

Believe It Or *Not*

- In March of 2024, Shy Bairns were asked to investigate a suspected supernatural phenomenon that occurred in Blackpool in 2020.

We have spent the last year exploring the events in the lead up to the disappearance of Johnny Highland in 2020. Through investigations into his digital footprint, belongings and correspondence we have been able to piece together some of the details, which we now present in an installation of our research hosted by The Grundy.

The material in this installation is presented in its original condition. In our line of work we do not draw final conclusions, but aim to explore and detangle the overlapping truths in order to gauge a deeper understanding of the complex circumstances that lead to paranormal happenings.

- In 2020, COVID-19 struck and galleries across the world had to be closed down. During that time, they sat empty, waiting, vulnerable. Only a reduced number of staff members were allowed access to these spaces during shortened hours. The Grundy was one such institution. The Grundy's curator, Johnny Highland, spent time at the gallery during lockdown to work on online programming and future projects. Sometime between the 17th and 23rd April 2020, Highland disappeared. In early 2021, the gallery issued a press release stating that Highland had taken early retirement and moved abroad. Now under new management, The Grundy reopened the case in 2024, hiring a number of specialists to investigate.

In the lead up to the events of that April, we have found that Highland was carrying out his own investigation. Previously overlooked, his research forms the basis of our examination into the events surrounding his disappearance. Highland's collections and documentations of bizarre happenings around the gallery implies this story is more complicated than was initially suggested. Prior to The Grundy commissioning professional investigators, a number of locals became interested in the case of the missing curator. A few amateur investigations took place but no public conclusions were made and the research went unreported and undocumented. As part of our inquiry, and keen to use the knowledge of these local experts, we have gathered material from two of these investigations. They provide a deeper context to the happenings of 2020, and give us more evidence on which to base our ideas.

We would like to thank The Grundy for funding this research. Thanks also to Maggie B. and Jack [Redacted] for loaning their personal investigative materials.

(!) All claims are disputed by The Grundy and may not be based on fact.

- 1958 ● Maggie B. is born in Blackpool, UK
- 1982 ● Johnny Highland is born in Nottingham, UK
- 1982 ● School children from Baines Endowed Primary School, Blackpool report glowing orbs across the sky towards the sea
- 1988 ● Maggie B. begins working at The Grundy as Gallery Services Officer
- 2000 ● Johnny Highland starts a degree in Product Design at Kingston University
- 2002 ● After dropping out of his first degree at Kingston, Johnny Highland starts a second degree in Fine Art at Falmouth University with a specialism in Sculpture. He graduates in 2005.
- 2002 ● Jack [Redacted] is born in Blackpool, UK
- 2007 ● Johnny Highland starts a Masters in Curation, graduating in 2008
- 2008 ● Photographs of a 'UFO' flying over the Fylde Coast are captured from Blackpool Pier and published in the Blackpool Gazette. The military are called in to investigate the series taken by a holidaymaker.
- 2010 ● Maggie B. completes a course in Parapsychology from The Centre of Excellence
- 2013 ● Files are released by The National Archives, containing a wide range of UFO-related documents, drawings, letters, and photos.
- 2015 ● Johnny Highland begins working as an assistant curator at The Grundy
- 2015 ● The Lancashire Paranormal Investigation Team forms
- 2016 ● The *Alien, UFO, Spiritual And Paranormal* exhibition opens near Central Pier, Blackpool
- 2016 ● Shy Bairns collective form
- 2018 ● A man approaches the Lancashire Post saying he has 'proof' that extraterrestrials have visited Preston
- 2019 ● Johnny Highland is promoted to head curator at The Grundy
- 2019 ● Jack [Redacted] begins a foundation art degree at Manchester School of Art

2020

January

23rd ● The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against all but essential travel to the city of Wuhan, the original epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak

31st ● The first two cases of Coronavirus in the United Kingdom are confirmed

February

2nd ● Jack [Redacted] applies for a voluntary invigilator position at The Grundy

20th ● A UFO sighting is reportedly spotted above Preston prison and documented with photo evidence in the Blackpool Gazette

27th ● England's chief medical officer Chris Whitty tells the media that mass gatherings such as sports events and concerts may have to be cancelled, and schools closed for more than two months, if the UK is badly hit

March

16th ● The UK is placed into its first lockdown. The Grundy is closed, and teaching at Manchester School of Art moves online

19th ● The Grundy announces closure due to the UK lockdown, closing Garth Gratrix's exhibition *Shy Girl* a week early

20th ● Maggie B. is made redundant due to the introduction of voluntary invigilators and pandemic cutbacks at the gallery, although no invigilators are hired at this time

22nd ● Johnny Highland finds a specimen of Raw Hematite while walking on Blackpool beach

24th ● Arts Council England announces the Emergency Response Package for artists affected by COVID-19

April

- 1st ● Johnny Highland finds a specimen of Moldavite on Blackpool beach. He assumes it's an April Fools day prank.
- 3rd ● Figures published by the Cabinet Office indicate UK road traffic levels have fallen by 73% since the lockdown measures were introduced, and are at their lowest since 1955
- 4th ● Highland discovers specimens of Elite Shungite and Tektite during a more intricate comb of Blackpool beach
- 12th ● Highland returns to the beach for a final time, discovering Labradorite and Raw Hematite
- 15th ● Highland requests access to The Grundy building in order to work on the gallery's digital programming
- 17th ● Johnny Highland finds a heat spike anomaly recorded on the thermograph machine located in the gallery. He also makes his final contact with Maggie B. as he emails her to disclose information about the Thermograph chart.
- 17th ● Remote Work open call is announced
- 19th ● Johnny Highland finds a sample of an unknown ooze-like substance in the gallery
- 20th ● Maggie B. emails Highland to request some samples and photographs of the ooze but doesn't receive a reply
- 21st ● A Blackpool resident reports 'fireballs' in the sky off the Fylde coast, followed by a series of jets. This is investigated by air traffic control at Blackpool Airport and HM Coastguard with no conclusion drawn.
- 22nd ● Johnny Highland disappears (date approximated by Shy Bairns)
- 26th ● Maggie B. follows up on her previous email to Johnny Highland but this also goes unanswered
- 27th ● Researchers announce Lancashire is the third highest hot-spot for UFO activity in the UK
- 28th ● After reaching out the other Grundy staff, Maggie B. is advised that Highland is not considered missing and is most likely visiting friends or travelling

May

- 8th ● The Grundy launches *WorkTownGhostTown*, documenting Blackpool as a site of mass tourism at a time of social distancing and travel restrictions
- 9th ● The first post on the TikTok account @jackwhomst is recorded with the hashtag *WorkTownGhostTown*. The TikTok shows a video of ghost train at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, alongside a story of a ghostly operator named Cloggy.
- 10th ● Maggie B. creates her Reddit account u/BlackpoolMaggie
- 15th ● Remote Work open call deadline
- 27th ● The Grundy put out the tweet “All roads - and time wells - lead to Blackpool”

June

- 13th ● Maggie B. creates her first Reddit post, made up of images sent by Johnny Highland to *r/Whatisthis*. She asks for help with identifying the source of the ooze that has formed around the pipes in the gallery’s ceiling.
- 17th ● Maggie B. enquires in *r/Ghosts* about clearing up CCTV footage. She later posts in *r/Haunted* with images of the Grundy stairwell, which she suggests could be a “sign of a paranormal occurrence?”. She also writes “I am working on accessing the building in order to collect some of the soot”.
- 25th ● The UK government announces plans to relax rules for England and Wales allowing pubs and restaurants to utilise outdoor spaces such as terraces, pavements and car parks, while outdoor markets and fetes will no longer need planning permission.

July

- 6th ● Maggie B. gains entry to The Grundy, collecting a sample of ooze that has formed around the pipes in the building’s ceiling and soot that has formed on the staircase.

6th ● The UK government announces grants and loans of £1.57bn to support theatres, galleries, museums and other cultural venues affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

7th ● Maggie B. posts on the Reddit thread *r/Ghosts* with CCTV images taken on a phone of the Grundy's CCTV camera, with an area circled. She also posts an update on the oozing pipes, with photos of the ooze and a caption that states it has a "very negative energy and smells like death".

8th ● Maggie B. posts in the Reddit thread *r/UrbanExploration*. She asks if anyone "has spent time in the underground tunnels that create passageways between cultural venues here". She also posts in *r/Missing411* asking if the phenomenon defined by David Paulides in which people disappear in national parks and elsewhere has ever occurred in England, specifically in "deserted buildings or tunnels".

8th ● The National Gallery, London, set to be the first museum to reopen to the public after lockdown restrictions, gives a preview to the media of its new safety measures.

26th ● Jack [Redacted] finds Maggie B.'s Reddit account, leading them to make a TikTok about the discovery and then initiate contact with Maggie B.

29th ● The Grundy reopens as lockdown measures are lifted

October

7th ● The Grundy announces on twitter that the gallery opening times have changed

November

5th ● The Grundy closes to the public again following further lockdown restrictions

2021

March

1st ● After persistent questioning, The Grundy announces that Johnny Highland had taken voluntary redundancy in April 2020 before moving abroad.

18th ● Jack [Redacted]'s TikTok account is set to private

September

19th ● Jack [Redacted] moves to Brighton, beginning their degree in Graphic Design

2024

May

15th ● Shy Bairns are asked to investigate a suspected supernatural phenomenon that occurred in Blackpool in 2020

September

22nd ● A box arrives at Shy Studio containing collected evidence, notebooks and possessions belonging to Maggie B. There is no note.

2025

May

18th ● *Shy Bairns Believe It Or Not* opens at The Grundy

29th ● *Science, Séance and the Simplicity of Silence* workshop run by Shy Bairns at the Grundy, exploring supernatural occurrences and the influence of community groups on the perpetuated silence of authority figures.

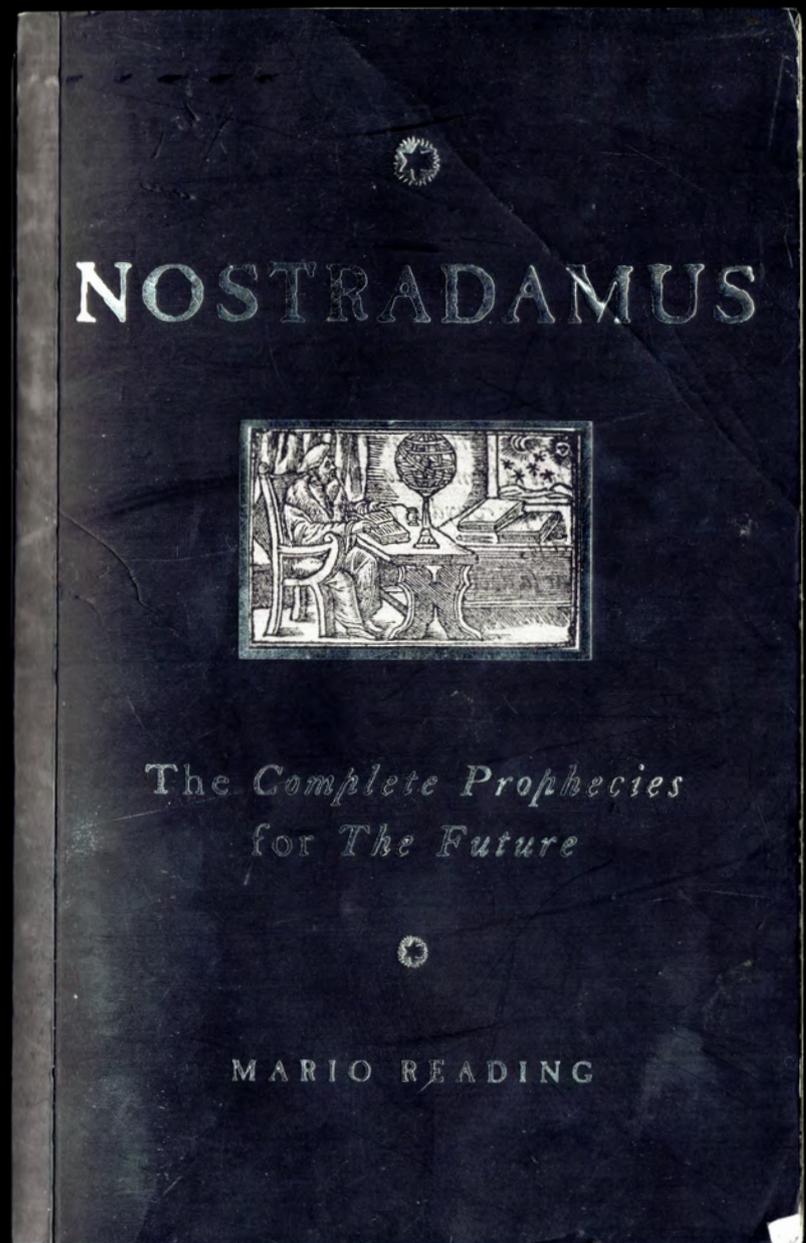
A box was posted to Shy Studio in late 2024 containing a selection of personal items suspected to be from Maggie B. Included in the box was a collection of her books, showing an interest in a wide variety of conspiracy-adjacent topics; paranormal investigations, local heritage, extra-terrestrial activity and cryptozoology. The publishing dates range from 1967 (a first edition copy of Strange Twist of Fate; Fate Magazine) to a 2024 edition of Behold A Pale Horse, a 'bible' for conspiracy theories that was discovered to have been recommended to Maggie via an anonymous Reddit user.

A collection of Maggie's notes were also found within the pages of these books, which enabled us to piece together her speculative theories; a post-it note in Ghost-Hunting For Dummies shows Maggie's approach to authenticating her finds, while more left-field notes indicate she believed the astronomer Nostradamus had predicted the creation of underground tunnels in Blackpool.

It is not clear why Maggie would choose to part with these items from her collection. We have come to the assumption that these are the items that Maggie deemed most important to our enquiries and the case of Johnny Highland.

- Key included in the box of personal belongings that was sent to Shy Studio. The location of the lock that this key belongs to is currently unknown.



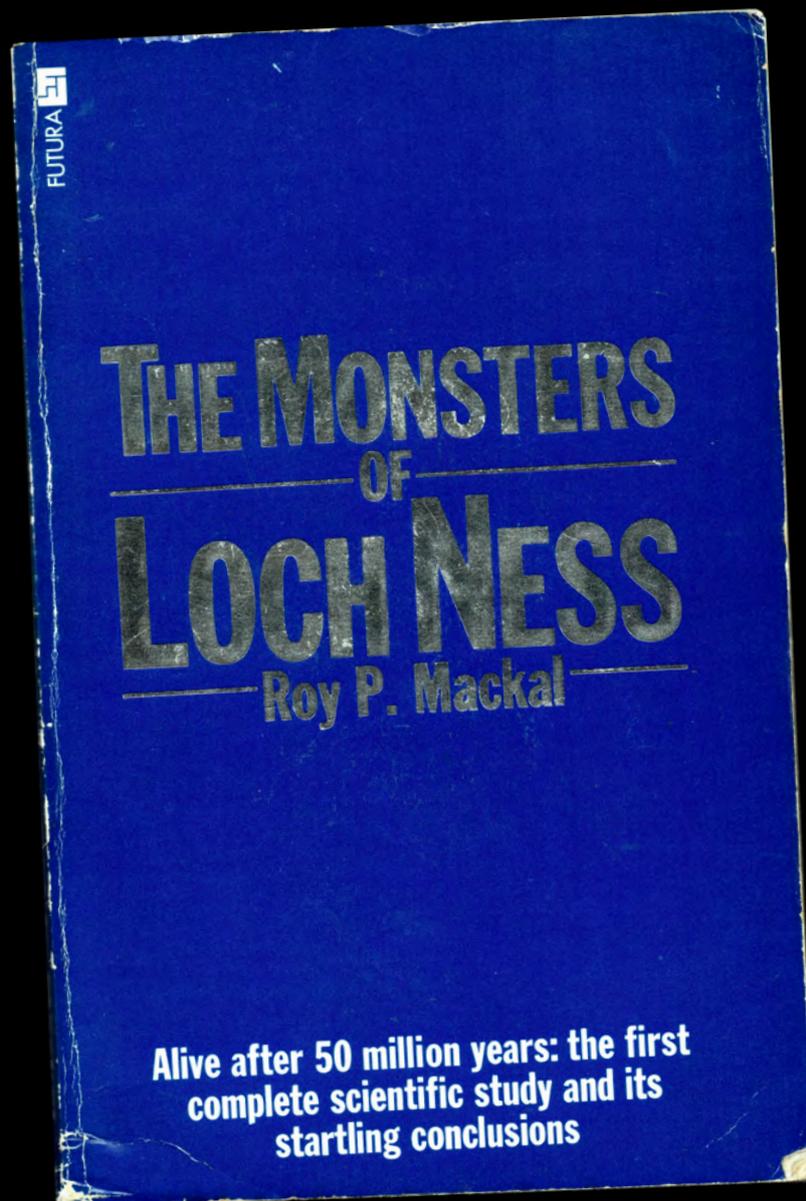


● *Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies for the Future* by Mario Reading

The key to dating Nostradamus' always intriguing and popular predictions has now been discovered! Award-winning author Mario Reading finally found the long-searched-for key, and with it, has uncovered the secret connection that links the seer's various quatrains. With this new knowledge, he can interpret these astonishing predictions in formerly unimagined ways...and give us a glimpse of what the future holds. Among the amazing finds: Nostradamus foresaw the Twin Towers disaster, the Iraq War, the devastating tsunamis, and the flooding of New Orleans. But even more, Reading's groundbreaking translations and sharp commentary states precisely what is still to come. His sometimes extraordinary and shocking forecasts include the demise of the British Monarchy, the breakup of the European Union, and Global War.

● *The Monsters of Loch Ness* by Roy P. Mackal

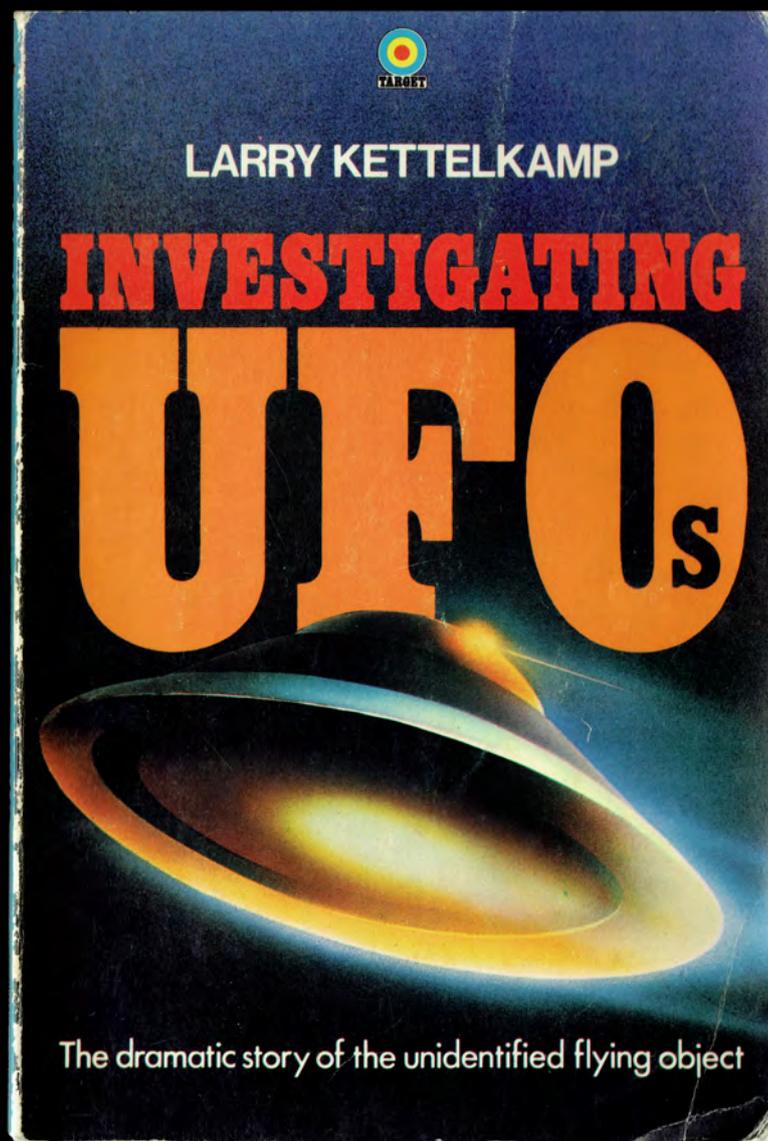
Mackal began his serious research into the Loch Ness Monster phenomenon during the 1960s. While vacationing in London in 1965, he took a trip to the Scottish Highlands and met several members of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, who were monitoring the loch in observation vans in hopes of seeing the creature(s). The team acquired some sonar signals suggestive of large objects in the loch, along with some tantalizing photographs allegedly showing a flipper, although they were unable to provide any conclusive evidence that the monster(s) existed.

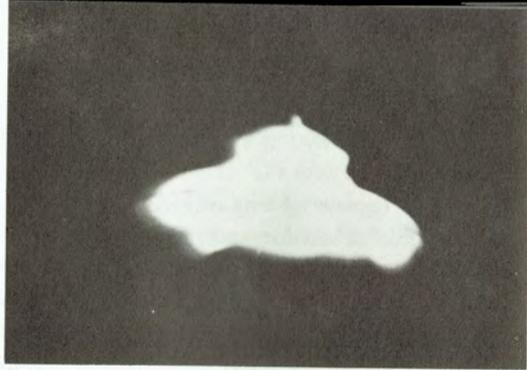


Mackal became convinced that something lived beneath the waters after recording his own sighting of the creature in 1970, and in his 1976 book *The Monsters of Loch Ness*, he suggested that a population of large, previously-unknown amphibians were living in the loch.

● *Investigating UFO's* by Larry Kettelkamp

Kettelkamp explores the controversial topic of UFO's including accounts of government and civilian studies on them, descriptions of reported sightings, and possible explanations for them.

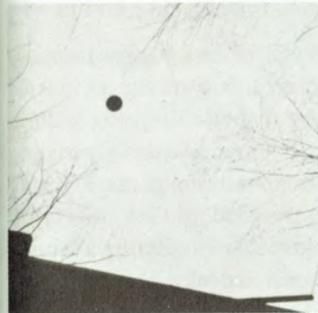




FAKES AND ILLUSIONS

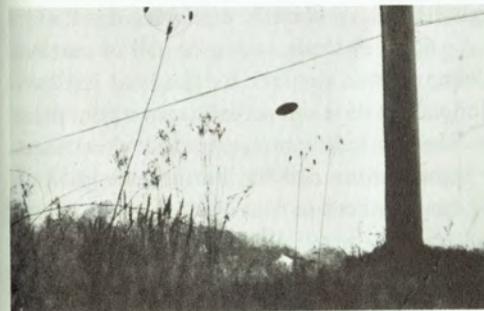
Above, photo by August Roberts of a saucer model covered with luminous paint, exposed to strong light and then placed in a dark room.

Below, photo of a steel mill in Hamilton, Ohio, showing UFO's created by light reflection between lenses of the camera.



Saucer imitations made with a Polaroid camera by Norman Vogel.

Above left, a penny on a sheet of glass as seen from below.
Above right, a piece of paper pasted on a picture window.
Below, a pot lid hung on a horizontal wire.



LEARNING MADE EASY



Ghost-Hunting

for
dummies
A Wiley Brand



Zak Bagans

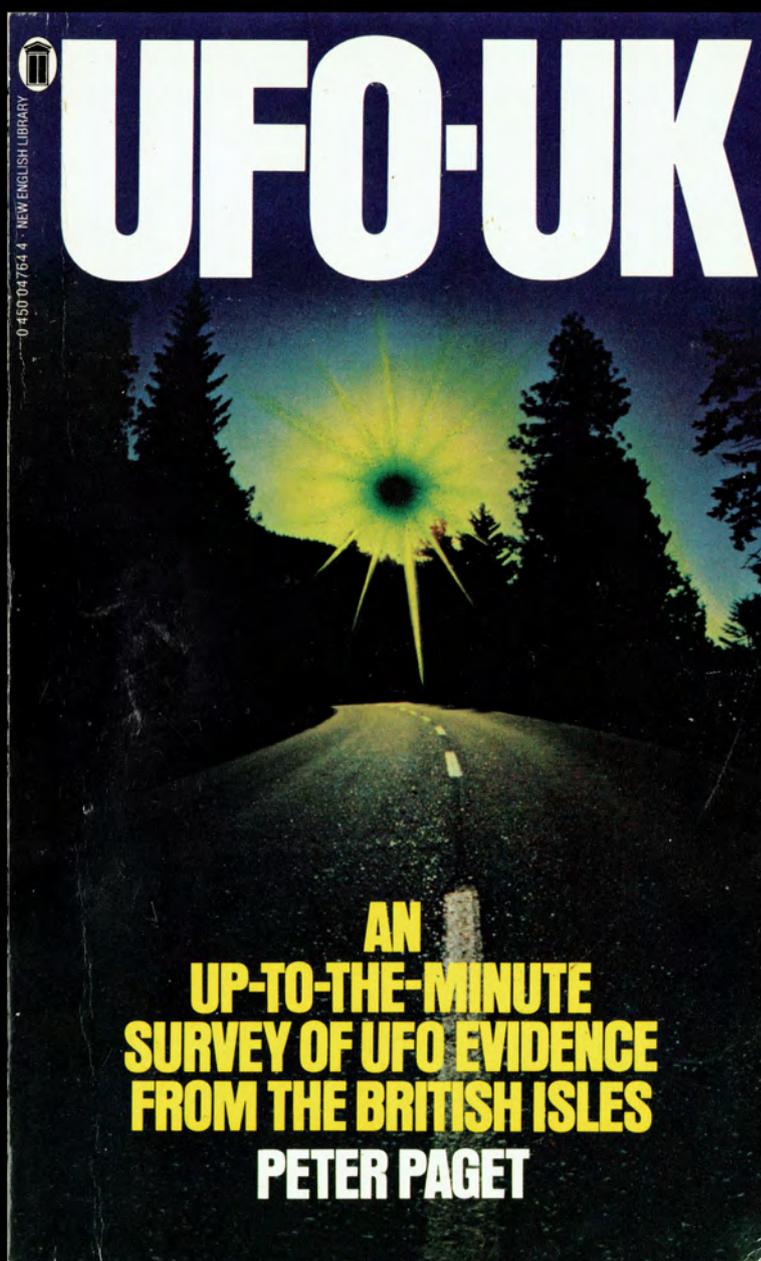
Host, executive producer, Travel Channel's *Ghost Adventures*; Founder/Curator, *The Haunted Museum*

● *Ghost-hunting For Dummies* by Zak Bagans

Dive into the ghostly world of the supernatural with America's leading paranormal investigator and executive producer of the hit TV series Zak Bagans. *Ghost-Hunting For Dummies* is peppered with true accounts from Bagans' famous cases and investigations. Featuring expert advice on picking a haunted location, setting up cameras, and dealing with unwieldy ghosts, this book shows how today's investigators use the tools of modern science to study a wide range of paranormal activity.

● *UFO-UK* by Peter Paget

A fascinating look at the thousands of real life 'Close Encounters' recorded in the UK. *UFO-UK* is a comparison of sightings to indicate flight paths of visiting craft from other worlds with a special focus on the enigmatic significance of 'The Welsh Triangle' and the skies over Salisbury Plain. *UFO-UK* is an astonishing dossier of evidence to challenge every attempt at official cover-up.



bright glow surrounded it. It was between one and three miles from the coast and its height was estimated at 800 to 1,000 feet.'

It was at first thought to be a Boeing 707 with all its lights on, but its speed ruled that out. The coastguard spokesman in summing up said: 'We can only put it down as a report of something unidentified. We do not know the explanation, whether it was a space vehicle re-entering or what it was . . . We are left in the dark!'

Chapter Three

MIDDLE ENGLAND AND THE NORTH SKY

FOR some reason Scotland seems little favoured by the 'saucers'. Perhaps it is just the canny Scots keeping the information to themselves, or it may be a result of population distribution, but other researchers besides myself have noted a dearth of sightings from the extreme North.

I do have this one item, however, from the west coast; my correspondent writes: 'About fifteen years ago (1962) we were camping near the Solway Firth and about 11:30 p.m. sitting around the fire, there appeared a cigar-shaped UFO about 300 feet above us. It just stood still for about three minutes with a light under it and no noise. Then it moved off, still no noise. It was very big; we could not see the top of it because of the dark.'

Another camping experience comes from Miss D. Stevens of Nottingham, who writes:

'I have seen something strange in the sky when camping in Derbyshire. I thought it was the moon at first but it sort of switched off like a light and I turned my head and saw the moon to my left. I went and told the others, but they weren't convinced. It moved very slowly and all the while it was in the

'So as to
optics
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Chapter Eight

UFO CULTS AND SOCIETIES

SOMETIMES of as much interest as the UFOs themselves are the people engaged in their investigation and the various followings who have turned the subject into a lively technological and quasi-religious cult. These range from the straightforward documentation and scientific approach to prophesies of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Wherever a UFO 'flap' breaks out the various buffs immediately appear, each giving his own interpretation of the observed facts. How much credence and consideration can be allowed to each individual school of thought is an important issue, as it is usually a spokesman from one or other of the committed societies who appears on the media telling the general public what to think as if it was a matter of accepted fact. Hence an impartial look at the bias present in these arguments is useful to determine the degree of pre-determination of conclusion inherent in these fixed outlooks.

Perhaps the most predictable opinion will be that offered by an 'expert on astro-physics' or indeed any other vaguely related scientific discipline financed heavily by government funds. The explanation from such a source will simply be that the

UFO has been 'identified' or at the very least explained away.

Any explanation will do so long as it could by some stretch of the imagination fit the facts. The planet Venus is a favourite, as apparently this heavenly body goes on manoeuvres every year, and keen-eyed observers have seen it flying at about 200 feet over Devon, while on other occasions it has been officially 'identified' when in fact the planet was on the other side of the earth and below the witness's horizon. Of course, if it suits the 'explanation' then the whole solar system will turn on its axis.

I recall King Canute faced a similar battle of faith in the powers of the administration some centuries ago when it was decreed that the tides were subservient to the power of Kings.

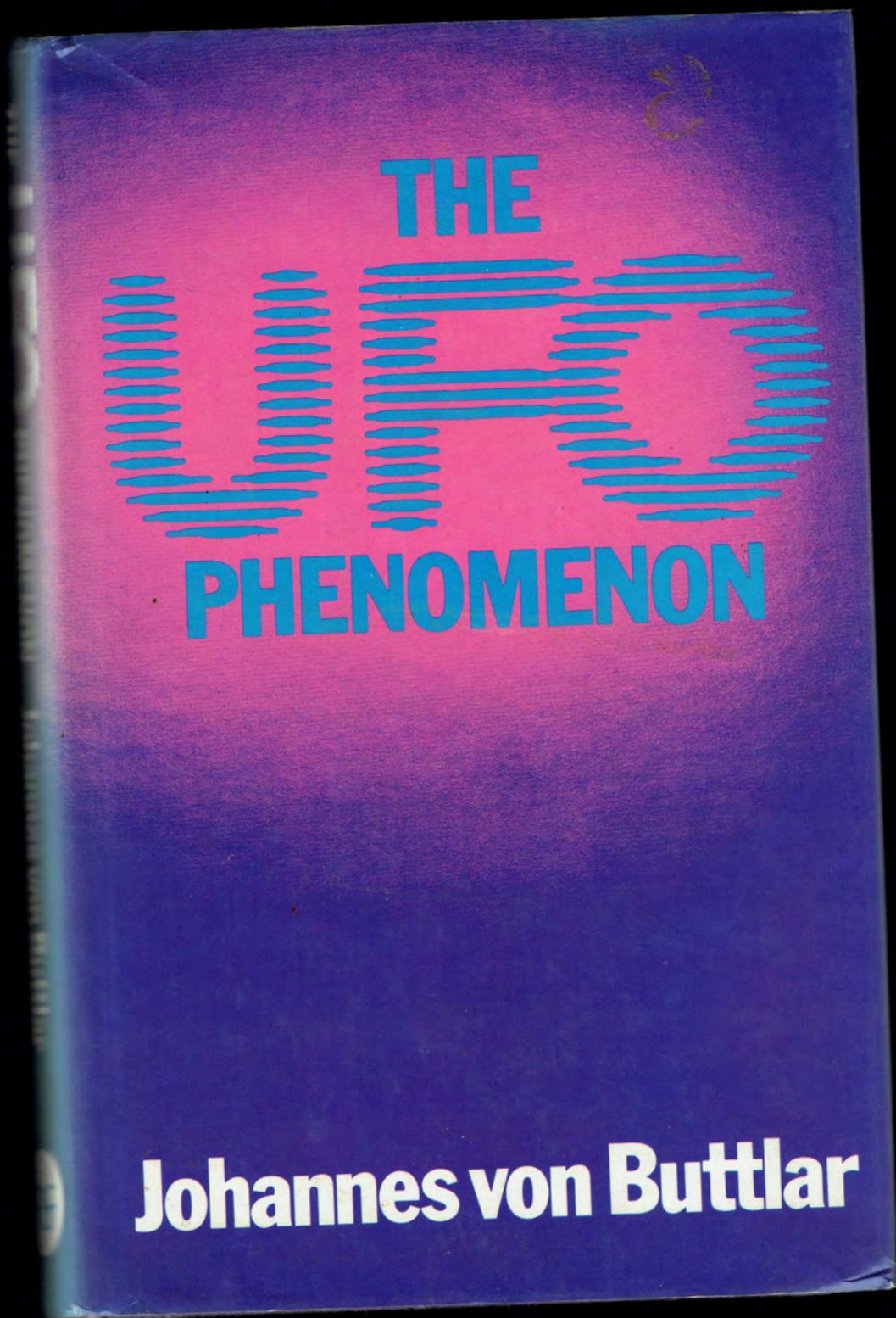
This is not to say, of course, that some UFO reports are misidentifications. Such bodies as the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association attempt to sort the wheat from the chaff, while the largest United Kingdom UFO society, Contact International, seems uncertain of its exact role. It says of itself:

'Contact International is not a cult, nor even a research unit that adheres strictly to a particular viewpoint. Its policy is one of constant flexibility. It endeavours to approach the UFO riddle with open-minded curiosity, progressive thought and properly placed speculation. But above all it undertakes a continuous programme of objective research.'

If, however, it has failed to find a clear viewpoint on what UFOs are, at least it is certain of what its society constitutes:

'Contact International is a non-profit-making organisation, incidentally with branches in thirty-seven different countries, financed from subscriptions and donations. It is run by responsible, intelligent individuals, variously qualified and coming from all walks of life. Each is prepared to devote their free time towards the unravelling of the UFO problem, and as such do not get paid for their efforts.'

With such eminent principles it appears to follow in the tradition of the great British amateur,

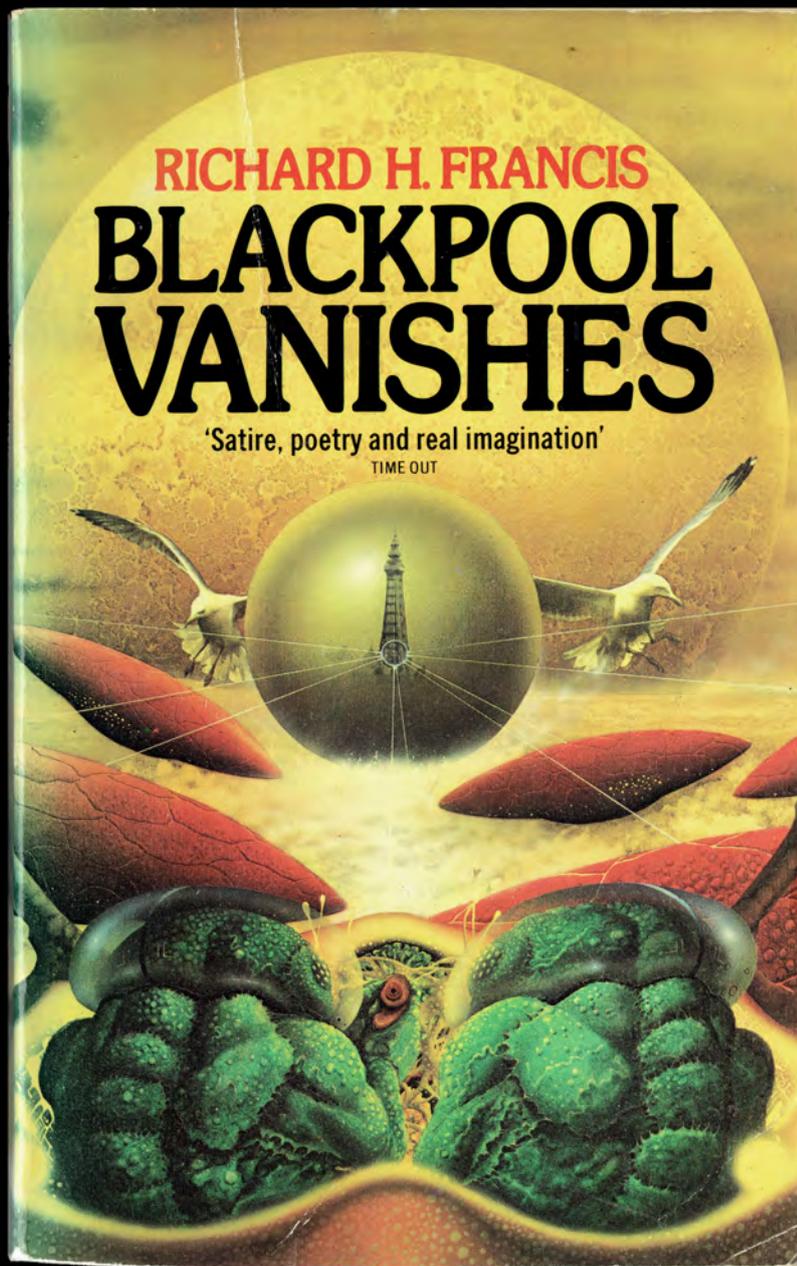


● *The UFO Phenomenon* by Johannes von Buttlar

A sensational view of the UFO phenomenon based on authentic sources and secret documents of the CIA and KGB.

● *Blackpool Vanishes* by Richard Francis

Blackpool has been visited for years by tiny beings in flying saucers so small they are mistaken for spots before the eyes, invaders from inner rather than outer space. Only one local resident realises what's going on and his reports, couched in verse, are not taken seriously by the Alien Beings Section of the Foreign Office until too late, when the whole resort is suddenly whisked away.



took Arthur
was gen
a s
Arthur
ool, something strange happened.
vak!" cried Mr Povey. He had a peculiar
e that blowak on the soid of the road?" Mr
bservant when he was driving the Watts on
o Blackpool. He couldn't stand the smell of
a dog, so studying the world outside the van
to feel better, like watching the television when
you t things on your mind. "What's he up tow, I
wonderr

'Oh yes,' said Arthur.

'Yes, look at him,' went on Mr Povey. 'He's gallivanting across the road now. That's not allowed, you know. No pedestrians on motorways. He'll come a cropper if he's not careful. Nicely dressed feller too.'

Chapter 3

Into Blackpool

They drove into Blackpool along the familiar streets. Arthur had seen them practically every year of his life. They were always the same, viewed at midsummer, with warm drizzle or cool sunshine playing on them, and crowds of holidaymakers wearing plastic macs, or handkerchiefs with a knot in each corner on their heads. He never saw them in winter, frosty and deserted, if winter ever came. He tended to think of the place as suspended while he wasn't in it, boxed up for the year like Christmas decorations.

If so, it perhaps hadn't been unpacked properly yet, because Blackpool didn't look quite right. Everything seemed rather squat and small this year, as if carrying a heavy load. Even the people on the pavements had a dumpy, wide look.

They turned the corner into Venner Street and drove past the Abandoned Baby public house which had been suspended for even longer than the rest of the town, as Arthur hadn't been in it since he became really old, about a decade ago. He could still smell the vinegary odour of lingering beer, and see the fierce, red face of the landlord, Mr Thatcher. He didn't feel nostalgic about it because he didn't think of himself as never going there again. He vaguely assumed that he would become a regular once more when he'd got over his old age, as though it were persistent flu.

Venner Street was interesting because as you drove down it you had the first view of the Tower close up. You saw it as you approached Blackpool, of course, from the distance, looming over the sea and town, but then it seemed to disappear as you got to the outskirts. It was only when you turned down Venner Street that it strode into view again, towering enormously over the Abandoned Baby. But this time it didn't seem as enormous as usual. Normally when you peered at it from the van window you couldn't get it all in: it rose out of sight. But this year, there it was. Arthur could even see the flag on top; in fact, there was about an inch of van window even above that. The Tower was nowhere near as tall as usual - it seemed to have retracted about twenty or thirty feet. The same had happened to the terraces of Venner Street, including the Abandoned Baby. For a nasty second Arthur felt he was looking down on the pub as if it were a doll's house.

He leaned back on his seat. He felt terribly ill. It was like being at the dentist's and having a tooth out, except that it wasn't a tooth, it was your whole body. Eileen, Vicky, Mr Povey, the van, everything, receded from him. It was almost a relief to have got to the end at last. He had been ignoring this moment all his life, he'd refused to speak about it or even think about it. Now it had arrived. 'I'm dead,' he said.

'You what?' replied Eileen.

Arthur opened his eyes. Everything was still there. In fact, it was more there than it had been a few moments before. The Tower rose out of sight, the terraces were sitting up straight, Mr Povey was beside him, Eileen and Vicky were



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

HEREBY CERTIFIES

Maggie B.

Has completed the necessary training and assessment to demonstrate competence and understanding within this field. The Centre of Excellence awards this certificate in recognition of the achievement.

UFOLOGY

With a:

DISTINCTION

With all rights and privileges ensuing there from:

7th April 2010

DATE

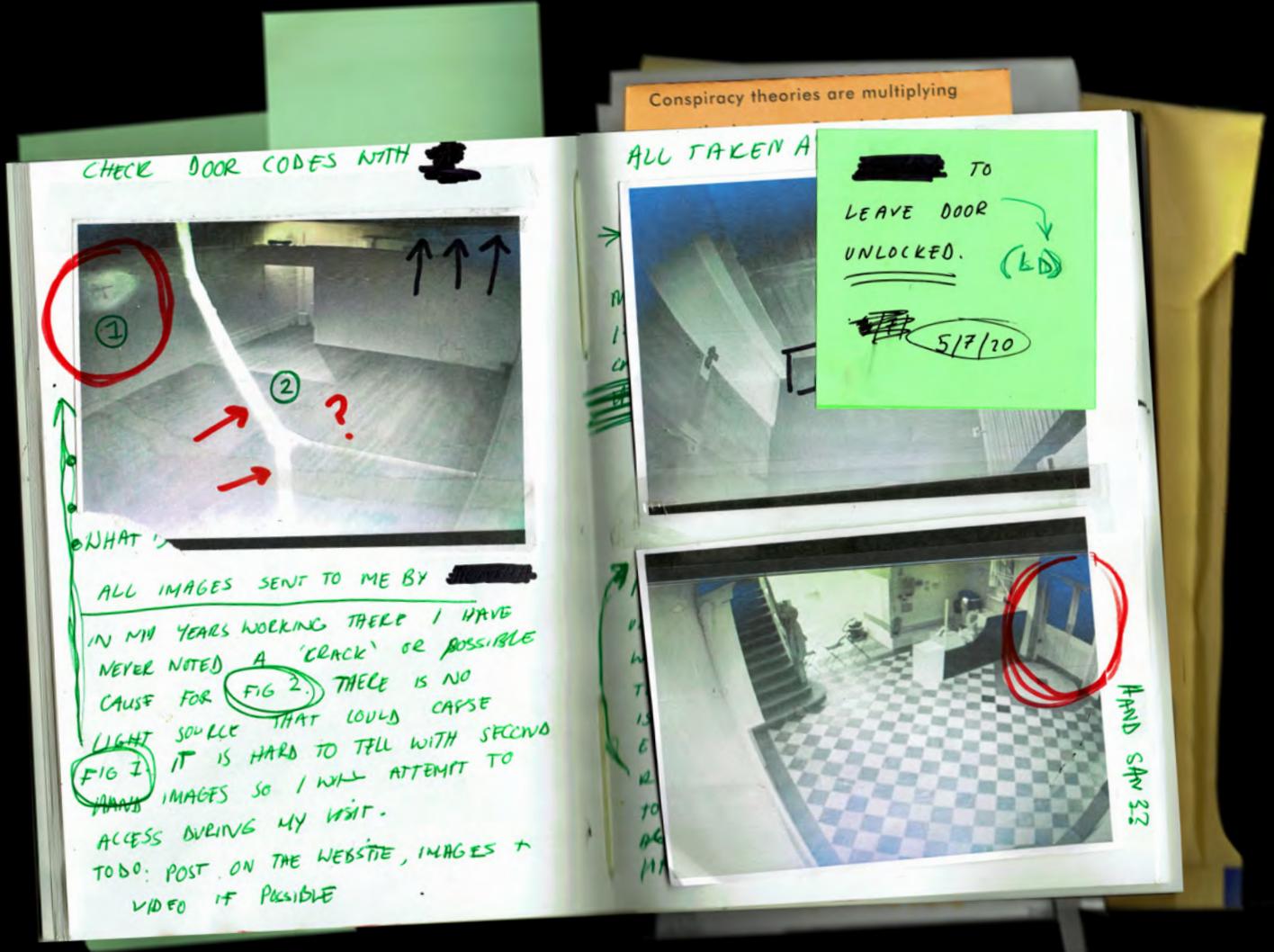
Sara Jones

DIRECTOR



- Certificate obtained by Maggie B. in 2010 for studies in Ufology from the Centre For Excellence

This journal was posted to Shy Studio along with various other items in late 2024 without a note or return address, seemingly from Maggie B. herself or an associate. While there is no name inside, the leather casing shows an embossed M.B.



These selected pages appear to be diary entries from Maggie's exploration of The Grundy during lockdown, proving that she accessed the gallery after being made redundant. It is clear that Maggie felt this visit was urgent, and that someone else with access to the building agreed. The pages also state that Maggie tampered with ooze collected on her visit, putting the samples posted to Shy Studio into questioning. While her notes reflect a need to return to The Grundy, there is no evidence to suggest a second visit occurred.

6/7/2020

08:03

GAINED ACCESS VIA DOOR LEFT ON
HALLWAY BY [REDACTED], BESIDES LIBRARY.
FELT ON EDGE DUE TO DAYLIGHT
RETURN AT NIGHT.

NO SIGN OF
STAFF OR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CEILING
[REDACTED] REMAIN
ACCESSIBLE

MIXTURE #1

OOZE + H₂O

- SMELLS LIKE DEATH.
- WATERING DOWN SEEMS TO MAKE IT MORE VIBRANT. THIS DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.
- BLACK PIGMENT - DIRT OR SOOT?



08:22

AS IN THE IMAGES TAKEN BY JOHNNY, THE "SOOT" SUBSTANCE WAS GATHERED IN LARGE FOOTSTEP LIKE CLUMPS ON THE STAIRCASE BY THE STOREROOM. THERE WAS NO SOOT INSIDE STOREROOM, BUT SMALL AMOUNT OF OOZE COLLECTING ROUND PIPES.



SAMPLE #2

JOHNNY'S OFFICE - 08:34

- DOOR UNLOCKED BY [REDACTED]
- NOTHING UNUSUAL OTHER THAN THE SMALL PETRI DISH OF OOZE JOHNNY TOLD ME ABOUT, AND HE WOULD NOT HAVE EVER LEFT WITHOUT THE [REDACTED] ROCKS - I DID NOT RECOVER AS I AM UNSURE IF UPPER MANAGEMENT WOULD NOTICE. I MUST RETURN UNDETECTED.

BUY
FLOWERS
[REDACTED]

Many of the other pages contain similar notes, alongside torn out articles and printouts of reddit threads. The journal appears to ask as many questions as it answers; why was Maggie's on-site research so needed? Was Johnny Highland aware of these plans before his disappearance? And most importantly, who helped Maggie gain access to The Grundy on July 6th 2020?



- Photograph of Maggie B's journal



- A second key that was included in a box of personal belongings that was sent to Shy Studio. The location of the lock that this key belongs to is currently unknown.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN??

likeness drawn below + imagine some tattoos and that he is shy



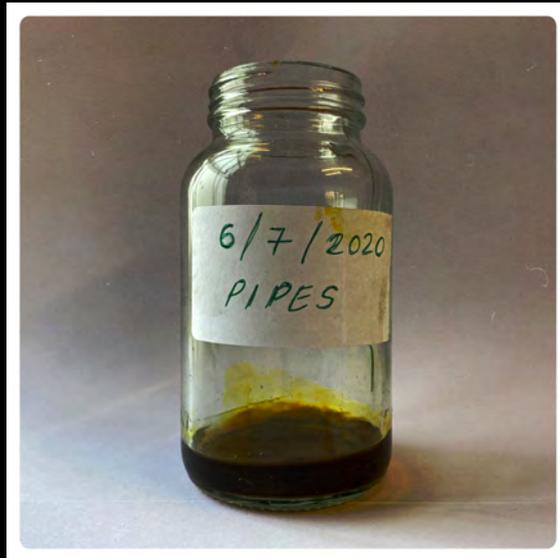
Height: 6' 1"
Weight: 13 stone
Hair: Close cropped dark brown hair
Eyes: Blue eyes, round metal framed glasses
Wearing: Often seen in a blue jacket and white shirt

if you know anything please contact me:

maggie:
0751568515

This poster was designed and printed at a local copy shop by Maggie B. in Autumn 2020, as an attempt to locate Johnny Highland after his disappearance. The public distribution of these posters prompted The Grundy to release a statement on his whereabouts:

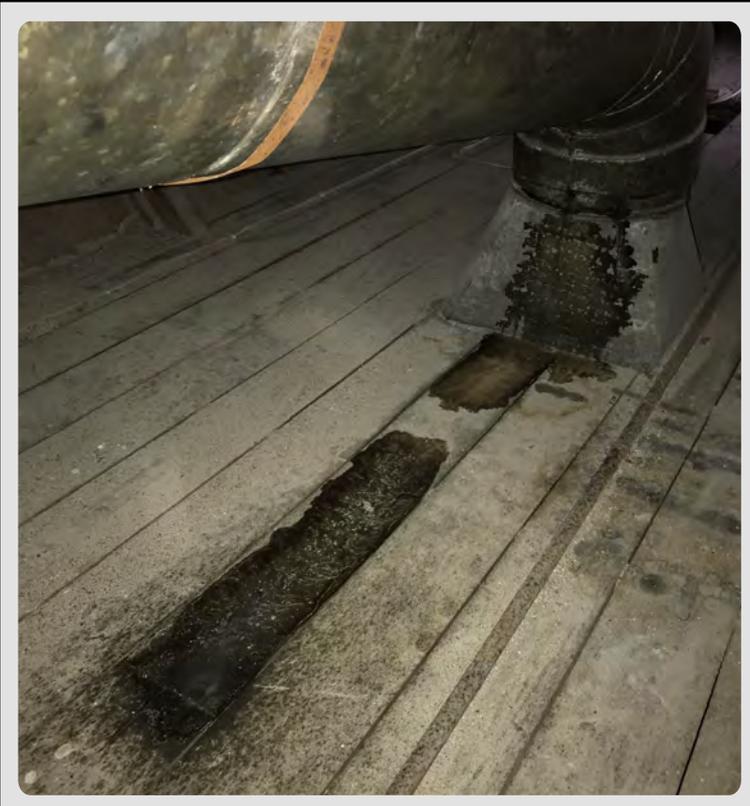
Johnny Highland, our curator since 2019, made the decision to take voluntary redundancy from the gallery for personal reasons in April 2020. While it is not our usual policy to disclose details of former staff, we would like to reassure the public that Johnny has relocated away from Blackpool and his leave was amicable. We wish him the best of luck for the future, and advocate for his privacy.



- Though we have been unable to confirm with Maggie B. herself, evidence found on her Reddit account (u/ BlackpoolMaggie) indicates that she gained access to The Grundy gallery during the lockdown of April 2020. There she collected a number of material samples from around the gallery. The collected ooze-like substance was harvested from a pipe in the ceiling of the gallery space, and the soot-like residue from a staircase leading to the gallery storeroom. Maggie also appears to have conducted experiments to recreate or multiply her samples of the ooze-like substance.

The full breakdown of what each recreated sample contains is unknown, but preliminary tests show a mixture of biological substances, chemicals and household substances, including hand sanitiser and antibacterial soap. Her original sample from the gallery matches the profile of a previous sample taken by Johnny Highland that was found in his office. Email correspondence between Highland and Maggie. B details discussions about these samples prior to Maggie's entry to the space.

The ooze samples were part of the collection of personal artifacts posted to Shy Studio in September 2024. A small sample of the soot-like powder was found enclosed in a pouch in Maggie B.'s journal, but further samples have also been collected by The Grundy.



- Photograph of the source of the ooze-like substance found in the ceiling of The Grundy, taken by Maggie. B



- Photograph of the soot residue found in a stairwell in The Grundy, taken by Maggie. B

UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK

A UFO has landed in Britain and that staggering fact has been officially confirmed. Despite a massive cover-up, news of the World Investigators have proved that the mysterious craft came to earth in a flash of light at 11 a.m. on November 21, 1957.

And that's OFFICIAL

NEWS-WORLD

It is supposed to be a vital document called 'The Christmas UFO' which is held in a safe in the United States. It is a copy of the original document which was written in 1957. It is a copy of the original document which was written in 1957. It is a copy of the original document which was written in 1957.

● Newspaper clippings found amongst the items posted to Shy Studio

Has Yorkshire got a flying saucer?



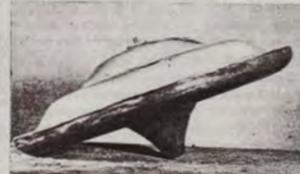
The object found on Silpho Moors.

Mystery object found on Scarborough moors HAS 'UNUSUAL HIEROGLYPHICS'

From our Scarborough staff

SILPHO MOOR CONTROVERSY

"FLYING SAUCER REVIEW" published in its March-April issue a full account of the mysterious small, saucer-shaped object that fell on Silpho Moor, near Scarborough, Yorkshire, England, on November 21, 1957. The object was seen to fall by three men. It weighed 35 lb., was 18 inches across and had hieroglyphics on the outside. Inside was a copper book with 12 thin copper sheets with more than 2,000 words engraved in phonetic-type symbols. Mr. P. Longbottom put in over 100 hours' work breaking down the code and transcribing the message which purported to be from a gentleman called Ulo in outer space. Controversy has raged fiercely over the authenticity or otherwise of this object. If it is a hoax, then this is certainly an ambitious one. We now reproduce through the courtesy of both Dr. James B. Williamson, of Middleton, Manchester, and of the Manchester Flying Saucer Research Society four photographs of this unusual object. The top two pictures are different angle shots of the saucer. The bottom left-hand photograph shows the hieroglyphics on the outside of the saucer, and the bottom right-hand one shows the copper book found inside the object.



THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 3 1963



Earthly beings: Mr Vincent Thurkettle and his dog at the forest site of the Christmas UFO "landing".

Down to earth approach to alien visitors

From Alan Hamilton, Woodbridge

The mission was to seek a close encounter, preferably of the third kind, but any kind would do. The place was a vast clearing deep in the 10,000 acres of Aldwood Forest, Suffolk, where, according to yesterday's *News of the World*, an alien spacecraft landed at Christmas, 1956, flew among the trees, left imprints on the ground, and vanished only when the United States Air Force from Woodbridge base, half a mile away, came out to investigate. Witnesses, according to the paper, have since greatly elaborated on the event, speaking of beings in silvery suits who practised levitation. The first being encountered

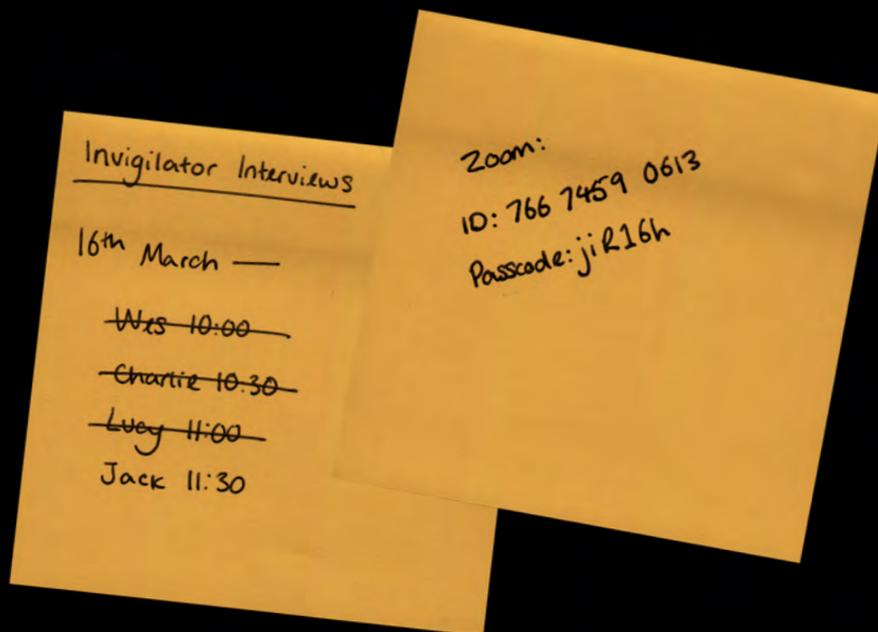
yesterday was clad in corduroy trousers and black Wellingtons. He came, he said, not from outer space, but the Forestry Commission. His name was not the Mekon, but Vincent Thurkettle. The second being closely resembled a collie dog, and was too busy chasing sticks to levitate. "This is the site", said the first being, gesturing around a rough acreage of stumps and teigs. "When the UFO it supposed to have landed the whole area was covered by Corsican pines 75ft tall and only 10ft apart. It would have taken a fair feat of navigation to get among that lot." He pointed to indentations in

the ground that might have been made by the feet of a far-travelled craft. "Rabbit", he said. "They dig for roots." But, surely, the searchers reported burn marks on the surrounding trees and radiation in the ground? "The burns were the marks we put on the trees for felling. And as for radiation, a craft from outer space is going to use a far more sophisticated form of propulsion." A third being, who said he was David Boast, and a gamekeeper, was quoted in the *News of the World* as saying how cattle panicked near his house on the night in question. "There are no cattle anywhere near here", he told me.

But surely, the US Air Force had taken the incident seriously. The base commander's report spoke of star-like objects in the sky, and a red light in the trees, and the report was now with the Pentagon? "The Americans here will jump at anything," the first being said. "They come out regularly at night to investigate lights in the forest." But why has it all surfaced now? "I think you will find", the first being said, "that a quillible cartilage is just about to publish a book about it." Suddenly, the second being levitated. But it was only to catch a stick.

After Johnny Highland's departure from The Grundy, a large quantity of his personal effects were left in his office. The Grundy archived these items in their store room until reopening this case in 2024.

As Highland's location is currently unknown, we will refer to his disappearance as 'The Event'.



- Post It Notes found in the office of Johnny Highland

- Post It Note found amongst the personal effects of Johnny Highland archived by The Grundy





Grundy Art Gallery Blackpool

Gallery 1 & 2
Skirting to cornice = 3.56m

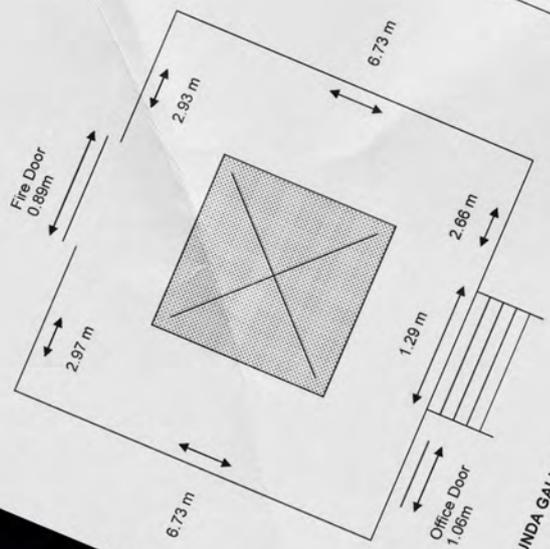
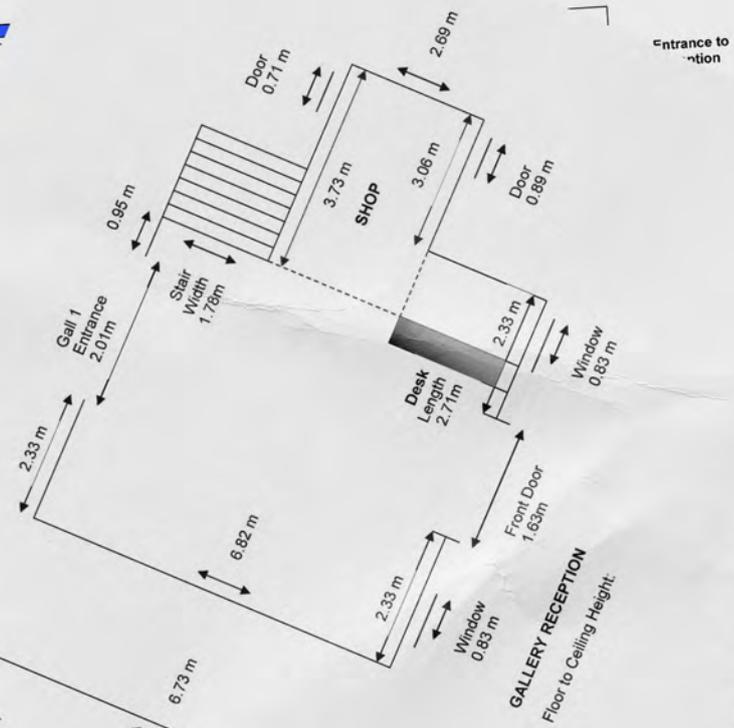
Gallery 3 & 4
Skirting to cornice = 3.25m

Radiators (+covers) =
(H) 0.84m x (W) 0.43 X (L) 1.49m

Dehumidifiers (+ covers) =
(H) 0.84m x (W) 0.43 X (L) 1.25m

All galleries
Floor to top of skirting = 0.44m
Skirting track Height = 4.00m (approx.)

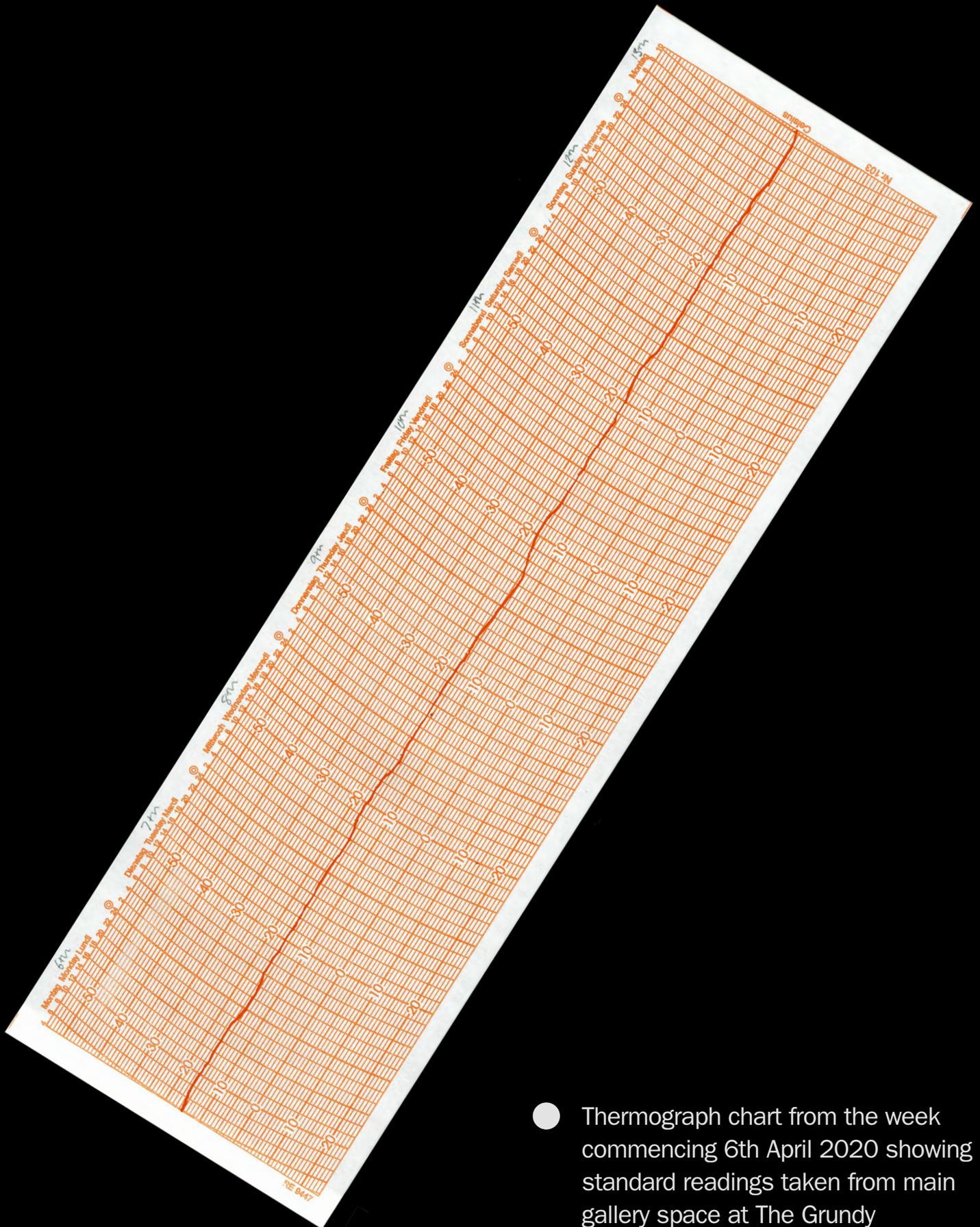
scale



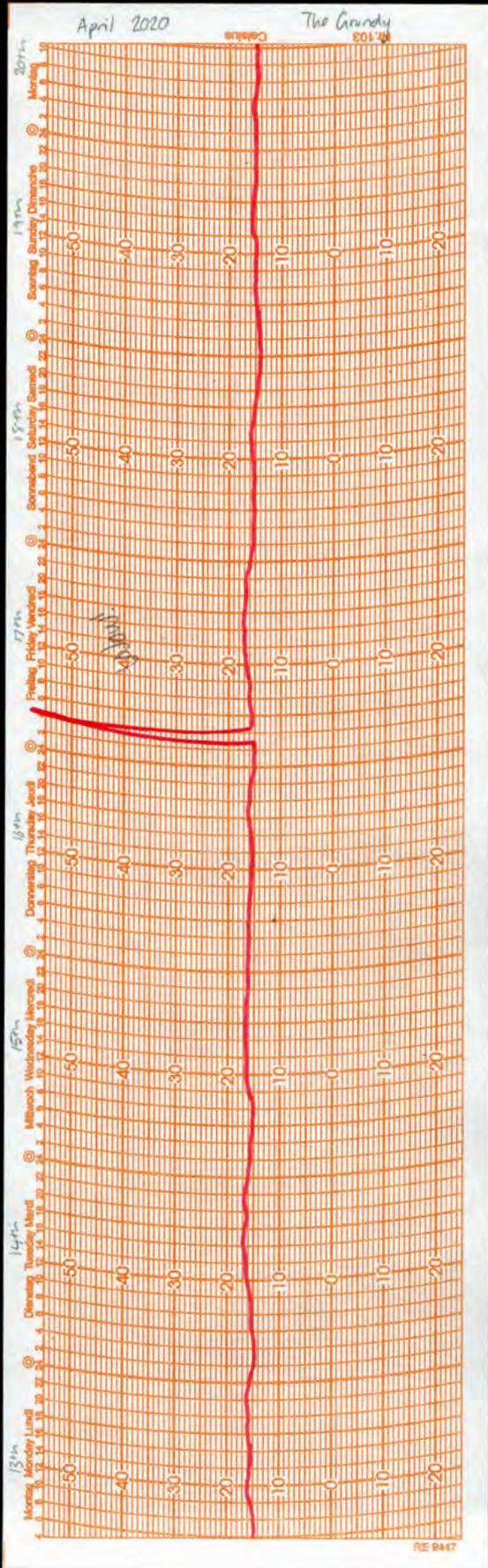
ROTUNDA GALLERY
Height Skirting to cornice: 3.00m

● Floor plans for The Grundy found in the office of Johnny Highland

These Thermograph charts were found among Highland's remaining possessions. A thermograph is used for the registration of air temperature. The machine that these charts were taken from is located in The Grundy's main gallery space.



● Thermograph chart from the week commencing 6th April 2020 showing standard readings taken from main gallery space at The Grundy



This thermograph chart had previously been annotated by Highland, indicating that the chart reflects data captured in the week beginning 13th April 2020. On the 17th April the chart records a data anomaly - a heat spike of above 55°C. It remains unclear as to what caused this dramatic change in temperature, and the accounts taken from Highland's notebook suggest he was also unable to uncover the source. The Grundy have confirmed that no damage was found to be caused to either the artworks installed at the time or the building structure on or after this date.

Johnny Highland's notebooks were found amongst his personal possessions in The Grundy's archives. From these it is evident that Highland's note taking was extensive, and the multiple notebooks found contained information and data from as far back as 2018. The pages in these notebooks give us some indication of Highland's activities before 'The Event', and include documentation of his geological discoveries, his access to The Grundy during the early weeks of the 2020 lockdown, and his correspondence with Maggie B.

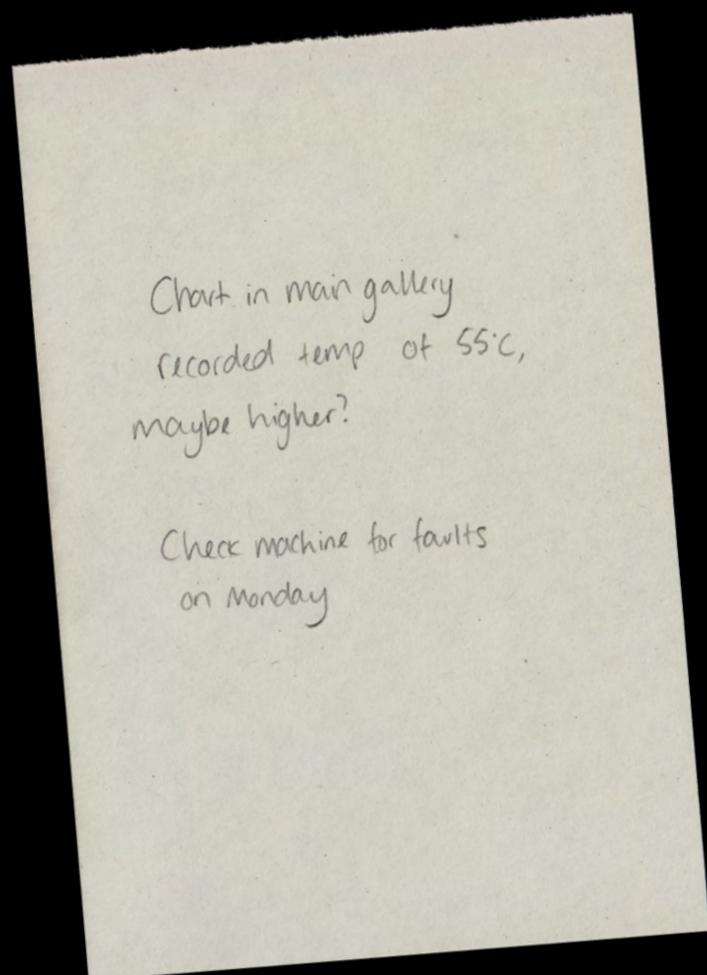
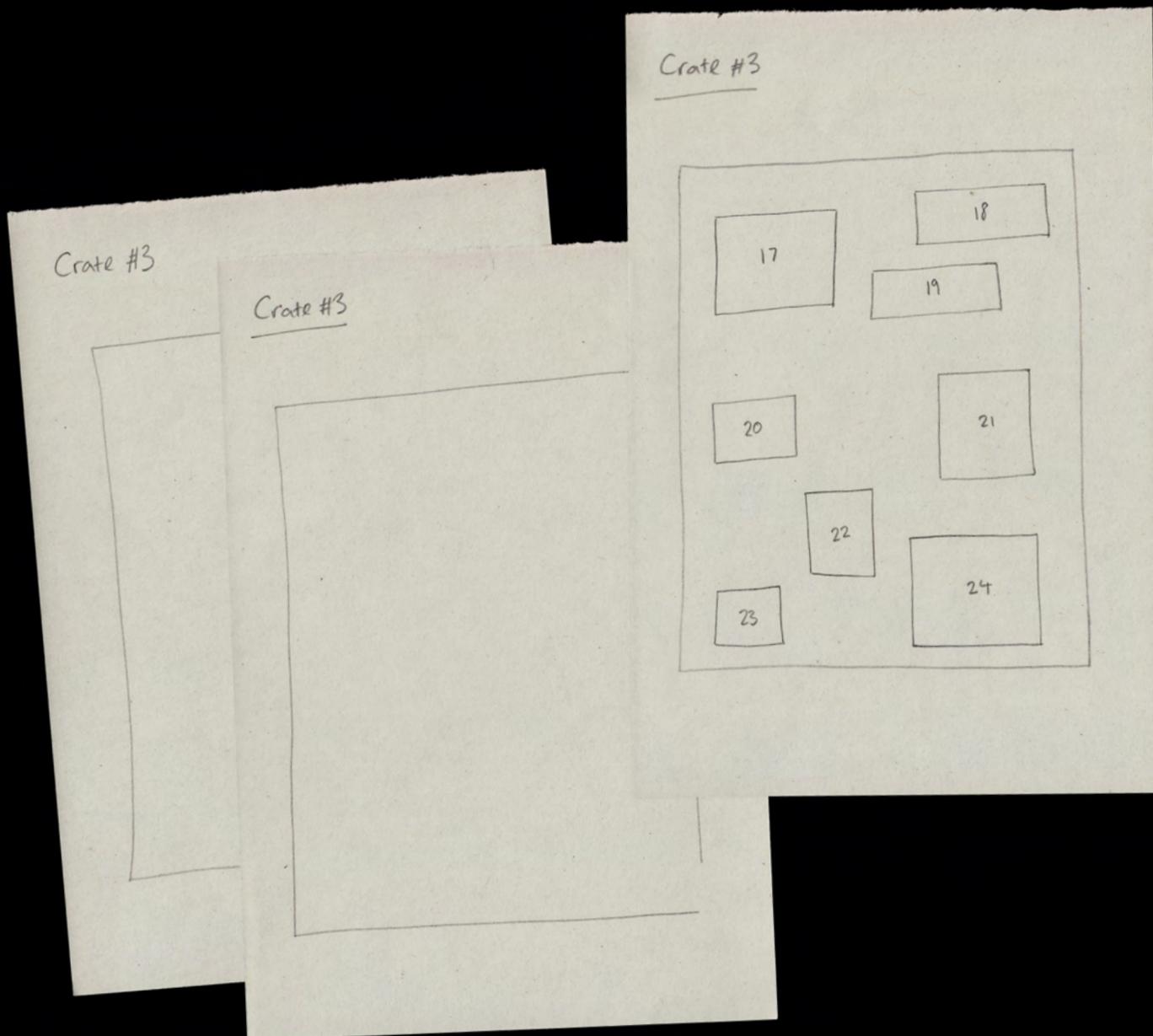
A photograph of a handwritten note on a piece of paper. The paper is slightly tilted and has a rough, torn edge at the top. The handwriting is in cursive and appears to be written in dark ink. The text is arranged in two paragraphs, with the first paragraph being longer than the second. The background is a solid black color.

Chart in main gallery
recorded temp of 55°C,
maybe higher?

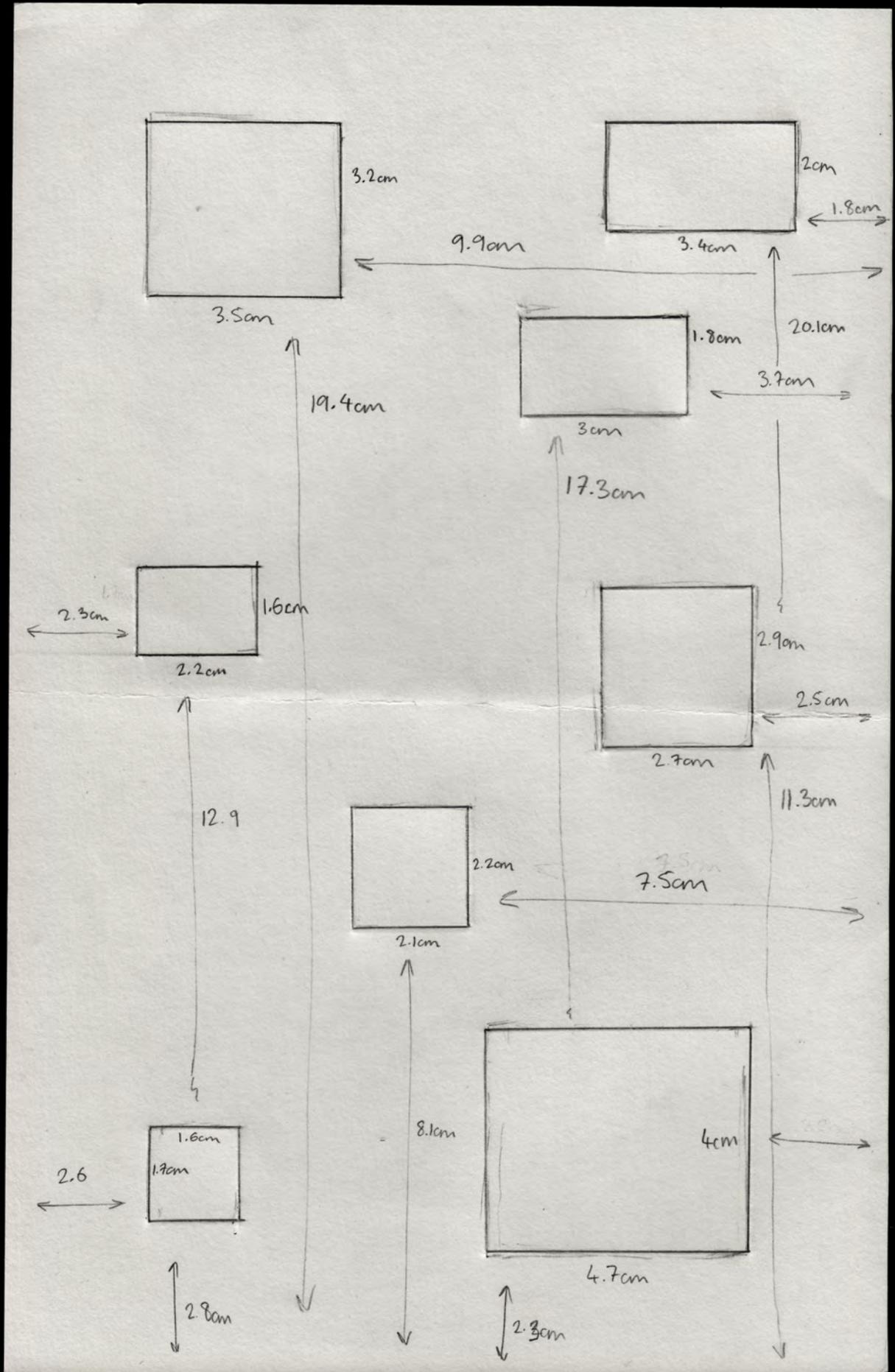
Check machine for faults
on Monday

- Page taken from the notebook of Johnny Highland recording Highland's discovery of the heat spike reading on the thermograph machine

- Pages taken from the notebook of Johnny Highland detailing the system Highland used to catalogue his geological samples



Though there were no reports of erratic behaviour from Johnny Highland in the lead up to his disappearance, conversations with his family and co-workers suggested an increasing interest in the geology of Blackpool that peaked during the first lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon examination of his personal effects, a large collection of rocks that he had amassed as part of this research were found. Highland's collection included a wide variety of specimens, not all of which have been identified, but research indicates that the conditions needed to form some of these rocks suggest that they originated from outside of Blackpool. However, Highland's notes include the location and date of each sample, and no record of purchasing or sourcing the items was found in his available emails or receipts.



● A diagram drawn by Johnny Highland detailing the construction of one of his geological sample collection crates

Highland's collection also includes numerous examples of meteorites, including a sample of tektite, composed of natural glass formed from terrestrial debris ejected during meteorite impacts. This sample was collected by Highland on 4th April 2020. Highland's notebooks indicate that the earliest rock sample was collected in August 2018, suggesting that Highland's fascination with this subject matter was present in the years preceding 'The Event'. The collection crate found with Highland's personal possessions was previously labelled Crate #3 in The Grundy's archives, however all attempts to locate crates #1 and #2 have been unsuccessful.

2020

APRIL 4th

Blackpool Promenade South

2:20pm

Black, mottled-looking

Tektite?

#25



- Page taken from the notebook of Johnny Highland recording the collection of a tektite meteorite

2020

MARCH 22nd

Blackpool Beach 11:35am

Bright white rock

Almost chalky

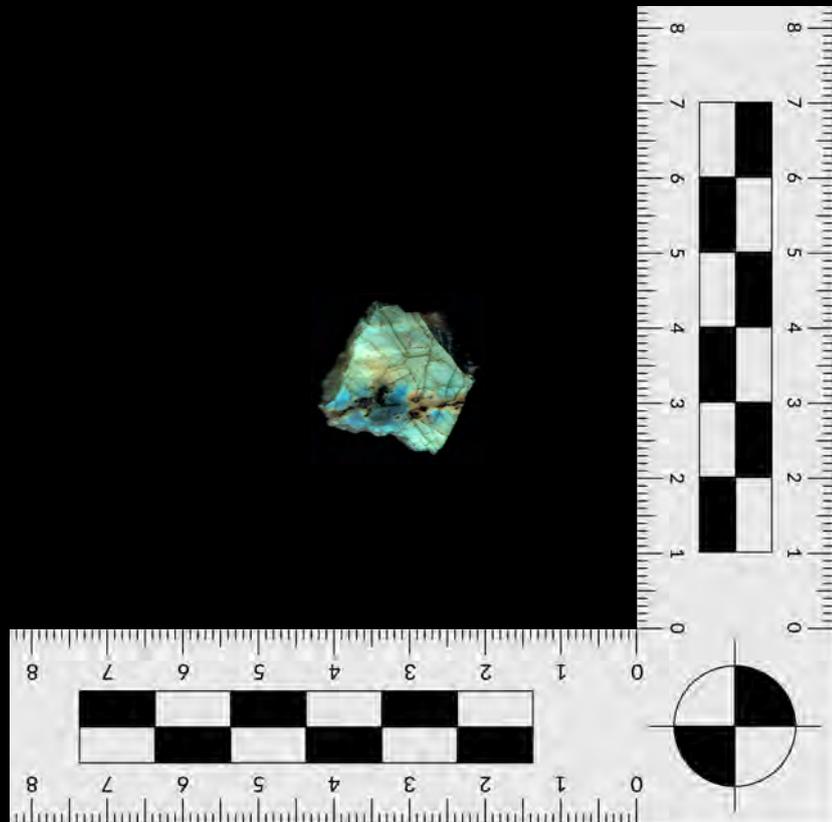
Minor impurities.

#17 glows?

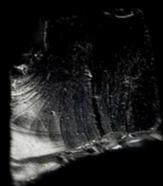
- Page taken from the notebook of Johnny Highland recording the collection of an unknown geological sample



- A sample of labradorite found amongst Johnny Highland's personal effects



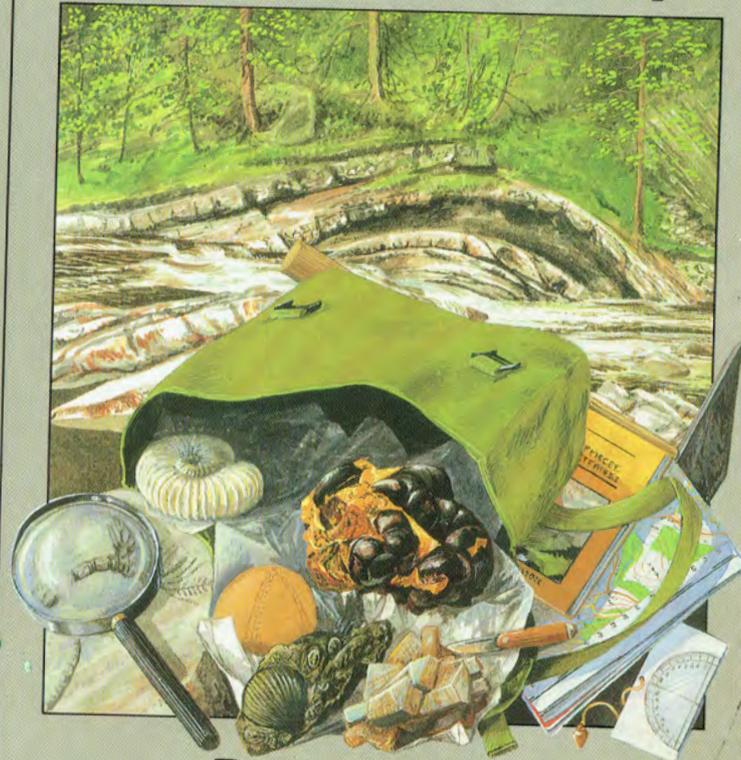
- A sample of Shungite found amongst Johnny Highland's personal effects



The Nature Detective Series

MINERALS, ROCKS & FOSSILS

The Earth's life history



Dougal Dixon

- *The Nature Detective Series: Minerals, Rocks & Fossils — The Earth's Life History* by Douglas Dixon

This book helps study and identify all common specimens of rocky areas inland and of the seashore. It then provides an identikit picture of each one. At the end of the book there is a practical section, with ideas for projects to do in open country, in towns or at home.

Volcanoes
World Maps
World Records

From Our Store

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Georgia Map
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Idaho Map
Illinois Map
Indiana Map
Iowa Map
Kansas Map
Kentucky Map
Louisiana Map
Maine Map
Maryland Map
Massachusetts Map
Michigan Map
Minnesota Map
Mississippi Map
Missouri Map
Montana Map
Nebraska Map
Nevada Map
New Hampshire Map
New Jersey Map
New Mexico Map
New York Map
North Carolina Map
North Dakota Map
Ohio Map
Oklahoma Map
Oregon Map
Pennsylvania Map
Rhode Island Map
South Carolina Map
South Dakota Map
Tennessee Map
Texas Map
Utah Map
Vermont Map
Virginia Map
Washington Map
West Virginia Map
Wisconsin Map
Wyoming Map

Even though these materials are extremely rare, they can typically be purchased at a lower price than some of the most popular [gemstones](#). Why are they so inexpensive? Most people are not familiar with them, so they are not being requested in jewelry stores. In addition, the supply of these materials is so small, so fragmented, and so unreliable that they do not have a place with wholesale or mass-market jewelers.

ADVERTISEMENT

The highest quality "as found" specimens are of greatest interest to scientists, [meteorite collectors](#), and mineral collectors. The best gem-quality materials generally go to a small number of designer jewelers who use them to create one-of-a-kind pieces. Smaller and lower quality items fall into the novelty gem and collectibles markets.

The largest demand for extraterrestrial gem materials comes from people who are interested in using them in alternative and complementary medicine. They are some of the most active buyers of moldavite, tektites, and desert glass. These buyers believe that extraterrestrial gem materials have special properties that are helpful in promoting healing and wellness. (There is no scientific evidence to support the role of these materials in medical treatments.)

On this page you will find photos, art, and summary descriptions for several extraterrestrial materials that have been used as gems. Most people are surprised by their diversity and beauty.

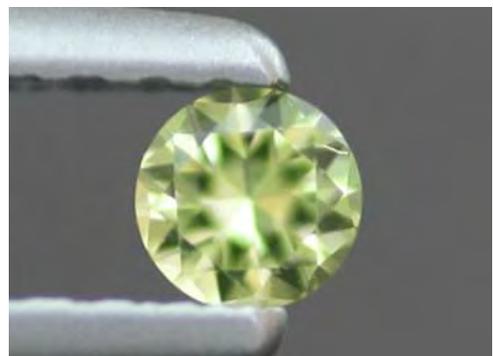
Beware of Fakes!

People have been fascinated with extraterrestrial gems for over 100 years. They are rare materials with a novelty origin, and many people want them. Moldavite was being made into novelty gems as early as the late 1800s, and they were popular throughout [Europe](#) and popular with tourists. The demand for moldavite jewelry exceeded the amount of natural material available. So, enterprising people started faceting bottle glass, and those with glassmaking abilities began producing



Pallasite Meteorite Slice: This is a photo of a thin slice cut from the Esquel [pallasite meteorite](#) that fell near Chubut, Argentina. This meteorite was found by a farmer working his field, and when unearthed, it weighed about 1500 pounds. It consists of yellowish green [olivine](#) crystals, some of which are gem-quality peridot, in a matrix of meteoritic iron. This composition suggests that it was once part of a planet or other large body of our solar system that had a metallic core and a rocky mantle. The pallasite material comes from a portion of that body near the core-mantle boundary.

The stresses placed on a meteorite during its formation, its travel through space, entry into Earth's atmosphere, and impact with Earth's surface all have a chance of fracturing the olivine crystals. Because of these fractures, it can be difficult to find pieces of extraterrestrial olivine that are large enough to facet - but many faceted stones have been produced! Photograph by Doug Bowman, used here under a [Creative Commons license](#).



Pallasite peridot: This is one of the most incredible gemstones. It is a faceted piece of gem-quality [olivine](#), known as peridot in the gem trade, that was removed

What Is Shungite and Does It Have Healing Properties?



Medically reviewed by [Debra Rose Wilson, Ph.D., MSN, R.N., IBCLC, AHN-BC, CHT](#) — Written by [Kirsten Nunez](#) on September 3, 2020

[About shungite](#)[Benefits](#)[How to use](#)[Other crystals](#)[Bottom line](#)

In recent years, healing crystals have become increasingly popular. These stones are believed to possess qualities that can enhance the health of your mind, body, and soul in various ways.

Healing crystals are generally used as a form of complementary and [alternative medicine](#). Complementary medicine is a practice that's used in combination with standard therapies, while alternative medicine is used instead of it.

There are many types of healing crystals, but some are exceptionally

ADVERTISEMENT



- Post It Note found amongst the personal effects of Johnny Highland archived by The Grundy

PART OF THE MUSEUMS
FLINT COLLECTION IS MISSING
— AGATHA WANTS A
MEETING ABOUT ARCHIVE
ACCESS PROTOCOLS

-J.J



- This arrowhead was donated to The Grundy by an anonymous member of the public. It was discovered at the South Pier in Blackpool and its origin and age are currently unknown. A large portion of The Grundy's collection of flint specimens were found among Highland's personal effects after his disappearance. It is suspected that Highland was using these to conduct personal research, but The Grundy have since ascertained that they had been removed from the collection without permission. These specimens have now been returned and are not currently on display to the public. The Grundy have yet to confirm the authenticity of this single specimen, and as such it is not included in the official collection.

- Page taken from the notebook of Johnny Highland recording the discovery of a mysterious ooze-like substance in The Grundy

19th April - green/brown
liquid found on gallery floor

Might have come from pipe
in ceiling?

Has a bit of a smell

Doesn't seem corrosive?



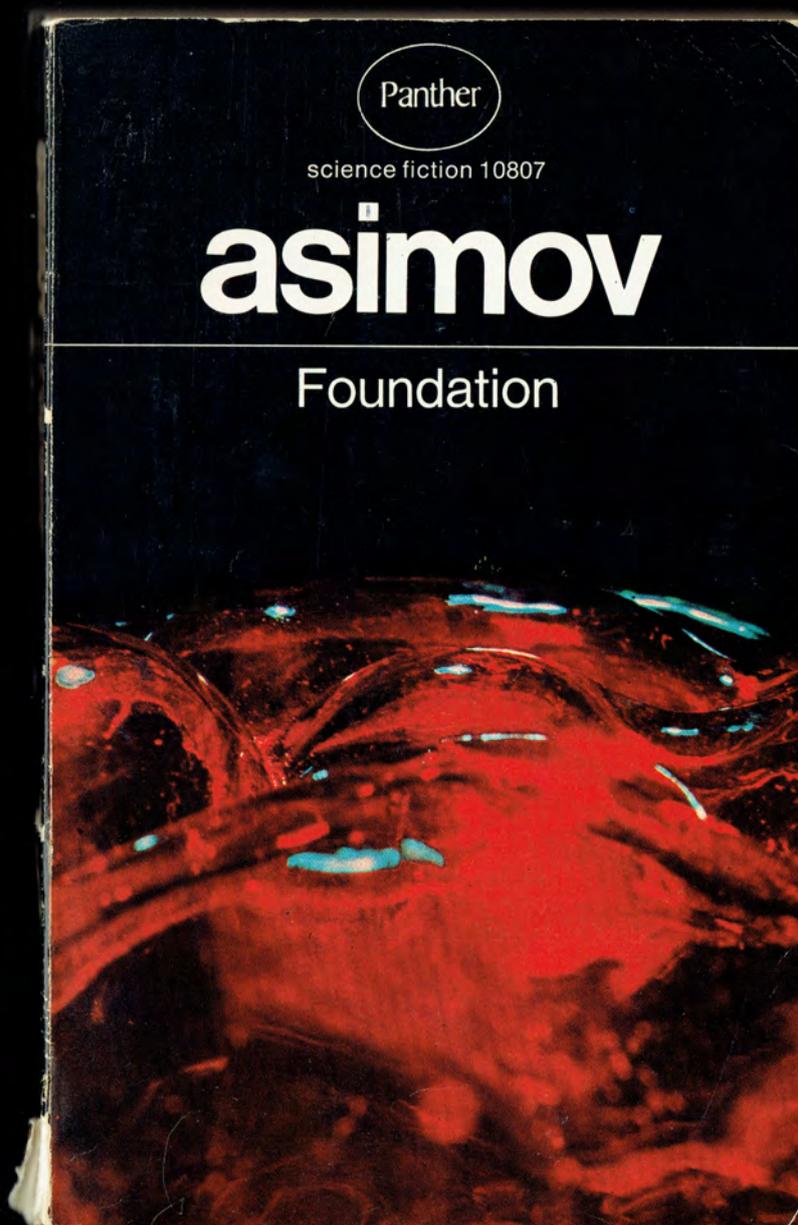
● Lanyard belonging to Jack [Redacted]

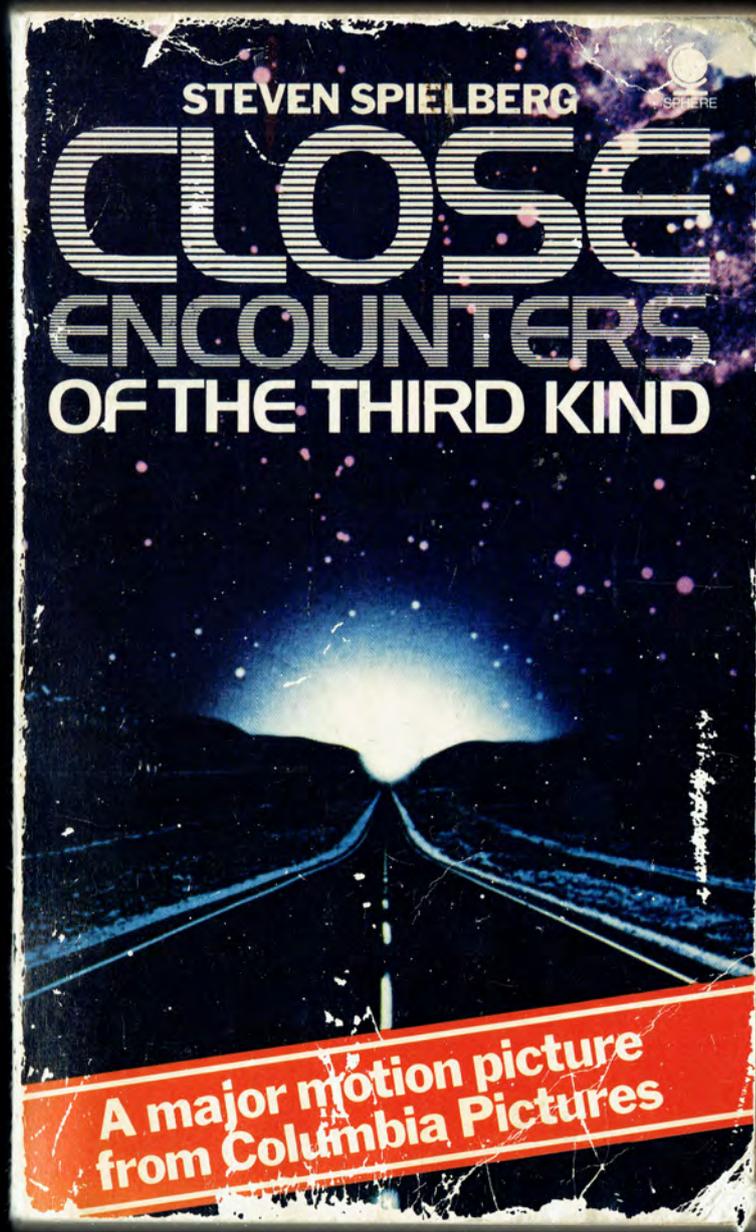


● Manchester Metropolitan University student ID card belonging to Jack [Redacted]

● *Foundation: Volume 1* by Isaac Asimov

This is the first volume of Asimov's world famous trilogy, one of the greatest classics of science fiction. The time is a future century, in the days of the Galactic Empire — a society of a million worlds throughout the Milky Way. The Old Empire is crumbling into barbarism and Hari Seldon and his band of psychologists see before them only despair of thousands of years of anarchy, unless they can create a new force — the Foundation — dedicated to art, science and technology — the nucleus of a new empire.





● *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* by Steven Spielberg

All over the world, millions of reliable witnesses — including respected scientists — have been reporting UFO sightings for the past thirty years. Experts everywhere concede the overwhelming probability of intelligent life elsewhere in the Universe. From these indisputable facts, Steven Spielberg, brilliant young director of *JAWS*, has created the most beautiful, frightening and significant motion picture adventure of all time.

- A TikTok filmed by Jack [Redacted] shows them designing this hat, basing the slogan on a comment found on Maggie B's Reddit profile. Our research shows that Maggie added this comment to a post on r/HighStrangeness, discussing the 'de-evolution' of online conspiracy boards into politics, and a longing to talk about bigfoot without listening to political rantings. Jack [Redacted] had previously listed these hats for sale via Etsy.com in 2021, and in 2024 the leftover stock was donated to Shy Bairns.



● Digital iterations of the hat logo created by Jack [Redacted]



17:33



Alien abductees of reddit or people who have claimed to see a UFO, what's your story?

[SERIF 'S] repl. onhd

weird things that I found on

2.3k 7.7k Share Award



I was first "abducted" in 1967. I was 12 years old. I say "abducted", but it's not like that. Actually, you go to a scary h... it's exciting, too... nd they... able to r... (part 1) not... that you... ed. ... don't do a lo... probing, like raping, or anything like that. That's HOLLYWOOD nonsense. They look like people sometimes, but they have... do it. Not really "machines", but it's like a... things get done and the walls are...It's hard... so just imagine that all the walls are kind of... machines? That's the easiest way to describe



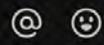
@jackwhomst

I WANT TO BELIEVE REDDIT USER

'THROWAWAYLIEN' #alien #ufo #fyp #reddit #redditgeeks #viral #2021

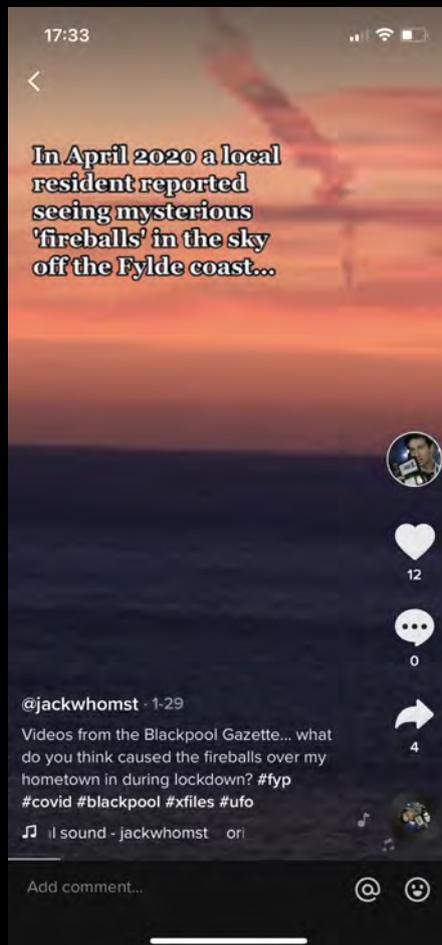
cus Group X Files - @I M.

Add comment...

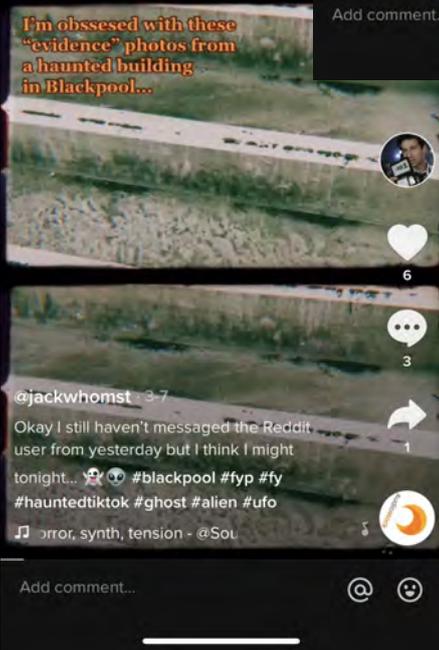


A series of fifteen TikToks, posted online by Jack [Redacted] between May and August 2020. TikTok is a video-sharing social networking service that is used to make a variety of short-form videos that have a duration from fifteen seconds to one minute. The social media platform made headlines in 2020 after former President Donald Trump signed orders to ban its use in the US.



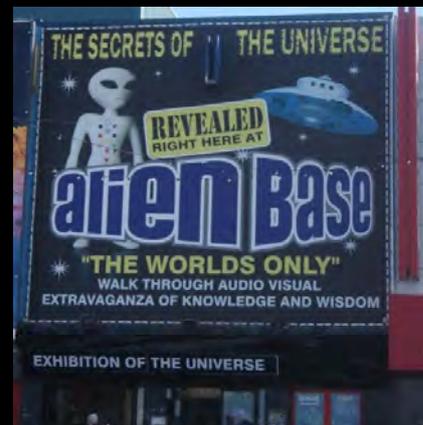


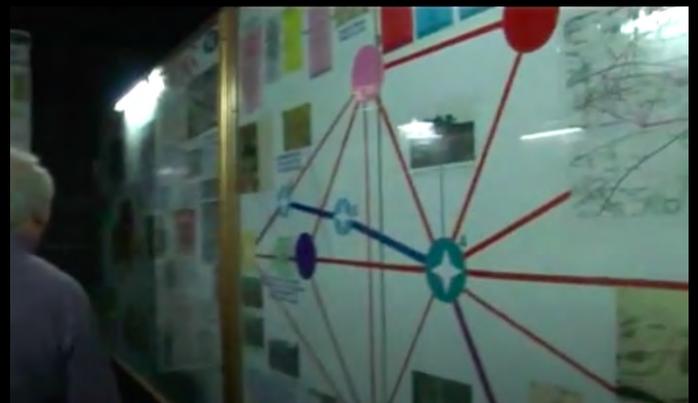
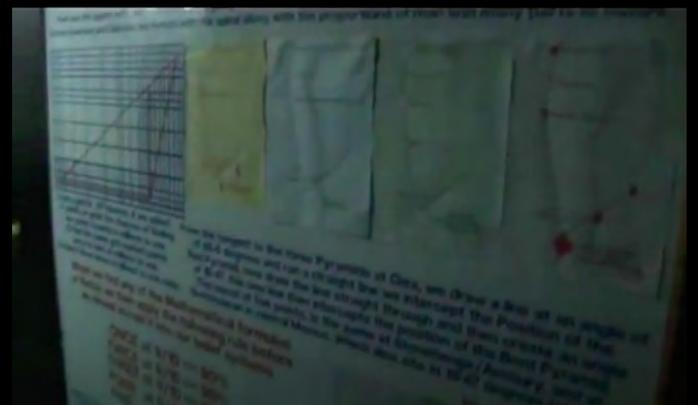
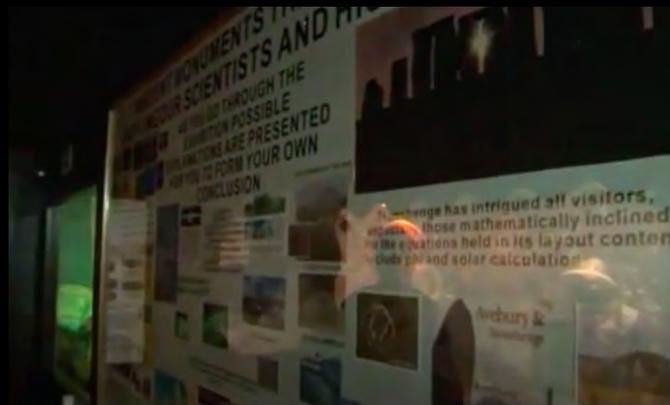
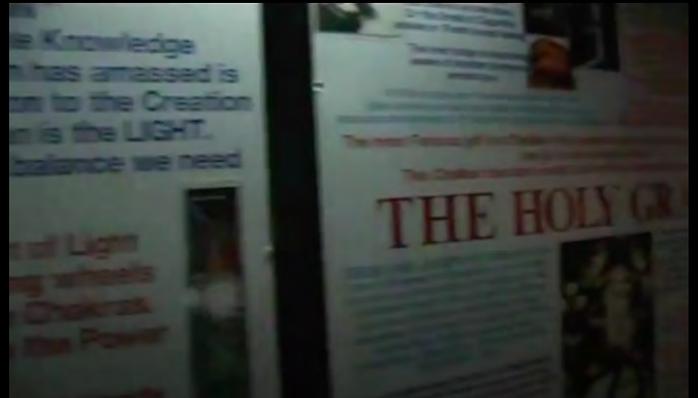
Our research shows that Jack [Redacted] was highly active on TikTok during the lockdown of 2020, using the platform to document their research into paranormal topics. Utilising a mix of screen recordings, found footage and iPhone editing, the majority of these videos belong to one of two series; Weird Things I Found On Reddit and Things In Blackpool That Just Don't Make Sense. Alongside this they also posted personal videos of pre-pandemic museum visits and tributes to the hit American science fiction television series The X Files.



A video created by Shy Bairns compiling some of Jack's TikTok's can be found [HERE](#)

- Though Jack [Redacted]'s practice centred on filmmaking in 2020, their primary focus as an artist was print. While this was deterred by Manchester School of Art's home working policy during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jack still printed a large volume of work. Their printed ephemera from this time reflects their interest in local heritage, brought on by being unable to travel, alongside paranormal experiences and eerie representations of the uncanny. The works adapt found visuals from buried webpages, online archives and tabloid reports, creating a solid rendering of subject matters that slip through the fingers of internet sleuths.







not impressed ,where to start ...
tripadvisor.co.uk





Blackpool's top 10 ghosts
Read Juliette Gregson's top ten myths and spooky stories from her home town of Blackpool...



This 'UFO', taken close to Blackpool's Central Pier, was investigated by the military, but deemed to be a kite



4 of 8

This painting based on the legend that Saint Wolfgang tricked the devil into building a church sparked a wave of conspiracy theories

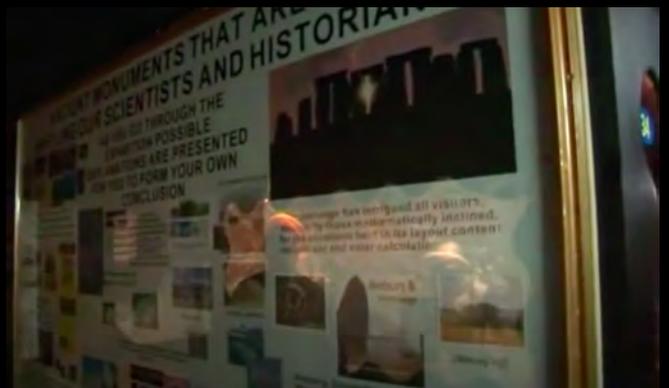
Credit: GETTY IMAGES



UFO expert Dr David Clarke previously told the BBC he didn't believe the MoD's files contained 'any solid evidence we have been visited by intelligent life'. He said: "The vast majority of reports are ordinary things seen in extraordinary situations. So many things can be interpreted as unusual, you've got to eliminate all that noise and see what's left."



© Ed O'Keefe

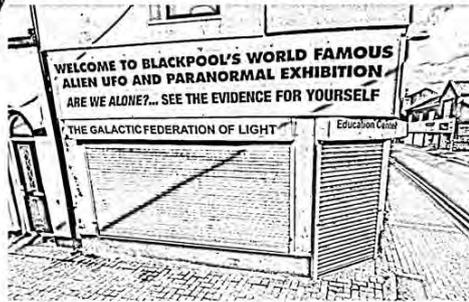
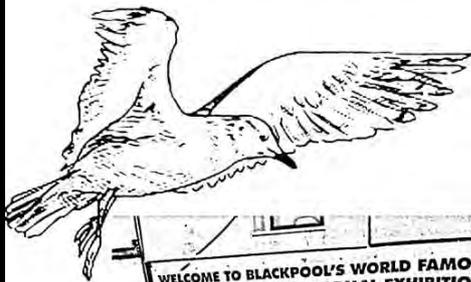
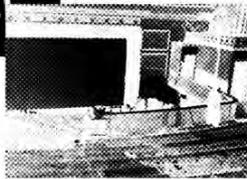


- The following screen prints were made by Jack [Redacted] and formed part of their university application portfolio in 2021. Jack left Blackpool a year after 'The Event' to continue their studies in Brighton, where they currently live and work. The portfolio includes further editions of prints, along with research and found material. A number of prints were also donated to Shy Bairs in 2024.

A video created by Jack showing the design process for these posters can be found [HERE](#)



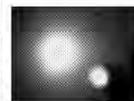
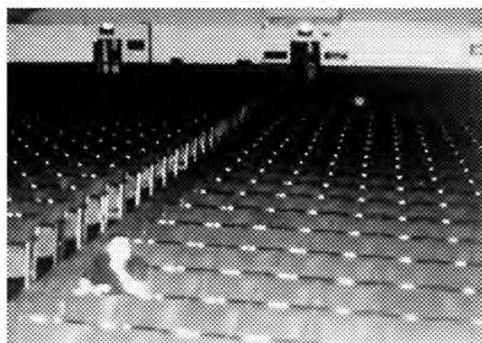
A4 black layer

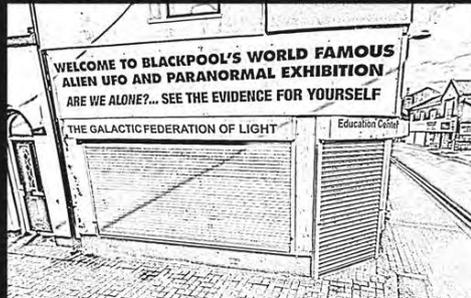


Clogger
 It was me that touched you Elizabeth !!!!
ELIZABETH YARLEY
 WHEN I WAS ON THE GHOST TRAIN AT PLEASURE BEACH BLACKPOOL
 SOMETHING TOUCHED MY HEAD



Daniel
 i saw a child in the waxworks , it was only there for a second then
 went, it was in the james bond section





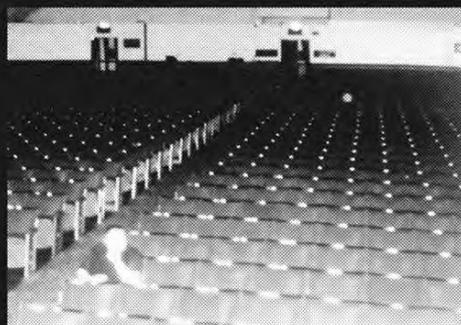
Blackpool's top 10 ghosts
 Read Juliette Gregson's top ten myths and spooky stories from her home town of Blackpool...



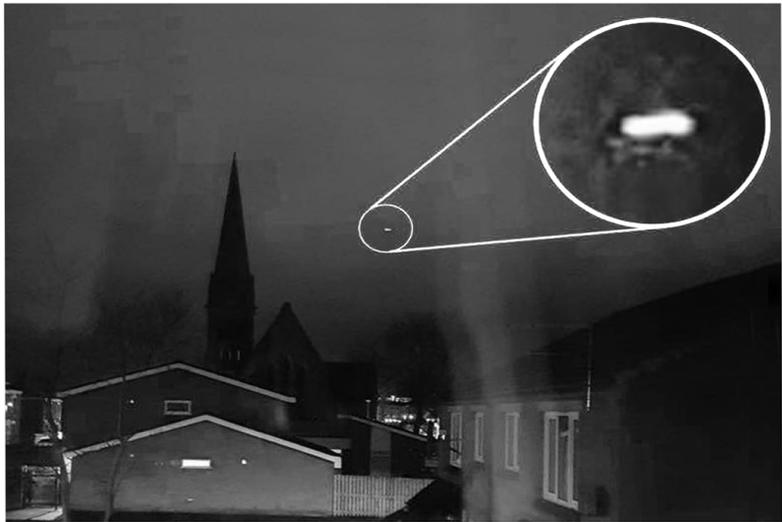
Clogger
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Daniel
 i saw a child in the waxworks , it was only there for a second then went, it was in the james bond section







A3 black layer

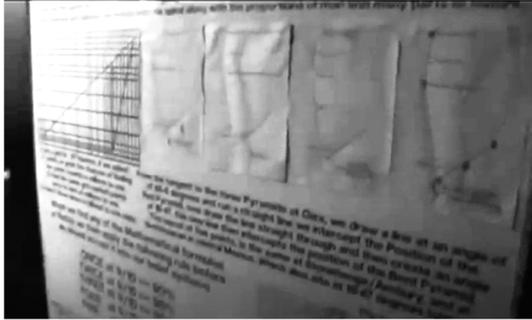


FIG. 67.—Wing of Pigeon, leathered.

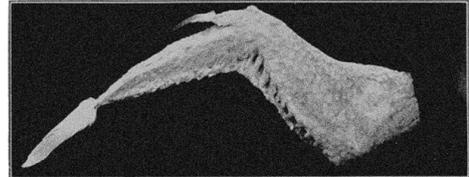


FIG. 68.—Wing of Pigeon, bare, compared with Fig. 69.



FIG. 69.—Arm and three fingers of a man.

not impressed ,where to start ...
tripadvisor.co.uk



Dear [redacted]

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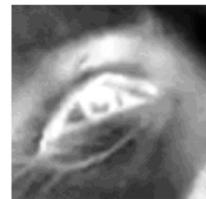




FIG. 67.—Wing of Pigeon, leathered.



FIG. 68.—Wing of Pigeon, bared, compared with FIG. 65.



FIG. 69.—Arm and three fingers of a man.



not impressed ,where to start ...
tripadvisor.co.uk

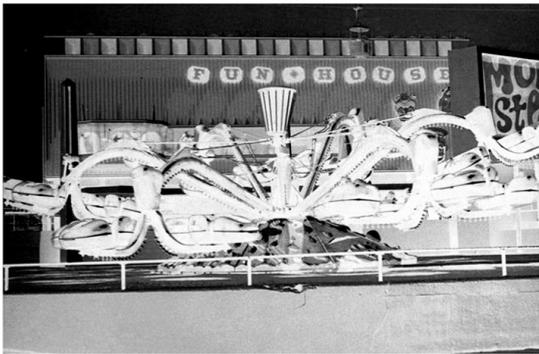


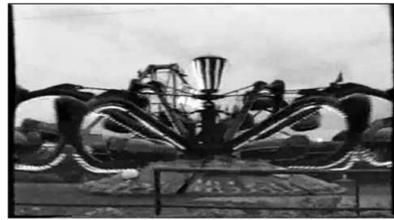
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I note that some of the information you requested has either already been sent or addressed in my previous letters. Where this is the case, to avoid repeating this information, I will refer you to the relevant letter.





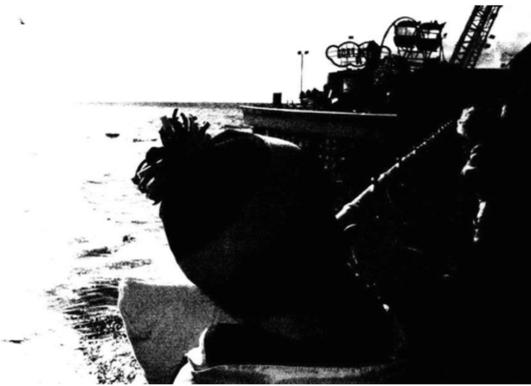








EXHIBITION OF THE UNIVERSE



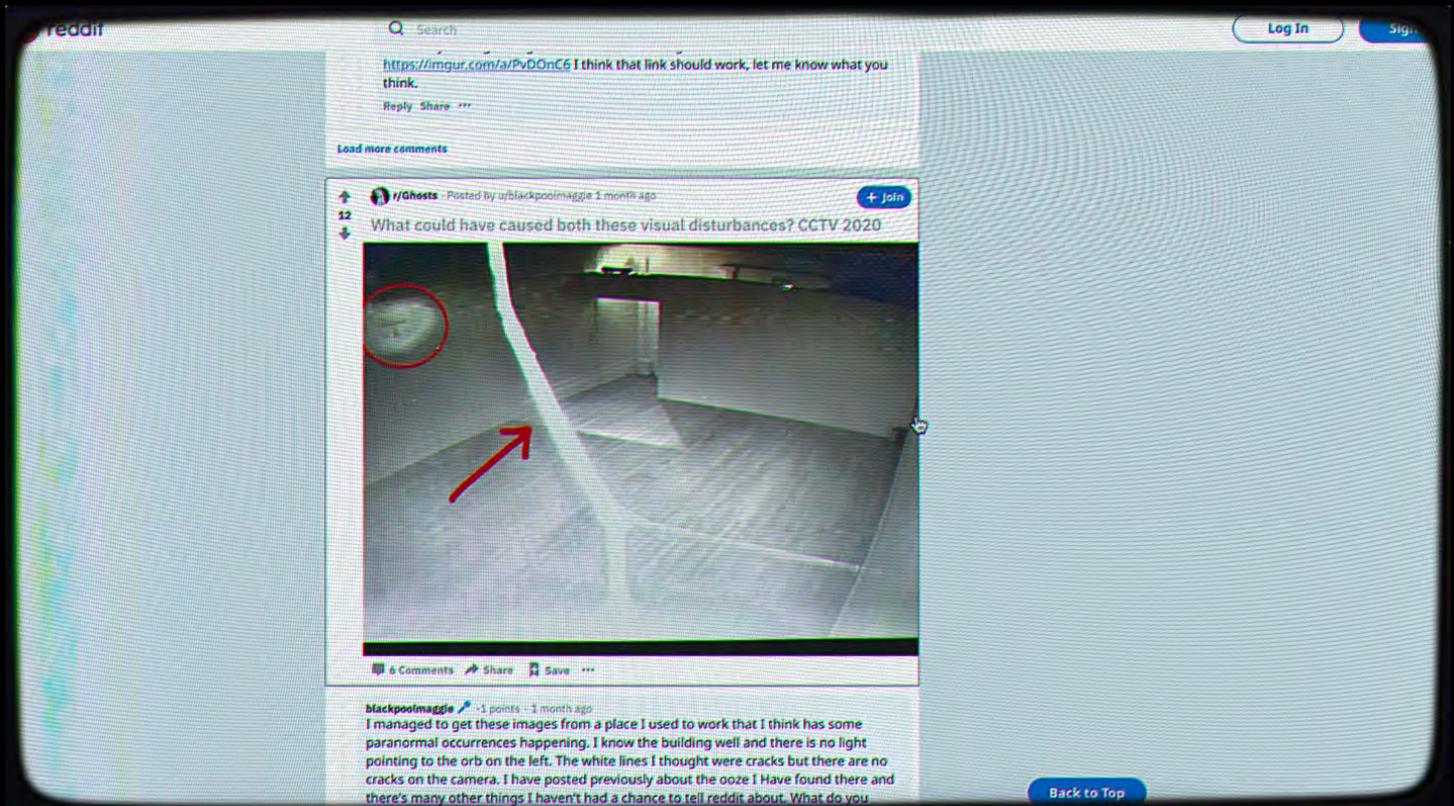
UFO expert Dr David Clarke previously told the BBC he didn't believe the MoD's files contained 'any solid evidence we have been visited by intelligent life'. He said: 'The vast majority of reports are ordinary things seen in extraordinary situations. So many things can be interpreted as unusual, you've got to eliminate all that noise and see what's left.'



EXHIBITION OF THE UNIVERSE



UFO expert Dr David Clarke previously told the BBC he didn't believe the MoD's files contained 'any solid evidence we have been visited by intelligent life'. He said: "The vast majority of reports are ordinary things seen in extraordinary situations. So many things can be interpreted as unusual, you've got to eliminate all that noise and see what's left."



- Reddit is an entertainment, social networking, and news website that plays host to a network of over one million communities named 'subreddits'. Subreddits are user created and each contain discussions on a different subject matter. These cover a variety of general interests such as news, video games, fitness, and pets, while also housing more niche and specific communities that range from the bizarrely mundane (such as r/WatchPaintDry) to the downright nefarious (r/WatchPeopleDie). Originally created with an unfiltered speech and self-moderation policy, in more recent years Reddit has been both critiqued and praised for its removal of controversial subreddits, while still garnering criticism for the breeding ground of far-right ideologies. In the past ten years Reddit has shut down a number of conspiracy based subreddits, including r/GreatAwakening and r/PizzaGate, both of which followed QAnon adjacent theories; a subsection of theories that dominated the scene in 2020.

Our research indicates that Maggie B. created her Reddit account after being made redundant, using subreddits such as r/WhatIsThisThing to gather opinions on mysterious material found in The Grundy. Her use of r/Haunted and r/Missing411 implies that she believed the found matter to be of a supernatural persuasion. This screen recording was created by Jack [Redacted] while making their Tiktoks about Maggie. Since the video was created, many of Maggie's posts have been deleted.

reddit Search Log In Sign Up

6

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SORT BY: BEST

View all comments

blackpoolmaggie 2 months ago · edited 1 month ago
 In a building I worked in, on the back stairs, in the corridor between the Library and ours, there is a stairwell. At the bottom of the stairs is a storeroom. I don't know why, but occasionally there are deposits of 'soot' on the stairs. They are perfectly distributed - like footprints... they only happen on this stair well, it doesn't happen on the landing either only the 14 or so steps. It's really very odd. I am working on accessing the building in order to collect some of the soot but you can see it in the photographs I've attached.

Thank you in advance, I am doing some investigating and may have more questions for your community.

3 ↑ ↓ Reply Share Report Save

Comment deleted by user · 15 days ago

blackpoolmaggie 15 days ago
 Hello please delete this comment

1 ↑ ↓ Reply Share Report Save

whosthatthey 15 days ago
 Hiya Maggie — I'm so sorry if I have caused offence! Is it because I mentioned the name of the building? I will delete the comment and message you privately x

1 ↑ ↓ Reply Share Report Save

View Entire Discussion (4 Comments)

More posts from the Haunted community

Posted by u/MethLabForCute88 2 days ago

51 ↑ ↓ Have you or someone you know booked a night at The Conjuring house in Harrisville, RI? If so, what the experience like and was it worth the money and long wait?

The Conjuring Bible

Help
 Reddit App
 Reddit Coins
 Reddit Premium
 Reddit Gifts

About
 Careers
 Press
 Advertise
 Blog
 Terms
 Content Policy

reddit Search Log In Sign Up

blackpoolmaggie 2 months ago · edited 4 months ago
 And thank you so much for taking your time to help me find this out!

Reply Share ...

Load more comments

blackpoolmaggie commented on What's something traumatic that happened in your childhood that you can't explain to this day, whether it be a paranormal event, cryptid encounter, or glitch in the matrix?
 Askreddit etc · r/TheTruthIsHere · Posted by u/allomyteff

blackpoolmaggie 1 point · 2 months ago
 As a child I believe I was visited by the black dog. Twice in the weeks before my grandpa died, and the last time on the day of his funeral. It was a huge thing, black fur and yellow eyes. Calm, polite demeanour for a beast. Waiting for something. The black dog (Gytrash, Black Shuck, etc) is often seen as an omen of death — I don't know why it appeared to me and not my grandpa as I'm still kicking all these years later. I have told people this before but they try to convince me it was just a stray dog.

Share ...

blackpoolmaggie commented on Make people wonder · reddit/r/161yfs... · Meme Craft · r/WitchesVsPatriarchy · Posted by u/apocalypticallay

blackpoolmaggie 7 points · 2 months ago
 Turns out I was a cryptid all along!

Reply Share ...

blackpoolmaggie commented on I gotta feelin (oooo) · r/magick · Posted by u/My_Name_Is_Not_Frank

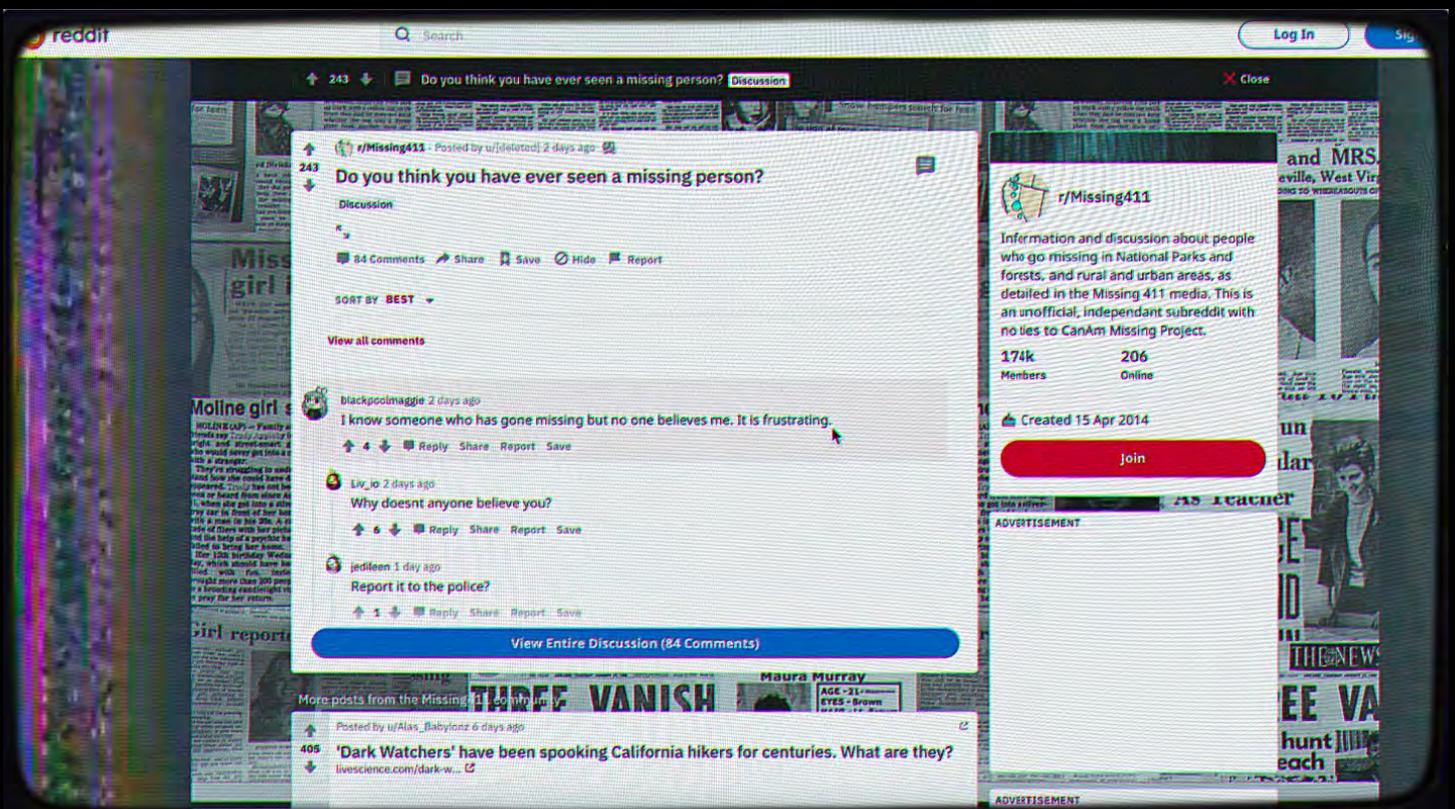
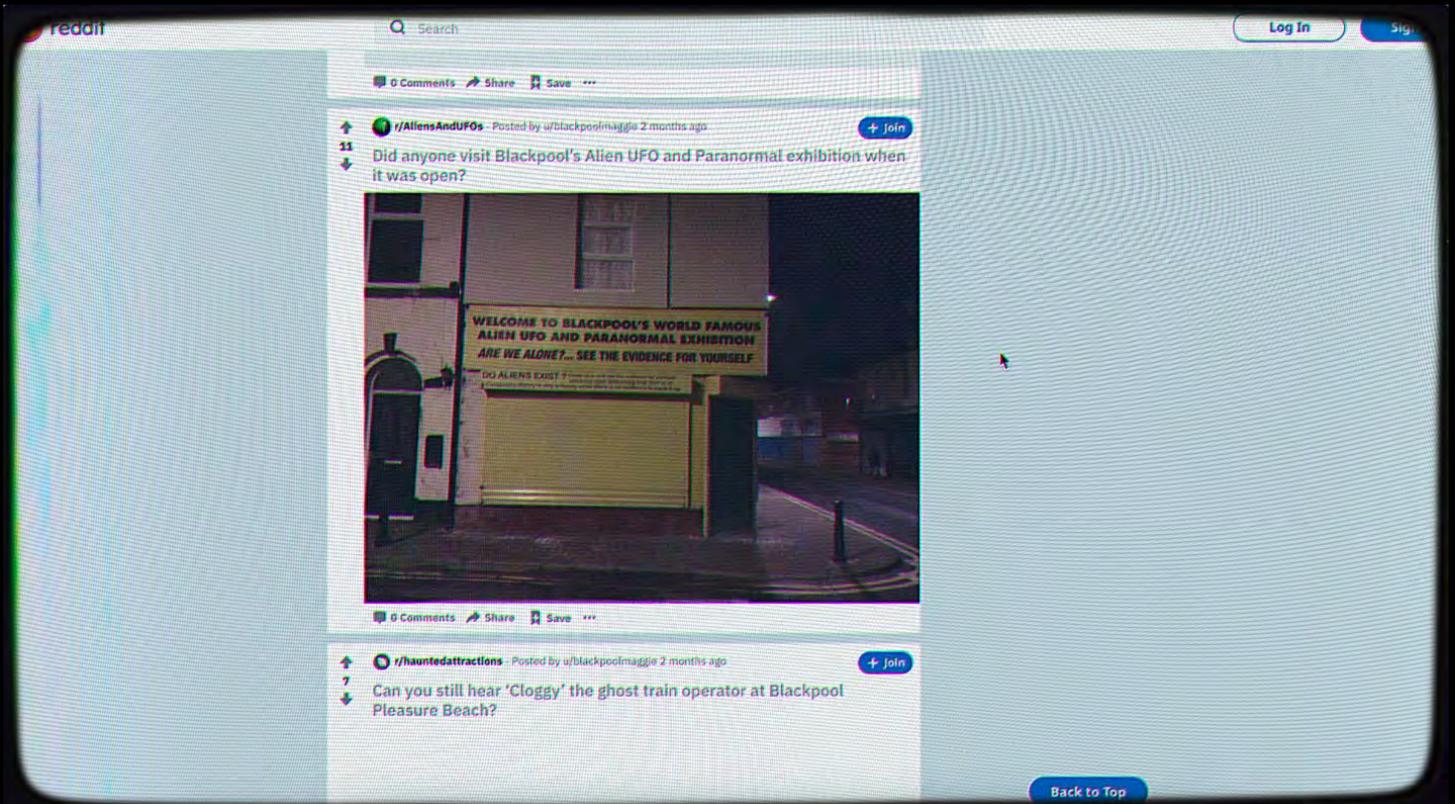
blackpoolmaggie 6 points · 2 months ago
 YES. Something has been coming for a long time but it has been sped up by current events I believe

Reply Share ...

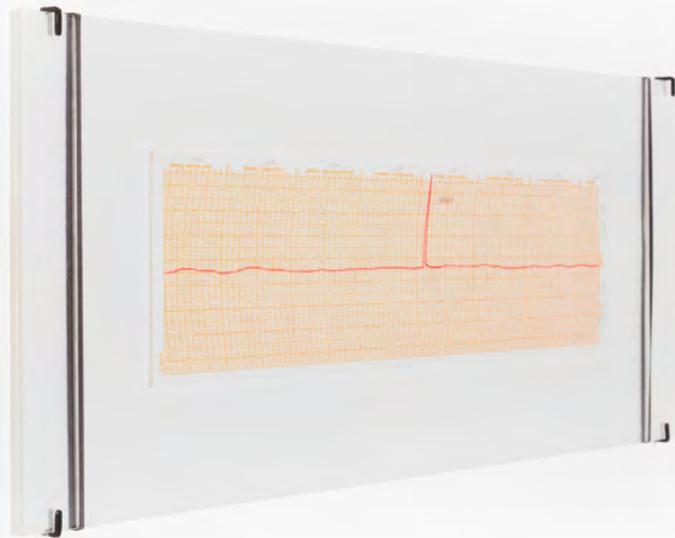
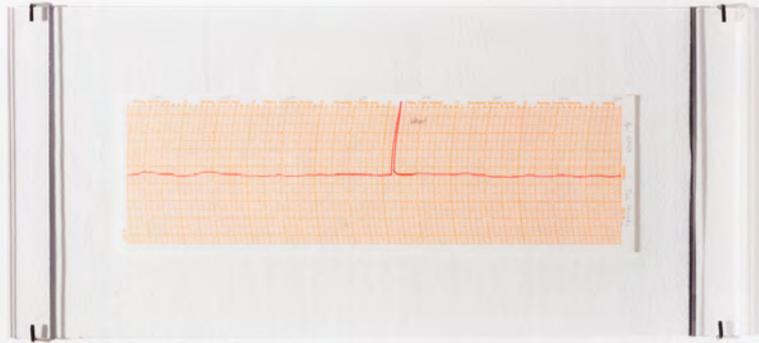
blackpoolmaggie commented on Back Paddlet · reddit/0iy9e1... · art · r/bigfoot · Posted by u/jonathandodd_draws

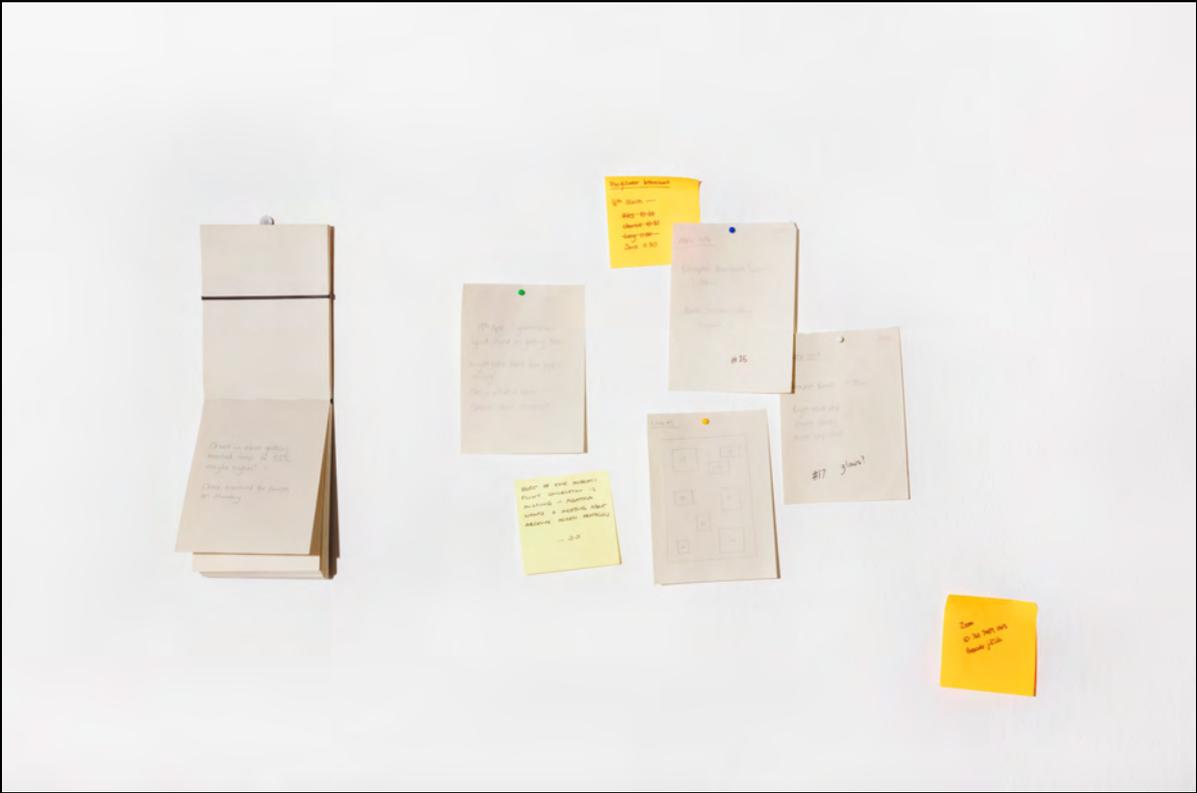
blackpoolmaggie 1 point · 2 months ago
 Beautiful

Back to Top



A video created by Jack compiling some of the correspondence with Maggie B. can be found [HERE](#)





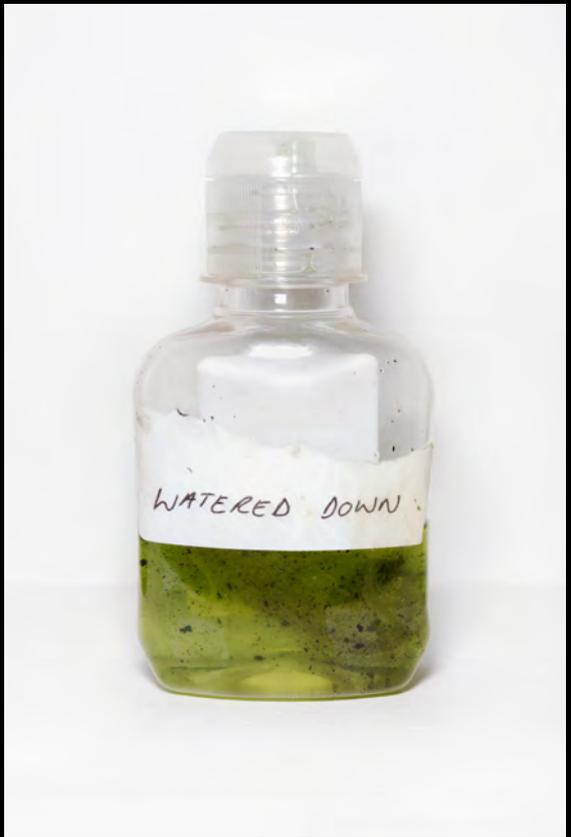








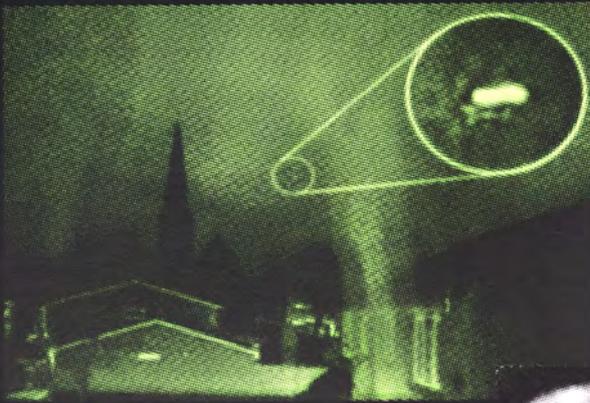






Fig. 69. — Arm and three fingers of a man.

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tripadvisor.co.uk



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Believe It Or Not

● In March of 2024, Shy Bairns were asked to investigate a suspected supernatural phenomenon that occurred in Blackpool in 2020.

We have spent the last year exploring the events in the lead up to the disappearance of Johnny Highland in 2020. Through investigations into his digital footprint, belongings and correspondence we have been able to piece together some of the details, which we now present in an installation of our research hosted by The Grundy.

The material in this installation is presented in its original condition. In our line of work we do not draw final conclusions, but aim to explore and deangle the overlapping truths in order to gauge a deeper understanding of the complex circumstances that lead to paranormal happenings.

● In 2020, COVID-19 struck and galleries across the world had to be closed down. During that time, they sat empty, waiting, vulnerable. Only a reduced number of staff members were allowed access to these spaces during shortened hours. The Grundy was one such institution.

The Grundy's curator, Johnny Highland, spent time at the gallery during lockdown to work on online programming and future projects. Sometime between the 17th and 23rd April 2020, Highland disappeared. In early 2021, the gallery issued a press release stating that Highland had taken early retirement and moved abroad. Now under new management, The Grundy reopened the case in 2024, using a number of specialists to investigate.

In the lead up to the events of that April, we have found that Highland was carrying out his own investigation. Previously overlooked, his research forms the basis of our examination into the events surrounding his disappearance. Highland's collections and documentations of bizarre happenings around the gallery implies this story is more complicated than was initially suggested.

Prior to The Grundy commissioning professional investigations, a number of locals became interested in the case of the missing curator. A few amateur investigations took place but no public conclusions were made and the research went unreported and undocumented. As part of our inquiry, and keen to use the knowledge of these local experts, we have gathered material from two of these investigators. They provide a deeper context to the happenings of 2021, and give us more evidence on which to base our ideas.

We would like to thank The Grundy for funding this research. Thanks also to Maggie B. and Jack (Preston) for loaning their personal investigative materials.

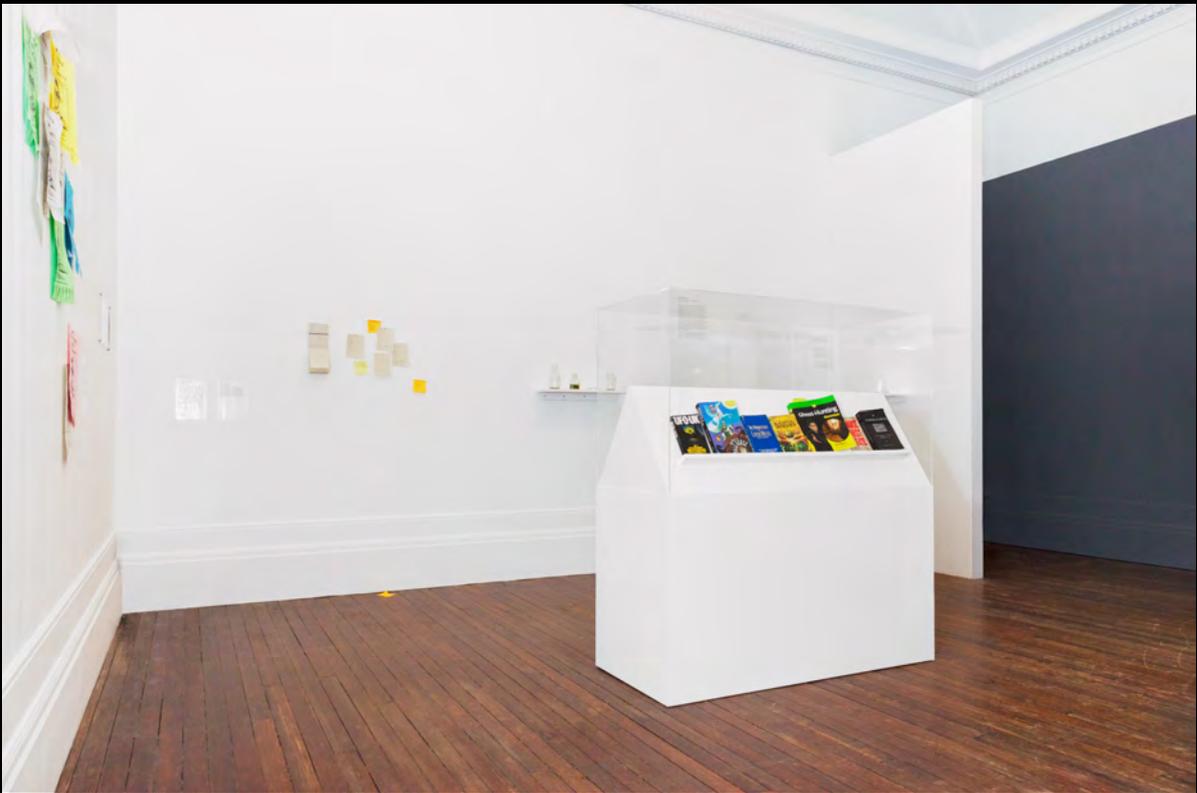
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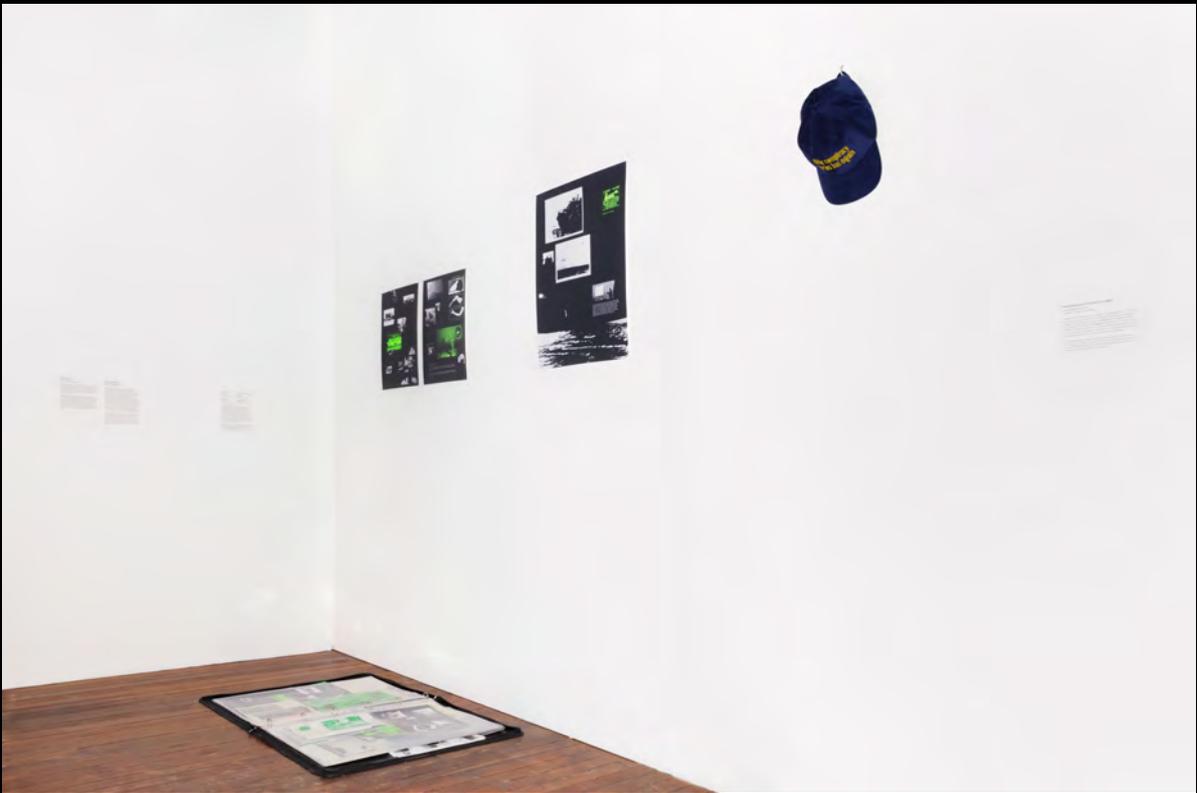
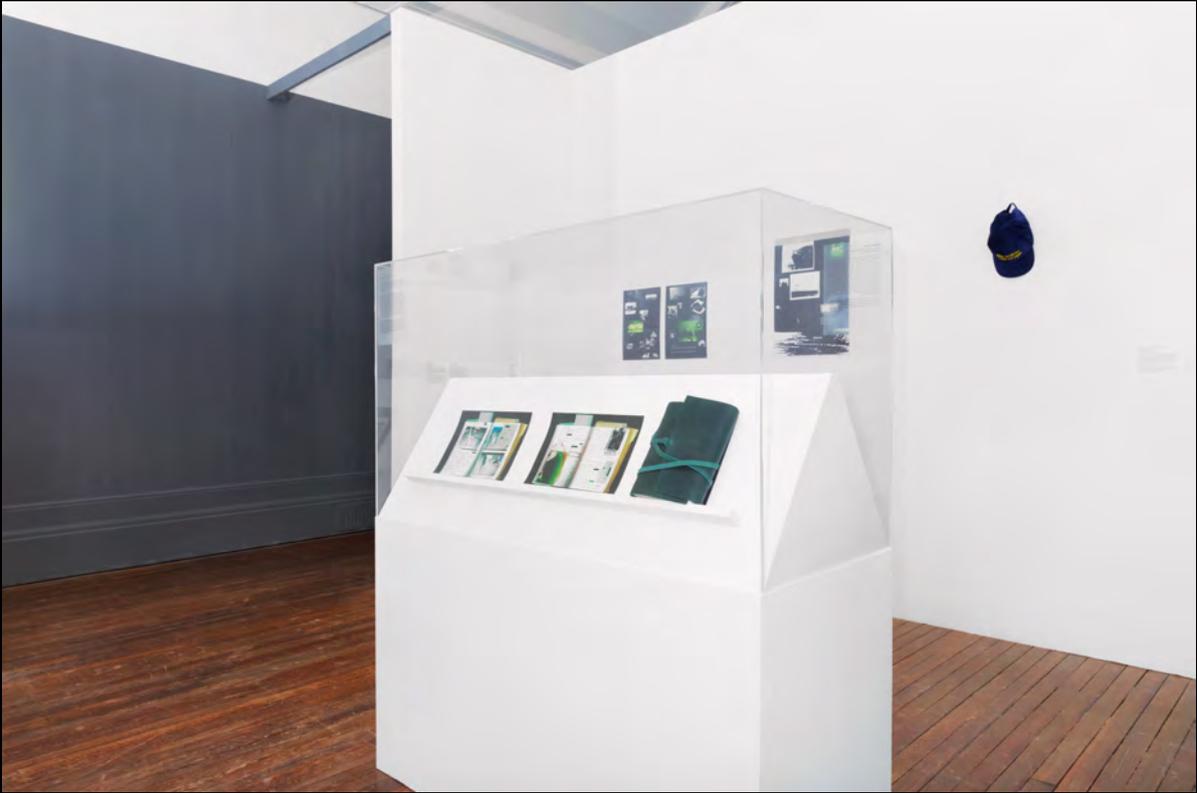
Shy Bairns

Shy Bairns Online & Not Online











Believe It Or Not

Shy Bairns®

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In 2020, COVID-19 struck the world had to be closed, they sat empty, waiting for a number of staff members to return to these spaces during the lockdown. It was one such institution that was the focus of our investigation.

The Grundy's curator at the gallery during programming and the 17th and 23rd of the early 2021, the stating that Highland moved abroad. Grundy reopened and of specialists.

In the lead up to that Highland previously of our examination of our disappearance document gallery in was initiated.

Prior to investigation in the investigation were undocumented. AS per use the knowledge of these local investigations gathered material from two of these investigations. They provide a deeper context to the happenings of 2020, and give us more evidence on which to base our ideas.

● Report produced by Shy Bairns to document the findings so far in the case of the missing curator Johnny Highland

Believe It Or Not [®] Shy Bairns

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Now that we have the foundation on which to develop our research, the next stages will involve:

- Shy Bairns' geology department will undertake further investigation of Highland's collected samples.
- Further attempts will be made to contact Maggie B.
- When further funding is secured, the sources of the unknown substances (powder and liquid) must be identified.
- Verification of the underground tunnel system in Blackpool is necessary. We suggest the use of pulsed electromagnetic search systems (PEMSS), ground penetration radar (GPR), or seismic sensor technology.
- Unfortunately local mediums had to reschedule the seance due to unforeseen circumstances. It will now be held on 15th June 2025 and will be part of Phase Two of the investigation.

We would like to thank The Grundy for funding this research.

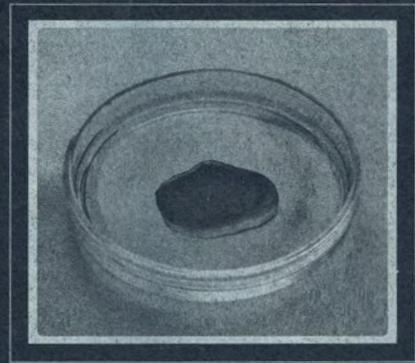
Thanks also to Maggie B. and Jack [Redacted] for loaning their personal investigative materials.

(!) All claims are disputed by The Grundy and may not be based on fact.

This document was produced as part of an exhibition at Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool.



[1]



[2]



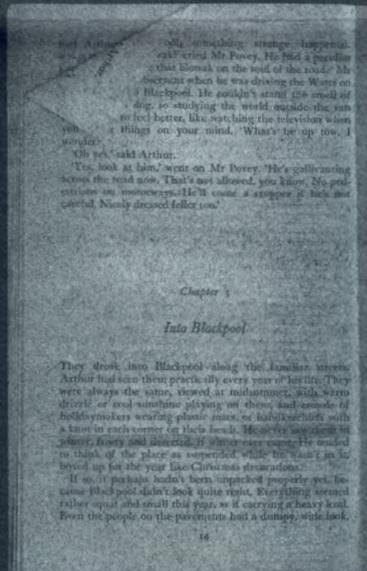
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[5]



Shy Bairns



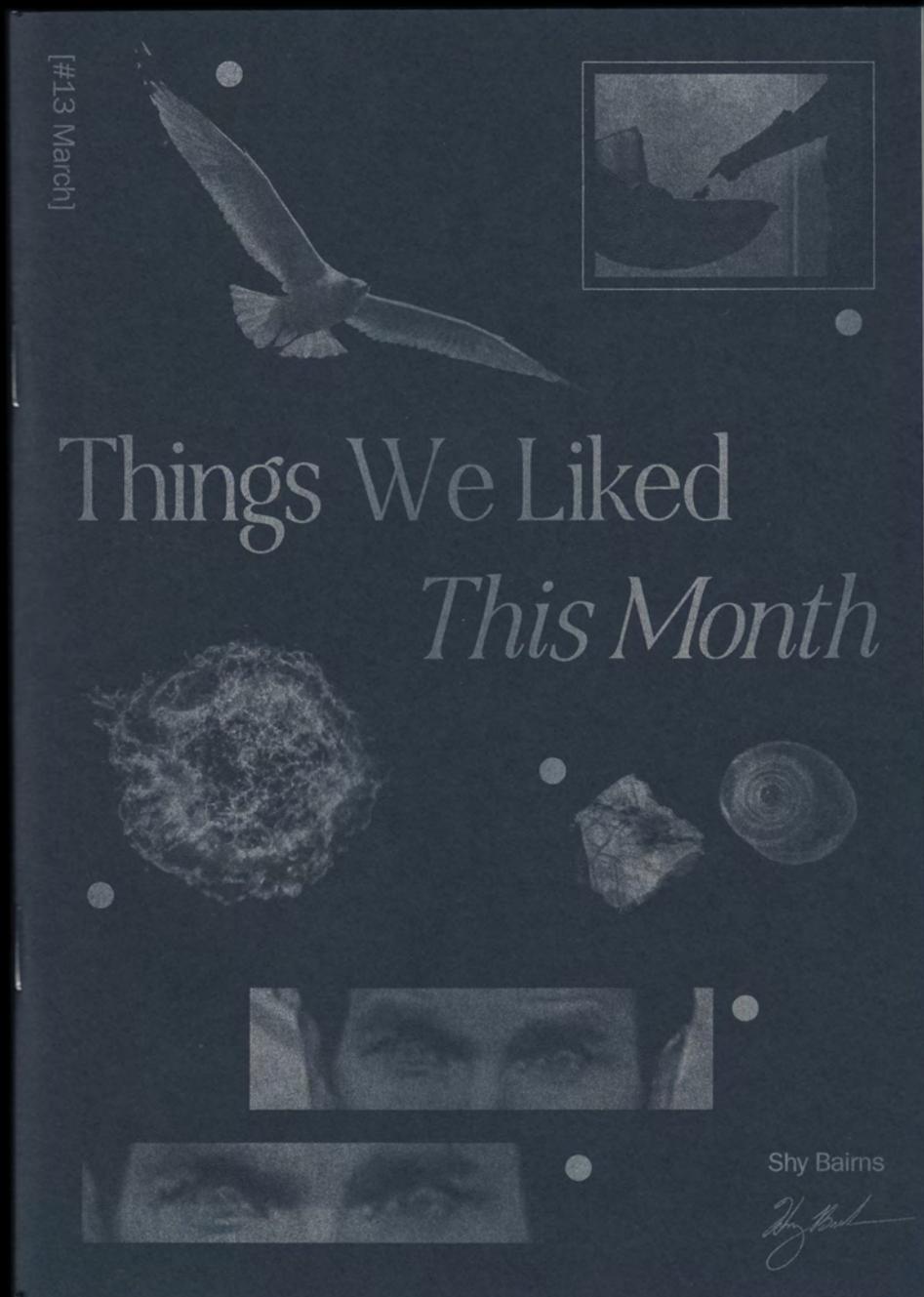
[4]

10:41am

All roads — and
TIME WELLS
— lead to
BLACKPOOL

[6]

- Special edition of the monthly zine *Things We Liked This Month* exploring topics of interest around the themes of the paranormal and supernatural, produced by Shy Bairsns during their investigation



Front

Special edition sticker
produced by Shy Bairns

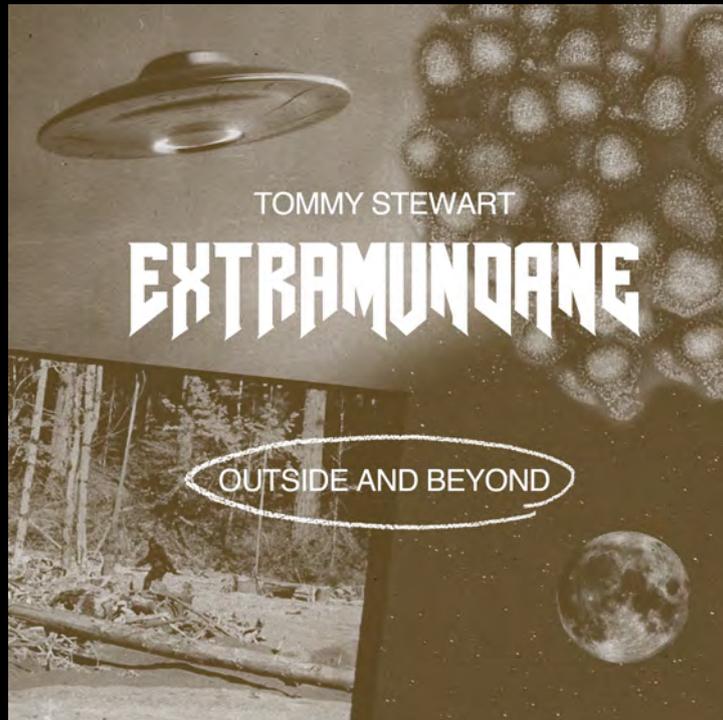


In 2020, Covid-19 struck and galleries across the world had to be closed down. During that time, they sat empty, waiting, vulnerable. Join Shy Bairns (2025) as they investigate what happened at The Grundy during lockdown, piecing together mysterious ooze, Reddit pages and TikToks in order to understand the events that led to the disappearance of curator Johnny Highland.

What happened in the gallery when no one was looking?

Who was there?





- Extramundane: Outside and Beyond
Episode 92: Shy Bairns
Released June 2025

On this week's episode of Extramundane: Outside and Beyond, Tommy sits down with artists turned paranormal researchers George Gibson and Erin Blamire to catch up about their investigation into unexplained phenomena circling a gallery in Blackpool, UK. Extramundane: Outside and Beyond with Tommy Stewart is a conspiracy theory podcast that goes above and beyond our material universe, searching for answers via an out of this world range of guests. Tommy Stewart is a podcast host and anti-influencer based in Shrewsbury, UK.

You can listen to the podcast [HERE](#)

SHY BAIRNS

www.shybairns.co.uk
info@shybairns.co.uk

Solo Exhibitions

Shy Bairns Believe It Or Not
The Grundy, Blackpool, March 2025

The Exorcism of Zoe Watson
The Holden Gallery, Manchester, June 2024

Group Exhibitions

Risograph In Retrospect
CCA, Glasgow, July 2023

Nothing Important Happened Today
The Tetley, Leeds, Sept 2022

Remote Work
The Grundy, Blackpool, March 2021

Collaborate!
Jerwood Arts, London, Oct 2019

Festival Of The Not
Star and Shadow Cinema, Newcastle, April 2019

Bloomberg New Contemporaries
South London Gallery, London, Jan 2019

Curation

We're Bored Of Books Now
Shy Studio, Manchester, Sept 2023

BOOKISH
Shy Studio, Manchester, Dec 2022

Fanfiction, Folklore and Fake News
Portico Library, Manchester, Feb 2022

Books On Plinths
PINK, Manchester, Aug, 2021

Fanspeak
Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, Nov 2019

Selected Workshops

Exorcising Second Hand Books
Chethams Library, Manchester, Dec 2022

#Relatable Mythology
Spike Island, Bristol, Jan 2021

Shy Van Vocht
Reimage, Remake, Replay, Online, July 2020

Shy Bairns Rewrite The Future
Site Gallery, Sheffield, Jan 2020

Shy Bairns Develop Your Creative Practice
Tate Modern, London, Nov 2019

My Head is Disconnected
David Lynch @ HOME, Manchester, Nov 2019

New Contemporaries
South London Gallery, London, Mar 2019

Liverpool Biennial
The Bluecoat, Liverpool, July 2018

Publications

A Guide To Gallery Ghostbusting (TBA)

Fanfiction, Folklore and Fake News 2022

Things We Liked This Month 2020 onwards

An Appointment at the End of the World
2019

Where's Your Coat, You're Going To Be
Cold 2017

The Only Pizza Shop Where I Live Burnt
Down 2016

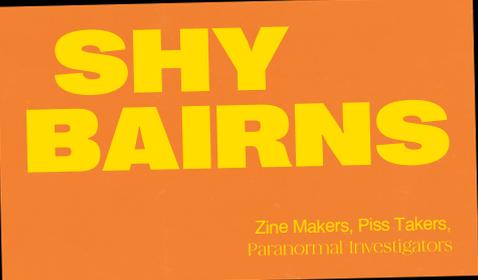
Awards

Bloomberg New Contemporaries May 2018

Artist Led Hot 100 May 2017

BAIRNS

Zine Makers, Piss Takers,
Paranormal Investigators



Links

[Jack \[Redacted\]'s TikTok](#)

[Maggie's Reddit profile](#)

[Johnny Highland Twitter](#)

[Johnny Highland appointed curator at The Grundy art gallery](#)

[The Grundy announces Johnny Highland has taken voluntary redundancy in April 2020.](#)

Further Reading

Articles

North West UFO's

[Top secret files reveal probe into UFO spotted near Blackpool's Central Pier](#)

["Like a chewy mint": The 49 UFO sightings over Lancashire including Blackpool](#)

[UFO sightings above Stonehenge and Blackpool Pier are revealed](#)

[The Blackpool Files](#)

[Alien Nation: MoD Releases Final UFO Files](#)

[Did you see this 'UFO' in the sky over Preston last night?](#)

[Lancashire man has 'proof' that aliens have visited Preston](#)

[Blackpool man says he has filmed mysterious 'fireballs' in the sky off the Fylde coast](#)

[More reports of mysterious 'fireballs' off coast in April 2020](#)

North West Paranormal

[Blackpool's Top Ten Ghosts](#)

[Can you still hear 'Cloggy' the ghost train operator at Blackpool Pleasure Beach?](#)

[Ghost hunters 'mysteriously' locked in cell at former police station have to be rescued](#)

[Spooky goings on at Grundy Art Gallery](#)

[Haunted Blackpool; Did Karl Marx Visit The Pleasure Beach?](#)

[The ghost of Blackpool Grand Theatre and how he inspired a Lancashire business](#)

[Mother-of-one flees flat in terror after GHOST photobombs her in a selfie... after undertakers mistakenly turned up to collect dead body weeks earlier](#)

North West Conspiracy Theories

[I went to the Blackpool Exhibition \("Conspiracies Museum"\)](#)

[A curiosity on Chapel Street in Blackpool, U.K.](#)

[BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATI](#)

[IN PICTURES: The abandoned subway under Blackpool Promenade](#)

[Blackpool man missing after 'urban exploration' team looks for famous tunnels](#)

[Secret Tunnels Under Blackpool – Fact or Fiction](#)

[Scarlett Moffatt believes Elvis Presley 'lives under Blackpool Tower' in her latest conspiracy theory: 'I've got proof'](#)

[How British grannies are spreading far-right conspiracy theory memes on Facebook](#)

Northwest General Phenomena

[Asteroid the size of Blackpool Tower racing towards Earth's orbit](#)

[Mystery over Blackpool bubbles as promenade is awash with foam](#)

[National Trust reveals strangest items to wash up on its shores](#)

[Doctors Quarantine Man's House Because Of A Rock He Found](#)

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[Seabirds are dying around Britains Northern Coasts](#)

[THE MONSTER OF MARTIN MERE: CFZ Expedition Report \(2002\)](#)

[Ancient Egyptian statue appears to move on its own at Manchester Museum](#)

[Mystery of Preston Stone Circle](#)

[Hellhounds in Lancashire](#)

[Lancashire's own underwater village and four other myths and legends](#)

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[Haunted house reports on the rise during pandemic, says paranormal researcher](#)

[Quarantining With a Ghost? It's Scary](#)

[Why are UFO Sightings Increasing Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic?](#)

[In one of the strangest years of our lives, reports of UFO sightings have reached new heights in lockdown](#)

[7 Terrifying Tales From the World's Most Haunted Museums, From the Red Man of the Louvre to Monet's Restless Ghost in Cleveland](#)

['It carried our dog away': are the UK's seagulls getting more aggressive?](#)

[Seagulls to reach large eagle size by 2030](#)

[The Wow! Signal: An alien missed connection?](#)

[How 1,600 People Went Missing from Our Public Lands Without a Trace](#)

Books

Paget, P., 1980. *UFO-UK*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

Mackal, R., 1980. *The Monsters of Loch Ness*. Swallow Press.

Francis, R., 1979. *Blackpool Vanishes*. Faber & Faber.

Bagans, Z., 2019. *Ghost-hunting For Dummies*. John Wiley & Sons Inc.

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Cooper, M., 1991. *Behold a Pale Horse*. Light Technology Publishing, LLC.

Clarke, D., 2018. *UFO Drawings from the National Archives*. Four Corners Books.

Downes, J., 2009. *Animals and Men*. CFZ Press

Sanderson, I., 2005. *Invisible residents: The Reality of Underwater UFO's*. Adventures Unlimited Press.

Watch

Video

[Blackpool Alien, rare footage showing aliens in Blackpool circa 1998, 8mm England](#)

[Most Haunted Unseen - Blackpool Pleasure Beach](#)

[Mr H's Blackpool Illuminations UFO incident](#)

[Blackburn Paranormal](#)

['Fireball' seen in the sky over Blackpool coast](#)

Film/TV

Alternative 3 (1977) dir. Christopher Miles

Ghostwatch (1992) dir. Lesley Manning

The Blair Witch Project (1999) dir. Daniel Myrick, Eduardo Sanchez

Alien Autopsy (2006) dir. Jonny Campbell

Dead Line (2018) dir. Barbara Wiltshire

If you experience something strange in the North West, please contact Shy Bairns:

info@shybairns.co.uk

www.shybairns.co.uk

Or the following paranormal experts:

[Juliette Gregson](#) (Blackpool)

[Stephen Mercer](#) (Blackpool)

[East Lancashire Ghostbusters](#)

[Lancashire Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Society](#)

[Centre for Fortean Zoology](#) (UK wide)