

Moot Hall Elstow
Report by Joan Furman
Team
Joan Furman
Katy Dumigan
Wendy Starr,
Elaine Dix,
Liz Smith
Colin Smith
Denise Smith
Shay Kelly

20th March 2010

After arriving at the Hall, we were given a brief tour of the building by our host Clive, who on our request did not give us any details relating to the history, or any information on investigations carried out by other groups on the site.

As a few people had dropped out before the night, it was decided that we would remain together for the evening rather than divide into two smaller groups, thus reducing the risk of noise pollution. Due to the nature of the building.

We began our investigation on the ground floor, which is divided into sections, the museum section, an entrance hall and the Bunyan room, which houses furniture and artefacts spanning the period of the house.

8.15pm Before the investigation even gets under way the team hear a noise upstairs which sounds like footsteps. Wendy gets a feeling of the building being used as a courthouse at some stage.

8.21pm A circle of protection is led by Wendy, temperatures are taken with readings that vary between 20.6 and 21.4

8.24pm Colin's attention is taken by a stone in one of the cases, he feels that it might have been bought in from elsewhere. Joan checks the card beneath it and informs him that it is the base of a Saxon cross which had been found in the wall of the church across the road. There is no clue as to where the cross itself was once situated.

On the way up the motorway Wendy had been picking up on the name Bunyan, although prior to arrival she had no idea of the association between him and Elstow.

8.25pm The room appears to have gotten colder although the heaters are switched on. Wendy is now starting to feel a bit nervous for some reason. Colin can feel a lot of energy emanating from the stone in the display case, and is warned by his guide not to get too close to it.

8.28pm Denise is starting to feel cold, although it does feel cold the temperature is reading 23.6 near her. Liz says she is getting a pain in her back.

8.33pm Denise takes a turn at calling out.

8.35pm Wendy is aware of a suddenly chill around her legs, she says it feels as though there is a child clinging to them. A temperature reading is taken around Wendy's shoulders reads at 22.5 whereas one around her lower body is reading 15.5, the child says her name is Hannah and she gives her age as six.

Shay gets another child, Elsie and an age of between three and five.

Wendy picks up on a long white dress down to the child's ankles, the child's feet are bare and she seems confused and lost.

8.39pm Shay and Colin are both picking up on a man observing us, Shay is given the name Edward, Elaine picks up on the name Howard, but we are unsure if this is one person name and surname, or two separate energies.

Wendy feels that the child ^{Elsie} Hannah is very nervous of the man, she is not sure whether they are of the same period or not, but the child does seem aware of him,

Elsie

8.45pm Denise feels that the man is standing behind Wendy, the child^{is} trying to hide, we are told he is not nice. Joan and Shay are aware of a strong smell, similar to burning. Wendy is picking up on the man quite strongly now and says that he is a cruel man, who used to beat the lads, ill-treated the women, and felt clever doing so. She describes him as being dark haired, with hooked nose, and being very tall. He dispensed cruel punishment from upstairs she tells us. He is now standing just around the corner behind the display cases, laughing at us. He is also being quite threatening towards Wendy, but she ignores him. The child has now gone, we notice that it seems really cold and another reading is taken to show that the temperature has now fallen to 3.6

from! Colin feels he was a JP and held court upstairs

8.46pm The man now appears to have left us, so we decide to move to the Bunyan room, a temperature reading is taken showing 3.8

Joan took a turn at calling out, at this stage both Joan and Katy here footsteps from the section we have just left, several of the teams complain of getting headache.

8.55pm Temperature readings varying from 6.7 to 9.3. Katy who is sitting next to Joan at the table feels something brush against her foot. Joan confirms that she didn't move, a check is made under the table but there is nothing there to account for it.

Denise feels someone near her, she says it is a little girl who is keeping her distance from Colin, as if she is wary of men.

9.00pm Denise sees an orb on the stairs, she is given the year 1538, Wendy is given the year 1758 and feels there is more than one male with us at this point, one is nice one is not so nice.

9.02pm Several members of the team see movement in the next room.

9.05pm Joan calls out asking the spirit to come forward, but there is no response. Wendy is picking up on the spirit of a lady now, and Liz is given the name Mary, a name which has been in her mind since we entered the building. Elaine gets the name Howard, then James, again we are not sure if this is a complete name, or two separate ones, as no further detail is given.

Elaine starts to get a headache.

Wendy feels that the lady she is sensing was very childlike, perhaps with a slightly lower mental age, she hesitates to use the word simpleton.

9.10pm There is a noise in the back room which is heard by all. Wendy says there is a letter S in connection with it, Joan is given the name Sarah Middleton.

Elaine complains of feeling cold, another reading is taken and shows as being 9.2

9.12pm Denise starts to choke slightly, saying that it felt as if someone had suddenly stuck their thumb in her throat, both she and Wendy start to pick up on a male, who is quite cruel. This is not the one that we encountered earlier but another. Shay picks up on a man leaning against the wall laughing.

Wendy says he definitely pre-dates the other man, and describes him as being thin, dark hair, balding on top, straggly build, weasely her best description would be a bit like old man Steptoe, or Catweasel.

9.15pm Shay feels something in front of her, touching her leg, either a child or someone pretending to be. Wendy is being given the name Syllas for the man, Denise comments that he has just grinned at her, to reveal that he has no teeth. There is the feeling that he might have been a leper or a plague victim. Denise complains that her throat is still hurting where he prodded her to get her attention, we check to see that there is a red mark there.

Wendy picks up a connection with horses and sees him counting money.

Joan and Liz can both smell hay, they are fortunate that is all they can smell as Wendy and some of the others are getting a smell that resembles latrines, which they suspect is emanating from Syllas.

9.20pm As we keep hearing movement in the back room we decide to return there, This time Colin takes a turn at calling out.

9.25pm Denise who has been observing Wendy and Katy comments that it looks as if they are fading into the darkness behind them, although neither is aware of feeling any different, it does indeed look as though they are being slowly surrounded by darkness. We decide to do a circle and try and raise some energy. At this point Denise is overshadowed by a spirit named Mary Kelly,

We attempt to communicate with the spirit, who raises her hand and points straight at Joan. Joan addresses the spirit, but she does not make any further attempt to communicate and moves away from Denise.

9.45pm We decide that we will take a break at this point before continuing our investigation on the upper level.

During the break some of us took the opportunity to walk around the lower level and take some photos, Colin was still drawn to the stone that had once been part of a Saxon cross, his guide was telling him that the stone was cursed that it should never have been removed from the wall of the church where it was placed to be sanctified. Wendy questioned why Colin's guide felt the stone that was clearly pagan in origin due to some of the engravings on it, should have been placed in the church wall in the first place, but Colin's guide was not forthcoming with an explanation for his comments.

Wendy was aware of Hannah again during the break, who told her that her father was a cobbler, although she was continuing to show herself as a child she had in fact grown up and married someone she described as a middle-class trader. She described the fairs that had been held on the green, the carts decorated by flowers pulled by dray horses, how they had roasted pigs on a spit for all to share, and she mentioned a duckpond.

Upper Level

We make our way to the upper level which is furnished in period style, with a four poster bed at one end of the room, several large items of period furniture and a large reflectory table in the centre of the room, around which were several 17th Century wooden benches.

We decided to sit around the table, rather than move around the room too much to cut down on noise.

10.20pm Wendy called out, a temperature reading was taken which showed the room temperature varied between 6.4 and 8.8 which was quite a bit lower than the last readings we had taken downstairs.

10.25pm Several of us hear faint footsteps as if someone is on tiptoe trying to be as quiet as possible. Wendy feels there has been partying and merriment here, we can hear noises downstairs now, as if someone is walking about down there, which prompts someone to check with Katy that she had locked the door after our host had left. She confirms that she did.

10.28pm Denise is picking up on children, laughing, there is a noise in the corner by the bed, like something has been thrown. A white light is briefly seen in the next room.

10.30pm Katy hears more footsteps, and Colin picks up on someone saying bad man. There is movement in the area of the bed, and some of the team feel someone is on it.

10.35pm Joan and Wendy complain of feeling cold, yet when a reading is taken it shows that the temperature has in fact risen and is reading at 16.3. Wendy complaining of pain in head.

10.36pm Elaine is sensing movement in the room to the side of the four poster. Wendy suddenly picks up on something quite different and says quietly, A Nun was put to death by sword in the snow in the grounds of the Abbey, She describes the lady as wearing white, with a pale blue woollen tunic or tabbard over the top. On her head she had a white hat with what Wendy described as 'wings' she sees her kneeling there, calm, serene, utterly accepting her death.

10.45pm Denise picks up on the name Evangeline, Sister Evangeline. The temperature in the room is varying quite a bit now, 23.8 at one end, 16.3 at the end nearest the four poster bed. Wendy senses that the first man we encountered downstairs is back, he is very hostile and wants her to shout and rant at us, but she is blocking him, not so much because she considers him a threat but more because she is starting to find him very annoying.

10.47pm Edward as we are pretty sure he is called, is continuing to hurl insults at us but Wendy is refusing to pass on what he is saying. She says that he is threatening us all and that if he could get to us, he would attack the women physically, he has little regard for women and feels that whatever he dished out to them, he did so because they deserved it. His description of what he would like to be is quite graphic, but once he realises he isn't scaring us, he moves away, although we do sense he is moving around the table, She feels that he was quite arrogant, a lord of the manor

ITS
X NOT
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type who felt he had a right to do pretty much as he pleased, and treat people as he wished.

11.00pm Joan feels her back and legs go icy cold but the feeling passes fairly quickly. Liz tells us she is getting the name Charles and has been since we came upstairs. Wendy is getting the word Minster which in this case we assume refers to the Church nearby. Colin is picking up on a brown and charcoal coloured cat called Arthur which would have belonged to a church warden in the last century. Also on a lady who has been seen and heard, perhaps by one of the windows. Shay feels that this lady used to be left on her own at night a lot, which scared her. She didn't like being left on her own.

11.05pm Some of the team are sensing a man standing behind the flower display at the far end of the table nearest the stairs. He seems to be peeping out from behind them but isn't coming forward. Joan picks up on a man in dark clothing with a white lace collar, she feels that he is very shy, and a clerk of some kind.

Wendy gets the word, Presbyterian and feels he is from the 1700's.

11.10pm Colin feels a bit strange, he feels cold, although the temperature is reading at 16.8 around him. His guide Michael tells him that he is standing in what he refers to as a wheel or moving vortex of energy. (strangely enough at this point Colin is standing almost directly above the segment of Saxon cross displayed on the floor below.)

11.12pm Colin starts to pick up on the strong presence of a male, and he seems to be affected by his proximity to the vortex we ask him to move nearer to the table. Another reading is taken and the temperature is now 13.6

Shay jokes that she feels like she should be facing the other way, Colin says that he feels this room might have been used as a Sunday school at some point.

11.15pm We decide to try and raise some energy by forming a circle, Wendy is given the name Lucy Bannister, which she thinks was connected with Edward, possibly his wife, but that Bannister was her maiden name. The name James is given again and the feeling is that there was a connection between Lucy and James, that he might have perhaps been her lover. She is telling us that she did her duty by Edward, that he was not all bad and that he never harmed her.

Joan got the image of a young woman with fair hair and ringlets.

As we were not getting much information from Lucy, we decided that we should bring the investigation to an end as our host would be returning soon.

11.45pm We made our way downstairs, only to discover that at the bottom of the stairs there was part of the flower arrangement from the upper level laying on the carpet, this had certainly not been there prior to us going upstairs, as some of us had been seated opposite the stairs whilst taking our break and would have seen it. When one of our team took it a little way upstairs and dropped it over the bannisters, it made a sound very like the one we had heard while we were seated around the table upstairs.

When our host arrived we showed him the flowers and he confirmed it did not belong downstairs and he could not imagine how it would have got there.

12.00pm

After bringing our investigation inside the hall to a close our host offered to give us a tour of the churchyard and Abbey ruins which we were only too grateful to accept

but sadly due to the weather and the distance that some of us had to go we decided against continuing the investigations outside.

17 wms!