

FOUR PAGES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

CURVE

TAKE A DIFFERENT LINE

HOW I
FREED

POWER? George Dryden

MY

SIXTH
SENSE

Sitting in a cosy room in an elderly people's home in Desborough, I placed the black and white photo of a boy on my lap and began to scribble furiously on my pad, as psychic medium Ginny Patterson had instructed. "This person is very good at drawing, but not normal painting of objects or landscapes, more technical using lots of lines and with a ruler," I said.

"He's also got a wooden pencil case to keep his pencils in."

"He's a right mischief and was always getting into trouble at school and is still a real joker as an adult."

"I'm also getting a really strong scent of sweet flowers and I can see greenhouses."

Even Ginny looked amazed, then went on to reveal that the young boy was her brother, now grown up, but just as much of a scallywag as he was in his prank-filled schooldays.

More curiously, he got a high grade in technical drawing at college and now designs and does people's gardens.

Don't ask me how I knew that, because I haven't a clue.

Maybe I'm just a lucky guesser, or maybe Ginny is right in her claim that we all have a sixth sense, but most of us never choose to use it. I was in Desborough for a workshop run by Ginny, to see if there was any truth in this claim.

PSYCHIC POWER?
THAT'S ALL
RUBBISH, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S WHAT
**GEORGE
DRYDEN**
THOUGHT, UNTIL
SHE SPENT AN
AFTERNOON
WITH GINNY
PATTERSON

In this exercise, everyone there had to read a photograph someone else had brought along.

We were one short, so Ginny gave me a pile she had brought in and told me to sift through it, telling me I would be drawn to one more than the others.

It was then that my cynicism started to vanish.

Dismiss mysticism as hocus pocus if you will, but spend an afternoon with this ordinary mum-of-two and you too could well be eating your words.

She doesn't use crystal balls, hasn't got a black cat and would never contemplate reading tea leaves wearing a red-spotted headscarf.



ARTWORK: IAN FRANKLIN

ON A HIGHER PLANE? Psychic medium Ginny Patterson claims we all have a sixth sense, but most of us never choose to use it

What she does have is an extraordinary ability to "see spirits" – and is convinced that we can all see them.

You wouldn't have an inkling that she's a respected medium if you passed her in the street. She's about five foot six, with blonde hair and brown eyes.

At the workshop on awakening the sixth sense, she slipped off her flip flops and wandered barefoot about the room, checking we were all getting on OK.

From as early as five years old, Ginny could see spirits who had passed over, including, rather oddly, a horse which used to visit her in her bedroom.

"My experiences started when I was really young," she explains shortly after introducing herself.

"I remember there was this gentleman who used to come to talk to me in my bedroom."

"A few months ago, someone gave me a photo of my great, great grandfather. I recognised him straight away. It was the same man."

"I also used to go horse riding when I was a little girl and I used to take the long route around this one particular field because I could see dead people hanging from a tree."

I believed Ginny's stories, al-

though I've never had an experience like that myself. I was resigned to failure.

Maybe all the cynics who say it's all just coincidence are right, I thought.

But, about five minutes later, my left side suddenly felt icy cold, even though the room was comfortably warm.

I moved uncomfortably in my seat and kept looking over at Jacky, Ginny's assistant, to see if she had noticed anything amiss. The lady next to me put her coat back on.

Jacky laughed and asked us what was wrong.

"There's someone standing

there, isn't there?" I said, with a tone of conviction which surprised me.

"Yes," she answered. "It's an elderly gentleman."

I felt quite unnerved – but that would be nothing compared to the events which unfolded over the next few hours.

Ginny talked to us, explaining what it's all about, making us think back to experiences we had probably already had, but dismissed.

Animals and babies in particular are born experts in psychic awareness, Ginny said. More of

SEE **SIXTH SENSE** P20, COL 1