



**MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
(Charity No. SC034056)  
**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015**

Next Meeting will be held in the Lesser Town Hall, Maybole  
**MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 at 7.30pm**

**OUR SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY IS TOM BARCLAY** speaking about **“AYRSHIRE'S GREAT WAR”** the local impact of the 1914-1918 global conflict

**Tom Barclay never fails in his history talks and we are delighted once again to welcome him to the Society to speak this time about Ayrshire's part in the Great War. He will follow the course of the conflict, and look at its effect on the county's men and women and on those from further afield who were brought here by the war.**

**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**

7<sup>th</sup> March  
4<sup>th</sup> April  
9<sup>th</sup> May - AGM



**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
REQUIRED**

The Society has vacancies for committee members and we would be delighted to hear from **YOU**. Please consider about standing for election to the MHS Committee at the **AGM in May** – **WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU** - Thanks

## **WORLD WAR ONE – CARRICK HERALD 4th January 1916 MAYBOLE LADY IN SERBIA**

Hospital Sister in the Hands of the Enemy

We learned that among the members of "the Scottish Women's Hospital" in Serbia and now in the hands of the enemy is a Maybole lady, **Sister J. Andrew**, who is a sister of Mr Wm Andrew, Solicitor, Ayr and Maybole.

Sister Andrew, who received her training in the Glasgow Infirmary, Glasgow, went out to Serbia with the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit, which is in the charge of Dr Elsie Inglis, Edinburgh.

When the Austro-German Army swept over Serbia and drove the Serbian Army before them, the various hospitals organised by the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit were for a time removed from point to point with the retreating Serbs. Many of the nurses accompanying the fleeing Serbian Army escaped from the country through the mountains of Montenegro, suffering great hardships and privations on the way; and it was from some of those returned nurses that it was learned that Sister Andrew was among those members of the Scottish Women's Hospital staff who were left behind, having remained with Dr Inglis and other sisters to nurse the wounded at Krushevatz. Mr Wm. Andrew has been informed by the Headquarters of the Scottish Women's Hospital that on the advance of the enemy, the staff were given the opportunity of clearing out if they wished. Sister Andrew, however, as already stated was one of the party who elected to remain while retaining her freedom in connection with her hospital duties, nominally is a prisoner in the hands of the Austro-Germans. Nothing has been heard from Sister Andrew personally, but a postcard, dated 24th Nov, has been received by the Scottish Women's Hospital Headquarters from one of their doctors, stating "all well, busy in hospital here" She was released and returned home via Switzerland and was honoured by the women of Maybole.

**EXHIBITION AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL BY ARTIST JOHN BELLANY 20/1/16-16/4/16 except 15-20 February and Sundays**

With the Burns season well and truly in action for a couple of months, it is nice to cast our minds back to another lady who made her home in Maybole – namely the mother of Burns – **Agnes Brown**, (17 March 1732 – 14 January 1820). Her father, Gilbert, was the tenant of the 300 acre farm of Craigenton, in Kirkoswald parish. She was the oldest of her five siblings, and was aged just 10 when her mother, Agnes Rainie, died. In 1744, after her father Gilbert was remarried to Margaret Blaine, she was sent to live in Maybole with her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Rainie. Agnes attended a dame school held in a weaver's cottage and learned the psalms by heart, picked up some basic reading skills, but writing was not part of her education and she never even learned to write her own name. She met William Burnes or Burness, eleven years her senior, a market gardener, at the Maybole Fair in 1756. They married on the 3 December 1757 in Ayr, and settled at Alloway, living in a clay cottage that William had planned and built himself.

Here they were to raise four of their seven children, including her eldest, Robert Burns. In 1767, about a year after moving to Mount Oliphant, Agnes gave birth to William Burnes (b. 30 July), followed at roughly two year intervals by John (b. 10 July 1769) and Isobel (b. 27 July 1771). Later homes were Lochlea, Mossgiel, and finally Grant's Braes, Bolton, near Haddington in East Lothian where she died and is buried.



After December's snippet about curling ponds in Rozelle – once again curling turns up but this time with the involvement of **Ian Jones**, a member of the Society and **Tom Barclay**, a local Historical Librarian who assisted with the television programme "Border Life". Ian Jones took the presenter Sandy McCracken out to Ailsa Craig to tell him about the history of "Paddy's Milestone". Tom Barclay spoke about the origin of the name Ailsa Craig from historical sources and then the programme moved on to the making of curling stones at Mauchline and then a visit to North West Castle Hotel to hear about the beginnings of their ice rink. If you have not been sent the link to see this programme online please find it below. ENJOY

<http://www.itv.com/news/border/update/2016-01-19/watch-border-life-episode-93-online/>