

ParanormalReview

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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 is a Registered Charity, established in 1882.

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Enfield

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David Saunders talks to director James Wan and actor Patrick Wilson about their new film *The Conjuring 2*.

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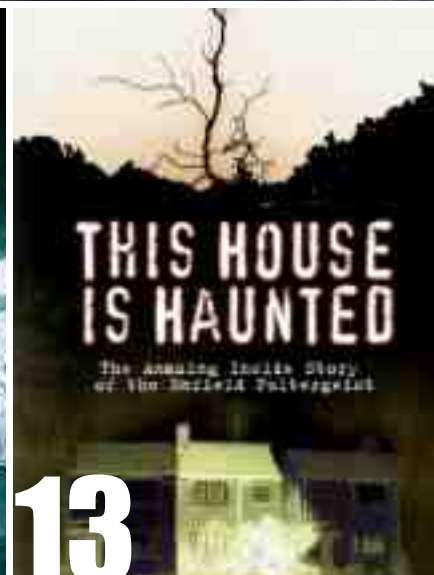
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Cover: Patrick Wilson as Ed Warren in *The Conjuring 2* © Matt Kennedy/Warner Bros. This Page: Vera Farmiga as Lorraine Warren © Matt Kennedy/Warner Bros; *The Conjuring 2* © Warner Bros; *This House is Haunted* cover by Mouse Design. Opposite: street sign CC3.0 Philafrenzy; broken seal © Leo Ruickbie.

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SPR Conference programme.



It was 'we need the SPR!' when *The Enfield Haunting* hit our screens last summer, but this year's re-visit of the Enfield poltergeist case, *The Conjuring 2*, takes a very different approach. Focusing on the minimal (to be polite) investigation (to be generous) of Ed and Lorraine Warren, it tells quite another story; one that most members of the SPR will find unfamiliar, if not unfounded.

On behalf of the *Paranormal Review*, I sent David Saunders to see the film ahead of its worldwide première and ask director James Wan and actor Patrick Wilson (who plays Ed Warren) some pertinent questions. The results are a fascinating interview and film review.

Michael Tymn also takes another look at Guy Lyon Playfair's classic book on the case, *This House is Haunted*. First published in 1980, it is just as fresh today as it was then and is still necessary reading.

Poltergeists are not the only thing paranormal lurking in Enfield. Not long ago, I read *Consulting Spirit*, written by Enfield GP Dr Ian Rubenstein. It is a gripping, true account of how a medical doctor found himself drawn into an extraordinary world of psychic experience and outrageous coincidence. The book ends still in the middle of the story and I simply had to find out more.

Dr Rubenstein generously gave one of the fullest and most interesting interviews I have had the pleasure of publishing. He also told me about the time he met the son of Bill, the putative Enfield poltergeist.

SPR Council Member John Fraser gives us an insight into his recent investigations at The Cage in St Osyth, a reputedly haunted former prison with a connection to the witch trials. We are fortunate to have photographs of supposedly poltergeist-inflicted wounds to print.

The President of the Swedish SPR, Göran Brusewitz, reports on the recent BIAL Foundation symposium in Porto on placebos and healing. We also have an account of the SPR's Study Day, 'Raiders of the Lost Archives', illustrated by Dr Graham Kidd's pen and ink drawings.

As this edition focuses on the Enfield poltergeist, I must mention that the BBC is showing *Ghostbuster: The Real Thing*, a 1996 documentary following SPR investigator Maurice Grosse as he returns to the Hodgsons' house twenty years after Bill the poltergeist made his first appearance. 'The SPR,' he says, 'is the world's leading centre for the scientific study of the paranormal.' The film can be seen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00mrv35>. ♣

editorial

Dr Leo Ruickbie
Editor