

shapes other people's minds, gets them edgy too. I shouldn't have said it."

A few more minutes passed.

"Then Derek said, there's somebody talking, behind the car," Kathleen continued. "We turned, but there was nobody there. Then Mary said that she felt really distressed, as if she was about to be told something that was unbearably sad, so sad she wouldn't be able to take it. And a huge surge of emotion came over me and I started crying."

They tried to switch on the interior light. It didn't work. Derek turned the ignition key to check the electrics. His engine started. "Everybody was so scared, we just fled," Kathleen said shamefacedly.

The measure of real courage is what comes next. The team gave each other a rollicking, turned the car round, and went back. They sat in the same place and waited again, until they had to call it a night — more correctly a day — and drive home.

They are ruthless in their self-criticism — but all the training in the world can do little about natural fear. However, each is utterly convinced that there was some sort of presence outside the car, but concedes that fear communicates quickly and magnifies events out of proportion. In the high-octane tension, they recorded nothing but their own terror.

"We're going back," Kathleen said grimly. "Next time, we'll do it properly."

So, what have these early investigations uncovered? Part of their approach is to research archives, to establish what has caused the suspected haunting, and exactly who was involved. Strangely, historical research yielded nothing — in either case.

"For something as famous as the Green Lady, you'd think there would be some report of an accident in the theatre," Derek said. "But there's nothing. I'm wondering if there is a Green Lady, because Green and Grey and White Ladies are scattered everywhere in ghost stories. I'm wondering if, where a lot of things are happening, it's only human nature to

attribute this to a single source. People feel more comfortable with that."

"I think there's more than one spirit active in that theatre," Kathleen added.

Searching newspaper archives and talking to locals drew another blank at Garlieston. "Nobody can remember any sort of accident, or murder, in the area that would account for the little girl," said Kathleen. "Maybe it was something from the very distant past — there were all sorts of terrible events in the persecution of Covenanters locally."

Thus far, Mostly Ghostly have come up with more questions than answers: this was pretty much what they expected. So they are anything but discouraged.

"Why should we be?" demanded Kathleen. "I've always wanted to experience a ghost, and now I've heard my first sets of ghostly footsteps. I'm so excited!"

For future plans, they are determined to look at both the Theatre Royal and the Straight again, bringing more experience to the job. They will be looking at Sorbie Tower and Jedburgh Jail (see *The Scots Magazine*, December 2005) at some stage, plus sitting in on another research team's investigation at Penrith, while the collection and collation of ghostly tales goes on. Mostly Ghostly now have their own web site, where reports and updates of their investigations can be followed, or new stories filed.

"I'm fair chuffed with what we've done, so far," said Kathleen. "We've come a long way. Now, let's see if we can find something!"

"It's not just proving the ghost story is true, or false," Derek said. "You get as big a kick trying to discover the reasons behind the story."

This is a research group which have faced down their fears. More than ever, they are determined to carry on investigating. **■**

**Photographs by  
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