OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

BIG CAT NIGHT & FORTEAN FILM FESTIVAL FRI 30TH - SAT 31ST OCT 2026



CONTENTS

3 SCOTLAND'S SECOND FUNNIEST BILLY - YOUR HOST
4 THE VILLAGE HALL VENUE
5 MAP OF VILLAGE HALL LOCATION
6 BOOK SIGNINGS
7 BIG CAT NIGHT - FRI 30TH OCT 2026
8 SCREENING SELECTIONS - FRI 30TH OCT 2026
9 GLOUCESTER ANTIQUE CENTRE GHOST TOURS
10-11 PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST EVENTS
12 WHAT DOES 'FORTEAN' MEAN?
13 WHO WAS CHARLES FORT?
12-13 PARANORMAL PANDEMONIUM PARTY - SAT 31ST OCT 2026
14-15 SCREENING SELECTIONS - SAT 31ST OCT 2026
16 THE OLD CONVENT VENUE
17 MAP OF OLD CONVENT LOCATION
18 PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION
19 COMING SOON IN 2027

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SCOTLAND'S SECOND FUNNIEST BILLY - YOUR HOST

Hosted 'virtually' by BAFTA winning **BILLY KIRKWOOD** comedian, TV presenter, live sports commentator, radio presenter, LEGEND!

Award-winning comedian Billy Kirkwood burst into stand-up in 2005, quickly establishing himself as one of the most watchable and versatile acts in the UK, with a loveable on-stage presence that sees an ever expanding cult following thanks to his hysterical inventive energetic performances, mixed with an unbridled mischievous streak that's charmed audiences the world over.

He's the resident host of the Scottish *Secret Policeman's Ball*, and has supported some comedy's biggest names on tour including Tim Minchin, Jim Jefferies, Frankie Boyle, Rhod Gilbert, WWE's Mick Foley, and *Police Academy*'s Michael Winslow.



Over the last few years Billy has made appearances and starred in shows on NETFLIX, NBC, MTV, BBC, ITV, WWE Network, Sky HISTORY, BLAZE, BBC Scotland, BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, Virgin Radio, XFM, West FM and now hosts the drive-time show from 2pm-6pm every weekday on NOW Ayrshire Radio, getting people home with good laughs and good music; and every Saturday morning on Edinburgh's classic track station Edge 2. He is also a regular guest on BBC Radio Scotland's *Morning Show*.

He is known around the world as the voice of worldwide pro-wrestling phenomenon, *Insane Championship Wrestling* – working as their lead commentator, and presenting their flagship show *Fight Club* and their live events on the WWE Network, and across North America on NBC.

Billy adapts his anarchic style to perform comedy for kids, with regular appearances on CBBC and CBeebies including *School of Silence*, *Steakout*, *Hedz*, *Incredible Edibles*, *Cinderella* and *Danger Mouse*.



THE VILLAGE HALL VENUE

The building that houses Standish Village Hall is known as *'Church House'*, which is a historic 700 year old Grade II listed building. It was probably built in two stages: the core is 14th century (probably dating from the mid-1300s). It was added to in the 16th century, refurbished in 1844, and Grade II listed in 1955. Its original purpose was probably as a *'Church House'* – to provide a meeting place near the church for commercial and social activities to take place.



Tree Planting Ceremony, to celebrate Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953

1350 – 1516: The Manor of Standish belonged to the monks of Gloucester and its revenues were used for charity. An Almonry was established here to distribute alms and the Almoner lived on the site now known as Standish Court, the entrance to which is through the pointed archway next to the car park. (The archway is a also a Grade II listed structure). It is believed the Church House building was adapted for use by the Almonry, possibly as a dormitory.

1516 – 1536: In 1516 the last Abbot of Gloucester, William Parker, then established a fraternity at Standish, under a Prior, with *"13 brethren clothed in black gown and mantles with the abbey arms embroidered on their right shoulders and a red and blue cross at their breasts"*. However this priory disappeared after 20 years along with all the other monastic institutions under Henry VIII's purge in the Dissolution of the Monasteries from 1536.



Standish School, 1932

1536 – 1839: The Priory then passed into private ownership and became the property of the new Lord of the Manor and his successors. These included Sir Henry Winston, whose daughter married John Churchill, grandfather of the Duke of Marlborough, thus bringing name of Winston into the Churchill family. Although now in private ownership, the building was returned to its use as a Church House, and for the next three centuries it was again a centre of social life in the parish.

1839 – 1964: The Village School: In 1839 it became the village school – and remained so for the next 125 years before closing in 1964. For many years after the school closed some local residents still referred to it as *'The Schoolhouse'*.



'Time Team' presenter Sir Tony Robinson relaxing outside the Village Hall, 2004



In 2004 the building was used as a base for Channel 4's *'Time Team'* who excavated a nearby field searching for a Roman Villa. The episode is called *'Time Team in Standish – Going Upmarket with the Romans'*. The dig took place in the field next to the B4008 between the Village Hall and Little Haresfield. Use the red QR code on the right to watch the full episode on YouTube.

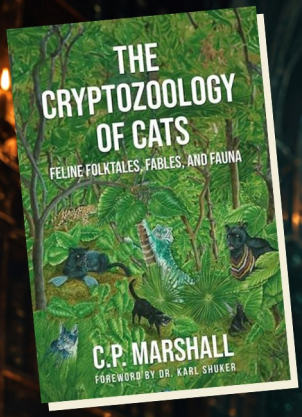
There is a resident ghost which has been known to move furniture, cause electrical equipment to malfunction, and make people feel like they're being watched when alone in the building. In the nearby village a spectral grey lady has also been reported several times, sometimes wearing a red hat...



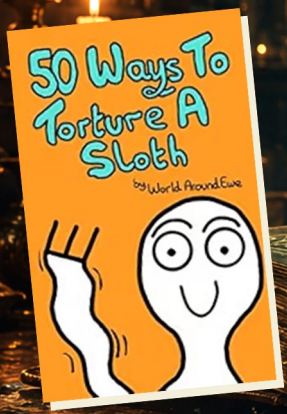
STANDISH VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH HOUSE, STANDISH LANE, STONEHOUSE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL10 3DW

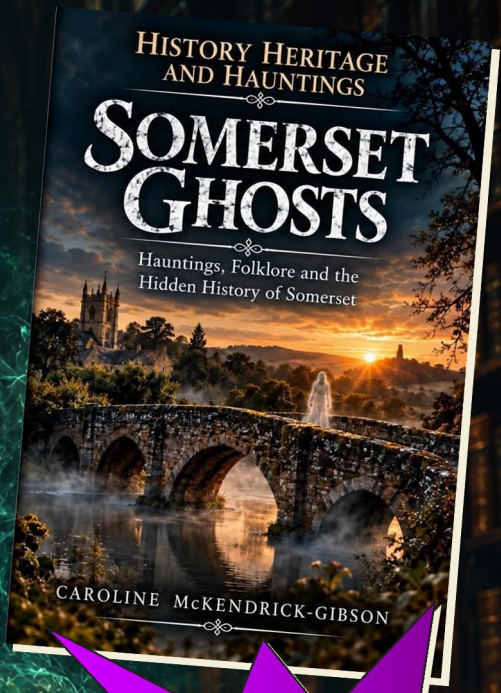












'Somerset Ghosts - Hauntings, Folklore and the Hidden History of Somerset' by CAROLINE McKENDRICK-GIBSON is the FIRST EVER book launch at a Fortean Film Festival!

Available at amazon

This year, not only do we have our first ever book launch, but we also proudly welcome three other acclaimed authors for book signings; Carl Marshall, author of 'The Cryptozoology of Cats: Feline Folktales, Fables, and Fauna'; Jonathan McGowan, author of 'The British Big Cat Phenomenon' book series; and Jack Devaney (World Around Ewe), author of '50 Ways To Torture A Sloth'!

BIG CAT NIGHT

FORTEAN FILM FESTIVAL

SCREENING SCHEDULE (6.00PM-10.00PM approx)

Unexplained Island - Trailer (UK)
A Very British Big Cat Saga (UK)
The Big Cat Buffet Parade, the Beast's Unwanted Leftovers and NEW Trail Cam Evidence (UK)
Samurat (USA)
Cosmicat (CANADA)
Krampuss (ICELAND)

INTERMISSION (6.23PM-6.33PM approx)

Drive - Big Cat Mystery (UK)
Surfin Turnips - Beast of Bodmin (UK)
Caleb O'Brien: On The Trail Of Britain's Big Cats (UK)
Rare Creatures (UK)
Unverifed (AUSTRALIA)

INTERMISSION (7.34PM-8.00PM approx) **with a special performance by the local church bell ringers**

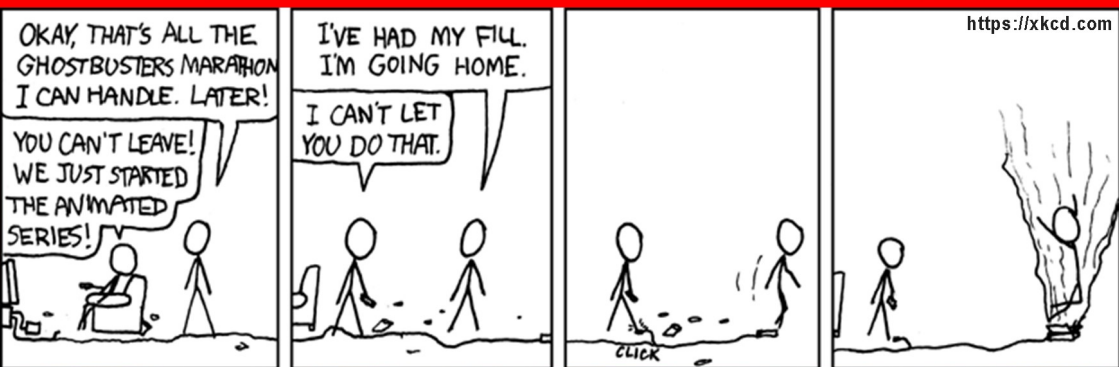
Cat Hunters: The Search for the Beast of Bodmin Moor - Trailer (UK)
Chasing Shadows: Britain's Big Cat Mystery (UK)

INTERMISSION (8.50M-9.00PM approx)

The Sumatran Monster (UK)

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS (9.45PM approx)

IMDb



SCREENING SELECTIONS - FRI 30TH OCT 2026

























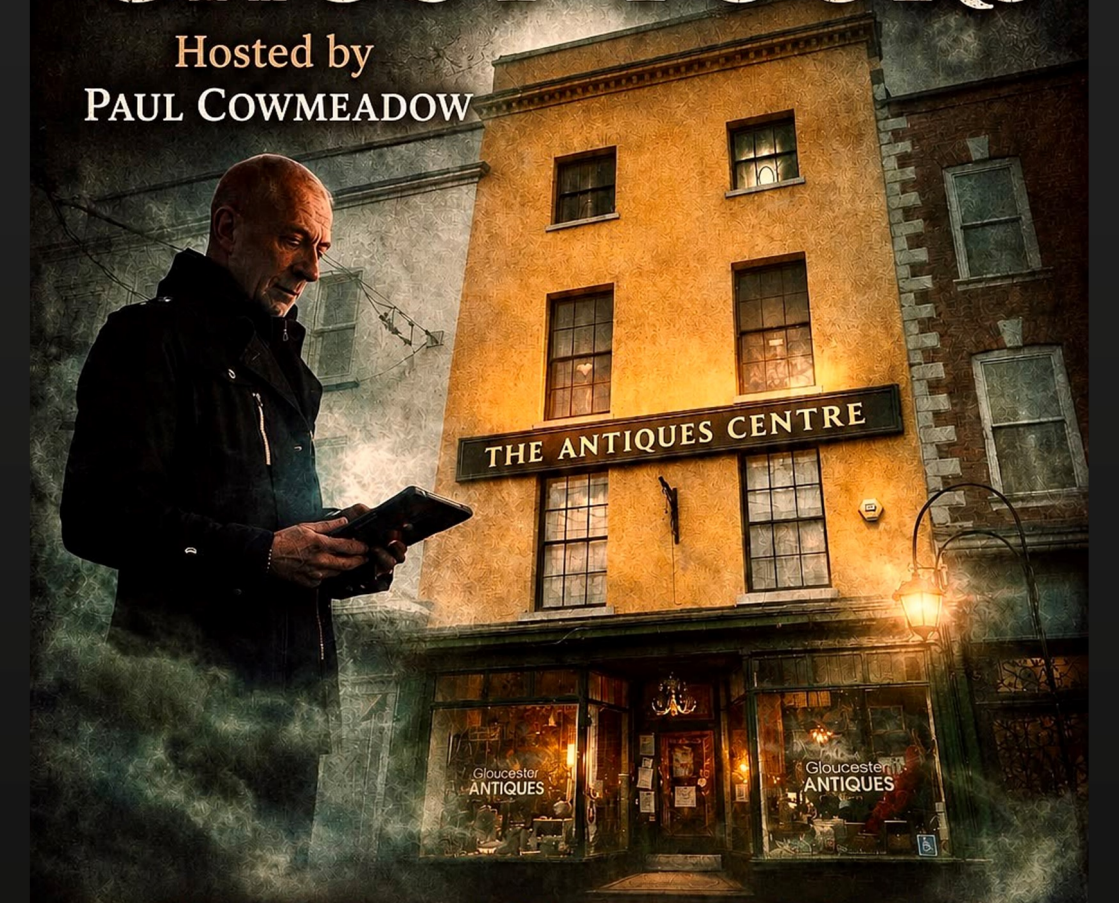




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PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST EVENTS

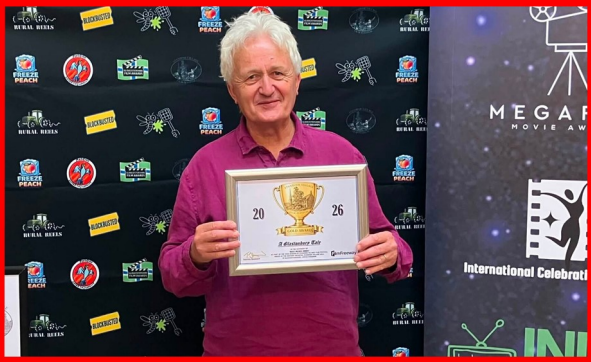








PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST EVENTS











WHAT DOES 'FORTEAN' MEAN?

Fortean - /ˈfôrdēən/ /ˈfɔrdiən/

adjective.
1. A subject of the unknown, unexplained, supernatural, paranormal or strange/anomalous phenomena.
2. Of or relating to 'Charles Fort' (6th August 1874 – 3rd May 1932); he was an American writer and researcher who studied anomalous phenomena.

noun.
1. A person who studies and investigates the unexplained.

PARANORMAL PANDEMONIUM PARTY



SCREENING SCHEDULE (4.00PM-10.00PM approx)

The Beast of Riverside Hollow - Trailer (UK)
Accidental Truth: NEXT - Beyond UFO Disclosure (USA)

INTERMISSION (5.50PM-6.00PM approx)

A Bigfoot Christmas - Trailer (USA)
Lovely Lola Jean (USA)
The Balloon Chase (UK)
A Tribute to Georges Méliès (FRANCE)
Dinosaurs in the Congo (USA)
The Story of the Standard (USA)
Rose (UK)
The Mermaid Story (UK and IRELAND)
Home Movie Legend Trip: The Beast of Bray Road (USA)

INTERMISSION (6.45PM-6.55PM approx)

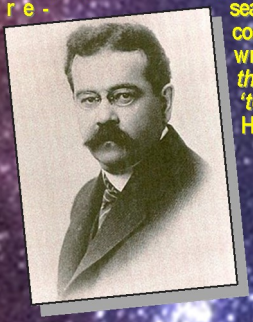
Slithering Tides - Trailer (FINLAND)
Tales of the Creeping Death - Trailer (UK)
Marfa (USA)
Undying Love (UK)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE....

IMDb

WHO WAS CHARLES FORT?

He is hailed as the pioneer of modern paranormal research. Born in New York, he had a lifelong fascination with anomalous phenomena and spent decades collecting tens of thousands of cases of unexplained events from scientific journals, newspapers, and library archives that mainstream science could not explain. His r e - search included UFO sightings, spontaneous human combustion, psychic phenomena, and poltergeists. He wrote several seminal works including *The Book of the Damned* (1919), and he coined the term *'teleportation'*. His work went on to inspire the likes of H. P. Lovecraft, Philip K. Dick, and Stephen King.







CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

I Make Things Out Of Rats (UK)
Champagne (UK)
The Data Is Wrong (UK)
I Thought You Live Round Here (UK)
I Made The Invisible Man (UK)
Imposter Syndrome (USA)
The Lingering (USA)

INTERMISSION (7.58PM-8.38PM)

They Lurk Beneath Eyelids - Trailer (CANADA)
Tick Tock - Trailer (UK)
Night of the Screaming Terror - Trailer (UK)
Hellbound Swing (GERMANY)
Black Hollow (USA)
Speech (UK)
Smokey House (UK)
Deerstalker (UK)
The Mirror That Consumes You (UK)
Soul Trader (UK)

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS (10.00PM approx)

SCREENING SELECTIONS - SAT 31ST OCT 2026































SCREENING SELECTIONS - SAT 31ST OCT 2026





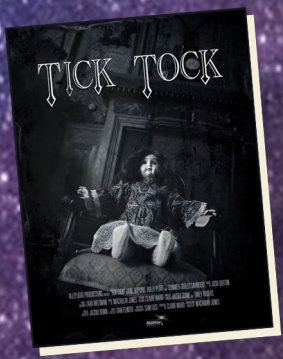




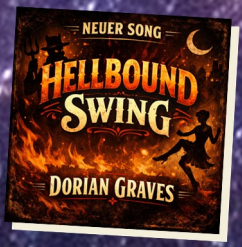


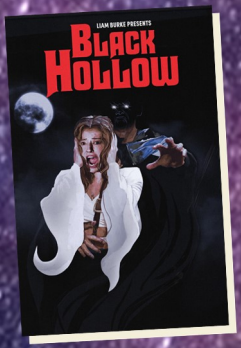






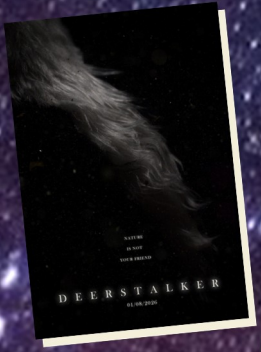


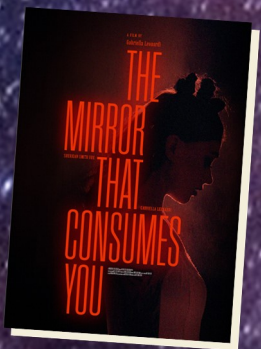














THE OLD CONVENT VENUE

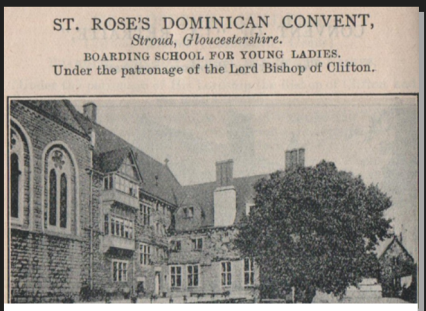
The Old Convent at Beeches Green, and the Congregation of St Rose of Lima in Stroud were founded by Mother Mary Teresa Matthews.



Mother Mary Teresa Matthews

1815: On 17th November 1815 Mother Mary Teresa Matthews was born as Elizabeth Matthews in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. Her interest in the church started during her childhood.

1850 - 1857: In 1850 she was received into the Catholic faith by Father Honorius, a priest serving the mission at Woodchester. Soon after this she started working at a small school for Catholic children in on London Road, Stroud, and also visited the sick and poor to provide religious instruction and care.



An old advert for the school at the Convent of St Rose of Lima

On 2nd February 1857 she received the Dominican habit, and in November her companions followed. Thus began the Dominican community that would become the Congregation of St Rose of Lima. The growth of Catholicism in Stroud led to the establishment of a church and convent. The Church of the Immaculate Conception was built between 1856 and 1857, opening on 20th August 1857. The church was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, a doctrine formally defined by the Catholic Church in 1854. Originally intended to extend further eastwards, the church's planned sanctuary was affected by the adjoining convent buildings, resulting in a reversal of its orientation.



Students at St Rose's Special School, above (1912) and students at St Rose's Convent School, below (1952)



1862 - 1894: The convent itself was designed by Benjamin Bucknall who was also the principal architect of the notoriously haunted Woodchester Mansion about 6.2 miles south-west of the convent. The convent was developed in stages from 1862, with the buildings erected in 1867 and extended in 1882. Its impressive chapel was added between 1888 and 1894, drawing inspiration from the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. Built of coursed rubble stone with ashlar dressings, the former convent is a distinctive example of 19th century Gothic style architecture. Its surviving features include red timber-framed oriel windows, mullioned windows, a prominent staircase turret with a pyramidal roof and wooden bellcote, and arched corridors. The chapel contains five bays of rib-vaulted ceiling and an intricately designed polygonal eastern end. Together with the neighbouring church and associated buildings, the convent forms an important historic group.



Woodchester Mansion



The Old Convent

1912 - 1960s: In 1912, the Dominican sisters responded to the needs of a young girl with physical disabilities who could not attend the local parish school. They purchased and renovated nearby Badbrook House, establishing St Rose's, one of the country's earliest special schools for children with physical disabilities. The school provided specialist education and residential care, encouraging independence, self-confidence and consideration for others. In 1915, pupils entertained wounded soldiers recovering in Stroud hospitals. A 1923 Board of Education report praised the opportunities provided for developing the children's self-reliance. As St Rose's expanded, the sisters eventually relocated to the school site in the 1960s, leaving the original convent buildings empty.

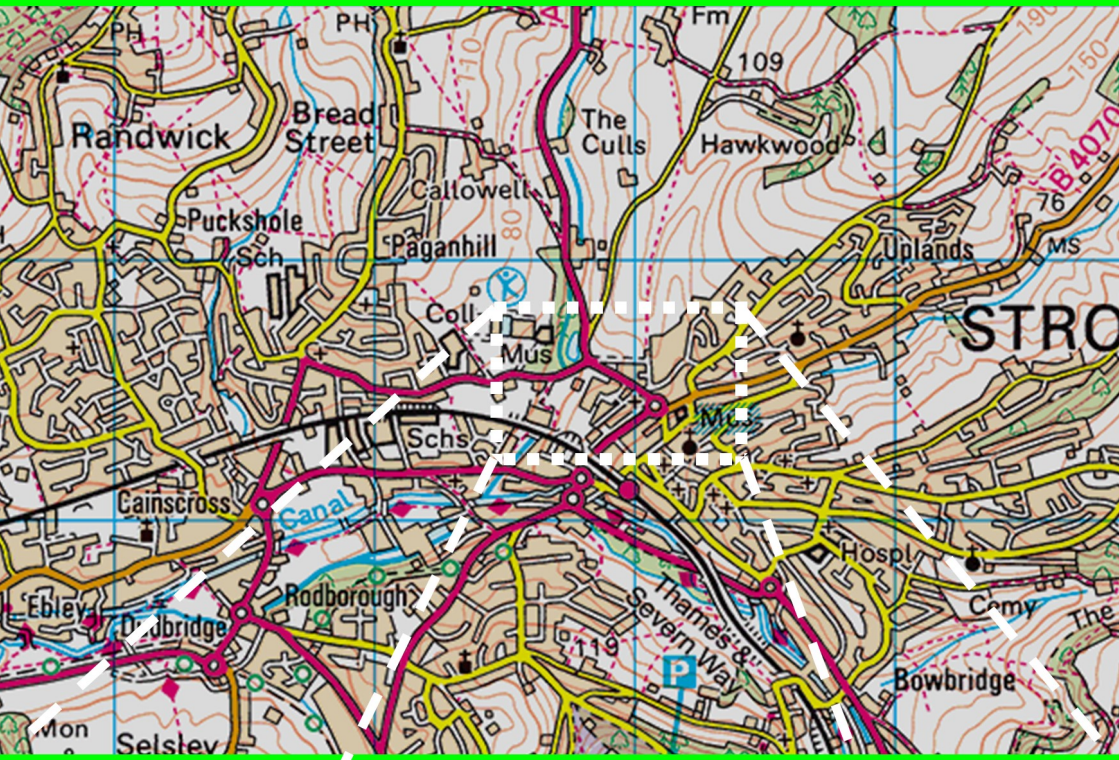


The main entrance to the Old Convent

2016: The historic property, including its adjoining chapel and other buildings, was sold at auction. The former convent subsequently accommodated workshops, offices, businesses and a music studio. Despite these changes of use, many architectural features have survived.

The Old Convent remains a significant reminder of Stroud's 19th century Catholic revival, the work of Mother Mary Teresa Matthews and the Dominican sisters, and their pioneering contribution to education for children with disabilities. But much more than that, it's dark corridors, winding staircases and abandoned rooms hold the memories of times past, and bygone eras, wherein the restless spirits of departed souls still linger in the shadows...

THE OLD CONVENT, BEECHES GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL5 4AD





Paranormal Investigation

The ghost hunt and paranormal investigation at the haunted Old Convent in Stroud will take place after the filmmaker awards presentations at the Paranormal Pandemonium Party. Allowing time for everyone to relocate to the Old Convent from Standish Village Hall the investigation will begin at around 11pm, continuing through the night until 6am. It will be a very long evening so attendees are encouraged to bring additional snacks/drinks - a packed lunch may be a good idea to stave off the midnight munchies! It is also advisable to bring a warm jacket/coat as the Old Convent is a large building that can get quite cold. It may also be helpful to bring a torch/flashlight, as although there is electricity throughout the building and the lighting is generally good, there are plenty of dark corridors and nooks where they may be useful. For those who may not last the whole night without nodding off, it might also be a good idea to bring sleeping bag/blanket/pillow just in case - there is a comfy room upstairs at the Old Convent where it may be possible for weary participants to rest if needed!



ANSWER: (15) The sightings of a sea serpent between 1817-1819 took place in Gloucester, Massachusetts, USA.

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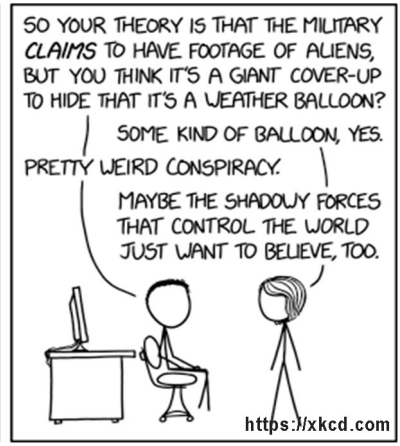












https://xkcd.com