

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

# Paranormal Review

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## The Ghost Hunting Issue

**PART 1**

### **IS THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH STILL RELEVANT?**

STEVE PARSONS ASKS WHETHER GHOST HUNTERS HAVE ANYTHING TO GAIN FROM THE SPR

### **SOUNDING SCIENCEY**

SHARON HILL ARGUES THAT GHOST HUNTERS ARE PLAYING PRETEND SCIENTIST

### **Spirit Houses**

**Brian Millar  
Interview Pt 2**

**4 Ghost Stories  
from Northern England**

**Reading Previous Lives**

**7 Reasons to Research  
Physical Mediumship**

**Light in the Séance Room**

**How to Win the Lottery  
Using Precall**

**William James**

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## Submissions

Features, articles, letters, experiences, notices, reports and reviews should be sent by email to Dr Leo Ruickbie at paranormalreview@spr.ac.uk. Material can also be posted to the Editor at 1 Vernon Mews, London W14 0RL. Please mark envelopes 'Paranormal Review'. Full submission guidelines can be found on the SPR website at www.spr.ac.uk under 'publications'.

## Note

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## The Society for Psychical Research

The SPR was the first organisation established to examine allegedly paranormal phenomena using scientific principles. Our aim is to learn more about events and abilities commonly described as 'psychic' or 'paranormal' by supporting research, sharing information and encouraging debate. The SPR was established in 1882 and is a Registered Charity.

## Membership

The SPR welcomes members of the public, as well as students and researchers in all disciplines, to join. Membership does not imply acceptance of any particular opinion concerning the nature or reality of the phenomena examined, and the Society holds no corporate views. The minimum age for joining is 16, with reduced subscriptions for students, couples and senior citizens. To renew or apply for membership please visit the website at www.spr.ac.uk, telephone the Secretary, Peter Johnson, on 020 7937 8984, or email secretary@spr.ac.uk.

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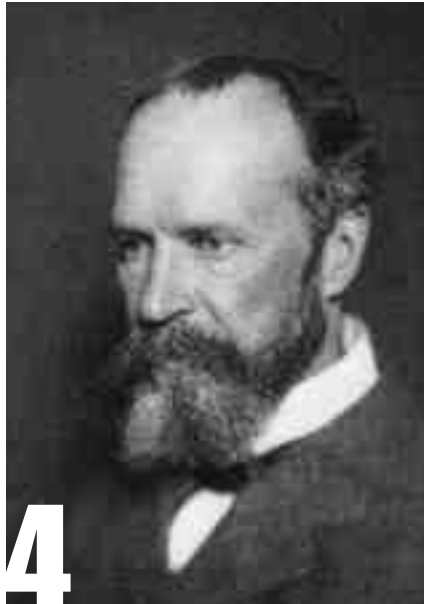
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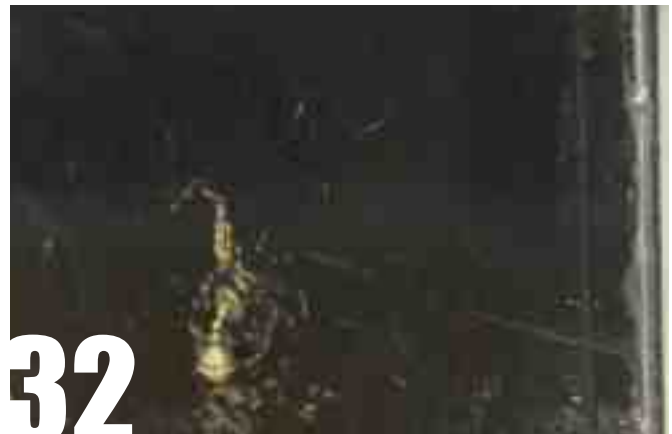
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**W**e begin this issue with the President of the SPR, Prof. John Poynton, continuing his exploration of the SPR's philosopher-presidents. In his President's Letter he considers William James.

Dr Peter Hewitt presents another unusual exhibit from the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle, Cornwall – the spirit bottle, or spirit house – for our Permanent Paranormal Object column.

Controversially, Steve Parsons challenges us to consider whether the Society for Psychical Research is still relevant to the needs of today's paranormal investigators. On the other hand, one might ask whether the desires of today's paranormal investigators are relevant to the Society for Psychical Research? Dr Sharon Hill takes the modern ghost hunter to task by criticizing the wasted effort playing pretend scientist. SPR member Ken Smith presents us with four ghost stories from the North of England, including a pink lady who turned white.

Titus Rivas and Anny Dirven present a new case of psychic reading given in the context of the best evidence presented to date. Drawing on his recent SPR conference

presentation, Dr David Vernon asks whether using precall could help to win the lottery. The question may be tongue-in-cheek, but the research is intriguing. For different reasons, Prof. Eckhard Kruse argues that we should still investigate mediumship, even if we do not believe in it, and gives us seven reasons for doing so.

Prof. Adrian Parker concludes his interview with Brian Millar in 'The Occult Life of an Extraordinary Ex-Parapsychologist' about his interrupted career as a parapsychologist. Our regular contributor, Brandon Hodge, explores the use of light in the séance room and presents an object from the Lily Dale Museum.

Steve Parsons first presented his article at the SPR conference in Leeds last year and more recently at the last SPR Study Day 'New Approaches to Ghost Hunting'. In our Letters section, Paul and Charla Devereux respond to the Study Day and Parsons's appeal in particular.

I am also pleased to include the announcement of the SPR's next conference and the call for papers. Finally, eagle-eyed readers may also notice the use of the new SPR logo, agreed recently by Council.  $\Psi$

**Dr Leo Ruickbie**  
Editor

# editorial