

Boringdon Hall, Plymouth

3rd October 2008

Boringdon Hall is a Grade I Listed Elizabethan manor house and is situated on the outskirts of Plymouth. Mentioned in the Domesday book it was owned by the local priory of St Peter until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 15th Century. It was renovated in the 16th Centuries and owned by several notable families. Elizabeth I, Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh are just a few of the infamous people to have frequented the building. Parliamentarian forces destroyed part of the Hall during the Civil War and it was later used as a farmhouse during which the building fell into disrepair. However the National Trust rescued the building and it is has now a very popular and impressive hotel. SI was invited to Boringdon Hall to carry out a paranormal investigation of the Great Hall, Galleries and some of the guest bedrooms. The team comprised: Kevin, Dave, Jenny, Clare, Maurice, Debbie, Georgia, Stuart, Becky, Paul, Francesca and Damien.

The Investigation

At the beginning of the investigation the dowzers were asked to look at maps of rooms and give their 'psychic' impression on where they felt a presence may be. These areas were marked on the maps of the rooms so that we could look back at the end of the investigation and compare our findings.

We divided the investigation team into 3 smaller groups – each team having a mixture of scientific and psychic approaches to help us discover presences in the building. The areas covered were: Elizabeth Room, Francis Room, Mary Rose Room, Rose Room Galleries, Isabella Room, Catherine room and the Great Hall. Here is a short synopsis of what was found in each of the areas:

- Male presence called George or John who died of an illness in 1742 aged 13yrs old
 - Female presence called Catherine who died in childbirth aged 43yrs in 1523
 - Male presence called Edward Limes
 - A male presence with a burnt face/ partially blind in right eye
 - A female presence
 - Also the strong impression that there was a fire in 1606 in the building
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- Male presence called Francis Drake who died in 1595
 - Female presence called Maria aged 31yrs who died in childbirth in 1916
 - Male aged 33yrs, female aged 22yrs and a dark presence was felt in one area of the room

- A male presence from the 19th Century
 - A male presence from 1813
 - A Victorian girl aged 10yrs old
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- A female presence called Henrietta who died in 1453
 - A male presence called David Edmund who died in 1651 aged 48yrs
 - A male presence aged 31yrs
 - A female presence called Isabella who was crying
 - 8 presences were also picked up in this room who were all connected to the Church
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- A male called Thomas Edge who died in a fire in 1433 aged 23yrs
 - A childbirth related death
 - A grief stricken male presence
 - An intimidating and angry male presence
 - A little boy aged 4yrs old
 - Female presence who died in 1790/ 1800 aged 58/60yrs
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- A male presence called John Hawkins who died in 1643 aged 38yrs
 - A male presence who died in 1740 aged 7yrs old
 - 2 female presences
 - A female presence who died in 1937 aged 24yrs
 - A male presence called Henry Foster who died in 1781 aged 38yrs
 - A female presence called Rosemary Dudfield or Dullfield who died in 2007 aged 85yrs

Temperature readings throughout the night were normal and the hotel rooms were very warm. Cold spots were felt by some of the team members in one room that could not be explained.

A strange light was picked up on digital camera but this was later debunked as the reflection from emergency key holder. Light anomalies were picked up on night vision camcorder, although many were later found to be dust particles. Tapping noises were also heard in this room and very high EMF readings were taken in the area near the bathroom door that could not be explained.

Whilst in the one room two members heard a strange growling noise coming from outside the window – no explanation could be found this noise.

Another room experienced some very high EMF readings particularly around the pillow area of the bed and inside the fireplace. Two members also independently witnessed a sudden movement or shape in this room that they could not explain.

High EMF readings were detected during one vigil which could not be explained especially as they appeared to be registering from the middle of a dining table. A rattling noise was heard by one member coming from the staircase but there was no one there.

Everyone on the team thoroughly enjoyed investigating this location and they felt that it deserves a return visit in the near future.

C Buckland
6th Nov 2008