

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Charity No. SC034056) NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

Next Meeting will be held in the Lesser Town Hall, Maybole
MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2015 at 7.30pm



OUR SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER IS
DAVID WARRINGTON speaking
about SCOTLAND'S DARK SKY
OBSERVATORY

Membership 2015-2016

New Members are always welcome and if you would like to join the Society please contact the treasurer:

Individual £10

Couples at same address £15

Students & Disabled – Free

Please make cheques payable to “**Maybole Historical Society**” and send to **Mr. K. Gray, 48 St. Leonard's Road, Ayr KA7 2PT**

If you have any changes to your address, e-mail etc. please let us know to keep our database up to date – thanks.

Dates for your diary: 2015/2016

2nd November

7th December

1st February 2016

7th March

4th April

9th May - AGM

The UK has some of the largest areas of dark sky in Europe. You can find dark skies near where you live, if you can get away from bright lights such as street lighting. This could be in your back garden, a local park or getting out of town altogether. Under a really dark sky we can see over 1,000 stars. We can even see our own galaxy, the Milky Way, stretching across the sky. David Warrington, astronomer should have come in the spring but unfortunately injured his foot the day before our meeting and had to cancel but we are delighted to welcome him to find out more about Scotland's dark sky observatory. David is a science educator at the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory, just outside Dalmellington which occupies a fantastic hilltop site on the edge of the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park, so sit back and be prepared to be amazed about the skies above us.

EXHIBITION – KEIR HARDIE

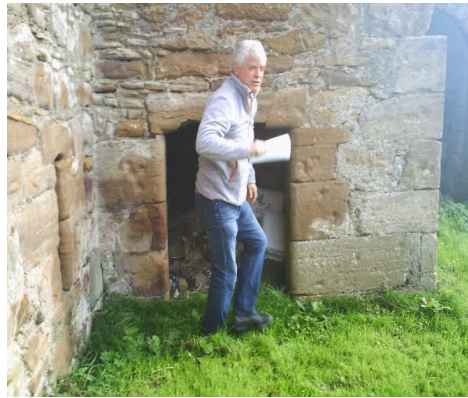
The political pioneer **Keir Hardie** died a hundred years ago in September 1915 but his legend endures. From the humblest beginning in poverty, he became one of the best known public figures of his time. He was a Member of Parliament, founder of a major political party and an advocate of votes for women and other causes. But, for all his achievements, he died a disappointed and broken man. It is appropriate that there is an exhibition in Cumnock, for it was here that Hardie had his family home for the last 25 years of his life. Using many of his personal belongings and related material drawn from the Lochnorris Collection, the exhibition looks at the man, his political philosophy, his family life and his legacy. **Baird Institute, 3 Lugar Street, Cumnock until 19th December 2015 – entry free Thursday-Saturdays from 11am-5pm**

GIRVAN & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

McKechnie Institute, Girvan - World War 1 Exhibition with many exhibits and alongside this is Ian Jones's research on all local names, written on the war memorial board belonging to St. John's Church in Piedmont Road. Running at the same time in the old library will be **A PEEP AT OUR SHOPS**, a 'reading' exhibition, mainly, hopefully throwing up a few gems of information about the rich heritage of the area, regarding local businesses and shops, up until 1960's and is still an ongoing research. Also on display will be some photographs and maps from the McKechnie Collections.

Coming up on Thursday 22 October the 8th Thomas Duncan Lecture. This is a presentation by Mr Ken Paterson on the role played by Sir William MacEwan in establishing the "Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and soldiers" at Erskine.

Nancy MacGregor was recently contacted by Alan and Annie McIlvain from Bryn Mawr Pennsylvania USA to see if she could show them round their ancestral homes. Nancy researched their family tree and was able to give them a lot of information about their family, the earliest being Alan McIlvean who died in 1280. The McIlveans were once the Lairds of Grimmet and Attiquin and later through marriage acquired Thomaston Castle. Roy and Nancy took them round all these places and at Thomaston they met Lord David, Marquess of Ailsa.



The McIlvains,
left and Alan
exploring
Thomaston
Castle.

Many thanks to Nancy and Roy for spending their time to show the McIlvains around the district.

ROZELLE'S WOODEN STATUES-AYR

If you have not seen the wooden statues that commemorate World War I, take a trip down to Rozelle as they are worth seeing. An area was cleared of pine trees and some left and then cut by experienced woodsmen. The setting is still a work in progress but benches have been put in and new trees have still to be planted.



Two of the statues that
can be seen in Rozelle
Park.