noise was heard by myself and my room mate. There was no way that anyone had entered the Inn as the front door squeaked extremely loudly no matter how careful you were and no way that the noise came from anywhere but that bolt! It certainly scared me, particularly as we checked and nobody was seen or heard out of their rooms.

I'd love to go back to the Skirrid as I feel there are many more untapped secrets yet to be revealed. I look forward to a rematch!

Donna

I noticed that the inn was a lot smaller than I thought but it is a lovely place, both inside and out

We carried out the base line tests upstairs first whilst we waited for the pub to close. All the bedrooms temperatures were between 13 and 14 degrees centigrade. We then had some time to spare so we took a walk to the graveyard. When the pub finally closed we had a quick tour and then were locked

in. We carried out the base line tests and then got started on the investigation. We all decided to work in one group due to the size of the inn.

We started upstairs in bedroom one and then worked through to two and three, they all felt fine to me and I was very calm. While we were in bedroom three one of the team members went in to the prisoner's cell but nothing happened.

We then had a little break and headed downstairs,(which I did not like going up and down as I have a fear of floorboards that have gaps in). We started in the main bar where we carried out a séance with a glass on top of the table which was very interesting to a sceptic, we then tried table tipping which I found more interesting as it continued to move even when different members took their hands off it.

We then moved to the restaurant and it was much colder in there. We did the séance with a glass again and the temp dropped considerably. One of the team members thought he had seen something in the corner of the room so I took a temp reading and it dropped from 13 to 9 degrees centigrade, I found that interesting but as it was by the door of the kitchen I'm not sure how much this affected it.

I really enjoyed the night and would definitely like to go back there.

Mel

There were a few incidents of interest during our vigil at the Skirrid Inn. The first occurred in Bedroom 1 in which there appeared to be a draft slightly moving the dried flowers and other objects around the fireplace, however the fireplace itself was boarded up and no actual draft was perceptible from there upon further investigation.

In the dining room there were some sudden drops, then raises in temperature over a matter of minutes which were able to be seen changing on a second-by-second basis on the laser temperature gauge.

Whilst in the main bar area we conducted a glass séance and experienced considerable movement, this continued for some time and did not seem affected by various people removing their fingers from the glass so as to discount any individual purposefully moving the glass. We then attempted table tipping, with inconclusive results in my opinion due to the uneven floor below the table.