

Paranormal Investigators wanted for Kent's Cavern Paranormal Tour

Following the success of popular TV programme 'Most Haunted'; a specialist company is holding its first ever Paranormal investigation at Kent's Cavern, Torquay on the 25th October 2008.

Paranormal Tours specialises in hosting ghost hunts in well known haunted locations throughout the UK. Based in Hampshire, the organisation uses experienced investigators to examine strange and unexplained goings-on at many of the country's famous haunted properties.

Kerry Marsay, event organiser, explains "The event will start at 9pm and last until 5am. Although staying awake until 5am may sound difficult, with a full programme of activities, and the potential for ghostly experiences, there is unlikely to be a dull moment."

During the event, participants are given an introductory workshop and training in the equipment they will use for conducting experiments including meters to measure changes in frequency, thermometers, motion detectors, and devices to record 'electronic voice phenomena' i.e. ghostly sounds. All ghosthunters are invited to bring their own digital cameras and night vision equipment to assist them. In addition to the scientific equipment, the group will be able to speak to a local historian to gain factual information about the property's past, plus utilise the services of an experienced Medium to communicate with any presence they detect.

Entering Kent's Cavern the cave a temperature of a constant 14oC is felt all year round. Walking down the Long Arcade, it reveals how the caves were formed with stalagmite floors formed sealing in the evidence of Ice Age occupation. Further down into the Rocky Chamber you will see nature's art with beautifully formed stalagmites and stalactites decorating the chamber. Wandering further into the cave system shows Clinnicks Gallery then into the Cave of Inscriptions with graffiti dating back to the 16th century. From there you back out and head through the Labyrinth and into The Bears Den, with a bear skull still embedded into the rock. Finally through the Water Gallery and into the Great Chamber where there is a display dedicated to the Stone Age and to the Victorian excavators who made the cave system we see today.

Stories of visitors from the 19th and 20th centuries are recorded in the history of the caves, one of which in 1803 from William Hyett who rescued a group of explorers who became

trapped: 'a young naval officer explained that he and five of his brother officers entered the cave without a guide, and had carried with them a quantity of portfires, the smoke from which had extinguished their only candle and left them in total darkness. After some time and our repeated shouts we found the disconsolate seated around the margin of a limpid pool almost exhausted with fatigue they had concluded that this would be their grave'.

Kent's Cavern would have been just another limestone cave in the hill side had it not been for the remarkable work of two men, Father John MacEney from 1825 and William Pengelly from 1865 to 1880. These two 19th century explorers excavated sections of the cave in pursuit of prehistory knowledge. They systematically excavated down through the stalagmite floor to unearth the treasure trove of artefacts left behind by ancient peoples and now extinct animals. MacEney came to Torquay from Ireland in 1822 having been appointed chaplain to the Carey family in their home of Torre Abbey. His interest in the caves developed due to the free time he had to explore them and study when some people were beginning to wonder when people first appeared on the earth. He would later be recognised as an expert on Kent's Cave.

In the 1830's William Pengelly moved to Torquay, leaving his family in Looe, Cornwall. He saw an opportunity in the growing resort and initially worked on his family's coastal trading boats using his spare time educating himself. Over the years he then set himself up as a private tutor and was so successful he was employed to teach the children of several European Royal families. With a change in his fortune he was able to spend more time researching natural history and came to the caves on 17th March 1865, gaining permission from the then owner of the caves to excavate. Over the next 15 years he uncovered more than 80,000 different objects from the cavern. These were some of the most important finds of the century. The caves passed into the hands of the current owners, the Powe family, with Francis Powe renting the caves from the Haldon Estate in 1889-1903, however was fortunate enough to be able to purchase them in 1903. It was opened as an attraction at this time, charging visitors a 6d entry fee. The family still own the caves today, the current owner being Nick Powe who continues to preserve and investigate this national treasure.

There have been a number of paranormal investigations carried out at the caves. One recent investigation witnessed two investigators safety helmets being lifted completely off their heads.

Strange EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena) evidence has also been recorded and so far, unexplained.

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Light anomalies and temperature changes from the constant 14oC have also been witnessed and experienced first hand.

Uneasy feelings of being watched from total darkness are also experienced.

Said Kerry “We are really excited at the prospect of investigating it. Sceptics and believers alike tend to leave our events with far more questions than when they arrive. Whether people join the investigation to indulge an existing interest, satisfy their curiosity or see it as a personal challenge to stay in a haunted house for a night, this investigation will be an experience not to be missed.”

Limited to 24 participants, places cost £79 per person and include all activities, use of equipment plus refreshments throughout the night. To book a place call Paranormal Tours on 0871 288 4036.

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For more information contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Further details about Paranormal Tours, plus common experiments, can be found at www.paranormaltours.com
- For further information about Kent's Cavern please go to <http://www.kents-cavern.co.uk/>