Orwell Healthcare Presents...

Orwell News Special Edition!

Halloween





Ghost Stories

The building that we currently inhabit is over 100 years old. With the number of souls that have passed through here in one form or another it is no surprise that we have a few ghost stories of our own. Below there are 5 short stories of reported hauntings in Orwell.*

Poltergeist Without Peace

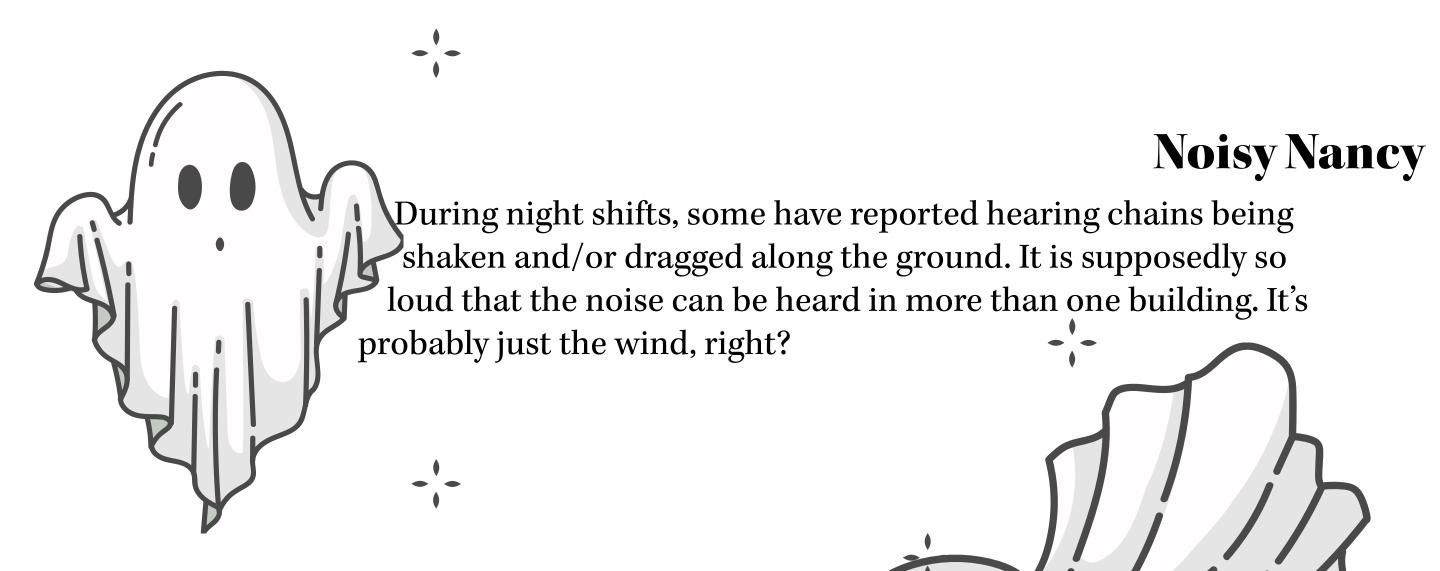
A particularly playful poltergeist took every opportunity to confuse and unsettle visitors. This included call-bells going off unprompted, opening all cabinet doors, and moving objects out of place.

Apparition at the Altar

On two occasions, both coincidentally on Christmas Eve, staff reported seeing figures enter the chapel, kneel, and pray at the altar before vanishing.

Spooky Loo

One particular room appears to have an issue with a perpetually occupied loo! Both staff and residents have reported seeing a woman enter the bathroom and close the door never to exit.



Wee Ones

Although they haven't been seen recently, some of our longest serving staff and residents have reported children running through the halls at night.



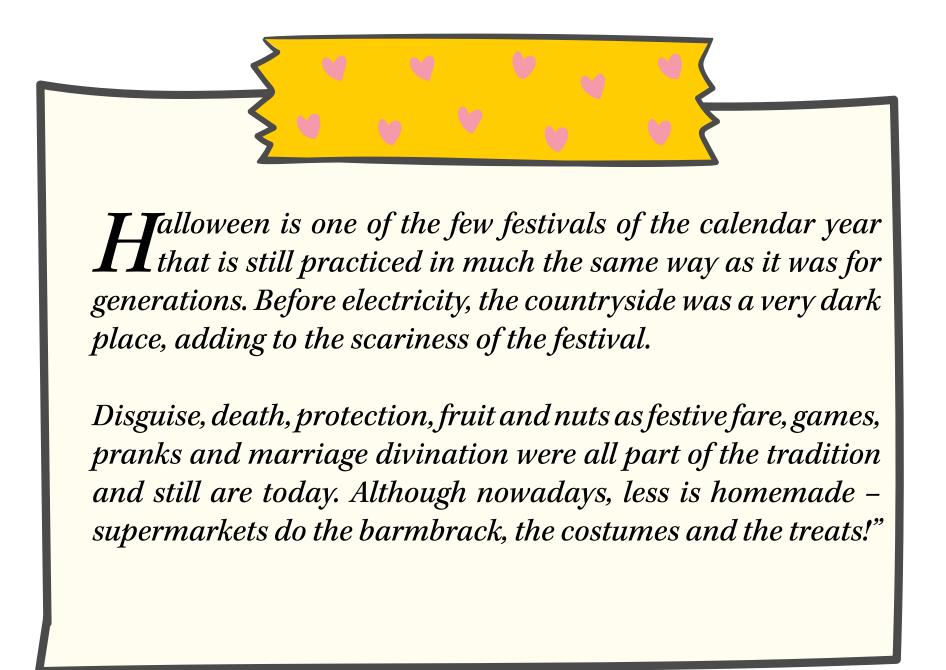
The History of Halloween

Did you know that many of the Halloween celebrations we enjoy today owe their origins to the ancient festival of Samhain celebrated by our Celtic ancestors?

Halloween is the eve of Samhain, which falls on November 1 and was one of four important seasonal markers (Quarter Days) in the traditional Irish calendar.

It signalled the onset of winter and like most Irish festivals, the main festivities took place on the night beforehand, in this case 31st October.

Clodagh Doyle, Keeper of the National Folklife Collection, explains:



For more information on Irish traditions and their origins have a look at the list compiled by Clodagh Doyle, available on the National Museum of Ireland website:

* article compiled from National Museum of Ireland



Halloween, Foley Street, 1953



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Carved turnips were popular for turning into scary Tanterns for walking with or placing in windowsills. The pumpkin that is prevalent today is an American development of this idea.

