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The only psychic in the village

Apr 14 2007

She's set up an agency to track down love-cheats and has helped police solve some of the nation's biggest crime puzzles. So why does Britain's number one psychic say if she had her time over again, she'd rather not have her 'gift'? Diane Lazarus granted Emily Lambert a sitting

Emily Lambert, Western Mail

IT'S a question which every sceptic wants to ask Diane Lazarus: Can you guess what I'm thinking? Today, sat next to the solicitor's wife, I ask her if she can tell me what item I purchased yesterday (it's a boat and I tell her it's a big item).

She asks if it's a car, but then warns me that I've told her too much and her assumption has fogged the psychic visions. She doesn't guess again.

At regular readings, she will sit the client on her right side and face away from them, looking towards a blank wall opposite, where visions will appear to her.

"I don't like to look at people because you get into a situation where you assume," says Diane. "There's a fine line between your psychic ability and what you think."

"I hear voices in my head and my guides help me (her guides being her great great grandfather, who she refers to as the "lined man" and late cousin Peter)."

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She's used to being asked such questions; used to defending the "gift"; used to people wanting to prove her wrong.

Officially Britain's top psychic - she won last year's Psychic Challenge on Channel 5 at least - she's met her fair share of non-believers.

You only have to do a quick internet search on her name to see them challenging Diane's abilities, questioning her psychic powers and the amount of help she has really given police in murder investigations.

But the 42-year-old mother-of-two from West Wales doesn't seem that bothered.

Since winning the Psychic Challenge, she has been inundated with offers from TV, radio and from people hoping to harness her psychic ability to find missing relatives, partners having a fling, or help solve crimes.

People from all walks of life, from judges to brain surgeons, visit Diane's office near her home in Cross Hands for a variety of reasons - it might be their career, a health or relationship issue, or to contact one of their dear departed.

She also uses her mental powers to track down cheating husbands and unfaithful wives, akin to a psychic detective agency.

"So many people were ringing me and asking me for help that I decided to start up the agency.

"One lady phoned asking where her child was, crying that something awful had happened, and I reassured her.

"I said, 'Don't worry, he'll be back by four o'clock' and, sure enough, he was."

Sometimes, however, Diane has a feeling the missing

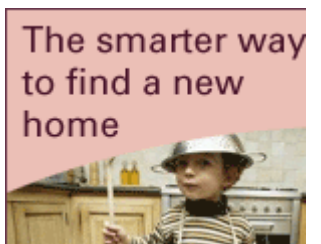
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person may never be found.

She said, "I have to be diplomatic then and the two ex-officers who are part of the agency will go into action looking for clues as to what could have happened.

"I feel I can help give them an edge in their inquiries by picking things up from relatives. I get a lot of calls from people who ask me if I can tell them if their husbands or wives are cheating on them.

"It's no good me just giving them my feelings, although they are usually right, they might want photographic evidence as well."

So how does it work then? And what happens during a psychic reading.

It is, according to Diane, a very specific procedure and one which she can turn on and off.

"I don't go to the hairdresser's and watch spirits walking around, although I do get tested by people wherever I go to find out what I can do. It's as if everybody wants a message."

She says she doesn't eat beforehand because she doesn't want her blood to flow to her stomach, and the more water she drinks before the reading, the better the psychic flow.

She's had a flurry of electricians in and out of the house, which she puts down to pent-up energy.

If she's angry about something, the lightbulbs often blow, she says.

"If I don't work for a while I seem to build up a lot of energy. I break computers and microwaves. We've had no end of electricians in and out of the house, particularly if I'm in a mood."

The psychic readings, which can last several hours, leave her totally exhausted.

She cannot say what percentage of her psychic observations are accurate, but says that feedback is positive.

She has, at the request of former police officers and criminologists, revisited the scenes of horrific crimes and told those concerned what happened.

The dead victims often talk to her and take her on the route of their murder - frequently, she'll see the whole crime take place and feel the pain of the victim.

"I hate doing it and I really try to avoid it. I get hundreds of phone calls about missing people."

She liaised with criminologist Bob Hinton to try to uncover

new information on the murder of TV presenter Jill Dando, before the suspect was arrested, and went to the murder scene.

"I stood across the road and focused on the house and as I did so Jill came back and hovered behind me.

"'He'd been watching me,' she said, 'for quite a while. I knew him. I'd seen his face'."

Diane claims that Jill told her he had a nearby flat which was full of newspapers and Diane had a vision of a man walking calmly away after the murder, to return later to his flat and stash the weapon.

She says now, "When Barry George was caught, he certainly seemed to fit my description of the killer and yet I'm still not quite convinced it was him. Neither's Bob."

One of the most recent cases she has worked on was that of Sandhurst officer cadet Blake Hartley, who went missing more than two years ago.

"The family invited me out to Geneva, where the young lad had gone missing. He'd been murdered and put in a river.

"It was awful. I ended up traipsing through a river in the freezing cold and they found a thigh bone there and have the DNA. I know who did it but I'm afraid to say."

Married to solicitor Peter Lazarus, Diane sometimes assists him in his court work and has liaised with him in a number of murder trials.

"He's taken me to murder scenes and had me describe in front of QCs what happened in a murder case. I go to court for him quite often.

"When I see the person on the stand I'll ask him to ask a certain question and it often opens a can of worms."

Her visions are not always positive, she explains.

She recalls one particularly upsetting case when she did a reading and healing session for a vibrant young mother - and saw a vision of her funeral.

"I saw a hearse submerged in flowers driving away from her house and dozens of weeping people.

"She was going to die. She had liver cancer and it had spread.

"That was horrendous. It really affected me.

"It was one of the worst experiences of my life. I wanted to snatch my hands off her shoulders and walk away. But I couldn't. I couldn't take away her hope.

"It's not always a blessing to have such a gift. It can be a

curse at times. You don't always want to know things."

Diane is happy to work on less high-profile work.

She said, "I get a lot of people ringing me about their lost dog or cat and asking if I can sense if they are still alive or where they may be.

"I'm quite happy to help, being an animal lover myself.

"I know that many people regard their little pet dog or cat as part of their family."

Last year, she was asked to fly to Ireland to help find missing County Down man Martin Kelly.

His mysterious disappearance attracted huge media interest in Ireland and an Irish TV company asked Diane to help find "Marty". Mr Kelly, 21, from Holywood, went missing on New Year's Day in 2006 after going with friends to Pat's Bar in Garmoyle Street in the docks area of County Down.

The psychic says her children, Liam, aged 12, and 19-year-old Lisa, have also been displaying psychic powers for years. And according to Diane, her daughter, a part-time model who is studying radiography in London, drew partially on her contact with the spirit world to pass her GCSEs with some A stars.

"My son Liam already uses his psychic ability.

"I remember one day we were in a friend's house having coffee, Liam turned around to my friend Wendy and said a man would be coming to knock the door.

"There was no-one due to come at that time but within a few minutes a man knocked at the door with a delivery for Wendy.

"My daughter Lisa has also used her natural gift.

"I remember a time she described exactly a house we were moving into six months before we saw the house. She also used her intuition to pass her exams."

Says Lisa, "I open my shakras (energy points) before doing exams as it helps me relax. It helps me gain intuition and spiritual help doing the exam which a lot of other people don't have.

"I use my senses to help me in my social life too because it can be helpful in choosing who to trust and who not to trust."

Diane added, "We all have a gut feeling or intuition or what some call an inner voice about some things but people with psychic abilities can go a step further and use spirit guides to help them.

"After shows I have done in all parts of Wales parents have come up to me with their children saying he or she has demonstrated psychic ability.

"It can be frightening for some children who get teased by their friends or even sent to the doctor.

"I remember feeling very confused when I first had a vision and it was not until later I realised I had a gift I could help people with.

"I started off by making all sorts of predictions and when I started getting them right my mother conceded I had some sort of gift."

She's even produced a CD, It's all in a Dream, which is designed to help children who have psychic abilities to recognise them and use them.

"A number of children demonstrate a strong intuitive sense and some can even see auras on other people.

"Often, they get teased and sometimes even bullied if they talk about it.

"I want to help highlight the fact that some people can have extraordinary abilities."

She has now written her autobiography, Mixed Blessings, which charts her unique life and the psychic events which have surrounded her.

Mirrors mist up if something bad is going to happen, Diane says.

Most recently her car rear-view mirror fogged over on the way home and she arrived home knowing that her dog had got under the cover of their swimming pool and drowned.

Diane believes that when you die, if you have behaved badly on this earth you will pay your penance in the afterlife.

When her violent father died, she saw his spirit at his funeral in Cardiff looking gaunt and miserable.

The guilt comes back to haunt us, she believes.

"If we've lived good lives we join our old families and friends in a beautiful place.

"But if we have hurt people then the true knowledge of the effects of our behaviour hits us and we truly understand the pain we have caused.

"Spooky? That's my life."


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