



Joint Preliminary Investigation with Hollie Buckley - Spirit Medium.

**The Salt Barge Marston Northwich Cheshire UK
1st May 2017 – 10pm – 02.40am**

The situation. The venue had been experiencing a number of unexplained activity including dark shadows and items in the kitchen being moved and thrown. There was a suggestion that a suicide had taken place at the venue, although research has found no such record to confirm this.

The exact age of the venue is difficult to pin down given it was terrace houses at the earliest point, so my suggestion of an age between 1870 and 1920 is a conservative estimate. A look at the election rolls during the periods on 'ancestry.com' may uncover the building former inhabitants. Like many pubs in Northwich in the 19th century, a number were called a 'cafe' where bottles of alcoholic cocktails were served under the 'medicine' label. You pop in to get your cough mixture and come out singing and dancing, which you would be given most contained 90% alcohol.



The Salt Barge (undated photo) When the property was once terrace housing.

The building sits opposite the recently opened Lion Salt Works Museum. On the other side of the canal bridge, there are two lakes called 'flashes' to the left and right of the road, all caused by the heavy subsidence the town has experienced over many years due to salt and brine extraction. There are stories that say on low water levels the roofs of the houses buried in the flashes can still be seen.

Salt mining in Northwich goes back to Roman times, a fact that a Roman wooden fort is suspected of being built at Castle in Northwich confirms just how far back this town goes. *Watling Street* (a Roman Road) runs through the centre of the town and if you carry on as the crow flies (now called *New Warrington Road*) it will cross between the Salt Barge and the Lion Salt Works.

As a paranormal investigation team, research is important, and the knowledge of years investigating buildings and areas does throw up a number of suggestive theories that may make this particular venue interesting. The activity being experienced by the venue, if correct, suggests the activity is dark in nature.

I was to work with a Spirit Medium named Hollie Buckley, someone I was not familiar with and certainly never worked with before. We agreed to meet up at 9pm on the night and discuss some tactics. Unfortunately, I didn't have the full team available to help me on the night. I was told that the Manager, some staff members and members of the public who had experienced issues at the venue, would also be present. With any business, investigations are normally carried out with a high degree of privacy, no one wants to make it common knowledge their business address is haunted or worse.

I had not been to this venue for many years, maybe more than twenty. It had changed greatly to what I remember. Much larger and very cosy. The venue had an excellent reputation as a meal pub.

Following a briefing with Hollie Buckley, I suggested that we did a full EMF sweep of the building to rule in or rule out any changes to the electro magnetic field. We also agreed to start with a blank canvas and not allow anyone to contaminate fact with myth and legend.

If you require further information on EMF or other topics raised in this document please go to our sister web site which contains considerable information including EMF: <http://www.electronicvoicephenomena.co.uk/>

Two Mel Meters were used throughout the ground floor of the building which showed a zero reading. The kitchen area however did show levels of between 2.0 and 3.5 MG, which is higher than expected given the kitchen was closed and even with an area full of electrical devices. The venue may wish to consider looking at an EMF survey when the kitchen is in full operation during the day.

Once outside the kitchen area the EMF reading was zero MG which included the walls, so no issues with the electrical wiring.

As a science based research unit, we do look at things differently than a Spirit Medium might or would, but I accept that both sides of this coin cross over from time to time. After many years of investigating, you do start to get the feel of a building when you first enter, I am most sensitive to negative than positive energy, so on arrival when my senses suggest something doesn't feel right I do take notice and with The Salt Barge I did feel exactly that.

I had done some research on the area and had learned of a death of a miner who fell and drowned under strange circumstances and a court case was brought against the co-workers of the man that was killed. This freely available information can be read via the link below and should be read together with this document as it contains some thought provoking information relevant to this investigation. :

<http://lionsaltworks.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/about-us/history-stories/death-at-marston/>

For reasons of clarity and honesty, I have to record that I was aware that the venue had contacted the local media with a view of running a story. This raised some concerns for me given the venue may wish for the investigation to bring a positive result to help their cause. However, no matter what happens with the media, the results were better than expected, and once again, when you think an investigation will come up with nothing, the complete opposite occurs.

EQUIPMENT USED: I was fresh from a similar venue investigation at Stoke on Trent and just two days earlier, and wanted to use again two different types of equipment: The Kinetic skeleton tracking system. This device looks at an area and seeks to find an object using Infra Red, Ultra Violet and normal colour spectrum's as well as heat and sound, often not seen with the naked eye. The object needs to register a minimum of twenty points of reference containing a head, body, arms and legs. The system then maps the object and shows it in a shape of a skeleton on the computer screen, the reason it's nick named 'Stick Man'. A further computer was also used which utilises a number of differing sensors and probes, where it is suggested spirits can use these frequencies, white noise being one of them. The software uses a simple A to Z dictionary and 0 to 9 number system. This system, which is still under development and code named 'ALICE' uses a number of current equipment technology such as the SB9 and SB11 Spirit Box and the Ovilus phonetic systems. The idea is a 'spirit' can use this as a communication device to put letters and words together which in turn arrive on the computer screen as words to read. Two computers with two different tasks working independently of each other. With 'Alice' you are able to save as a text file the words that were written.

If as a sceptic, you will be suggesting that words written will be all random and not relevant. This point is true. However, if I was to ask a question 'what is your name' and the answer written is 'George' and then I ask 'how did you die?' and the answer was 'Killed', which you can evidence that with a fact that a man named George was killed at the house when he fell down the stairs, is pretty good evidence when two relevant words come from a possible 350,000 word dictionary. I concede your point as a sceptic, so you do need to at least consider my evidence as a scientist when I have to consider what the chances are of two relevant words being written from a bank of 350,000.

With the venue now empty of customers, I had decided to set up the two computers in front of the unlit open fire area of the venue. Hollie however had other ideas. She said she felt 'drawn' to the front of the building and with Hollie leading this investigation I had little option but to do that. My thoughts were to set up in the area that was empty of anyone, Hollie wanted to go into an area with staff and people attending the investigation. In hindsight, she was proved to be correct.

The equipment once set up is a fascination for anyone who has never seen it before, and sure enough the people in the venue wanted to know what it was and how it worked. Scott, who is a member of staff, was stood next to me, but just before I left the area to set up the next piece of equipment, he pointed me towards the screen, which in turn showed a small skeleton entity stood in front of the bar. A full figure, approx 3 feet tall and with head, body, arms and legs. 5 or 6 seconds later the entity disappeared. I saw this with my own eyes and so did Scott. The Kinetic tracking system is expensive to purchase and it has not been around for that long, so in some ways still remains under development. However, it has been used before and evidence recorded of tracked entities and what we now know of two surprising constants which are relevant. *1. The entities once tracked are always small in size, approx 3 to 4 feet in height compared to a human when tracked which would be normal height, for example 6 feet. 2. In all previous evidenced cases, the entities have remained visible and tracked for no more than 10 seconds. There maybe a reason for this short time frame which I will cover next.*

With any form of spirit contact or communication, which is based on scientific fact, the activity has always been short lived and often comes in bursts, if you believe a spirit needs energy to communicate and manifest, you have to remember it will have no storage capacity, and once the energy is depleted the activity stops. This explains why activity lasts for seconds and never minutes. This also explains why part manifestations are often evidenced, just a single arm or leg and the more common is the orb. Again fact, when spirit contact of some form is found, high levels of EMF is indicated when a meter is used, once the contact is lost the EMF falls back to zero. Many investigators experience sudden and unexplained battery drain of equipment.

A theory I have been working on for some time is the use of EMF pumps, a device that simply emits EMF energy within a small confined area, in the hope that this theory is proved to be correct, a spirit will or could use that energy to do certain things. So why can't a spirit just put it's fingers into an electrical socket rather than drain a battery?. The difference here is the current of AC and DC currents. There have been no recorded events of electrical wiring being tampered with but thousands of documented cases of battery drain, and I have been one of it's victims. I had built three such EMF pumps made just for this purpose. Over 2016 and during this year 2017, we have been recording any findings when using these devices.

After experiencing the tracked entity earlier, I placed an EMF pump close to the area it was seen, just in front of the bar. The temperature remained throughout the night at between 18 and 19.5 centigrade.

With any investigation, it is critical to evidence everything. In a normal full blown investigation I would have a four camera CCTV system set up to record it. With this venue just being a 'tester' for a possible future full investigation, I just didn't bother, this was a mistake, but given how quickly the entity showed itself I would not of had the CCTV set up in time anyway, but what I did have was a number of stand alone movie X cameras, so I set up one camera to cover the computer screens and hoped something would again materialise.

The intention was to leave the staff and guests in the front room whilst I went about the other rooms with Hollie and use other equipment such as EVP (electronic voice phenomena) SB9 and SB11 spirit box and EMF meters. We also deployed a full spectrum camera to take a high number of random photos. This camera photographs in the ultra violet colour spectrum which will pick up objects not seen within the human eye spectrum. The two computers were being recorded by a movie cam so this freed Hollie and myself up to investigate other areas.

Twenty Minutes later: It was clear by the shouts from the front room that things were beginning to happen, so Hollie and myself went back to see what activity was taking place. The Alice computer had been writing out word after word, which was suggesting a spirit of some form was communicating, the word 'Salt' was written and a full sentence 'fell down the shaft' but after the word 'Killer' was written the Alice computer froze and then crashed. Now, I am not going to jump to any conclusion why this computer crash occurred, is it just coincidence that it froze after the word 'Killer' was written? This Dell computer was less than 12 months old and runs 8 GB of RAM. So I will place this event as unexplained.

45 Minutes Later: Whilst Hollie and myself was conducting an EVP session at the rear of the ground floor, we were summoned once again to the front room. The Alice computer was again writing out a string of words, what then happened left everyone, including myself, totally speechless.

Alice wrote out the word 'Hi'. Seconds later as I arrive to look at the computer screen (you can see me on the movie) two entities appear together and sat on one of the stools. As clear as day, to the far left is one of the staff who was sat behind a table. These two entities now became one, indicating 22 points of reference as it mapped and tracked it. Seconds later the word 'Spirits' came up on the Alice computer. This entity was sat next to the EMF pump and the whole episode lasted for several minutes. Nowhere in the world of the paranormal field had anyone tracked an entity for this length of time. This was in fact a worlds first.

So what exactly is going on? There is no rational reason why this device was tracking this entity other than it was of a human shape which could not be seen with the human eye. It will not track anything else, it has to be of human shape. It tracked the member of staff and she can also be seen on the movie. *It is possible* for the system to look at an object, for example as small branch type plant and pick up twenty points of reference if the shape appears human, but all we could see was a stool and behind it the flat surface of the bar. The system had been on for some hours and had not tracked anything until this point. Now, is this entity residual (time being played back) or is it real time and is it intelligent?. I asked two questions following a welcome: *Can you lift your right arm?* And then: *Can you lift your left arm?* The entity, which you can see on the movie, did both. This shows two things, Intelligence and Interaction. This is not residual (a Ghost).

The entity remained in the same place for several minutes and just 18 inches away from the EMF Pump that was placed there for this very reason, that can be no coincidence. The same entity remained in the same area until I announced I was going to walk towards it, and the second I did so, it disappeared and never returned.

Here is the movie where you can see for yourself this amazing footage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4GsuNjZOkM>

I have also linked a further movie that was taken by Hollie Buckley as a 'Live' broadcast for Facebook.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqfmUdIQo-I&feature=youtu.be>

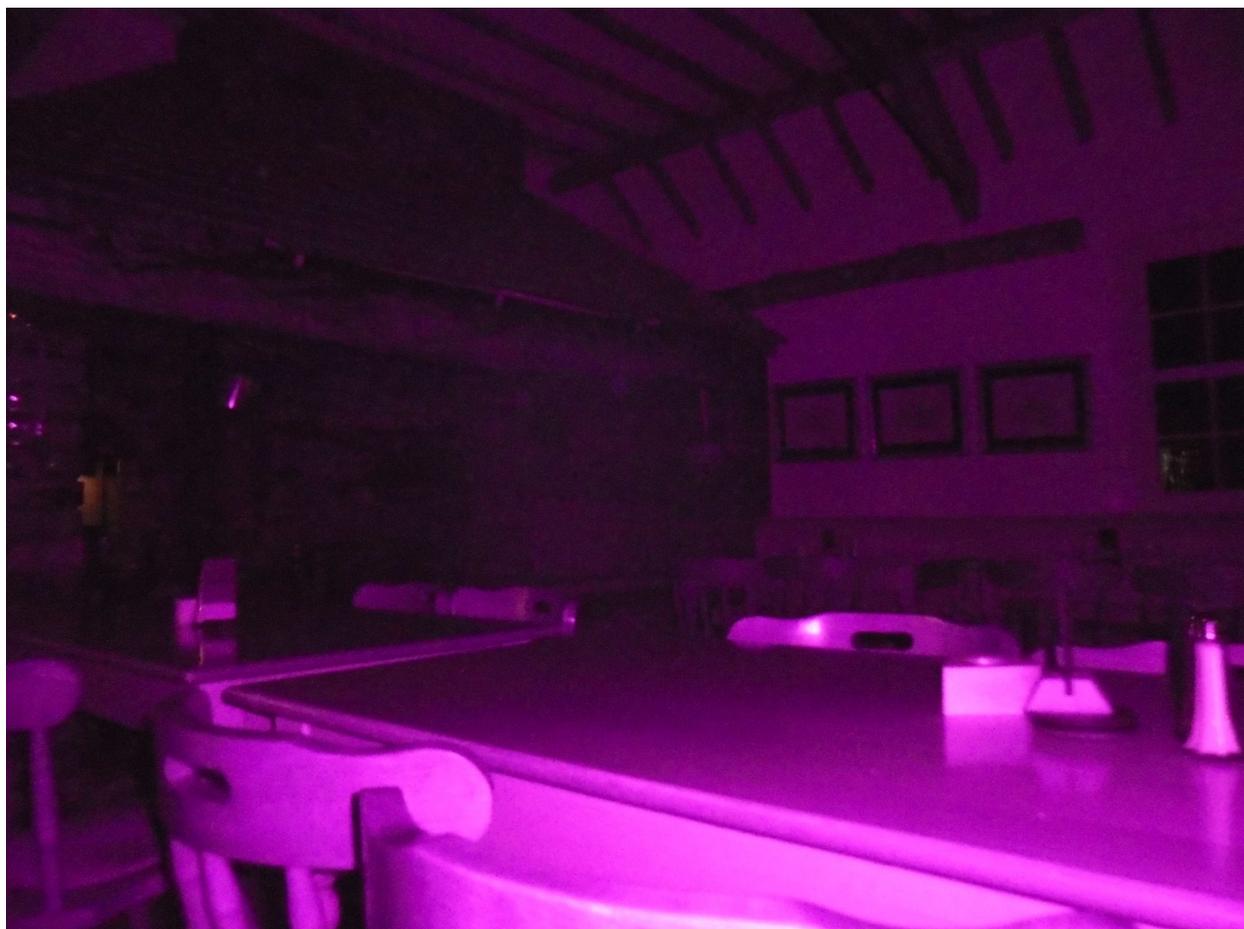
EVP Sessions.

Seven sessions of EVP were conducted but all of the recordings were contaminated with cross over noise from the other rooms that it made reviewing any possible EVP impossible. For reasons of completeness here is a link to one of the sessions so you can understand the issues faced when other unwanted noise bleeds into your recording during EVP. Click link below:

<https://app.box.com/s/7ya6fra5ttbrb98ybjgm63khcgpmt86z>

Photographic Evidence.

173 photographs of full spectrum footage were taken during the investigation. On reviewing the following can be disclosed as 'unusual'. All the original photographs are still available.



The above photo was taken by one of the guests and the approx time was 11.45pm. To the window frame to the right (bottom left window) there appears to be a face looking in. The next photo is of the area magnified. Could it be the face of someone passing by? Unlikely given the location but it is possible.



End of investigation evidence.

Conclusions:

It was unfortunate the full team was not available for this investigation. Had they been, little doubt that more evidence would have been captured. However, what was captured was explosive. There are two questions that need answering. *1. Why is this building active? And 2. Can the venue be considered to be haunted?*

The first question is the more difficult to answer so I will cover that first. I will have little option but to give an opinion on conjecture as well as the facts,

Location: The building sits on top of a major salt extraction mine. Many buildings that were around it subsided and knocked down years before. The building has gone through a number of refurbishments and rebuilding. Those of you that are familiar to the triggers of most paranormal issues will realise the building already ticks two huge boxes; *Holes in the Ground* and *Refurbishment*. Listening to peoples stories about the unusual activity taking place in the building, it is not just recent events, I heard first hand experiences from people going back to the 1970's.

The kitchen showed high levels of EMF, 3.5mg at it's highest reading when the equipment appeared to be turned off. The kitchen is next to what I would consider to be the middle of the ground floor. This middle area does have a very different feel to it, it does feel slightly dark in nature as you walk into and out of this small area. I can't help but wonder with the kitchen being next to it, and given the high EMF levels with equipment turned off, what levels would be found when the kitchen is in full working operation?. If during the day the kitchen staff are feeling 'anxious' or 'as if they are being watched' it will give a natural explanation. It is known that levels of EMF above 10mg can and will make the person feel anxious and another symptom is seeing dark areas which some people call 'dark shadows'. The only way to be sure is to conduct an EMF survey within the kitchen area when it's in full operation, you will then be able to rule in or rule out the EMF. This however does not explain why staff are reporting items being thrown and moved in the kitchen area, not a natural reason anyway, but it would explain where an entity was to get the power from to do so, similar to the entity tracked in the front area. The difference in the front area was that the entity used the energy is a good way (white) The kitchen area activity is dark in nature, no good spirit throws objects. No matter how strange this opinion is, it does give a reasoned explanation. When you take into account the reports of items being thrown you have to consider a Poltergeist, but the activity was within one small area and not your normal Poltergeist activity, so I am going to stick with my opinion that the higher than normal EMF levels are being used to levitate items and throw them. A mischievous spirit maybe, but one that is slightly angry and giving off negative energy.

You can not rule out the mine(s) underneath the building. Our American colleagues, who have researched in detail, and where investigations have been carried out within there own mining locations, such as gold mines, have become an epicentre for paranormal as well as supernatural activity. The issue with this theory is we are now moving into the realms of the extreme due to it's rare nature, the '*Vortex*' or '*Portal*'. I have myself investigated two, one happens to also be in Northwich and above a mine and deep cellar and the other is in Nantwich and on top of a disused earth bunker. I have also read the research on three other mines completed by the Americans. This theory, which is based on scientific fact, is that when the earth's own magnetic field is disturbed by major events such as mining, an energy *vortex* is formed which acts like a trap door but in reverse. Of these five events already researched, is it just coincidence that unnatural holes in the earth just happen to be at the very point of the activity at this location?.

Refurbishment of a building is another common reason why paranormal activity suddenly occurs or worsens. I don't have the information to make a judgement call on recent repairs or refurbishments to this building. If the activity has remained constant over time, you can rule this out, but if a sudden spike of activity is experienced then something triggered it, you just need to find out what.

The big question; is the building haunted? *Consider a haunting as residual*; Which is time and space being replayed back like a tape recorder. No evidence was found of anything residual on this particular investigation. Does the building show evidence of continued *paranormal activity*? Most definitely. The movie evidence alone is of the highest quality. If evidence could be gathered of items being moved or thrown as the reports in the kitchen, then we are now moving into the area of *supernatural activity*. The building does have the potential for such activity.

A further investigation is required to document the activity but with a more detailed investigation. IR CCTV in the kitchen over many hours and EVP in a more control noise free conditions being just two tools that may produce some answers or maybe even more questions.

This report maybe updated at some point with the opinions of Hollie Buckley.

ALSO ATTACHED;
Word print out from 'Alice'.

Tony Hayes
16th May 2017.