

**Location:**

Pengersick Castle

**Date:**

Saturday 4th July 2009

**Previous Activity:**

Reputedly the 'most haunted location in the UK'. Paranormal activity is said to be widespread with many stories of 'strange' occurrences being reported – and for many years. The Paranormal Research Organisation and the British Ghost Club society have carried out several investigations here and produced what they feel to be genuine evidence of the paranormal.

Previous activity has included: people hearing unexplained noises and witnesses having seen ghostly figures, apparitions, moving shadows, sudden flashes of light and many other peculiar sights.

Over thirty separate spirit presences have been identified at Pengersick; though naturally some have to be given more credence than others.

**Members attending:**

Group 1:

Claire

Emma

Gayle

Dan E

Jamie

Phil

Group 2:

Scott

Andy

Wendy

Deb

Guests: Lisa and Elerie

Group 3:

4 members of SIUK

**Equipment:**

Sony Camcorders (with IR illuminators)

Digital cameras

Investigation Areas:

Right side of the grounds (when stood with your back to the learning centre)

Left side of the grounds (when stood with your back to the learning centre)

Castle

**Before Vigils started:**

Phil came out of Base room (learning centre) and looked over at the Castle and saw a light coloured young female figure walk into the side of the East wall of Castle. Andy and Phil went over to check if someone had walked behind the building but it seemed unlikely.

Whilst coming back from the pre-vigil walk around Phil was up on the flat garden lawn, when he looked over at the castle he saw, for about 1 second, a large Grapefruit sized light coloured ball/circle in the top right hand side of the long window (of 3) nearest to the side Castle entrance, it then disappeared. No-one was inside the castle when this happened.

Before the vigils, Wendy went upstairs to the library to leave a dictaphone recording outside the door. Despite having brand new batteries, the dictaphone wouldn't work. She swapped the batteries for another set of new ones; still nothing. She then tried the same batteries in a torch and they worked.

Wendy and Debs were wandering around the grounds; up towards the back where the original building was. As they were walking up the hill, they both felt as though they were being watched and agreed that the atmosphere seemed heavier with a feeling of dread and foreboding.

Whilst up by where the original building, Wendy heard what sounded like footsteps crunching through the leaves but apart from her and Deb, no other members were in the area at the time. However, there may have been small animals in the under growth causing the noise. They also both noticed that one of the trees in the distance had a huge leaf that seemed to be moving erratically...all the other leaves were moving only slightly and there didn't seem to be any reason for this. Wendy went over to take a closer look but

there was no breeze that would only cause one to move that erratically. Both Deb and Wendy felt as though they were being watched from beyond the same tree. At that point, they were called back to commence vigils.

## **First Vigil**

### **Group 1**

#### **Right side of the grounds**

The group started off by the archway on the right side of the grounds. As Phil walked past the area he felt the left hand side of his face tingling just for the duration of that area and it dissipated with seconds of walking away from it. He also picked up the name Jane and a possible surname of Hurst. Claire picked up on a lady in distress she was emotionally upset – perhaps having lost a child, Gayle also felt that a lady was seen here, and that she would be crying and very upset.

The group then moved on to the area by the church stone. Claire felt that the stone didn't belong to the site, Jamie felt as though his hand was being pressed against the stone by an unseen force. Claire then started to feel like her face was disfigured, or that she has suffered a stroke. One side of her face felt as though it was drooping.

The group then moved on to the area with the white arrow on the tree. Whilst standing by the tree Phil picked up the name Guy. The group all heard sounds like horses hooves/heavy thuds/footsteps surrounding them by this tree, and also when higher up the path away and just below the old manor house grounds. Dan felt that if it had stayed in front of the group (when we were looking at the tree, so behind it from the undergrowth) he'd be more willing to put it down to other animals, or noises from further away, but it did seem to move around the group, appearing to come from behind us too. Dan felt that there seemed to be an air of panic, but said that could have just been him! He said it felt like a scuffle was occurring, with the group as the focal point. Gayle picked up on really angry men (their hair in pony tails), shouting and fighting in the woods; she also felt that someone's throat had been cut.

Claire also felt this could have been an area where a scuffle had taken place with men shouting and fighting.

The group moved on to the last area where the old manor house used to stand. Gayle could see a man with long brown/blond wavy hair with a middle parting, with a broad nose in her mind's eye.

Dan was stood with his back to the box hedge manor layout, Gayle was stood to his right, they were both looking down through the trees to the arrow tree. Dan heard, a single heavy thud from just behind him on his left. Gayle saw him respond to something, he thought she had moved, but she hadn't. Dan described the sound as though someone had taken a head size rock and dropped it. It also reminded him of a single hoof sound, like a big horse stamping a front foot on the ground.

## **Group 2**

### **Left side of the grounds**

The group started off in the woods by the logs. Scott was aware of a person who looked like they were walking through the trees.

Wendy and Debs both had the feeling of being watched again. There were a few noises which sounded like small stones being thrown through the trees, but being outside, it was very difficult to ascertain exactly what was causing the noises. In turn, we all stood between the logs as instructed. Wendy stood there and felt a swaying sensation which could have been caused by the uneven ground. She also felt that there was a black cat buried nearby, which she felt had also been seen walking through the woods.

In the next area (by the ancient settlement) Scott picked up on a man dressed in dark clothing; almost monk like, he was hiding his face. Scott also had the feeling of someone being hit in the face or being disfigured .

As the group moved further back Scott felt that people were watching them from in the bushes.

## **Second Vigil**

### **Group 1**

#### **Left side of the grounds**

We started right at the back of the wooded area: Jamie reported seeing a black human shape, which he thought initially one of the SIUK group, however he then thought it seemed to be made from black smoke or similar, so not a real person, and it was coming through the woods towards the group. Lights then appeared in the woods in that direction. Others in the group also thought they saw these lights too. One explanation was that they could be fire flies; Dan said didn't see enough to get a good impression of what they could be,

but thought they could perhaps be reflections on damp leaves moving in the wind, which Claire also pointed out. (The light was very poor at this point as darkness was approaching and the heavy rain and a street lamp nearby could have created this effect) However Dan did seem to think that they may have been different to him than that, after thinking about it. Claire was picking up on a lady that she thought used to work in the building, as a cook. She worked with herbs and had a problem with her hips.

There was nothing else to note.

## **Group 2**

### **Castle**

The group started in the gunnery room. Wendy sat on the chair in the corner on the left hand side as you walk in. She was there for a few minutes when she felt as though someone was stood next to her, nearest the armour in the corner. She felt slightly dizzy and sick. Scott stood next to her and the feeling started to fade.

When they moved up to the next level, they all heard what sounded like someone in front of them running up the stairs.

When the group went into the bedroom Scott was aware of a small child, which everyone else picked up on too. It was a little boy called Edward.

Wendy was tapped on the leg and became aware of a little boy (aged about 4 or 5) and could physically see his energy moving around the room.

Scott also picked up on a man; he felt that he showed himself to have an angry temper after he had alcoholic drinks. Because of this man, Scott felt that the boy was less likely to move near him when he was around.

Scott also picked up on an elderly lady and also someone that would have used a spinning wheel.

When Debs was sat on the box in front of the bed she experienced a hot feeling going all over her body and then she had a nose bleed; she was very surprised by this as she has never suffered with them before. The datalogger indicated a very small rise in temperature (2-3 degrees) around the time that Debs had her nose bleed.

## **Third Vigil**

### **Group 1**

## **Castle**

When we entered the castle we immediately went to gunnery room. We immediately heard knocking from other side of door (private kitchen). For the first one to two minutes we felt as though we had walked into a hot bed of activity. We all heard sounds and noises from the levels above, when there was nobody up there. We heard what sounded like a door upstairs opening, so we went upstairs to investigate. Dan also heard footsteps from above. As we started walking up the stairs different people reported hearing different things Dan, Gayle and Emma all thought they could hear a conversation (Gayle thought it was between a man and woman). Jamie thought he heard a woman and man laughing, it sounded to him like it was coming from upstairs (bedroom level). Some members of the group then heard footsteps from above (library level) walking across the floor (we were the only people in the building and none of us had ventured that far up the tower). On entering the bedroom, Jamie thought he heard two knocks coming from the wall, but this was countered by Claire, who believed they came from the floorboards, under her feet. Noises were also being heard from above in the library which was locked. We all felt that the bedroom had a very different 'atmosphere' to the rest of the building, but it seemed to feel like a heavier air pressure (if that's possible). Claire felt that people had been murdered in this room and didn't like it at all. The feeling that someone had been in bed and woke up to find hands around their throat came into her mind. The atmosphere was very intense and very different from when she did the walk around earlier with Scott to establish areas. Dan tried to recreate the knocking noises that he thought were coming from under the floor, he rocked back and forth on the floor boards under the rug, but it only produced quieter squeeks. However Phil did make a couple of floorboards move which could have been the sound heard by Jamie and felt by Claire. We then went back to the gunnery and as we left it to go back upstairs Phil heard a loud bang just outside the front door as he walked past it, but did not hear anyone outside it (we looked and there was no-one there).

We then went and sat on the stairs outside the library and up towards the battlements. We heard small knocks coming from inside the library and continued to hear sounds coming from the lower levels. The atmosphere became very still apart from occasional banging noises from the battlements we took these to be from the seagulls roosting on the roof. Jamie opened the

door to go outside but this startled the seagulls, as they became noisy; so we stayed inside the tower. Gayle and Dan both heard what sounded like a footstep on the wood area at the top of the tower; next to the doorway that leads out on to the roof.

## **Group 2**

### **Right side of the grounds**

Scott found the area where the manor house used to stand scary, he heard what he thought was footsteps stamping or horses hooves; this made him jump but as soon as it had started it had stopped again.

Wendy thought that what was being called 'the hanging tree' was not a hanging tree, she did not think it was old enough.

She also had the feeling of being watched again. She observed that the group was feeling quite jumpy, but nothing further happened.

### **During Breaks:**

Jamie felt as though he was poked in the buttock when he was stood towards the front of the room (the end nearest the tv). Emma also felt that her arm was stroked when she was sat in a chair on the far side of the room, opposite the door.

### **Quotes:**

**Scott:** Pengersick Castle is a place of many fascets, inside and out. It's very atmospheric with a feeling of oppression on entering the castle.

It's the most scariest place I've attended so far.

**Gayle:** Pengersick Castle is enchanting, the grounds were very atmospheric as was the building itself. I am still overwhelmed by the first five minutes inside the castle, there was so much going on; almost unbelievable!

**Wendy:** An atmospheric building.

## **Conclusion**

Everyone seemed to experience something that they couldn't explain. It was a very interesting property to investigate; and a return journey would be

welcomed as there was some strange phenomena that deserves further investigation.

A big thank you to Guy for allowing us to investigate Pengersick Castle, and another thank you to Rita and her daughter for their knowledge of the Castle. We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit, so thank you very much.

Thank you to SI UK for joining us on this investigation, we look forward to future joint investigations with you.

### **Research provided by Dan Evans**

NB There isn't a lot of historical information available on Pengersick. Some of the research encompasses previous paranormal experiences and sightings.

There is evidence of habitation on the current site going back to the Bronze Age, some 5000 years ago.

A family settled on the site in the 12th century, and they later took the name Pengersick from the area (it means 'the head of a marshy place'). This was Henry Pengersick, who married Engrina Godolphin, the daughter of a nearby estate owner. Some stories exist that Henry gained Great Excommunication for attacking and wounding the Vicar of Breage and killing a monk. The problem however is that some reports state that Henry didn't actually kill either of the holy men. Archaeology has discovered the outline of the original manor house, chapel, gardens and an associated village settlement. The direct inheritance of the property was interrupted by the plague outbreak in the 15th century. The marriage of the surviving heiress led to the creation of the fortified Tudor dwelling, the tower of which survives today, sometime around 1500. This was built by a John Milliton, and it was his son, also called John, who became involved in the next part of the building's history.

On the 19th of January 1527 the King of Portugal's treasure ship, The St Anthony, floundered off Gunwalloe, about 5 miles down the coast. Some £18,800 worth of treasure vanished forever. Manorial rights at the time meant that there was an assumed right to wrecks and their cargos on manorial land. Three landowners improved their standing, and their houses, in the years that followed. William Godolphin was knighted, St Aubyn was made a Justice of the Peace and John Milliton became the High Sheriff of Cornwall. It seems

that Henry VIII ordered the salvaged cargo be returned to Portugal, but most of it never went.

We stayed in a hostel, and the owner informed us that the 'hanging tree' fell down about 15-20 years ago.

## Sightings

Two stories conflict about the origins of the monk seen in the grounds. One states that he is the Hailes Abbey monk from Gloucestershire who was denied his tithes in 1330 by Henry Pengersick. The other story suggests he fell in love with Engrina of Pengersick and was murdered.

The current owner claims to have never heard any story about the grounds being haunted by sailors before the Most Haunted crew came to film on the grounds. It is generally assumed however that the building has had a history involving smugglers.

There are also reports of a boy, about 4 years old, who tugs on women's dresses, and a girl in her early teens who grabs visitors and swings them around as if dancing! She apparently danced through the tower and fell to her death from the battlements. She is also seen dancing amongst the trees in the grounds.

A woman is seen lying on the bed in the main bed chamber with ghostly covers over her, and another, older woman is seen leaning over the bed, looking at the occupant. The older lady is believed to be the maid of the woman in bed, nursing her through her last hours after she was poisoned.

There is also the ghost of a previous owner's dog in the bed room, with the smell of wet dog being reported.

There is a legend/myth that John Milliton practiced the black arts and that a demon was captured in the fireplace, and that a black dog with red eyes is seen there, although this is refuted by owners and paranormal investigators. It seems the stories probably originated from smugglers keen to keep people away from the business they were conducting at the house.

There is also the re-enactment of a murder that took place, a man was strangled and stabbed in front of the fireplace, and a woman has been seen walking through walls in the tower.