

Donna Gearing's new enterprise is not for the faint-hearted. Donna, a spiritualist medium, is inviting guests to try a vigil at a haunted pub as part of her team's paranormal investigations in Kent.

The unusual evenings also include the chance to join a seance and a ouija board session with the investigation team.

Donna, who lives with her husband and two children in New Romney, is an old hand at these spooky goings-on as she worked for some time hunting the ghoulies and ghosties in Yorkshire.



■ Spiritualist Donna Gearing with her energy meter at the Oak and Ivy, Hawkhurst

Spend a night with the ghost searchers

Donna Gearing is not the usual mother of two. Like many mums she has an interesting career but hers takes her into the world of the paranormal. Deborah Penn spoke to her about her latest venture in which volunteers can join in the investigations of her Ghost Search UK team

She said: "It was a 600 mile round trip - absolutely exhausting." So now she is turning her highly tuned attentions to the Kent paranormal scene.

She said: "I've been able to see and hear paranormal things since I was six. When I was a teenager I tried to get rid of the gift because it was so much trouble.

"The paranormal has always found me. I've never been to find it. I seem to have an extra set of eyes and ears."

Being a relative newcomer to the Kent paranormal scene, she says her most intriguing experience to date was in her old stamping ground in Yorkshire.

Fizz

"I wasn't told anything of the history of the place," she said. "I was sitting on the floor during a seance when I heard this 'fizz' and a black mass shot over, f-ing and blinding in my ear.

"I said, 'You don't intimidate me.'"

"He grabbed me by the throat - it lasted about five seconds - and he growled, 'You want a bet?'"

"Then a huge orb flew into the circle of the seance. This was Catherine who said she was pregnant when he raped and murdered her.

"Later I found out there was a man who had raped and strangled women there."

A lesser person could well be intimidated by such violent occurrences but Donna is made of sterner stuff. She said: "Although I am a small person I like the darker entity because it's a challenge to me."

In case others are more troubled by the occult, she added: "I always offer to cleanse a place if it's troubling people. Spirits in distress can be helped on into the spirit world."

She and her Ghost Search UK team, which includes her husband Tony who films the proceedings, are inviting people to a series of experiences at "highly active places" in the area. A buffet and hot drinks are included in the price which starts at £35.

The investigations are on Saturday nights ending at about 7am the following morning. Participants can use their own equipment, such as night vision camcorders, pendulums, dowsing rods and digital cameras.

On September 11 the team turns its attention to the Oak and Ivy, Hawkhurst, which has "many spirits refusing to leave, not only smugglers but also a former landlady. Poltergeist activity has left staff and customers questioning their sanity."

On September 18 the team will be at the Park Inn, Dover, which once housed a brothel and where there is also a

"terrifying male presence".

On September 25 the team go to the Walnut Tree Inn, Aldington, where the kitchen lies over a burial site for black death victims and tunnels once led from the cellar to the church and houses on the edge of the marsh where smugglers distributed their contraband.

On October 9 the team will be in The Royal function room, Rochester, which dates from 1793 and houses the second oldest stage in the country. "Behind all the glam and glitter of stage life, other events were taking place, which have left their mark for all to feel."

Spirits

The team visits The Ship Inn, Sandgate, on October 16. The inn dates back to 1798 and was once a manor house. Donna said: "I came across three active spirits here."

The George Hotel, Lydd, is the focus for the team on October 24. It was built in 1620 and had a secret passage to the church where contraband was thought to be hidden in tombs.

The Ghost Search UK team also includes medium and healer Pete, medium Tom and researcher Sundie.

Anyone brave enough to take part can call 01797 367 172 or email ghostsearchuk@dsl.pipex.com, or visit www.ghostsearchuk.co.uk