



ECHOES THROUGH TIME

UNRAVELLING DODLESTON

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ECHOES THROUGH TIME: UNRAVELLING DODLESTON

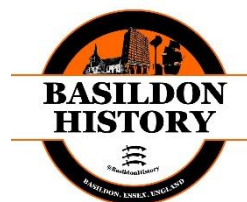
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SOURCES

- Hawarden High School
- Historic Messages
- The History of Computing
- How Stuff Works
- 'The Vertical Plane' by Ken Webster
- Wikipedia

Dedicated to Thomas Harden



THE COTTAGE AND THE COMPUTER

In 1984, the tranquil village of Dodleston, nestled southwest of Chester and in close proximity to the Welsh border, became the new home for Ken Webster, an economics teacher at Hawarden High School, and his girlfriend, Debbie. They embarked on the immediate task of renovating Meadow Cottage, an ancient dwelling whose history was visibly etched into its timbers.

Their initial efforts had been concentrated on the ground floor, a project that had spanned six months. By late summer, this phase of renovation was complete, with Ken planning to postpone the upstairs work until the spring. It was during this period, when a friend named Nicola (known as Nic) came to stay and assist with decorating, that the first in a series of perplexing incidents occurred.



Nic was the first to notice peculiar marks on the wall situated between the kitchen and the bathroom. These were distinct footprints, small in size, and Debbie observed that one of the prints appeared to have six toes. The prints seemed to ascend the wall, having first materialised in late summer 1984. They gradually faded by the end of autumn before eventually being painted over.

One morning, Ken descended to the kitchen to find the prints had inexplicably reappeared. Though not in their original location, they were clearly impressed in the dust on the floor, once again displaying the unusual six-toed characteristic. They were painted over a second time and did not reappear thereafter.

A couple of days following the resolution of the footprint mystery, another odd occurrence unfolded. Ken had returned from a shopping trip in Chester with various essentials, including tins of cat food, which were temporarily left unpacked in the kitchen. By the following morning, these tins had been meticulously stacked into a pyramid. At this time, Nic was sharing a bedroom with four-track music recording equipment, and two local musicians were regular visitors. One of these, known for his eccentric sense of humour, immediately became the prime suspect for these 'goings-on' within the cottage. Ken, however, remained unconvinced.

Two nights later, a further incident occurred, compounding the mystery. Two bottles of lemonade were found carefully arranged into a column, topped with a roll of kitchen paper and a packet of dry cat food, placed next to an exposed brick pillar in the kitchen.

These inexplicable happenings engendered a growing sense of unease throughout the house. The cottage was secured more thoroughly at night, and its inhabitants became

increasingly wary of every creaking sound. One night, Ken and Debbie were simultaneously roused from sleep, convinced someone had entered their room.

The BBC Microcomputer System, commonly known as the BBC Micro, was a family of microcomputers developed and manufactured by Acorn Computers in the early 1980s. Its creation was integral to the BBC's ambitious Computer Literacy Project.

EDWORD, a dedicated word processing package for the BBC Microcomputer, was initially designed for educational use. It provided a user-friendly interface suitable for creating smaller documents and could operate efficiently on the lower-cost hardware common at the time.

To alleviate the growing tension and cramped conditions within the cottage, Ken often sought respite in drives. One evening, upon his return, Debbie and Nic recounted a strange event: a strong gust of wind had seemingly materialised from beneath the kitchen door while they were in the living room. It had lifted a folded newspaper, separated it into three distinct parts, and scattered them across the room. Their immediate check confirmed that all kitchen doors and windows were securely shut, effectively ruling out their prime suspect for this particular incident.

Around this time, Nic, with her creative aspirations, aimed to form an alternative cabaret act, necessitating the writing of sketches and songs. Having left teaching months earlier, she was keen to gain sufficient experience to acquire an Equity Card. Ken suggested that she utilise a word processing program, offering to borrow a BBC Microcomputer, equipped with EDWORD software, from his workplace. He would also procure a disc drive and a monitor to facilitate her writing.

Ken demonstrated to Nic how to open the EDWORD program, how to save her work, and emphasised the necessity of naming every saved document.



THE UNSEEN SCRIBE

One evening, Ken, Debbie, and Nic embarked on a short journey of a few miles to visit a friend, intending to spend the evening away from Meadow Cottage. Upon their return, with the BBC Microcomputer having been left powered on, Ken naturally sat down to review Nic's saved files, curious to see her progress. As he navigated the directory, his attention was immediately drawn to a file named 'KDN'. This was anomalous, as Nic typically saved her work using only single letters. The presence of this unrecognisable file marked the threshold of a profound and utterly unprecedented experience.

He opened the file:

Ken D eb nI c

True A re The NIGHTmares Of a pErson t hat FEars
Safe A re the BODIES Of tHe Silent World
Turn Pr ettY FLOWER tuRn TOWARDS The SUN
For Yo u S Hall Grow aND SOW
But T he FLOWer Reaches tOo hIgh and withERS in
The B urning Light

GE T OU T YO U R B R ICKs

PuSSy Cat PUSSy Cat Went TO LonDOn TO Seek
Fame aND FORTUNE
Faith Must NOT Be LOst
For ThiS Shall Be youR REDEEMER.

Upon his return to work, Ken took the extraordinary step of printing out the perplexing poem found within the 'KDN' file.

As the Christmas season approached, Nic made plans to spend the holiday with her parents in Basingstoke. Prior to her departure, yet another instance of the unsettling stacking phenomena occurred: a column of lager cans was discovered in front of the exposed kitchen pillar, accompanied by four cat food tins, also neatly stacked. Adding to Ken and Debbie's growing disquiet, the plastic wrapping that had originally held the cans appeared to have been inexplicably burned.

These stacking incidents, alongside the emergence of curious chalk marks on a brick wall, continued to be a source of bewilderment.

By February 1985, Nic had returned to Meadow Cottage, keen to resume her writing projects, having cultivated new contacts during her time away. Ken and Debbie, meanwhile, found some distraction in computer games, yet Ken also had a pragmatic objective: he intended to draft a formal agreement between himself and the two local musicians, facilitating the submission of their demos to music companies. To accommodate this, he borrowed an additional computer and set it up within the kitchen.

One evening, Nic, with a hint of playfulness amidst the lingering mystery, suggested they check the computer to see if a new message had been left for them. To their astonishment, it had:

"I WRYTE ON BEHALFE THE OF MANYE

WOT STRANGE WORDES THOU SPEKE, ALTHOUGH, I MUSTE CONFESS THAT I HATH ALSO BEENE ILL- SCHOOLED.SOMETYMES METHINKS ALTERACIONS ARE SOMEWOT BARFUL, FOR THEY BREAKE MANYE A SLEPES IN MYNE BED.

THOU ART GOODLY MAN WHO HATH FANCIFUL WOMAN WHO DWEL IN MYNE HOME, I HATH NO WANT TO AFFREY, FOR ONLIE SYTH MYNE HALF WYTED ANTIC HAS RIPPED ATTWAIN MYNE BOUND HATH I BEENE WRETHED A-NYTE.

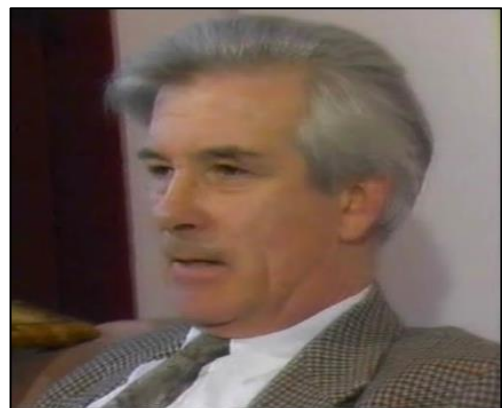
I HATH SEENE MANYE ALTERACIONS (LASTLY.YCHARGE HOUSE AND THOU HOME), 'TIS A FITTING PLACE, WITH LYTES WHICHE DEVYLL MAKETH, AND COSTLY THYNGS, THAT ONLIE MYNE FRIEND, EDMUND GREY CAN AFFORD, OR THE KING HIMSELVE.

'T WAS A GREATE CRYME TO HATH BRIBED MYNE HOUSE

L.W. <<"

Upon accessing the disc, Ken found not only the newly arrived message but also two other blank entries saved to the disk, their presence further deepening the enigma. The precise content of this latest communication once again displayed the perplexing archaic qualities that had come to define the 'Unseen Scribe'.

At school, Ken showed the bewildering note to **Peter Trinder**, a respected English teacher who had once taught Ken himself. Peter found the note utterly fascinating and immediately requested copies of any subsequent messages that might appear. His academic curiosity provided a valuable external perspective.



The situation escalated on Saturday, 9th February 1985, when, John, a friend and fellow Dodleston villager, who worked as a solicitor, visited the cottage. After examining the messages, he thoughtfully suggested that a reply be drafted and sent back to the mysterious 'L.W.'. The proposed letter would begin by clarifying their own temporal location, explaining that they lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Second. It would politely apologise for any unintended disturbance and then pose a series of direct questions, enquiring about 'L.W.'s' own time, the identity of an 'Edward Grey,' and specific details regarding Dodleston in his era. The message was to be signed off collectively by 'Ken, Debbie, and John'.

The following afternoon, with John having returned to his work, Ken relayed the composed reply via telephone. The incoming message, signed and dated 'L.W. 28 March anno 1521', stated that the King, of course, was Henry VIII, who was inexplicably described as being 64 years old. It also identified Edmund Grey as the brother of John Grey, residing at 'Kinnerton Hall'. Fortunately, John had taken diligent notes, as the original message, once displayed, vanished from the screen.



The specific details within this new communication immediately presented perplexing inconsistencies. Historical records confirmed that while Henry VIII was indeed King in 1521, he would have been approximately 30 years old, not 64. Furthermore, the message contained clearly anachronistic elements, such as question marks enclosed in brackets – a modern idiom entirely out of place in 16th-century correspondence. These anomalies immediately raised a critical question: was this an elaborate hoax?

Peter Trinder, meanwhile, had begun his own research. His preliminary findings further compounded the puzzle: Kinnerton Hall, as a structure, dated from the late 17th century, making its existence in 1521 impossible, and he could find no historical record of an Edmund Grey in connection with the Dodleston area during that period.

THE TUDOR VOICE

The BBC Microcomputer was again booked for the upcoming weekend; its purpose now transformed from mere entertainment to a crucial conduit for inter-temporal communication. Ken had thoughtfully prepared another message for 'L.W.', meticulously posing questions about his family and the local area. His intent was not to overtly challenge the unseen author, but rather to subtly seek discrepancies that might expose a hoaxer.

Upon returning to the cottage after running some errands, Ken discovered milk cartons inexplicably stacked, alongside the now-familiar sight of the computer screen filled with new text. The message conveyed Lukas's profound confusion regarding Ken's presence in his home. He revealed a poignant personal history: he had no surviving family, his wife having been 'wreched with thy pestilence' in 1521, a tragedy that also claimed their unborn child.



The Roman Port of Chester

Lukas further described his life as a farmer, working his land diligently. He recounted visits to a friend who managed a larger farm and produced cheese, which he clearly relished. His recollections also included journeys to Chester, where he vividly remembered seeing ships arriving at the port, noting that it was then larger than Liverpool, though perceptibly diminishing in size. He detailed overhearing Ken's conversations about teaching at Hawarden, which he recognised as 'Haordine', and with a surprising hint of curiosity, enquired if Ken earned the "greetly sum of twenty pounds per year." He also referenced the village itself by both 'Dodleston' and 'Dudleston'. The message was definitively signed off by Lukas.

The communication, while revealing, contained a significant amount of what Ken and Peter initially considered to be modern punctuation. Despite this, Ken meticulously researched the archaic text, and to their astonishment, found that the linguistic style and vocabulary

were indeed accurate for the era Lukas claimed to inhabit. This paradoxical blend of ancient language and modern notation only deepened the mystery.

During a half-term break in February, a further reply containing additional questions for Lukas was drafted and saved. However, in an unfortunate accident, the disc containing this crucial message was inadvertently discarded. Undeterred, the team composed the message again, leaving it on the computer all day, and a reply eventually appeared that evening.

In this subsequent exchange, Lukas was asked if he knew Bristol. Peter Trinder, through his ongoing research, had managed to narrow down some of Lukas's peculiar linguistic patterns to a specific dialect found in that very area, a detail Lukas now confirmed as correct, stating he had family originating from there. Lukas also expressed his wonder at the 'scrit devise' (writing machine), finding it a truly 'wonderful thing', albeit 'somwot unkynde'. He reiterated seeing 'leems on thy boyste', a term Ken now understood to mean lights on the box – the computer screen. The message concluded with Lukas enquiring how Ken travelled to the school in Hawarden, before abruptly stating he had to depart as his dogs were causing trouble for his fowl.

This latest communication was signed off, for the first time, by his full name: Lukas Wainman.

ECHOES OF 1521

Debbie, keenly observing Ken's increasing immersion in the enigma, encouraged him to visit Chester Library to conduct further research into the historical details Lukas had provided. While at the library, Ken was informed by staff that another individual had recently been inquiring about Dodleston. This revelation immediately sparked an unsettling thought in Ken's mind: could this be the 'hoaxer', meticulously gathering information to feed into the messages? He also pondered the sheer improbability of Lukas knowing individuals significant enough to have their existence recorded for posterity, adding another layer of doubt and fascination to the rapidly unfolding narrative.

One day after school, Ken arrived home to an unusual sight: a mug, a scarf, and a tie had been meticulously piled up against the kitchen door. Inside the kitchen, a floppy disk had been removed from its paper sleeve and placed on the table. The disk was clearly labelled 'Lukas W', a label Ken had himself written. Ken interpreted this as a deliberate sign that Lukas wished to communicate.

By this stage, the couple had secured a rented house. While it was somewhat dilapidated, it offered a crucial respite from the cottage's escalating disturbances; here, no cans were being stacked in the kitchen, and they could finally enjoy undisturbed sleep – a luxury the cottage had long denied them.

Further communications were soon received from Lukas. He expressed his confusion as to why they were occupying his house but, nonetheless, extended a welcome for them to stay. He also confided that his servant believed he was mentally unsound and that he was merely imagining Ken. He had implored this servant to maintain secrecy until Lukas could ostensibly write a book on the subject himself.

Lukas concluded his message with a curious remark: "methinks thou jest when yow sayeth aboute myne horsless cart tyger." He clearly thought Ken was joking, unaware that Ken actually drove a Jaguar. Ken immediately replied, attempting to explain the concept of the automobile and even left a magazine clipping of a similar car for Lukas to observe. Lukas remained unsure how such a vehicle could travel far without a horse and was particularly intrigued by the glossy paper on which the image was printed. In a chilling development, the image later appeared with its edges mysteriously burned.

The messages continued to be passed to Peter Trinder, who meticulously used the Oxford English Dictionary to trace the origins and usage of the words. Most were found to be genuine to the period Lukas claimed, though some required more extensive research.

Lukas had also shared details of his academic past, explaining that he had studied at Jesus College, Oxford, where he particularly enjoyed Latin and Greek. He provided specific titles of books he had studied and mentioned a schoolmaster named John Colet. He also referred to Tom Fowlshurst, the Sheriff, who was a regular visitor to his home, and concluded one message by providing a recipe.

A couple of days later, Peter spoke with Ken at school, highlighting a significant historical discrepancy: Jesus College, Oxford, was not founded until 1571, long after 1521. This presented yet another puzzle. Furthermore, while most of the books Lukas mentioned could be traced, one remained elusive.

One Sunday morning, Ken had gone out to buy newspapers while Debbie remained in the living room. Upon his return, as they entered the kitchen, they discovered a new message illuminated on the monitor screen. Lukas expressed intrigue at a folder Ken had inadvertently left out, which contained copies of their communications. He also earnestly sought to understand the origins and workings of the computer itself.

Ken attempted to explain that humanity no longer relied on horses or wind power, and that machines capable of performing tasks were creations of man, not the devil. He further endeavoured to elucidate that the computer was powered by something called 'electricity' which travelled through wires, cautiously adding that it could be dangerous.

In his reply, Lukas pressed Ken, asking what sort of 'devyll' he was and why he hadn't questioned the spelling mistakes in a previous message, nor challenged the mention of Jesus College. A reply was promptly sent, apologising for the oversight, and the specific historical mistakes were explicitly pointed out, which seemingly pleased Lukas. He clarified that he had, in fact, attended Brasenose College, Oxford. His cook, he relayed, had requested a recipe in return for the one she had previously provided. Intriguingly, he also enquired if Peter hailed from his time, citing Peter's use of many words Lukas recognised. The message concluded with a question posed in Latin. When shown to a classical languages colleague, the Latin was deemed "dog Latin," far from convincing in its authenticity.

THE PERIL OF THE PAST

Peter, Ken, and Debbie convened to plan the future of their communication and investigation. They recognised the critical need for their whereabouts to be known at all times, providing irrefutable proof that they were not generating the messages. Debbie, to this end, approached family members, asking them to sit with her as witnesses during communication attempts. The subject of contacting the SPR (Society for Psychical Research) was also brought up, with the possibility of them sending investigators with experience in such phenomena. They also acknowledged the urgent need to improve the security of the cottage.

Despite their efforts, the poltergeist activity persisted, with items continuing to appear in strange places. One evening, while Debbie was home alone, she heard unsettling noises emanating from the kitchen. She found items had been moved, and some jars had been stacked. Later, as she made herself a coffee and sat in the living room, the temperature plummeted, and something pulled her hair several times. She then felt something holding onto her shoulder. Spinning around to find nothing, she ran outside into the drizzle to await Ken's return.

The couple increasingly spent more time at the rented house, sleeping there every night to escape the oppressive atmosphere in the cottage, which often led to headaches and heated arguments between them.

More chalk marks, one quite clear, subsequently appeared on the wall. Lukas had signed his name.

During March, the computer was booked for the entirety of the two-week Easter break, indicating a dedicated period for intensive communication.

In April, Lukas sent a message explaining that he had discussed the lights and messages with a friend. He relayed a stern warning he had received: telling anyone else about these phenomena could land him in serious trouble. Later, he sent another message referencing a conversation Ken and Debbie had, a chilling confirmation that he could indeed hear them talking.

Lukas messaged again to introduce a friend, who, however, did not reveal his name. This friend expressed a belief that Ken was a "phantasm of great power" with "mythical beings" and resided in the future. He urgently sought to know when Henry VIII would die and who would succeed him. He also demanded details on how people were cured in the 1980s, unequivocally stating that he would not disclose his real name, nor Lukas's. This confirmed that Lukas was using an alias for his own safety.

In the same month, the SPR finally contacted Ken and suggested some strategies to narrow down the suspects (primarily Ken and Debbie themselves) by securing the kitchen. This, however, was not a viable option as building work had recently recommenced outside the kitchen.

Debbie's mother and brother arrived at the cottage, sitting with Debbie to provide witness testimony that she was not the source of the messages. They checked the computer together in the evening and then again approximately an hour later. A new message had appeared, beginning with a poem. Debbie, who had been having vivid dreams about meeting Lukas in his own time, noted that the poem seemed to echo these experiences.

With the half-term break ended, Ken returned to work. That weekend, he booked out yet another computer, rarely taking the same one home, and sent a new message to Lukas before he and Debbie went shopping. They returned to find a new, ominous message from Lukas's unnamed friend, admonishing them for their "devilish powers" which had, tragically, landed Lukas in a dungeon. He pleaded with them to reveal themselves to the law of his time so that Lukas might be freed.

Ken responded to this 'friend' by inquiring about Lukas's real name. He intended to use this information to trace Lukas and ascertain his fate. They informed the friend that with this detail, they could exonerate poor Lukas and wished to speak with Tom Fowlshurst, the sheriff, to share their knowledge.

The sheriff was expected to visit soon, but the friend claimed not to know Lukas's real name. However, he promised to speak with Lukas and impress upon him the importance of revealing his true identity, as it could prove helpful.

A friend visited the cottage, anticipating a spectral mist but found a normal home. At approximately 8 p.m. that evening, the temperature in the living room dropped, despite a fire burning in the fireplace. The warmth subsequently returned, and a new message was discovered on the computer screen.

The individual claiming to be Lukas's friend could not comprehend why Lukas's true identity was required if its utility could not be explained. The sheriff had requested that Ken and Debbie appear in person to speak with him, rather than via the computer. If they were unable to do so, they would need to find a way to convey the information to Lukas in prison. Every time someone in 1521 had attempted to move the object, it only appeared real when Lukas was present; the sheriff himself could not even perceive it.

Ken advised that the computer could not be moved, but suggested that Lukas might be brought home to converse with them. He reassured 1521 that they were honourable individuals with good intentions and had nothing to fear.

The request must have been successful, as Lukas sent a message the following day, 23rd April 1985. He was under house arrest, guarded by the sheriff's men. He was permitted to write to 1985 but expressed fear for his life due to this communication. He even requested that any evidence of his writing to them be destroyed, lest it be used as evidence against him.

Lukas sent messages throughout the day and indicated that those from 1985 were also from 2109, the same individuals who had brought him the box of lights. Was Lukas communicating with someone even further into the future? Perhaps they had sent the poem that initiated these events.

Ken composed a message for Lukas and another for 2109.

Subsequently, 2109 replied:

KEN, DEB, PETER

WE ARE SORRY THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU ONLY TWO CHOISES

1) THAT YOU EITHER HAVE YOUR PREDICAMENT EXPLAINED IN SUCH A NON-RHYME WAY THAT YOU MAY HAVE INSTANT UNDERSTANDING BUT CAUSE WHAT SHOULD NOT BE TO HAPPEN, OR

2) TRY TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU THREE HAVE A PURPOSE THAT SHALL IN YOUR LIFE TIME CHANGES THE FACE OF HISTORY, WE, 2109, MUST NOT AFFECT YOUR THOUGHTS DIRECTLY BUT GIVE YOU SOME SORT OF GUIDANCE THAT WILL ALLOW ROOM FOR YOUR OWN DESTINY. ALL WE CAN SAY IS THAT WE ARE ALL PART OF THE SAME GOD, WHAT EVER HE, IT <(?)>, IS.

The spelling suggested a hoax, yet no one had been in the kitchen, prompting the question of who could have left the message.

Lukas sent another message, alluding to an easy death. Ken telephoned Peter and asked if he could drive over to ascertain if a way could be found to assist Lukas.

Peter had an idea. Lukas had previously mentioned Bishop Mann at Oxford. Peter had been researching him and discovered that the Bishop had been in contact with 'The Maid of Kent', a condemned adversary of Henry VIII's new church. This amounted to treason.

This information, Peter believed, should suffice for the sheriff to see the King and exchange it for Lukas's life. By the time Ken and Deb returned home, it was 2 a.m. The message was dispatched, and the couple retired for the night.

The following day, 28th April, Lukas responded around noon. He felt that this information would be sufficient to reduce his own sentence and that Mann would be sent away, as his arrest would cause embarrassment. He concluded the message by stating that he would pass the news on.

Ken sent two messages to Lukas the following day, but received no reply. He went for a drive and ended up at a friend's house. Debbie telephoned and asked him to return. It did not appear to be good news.

Lukas had not been able to speak with the sheriff, and the next day he was due to appear before the court, where he believed he would undoubtedly be condemned as a witch and sentenced to death.

Days passed without further incident until a note written in Latin was discovered on the kitchen floor, addressed to Peter. It stated that Lukas had been sent to his death. Everyone assumed this information had been shared by the unnamed friend.

The following night, a computer was brought to the cottage, and a message was sent to 2109 inquiring about the origin of the chalk message.

A few days later, a reply was received claiming that all their questions would be answered.

A message from 2109 was received, asserting that Peter possessed the answer to Lukas's true identity on 'page 29' and that the 'friend' could not be trusted. The friend then requested that the computer and their power be handed over to him, otherwise they would receive no further information regarding Lukas.

The librarian at Brasenose College, Oxford, had written a lengthy letter to Peter, as he had found a potential candidate for Lukas's true identity. He had located details of a Thomas Hawarden, but they all assumed this was due to the confusion of Ken and Peter teaching at Hawarden school, where Peter resides. It was likely just word association.

A telephone call was received on 14th May from Mr. John Bucknall. He was the SPR Field Officer assigned to investigate the case. It was arranged that they would meet him at Peter's house and then proceed to the cottage if Bucknall was interested.

That following evening, John Bucknall attended Peter's home with another investigator, Dave Welch. Ken, Debbie, and Peter were asked for their perspectives on the matter. Peter was pleased it would be investigated by sceptics. Debbie was aware that she was often the focus of attention, as she was usually present when the messages were received, a fact she downplayed.

Ken's over-enthusiasm led to inarticulate speech as he interrupted and made matters more confusing.

The investigators were sufficiently interested to drive to the cottage, where they received a guided tour, and Ken sent a message to 2109 in the hope of a response. The lack of security at the cottage and the fact that the loft spaces were open to every household in the row was admitted. So, someone was breaking into the house, sneaking invisibly past the inhabitants and leaving messages in English used at the time of Henry VIII before sneaking out again?

THE POLTERGEIST RETURNS

Poltergeist activity recommenced on 15th May. Debbie had driven Ken to work from the rented house and then visited the cottage. She entered the living room to find the furniture all piled up against the kitchen door.



Debbie walked around to the back of the cottage to discover that the kitchen was also in disarray.

Returning to the front, Deb picked the telephone up from the fireplace and left a message for Ken at the school. She then telephoned a friend and asked them to come to the cottage.

The lady next door had heard the couple leave the previous night and Debbie returning the following morning but nothing during the night.

It took all day to restore the house to order. Ken was concerned that the SPR would believe this was all orchestrated for their benefit.

After some fruitless communications with 2109, a new message was received, signed by Thomas. The message referred to Lukas passing details of Bishop Mann and inquired what information he could convey to the King.

Sheriff Thomas Fowlshurst had contacted them.

Ken was baffled and questioned why he would condemn Lukas to death for communicating with devils, only to then solicit further details from them.

THE SPR INVESTIGATION

On 27th May, the investigators from the SPR, Dave Welch and John Bucknall, established listening equipment in the bedroom above the kitchen and taped the doors shut. If a new message was received, this could eliminate the possibility of an intruder. However, it did not preclude the chance that the messages were pre-loaded onto the computer and timed to appear at different intervals. Ken explained that he alone chose which of the computers to borrow, no one else.

Ken and Peter were dispatched to the Red Lion pub whilst Deb remained in the living room with the investigators and waited.

As they waited, a loud noise was heard in the bedroom. Debbie went to investigate. Upon looking into the room, she observed that one of the cats had entered through the open window and knocked over some equipment.

A message for Thomas had been left on the screen at approximately 7 p.m., but no reply had been received by 9:30 p.m., at which point the SPR concluded their observations for the night. They promised to return in a few weeks.

At around 10 p.m., a reply was received. It informed them that Lukas had defiantly addressed the court, stating that the computer must have been sent by God and that the court itself deserved to be hanged.

Words were exchanged between Fowlshurst and Debbie. Debbie attempted to reassure him that Ken (who was on holiday in Scotland) would return soon and Peter would be able to speak with him later.

Eventually, Peter inquired of Thomas who was currently residing in Lukas's house now that he was presumed deceased. Thomas replied, suggesting that Peter clearly knew nothing about Lukas, as he believed him to be no more.

Could Lukas still be alive?

The SPR returned on Monday, 3rd June. They applied tape to all doors and windows whilst the computer was left on in the kitchen. The SPR were convinced that one of the villagers was perpetrating a hoax, possibly a local developer attempting to scare the couple out of

The Society for Psychical Research (SPR), established in 1882, is a respected British organisation dedicated to the scientific investigation of paranormal phenomena. It has attracted numerous well-known academics and figures, including Maurice Grosse and Guy Lyon Playfair who were significant members, known for their detailed investigation of the Enfield Poltergeist case.

Harry Price, while a prominent researcher, had a complex and often contentious relationship with the SPR, particularly regarding his work at Borley Rectory, which was later critically reviewed by SPR members.

the cottage. Ken and Deb were sent to the Red Lion Inn. They had not been eliminated as the source of the messages.

This latest investigation yielded no results, and no new messages were received.

Around this time, offcuts of copper piping were repeatedly being thrown against a wall. They were never observed in flight but only upon settling. When picked up, they were warm to the touch. Two visiting friends also witnessed some copper piping in the kitchen that had evidently been left in the garden.

Debbie had another dream. She was in a prison, dimly lit through a grate above her. Someone was singing a lament, but she could not discern the words.

Thomas Fowlshurst left another message, which was unhelpful in any way, but did mention that a friend of his typed the messages for him as he was not well educated and feared that the evil would take his fingers. A little further down from this message was another, informing them that Lukas was still alive, as the authorities were afraid that his death would cause the lights to cease. The source knew he was alive as very few people in prison sing in Latin, and they had heard him.

The pipe throwing continued. The projectiles would hit the wall hard enough to leave dents, and one struck Debbie on the shoulder, leaving a bruise.

One of Ken's colleagues had been following the latest news from the cottage and the 1500s. She was aware that Fowlshurst was being difficult, so she made a suggestion: if he fears the lights, then threaten to take his soul if he doesn't help. Ken decided to try this approach.

Ken told Thomas that Lukas should be spared and returned to his home, asserting that they possessed power and feared for Thomas's soul.

The bluff proved effective, and Thomas stated that he would return Lukas to his farm.

At 11:20 p.m. that night, they received the message they had been anticipating. Lukas wrote to convey how much he had missed them and that he needed to sleep, as he was exhausted and would make no sense if he continued.

CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW MYSTERIES

Conversations between Tudor England and 1980s England continued. Lukas was appalled at the concept of high-speed and air travel, humorously claiming his horse thought he was mad.

He also informed them that he intended to sell his farm in two months' time, before Thomas Fowlshurst realised that his soul was still safe and well.

Ken and Debbie had by now purchased their own computer but could not afford a printer. This necessitated copying messages by hand.

With Lukas back at the 'leems', the SPR were persuaded to continue with their investigations. Though Lukas was wary of them, he agreed to answer their questions. Lukas also began to express concern that the government of their time would seize the 'leems' and use them as their 'plaything'. Furthermore, he was perturbed to hear that Peter would be travelling to France, assuming he had been exiled rather than merely being on holiday.

With Ken in Bristol, following up on some city details Lukas had provided, Debbie was left to communicate with Lukas. She recounted a dream in which she had spent several hours with Lukas, during which he had confessed his feelings for her to some extent. He subsequently sent her a message expressing his sentiments, requesting that she not show it to Ken. He also sent her a poem.

Another SPR visit passed without a message, until Ken checked a file and discovered a question at the foot of an 8-page document. The SPR remained unconvinced, suggesting someone could have swapped the disk for another. This explanation seemed illogical, as both disks would need to contain the same questions for Lukas. Still unconvinced, the SPR departed.

The message was from Lukas to 2109, inquiring why his words had been moved as he attempted to communicate with John from the SPR. The reply was typically arrogant, informing Lukas that he could not possibly comprehend why he should not converse with John.

Yet another SPR visit transpired without result. Ken discovered that they had left a question for 2109, who eventually replied with an obstructive tone, claiming that they should not ask questions when they would not understand the answers. They also stated they could ask one more question. It also appeared that 2109 possessed control over the communications and could block Lukas.

With Peter in France, Ken and Deb continued to communicate with Lukas. The poltergeist activity recommenced for the first time in over a month. It appeared that Lukas also experienced similar issues. Ken reassured him that they were not causing it, but perhaps 2109 was, serving as a convenient scapegoat.

With both sides believing that 2109 were deleting messages, Debbie had the ingenious idea of leaving out some paper and charcoal for Lukas to write on. A message was left on the monitor while Deb was in the room, marking the first time this had occurred. Lukas requested that the screen be moved to where he had written. The paper was found near the exposed pillar, so the computer was moved in the hope that 2109 could no longer interfere.

The 'leems' seemed bright here for Lukas, as he stated this was where they first appeared to him. He also hinted at his real name, leaving Ken, Debbie, and Peter in no doubt that they were communicating with Thomas Harden (or Hawarden). The librarian at Oxford University had suggested Thomas as a possible candidate for Lukas's real identity, and his research had found that he was a student at Brasenose College in the 1530s.

Records indicated that Thomas was expelled from Brasenose for refusing to cross out the Pope's Name on some document or other. After this, he moved to a small village in Chester to avoid Henry VIII's religious revolution.

Lukas had gone to find his young servant who had moved on to look for work when he was in custody. Ken had inquired if she had been found only to receive a response from 2109 telling him not to have nightmares, a clear allusion to the poem they had sent that initiated these events.

Lukas replied that Katheryn, his maid, had been burned as a witch. He blamed himself.

Ken found a chalked message on a worktop, but it was not from Lukas:

```
>>ONE  
MORE  
CHANCE  
MEASURE  
FREQUENCY BY+ 2 ENERGY  
WHAT ELES OTHER  
THAN SOUND AND  
LIGHT?!<<
```

The poltergeist activity continued, and the disk drive was the latest casualty. It was sent for repair, and a replacement was eventually borrowed.

NEW ENTITIES AND EXPLANATIONS

Lukas informed Ken of 'one' who had come to his house. When questioned if he intended to take the 'leems boyste', he stated that he had no intention of doing so and that it was not Lukas's to offer. He told Lukas that he had no power over this thing because it was like an orphaned child. It had no idea of the forces within it. He was left with a warning about putting the leems back on its own, whatever that meant.

Debbie purchased a puppy and named it Lukas.

Ken admonished 2109 for their childish behaviour and demanded to know why they had prevented him from communicating with Lukas, and to explain the poltergeist activity.

They replied with an explanation of what caused the activity: it was surplus kinetic energy. They also stated that the last recorded injury by a poltergeist was in 2006. Ken was told that he would be allowed to converse with Lukas once things 'cooled down'. Time would stand still for Lukas so they could continue from where they were.

It appeared that 2109 were not fully in control, as Lukas could still communicate by writing to them on pieces of paper. The SPR were still interested in communicating with 2109, but the one question they were limited to would not be of much use. They also wanted to know if they knew Lukas's real name.

With further prompting, 2109 informed Ken that the poltergeist was created by kinetic energy and that the individual it was attached to gave it the form of a ghost of a person that would constitute a character. They also informed him that the last recorded communication across time occurred in 1941.

Ken admitted to knowing Lukas's true identity. This caused some panic with 2109, who demanded to know everything that had been said between both parties since they discovered this. It apparently meant that there were two Lukas's in their house, and 2109 would need to determine their next course of action. Time was, apparently, of the essence. Failing to do so could cause a major disruption.

Ken sent them all the details they had on Thomas Harden. Someone or something had written on the exposed pillar, asking them what they were afraid of. Several tins had been stacked up.

Ken asked 2109 if they could do something about the poltergeists. They stated they would do what they could and posed some questions for Dave Welch at the SPR. What did he think of conjectural tachyons, and they wanted his theory on causality.

The SPR would need to be contacted again.

David Welch replied. He expressed interest in tachyons. He explained that these were particles whose existence could only be conjectured, hence the term. They were believed

to move at the speed of light and through time. It seemed that 2109 was aware of Dave's particular interest.

2109 admitted to having subtly edited Lukas's messages in the past and requested the true identity of 'one'—the entity that supposedly gave the lights to Lukas, or Thomas, as 2109 had begun to call him. Once this information was provided, they promised to offer 100% proof for the SPR as they investigated the phenomena.

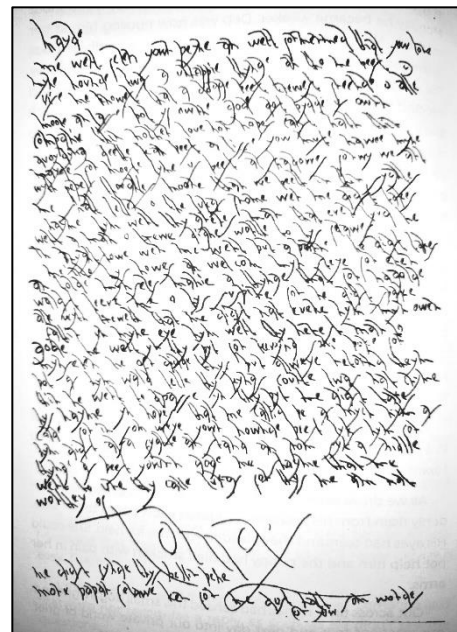
Ken replied, conveying the limited information he possessed about 'one' and stating his assumption that it was someone from 2109, as it could not be an individual from 1985. Ken's contempt for them was evident.

Peter asked 2109 a series of questions about time, which they answered in detail. This greatly interested David Welch.

2109 offered a brief response to Ken, asking if he could persuade Lukas to invite 'one' to converse with them.

The puppy, also named Lukas, was clearly unwell. A vet visited and diagnosed parvovirus, a highly dangerous canine disease. The vet administered an injection, and Debbie remained with the dog. The poltergeist activity continued, with items being stacked, and 2109 had responded to Ken's message about the SPR's impending visit by stating, 'be ther before you!'

David sat at the computer and typed out ten questions for 2109. After forty-five minutes, he intended to delete them from the disk to eliminate the prime suspects. However, David offered an alternative explanation: the message could be sent down the earth wire to a neighbour. This proposition annoyed all the prime suspects. The BBC Micro was not a complicated machine, and when David was pressed on how this could be achieved, he could offer no explanation.



The files were checked at 10 p.m. that night, but nothing was received. Ken was asked to pass on any reply, should one appear.

The puppy died a few days later. Lukas, from the past, sensed the sadness in the house and sent a handwritten note of sorrow. He also told the couple about the man from whom he took the name Lukas—a kind individual who stole books for young Thomas to read but died in prison after being convicted of the theft. Ken put the note in a frame and hung it on the kitchen wall.

Ken asked Lukas about 'one'. Lukas only stated that 'one' spoke of his power and that he was not to speak with 2109 as they were 'gekalles', which has been interpreted to mean 'taunters'. 'Gekalles' is a Dutch word meaning 'chatters'.

On 27th September, 2109 left a message for David, which was subsequently read to him over the phone. Although they did not directly answer his questions, they did make reference to them. Ken realised that this effectively ruled out the human suspects, as none of them had seen David's questions.

The SPR was evidently losing patience with both 2109 and Ken. John composed a message to 2109, demanding direct answers to the questions, threatening that this would be their final communication otherwise. He also suggested that the questions David had sent to 2109 might either be stored within the monitor for later access, or that a sensitive listening device had been employed to detect David typing the message, allowing them to decipher the keystrokes. Unsurprisingly, Ken was not amused by these implications. He even attributed the language used by Lukas to 'good scholarship'.

2109 expressed a desire for more information regarding the other individuals involved and their motivations. They specifically inquired about a friend, a doctor. Ken provided his details, and 2109 responded with an impressive summary of the doctor's career, which evidently pleased him. They also agreed to another experiment with the SPR later that month, informing David that they did not require a screen to communicate and could do so via any computer.

Another visit from the SPR transpired, with them bringing their own computer and leaving messages for 2109. John arrived with someone called Nick, who interrogated Frank, one of Ken's friends, on his theories regarding the cottage. It was not long before they departed.

Ken asked Frank if he minded sitting in the cottage while he went for a walk. Frank sat quietly, contemplating the evening. When Ken returned, Frank stood up and noticed that Lukas appeared to have written 'Ken' in chalk just a few feet in front of him. Frank was annoyed with himself for not witnessing its appearance.

During October 1985, Ken was offered a research job in Manchester, which would allow him to leave teaching. 2109 replied to the SPR, inquiring about Nick's identity and warning them not to play games, or they would receive no further information. They added a message for Ken, asking him to tell John that someone had gotten too close to the computer when it was being operated and to return the BBC Micro. They also stated that Thomas would speak to him later.

This information was passed on to John, who would not provide any more details about his colleague. 2109 desired further information so they could conduct their research and subtly alter history. Unamused, Ken returned to John and obtained Nick's full name: Nick Sowerby-Johnson.

Lukas continued to write to 2109, concerned that 2109 controlled the paper he could write on. This seemed unlikely, as Ken possessed the paper. Lukas drew an image of a windmill and a map of the location in Dodleston.

In late October, Lukas informed Ken that he would be leaving his house in three weeks' time. Ken sent a sorrowful response but evidently felt helpless.

With this in mind, Ken and Deb planned how they would spend the last three weeks communicating with Lukas. They began by asking him about the early messages he sent and if they had been altered. He confirmed that they had. He had never mentioned Edmund Grey at all. Lukas's first message should have read:

Good Ken

Please forgive words to paper as I think they may be re-moved if 2109 see them. The words your maid showed me are not altogether what I said, though they are all my words they are jumbled. The words on Edmund Grey I didn't write though these words are like mine. The first script said as follows:

I speak to you that you will answer. Why do you keep me awake at night with this device that does shine at me like devil's teeth? Your words make me think you are uneducated or you are from overseas[?] as your manner is strange to me and you have many costly things that only the king can afford. This device is causing me some difficulties, am concerned it will harm me. Why are there people walking through my house? They are welcome but why can't they see me? Why do you move all my possessions around my house and break the boundaries[?] that I am surrounded by? I cannot allow you to persuade me to leave my house[?] unless you explain your intentions.

This implied that the message was a fabrication, heavily edited by 2109.

It would not be long before 2109 were back in contact. They expressed their dislike for Nick Sowerby-Johnson, considering him a 'crashing bore'. They could not find any trace of him and were tired of the SPR. They concluded the message with a threat: LET THEM ANOY US ONE MORE TIME – THEY'LL SO KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T A HOAX.

2109 and 'one' would argue on screen as 'one' joked about ruining 2109's attempts to communicate with the SPR during the last experiment. 2109 asked 'one' to speak only in cypher so as not to confuse 1985. 'One' admonished them for their poor use of English.

Thus, 2109 had failed to convince the SPR of their true existence. This also meant that Ken would fail to convince them that none of this was a hoax.

Debbie persuaded Ken to attempt dreaming and visiting Lukas in the past. Ken made an attempt but gave up quite quickly, much to Deb's annoyance. A message followed from Lukas telling them how happy he was to see Ken but it was a shame that he could not stay longer.

Lukas was shown another of the early messages he supposedly sent. He denied all knowledge of it, so Ken and Deb decided to disregard all messages featuring modern punctuation.

2109 asked Ken to get Nick to use the computer as they would find it easier to trace him. Ken's patience with 2109 was exhausted. He ignored the request.

On 7th November, a partially cryptic message was received, possibly from 'one', informing John, Nick, and David of 'one's power and that 'one' must be obeyed, as 'one' could obstruct communications if desired.

Ken read the message back to John, who deemed it useless. They made a vague arrangement to speak again, but Ken had no desire to do so.

Another note from 2109 suggested that everyone take a break and that they could put Thomas's time on hold again. This no longer seemed entirely mad. They also suggested that some of the story be given to the press to see if further assistance could be found.

The first story appeared in the Chester Observer in December 1985, written by a former pupil of Ken's and Peter's. The journalist had contacted John Bucknall regarding the investigation. He was sure it was a hoax. Ken and Deb waited for his report, but John left the SPR in 1986 and has not been heard of since.

With Lukas on hold and the computer packed away for a time, things calmed a little, but the poltergeist remained active. Tins were still being stacked, and a poem was chalked on the pillar in the kitchen and then disappeared shortly after.

In mid-January 1986, Debbie unpacked the computer and set it up in the kitchen before leaving a message to ascertain if 2109 were paying attention. Two days later, they replied. They wanted to know if Ken and Deb were ready to continue and if they'd heard much from the media.

Ken asked if 2109 could advise them on how to find someone new to research the phenomenon. 2109 were strangely obliging, suggesting that Peter should ring a Ufologist named **Gary Rowe** and say that another Ufologist had passed on his number. Ken was pleased that Peter had been nominated rather than himself.

Gary visited Peter's house, and the three discussed the events since 1984. Gary agreed to visit the cottage and would bring some monitoring equipment with him before writing a report. He also agreed to share his methods and conclusions with them.



THE ROWE INVESTIGATION

On 23rd January 1986, Lukas left them a note on a piece of paper in the kitchen. Thus, 2109 hadn't put him on hold.

On 16th February, Gary Rowe arrived with a car full of equipment, but 2109 remained silent, even though they had invited him. Debbie sent them a message the following day to inquire why they hadn't appeared.

Another cryptically evasive answer arrived from 2109, informing them that Gary's company was powerful but not limitless, unlike them. They would continue to watch and would respond when the right time came. Lukas would not be involved. They then addressed Gary directly, stating 'your move' and that they were only there to help.

Gary decided to leave a message for them in a sealed envelope. Debbie asked them if they would prefer if it was typed for them. Apparently not. They told Gary that they did not need the envelope to be opened but would seek a second opinion on the contents, which they would not comment on. They also mentioned to Gary that he had seen their handiwork before, in Canada.

Gary made no comment on the matter.

The next day, 2109 asked Ken to print out a message for Gary but not to read it. Ken did this, and the message was taken to Rhyl, where Gary lived, and handed to him. He read it and put it away without sharing the contents. Gary suggested that he was leaving himself vulnerable by communicating with 2109, but he would not elaborate on why this would be the case.

Ken was annoyed at getting another tight-lipped researcher involved and for letting 2109 talk him into it. He was also annoyed at having to visit Rhyl. He only did this in the hope that he could regain contact with Lukas.

Once home, Ken advised 2109 that Gary was not happy at the lack of answers and that he would give up if nothing was forthcoming soon. They replied with a series of numbers and then asked him to print another important message for Gary without anyone seeing it. They even admonished him for daring to ask why he couldn't see what the message said. It was apparently a great honour for Ken to handle such a communication.

It was passed to Gary, who handed them a response to send to 2109, but without the cloak and dagger need for secrecy. The letter apologised to 2109, stating that he hadn't realised how important they were. He would be in touch again soon.

Ken negotiated for the channel of communication to Lukas to be opened. Another envelope was passed on, and 2109 assured Ken that his hard work had not gone unnoticed.

Whilst Ken was away for a few days, Debbie agreed to try an experiment with the latest envelope. With Peter's wife, Val, as a witness, the kitchen was locked shut with the envelope left in there. After 24 hours, the kitchen was re-entered only to find that the envelope had gone.

Debbie sent a message to 2109 asking if passing these secret notes would help her and Ken. The reply came back that these communications would mean nothing to them. The letter was passed to Gary, who seemed disappointed with its contents.

The window of opportunity to talk with Lukas was coming to a close. Ken asked Lukas to describe the moment the 'leems' first appeared. He told them that his young maid, Kathryn, was asleep near the chimney, so he picked her up to carry her to her bed when he noticed the light and someone stepped forward and told him not to be afraid.

Kathryn woke up but couldn't see the light. He later noticed that Kathryn's words would appear on the screen as she sang.

In March 1986, Thomas sent his final message. It was full of love for his friends in the 20th century and for his plans to travel by boat to Bristol and then by horse to Oxford, where he would visit his old college and write his book about these communications. He hoped that one day they would all sit down in Oxford to read each other's books.

2109 sent yet another cryptic poem, but they did say that someone else would come and give them the help that they needed. They also informed them that Lukas did write his book shortly before he died. The inscription, written in Latin, reads:

Me wryts this in the hope that myne felaws will one day find this boke,
then may ower lands be not soe distant.

▲ FINAL DISCONNECT

Ken packed the computer away and resolved never to use it again. However, in July 1986, they were introduced to a friend of a friend who expressed interest in 2109 and persuaded Ken to set up the computer once more.

She sent them a message and received a response. Something about the message shocked her so profoundly that she passed out and subsequently refused to explain what she had read. Ken then refused to assist 2109 any further and put the computer away for the final time. It was eventually passed to Debbie's brother.

In July 1987, Ken was contacted by a couple in Luxembourg, whom he later met in Wales while they were on holiday. They showed him a printout from 2105 asking them to contact 'kEEEn WEBSter'.

The couple had been communicating with someone called 'the technician', who informed them that Ken and Lukas had been able to converse due to an overlap of time between both dimensions. They asked Ken to set the computer up again, but he declined.

Ken wrote to the SPR to request John Bucknall's report on his investigation. The SPR stated that he had left and they had been unable to contact him. He inquired if they had any reports from David Welch or Nick Sowerby-Johnson, but the SPR had never heard of either of them.