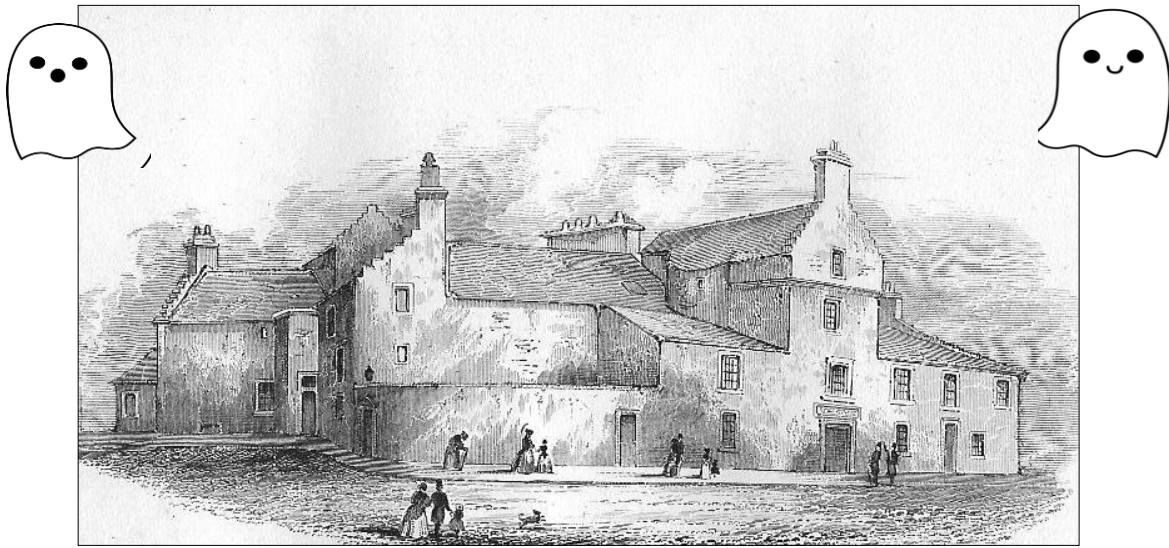


# ABBOT HOUSE GHOSTS

**ABBOT HOUSE HAS A GOOD FEELING ABOUT IT AND HAS A FRIENDLY AND HAPPY ATMOSPHERE; HOWEVER, SOME PEOPLE CAN SENSE MANY OF THE SPIRITS IN THE HOUSE.**



The story goes that some time ago, when alterations were being made to the Abbot House, a skeleton was found built into the wall (Clark's Guide to Dunfermline) and the ghost of a lady is supposed to have been seen at the entrance of the old stone kitchen by a servant some time back (Fife Pitcairns c 1902 P.81). This story reached the local paper in 1933 and the lady who wrote the article turned up at one of our Lectures and was asked where she had obtained her source. This eminent lady answered that "she did not remember".



When The Heritage Trust took over the building Michael Donnelly, where he could, took the inside of the building back to its original stone. He reported that nothing was found bricked up in the walls.

An archaeologist, working on the site in 1992, came over all cold and became so uncomfortable with the unnatural feeling of a presence that he had to leave the site and go home.

Another story in 1992 was when the architect when working in the house saw a ghost in the shape of a monk coming out of the stone towards him.

A visitor to the house told of when it was the Doctor's surgery (Dr Burt). The lady had been the receptionist and stated that there was no way she would work on her own in that part of the house which was near the Queen Anne staircase.



One of the Guides told Margaret Dean, that she heard the rustle of a robe and the flap of a sandal on the stairs of the house.

A visitor while in the old kitchen area (with the large fireplace) downstairs relived the last time he was in that room. He was gazing at the floor slabs: they were the same as he remembered them. He was a member of the Photographic

Society and related that while he and his father-in-law were working there he got an electric shock and was thrown. There was large table in the room and its thick leg broke. His father-in-law's hairs on the back of his neck started to rise, the room went cold, very cold, and they both got out as quickly as they could.

One of our own Staff members, who worked in the office of Abbot House, was being accompanied by a house guide going down the Queen Anne staircase she felt a gentle push, fell and broke her left arm.

A Shetlander visited the house; this lady told us she felt a real presence at the Queen Anne staircase.

A visitor from Paisley visited the house, and while on the first floor in the corridor towards St Margaret's Room felt the presence of a Lady. This could have been Lady Anne Halkett as this area is close to her bedroom. "It was not a bad feeling just a strong presence," she said.

A group of youngsters who had learning difficulties visited the house and on reaching the Queen Anne staircase a young lad refused point blank to go down the stairs. He had to be taken down another exit.

Some children are more 'sensitive' than others to presences. Often, they stand still and turn pure white sensing something unusual. Guides kept a look out for this and get the teachers to give them reassurance.

The ghost of a cat has been seen by more than one person around the house.

A man and two lady visitors were visiting the house. He told the Guide while entering the Presence Chamber he had come over all cold again. He had first felt cold when entering the Café area downstairs.

Many visitors while in the "Spirit in the Stones" video room experienced the presence of someone close by, often at their shoulder.


The house knows who loves it, who tolerates it and who uses it for gain.

Many years ago, in Abbot House we did a series of spiritual evenings to raise funds. At one of these events a Professional Spiritualist come from Glasgow with her husband. We had refreshments waiting for the visitors their arrival in the Fire Room, all of us were very excited and a great feeling of anticipation was felt. The Spiritualist was standing with her back to the Abbey Church and after being introduced she hesitated, put her hand out towards the Abbey graveyard and said she felt the presence of many Spirits. Well, it turned out this lady was well away with the spirits, but unfortunately it was a different kind of spirit! Although it was still a fun evening.

Another evening in the Presence Chamber, the centre of the spiritual core of the House, there was an unexplained experience of a Spirit leaving the house; more than one present sensed this phenomenal happening.

Again, for funds we had the Ghost Busters come. They set up all their equipment throughout the rooms with a TV downstairs for our helpers to monitor what was happening in the Presence Chamber. In this room there was a large table with people sitting around it for the séance. What an eerie experience that was. A young boy came through who came from the Brucefield area. He had been





sheltering in the house for many years and, all we can say he was guided towards the light. Downstairs the helpers who had been watching the proceedings gasped as flashes of lights appeared on the TV and with a huge flash that filled the screen it was gone, and that was it. What a night that was.

The cellar is a very eerie place and on one of our tours, we were told, it was where a prisoner was kept in the corner in chains. We were also told; the cellar had another door which faced east and that the House which was built of stone was probably used as a sanctuary during The Great Fire of Dunfermline in 1624.

Jacqueline, who had been a Nurse, came to Abbot House as a Guide. John Amos our Head Guide and Jacqueline spent many happy hours together sharing the history of `The Abbot House`, here are some of her stories-

"The Presence Chamber in Abbot House is painted with murals and there is always a story to tell. One cold, wintry January day I stood looking over towards the Abbey when I was personally going through a difficult time and was quite sad. I realised gradually, I wasn't sad and, somehow, a feeling like a warm blanket was around me. It reached from my shoulders to my feet. I said thank you, even though no one was there. I knew it was the House caring for me.

When I started guiding visitors around Abbot House, I would go in early and check all the rooms, switch on the lights and say hello to the rooms and statues. Sounds silly? Never got an answer. But...

The Reformers Room was laid out as a bedroom of 1700's. In it there was a fire place, a table and a bed with curtains, a pull out bed and a stone 'piggie (hot water bottle). There were two male statues at the table representing men who were transported for sedition. The bed was usually rumpled and I would straighten it to make it ready for the day. I asked the caretaker why the bed was never made by the cleaners from the evening before. He told be it was, and maybe the ghost was playing up.

Next time I was in, I was first up the stairs again and again, the bed was rumpled. I hesitated, but as I had already wished the figured good morning, I had nothing to lose. "I know you're teasing me by rumpling the bed. Sorry, if you feel I was ignoring you. It won't happen again. Morning to you." Within a couple of steps, the music to 'Parcel o' Rogues' filled the room. I later discovered that this was the spirit acknowledging me. I know it didn't happen for everyone.

A friend of mine who volunteered in the cafe swears she was pushed upstairs and fell, although no one was there.

For people who have never worked there, it was an old building built on an ancient site and as Dunfermline Heritage Centre it had many rooms set up to illustrate Dunfermline and Scotland's history. One of the rooms is known as the Marble Room and has tape on a loop to play music from the Mass of James VI, and Anne of Denmark's wedding.

On this particular evening the Staff Manager was trying to get the music to play. Nothing. She pushed the button... nothing. She removed the machine, checked the connections... nothing. A couple of women in the room weren't able to help.

‘Have you asked the Spirit for help?’ I asked, she looked at me askance "No. Why would I do that?" "Try it". The other women didn't say anything. Eventually, the manager said "What do I do?" She was humouring me. "Put your hand lightly on the machine and say something like 'Spirit, please get this to work,' then walk away." She gave me 'THE LOOK' and said "Okay." Bending down, she did as she was instructed. Hand on machine, nothing happened. "Walk away" I said. Within two steps, the music started."

Over the years many of our Guides, have stories to tell of their own and visitors' reactions to the House. It is said Lady Anne Halkett cared for children, and the east Tower room is associated with these children. A young, crippled child's skeleton was found during the Archæological dig outside in the garden of the house, possibly one of Lady Anne Halkett's that she had cared for in the attic room where the children were kept. There is a lovely feeling in this tiny room, which has a little window facing south over-looking the garden.

The garden contains many skeletons, all facing east except one which was buried facing west. We thought it might be a stranger to the parish, a thief or ? Not even the Archæologists could help. It took a long time to find out an answer, which suggested, possible a Priest standing with God at the second coming and welcoming his congregation.

The garden also contains at least three caskets of people who wished to have their ashes placed in the wonderful garden of Abbot House.

Many people, who know the house, and are still alive, can associate with experiences they have had, and share with others. As one goes from room to room and through passage ways different vibes come through, sometimes the hair on the back of your neck stands up, or your heart thumps, but most of the time it is the warm feeling, that makes one feel good, and at peace, it is know as a House of Love.



