

Jedburgh Castle Jail

Haunted Scotland Public Event

18th April 2015
Christopher Huff MA

Located in Jedburgh town centre, off Castlegate. The site is owned by the Scottish Borders Council and open to the public daily

Staff Present

Ryan O'Neill
Janice Dodds
Lynne Knight
Gary Knight
Tammy O'Neill

History

Jedburgh Castle was a 12th century earthwork Motte and Bailey founded by King David I.

Being in the Borders it witnessed constant fighting between the Scottish and the English and swapped hands many times.

In 1285 and King Alexander III was married here.

By 1335 a stone courtyard castle was built on the earlier fortification. This comprised a main gate and a Pele Tower, flanked by great and lesser towers



After the Battle of Neville's Cross at Durham in 1346, the castle passed to English ownership and this lasted until 1409, when Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany and Regent of Scotland ordered the destruction of the fortification.

The demolition was conducted by Scots commanded by Sir James Douglas of Balvenie

In 1823 the remnants of the castle were largely removed and a Howard Reform prison, to designs by Archibald Elliot, was built on the site; this is the only existing example of its kind in Scotland.

Jedburgh Jail was closed in 1868. The building was restored to an 1820s appearance in 1964 and opened to the public as Jedburgh Castle Jail and Museum. This currently features the Georgian Jail itself and displays on local history in the museum in what was the Governor's House.



Paranormal History

The Castle Jail was investigated by Most Haunted in their eleventh series and many groups have investigated there

The jail is said to be haunted by a man called Edwin McArthur, a former prisoner at the jail who was executed in 1855. It is said that his apparition has been seen threatening members of the public and causing a dark atmosphere at the place.

However he is not alone for many apparitions have been seen and even reports of a ghostly piper seen standing on the battlements. Strong presences have been felt and on many occasions strange lights have been witnessed.

The jail found itself highlighted in the media in 2005 when a paranormal investigation team experienced extreme Poltergeist activity.

On a previous visit to the Jail the author was witness to the presence of a forger gaoler who smelt of stale beer and later the sound of slamming doors although nobody was in the area at the time.



Psychic Ghost Walk

The walk around was conducted by Janice Dodds, the whole group moved from the downstairs into the museum and across a walkway into the cell block, and then to the Bridewell and finally back to base.

During this the names Douglass and Walter were obtained.

Trigger Objects Used

Ryan

".....This was my first time at Jedburgh Castle Jail.

During this investigation it certainly felt as though we were being watched during the sessions, the guests were reporting drafts and being touched, one lady felt as though she was pulled from behind.

There were a couple of small EMF Spikes, faint rumbling noises were reported like movement on the outside of the block.

Definitely looking forward to going back again and further investigating this fascinating place....."

A Noose
Jailor Key
Handcuffs

Timetable

21.00 Everyone arrives and an introduction was given by Ryan

21.15 to 21.45 A Psychic Walkabout with Janice Dodds

22.00 Session 1a. Ryan in the mixed block across from museum in the Governor's House with Echovox

22.00 Session 1b Gary & Lynne in the Bridewell, conducting observations and experiments

23.15. End of session 1

23.35. Session 2a. Ryan in the mixed block with Echovox

23.35. Session 2b Janice leading a Psychic workshop in the Cell block across the walkway from the Governor's House

12. 50 End of session 2

01.00 Session 3a. Gary & Lynne in the Bridewell, conducting observations and experiments

01.00 Session 3b Janice leading a Psychic workshop in the Cell block across the walkway

02.15 end of session 3

Guests have free roam of the location to explore for themselves and take photographs if they wish and have time to chat to the team

03.00 End of investigation

Findings



During the investigation there was the unaccountable sound of a low rumbling seemingly from the outside of the building. No obvious cause for this has been identified.

There were a few small EMF spikes on the K2 meter, and guests reported the sensations of being pulled or touched, together with a watchfulness and general unease.

The audio has been processed and a number of interesting responses have been picked out.

The raw files have been placed on the Haunted Scotland website should anyone wish to analyse them for themselves. They can be found at : <http://haunted-scotland.co.uk/series/jedburgh-castle-jail/>



An anomalous photo taken at 2.20 AM after all the sessions had ended. This detail is taken from the above photograph

We do not use flash photography

This was only spotted after the event when the photos were analysed

Is it paranormal in origin?, we cannot say for certain.

The sessions in the Bridewell by Lynne and Gary



Two sessions were conducted in the Bridewell block where guests were introduced to calling out sessions and could observe K2 EMF meters and the use of Trigger Objects and were introduced to the concepts of circle work to raise spiritual energy.

During the two sessions a plethora of experiences were observed : Psychic winds blowing on hands, Cold spots, being

touched and pulled, the feeling of having their hands touched, and general presences around.

The sounds of Groans and sighs were heard audibly and a large number of EVPs were captured and analysed later many giving good responses to the questions asked aloud. The guests were encouraged to join in and ask questions and hold and observe the EMF meters.

There was a large amount of EMF readings obtained with the K2, and in addition an experiment was conducted with a torch where the contact was "Just Off" in the hope that a contact would be made by spirit and the light would come on. This did not happen.

In addition they played a recording of "The Death Toll Bell" that would have sounded at the time of an



execution in the Prison.

It is interesting that all replies immediately ceased upon the playing of the bell, especially since before this point the session had been full of comments.

Post event Analysis of Audio

An audio taken of one of the sessions by Gary and Lynne produced over 100 EVP replies, the best of these have been made into 2 videos on the Spirit Research Northeast Channel. The replies were bleak at times, threatening at others.

The Jail clearly had a troubled past that continues into the present.

Feedback from this event

Samantha Middleton wrote : “.....Brilliant night at Jedburgh! Thanks guys!.....”

One thing is for certain – We shall be going back and investigating at Jedburgh again.

Watch the Haunted Scotland Website for details