

Spooks Corner

By Alan Miles ([email](#))

I am hoping to start-off a little corner on the website, wherein, hopefully an accumulation of tales of terror, weird or even amusing 'Spooky stories' could be recorded. Walthamstow has had its fair share of paranormal happenings.

I shall begin.....

When I was young there appeared frequently in the local Guardian newspaper, numerous reports of ghosts, U.F.O.s, and other strange events. One account reported was, that on the banks of the reservoir near the River Lea, seven headless bodies were found, belonging to lions, and tigers. Nobody could explain this weird event; the police checked with circuses and zoos thereabouts and they knew nothing about it. The strangest thing about these dead predators, was the fact that they were found on the bank of a reservoir, and in order to do that, the people responsible would have had to have lifted them over a tall iron fence.

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Another report I recall is of a bear. Apparently years ago, one evening, some boys were walking along the towpath by the River Lea just opposite Hackney. Suddenly there appeared a great bear, which reared up in front of them. The boys fled and told the police, the police investigated the boys account, and found bears paw prints in the mud. But where the bear came from and where it went nobody knows.

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The Billet Roundabout area leading up to Edmonton, has been an area of sightings and visits of U.F.O.s. My other half Andrea and I saw a huge triangular-shaped craft which was copper-coloured with two tall fins on its wings, hover above us in the sky, and hover towards Tottenham. It was quite low and quite slow, it was an incredible sight.

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Many years ago, a U.F.O, a classic saucer type ringed with lights, flew just above the North Circular Road towards Edmonton. This happened one afternoon and many people on the Chingford Hall Estate saw it; children were seen chasing after it on their bikes. Many other U.F.O.s have been sighted in that area.

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On the subject of Walthamstow ghosts, there has been seen walking up and down Browns Road by the Rose n Crown pub, the ghost of a young girl dressed in Edwardian clothes and carrying a pint jug. This is believed to be the ghost of a young girl who was murdered in the area a long time ago, as she went to fetch a pint of beer from The Rose n Crown, to bring back home to her Dad.

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There is a well known old ghost story, of a ghostly hitch-hiker, who haunts the Southend Road. The hitch-hiker been known to wave down cars or motorbikes and desperately asks for a lift to an address.

I worked with a man who had encountered the ghost. She waved his car down, and she asked for a lift to an address off the Southend Road, she climbed into the car and into the passenger's seat. I asked the man if she said anything to him, and he said that she kept talking about Rock n Roll. When he finally arrived at her address, the ghost had already got out of the car and was standing by the kerb, looking back at him, as he remained in the car. Previous accounts from people who had given the ghost a lift, said that they have knocked at the address, and normally the mother who is very much alive, opens the door, and informs the visitor that her daughter is always doing that. The girl had been knocked down and killed many years before.

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Walthamstow is a very old place, and must have a crop of unearthly stories and hopefully, I would like to see more of such on the website. I'll leave you with a few more short stories about the area.

Many people claim to have seen Dick Turpin with his three-cornered hat, riding his horse along the Epping New Road.

Nearby at Ambersbury Banks there has been seen, a hooded-monk crossing the road and disappear into the woods opposite. Ambresbury Banks itself is an old Iron Age Hill fort, and people have claimed to have seen Boudicca and her two daughters wandering about there, all three are dressed in white robes.

In conclusion, I hope that Walthamstow Memories receive more tales of 'Spooks' to share with its readers and researchers.

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