Hello there,

It is time for the February 2015 newsletter. It is worth mentioning that a lot has happened in the last month.

**Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers. We particularly need web developers. We also need local area knowledge experts. Therefore, for every haunted pub, we now suggest that if you can improve the quality of a ghost story then we would like you to get involved. The details are here: <http://www.ghostpubs.com/haunted-pubs/uk/faqs.html>

**Media and Campaigns**

We seem to be attracting media attention. We had success with the Morning Advertiser, the pub industry’s oldest and most-respected magazine. Now, we are in the [North West Evening Mail](https://trello.com/c/tn5nxWlL/323-0-5-respond-to-north-west-evening-mail) newspaper. Initially, we drew the attention from the newspaper as to help address the lack of haunted public houses listed in Barrow-in-Furness. Nothing seems to be mentioned anywhere for the area. We have now expanded the scope to create our Least Haunted Area campaign. We are now looking for haunted pubs, not just in Barrow but also in other parts of the British Isles that have no haunted pubs listed. We now include friendly statistics on area pages, as a rough guide. As a sideline, we have attempted to increase the awareness of Ghost Pubs through twitter, to improve the chances of finding haunted pubs in areas that apparently lack them.

**New Haunted Pubs**

We thought it might be helpful to tag whether a public house is a heritage building. There is a lot to be said about one's experience in an old haunted pub. We decided to look further, to see if there are any more haunted pubs:

***Liverpool***

We noticed that Liverpool was under-represented in terms of its haunted pubs. Therefore, we added a few more. Interestingly, the World Museum and adjacent museums are exceptional. You could spend hours in these establishments. However, we are interested in haunted pubs: we tried the Scream pub, which sports the Edvard Munch's famous image on the pub sign. Staff looked oddly when we mentioned ghosts and it had no real ale. We visited The Roscoe Head, an excellent real pub. This was in response to an ambiguous article in the Telegraph back in 2011: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/pubs/8810409/Liverpool-pub-guide-Roscoe-Head-Liverpool.html.> The staff did not seem to understand our intentions to determine if the pub was haunted. Thus, we left! It was similar for popular The Ship and Mitre. It was built in the sixteenth century. The Philharmonic could not confirm a ghostly presence. Therefore, we have no evidence of a haunting for any of these pubs. We decided to fall back on Tom Slemen's "Spirits in the Vaults: Liverpool's Haunted Pubs" as our main source. His book appears to resemble the Hillgate Ellipse, a collaborative book that we started writing in 2005. Our book targets haunted pubs in the small metropolis of Stockport. His book references those in Liverpool. It seems to retell well-known Irish folklore tales in the context of pubs in Liverpool. Mr Slemen lists the Post Office Liverpool as haunted: <http://www.ghostpubs.com/haunted-pubs/17570-the-poste-house-liverpool.html>. Just like the other putatively haunted pubs in Liverpool, the staff had little idea of how to furnish our expectations of a haunted pub. This is not to discount the validity of his work. We just did not find that our expectations were reflected the pubs that we visited. Nonetheless, it demonstrates that there is a market for localised pub hauntings. Therefore, a book such as "Hillgate Ellipse", that we will release this year, has a real market.

***Chichester***

We acquired our colourful Chris earlier in the month. He is a ghost adventurer by night and one of the few people with a parapsychology degree in the team, or anywhere else for that matter. He did some investigation work for us on the Royal Oak in Chichester: {URL}. His contribution can be seen on that page. He also made a video promoting us here: {URL}!

***Sunderland***

This city is where our Founder was born. He spent time lecturing at the University of Sunderland as well as at Durham. We added new haunted pubs for Sunderland, using mainly "Haunted Sunderland" by Rupert Matthews. It contains no postcodes. This makes it difficult to the use of book as reference material. Some of the public houses do not exist anymore. It can be hard work at times to locate the actual haunted pubs, even for a native to Sunderland. Nonetheless, it was possible with further research to correlate the necessary details.

***Other areas***

We added more pubs in Cumbria, as well as, the impressive looking Hawk Inn in Haslington. It is really worth looking at the carvings outside the pub. We are not easily impressed but we were with his building. In addition, as part of the Least Haunted campaign, we have added Scottish pubs, even one in the Shetland Islands. We took an interest in the idea of a haunted Northern Ireland too. In addition, thanks to help Jason Hollis, we have new entries for Enfield and Hackney. We started to add those haunted pubs mentioned from the television show, [Whines & Spirits.](https://trello.com/c/kjWJclPG/353-0-5-add-haunted-pubs-from-whines-spirits-s1-e1-the-bridge-inn-brannigans) We will tell you when we finish adding. So far, we have added at least one hundred haunted public houses in the last month. We now have around 1800 haunted pubs.

**The Home Page and after**

On the home page, we added direct link buttons to each haunted local authority. We hope that this should improve user experience. The navigation bar was redesigned to reduce the number of clicks that you need to get where you want to go. We also added social media links to the navigation bar. These lead to our Twitter, Facebook, and other pages. This is a web trend that we have decided to endorse; we have coffee and beer icons, we will leave you to investigate those. Of course, try these links after you look at our newly added Frequently Asked Questions page. It is available from the navigation bar too.

**Haunted area pages (authority and region pages)**

We decided to put the useful haunted pub statistics on every area page on the website. We created a Designated Ghost Specialist link on each region and authority page. As we have only just introduced this feature, the undertaking is low now. However, we are gaining interest. You could advertise your experience free, as a haunted knowledge authority from our website. We are serious about having a haunted knowledge authority (like you?) for each of our areas. It would promote you and your activities more than simply having a web page. We will give you a link from each local authority that you represent to your web page or wherever. So, if your are pretty clued up on a haunted local authority, even if you are not living there any more, then we can give you the opportunity to write up the listings for your designated area and more.

Best regards,

Phil

[www.GhostPubs.com](http://www.ghostpubs.com/)