

Case File 999

The Covenanters Prison

1st Visit

Present were ...

Alex

Dez

Jackie

Steve

Irene

This wasn't really an investigation more like a preliminary visit with the lead up to a potential investigation.

The tour was excellent and the guide was fantastic and I recommend the City Of The Dead tour to anyone that's planning on visiting Edinburgh and fancies a wee ghosty tour.

Sadly, we did not detect the presence of the famous MacKenzie Poltergeist that allegedly haunts the tomb there but perhaps a private investigation would allow us time to properly connect with any spirits, but for now all I can say is there were unusual EMF energy levels present in the prison that we would like the opportunity to investigate further.

2nd Visit

First of all I'd like to extend our personal thanks to Jan and Charlotte for allowing us access to this historical location.

Prior to beginning this investigation, I came into contact with some residual energy in the graveyard.

I felt like something had been found at that particular spot but at that stage I was not getting a full picture of what it was so I thought I would return to this spot later.

Sadly we never got the opportunity to return to that area as our attention was more focussed on the prison itself, but Charlotte was able to confirm later that this was the exact spot where they had found a jaw bone that had been pushed up from underneath the ground.

Possibly just a coincidence, but worth noting all the same.

Present on the investigation were ...

Alex

Paul

Tracey

Debbie

Carol

Neil

Dez

Maryann

Charlotte

We entered the Covenanter's Prison with great excitement and trepidation at the thought of coming face to face with the MacKenzie Poltergeist that allegedly haunts the prison.

Charlotte led the way and showed us something that had been perplexing the tour guides.

It was a perfect corpse of a bird which had been stripped of all it's flesh and blood and was lying on the ground a perfect skeleton all intact.

On initial inspection there was no obvious signs of a predator being responsible for this as there were no feathers scattered or any sign of the limbs being broken nor bite marks of any kind that would suggest that an animal had it for lunch, as

there was flesh on it at all. It was almost as if it had been placed there by someone.

Charlotte went on to tell us that this happens often in here and they have also found bodies of squirrels and other birds in the same state.

I could not make sense of this at all.

We split into two teams and both discovered rogue energy readings on our meters, so in an attempt to communicate with any spirits that were present each team conducted a séance but sadly neither had any luck so we joined together as one team again and moved onto finish with the Black Mausoleum.

Some members of the team reported feeling a presence in the mausoleum. Tracey and Maryann felt that they were touched by something which they were unable to see. Maryann had felt a light burning sensation then noticed scratch marks on her.

We had been encouraging the MacKenzie poltergeist to appear before us and physically touch us or give us a message or something that would prove his existence, so perhaps this is a case of "careful what you wish for".

It is fair to say that the team were slightly disappointed that night given the legendary status of the prison and it's poltergeist.

We did not get much in the way of the spiritual activity that we were hoping for. A case of our expectations set too high and that's something that we would learn from this investigation. Always keep an open mind and don't expect spirit to perform for you just because you ask them to.

We will try again without any preconceptions and see how we get on.

3rd Visit

Present on the investigation ...

Alex

Maryann

Roger

Charlotte

Nikki

Jo

Robbie

Iain

On returning to the prison, we thought we'd try a different tactic this time and begin the investigation from the bottom end of the prison at Mary Erskine's tomb, and work our way up.

We didn't get much further than here during this investigation, as we could not believe what we had stumbled upon at the time.

This was one of our first experiences with detecting such a powerful leyline and have it register very strongly on our investigative equipment.

The EMF meter was going off the chart, and our dowsing rods also crossed as we passed through the line.

We could actually stand in the line and watch the rods pull by themselves.

We moved into Mary Erskine's tomb as Maryann was picking up on a spirit energy there.

While Maryann closed her eyes to try and focus on connecting with the spirit, Roger noticed what appeared to be a face appearing faintly beside Maryann's then disappear.

Nikki moved closer to see if she could see what Roger was talking about and to her amazement, she too witnessed a brief glimpse of what appeared to be the top half of a figure appear faintly and then away again just as quick.

Fascinated and frightened she watched on hoping for another glimpse, when suddenly they got the fright of their lives. There was a very loud whispering in Maryann's ear, but as to what was said we are unsure, but either way it was enough to frighten the life out of Maryann and give Nikki goosebumps.

Maryann then tried to channel the spirit that was present, but as she tried and the spirit got closer, she started to feel a choking sensation which was making it difficult to let go and channel.

Charlotte started to feel sick and felt she had to leave the prison.

I escorted her safely to her car, but as we were walking outside towards the car she started to feel a little better since she had left the prison area.

She decided to call it a night and wait outside in her car, while we finished up conducting our investigation.

Sadly, not much else happened after that but overall it was quite an exciting night, but still no sign of the elusive MacKenzie poltergeist, but then again we were nowhere near the tomb that he is reported to haunt.

So with all this activity going on we asked Charlotte if it was okay to schedule a return visit.

4th Visit

Present on the investigation ...

Alex

Dez

Maryann

Roger

Charlotte

Irene

Colin

Richard Felix

We returned to the prison this time with Richard Felix from the TV program "Most Haunted".

Richard wished to carry out a vigil in the prison to see if he could make contact with Scotland's most infamous spirit, the MacKenzie poltergeist, which is reputed to haunt the prison.

Initially we attempted to make contact in both tombs that the MacKenzie poltergeist had been known to haunt.

We did detect some spirit activity in here but nothing was coming forward, perhaps they were watching us out of curiosity.

So reminiscing from our last visit, we split into two teams. Charlotte remained at the mausoleum and I decided to tackle Mary Erskine's tomb at the far end of the prison again to see if there was still activity present.

We began a séance, and a little of the way in some people reported feeling unwell during the séance, so we decided to call it a day and go back up to see how Charlotte had got on with conducting her séance.

Charlotte reported hearing a whispering noise from outside of the tomb then some sighing.

Unfortunately there were no anomalous energy readings to report, so we decided to follow up on Charlotte's personal

experience and attempt another séance with a larger team hoping that more energy may produce better results.

Near the start Colin reported hearing heavy breathing coming from the back wall behind me and during the séance it was also noted that there was a very faint audible reply when asking for the name of the spirit that we felt was present. Unfortunately we had no luck in clearing up the audio from the recording to be able to establish what was said.

Time was starting to beat us, so we decided to call it a night and finish up.

Richard found his visit to the prison fascinating and thanked us all for being such good hosts.

We finished off the night with a good talk with Richard Felix about his experiences over the years then headed for home.

5th Visit (Part 1)

The Event – Ghostfest 2006

The location – The Covenanters Prison

Arranged By – Black Hart Tours -

<http://www.blackhart.uk.com>

The Plan - We were to allow the public to participate in an investigation of the uninviting prison.

Joined with us this evening were Richard Felix of Most Haunted fame, who would be conducting the vigils inside the tombs, Ciaran O'Keeffe also of Most Haunted fame, and Steve Parsons from an investigation team called Parascience, who both decided that they would walk around the prison mingling and offering their respected advice and opinions during the investigation and vigils.

Also attending this evening were the three lovely ladies from the friendly Grey Ladies paranormal investigator team, which were there to have a first hand look at the prison and they were also keen to see how other groups perform their investigations.

So on that note I shall continue on to the main event ...

Present on the investigation ...

Alex

Charlotte

Dez

Maryann

Roger

Sandra

John

Karen

Nikki

Tonks

Jamie

Richard Felix

Ciaran O'Keeffe

Steve Parsons (Parascience)

Angela (The Grey Ladies)

Carole (The Grey Ladies)

Nicola (The Grey Ladies)

From the start of the night we split into teams to cover as much ground as possible and to reduce the numbers present in any one area.

My team began our night at Mary Erskine's tomb, as this is where we had encountered most of the activity on our previous visits and thought it would be worth allowing the public to explore this section of the prison also.

Richard, Ciaran and Steve would float between the teams at different intervals, and The Grey Ladies, would join us to begin with.

On arriving at Mary Erskine's tomb, we explained that we would be splitting our group and gave them the option to either explore Mary Erskine's tomb and investigate the leyline that we had discovered previously, allowing them to be involved with the investigation, using the equipment etc, or some could hang back with me and I would talk to them about our previous encounters here, and show them some of the evp, pictures and video evidence we had captured together with visual demonstrations of the software that we use to record our data and produce our results.

The Grey Ladies team stayed back to chat with me about our previous findings, which I demonstrated with the laptop. They have since given me feedback on the event and have advised that they all enjoyed the demonstration that I provided and found it most informative. So, thank you Grey Ladies. We're glad you enjoyed the evening.

Meanwhile, Dez and the rest of the group were outside showing the public where we believe the leyline runs through the prison.

The EMF meter did pick up on it, but not as strongly as the last time.

We used dowsing rods here to demonstrate the effect that the leyline has on the copper rods, and indeed as before they did cross together when walking into the line. Various members of the public tried this, all with the same results, they were fascinated to see the dowsing rods cross at these energy lines.

At this point Steve Parsons from Parascience joins the talk that I'm giving.

When I was talking about the EMF meter picking up on the leyline he argued the point that this would not be possible as the EMF meter's that we were using would not pick up on anything other than man made EMF, but in actual fact to contradict his statement, the EMF meter was in fact picking up on the leyline in the graveyard.

Steve had mentioned that he suspected this would be cables under the ground that had been detected, but there were no cables running through the prison as there were graves below it and this would most certainly not be allowed.

Steve then suggested that the EMF could be emitting from the building next to the prison, but then I asked if the EMF meter would be capable of detecting the readings from the building so far away, and he stated that this would not be possible after all, based on the meters limitations.

So in actual fact the limitations of the meter we were using were actually helping show that we did appear to be dealing with something paranormal as neither of us could explain why the readings were being detected.

Steve found this very interesting, despite the readings being a little lower than usual this evening. He did suggest that a possible solution for this may be due to the wet weather we had just had, which in turn may have dissipated the EMF?

Steve also mentioned another couple of interesting theories which he had regarding spiritual activity based on scientific fact which I found very fascinating and plausible.

The first was that quantum physicists have identified that there are 11 dimensions that science is aware of currently, and he suggested that perhaps spirits reside on one of these

dimensions that vibrate on a different level from our energy on this dimension.

This is very similar to my own belief.

The second point Steve made was that there was enough collective electrical energy in the air in one of the tombs to flip a car 6ft in the air. So perhaps spirit may not need to draw energy from people or electrical equipment, but that they may be able to use the natural energy charge in the environment.

At this point I would like to thank Steve for sharing his theories with us.

These are certainly food for thought.

Meanwhile outside, Maryann had picked up on a female spirit in the Mary Erskine tomb as did one of the other members of the public who claimed to have clairvoyant abilities.

5th Visit (Part 2)

During my talk with another group Ciaran O'Keeffe entered and stood listening for a while before joining in on the discussion.

He was very impressed with our fresh ideas and methods that we were using to conduct our investigations, in particular our forensic approach, and commented on the level of professional equipment that we were using to achieve our goals.

He said that he had never seen an investigation team use such high tech gear used outside of television.

Ciaran was very helpful in providing us with some of his own insight into the paranormal and was kind enough to share some of his knowledge with us.

So I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ciaran for his invaluable advice.

Richard Felix held the night's vigils in the main tombs and also contributed to the night, by sharing some of his own controversial theories on the MacKenzie poltergeist and why he felt ghosts in general may exist today.

I stress now that these are Richard's thoughts and not that of GHS, but he believes a lot of ghosts are down to religion, and the fear of being judged.

He bases this theory on the fact that no one has ever reported seeing the ghost/spirit of a caveman etc prior to Christianity or the likes coming along, which installed the fear of being judged and the consequences of sinning and going to Hell. He felt this has a lot to do with souls being trapped here from times past.

A big thanks to Richard for opening Pandora's Box and giving us all something heavy to think about.

After this discussion, we went on to investigate the tomb that the infamous McKenzie poltergeist reportedly haunts.

Maryann and Roger were sensing a man standing at the back of the tomb by the name of Stuart Fletcher.

Interestingly, we used the rods in the spot where Maryann had stated that she had seen a spirit standing then moving into this area the rods crossed, the spirit then moved out of the way and Maryann identified the spot where he had moved to, they then crossed again, I checked the spot previous to where he was and the rods did not cross.

We also got a slight reading on the EMF meter at these points. A female spirit also showed herself here. Maryann sensed the name Jess attached to her.

Later that night Maryann managed to channel a spirit that went by the name of Wullie Henderson.

He mentioned that he had been starving and he also appeared to be looking for someone.

He said he was held prisoner here. Maryann then started to show signs of distress while channelling so I asked him to step back as I did not want Maryann to suffer any ill affect.

Sadly though the evening had to come to an end, as a certain shattered Charlotte, was ushering everyone to leave, so we collected our things, said our goodbyes and headed back home.

A great night had by all.