

# Halloween Special: A Ghostly Execution

Just over 150 years ago, Dumfries played host to the last public execution of a woman in Scotland when Mary Reid (or Timney), was hanged in front of a crowd of thousands at the old Buccleuch Street Prison.

Mary, who was thought to have lived at Carsfad cottages on the A713 north of Dalry, was found guilty of murdering a neighbour following an argument which clearly got of hand. After a gut-wrenching build up and high drama on the day itself, Mary met her maker at twenty three minutes past eight on the morning of 29 April 1862.

Local paranormal team, Mostly Ghostly Investigations, marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mary's

execution with one of their popular Dumfries Ghost Walks.

"The team feels that Mary's tragic tale has captured the public's imagination," says Kathleen Cronie of Mostly Ghostly. "Mary's story is an intriguing insight into the events of that fateful day in 1862 and in addition to this, participants have reported a number of unexplained occurrences on the site of the old prison..."

Kathleen goes on to tell us about a bizarre incident which occurred on one of the Mostly Ghostly tours. Below is an eye-witness account:

*"My family and I had the strangest experience... The guide was telling our group about the hanging of a lady there years ago. Out of the corner of my eye I could see a small light, just above a young girl's head. The light moved down to the top of her head,*

*then disappeared. At the same time she jumped and started rubbing her head.*

*"As we left the location, I said to the girl: 'Did something touch you on the head back there?' She answered: 'Yes, how did you know?'" I replied; 'I saw it touch you.' I can't explain what happened that evening..."*

Kathleen says: "We at Mostly Ghostly cannot say for sure who or what is responsible for these unusual occurrences. However, places where people have met tragic, untimely or violent ends are often associated with hauntings. There can be few places with stronger emotional imprints than the site of public executions."

Mostly Ghostly have two Halloween Tours planned for Wednesday 31 October, at 7pm and 9pm.

*If anyone has information on the Mary Timney case, or any ghostly stories pertaining to the Glenkens, Mostly Ghostly would love to hear from you. To get in touch call 07791 047835 or visit [www.mostlyghostly.org](http://www.mostlyghostly.org)*

## Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

We are very disappointed that despite meetings with officers of Dumfries & Galloway Council over the last year there has been no progress on our proposals for taking over management of the Town Hall.

Neither has the Council followed up its own plans for local consultations as conveyed to us a year ago.

At the 'hustings' meeting earlier this year, all candidates professed support for the Town Hall. Given that it is now, I believe, seven years since the Council proposed that local groups should take responsibility for their various community buildings, and nearly four years since LING informed them of our interest, we are writing formally to request that a decision is made and an appropriate agreement put in place.

*Ros Hill, Chairman*

## PHOTO OF THE ISSUE

This issue's winner is Louise McClure from Dalmellington, with this quirky photo.

Louise says: "We popped up to say hello, and met this cheeky little chappie while enjoying a stroll along the banks of the river Ken."

Louise wins a meal for two at the Cross Keys Hotel in New Galloway. Next issue's prize will be a meal for two at the Thistle Inn in Crossmichael. So send in those snaps!

