

Draig Paranormal
Investigation Findings from Ram Inn, Wotten-
under-Edge
19 August 2006

Whilst there may be incidents in this report that cannot at present be attributed to "natural" causes, this report is in no way intended to make a definitive argument for paranormal activity at the above property.

Present at Investigation

Paula, Kevin, Jodie, Martyn and Mel - Members
Donna and Amanda - Guests

Equipment Used

Concord digital camera
Kodak digital camera
Samsung digital camera
35mm camera
EMF meter
Laser Temperature Gauges
Samsung 8mm Camcorder
Hitachi 8mm Camcorder
Sony DCR-TRV22E Camcorder
Sony HVL-IRH2 Nightshot IR Illuminator
Motion detectors
2 digital Dictaphones
1 tape Dictaphone
Walkie Talkies

Structure of Investigation

The group initially spent some time with John, the owner of the Ram Inn, whilst he showed us around the property. Normally, we would request that we don't receive specific information prior to an investigation about suspected cases of paranormal activity, however on this occasion, as a courtesy to John who is clearly very enthusiastic about the reputation of the Inn and given the amount of information available on the property and the numerous investigations carried out by other researchers, it would have been very difficult not to have heard various accounts prior to our visit. With this in mind, the group gave their initial view of the place before any organised investigation began.

Temperature readings were taken in the rooms that we planned to investigate whilst John showed us around and various photographs were taken.

The team then split into two groups, Martyn, Paula and Jodie in one and Kevin, Mel and our guests Donna and Amanda in the other.

Initial Views

There was a mixed reaction to the Inn from the group. Both Martyn and Paula felt very uneasy in the Bishop's Room, to the extent that Martyn initially refused to investigate it. The attic was also a source of unease for most of the group, with Kev reporting feeling dizzy, although this could be attributed to the uneven floor. Cold spots were felt in the bar area, Donna felt very emotional in this area and had the sensation of cobwebs across her face, as did Amanda. Jodie did experience some difficulties with the digital camera outside the Witches Room, when it froze completely and was completely inoperable for several minutes. The only exception to these feelings was Mel, who reported experiencing no feelings of unease and was merely fascinated by the building itself.

Activity

The teams were asked to keep written records of any unusual happenings or feelings in each room that they visited; the findings are as follows:

General team walkabout

There were numerous high EMF readings throughout the property, however due to the amount of stuff in there and the unknown situation with regards to rewiring, it's difficult to know what is causing the fluctuation. There were readings of 7mg over the beds in the Bishops Room, however there is some evidence to suggest that springs from old beds may cause these readings to be higher than average. A reading of 7mg was also recorded around the clock area. In the bar area and the Witches Room, the readings from the EMF meter actually went off the scale. Both Amanda and Donna reported picking up the names of possible spirits, suggesting Josephine Collins (1587), who appeared to be in a blue dress and also Amelia or something similar. We have been unable so far, to verify either of these names. In the attic area, Amanda reported the EMF meter going off, without her operating it.

Team 1 (Paula, Martyn, Jodie) - The Witches Room

Initial temperature readings were taken which averaged out throughout the room as between 17.5 and 18.5 degrees. At the beginning of our vigil however the temperature made a massive, although brief, jump from 17.5 to 30 degrees and then back down again to 17.5. At this time, Paula also felt the sensation of somebody walking past her, although nothing was seen on the footage. For some reason the dining table in the room felt noticeably colder, although the temperature gauges didn't show any fluctuation.

A reasonably bright, dense, white orb was captured on digital camera on the bed in the room for which we can find no obvious cause.

Approximately half way through the vigil, the walkie-talkie began emitting static bursts; the other group was contacted to ascertain if they were pressing the talk button or if their handset was emitting the same noise, however they informed us that their handset was not being used and no noises were coming from it. These bursts of static continued throughout the vigil.

At times the floor in the room felt as if it was vibrating, however it should be noted that the floor is very uneven and even the slightest movement could cause this sensation. Approximately 40 minutes into the vigil, the torches began dimming and the batteries died a few minutes later (new batteries had been placed in them prior to the start of the investigation). The batteries were removed and felt extremely hot to the touch, although the inside of the torch was quite cool. The digital camera and the camcorder also began failing at this point. The group then decided to call time on the vigil and move back to the base room to sort out the equipment.

Team 1 (Paula, Martyn, Jodie) - The Bishop's Room

Initial temperature readings in the room were showing as between 16 and 18 degrees. Both Paula and Martyn had a very strong sense of foreboding in this room, at one point Martyn was feeling particularly negative and had vocalised this, when Paula suggested that we try to keep a positive frame of mind, she had a sensation that could only be described as if she had been punched in the stomach, although no actual pain was felt. Several minutes later, Martin's heavily gelled hair stood on end, as did Paula's. Both the digital camera and the camcorder froze at this point and Paula began experiencing a headache and nausea. These feelings continued to come and go throughout the vigil, although Jodie reports that she although she felt uneasy, it wasn't to the same degree as Martyn and Paula. Finally, approximately 30 minutes into the vigil, there was an extremely loud and prolonged burst of static from the walkie-talkie (a new handset was being used, in case of malfunction with the set used in Witches Room) and the digital cameras began to turn on and off, with the LCD screens flashing rapidly. At this point, panic set in amongst the group, the lights were turned back on and it was decided to leave the room. Paula continued to feel nauseous for approximately the next half an hour and was visibly shaken.

Team 2 (Kev, Mel, Donna, Amanda) - The Barn

Initial temperature readings were 16 - 17 degrees. There were no changes in these temperatures throughout the hour-long vigil, although some members of the group reported feeling colder. There were some light anomalies spotted, but nothing that was felt as conclusive.

Team 2 (Kev, Mel, Donna, Amanda) - The Witches Room

Initial temperature readings were 17 - 18 degrees. No fluctuations in temperature. A possible movement was detected on landing outside the room and a tap was heard on the radiator. The room remained quiet and uneventful for the rest of the vigil.

Group Vigil - Bishops Room

Due to the experiences of Group 1, it was decided that the full team would conduct a vigil in the Bishops Room, however apart from very small bursts of occasional static from the walkie-talkie, no further activity was noted.

Séance in Bar area

As with the Bishops Room, no activity was noted, with the exception of occasional bursts of static from the walkie-talkie.

Individual Team Views

Mel

As the group sceptic I found this a difficult investigation, particularly due to the exposure the Ancient Ram Inn has already had on 'Most Haunted' and it's well documented paranormal reputation. Added to this, upon our arrival at the Inn, the owner was quick to give us an enthusiastic lesson about the supernatural history of the Inn followed by a detailed guided tour, identifying which ghosts and paranormal phenomena were known to appear in each area. This was likely to cause preformed impressions and ideas, which would have an effect, subconscious or otherwise, upon the group's interpretation of experiences through the evening.

Many efforts were made by the Draig Team to identify non-paranormal explanations for occurrences (noises, changes in temperature, equipment malfunctions, orbs and other photographed phenomena), which I found very encouraging.

I personally did not experience any feeling of uneasiness or discomfort (apart from chilly feet due to a bad choice of footwear!) in any part of the Ram Inn. Neither did I notice any of the standard 'paranormal' phenomena - unexplained noises/voices/images/lights, moved objects, changes in temperature.

Martyn

Even if it wasn't, this place looks as if it should be haunted. On the outside the Ram looks as if it would be more at home on an old cart road frequented by highwaymen, than a road in a modern village. On the inside it's just as strange with its twisted ancient wooden beams and old stonewalls housing a huge collection of bric-a-brac and oddities. This was the first investigation of this kind I had been involved with and as such I wasn't sure what to expect. The "Witches room" didn't provoke any particular emotions or sensations for me, although we did experience equipment malfunctioning during our first vigil. The "Bishops Room" however, had a foreboding atmosphere that put me on edge from the start, more so after all our equipment malfunctioned at the same time during the time we spent in there and at times I felt we were definitely not welcome there. It's a shame we didn't get a repeat performance during the full group vigil. It's certainly a place I'd like to revisit and conduct another investigation of the place.

Key

Having now been here twice I have come to suspect that the Ram Inn is a great venue for evp's but not spiritual activity. The hype surrounding the place is legendary. Although the place has a very rich history and oozes atmosphere & character, I truly believe the place isn't actually haunted by spirits although given this history it should be but I feel that it may well be a case that this building is able to playback past events like a vcr recording (Stonewall theory) at certain times and under certain conditions and it is this that gives the impression that the place is haunted. Overall, I found the investigation to be extremely fascinating, despite my groups lack of activity, due to the fact that it has raised more questions than it answered. I'm generally pleased with how the night went and I am very keen to go back again one day to try and answer at least some of the questions that have been raised since the investigation.

Jodie

My first impression when I walked into the Ram, was what have I let myself in for?! In order to conduct a true investigation I would have been happier not to receive prior information about the property, but given the amount of documentation out there, that was difficult to achieve with this investigation. I felt

apprehensive at times, but I don't know whether this was due to an anticipation that something might happen, or the terror of a spider falling on me! I felt calm in the Witches Room but didn't like the Bishops Room at all. Whilst investigating the Witches Room, I had a mixture of feelings such as calmness but also wariness. In the Bishops Room however, I felt cold on occasions and was scared stupid when the walkie talkie gave an extremely loud static burst and the lcd on the cameras started flashing.

Paula

Well, looking back at the investigation, I can see why the Ram Inn has such a reputation for paranormal activity. As it's quite well documented and John is so enthusiastic about the place and it's strange happenings, it could be quite easy to fall into the trap of a heightened state of emotions whilst conducting the investigation. Although I do believe in spirits, I am however very careful to try and rule out any possible physical explanations for light anomalies and strange noises etc. During the course of our investigation however I felt very uneasy in certain places and in the Bishops Room, downright terrified, the feeling of animosity directed towards us in the first vigil was unmistakable and not something that I'd care to experience again. It affected me so badly that after the interference with the equipment I point blank refused to enter the room again and it took a full 45 mins before I could stop physically shaking. The Ram Inn certainly lived up to its reputation for me and I'm looking forward (in a very strange way) to going back and conducting a more thorough investigation.

Summary

Whilst we cannot deem the incidents that we witnessed throughout the evening "paranormal" as such, there's no doubt that some of our footage and experiences, appear at present to have no rational explanation. It's certainly interesting that only the one group experienced the interference with the equipment during their vigil and this was not repeated during the second vigil in the Bishops Room.

One thing that our visit did demonstrate quite clearly, is that it's very easy to put every single noise or equipment malfunction down to paranormal activity. The more tired you become, the easier it is for the panic to set in at even the slightest of strange noises.

The Ram Inn is certainly a fascinating place and one that deserves another visit to enable us to carry out more structured experiments to rule out certain aspects and potential naturally occurring causes. Maybe our next visit will provide us with some conclusive evidence.....