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Scooby Doo, we needed you..at Feathers

ROBIN WOOD learns how to become a ghostbuster on a weekend in Shropshire...

LET'S get this right...I ain't afraid of no ghost. But even so it is good to hear mediums Bernie and Ruth reassure us that even though there are an unlucky 13 (live) people in the room nothing horrible is likely to happen.

It's the start of a scary weekend delving into the paranormal at the 17th Century Feathers Hotel at Ludlow in Shropshire, one of England's most haunted inns. And

already one couple have left the room, saying they're just "popping out". They're never seen again.

The remaining 11 of us split into two groups and in Scooby Doo fashion go off to explore. First stop was a room where regular ghost activity has been reported. We place an upturned glass on a table then each of us put a finger on top. The glass starts to move. Something is definitely out there. And her name, apparently, is Margaret. She was a cook burned in a fire at

the age of 34 in 1630 and believes that her husband's mistress may have been responsible.

We move on to the drawing

room. Here, apart from Margaret repeating her story by moving a table in various directions, we are unable to raise any new spirits.

Our next stop is the banqueting room. Once again Margaret "appears". It seems we can't shake her off. Then in almost complete darkness Bernie and one of the guests see a flash of light behind me. I see only the brightening of the walls as they reflect the glow.

Our final ghostly adventure is a seance in the writing room. We link little fingers and

Ruth begins to shake slightly, her fingernails scratching the table. She assumes the characteristics of Albert Jenkins who seems to have no message for us and was a bit disappointing after Margaret.

SPOOKY BIT: Haunting Breaks (www.hauntingbreaks.co.uk, 01686 668649) run overnight stays in haunted locations. The breaks start from £140pp for dinner, B&B, ghost hunting, dowsing, séances, table tipping and glass divination. The next break at the Feathers Hotel is on Halloween and costs £170pp.



Ghosts... the Feathers Inn

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Kids are too ghoulish for school

Or perhaps you fancy having your own socks scared off as well as the kids. Look no further here we reveal the most hair-raising holiday events in the UK.

SCREAM PARKS: Start the fun early with ALTON TOWERS Scarefest, from October 17 to November 2 with a range of eerie events.

Under-tens can take in the Haunting Of Algenons Attic show and over-14s can scare themselves senseless in the Terror Of The Towers as well as enjoying the parks exciting rides after dark.

Make a spellbinding night of it by booking into a Trick Or Treat room at the Alton Towers Hotel. Call 0871 222 1644 or visit altontowers.com for more details.

Hairy scary ... kids meet new 8-legged friend

CREEPY CASTLES: Get a royal spooking at BOLEBROKE CASTLE in Hartfield, East Sussex. Once home to Henry VIII, this hunting lodge now accommodates a host of ghosts including a headless woman, believed to be Anne Boleyn.

A one-night stay on November 1 is from 140 per person including dinner and breakfast. Call [Haunting Breaks](http://HauntingBreaks.com) on 01686 668 649 or see hauntingbreaks.co.uk.

You can become a ghost detective at the Lake Districts MUNCASTER CASTLE ... if you dare!

From October 26 to November 2, join torchlight tours and hunt out paranormal lodgers at the castle, including the 400-year-old Tom Fool a former jester who still finds time to wreak havoc and the White Lady or "Boggle" whose spirit haunts gardens. Halloween week also features child-friendly activities with face painting and much more at the towns ghostly grotto. Kids in scary fancy dress get discounts and free entry to some attractions.

For a full rundown of events and prices visit muncaster.co.uk or call 01229 717 614.

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD OUTINGS: Wander deep into the Chamber Of Horrors at MADAME TUSSAUDS in London for the horrifying new Scream experience. Live your worst nightmare and enter a top-security prison, brought to life by actors. You can join in the madness from October 25 to November 2. Prices are from 12.50 per person. See madametussauds.com/london or ring 0870 400 3000.

From October 18 to November 2 children can become wizards apprentices on Secret Spell Flights on the LONDON EYE.

Kids will solve magical clues to help cast a spell to keep the city safe. As well as mysterious moonlit views, a Halloween commentary will reveal mystical tales about the capital. Call 0870 5000 600 or visit londoneye.com.

Raise the heat at GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRES family party, where you can watch fire-eaters and get involved in more traditional activities such as apple bobbing and a crazy costume competition.

The party takes place between 6.30am and 9.30pm on October 31.



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Purple hotels are offering Glasgow rooms at a ghost of a price 49 a night from October 22 to November 2.

Visit purplehotels.co.uk or call 08444 823 823 for details.

TERROR-RIFIC TRIPS: Have ghoulish fun at HAVEN HOLIDAY PARKS. Kids will love the Zombie Magical Parades, Frightening Fancy Dress, Ghost Trails, plus all Havens regular activities.

Horrifying hols ... child cuddles up tp a spooky guest

Book four-night breaks on October 13 and 20 for a family of up to four from 99. Call 0871 230 1900 or visit haven.com.

Head to Shakespeare country to meet a horsey horror who haunts the grounds at the BARCELO WALTON HALL HOTEL in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The pale steed gallops in the gardens while a spectral young man, believed to be its rider, occupies the hotel building.

Prices for one-night B&B start at 77 per person, based on two sharing. Call 0800 090 1021 or visit unpacked.com.

TheSun
General

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