

Keys

Word games

- Ghostly matching (collocations)
the apparition of a ghost
a haunted house or castle
the legend says that...
the spirit wanders all the time
reality or legend?
- Scary sentence one
This is the most haunted place in England.
- Scary sentence two
Many people witnessed the mysterious events.
- Scary sentence three
What can be the explanation of these ghosts?
- Crossword

Across	Down
1. haunted	2. apparition
3. unknown	4. wander
5. spirit	5. skeleton
6. mood	6. mystery
7. scary	9. ghost
8. night	10. hell
11. restless	
12. castle	

Chillingham Castle

Place description

Situated in romantic grounds, the Castle has commanding views of the surrounding countryside.

Location

Chillingham Castle lies some 25 miles north of Rothbury, just off the A697 to Coldstream and Scotland.

History

At first a 12th century stronghold, Chillingham became a fully fortified Castle in the 14th century. Subjected to several 16th century battles, Chillingham was further strengthened to make it less vulnerable to attack. After 1933 the castle stood decaying and neglected until Sir Humphrey Wakefield and Lady Mary Grey took over the estate and began the enormous task of restoring it back to the ancestral home of the Grey family. Having first secured Chillingham Castle in 1246, the Greys are no doubt proud of the fact that they are once again connected with such a significant part of their ancestral history.

Ghosts

Chillingham Castle is known as one of the most haunted castles in Britain and has many stories attached to it:

- the most famous is the “blue boy”. Visitors of the castle’s “Pink Room” have reported that, as the clock struck midnight, terrible cries of a child in pain could be heard echoing from a passage cut through the wall into the adjoining tower. As the cries faded, a halo of light would appear and the figure of a boy dressed in blue began to approach the bed. Although bones of a child and fragments of a blue dress were found behind the wall of the “Pink Room”, the identity of the boy remains a mystery.
- The castle's next best known and authenticated ghost is that of Lady Mary Berkeley, wife of Ford, Lord Grey of Wark and Chillingham and Earl of Tankerville, still looking for her husband. That gentleman ran away with her own sister, Lady Henrietta, thus giving rise to a great scandal. The poor broken hearted lady was left in her dark and lonely castle with only a fatherless baby girl as her companion. The rustle of her dress can be heard as the tragic figure searches for her husband along the corridors.
- The White Pantry Ghost. This was where the silver in use was stored and a footman was once employed to sleep there to safeguard it. One night the footman had turned in when he was accosted by a lady in white, very pale, who asked him for water. Thinking for the moment it was one of the visitors he turned away to obey her behest, when he suddenly remembered that he was locked in and that no visitor could possibly have entered. On turning round he found the figure had vanished. This same figure was seen also by a guest. The lady in white must have been slowly poisoned in olden times.
- In the Library, underneath the upper chamber, the voices of two men are often heard talking, but it is not possible to follow what they say and they seem to cease at once if one stops reading or writing to listen to their discussion.

Borley Rectory

Place description

Lonely place in a sparsely populated area. It would be forgotten if it weren't for its denomination as the most haunted house in England.

Location

Small village of Borley, near Sudbury, in Essex. It's not far from the Suffolk border, near the east coast of England.

History

- the rectory was built in 1863, on the site of an old Benedictine Monastery for the Reverend H.D.E Bull and his family. In 1892 the Reverend Bull died in the Blue Room. Harry Bull then took over from his father until 1927, when he also passed away in the Blue Room, now with a reputation as the haunted room of the house.
- in 1935 the property was leased to Harry Price for a whole year, who started investigating the hauntings. His results were published in *The Most Haunted House in England*.
- the rectory was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1939. The ruin was finally demolished in 1944.

Ghosts

- sightings of a ghostly nun in the grounds of the rectory since 1885. The ghostly nun was the spirit of a 13th century nun from a local convent, who had fallen in love with a monk from the local monastery. They were said to have fled from the area in a coach and horses. Captured shortly afterwards, they were brought to swift justice; the monk was hanged, and the nun was walled up inside the convent.
- poltergeist activity observed (phantom stone throwing).
- mysterious footsteps.

Tower of London

Place description

The Tower of London is one of Britain's premier historic sites, with 18 acres (7.3 hectares) of towers, walls, and green space overlooking the banks of the River Thames.

Location

London centre, on the River Thames.

History

The castle was built on the old Roman walls, which once formed the corner of Londinium. The first stone building on the site was the White Tower, which was commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1078 and completed in 1097. Gundulf, who was made bishop of Rochester in 1077, oversaw the building of the tower to its completion. It was a bastion of Norman power, towering 90 feet over the capital city. The White Tower has changed surprisingly little from that time, but other buildings and towers have grown around it, so that there are now around 20 towers, and a mix of different buildings dating from different periods of history.

Many of the towers once held prison cells, and the White Tower once held torture chambers within its crypt. Tower Green outside the White Tower was reserved for Royal executions, while Tower Hill served as the public execution place for all the other traitors. Over the centuries the tower has performed diverse royal functions, it has been a prison, palace, observatory, menagerie, place of capital punishment and a museum.

Ghosts

There have been literally hundreds of executions on Tower Hill, from claimants to the throne, political activists and petty criminals. Many of the towers have also served as prisons, and places of misery for people on the wrong side of powerful people. Here are some of the sightings:

- E. L. Swifte, who was a keeper of the Crown Jewels in the 19th century, recorded one of the most interesting and fullest descriptions of a haunting within the tower. He and his family were sitting at a candlelit dinner in his room in the Martin Tower in 1817, when his wife spotted something on the other side of the room. She cried out in alarm and Swifte turned round to see a cylindrical object resembling a glass tube, filled with bubbling blue fluid. The strange apparition started to move and came round behind his wife, who was still sitting at the table. She cried out that it had tried to grab her, and Swifte let fly at it with a chair, which passed straight through the object. The cylinder then receded backwards and disappeared.
- Swifte was also knew about another sighting: apparently a sentry on guard in what is now the Martin Tower, witnessed the apparition of a bear coming from out of the Jewel Room. He stabbed at it with his bayonet, which passed through the apparition and embedded in a door, whereupon the bear promptly disappeared. The sentry died a few days later, possibly of shock, but he had already confided in Swifte and another sentry who verified his story. The sighting has been dated to January in the year 1815 or 1816.
- The ghost of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII. When Anne did not give birth to a boy, Henry had her beheaded at the Tower in 1536. Today, her ghost

appears headless in a white dress, leading a procession of lords and ladies from the Queen's house, near the site of her execution.

- The ghosts of two small boys walking hand in hand at the Tower. When King Edward V died, his brother Richard took Edward's two sons away from their mother. The Crown Princes, nine and 12, were taken to the tower for their protection, according to Richard. They were never seen again; but on more than one occasion, two small boys dressed in nightgowns have been seen standing and holding hands before they fade into a stone wall in the Bloody Tower as silently as they appeared. In 1674, two small skeletons were discovered in a chest beneath the stairway of the White Tower. It is assumed that they belong to the two Crown Princes.
- Thomas a. Becket appeared twice during construction of the Beauchamp Tower, striking the structure with his cross and leaving a pile of rubble in his wake. Henry III, whose grandfather was responsible for Becket's death, appeased the spirit by building a chapel within the tower and naming it after the former archbishop.
- Due to political reasons, Henry VIII ordered to behead the Countess of Salisbury (the Last of the Plantagenets). She refused to place her head on the block like a common traitor, so the executioner pursued the Countess wielding his ax and hacking her to death as she fled. Reportedly, she has been seen fleeing as the executioner's ax performs the gruesome task. However, at other times, the shadow of an ax has been witnessed falling across the site of her capital punishment.
- The Tower is also haunted by two of England's most famed star-crossed lovers. Lord Guildford Dudley, husband of Lady Jane Grey, has been seen weeping in Beauchamp Tower, where he was imprisoned prior to the execution of his wife and himself. Lady Jane Grey has been described as a "white shape forming itself on the battlements.

Blickling Hall

Place description and history

Blickling Hall is a stately home in Norfolk, England, in the village of north of Aylsham. It was once in the possession of the Boleyn family, and home of Sir Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire and his wife, Elizabeth between 1499 and 1505. It is presumed that their first two children Mary and George were Born at Blickling Hall, along with several other Boleyn infants who did not live long. If the couple's most famous child, Anne was born before 1505 (as one school of historical thought contends) then, she too was born at Blickling. However, the weight of evidence would suggest that Anne was born after 1505, probably 1507, and by that time Sir Thomas had moved to Hever Castle in Kent. The current Blickling Hall was built on the ruins of the old Boleyn property in the reign of James I.

Location

It is located 1 mile west of Aylsham, Norfolk.

Ghost

Anne Boleyn was rejected by her husband, King Henry VIII, on the birth of a still-born son. He demanded that she should be beheaded, and her ghost, which haunts many different historical buildings in England, often appears as a headless figure.

Although there is no clear evidence, it is believed that she was born on the site of the Hall. Folklore says that her ghost appears in Blickling at midnight on every anniversary of her death. The apparition is supposed to be spectacular: a phantom coach and horses carries Anne across the surrounding dark fields to her ancestral home, two headless horsemen leading way and Anne sitting with her severed head resting upon her knees. The carriage rolls down the front drive before disappearing in front of the hall, and Anne's ghost then roams the hall until daybreak.

Glamis Castle

Place description

This splendid seat of the Strathmores is referred to by Shakespeare in Macbeth, Macbeth having killed Duncan there in 1040. It is also there that King Malcom II was murdered by assassins in 1034. It is the childhood home of queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and is also the birthplace of princess Margaret.

Location

Situated just west of Forfar, Tayside.

History

Glamis Castle is the historic seat of the Bowles-Lyons family, the lands were presented to them as a gift by Robert the Bruce in 1372. The Bowles-Lyons family still owns the castle as the earls of Strathmore, its members include the Queen Mother, who was born at Glamis. The main keep of the castle dates from the 14th century, and the majestic towers and turrets were added in later years.

Ghosts

Glamis castle is known as one of the most haunted castles in Britain. It has many stories and legends attached to it:

- In the uninhabited West Tower is the room where the ghost of “Earl Beardie” perpetually gambles with the “devil”. “Earl Beardie” was Alexander, Fourth Earl of Crawford during the days of James II of Scotland, who had a quarrel with the Lord Glamis of the day while they were gambling with two other Scottish chieftains. During the quarrel “Beardie”, who was a giant of a man, was thrown down the stone staircase but returned, stamping his feet with rage and bellowing if that no man would play with him he would play with the very “devil” himself. Instantly a tall dark man, wearing a long cloak, walked into the room and play began between himself and “Beardie”. It is not known what happened after that but the tall dark man was never seen again and “Beardie” died five years afterwards. Legend says that the tall dark man was the “devil” and that “Beardie” has indeed “sold his soul” as a result of the gambling. Following his death the ghost of “Beardie” was often heard, stamping his feet and swearing at “something” in rage in the room and even today the castle servants are adamant that they often hear the rattle of dice at night, heavy stamping noises and the sound of men swearing at each other from the direction of the locked and empty room.
- The Haunted Chamber, or Secret Room, its position is only known to a few, is thought to have got its name from the feuding days when a number of the Ogliviy Clan, feeling from the Lindsays after a terrible slaughter, sought shelter at Glamis. Although they were admitted the then owner if Glamis had no sympathy for them, and on the pretence of hiding them, secured the visitors in a remote spot of the Castle and literally left them there to starve to death. It is said that the Chamber contains the ghosts of the Oglivys.
- “The White Lady”, haunts the Clock Tower. She is thought to be Janet Douglas, wife of the Sixth Earl of Glamis. She was put to the stake at Castle Hill, Edinburgh, in 1537 following her trial on a charge of witchcraft. It is thought that she may have been connected with an attempt to murder King James V. Her spectre, surrounded by a reddish glow, has been frequently seen in both locations.
- The ghostly little Black Boy, who sits on a stone seat by the door leading into the Queen Mother’s sitting room, is thought to be the ghost of a Negro servant who was unkindly treated at Glamis in the middle if the 18th century.
- The figure of a Grey Lady has been seen many times in the chapel dedicated to St Michael. On one occasion she was seen by a Mrs Hunter, who worked and lived at

Glamis, whilst she was in the chapel intending to arrange some flowers. Normally seen kneeling in one of the pews, the Grey Lady has also been by Lady Granville, sister of the Queen Mother, who was able to describe the dress she was wearing and who was also able to observe the sunlight shining through the chapel window, shining through the outline of the figure and making a pattern on the floor. She has been seen on many other occasions. Nobody knows who she is or why she visits the chapel.

- The Hangman's Chamber is never used these days. It is said to be haunted by the ghost of a butler who hanged himself there.
- The tongueless figure of a woman with large mournful eyes, pressing her pale face against a window as if appealing for help, and clutching her hands at the bars, has been seen on several occasions looking out of a latticed upper window before apparently being dragged away as if by someone who was leaped up behind her. The scene is always followed by violent screams. Did this poor woman suffer having her tongue cut out because she learned one of the secrets of Glamis Castle?
- There are persistent reports of a strange, elusive, thin figure, nicknamed "Jack the Runner", who has been seen many times racing across the park on moonlit nights towards the castle.
- The legend of the Monster of Glamis relates to somewhere around the turn of the 18th/19th centuries, when a grotesque and bloated monster was born to be Heir of Glamis. Completely misshapen, he had no neck, very small arms and legs, and looked like "a flabby egg", half-human, half-monster. In spite of such deformities he is said to have been immensely strong and is reputed to have lived for nearly 150 years, some people thinking that he finally died in 1921. He lived in a special room at the castle, where he was kept from everybody's eye. His existence was known only to four men at one time.