

# We expose Satanism, black magic and sex orgies in the respectable suburbs of Britain

# THE

News of the World. 19/9/1976.

A NEWS OF THE WORLD team has uncovered a network of Satanism, black magic and orgies in the respectable suburbs of Britain. And there are witches who claim that secret covens exist in every big town in the land.

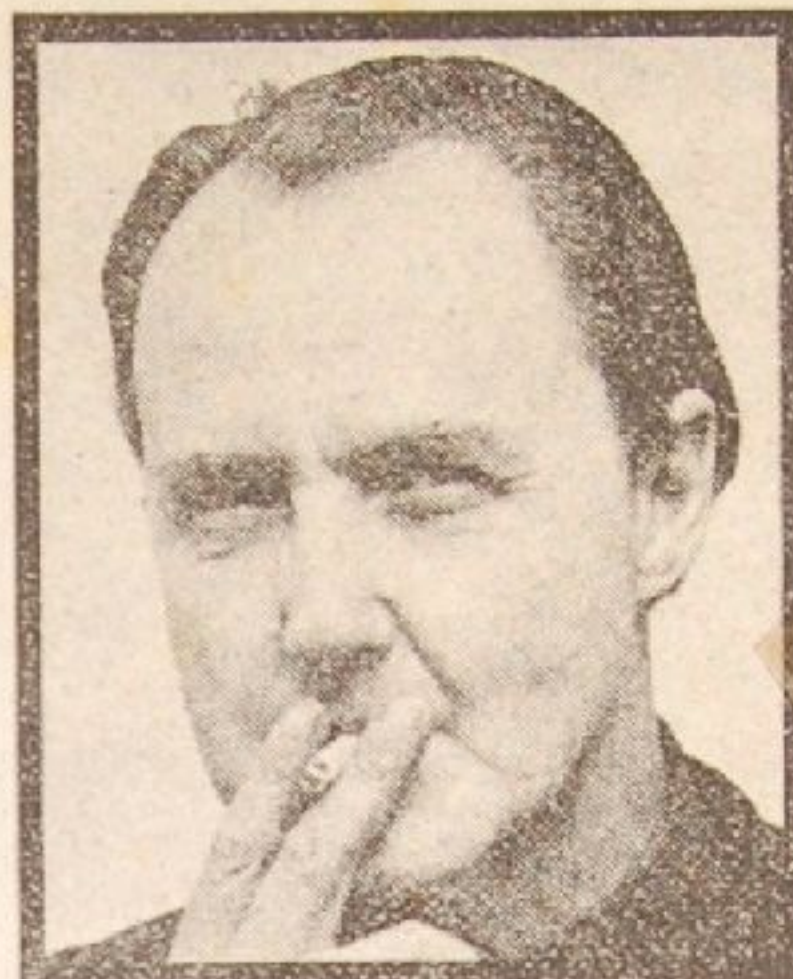
From the outside, a third-floor flat in Aristotle Road, Clapham, South London, looks ordinary enough. But inside, a young married couple conduct weird rites and naked ceremonies.

Each day, 27-year-old Grenville Russell-Gough leaves the flat to go off to work as a London Transport electrician. Each night, he returns to his 23-year-old wife Celia and together they take up their role as witches. Two investigators called on them and were invited into their flat. Just inside the hallway a candle burned on a small altar.

Russell-Gough, who prefers to be called Rusty, said: "I change the oil every day when I come in from work. While that candle burns, I still believe."

Celia was wearing a long scarlet dress.

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATION By Barry Ward



WITCH: Charles Pace calls himself Master Satanist

### Bonfire

She said she was the high priestess. Then turning to Rusty, in tee shirt and dark trousers, she said: "I rule the coven. I have the last word."

Celia said: "We work naked."

"Are you embarrassed about nudity? There's nothing nicer than running round a bonfire in the middle of a forest with nothing

on. You feel much cleaner than if you'd just stepped out of the bath.

"When we take all our clothes off, we're all equal."

"Take my case. When I was first initiated, I'd never seen a man naked."

"I was blindfolded and the first thing I saw when the blindfold was taken off was this enormous naked man."

"I was so embarrassed. But about 30 seconds later, I felt as though

I'd always been like that.

"I mean, do you ever see a baby come into the world with clothes on?"

"Initiation represents rebirth. It's natural."

Since their coven was formed two years ago, Celia and Rusty have carried out eight first-degree initiations, and one second-degree.

"During each occasion the initiate has been naked," said Celia.

"On the first initiation, the person is blind-

folded and her hands are bound. She takes an oath and is scourged, lightly lashed with a whip.

"It symbolises purification. It doesn't hurt at all. The skin isn't broken."

During the second degree ceremony some months later, the initiate is again scourged with a whip. Then oil is dabbed on the chest, followed by red wine.

"The initiate then takes the oath to keep

the higher secrets of the coven," Celia said.

No members were yet eligible, she went on, to take the third-degree, the "Great Rite," which often involves intercourse.

"But," she added, "when the time does come, it will only be carried out between a couple who're already lovers or married."

"Everybody would leave the temple and it would then be up to that couple left on their own to decide for themselves whether sex takes place or not."

"Certainly, no pressure would be put on them and no questions will be asked afterwards."

### Veil

Celia said she took her third-degree "in token" which meant there was no intercourse.

"I lay down in the temple, with a veil covering my naked body," she said.

"Then the High Priest knelt between my legs, kissed me on the lips, and said 'Blessed be.'"

"Then I became a High Priestess."

Said Rusty: "The neighbours know that we're witches. They do not interfere with our work."

"You learn in the craft to be discreet. You know who to tell and who not to."

Many people are attracted to witchcraft in the hope of getting cheap sexual kicks.

"But it doesn't work that way," says David Farrant, the 30-year-old self-styled High Priest of Highgate.

He operates in a derelict house in Crescent Road, Highgate, where he boasts he has himself sexually initiated seven girls.

"To us, sex is regarded as a sacred act," he said.

"We've had wife-swapping parties knocking on the door, pleading to be involved, but I've had to tell them to go away. We'd them to true believers," except

Initiates into Farrant's coven also have to undergo three tests before they can become High Priests or Priestesses.

In his coven, the last of these degrees, the Great Rite, almost always involves sex between the initiate and

people into the magical mysteries. This means learning magical techniques.

"When sex is properly applied in magic, the potential is unlimited."

"When properly trained, for instance, an initiate is able to sustain the orgasm for several minutes; a feat which couldn't be accomplished without the use of magic."

"A High Priest is obligated to teach his followers the art of sexual magic, and to guide them through any sexual experience."

"At the first initiation, the robes and candles are white, at the second they are red, and at the third they are purple."

"Girls are sometimes initiated sexually during the second initiation," Farrant said.

The third degree, the Great Rite, involves the initiation of a High Priest or High Priestess.

The Great Rite is carried out at the Farrant coven "perhaps 14 times a year."

### Power

"All the members of the coven are gathered together for this big event," Farrant said.

"Everyone in the coven has to symbolically transfer his power to aid the new initiate."

"He does this by symbolically kissing all parts of the girl's body as a sign of showing allegiance to her."

"It's known as the 'Five Fold Kiss.'"

"It's true that sex is used on the third initiation. It's a symbolic union between the man and the woman."

"We don't regard it as anything to be ashamed of."

The leader of a group called The Satanists, Ramon Shareth runs the Temple of the Black Pentacle in a small terraced house in Falls-worth, Manchester.

He does not think much of witches.

### Prance

"We look on them as belonging on a lower level," he said. "After all, most of them are just weekend prancers."

"They just go to these covens for a bit of sex and a booze-up."

"Ours is a seven-day religion. We don't make do with two hours a week."

Pauline Lewis, aged 30, a former grammar school girl from Rochdale, told how she was initiated as a Satanist.

"I remember being

very nervous. When I a temple, I v front room my clothes a black silver be

"Then temple, members w robes were a semi-circ altar."

"I was circle. I k a prayer, finished t quietly step and slippe off my sho

### So

"Ramon, priest, then oil on to my heart represent the Love a

"As this temple me away and l alone with

"He unfc altar and a mattress on the floo

"We m 20 minut timed to t second by which ca round the

"When stopped bu our love- was a bea not sordid

When wasn't jus for sex, angry.

"Look," "people w have got There is no in preparin seven day knock-off, v get it any pint of bee

### Ro

"Conside the ritual, robes, the light and wine, the the food.

"Wife-sw are cheap. All it tak car key floor and wine.

"We b energy we is release others."

Both Ra wife Tani have initia

"But I said Tanti sure my hu the same.

"In fact, helped our stops jealou a better t of each oth

"The wo temple and life are tw separate th

Charles

## NEXT WEEK

### More dark secrets of the coven

# THE WITCH R

very nervous," she said. "When I arrived at the temple, I went into the front room, took off all my clothes and put on a black robe with a silver belt.

"Then I entered the temple. Ten other members wearing black robes were standing in a semi-circle round the altar.

"I was led into the circle. I knelt and said a prayer. Then, as I finished the priestess quietly stepped forward and slipped the gown off my shoulders.

## Sordid

"Ramon, as presiding priest, then placed holy oil on to my forehead, my heart and hands to represent the Mind, the Love and the Skill.

"As this finished, the temple members turned away and left a- I was alone with Ramon.

"He unfolded the low altar and from it took a mattress which he lay on the floor.

"We made love for 20 minutes. It was timed to the very last second by a small light which cast shadows round the temple walls.

"When the light stopped burning, so did our love-making. It was a beautiful ritual, not sordid in any way."

When asked if it wasn't just an excuse for sex, Shareth got angry.

"Look," he said, "people who say that have got it all wrong. There is not much sense in preparing a ritual for seven days to get a knock-off, when you can get it anywhere for a pint of beer.

## Robes

"Consider the cost of the ritual. There's the robes, the candles, the light and heating, the wine, the incense and the food.

"Wife-swapping clubs are cheaper than that. All it takes there is a car key to throw on the floor and a bottle of wine.

"We believe the energy we use this way is released to help others."

Both Ramon and his wife Tanith say they have initiated members.

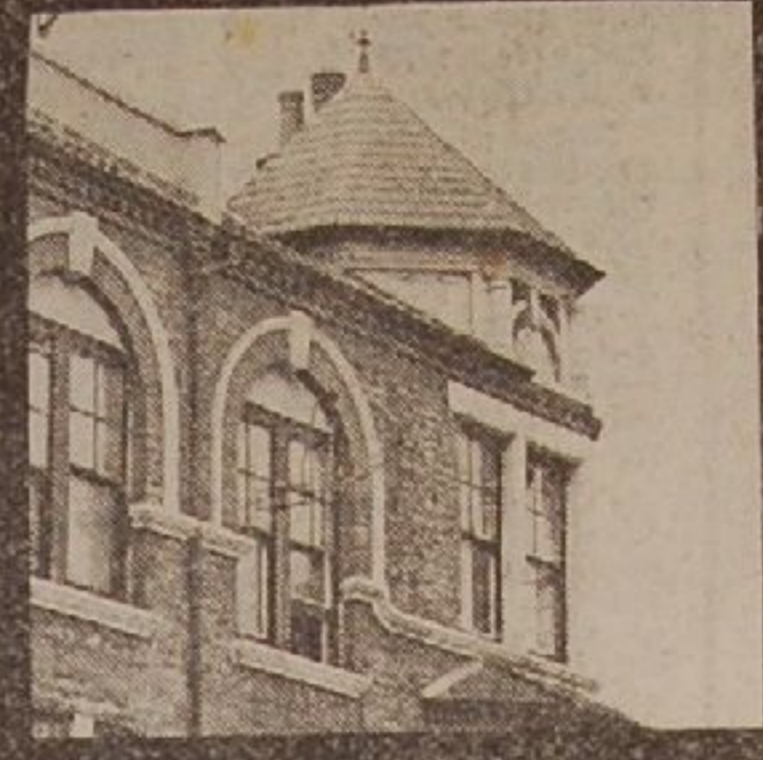
"But I don't mind," said Tanith. "And I'm sure my husband thinks the same.

"In fact, I think it has helped our marriage. It stops jealousy and gives a better understanding of each other.

"The working of the temple and our married life are two completely separate things."

Charles Pace, who

### What goes on inside this flat in Clapham



### What goes on inside this house in Highgate



WITCHES: Celia and Grenville Russell-Gough



WITCHES: David Farrant with prostr

calls himself the Master Satanist, talked to us about the 50 witchcraft orgies he says he has attended.

The last, just ten weeks ago, took place in a large detached house in Lymington, near Bournemouth.

"We all undressed in front of each other, donned robes and started a ritual.

"There were 20 witches present of both sexes. Some were young girls.

"Because of my position as a Master Satanist, I couldn't participate, but I did see sex

being freely practised in the large front room.

"Intercourse took place to the tune of Je t'Aime, the couples making love before the altar, where four black candles burned."

He spoke of a visit to a witchcraft temple in London.

## Models

"It was the eve of the first day of May. The word had got round, and at least 40 people from all over the country were there.

"One was a doctor, another a police inspec-

tor and there were young models.

"But what some of them didn't know was that this was the Night Of All Evil—the great Sabbat, when a young virgin was to be initiated into the coven.

"She was only 21, with beautiful dark hair and a stunning figure.

"The girl was led into the circle. She wore a transparent chiffon robe. She came into the temple blindfolded, led by a server to the altar.

"She was disrobed and lay on the altar spreadeagled. The High Priest took the chalice, which was half filled

with red wine, crushed bread into it, and threw it upon the ground.

"Then, turning to the altar, he invoked Satan, and violated that young woman while 40 of us looked on.

"Afterwards, the whole party proceeded to have a sex orgy.

"Everybody was making love."

Pace, aged 57, also spoke of drug-taking at coven meetings — particularly mescaline.

"But I've seen young boys and girls completely trip out.

"One boy thought he could fly out of the window, believing he was God.

## Trip

"He went completely berserk at another meeting. He smashed things and seized a knife at the altar with the intention of stabbing himself and showing us how the blood flowed.

"Seven of us grabbed him, and somehow we forced a salt solution down his throat.

WEEK

dark

# CH REPORT

*What goes on inside this house in Highgate*



*What goes on inside this house in Failsworth*



WITCHES: David Farrant with prostrate follower



WITCHES: Ramon Shareth initiates Pauline

ere were  
some of  
now was  
the Night  
the great  
a young  
to be  
the coven.  
only 21,  
dark hair  
ng figure.  
was led  
She wore  
t chiffon  
e into the  
olded, led  
to the altar.  
disrobed  
the altar  
The High  
ne chalice,  
half filled

with red wine, crushed bread into it, and threw it upon the ground.  
"Then, turning to the altar, he invoked Satan, and violated that young woman while 40 of us looked on."  
"Afterwards, the whole party proceeded to have a sex orgy. "Everybody was making love."  
Pace, aged 57, also spoke of drug-taking at coven meetings — particularly mescaline.  
"In our circles, it's known as Rolling Away the Stone, which means in fact it rids people of their inhibitions and frustrations.

"But I've seen young boys and girls completely trip out."  
"One boy thought he could fly out of the window, believing he was God."

### Trip

"He went completely berserk at another meeting. He smashed things and seized a knife at the altar with the intention of stabbing himself and showing us how the blood flowed."  
"Seven of us grabbed him, and somehow we forced a salt solution down his throat."

"He had terrorised the coven, yet he remembered nothing about it."  
Pace, who lives in Barrow Road, Streatham, London, added: "I've seen people once so full of life reduced to hulks by the effects of this drug."  
Sadly shaking his head, Pace added: "The naive, the young and the cheap-thrill seekers are taking the road that I first took 40 years ago. I can only tell them that it is a pathway that can only end in great unhappiness."  
Then he went back to his lonely bedgitter.

he boasts he has himself sexually initiated seven girls.

"To us, sex is regarded as a sacred act," he said.

"We've had wife-swapping parties knocking on the door, pleading to be involved, but I've had to tell them to go away. We only accept true believers."

Initiates into Farrant's coven also have to undergo three tests before they can become High Priests or Priestesses.

In his coven, the last of these degrees, the Great Rite, almost always involves sex between the initiate and the head of the coven.

Farrant says that it sometimes takes place in full view of the rest of the coven, but most covens carry it out in privacy.

## Tomb

Tall and thin, Farrant was jailed for four years in 1974 for breaking into a tomb at Highgate Cemetery, interfering with a body and threatening two policemen by sending them voodoo dolls through the post.

He was paroled after serving two-and-a-half years.

He maintains that he was innocent, and is campaigning to prove it.

He talked about the three degrees of witchcraft.

"The first," he said, "is the actual initiation into the coven."

The ceremony is performed between the High Priest and a female initiate and the High Priestess with a male initiate.

The girl initiate is led into the circle of members with her hands bound behind her back with white cords. She kneels and her ankles are then bound.

Her robe is taken off. The girl is then asked various questions and makes oaths and promises, including one not to betray the secrets that she is going to learn.

Said Farrant: "She's then symbolically anointed with oil on the forehead, the breasts and the groin."

The taking of the second degree is usually carried out a year later.

"In our coven," said Farrant, "this is integrated with magic. Its purpose is to initiate

initiated as a Satanist. "I remember being

separate things." Charles Pace, who

## NEXT WEEK

# More dark secrets of the covens