



Angel Inn, Lymington



Filly Inn, Brockenhurst



Sway Tower, Sway

## PHANTOMS

The New Forest is reputed to be one of the most haunted places in the country with stories abounding of headless horses, hanged highwaymen and ponds filling with blood.

Gypsies, smugglers, snake catchers, and witches all play a part in the colourful folklore history of the New Forest. The area was also famous for its links with spiritualism and this drew Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, to both settle and be buried here.

### NEW FOREST PHANTOMS AND FOLKLORE

The Georgian town of Lymington is home to The Angel, an 18th century coaching inn that boasts two ghosts. One is an old coachman who pushes his nose against the window peering at the customer inside and the other plays a non-existent piano.

**The Angel Inn, Lymington High Street**

### EERIE TOWERS AND HANGED HIGHWAYMEN

Sway, is a sleepy village surrounded by the Forest where tales of phantoms abound. Judge Peterson a retired Indian High Court judge became involved with a medium who we are told guided him to build the 218' high Sway tower under the guidance of Sir Christopher Wren. The tower unexpectedly peers eerily through the Forest mists.

A ghostly procession has been seen passing across the car park of the Hare and Hounds Inn on its way to the gibbet at Marlpit Oak. Here, high on the heath land crossroads is where three highwaymen were once hanged and buried on the spot where they died.

## FOLKLORE

Close by is the 16th century Filly Inn in Setley, near Brockenhurst complete with low ceilings and sturdy oak beams. This ancient inn is inhabited by the friendly ghost of a long dead highwayman who roams the pub at night.

**The filly Inn, Setley, nr. Brockenhurst.**  
[www.fillyinn.co.uk](http://www.fillyinn.co.uk)

### LYNDHURST ✂ ALICE IN WONDERLAND

St. Michaels and All Angels churchyard is where you will find the grave of Alice Liddell who was in the inspiration for Lewis Carrols, Alice in Wonderland. Look for the headstone engraved 'Mrs. Hargreaves. A short walk away is the Fox and Hounds a pretty old world pub in the lovely village of Lyndhurst has its own resident ghost ( a previous landlord who fell into a fire and is said to manifest itself on New Year's Eve, the anniversary of his death).



### NEW FOREST GYPSIES

The New Forest was for many hundreds of years a well loved home for gypsies, mainly due to it being abundant in herbs and other medicinal plants, its wild game and also its springs of fresh water. Often a Gypsy killed by accident was buried on the spot and his grave marked by a cross of stones. At Woodgreen in the northern part of the New Forest there are two crosses pressed flat in the soil that are said to mark the graves of two Gypsies who died during a fight.

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*Fox & Hounds, Lyndhurst*



*New Forest Inn, Emery Down*



*Bluebeckers, White Hart, Cadnam*

## PHANTOMS

### SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND SPIRITUALISM

At Minstead with its village green, stocks and post office you will find the Trusty Servant Pub. Walk up the hill and here in a pretty churchyard overlooking the forest you will find the grave of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of Sherlock Holmes. He lived in the Forest for many years and was deeply involved with spiritualism. Nearby in Emery Down is the 18th century New Forest Inn where the captain of the Titanic spent his final night on British shores before sailing on the ill-fated ship the next day. Bar staff are convinced that a ghostly figure of a woman patrols a corner of the bar area at night, draws the curtains and takes pictures off the walls.

**The New Forest Inn, Emery Down.**  
[www.thenewforest.inn.co.uk](http://www.thenewforest.inn.co.uk)

### THE LADY OF THE WHITE HART

The Bluebeckers White Hart is situated on the Cadnam to Copythorne road. Upon entering the inn you become aware of an overpowering aroma of expensive perfume. This strong fragrance is followed by a sensual swish of silk then the room will go very cold. No clues to who she is have been found yet but a previous landlord did suggest that a dormant clock started ticking once again when the lady approached.

**Bluebeckers, White Hart, Cadnam**

### PONDS TURNING RED WITH BLOOD..

The Rufus Stone at Canterton near Brook marks the spot where King William Rufus died. Tradition tells us that the king shot a stag, missed it and then Sir Walter Tyrell released an arrow which glanced off a tree striking the king in the heart. Sir Walter fled

## FOLKLORE

across the Forest pausing at Ocknell Pond some two miles way. The local legend maintains that on the anniversary of Rufus's death the pond runs red with blood.

**Sir Walter Tyrrell Inn, near the Rufus Stone.**

[www.sirwaltertyrrellinn.co.uk](http://www.sirwaltertyrrellinn.co.uk)



### HEADLESS HORSES AND THE SMELL OF VIOLETS

Moyles Court a 17th century house, now a private school, was once the home of ill fated Dame Alice Lisle. She was beheaded 1685 for sheltering fugitives from Monmouth's rebellion. Dame Alice has reportedly been seen walking with her head under her arm around Moyles Court and also in a coach with no coachman drawn by headless horses. Sniff the air and if you can smell violets she is not far away.

**Alice Lisle Pub,**  
**Rockford Common**



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Beaulieu Village



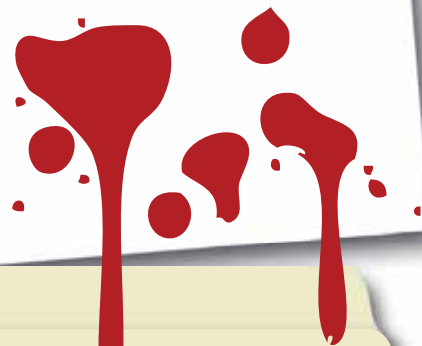
The Queens Head, Burley



The Royal Oak, Fritham



Caern of Witches, Burley



## PHANTOMS

### THE COUNTESS AND THE MONKS OF BEAULIEU

The village of Beaulieu is close to the stately home of the Montagu family, an area well known for its hauntings. Many apparitions, including monks, have been seen walking in the area. There have been unaccounted aromas of incense, unexplained lights and other phenomena. One of the ghosts is believed to be that of Isabella, Countess of Beaulieu, who died in 1786. **Beaulieu Village**

### BROOMSTICKS IN BURLEY

Witches have been seen wearing long black cloaks and offering sheaves of wheat as a sacrifice to the Naked Man. The Naked Man is a tree in Wilverley Plain near Burley where a highwayman was hanged. During the late 1950's a famous 'White' witch named Sybil Leek lived in Burley. She was often seen walking around the village in a long, black cloak with her pet jackdaw resting on her shoulder.

### THE WITCH SHOP IN BURLEY

The 17th century **Queen's Head pub** in the village centre was a favourite stop, in fact a secret cellar was discovered during renovation work - the cellar was home to a stash of coins, contraband and pistols left there by smugglers who wended their way to Burley via secret paths.

## FOLKLORE

### FRITHAM AND EYEWORTH

In this picturesque New Forest village you will find the famous, but tiny, thatched Royal Oak Inn where smugglers are reputed to have gathered in the 1700's. To the North of the village is the beautiful Eyeworth pond where a follower of the local hunt took a photograph, which when developed showed a mysterious lady in old fashioned dress lurking in the bushes. The photograph was validated as genuine but the mysterious lady has never been identified.

### BRUSHER MILLS THE SNAKE MAN

Harry was born in 1840 and lived in Brockenhurst. When he was in his 40s he took up a strange lifestyle. Harry found an old hut in the forest and made it his home. Then armed with a sack and a forked stick, he would catch snakes which he then sold to London Zoo. He was a regular at the Railway Inn, Brockenhurst. A popular story is that he once emptied a bag of snakes onto the floor in order to clear his way to the bar. Today the pub is called **The Snakecatcher**. He earned his nickname Brusher Mills by sweeping a nearby cricket pitch.



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