

ADMIRAL TAVERNS

Pub is well stocked with spirits in time for Halloween

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Bill Bell lives by himself at his Morpeth pub the Chambers, but he is not alone. Every day is Halloween for the Northumberland landlord as the inn – next door to a 13th century monastery – has several unwelcome regulars in the form of ghostly monks.

Numerous bumps in the night and new video evidence of shadowy figures captured by private investigators has left licensee Bill too scared to go to sleep without the light on.

Before moving into the Admiral Taverns-owned pub in June, the landlord was a complete cynic when it came to all things supernatural, despite being warned by the previous licensee that the pub was haunted. But that began to change once Bill started experiencing the sometimes-strange atmosphere pervading the pub corridor and toilets.

Things escalated when kitchen objects started moving inexplicably. Bill finally decided it was time to call in help to get to the bottom of the Chambers' paranormal peculiarities when a female member of staff refused to change a beer barrel after seeing a ghostly figure in the cellar.

Bill, 64, who originally hails from Blyth, said while he told Admiral he was after a pub with character, this wasn't quite what he had in mind. He said: "I didn't use to believe in ghosts until I moved into this place but now I am convinced that there's something else in the pub.

"At first I just thought people were seeing things and their minds were playing tricks on them but I noticed that the pub was sometimes really cold, even on warm summer days. Then one evening I woke up in the middle of the night and it felt like there was someone sitting on the end of my bed, I also felt like I was being watched.

"When the lasses who work behind the bar said that they were too scared to come into work, I decided to get in touch with some private investigators."

He called in local investigator Neil Osbourne who installed several hidden cameras across the pub and in the cellar. They were shocked when they reviewed the footage: "When we looked back, we could see the outline of a monk in the pub corridor. There was also a whole procession of monks who crossed the corridor, appearing from one wall and disappearing into the other. I've never seen anything like it."

The pub's location on Bridge Street is next to Morpeth Chantry, which was founded by monks in 1296. The Market town of Morpeth, a name which derives from 'Murder Path' due to the bloody border history of Northumberland, has a long history of ghosts and hauntings.

In recent weeks, Bill claims that the paranormal activity has been more frequent with things being thrown around in the kitchen and toilets flushing by themselves. "Perhaps they're gearing up for Halloween," says Bill.

The ghoulish goings on have become such a talking point that staff and regulars at the Chambers have decided to pay tribute to the spirits by hosting a monk-themed party night for Halloween.

Not all of Admiral Tavern's pubs are haunted by 13th century monks. Those who are interested in running a fantastic community pub – where most of the spirits reside in bottles behind the bar – should contact Kelly Dunne from Admiral's recruitment team on 01244 505491.

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Issued on behalf of Admiral Taverns by Fleet Street Communications. For further information please contact Mark Stretton on 07974 303 657 or Chris Gooch on 07961 714 528