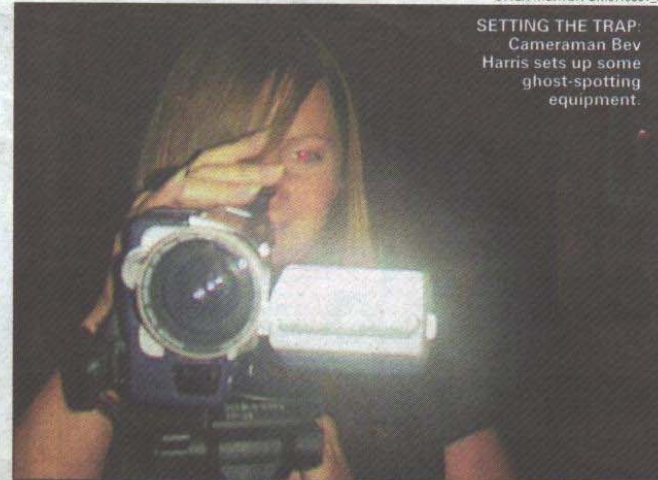


FULL TILT: Ghost hunters invite an unseen spirit to show its presence by moving a table. A seance was held to raise the level of supernatural activity in the pub and the team of investigators set up infra-red cameras to capture ghostly visitors.



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SETTING THE TRAP: Cameraman Bev Harris sets up some ghost-spotting equipment.

Paranormal investigators spend a night in search of spectres in a village pub Who you gonna call?

A REAL-life team of ghostbusters descended on a West Malling pub in a bid to prove once-and-for-all the existence of spooks at the venue.

Ghost Search UK, a paranormal investigation unit, arrived at Swan Street's Lobster Pot on Saturday after closing time to smoke out the spectres in an all-night stake-out.

The team, made up of trained mediums, researchers and camera crew were called in after reports of increased

by Owen Morton

supernatural activity. They set up infra-red camera equipment throughout the building in a bid to capture physical evidence of the spirits said to frequent the inn.

Following a seance to heighten the supernatural energy in the pub, spirits including a man named Roger, were invited to demonstrate their presence by tilting tables and interacting with those present.

The group was also able to communicate with a spirit answering to the name of Sarah Anne McGillan, who revealed she used to work in the pub in 1945.

This has yet to be verified.

The investigation then spread throughout the pub's dark rooms, where several reports of unexplained darting red lights were made.

Medium Pete Harris said on the night: "There is a lot of activity here and the spirits are very friendly but they seem reluctant to come forward - almost shy.

"People assume that because of what we do we just blindly accept everything that comes up but we don't. The first thing we do is look for a logical answer.

"We can't guarantee anything is going to happen and we have had events where at the end of the evening we have apologised to guests.

"We are not in it for fame and fortune, we are in it to try and prove a point."

Ghost Search UK sends reports of investigations to the Metaphysical Research Society which are archived in British and American libraries.

Team leader and medium Donna Gearing said: "I founded the group a year ago because I wanted to gather evidence which would prove wrong all those people who have ridiculed me."

And after analysing the film taken on the night, Mrs Gearing confirmed the presence of 'eight black orbs' caught on camera.

The mysterious floating shapes are believed to be the

first stage of physical spectre manifestation.

She said: "What we have noticed is that even if the camera is perfectly in focus it seems to go out of focus as the orb grows. It will move about and disperse so whether it is the energy going in front of the camera which knocks it out of focus I don't know."

Landlady Manuela Walter, who organised the event, added: "It was a mind-expanding experience and we finally have proof there is something here. It's good to know I'm not just going mad."

In August the *Chronicle* reported on a ghostly nun, believed by many to frequent the Lobster Pot on a regular basis.



IN A SPIN: *Chronicle* reporter Owen Morton joins in with some table tilting.

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