

# EXPLOITS OF THE GHOST HUNTER



By Leslie Toulson

RONALD HEARN believes in ghosts. As a psychic investigator, he says, he has seen and talked to many of them.

And 45-year-old Hearn, a full-time ghost hunter, can offer lots of advice on how to deal with spectres and other kinds of haunting.

Ghosts, he says, are only human, after all. Like live humans, they can be good or bad. Happy or sad. Stubborn or mischievous, or downright stupid.

Hearn, who is based in London, says he found 25 years ago that he was psychic. But he will have nothing to do with the dim lights, table tapping and other trappings so often used by "mediums."

### SPIRITS

"I am not a spiritualist," he insists. "I refuse to have that tag attached by my name."

"I do not believe that life after death is a religion. It is a fact."

"I believe in being practical with ghosts or spirits."

"I don't believe that one has to be overawed or frightened, and surround

the thing with false trimmings and nonsense.

"I try to talk to them in the same way that I would talk to a living human."

"If they were cantankerous when they were alive, they are very likely to be cantankerous spirits."

Hearn admits that he has no idea where the "spirit world" is.

### CARE

But he is convinced that spirits do hang around on earth, for all sorts of reasons.

He explains: "There are ghosts who are obstinate and difficult, some who want to hang on to their earthly homes, some who refuse to believe that they are dead, and others who couldn't care less."

No one need fear a ghost, according to Hearn—most of them just walk around without doing anyone any harm.

On the other hand, anyone can be haunted.

Says Hearn: "Even if you live in a brand-new

### Have YOU seen a ghost?

■ HAVE YOU ever seen a ghost? If so, the Institute of Psychophysical Research, Oxford, would like to hear your story. The Institute is especially keen to hear of ghosts seen or heard by more than one person at the same time.

Whatever your ghostly experience, write to: GHOST, The Sun, 30 Boulevard Street, London EC4A 3DE. We'll pass it on to the researchers. And we'll print the ones we like best for £2!

council house you could still have a ghost.

"If your house has been built on the site, say, of an ancient building with a strong history, then there is a good chance that you will be haunted."

In fact, with the developers pulling down more and more old houses—and distributing more and more ghosts—your chances of being haunted are increasing all the time.

Ghosts have certainly been turning up in some very unlikely places in recent years.

At the moment there's one staking the corridors of Cork Airport at Eire. Security men at the

airport claim that it runs upstairs, down passages, lifts phones off the hook and flits through locked doors.

Getting rid of a ghost is not easy.

### PANIC

Hearn explains: "If the ghost makes its mind up that it doesn't want to go, then there is nothing you can do about it."

If you do have a ghost, says Hearn, don't panic—and don't ignore it.

It could be trying to warn you, guide you or draw your attention to something.

Or it could simply have got lost.

# Nell haunts a strip club

ONE of Ronald Hearn's strangest cases was the haunting of a London strip club—by the love-lorn ghost of Nell Gwynne.

This voluptuous terror of the girl strippers, he says, told how she had been locked up in the club by a jealous King.

And how her lover had been killed there by the King's Guard.

But she told the story through Hearn's voice, he says. His mind was taken over by the woman.

Hearn says it all started when he was invited by American ghost-hunter Hans Holzer to go with him to a place he said was haunted.

He ended up at the Gargoyle Club in London's Soho.

Hearn and Holzer were chatting with Jimmy Jacobs, owner of the club at the time, and another person about a ghost.

### Panels

Mr Jacobs said he had seen it, and that some of the customers had been frightened.

Hearn says: "The club was a really old place with oak panels. I suddenly became aware of a woman standing in front of us. She was wearing a big black picture hat, a underneath which was a mass of red curls, tumbling down. And she had on a very low-cut striped gown."

"She was a most beautiful woman, quite voluptuous. I could see her, although no one else could."

He then went into a



HANS HOLZER Checked the story

france. He adds: "When I came round, I discovered from the others that my mind had been taken over by the woman."

"Jimmy Jacobs asked her, through me, who she was. She said she was Nell Gwynne, and that the club was her house, given to her by King Charles."

The ghost of Nell, Hearn says, then explained why she fell out of favour with King Charles II.

### Prisoner

"I often deceived him," she said, and he became so angry with the King, me up here and put me under the guard of Capt. Molyneux. I was held prisoner here."

"The captain and I fell in love. The King found out, and sent a Lieut. Fortescue of the King's Guard to arrest the captain."

"There was a tremendous sword fight between the two soldiers. And Nell's lover was killed."

She fell completely out of favour with the King, who sold her house—now the club—though Nell stayed on at the house. She died in poverty."

Later, Holzer's research on the story came up with two names listed as being members of the King's Guard at the time. They were Capt. Molyneux and Lieut. Fortescue.

# THE THREAT THAT SCARED A SPOOK

SOMETIMES you have to get tough with a ghost—if it is making a real nuisance of itself.

Once, says Ronald Hearn, he actually threatened a ghost that it would be haunted if it did not stop pestering a certain old lady.

He says: "I received a letter from a friend, who said his 90-year-old mother-in-law was being plagued by a ghost. It kept whirling the bedclothes off her bed when she tried to sleep at night."

"She also heard doors opening and closing mysteriously."

Hearn says he was too busy to visit the house, and decided to do a "remote control" de-ghosting.

He explains: "By concentrating hard, a psychic can contact a ghost anywhere. I got a picture of an old man, who used to live in the house."

"He told me he was annoyed that the mother-in-law was 'living in my place.'"

"I told him his antics could kill her. And I said, 'If you do kill her, she will come and haunt you.'"

"From that moment on, the old woman had no more trouble from the ghost."

# Visit of a

THE phantom bed-shaker gave Ronald Hearn and a friend some sleepless nights.

Hearn and Jim, his friend, were on holiday at Frinton on Sea, Essex.

They were sharing a big, old-fashioned double bed in a house owned by a woman who lived alone. "The house

was dingy and had a gloomy atmosphere about it," says Hearn.

"But my friend Jim and I were very tired and would have slept anywhere."

"We hadn't been in bed long when I looked up and saw an old man wearing a bowler hat, black coat and pin-striped trousers waving a walking stick in the

# phantom bed-shaker

air. Jim couldn't see him. Then, suddenly, he got hold of the bottom of the bed and started shaking it, with both of us in it. Jim cried out: 'What on earth is happening?'"

Hearn says: "I told the old man to stop it and go away. After a time he disappeared."

The next morning they

found a black bowler hat, a black coat, a pair of pin-striped trousers and a walking stick, neatly stacked in the lounge.

They questioned the owner of the house, who told them they belonged to her father who had died the week before.

She said he was a strict man who hated

visitors. He had never allowed her to have anyone in the house while he was alive.

The next night, the old man appeared again and started his bed-shaking antics.

Hearn recalls that he decided to be direct. "I asked the old man why he was doing it," he says.

"He said: 'Because

that's my bed, you are sleeping in it.'"

"I decided to get tough. I said to him: 'Why don't you try to help your daughter brighten her existence?'"

It worked. The gloom seemed to lift, and there were no more visits from the phantom bed-shaker.

# The strait-laced spectre who broke up a love nest

A MAN asked Ronald Hearn to sort out a pottergeist causing trouble in the house where his son and daughter-in-law lived.

At the house, at Ilford, Essex, Hearn was shown a room. He said: "It looked as though it had been hit by a whirlwind. A very heavy pedestal which I could not lift had been taken out of a cupboard and thrown across the room."

"A bag of clothes had been ripped open, and the contents strewn everywhere. They were even being draped around picture frames and over the mantelpiece."

"Books had been thrown about, and the place was in a terrible mess. The man said that this happened regularly."

"As soon as things were tidied up, the ghost went wild."

Hearn was also shown a bedroom which was not used. He says: "The bed

was covered in leaves, although the room had been locked."

"This, too, happened regularly."

"When I tried to contact the ghost, I became aware of an elderly man. I asked him why he was upsetting the young couple."

**Angry**

"The spirit was angry. He said, 'I will go on doing it until they leave this house.'"

"They are not married. They are living in sin. I will not have my

house used in this way." The ghost turned out to be the former owner of the house, who had died a few weeks before. He was a strict churchgoer.

Hearn challenged the man, who admitted that his son had deserted his wife and family to live with the woman in the house. She also had a husband and children.

Then Hearn spoke to the couple.

They left their love nest next morning.

As Hearn puts it: "On the advice of the ghost they went back to their marriage partners."

# The stranger in a snapshot

A YOUNG woman kept seeing the ghost of an old lady in her home. So she moved out.

Ronald Hearn was called in. When he contacted the ghost, she told him that the young woman's husband was a wicked man and was cruel to the wife. She said that she would continue to haunt the house until the husband was dead.

Then his wife could return.

Hearn said: "The old woman added that the wife would not have long to wait, because her husband had not long to live."

**Beatings**

"She told me, 'I don't want her here if her husband comes with her.'"

"The young wife said that her husband had been taken to hospital. It turned out that he had a

# SPIRIT REFUSED TO GO

ONE ghost who refused to believe that she was dead, caused a lot of trouble.

A friend of Hearn's, who was a medium, got in touch with the ghost, an old lady, and asked why she was hanging around.

"What do you mean?" said the ghost. "This is my house. I live here."

Hearn explains: "As people in life refuse to accept death, so the old lady could not believe that life was over."

It took Hearn's friend some time to convince the ghost she was dead. Eventually she was persuaded and the house ceased to be haunted.

# Beautiful nun cured a fever

A YOUNG and beautiful ghost nun once cured Hearn of a fever.

He recalls that when staying with a friend at an Austrian hotel near an old Catholic church, he fell ill one morning.

"I had an intense fever, and was going through hell," he says.

"Suddenly, I looked up and saw this nun. She was fantastically young and beautiful and beckoned me to follow her. I felt too rotten, but my friend persuaded me. She led us into the church, then disappeared."

### Picture

"In the church was a large picture. We looked at it, and there she was."

"It wasn't until we got outside that I realised my fever had gone. I felt on top of the world. Really

fit." Hearn says he is convinced the nun was "continuing the help and comfort she administered during her life, because that was what she wanted to do."

This, he says, applies to all ghosts.

They all do their own thing—just as they did on earth.

Be human to your ghost, if you have one, is his advice.

Unless it is a troublesome one, why not accept it as one of the family?

If the ghost refuses to go, you will either have to learn to live with it, or move house, says Hearn.

**TOMORROW: The little boy they call a miracle healer**