

*(This is an edited version of a letter published in the May 2010 edition of The Newstead & Annesley Advertiser, by professional photographer **Neil Lancashire LBIPP LMPA** (see [www.neil-lancashire.co.uk](http://www.neil-lancashire.co.uk)), in response to a letter in a previous issue from another reader, essentially suggesting that the shot was faked, or mistakenly thought unusual by an inexperienced amateur).*

The picture was commissioned by former postmaster and mistress Mr and Mrs Arthur Renshaw of 1 Lawns Road, Annesley Woodhouse. The reason being the business was taken over by their daughter and son in law Mr and Mrs J & J M Massey, who's name is on the shop, when the Massey's emigrated Mr Renshaw asked me to take the picture before it passed out of the Renshaw family which I believe it had been in for several generations.

The picture was taken from the driveway of 105b Forest Road, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 1970 at approximately 3.30pm, my mothers 56<sup>th</sup> birthday to be exact. The time was chosen because at that time of day on a Saturday Annesley Woodhouse was very quiet and no one would be around to walk on the picture setting.

The camera used was a Rollieflex Automat serial number 171108 manufactured circa 1952 using Agfa IFF 25asa panchromatic film, exposed for 1/2 sec @f16, ("a few seconds exposure" is not possible in daylight using even using the low asa and small aperture) processing was made in Agfa Rodinal high definition developer diluted 1 to 100 for 20mins @ 20°C.

As Mr Topham will be aware this combination of exposure, film, development and the high quality Carl Zeiss Tessar lens will render an extremely high definition image on the film, so much so the writing on the front of the "out of focus chewing gum machine" reads "it's WIZARD", YZ, sugar coated chewing gum. with the words CHEWING GUM written vertically down the side.

No one was on the section of Forest Road, when the pictures were taken and the ghostly images only became known to me when the film was inspected as it was hung to dry. The image is on the first frame of the film, not on a manipulated print, in my 42 year career I have processed of thousands of films and never had any fogged by extraneous lights in the dark room, I'm a professional, my darkroom was what it says a DARK room not a blanket over the bathroom window amateur effort.

The resulting picture was printed on the front page of the Chad newspaper on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 1970, it would have been the front page lead but a late breaking fraud story based around the Swan Hotel, Mansfield took precedence.

Following the publication of the picture, I was contacted by many people from all around the country offering an explanation of the phenomenon. I have an open mind on the paranormal but one man who visited the site gave me a blow by blow account of things that had happened in the past, from the Musters Arms Inn opposite the site, supposedly a Cavalier haunt during the Civil War, hence the dress the figures seem to wear, he sensed distress the window over the shop, where on further investigation is where a seriously ill woman committed suicide by jumping from, plus many other facts that had happened in the area in the past.

If Mr Topham, had contacted me prior to his review, and he still can, I can show him the uncut film, prints and enlargements of the frame and see how his case stands rather than making accusations and assumptions from a small screen printed image.

My contacts are, as they have been for many years, telephone 01623 511533, mobile 0731691326, email [neil.lancashire@ntlworld.com](mailto:neil.lancashire@ntlworld.com) or via my website [www.neil-lancashire.co.uk](http://www.neil-lancashire.co.uk)

THIS PICTURE WAS NOT TAKEN FOR THE INTENTION FOR PUTTING SOMETHING ON LATER .  
as Mr Topham accused me it is genuine, I rest my case.