



PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

Meet the team...

Top row, from left, Mediums: Donna; Pete; Adam; Dave

Middle row, from left, camera crew: Tony; Luke; Becca; Bev

Bottom row, from left, support team: Gary - parapsychologist; Steve - website designer; Ann - researcher



Essential ghosthunting equipment

Electromagnetic field detector (EMF meter)

A fairly new piece of 'ghost hunting' equipment which detects different frequencies, ranging from invisible fields to visible light and beyond. EMF is not only found with electrical appliances, but throughout nature too.

A reading of between 0.2 and 7.0 is said to be the low level frequency that spirit emits.

Infrared thermometer

Gives precise non-contact measurements of temperature, by measuring the surface temperature of an object or of the air.

It is widely known with those who accept spiritual phenomena, that when a spiritual energy is present a temperature change is often felt, particularly temperature drops, such as cold spots.

Pendulum and dowsing rods

Used as forms of divination for hundreds of years.

The pendulum works by swinging or rotating either clockwise or anticlockwise to give a yes or no answer. They were even used to help find underground mines and tunnels during the Vietnam war.

Dowsing rods were originally made from a forked stick and used for locating people, objects and substances such as water and oil. Modern dowsing rods consist of two L-shaped pieces of wire with handles which cross over, open wide, and swing from side to side to guide the diviner to where the item, person or energy source is located.



■ This photograph taken of the exterior of The Ship shows what appears to be a large number of 'orbs' (mostly on the right hand side, main ones circled)

Who you gonna call?

Paranormal investigator Donna Gearing saw her first 'spirit' when she was just six. As the founder of Ghost Search UK, she now uses her ghostbusting skills throughout Kent and the south east. Open-minded sceptic Becca Pennicott joined Donna and a team of believers and cynics at The Ship Inn, Sandgate, in search of things that go bump in the night

“P ar a n o r m a l investigations have always held a fascination for me, long before they became fashionable thanks to TV programmes like *Most Haunted*,” Ghost Search UK’s founder Donna Gearing told me.

“I decided to found Ghost Search UK to try to capture some form of evidence that what I can see, hear and feel really is there.”

A limited number of tickets to each investigation are available to the public, enabling them to join the team in a real hands-on way. I went along to The Ship Inn in Sandgate, an 18th century pub with a history of ghostly goings-on.

Stuart and Wendy Whiffen have owned the pub for 19 years, and have witnessed countless inexplicable things – ghostly figures in the corridor and front bar, cold spots, a strong smell of fish and the feeling of being pushed when no one is around.

I arrived at the pub at 9.30pm, feeling

slightly nervous, but any worries I had soon evaporated. The Ship was warm and welcoming with no hint of a bad atmosphere, and everyone was very friendly.

The team was introduced and we were shown some of the essential spirit locating equipment, followed by a DVD about Ghost Search UK’s work, but the picture kept pixellating and breaking up. We were told that we were lucky to see as much as we did: in many locations it refuses to play at all, despite equipment in good working order prior to the start of the investigation.

'Orbs'

At the end of the DVD were pictures of 'orbs' taken on previous investigations.

It is believed these inexplicable light anomalies, often unseen by the naked eye, could show the effect of energy fields being disturbed by spirit or may even be the first stages of spirit manifestation.

Ghost Search UK’s pictures and footage are all sent to the Metaphysical Research