

Definition

What does it mean?

Morphology/Origins (breaking down the word)

WORD OF

PARANORMAL

THE WEEK

Synonyms

Expand your vocabulary!

In a sentence

How may you use it?

Click here for the link to the full article.

Q: What do we not know?

A: One main area of debate is around whether ghost-hunting is a complete waste of time. Vince Wilson, one of the world's leading paranormal investigators, uses an array of high-tech equipment, such as infrared thermal cameras, ultrasonic listening devices and electromagnetic field meters. But although he has been searching for ghosts for more than 20 years, he says that only once has he ever seen one.

New book reveals unsolved ghost mysteries



Fearing the eerie: A scene from the film *The Fog*, featuring the ghosts of drowned sailors.

Could ghosts really exist? A new book tells the true story of a suburban housewife in the 1930s whose extraordinary experiences obsessed the public – and baffled expert ghost-hunters.

One evening in 1938, Alma Fielding and her husband Les were lying in bed in the London suburb of Thornton Heath. Alma was suffering from kidney pain and Les from toothache. Suddenly, a handprint appeared on the mirror – with six fingers. The next thing they knew, an eiderdown was flying through the air, a dank wind was blowing through the house and a glass shattered for no apparent reason.

Over the next four months, the couple – along with their teenage son and their lodger – were terrorised by what seemed to be a poltergeist. They saw hairbrushes flying through the air and furniture toppling over. In a single morning the breakages amounted to 36 tumblers, 24 wine glasses and 15 egg cups – not to mention a dented kettle. When a newspaper, *The Sunday Pictorial*, sent reporters to investigate, they experienced flying eggs, china breaking in mid-air and a brass fender falling down

And yet there were some things that not even this factor could explain – such as a doormat that wrapped itself around a policeman's head, and a wardrobe that kept falling over.

Fodor became convinced that Alma was a deeply disturbed person whose inner turmoil was somehow expressed as energy, causing these strange events. He decided that she was haunted by a childhood experience of abuse, as well as by the death of her second child from meningitis.

This was not what the IIPR wanted to hear, and Fodor was fired. But when his wife took his file on the case to show Sigmund Freud, the great neurologist agreed with Fodor's conclusion.

Modern scientists suggest several reasons why people believe they have encountered ghosts. One is that they are disturbed by low-frequency sounds from machinery or the atmosphere:



1. Would you spend the night in a house that was reputed to be haunted?
2. Should we only believe in things that have been scientifically proven?