

That's the spirit

Kent paranormal investigators Ghost Search UK visit haunted locations around the county to try to capture evidence of ghosts and life after death, and members of the public are invited to join the team on their all-night investigations. Focus met Ghost Search UK founder and spiritualist medium Donna Gearing to find out more



Name and occupation: Donna Gearing. Full-time paranormal investigator, mum, housewife
Describe your job:

My researcher and I are constantly searching for locations that are reputed to be haunted or at least have 'that strange feeling'. I'm always the first point of physical contact that venue holders have. I go to every location to ascertain if active Spirit are present there, and should a site be active enough to warrant us going in, I open up our doors to a limited number of paying guests. This is for two reasons: firstly it's our only way of financing the work we do, and the other reason is to allow the general public to see what takes place behind closed doors when an investigation is under way. Each guest becomes a team member for the night, allowing them the chance to experience paranormal activity for themselves.

Any paranormal activity that has been captured on film is sent to The Metaphysical Research Society to be analysed and archived in both English and American libraries for future research and reference. Ghost Search UK has had much footage archived already.

What made you start up Ghost Search UK?

I originally set up Ghost Search UK as a means of securing some form of evidence that what I, as a spiritualist medium, have always been able to see, hear and sense. I wanted to show people who think clairvoyants are nothing more than fanciful dreamers that there is an afterlife. I accept that most people need hard evidence before they can believe in something they cannot see, hear or touch, and this is what I set out to achieve.

Fear of the unknown seems to be the biggest cause of refuting evidence. What amazes me that although the air we breathe cannot be touched, seen or heard either, but we know it's there. How do we know this? Because we have been told! Yet I hold so much evidence

that Spirit are also here, but many people still refuse to believe.

I continue with this work because I just love it. It's exciting, unpredictable, sad, so many different emotions come alive when working for Spirit. Since investigations started, the team have come across many earth-bound Spirit that are lost, confused or in denial that they have left their physical bodies. We are able to help them on their last journey home where they can find peace, contentment and family who have already passed over. To witness loved ones come and collect the lost souls has to be the most rewarding of all. Many rescue circles leave tears of joy in our eyes and a warm feeling in the heart - how many occupations can boast that?

What's the best bit of your job?

Apart from helping the earth bound, for me it has to be dealing with the lower entities. This is my speciality, I just love it.

Lower entities are those that refuse to go to the world of Spirit, normally for fear of retribution for their earthly misdemeanours. They love to cause upset and mayhem, they love to fight and to challenge anyone that dares stand in their way. Quite often they don't work on their own, they like to combine forces with others which makes them more powerful.

Ghost Search UK has secured both on still camera and video evidence of just what a low entity can do. The lady on the receiving end of this attack received two raised welts across her back. The skin was not broken and within a number of hours all physical signs had disappeared, but she had to have physiotherapy the next day to release her back muscles as they had gone into a spasm and she was unable to stand or walk.

If I detect low entities I always, with the aid of team mediums and our Spirit guides, move them on to where they rightfully belong, the world of Spirit. We do this totally free of charge.

And the hardest part?

Easy... the paperwork!

Where would you really like to hold an investigation?

One of two places. Either a disused hospital, as I was formerly a nurse, or a prison. Both of these would be full of energies, a mixture of good and bad.

What is the most exciting thing that has happened on an investigation?

The Metaphysical Research Society is currently analysing a photograph I sent them that I took on an investigation that was not open to guests. We had been invited to investigate a building not open to the public, and I felt a male energy step into a doorway. I took a photo and it appears that I have captured a full ghost manifestation in colour. Until I get written confirmation from the Metaphysical Research Society I'm not releasing the photograph, however the reports so far are thumbs up!

Do you ever get scared?

If I said no I would be lying, but it's the darkness that worries me more, especially in a building that I don't know.

What makes you happy?

My family, I love them all to bits. I also like to see others happy and content as well, that leaves me with a warm feeling.

What most annoys you?

People being rude or inconsiderate to anyone that stands in their way of making money and getting where they think they want to go.

Your house in on fire: apart from your family what two things would you rescue?

My pets (one dog, three cats, one rabbit and four ducks)... can I count them as one? And photographs of past family and friends, such treasured memories.

What is your greatest ambition?

To be doing the work I do in ten years from now and still be happy doing it.

What makes you most proud?

My children, husband and my team.

What gets your heart racing?

Apart from chocolates and ghosts? (sorry... and my husband!) It would have to be watching our guests' reactions to things they cannot explain or have never experienced.

What has been the most memorable moment of your life?

Corny to say, but giving birth to my daughter and son and being a part of their lives.

What was your last extravagance?

Buying the business a new laser printer - sounds sad, but it's brilliant!

What sums up your attitude to life?

To love and be loved. As simple as that really.

■ Ghost Search UK will be holding an investigation at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Saturday, June 25. For more information on this and other investigations, or to book tickets, visit their website at www.ghostsearchuk.co.uk phone 01797 367172 or e-mail info@ghostsearchuk.co.uk



■ The scratches which mysteriously appeared on a guest's back during an investigation



■ This photograph, taken on an investigation just after two Ghost Search UK guests saw a ghostly figure, shows an 'orb' - an unexplained glowing circle which many believe may be the first stages of a spirit manifestation

■ Inset: in this enlargement of the photo there appears to be a face visible inside the orb