

Prestbury, Cheltenham - A Ghost Walk

1 The Jockey (Opposite Kings Arms)

In the 1970s on Gold Cup Night, a group of four women were standing outside the Kings Arms when they saw a man standing opposite on the curb waiting to cross the road. The man was dressed as a jockey with a peaked cap. The figure started crossing the road, but then disappeared before getting half way across. The Jockey was then seen crossing the road again round the corner.

2 Poltergeist in the Old Post Office (now a News Agents)



A woman named Peggy Mayhew lived at the Old Post Office as a child. She describes how a poltergeist would move things as often as two or three times a week. She and her brother would 'test it' by putting items right at the back of the shelves, but still they would be on the floor the next day.

3 Old Lady Peering into Windows (Ann Goodrich Close)



The Almshouses were built in 1720. A little old lady dressed in ancient clothes has been seen peering into the windows of the buildings in this area.

4 Poltergeist in the Ole Butchers Shop (now a Hat Shop)



The old owner reported short periods of poltergeist activity where items were moved from a storeroom and placed in a pile in the middle of the shop floor. On several occasions a shadow figure was seen moving across the room upstairs. The owners of the Butchers both heard whistling while working in the cutting room and deep sighs while working in the office.

5 Apparition (Idsall House)



A workman was pushed from behind in the basement of the Idsall House, even though no other person was in the room. There are other accounts of ghostly goings on in the house - a former resident didn't like to go to the room at the top of the house in case she met what she described as 'the apparition'.

6 Funeral Procession (Southam Road)

A local teacher was returning by car to Cheltenham when she saw a funeral procession crossing the field. The party was complete with black horses and mourners dressed in black. Somewhat puzzled, she turned the car around only to find that the funeral procession had completely disappeared.

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7 Horses Hooves (The Plough Inn)



Local postman George Hudson Dove often used to hear the sound of horses hooves behind him at the Plough Inn, he would pull over to the Church wall to let the horses pass, but then the sound was stop and no horses would ever be there. Herdsmen often have difficulty getting their sheep past the Plough Inn, and dogs and horses have been known to freeze to the spot outside it.

8 Marching Men (Mill Street)

A man walking his dog one foggy evening heard the sound of marching men approaching. The man's dog sank to its haunches with its hackles raised. The sound stopped abruptly and no men appeared out of the fog. A second witness has spoken of a similar experience

9 The Charging Horseman (Mill Street)

During the Civil War, a royal dispatch rider was riding from Sudeley Castle to Gloucester. The Roundheads of Prestbury stretched a rope across the road, knocking the Cavalier rider of his horse. The rider was then quickly put to death by execution. The ghostly outline of horse and rider accompanied by the sound of horse's hooves have been witnessed on more than one occasion.

10 Mrs Preece's Ghost (Mill Street)

This apparition is described as a white misty form that glides across the fields - when she reaches the wall, she seems to hesitate for a moment before vanishing.

11 The Medieval Messenger (The Burgage)

The medieval messenger was galloping down Shaw Green Lane on the 4th May 1471, when he was struck in the chest by a single arrow. His ghost on a phantom white horse is Prestbury's most famous ghosts are often seen riding furiously around this area before suddenly vanishing. In the early part of the 20th century, workmen whilst carrying out road repairs found a skeleton that had an arrowhead firmly stuck between its ribs.

12 Girl Playing Spinnet (Sundial Cottage)



At the end of the 19th century the figure of a girl was seen on several occasions playing a spinnet (a type of small piano) in the garden of Sundial Cottage. Although her spirit has not been seen since the beginning of the First World War, occasionally the sound of her music can still be heard.

During the last war, a mother and child were moved to the cottage from London to escape the blitz. The child told his mother that he was afraid of the funny music in his room. The mother swapped rooms with the child, at which point she started to hear the eerie music for herself.

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13 Young Girl and the Sound of Horses (Prestbury House Hotel)

The ghost of a young girl has been seen in the gardens of Prestbury House Hotel, which is also said to be haunted by the sound of horse's hooves. The building next to the hotel used to be a stable, now Prestbury Scouts Headquarters.

14 Old Moses (Walnut Cottage)



Mr. Campbell, who used to live at Walnut Cottage, invited Mr. and Mrs. Sharp to tea. Mr. Sharp left his pipe in the dining room by mistake - on returning to the dining room, he encountered a ghost standing by the fireplace who said "My name is Moses, I like to look in her sometimes". Mr. Campbell later found out that there used to be a character named Moses that used to do odd jobs in the village.

15 The Black Abbot (Reform Cottage)



Set back from the road, to the right of the three cottages on Deep Street - Reform Cottage is a very haunted cottage. The front garden was once a burial ground of monks, and the Black Abbot often visits the cottage. When Mr. and Mrs. Couzens moved in they did not know it

was haunted and they did not believe in ghosts, but soon they regularly heard footsteps outside, often followed by bumping around upstairs. When Mr. Couzens passed away, Mrs. Couzens sold the house to a Londoner named Ian Highley and his wife. They had workers in to make alternations upstairs. After the alterations were made, Mr. Highley and the workmen were inspecting the work, when a pot pant that was suspended from one of the beams began to swing violently from side to side. Eventually, the pot plant was hurled across the room, smashing on the floor not far from the men. Note that one of the three cottages used to be the vicarage (Queen House?), and it was exorcised by the Church.



16 The Black Abbot (St. Mary's Church)



The Black Abbot used to walk down the aisle of the church until the Church was exorcised, at which point the Black Abbot moved into the Churchyard and village.

The Black Abbot has been seen by many people all over the village, usually at Easter, Christmas and All Saints Day, but sometimes after a funeral as well. A hooded figure with his head bowed, he is always described as seeming to glide rather than walk.

PRESTBURY, CHELTENHAM – A GHOST WALK MAP

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END -
The Plough Inn Pub

START -
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8 Marching Men (Mill Street)

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6 Funeral Procession (Southam Road)

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12 Girl Playing Spinnet (Sundial Cottage)

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