

## CHAPTER 19

# Tale Ends

Tales, told and retold, odd sightings and things that go bump in the night.

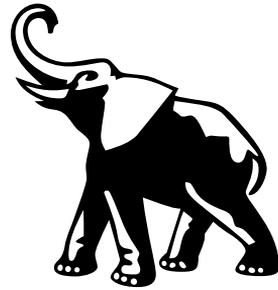
### Animal Tales

Nobby, father of Jubilee, the first elephant to be born at the Zoo, escaped and on his way down Flag Lane, turned into No. 46. Jim Wheldon's mother rang him at school, where he was headmaster, to tell him there was an elephant in the garden! "*Oh yes Mum, really?*". After this had been confirmed by his wife, he arrived home to find to his indignation that Nobby had tiptoed round his old garden shed, which he wouldn't have minded in the least being replaced.

Nobby then set off for the main road and sadly had to be destroyed. He was buried on the opposite side of the bridge from the Elephant enclosure and for many years there was a large burial mound there.

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Les Hills former Elephant Keeper at the Zoo, was at a Holiday Camp with his wife when at breakfast time an announcement came over the loud speaker to say that Mr & Mrs Hills had a new addition to the family - a boy weighing ..... lbs! That was Jubilee!



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Jubilee was very mischievous and took an almost human delight in playing tricks. Les Hills used to cycle to and from work, as he lived just a little way from the Zoo. One morning Mrs Hills saw him approaching at a furious pace, dripping wet from head to toe and not smelling very salubrious. Jubilee had watched Mr Hills cleaning round the edge of the pool in the Elephant House, sidled up to him and with a nudge, had pushed him into the water. One can almost imagine Jubilee relishing the occasion.

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The small lake, from the former brickworks, behind The Mount on Long Lane, was stocked with fish by Thomas Hinde. On several occasions when Sammy the seal escaped from the Zoo, this is where he would be found.

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Nancy Turton recalls coming home from shopping one day to discover a crowd, including policemen, around her house and garden. She immediately thought she had been burgled but on closer inspection a deer had escaped from the zoo and had become trapped in the ditch beside her house. The zoo vet had to be called out, the deer tranquillised and led back home.

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Nancy also tells of the time her grandparents lived in Caughall. As a child she would cycle to visit them and on more than one occasion she had to make detours to avoid the Bison on the lanes.

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### **Ghostly Ends**

#### **A Tale of Upton Hall**

According to one resident's grandmother: An old lady was left alone in Upton Hall while the rest of the family were away for the evening. As she sat quietly sewing in the kitchen she heard a sound like the towel on the door being moved behind her. She turned and saw nothing. A second time she heard the sound and asked "*What do you want?*" thinking someone must be at the door. A voice replied "*Follow me*". She got up and found no one at the door. Again she heard "*Follow me*" so she went in the direction of the voice and was led to a flagstone and there told to take it up and she would be rich. She obeyed the instructions and found a lot of money. The voice disappeared and was never heard again.

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At Upton farm, a ghost is supposed to have walked through the walls and disappeared again, on the occasion of a wedding in 1928.

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At Upton Lawn there have been reports of a carriage and pair which used to drive up to the door on windy nights.

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Clarence is the resident ghost at Bridge Farm Cottage in Linksway. He is a benign presence dating to sometime at the beginning of the 1900s. A country man, perhaps a farmer, dressed in rough brown tweeds, with trousers tied with string just under the knees. He first appeared just as the present owners were moving in; a figure in the doorway, who disappeared when looked at directly.

He is not fond of change, and when alterations began he has been responsible for lights flashing; kitchen flooding; setting off alarms; pictures falling and scaring visitors half to death. One visitor woke one night to find Clarence standing over them, this would not have been so bad, but on closer inspection they realised the figure was actually standing IN the wall. The story was corroborated by a barman at the golf club, who used to stay in the house as a boy, and woke one night to see a man walking through the wall towards him. When questioned as to which room he was sleeping in, it was the same room and same wall where Clarence had been spotted by the new residents.

When the kitchen was being re-fitted he first of all scared off the electrician, and then appeared on a photograph as a strange spiral of smoke. The negative was examined and found to be genuine, not a fault on the film, or someone blowing smoke in front of the camera. However, at this time a wall was opened up and evidence was found of an old door, Clarence seems to have been more at peace since then. Perhaps it was the door he used in this world, and did not like his path blocked – hence his habit of using the walls instead of the doors.



*'Clarence'  
and Carolyn*

*These pictures were taken just 30 seconds apart and definitely no one was smoking. The negatives were checked by an expert, who claims they had not been tampered with*

