

Orwell Healthcare Presents...

Orwell News

Special Edition!

Halloween
at Orwell





Ghost Stories from Orwell

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. Seems as good a time to pay respects as any.

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.



During night shifts, some have reported hearing chains being shaken and/or dragged along the ground. It is supposedly so loud that the noise can be heard in more than one building. It's probably just the wind, right?



Noisy Nancy

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.



* time & place are redacted at the request of the author

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:

Halloween is one of the few festivals of the calendar year that is still practiced in much the same way as it was for generations. Before electricity, the countryside was a very dark place, adding to the scariness of the festival.

Disguise, death, protection, fruit and nuts as festive fare, games, pranks and marriage divination were all part of the tradition and still are today. Although nowadays, less is homemade – supermarkets do the barmbrack, the costumes and the treats!”

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:



A Blast from the Past



Halloween, Foley Street, 1953



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

