

Location:
Castle of Comfort

Date:
Saturday 28th February 2009

Previous Activity:
Other groups have investigated the Castle of Comfort and have reported audibles in the corridor upstairs, and light anomalies have also been seen. Different spirits have been picked up; the rooms where activity has been seen/heard are the Mariner's room, Italian room and Tintern room.

The investigation begins:
The team met at the Castle of Comfort at 8.00pm, we started with a sensory mapping experiment – could we sense whether a room had activity from their name/room number alone. We then went inside the property and carried out a walk around where we could write down whether we sensed any activity in any of the rooms. Andy was out in the corridor by the step down to the lower corridor with Phil, when he felt that he had been hit on the back of the head. Gayle came out in the corridor after this happened, unaware that Andy had felt a physical blow. She was looking at what she thought was a Wifi plug in the wall just past the steps, she turned to go back up to the Mariner's room but as she was walking up the step; she felt as though the back of her head had brushed the beam in the ceiling – but it was a good foot and a half away from the top of her head.

Members attending:

Wendy
Hayley
Claire
Phil
Jamie
Gayle
Andy
Scott
Tina
Dan
Caroline

Equipment:

Sony Camcorders (with IR illuminators)
Beam Breakers
Digital cameras

Investigation Areas:

Mariners room
Italian room
Tintern room
The upstairs corridor

EVP Experiment

Before starting vigils we conducted an EVP experiment as a group. Claire had a list of questions e.g. 'Has anyone died here', 'if anyone died here – how did you die'. Jamie recorded the responses with his recording equipment. A 15 second gap was left after each question, and each question was repeated twice. As the group observed the experiment we all noted a lot of tapping noises that seemed to coincide with the questions being asked. However, there is no way for us to determine whether these noises were made by something paranormal, or whether it was merely the building settling. However, there were what sounded like very loud taps on the microphone itself, when we played the recording back – no one was near the microphone, so we don't know what caused these.

Whilst Claire was asking the questions Gayle picked up that a woman had died in the 1780's. Wendy saw anomalies around Claire's head on when she first started asking questions. At one point a noise was heard outside the door, and some members of the group felt that the door was about to burst open. We decided that instead of splitting into groups, we would investigate the location as one big group. We felt that we were creating a lot of energy as one large group, and could get more activity.

First Vigil

Mariners Room

After all the tapping noises that we heard during the EVP experiment, the room was very quiet during this vigil. Phil and Gayle were sat facing the wall which leads to the bathroom, and both reported seeing small lights. Dan was facing Gayle and Phil, and saw a light anomaly above their heads, just under the canopy of the bed; it was a thin spirally, shape which floated forwards.

Second Vigil

Italian Room – and two people investigated the corridor/Coleridge room

Andy and Phil investigated the corridor from the Italian room round to Coleridge. Wendy and Gayle sat on the sofa by the bathroom, everyone else was in the main bedroom area of the Italian room. Claire started calling out to see if there were any spirits in the room with us. Jamie and Scott carried on calling out as they could sense the energy of a woman in the room, Wendy and Gayle could hear tapping noises coming from the bathroom which seemed to be happening in response to their questions. Jamie reported that he thought there was a lady called Sarah present, he could see her in a long blue gown. Scott called out to Sarah to come forward, just after that Wendy and Gayle started feeling sick, Gayle had to get out of the corridor as she was physically shaking – from the energy that the woman was putting on her and Wendy. Scott, Jamie and Claire went to sit with Wendy by the bathroom and they were picking up on the presence of a lady (thought to be called Sarah). In his mind's eye Scott could see a lady who looked like she was in her mid 20's, with dark hair. He felt a tightening around his neck and felt that the lady was either hung or choked. He also felt that the lady was pregnant and that the father of the baby did not want to know, or accept it

At one point a loud knock was heard on the wall behind the sofa, we checked with Andy and Phil to see if they had made / heard the noise as they were in the corridor behind the room but they hadn't.

Andy and Phil were hearing tapping noises out in the corridor, they were down by the Coleridge room when they heard noises from inside the room. They went into the room and asked out, but nothing happened. They left the room and asked for something to happen in the room and again they heard noises, but upon going into the room again; nothing would happen.

Down by the plant at the dog-leg in the corridor Phil and Andy heard a female voice making a strained noise. It did seem separate from the other guests voices, who were in the lounge area below.

Third Vigil

Tintern room

Claire started calling out to see if there were any spirits that wanted to communicate with us. We didn't physically hear or see anything. A little while into the vigil, Andy said that a man had come to him because they shared the same name. Andrew Collier was the man's name, he put a physical sensation of a sharp pain in Andy's neck; as though his neck had been broken. Andy got more information from Andrew, that he had worked on the building and had fallen from scaffolding and had broken his neck. Scott had a sharp pain on the upper left part of his chest, and was in a lot of pain – but didn't pick up any further information to explain the pain.

Most of the group felt that the room was very quiet, and did not experience anything.

Fourth Vigil

Glass divination in the Mariner's room and Italian room. And another investigation in the corridor.

The group split into two, with one group attempting a glass divination in the Mariner's room, with the other group out in the hall way asking for signs to show that there were spirits present. The group carrying out the glass divination started behaving strangely, they were all laughing and once they had composed themselves; started laughing again. They decided to move rooms to see if they could concentrate their energies elsewhere. The Italian room was the favourite place to try, to see if they could contact the female energy that was sensed earlier in the room. The group called out for any spirits that wished to contact them to move the glass. The glass started to move and we established for the glass to be moved in one direction to indicate 'yes' and another direction to indicate 'no'. We were apparently communicating with a female, who was married to a landlord. As Claire knew some of the history, she asked if the female had died by falling in the well, the answer was 'yes'. We asked if she was murdered, 'no'. We asked if she had died by accident, 'yes'. We asked if she had a child, and she indicated 'yes', 'one child'. The divination then came abruptly to a stop, we lost contact. Out in the corridor the other group were hearing taps and noises coming from the opposite end of the corridor to where they were located, they moved nearer to where the noises were coming from. They called out again, but then the noises changed to the opposite end, where they had been previously stood; they felt as

though they were being played with.

Quotes:

Gayle: I enjoyed our investigation at the Castle of Comfort , I was really pleased with the information that I picked up, as I later found out that a local lady had died on her way to the property when it was a cider house – the year was 1789. So although she hadn't died on the property, she was telling me that she was still around.

Dan: The Castle of Comfort is a historic guest establishment which looks spooky from the outside and has a few interesting remaining rooms like the Italian; although unfortunately not much activity was captured on the night.

Conclusion

It was an interesting property to investigate, the night wasn't hugely eventful although there was some strange phenomena that deserves further investigation.

A big thank you to Carol and Nigel Venner for allowing us to investigate the Castle of Comfort, and for providing Claire with lots of information about the building. We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit, so thank you very much.