

Location:

Pendennis Castle joint investigation with SI UK

Date:

Saturday 7th March 2009

Previous Activity:

There are many different 'ghosts' associated with Pendennis Castle, it's thought to be home to at least eight different ghosts, including a lieutenant governor, scullery girl and head cook. The staircase is believed to be haunted, after the death of a kitchen maid. She apparently fell to her death while carrying a tray of food. Sometimes her piercing screams can still be heard... Another ghost, believed to roam the castle, lives in a Tudor kitchen at Pendennis. The room is rarely used by the public, but those who have been inside say they hear footsteps on the staircase, even though it no longer leads anywhere.

Members attending:

Wendy
Claire
Phil
Jamie
Gayle
Andy
Scott
Caroline
Emma
Emily

Equipment:

Sony Camcorders (with IR illuminators)
Digital cameras

Investigation Areas:

One-Gun Battery
East Bastion
Tudor Kitchen
Half Moon Battery
The Keep
Downstairs area of the 1901 Barrack Block
Shop
Guardhouse

First Vigil

One-Gun Battery

East Bastion

Tudor Kitchen

Wendy, Caroline and Emily investigated the Tudor kitchen, during their vigil Wendy felt as though there was someone stood next to her. And Caroline and Emily both felt uneasy. Emily felt really tight chested and sick, and had to leave the area.

In the One-Gun Battery Gayle felt sick upon entering the area and then had a sharp stabbing pain at the top of her left leg, near her groin. She left and later went back to the area, and had the same pain but at the back of her top left leg.

Scott walked into the area and had his back to the wall; he then felt a hand on his back.

Claire felt someone was standing in the right hand corner of the room. A tall man, thin, moustache and wearing a blue and red uniform and pill box hat (I did notice later trousers like this hanging up outside in the corridor, so felt that this could have been suggestion). She felt he may have been seen, but then when the person has looked again he's gone. Gayle got the date 1810 in connection with this gentleman, and also 'red' being associated with his regiment (although as Claire later pointed out to Gayle; there were blue trousers with a red stripe in the corridor, which could have been suggestion).

Jamie, Phil, Claire and Gayle all heard noises in the corridor area of the One-Gun.

Andy, Emma and Scott were in the East Bastion when they heard what sounded like men's voices having a conversation on the other side of the wall in the disused room on the left of the stairs (if you were going down the stairs). Andy picked up on footsteps being heard walking down the stairs. And he also got the name Corporal Jim/Jimmy Brown. When Scott was stood at the bottom of the stairs, he felt as though he was surrounded by lots of people.

When Andy was walking from East Bastion to One-Gun, he was drawn to the third cannon from the East Bastion end on the main outside wall. He felt a man had lost his life due to the cannon recoil, and had been crushed. He also felt that that particular row of cannons did not belong to Pendennis Castle, they belonged elsewhere.

Andy picked up on a man at One Gun Battery who was quite angry about an accident in which he died, it could have been prevented; he died in an explosion.

Scott also picked up on a man outside One gun battery: he was aware of a guy getting blown up and feeling a body lying on the floor, then being carried down steps and body laid out in the room underground.

Claire thought she heard what sounded like a parade, but she thought it could have been caused by noises the wind was making. The group were outside One-Gun walking back to base when they heard a loud piercing scream of a woman, on investigation and after asking SI UK; no explanation could be found for the scream. On the way back to the 1901 Barrack block, Gayle had the name Michael James come to her. Upon entering the base room, Jamie thought that one of the SI UK team were sat writing at one of the tables they were sat at; upon looking again no-one was there, and SI UK had not returned from their first vigil.

Second Vigil

Half Moon Battery

Claire sensed a guy at the end of the corridor which we didn't have access to. Scott got this too. Then she heard a woman scream which is on our footage.

She also sensed 3 quite young guys in the room near the ammunitions. From the 2nd world war period. They were laughing at us standing in the dark, wondering what on earth we were doing!

Gayle felt unwell, her stomach kept churning. Emily felt strange in the room to the far left of the corridor (where there was a hatch through to the room in front). She also didn't like the area at the end of the corridor that was blocked off.

Third Vigil

The Keep

Andy, Claire and Scott all thought that they could hear a woman's voice humming near the stairs, in the downstairs area of The Keep. (They did mention that the weather was pretty bad at the time, and the flag was waving around on the pole – all contributing to noises that could be heard) .The group all ventured down the stairs to see what they could find. Andy, Claire and Scott were all picking up on a cook; they described her as a slim lady and could see her near the doorway by the bottom of the stairs. With the third floor left to investigate, everyone ventured upstairs; and split out across all the rooms. Jamie could feel and hear a lady who was sat knitting in the corner of the small room off the bedroom.

Whilst in the bedroom Gayle had the image of a tower on fire impressed upon her and upon telling Claire, found out that she had exactly the same impression when she was going back down the stairs to the ground floor; she also thought that there had been a fire.

Fourth Vigil

Downstairs area of the 1901 Barrack Block

Shop

Guardhouse

We started in the bottom area of the 1901 Barrack Block; in the information area next to the café. Some of the group carried out some scrying in the mirrors in the area next to the café. In the scrying experiment Claire could see a bald man, wearing national health glasses and he had thin lips. His face was slightly round. The rest of the group were in the main room where the soldier's kit could be tried on. There were some tapping noises heard in the room, but whether they were paranormal was inconclusive – it was a very windy night, so could have been caused by the wind. We asked for 2 taps in a row, but only had 1 tap 'in response'. The door to the main corridor opened on its own, but this could have been because of the wind. Claire stood outside the door to see if it happened again, she noted that upon the rest of the group calling out; taps that were heard in response seemed to coincide with the door to the learning room banging in the wind.

Gayle had a picture of a 20th century warship, impressed upon her in the room – whether this was connected to sailors that may have stayed there, she wasn't sure. (Again, it could have been suggestion as she later saw that there was a large picture of wartime ships, just outside the room!).

We moved on to the shop, and went upstairs; the majority of the group went to the room at the left, Gayle and Phil were drawn to the room on the right; the atmosphere had a strange feel to it. Other members of the group joined them, Claire felt that war planning may have been carried out in this area; she could picture officers moving different pieces around on maps. She also felt unwell; she had a stabbing pain in her right side. She also felt this area could have been used as a hospital at one point (this was confirmed by John Paul).

We did hear some strange creaks which seemed to come from the table behind the roped off area in the room, and could not determine why they were occurring. But upon asking out, there did not seem to be any creaks in response to our questions.

Lastly we went across to the Guardhouse. We all went upstairs, and Claire felt really sick as the atmosphere was very oppressive, so she and Gayle went downstairs. Scott and Emma went to join Claire and Gayle downstairs. Scott was sat next to the doorway to the stairs in the first room, but had to move as the energy of a male was stood in the hallway and was very over powering, Scott was struggling to breathe properly. Claire could also sense the energy, and could see someone stood at the bottom of the stairs. Scott then heard the spirit say to him "I'm here on the wall", he was immediately drawn to three pictures hanging above the fireplace; and in particular he was drawn to the picture on the left – that was spirit that was making his presence felt. Although we asked for other types of communication (noises, lights) we didn't get any.

Andy was upstairs in the Guardhouse when he looked down at his hands and could see them covered in blood, he then had a pain in his stomach and realised that was where the blood was coming from; as though he had been stabbed.

5th Vigil – return visit

The majority of the group decided to re-visit the Half Moon Battery. Upon calling out we heard 2 whistling noises – going from high to lower pitched whistles. Claire and Phil both felt physically sick, so we left the area. Gayle was quite relieved as she found the area uneasy.

Quotes:

Phil: Austere and very ambient all because of the night's weather, the grounds were vast and full of interest. A variety of odours, architecture and curiosity. And such a positive experience too, sharing it with SI UK who proved to me very similar to BSPRI. A bit of a bond was formed which I hope can spell out future joint investigations together. A very enjoyable investigation, one which needs to be repeated at some point.

Emily: I really enjoyed going to Pendennis castle, I could feel there was a lot of activity around the castle and even the surroundings of the castle, but it was a shame that not a lot happened during our visit.

Claire: A fantastic location with many layers of history, and certainly worth the trip. A quiet night in terms of activity but

certainly worth a return visit as I don't think we've really unlocked the full potential of Pendennis Castle.

Conclusion

It was a very 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 English Heritage for allowing us to investigate Pendennis Castle, and a very big thank you to John Paul for being a mine of information, and for being so helpful and taking such great care of us. Your enthusiasm and dedication to the Castle is wonderful. We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit, so thank you very much.

Thank you to SI UK for inviting us to attend this investigation with them, it was a pleasure to investigate a site with you again; we hope to be able to conduct more joint investigations with you in the future.