GHOSTS & GHOULS OF SHREWSBURY

James I. Patterson

Shrewsbury has more ghosts than any other town in England! As a busy trading port it drew people from all over the British Isles and as far away as Germany and the Low Countries. Not all came as law-abiding traders – and not all passed over into the next life when death came a-calling.

The town has over 600 ghosts, many of which have been confirmed by paranormal researchers. The ghosts still walk the streets and alleyways (called 'shuts' locally), which have remained virtually unchanged since the thirteenth century. Walking through this, England's best-preserved medieval town on a dark winter's night, it is all too easy to feel as though you are not alone. And sometimes, just sometimes, you *know* you are not alone. Sudden drops of temperature, orbs of light; smells of lavender or smoke; maybe even the lightest of touches that will brush your shoulders or hair. The certainty is so overpowering that there is no need to see a physical reality, although wraiths do show themselves, especially to those born at midnight.

James I. Patterson, a former policeman and now town guide for Shrewsbury has walked the unchanging streets and passageways experiencing and learning a lot of the more unusual stories of the town from previous generations of constables who had, in their turn, become privy to the lesser known legends of yesteryear.

This is a ghost book with a difference. Come and explore this ancient town and meet some of the old and not so nice former residents as we wander with the author through the thirteenth-century wards of Shrewsbury.

Come along - if you dare!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

lames I. Patterson was born in 1947 in the Tyne Valley of Northumberland and raised in a pit village near Newcastle upon Tyne. He joined the police in 1963 and rose to the rank of Detective Inspector. He was also awarded a scholarship to the University of Birmingham at Edgbaston from where he emerged with a degree in Theology. On retiring from the police after twenty-five years' service, together with his wife Patsy, he travelled extensively throughout Australia and elsewhere uncovering their family history before settling once more near Shrewsbury.

RELATED TITLES AVAILABLE

Gruesome Shrewsbury ISBN 978 | 84|14 930 | £8.99 Hauntings in Lincolnshire ISBN 978 | 84|14 894 6 £8.99 Hauntings in Yorkshire ISBN 978 | 84|14 697 3 £8.99 Norfolk Ghosts & Legends ISBN 978 | 84|14 747 5 £8.99

Halsgrove Publishing Halsgrove House, Ryelands Industrial Estate, Bagley Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796 www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION

GHOSTS & GHOULS of SHREWSBURY

Ghostly Goings-on in a Medieval Town

JAMES I. PATTERSON

Format:Paperback, 96 pages, 210x148mm,
with black and white illustrationsPrice:£8.99ISBN:978 1 84114 931 8Imprint:HalsgrovePublished:February 2009



Halsgrove Sales Contacts:

Sue Rhodes-Thompson – DDI 01823 653770 suet@halsgrove.com Roger Start – DDI 01823 653773 rogers@halsgrove.com Helen Deakin – DDI 01823 653772 helend@halsgrove.com Marie Lewis – DDI 01823 653771 mariel@halsgrove.com Andrew Stirling – Mobile 07971 572468 andrews@halsgrove.com Credit card sales – DDI 01823 653760/653777

The Halsgrove Group includes DAA Halsgrove Ltd., Halsgrove Ltd. & Halstar Ltd. (reg. in England & Wales Nos. 4136732, 6029724 & 6472636 at 21 Bampton St., Tiverton EX16 6AA) and the imprints Halsgrove, Ryelands, Halstar & PiXZ Books. Halsgrove® is a registered trademark. Copyright© 2008

SHREWSBURY GHOULS OF ŏ S **GHOST**



Light orbs.

Example of a double page spread

GHOSTS & GHOULS OF SHREWSBURY

place for forty three pounds and ten shillings. It is a perfect example of a building constructed by what is called 'close studding.' Back in John's time wood, especially oak, was in short supply as most of it was being gobbled up by the Royal Navy but he used as much wood as he could get hold of. It has been suggested that you could remove nearly three quarters of the wood and the house would still be sound. In other words he was showing everyone just how rich he was. By 1624 the house was in the hands of a barrister-at-law called Timothy Turner who is described as 'a nasty piece of work.' He had eleven legitimate children, [two of whom were sons] to three different wives as well as a whole host of illegitimate ones sired on a succession of his maid servants who had been unlucky enough to find employment with him. His two sons were Tim, 'a daddy's boy' and a royalist who purchased a knighthood from Charles 11 for somewhere in the region of £700 and Tom who was not on good terms with his father because of his father's dalliances outside of wedlock. Tom was later killed in action fighting for the Parliamentarian forces at Lilleshall in Shropshire. It was also Tom who was thought to be the 'traitor' who opened the gates in the Norman archway at the bottom of St. Mary's Water Lane to let Cromwell's forces take the town.

One of the girls employed by Timothy Turner the elder had an illegitimate child which lived for only a couple of days after being born. Then the servant girl died a few days later. Rumours ran wild: Suicide? Murder?

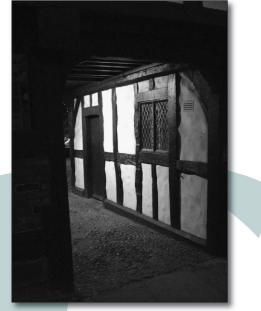
One thing that was for certain was the vicar made sure the entry of death in the church records did not read as this rich 76 THE GHOSTS OF THE CASTLE WARD



family would have wanted the deaths recorded. The churchman may not have wanted to delve too much into the circumstances of the deaths but there was sufficient doubt in his mind to endorse the records as '*int plague victims.*'



Upsatirs in the Riding House at 8 and 8A Milk Street.



Rowley's House.

Prophet or devil?

