

MOSTLY GHOSTLY INVESTIGATIONS



COME WALK WITH US...



The Mostly Ghostly team

As our intrepid ghost hunters from Mostly Ghostly gear up for the launch of their new ghost walks venture, **Kathleen Cronie** invites *Dumfries & Galloway Life* readers to join them for a walk on the dark side...

With Mostly Ghostly's second anniversary fast approaching, we couldn't think of a better time to launch our latest exciting venture,

The Dumfries Ghost Walk, than on our birthday – Halloween night!

The idea of a ghost walk came to us while reflecting on the many eerie stories and legends connected with Dumfries and its rich, turbulent history. In fact, it seemed like a natural progression for the team, giving us the opportunity to share our passion for all things mysterious and ghostly, and perhaps picking up a few interesting snippets along the way. Almost a year later, we have gathered a wealth of material; more than enough for two or even three walks. We plan to present these stories in our own unique way, providing a darkly intriguing experience that is fun, educational and interactive.

One of our aims is for the walk to play an important role in encouraging the regeneration of Dumfries town centre, providing an interesting alternative for local people and tourists alike, who wish to learn more about the town and do something different in the evenings. Dumfries, understandably, puts a great deal of emphasis on Robert Burns – however, we want to show that it has links with many other notable people and events in history, and can lay claim to some truly spectacular architecture. For many years, ghost walks have been a regular part of social culture in places like Edinburgh and we firmly believe that Dumfries, with its 824-year history, has every bit as much to offer.

Through our research, we have discovered many disturbing tales covering subjects such as persecution, murder, horrific punishments and witchcraft. One of the most famous stories concerns the tragic and unjust end which met nine women convicted of witchcraft. In April 1659, large crowds gathered to watch in horror as they were strangled to death and burned on the Whitesands. But who were these women? What, if anything, connected them and what bizarre accusations led to their deaths?

Although there is a distinctly grim element to these stories, they are deeply absorbing and help to highlight the harsh realities of life through the ages. In fact, since we began researching the walks, we have gained a greater sense of appreciation towards our surroundings and hope others will follow suit.

We are launching our venture on Halloween, and on this, the spookiest date in the calendar, we have scheduled two walks. We will also be organising a number of walks throughout the year and are happy to take private group bookings for those who prefer a more exclusive experience. We plan to run our first full season in the summer of 2011.

So next time you're taking a stroll around Dumfries, keep your eyes and ears open for any ghostly figures from days gone by – and if by chance you should see, hear or feel something, don't forget to tell the Mostly Ghostly team!

■ Tickets for Mostly Ghostly's Dumfries Ghost Walk are £6 for adults, £4 for children, concessions for OAPs and students. A family ticket (two adults and up to three children) is £16 and there's a 10 per cent discount for private bookings for groups over 20 (based on adult price).

For more information, see the Mostly Ghostly website: www.mostlyghostly.org. You can contact the Mostly Ghostly team on 07751 722008 or email mostly.ghostly@hotmail.co.uk.