

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 26 * August, 2003

Crosshill * Dunure * Kirkmichael * Kirkoswald * Maidens * Maybole * Minishant * Straiton * Turnberry



NEXT MEETING

COVENANTERS

An illustrated talk presented by

DANE LOVE

MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

Monday

1st September

7.30 p.m.



ALL WELCOME

VISITORS £0.50

Having had to cancel our February meeting due to probably the worst weather of the winter, we at last get a chance to hear Dane talk on one of the many subjects on which he is a recognised local expert.

AUTUMN/WINTER PROGRAMME

October 6th – **Major Shaw** (Curator RHF Museum)

Sources for Military History

November 3rd – **Kevin Wilbraham** (Ayrshire Archives)

The early story of Poor Relief in Scotland

December 1st – **Tom Barclay** (South Ayrshire Libraries)

Cromwell's Ayrshire

February 2nd 2004

Society Burns Night – Maybole Town Hall



The Society will be making a **VISIT TO BLAIRQUHAN** on Tuesday 9th September at 7.00 p.m. The visit will include a tour of the gardens and house and will end with sandwiches and wine. Cost £8.00. Numbers are limited and only a very few tickets are

left so would anyone interested please contact Helen McAdam (Tel. 01655 884255) or Dave Killicoat (Tel. 07776 445033) or see them no later than the meeting on 1st September. A bus is being provided and departs from Maybole Station at 6.30 p.m.

It is hoped to organise further outings to other local historic buildings of importance.

Maybole Historical Society meets on the first Monday of each month from September to December and February to May inclusive

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to two of the founder members of the Society.

David Hunter has at last been recognised for his stalwart work in recording and promoting the history of Carrick and South West Scotland. At the AGM of the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies in May, David was awarded the John Strawhorn Memorial Quaich.



Stuart Wilson of AFHS presents David Hunter with the Quaich

As well as recently winning his long fight to secure renewal of planning permission, **James Brown** has at last managed to secure funding of £300,000 from Historic Scotland to help him turn his dream of restoring that "stately fyne house" of Baltersan, pictured below, into reality. We wish James well in this project and hope he manages to confirm all the necessary partnership funding in the near future. We look forward to one day being able to add this house to our list of visits.



A VERY BUSY SUMMER

Although there have been no regular meetings since the beginning of May, your society has been anything but idle.

Local History Month in May was a great success. An exhibition was prepared with computerised resources, reference books, old maps, photographs and our own display greatly enhanced by contributions from Ayrshire Archives and South Ayrshire Council Museums Service. Our thanks go to Kevin Wilbraham and Christine Lodge of Ayrshire Archives and Liz Kwasnik and Jilly Boid of the Museums Service for the efforts they made to provide us with some excellent material.

The exhibition visited Straiton, Kirkmichael, Dunure, Kirkoswald and Crosshill as well as appearing four times at Maybole Castle. It was very well received and apart from one venue the Society representatives were kept very busy answering queries on the particular local history of each place and helping out with family history queries. One topic which recurred frequently in the questions asked was "How do we trace the history of our house?" Although we were able to help in most cases, it was apparent that a pamphlet is needed to detail the process and subsequent to discussions with Ayrshire Archives it is hoped that something along these lines will be produced soon.

Between the end of Local History Month and going to the huge Family History Fair in York, the display was on view in Rozelle House in Ayr. The Society display has now been returned to the Local & Family History Centre in the Resource Centre and will shortly be joined by a permanent exhibition of the material provided by the archives and museums.



(Above left) The display of excerpts from Maybole archives and photographs of the Maybole Regalia (Above right) A visitor examines the Society display at Crosshill Gala.

The Society also had a presence in the Carnegie Building in Maybole during Adult Learning Week and the pamphlet "Surf Your Way into History", which was prepared for this event, is now part of our series of publications.

For the first time the Society took part in the Maybole Gala and as well as a stand at the Gala, we had a car in the parade. This proved very worthwhile as it let people know we were there and certainly attracted several people to our display.



Maybole Historical Society
All communications to the society
may be addressed to the society
c/o Maybole Resource Centre
48/50 High Street
MAYBOLE
KA19 7BZ

Committee 2003-4

Hon. President – J. Murray Cook
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Chair - Helen McAdam
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair/Acting Secretary

Dave Killicoat

e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk

(Tel. 07776 445033)

Treasurer - Jack Boyd

9 Kincaig Court, Maybole, KA19 8AQ
Tel. 01655 882109

Members -

Willy Connelly

Alex Davidson

David Kiltie

Any member who would like to join the committee or help the society in any other way please contact any one of the above.

CAN YOU HELP?

We would really like to welcome some new members on to the committee and, if at all possible, find a volunteer to act as secretary. None of this requires too much work as eight committee meetings are held each year (a fortnight before each regular meeting) and the post of secretary mainly involves keeping the minutes and writing an occasional letter.

MEMBERSHIP –

ALL MEMBERS WHO LAST PAID PRIOR TO 1st FEBRUARY 2002 PLEASE NOTE THAT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR RENEWAL.

Membership, once paid, is valid until 1st September 2004.

Membership is only £10.00 and covers individuals or couples staying in the same household. Individuals who are registered disabled and anyone in full time education can join the society free of charge. **Please send all membership applications and renewals (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address above.**

THE BUSY SUMMER CONTINUES – SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OUTINGS

Between the beginning of June and the beginning of August, the Society had four outings which attracted small, enthusiastic groups of members and friends who all agreed that they were very definitely worth coming to.

On Monday 2nd June, Mary Hendry took us on a guided tour of Kirkoswald. The intention was to cover the new church, the village, Souter Johnnie's Cottage and the Old Kirkyard however we had to miss out this last one as there was so much to see in the rest of the village we ran out of time (we just could not miss the cup of tea and home baking Mary offered us!). The good news – for all those that missed the first trip – is that we will be going back on a weekend during the autumn to complete the tour. Watch this newsletter for details.



On Tuesday 17th June, David Hunter once more gave us the benefit of his vast knowledge and experience in local history by giving our group a conducted tour of the policies at Bargany, home of the Dalrymple Hamilton Family. Although we did not see inside the house itself, David brought the whole place alive and left us with

the impression that the house was probably the least important part of the estate.

Sunday 20th July saw a group of our members heading up Gardenrose Path and beyond the cross roads to make our way up the track to the ancient hill fort of Dunan (Howmoor) in somewhat blustery conditions. This particular fort is very accessible however we did make the mistake of blocking the entrance to the field – not

designed to enamour us to the locals. Once on top we were able to look out on what is probably one of the



best views in Carrick and Murray Cook pointed out all the other prehistoric landmarks of the area as well as regaling us with a description of their likely inhabitants and the artefacts they left behind for us to discover.



Our most recent visit was to Arran Heritage Centre in Brodick where Grace Small (President of the Heritage Trust) and Tom McLeod (Secretary, pictured left in the Archive Centre with Murray Cook and Helen McAdam) gave us a thorough insight into the trials and tribulations of running this type of visitor attraction. Rev. David Whiteman joined us in order to find out what facilities might be compatible with the new Church Centre in Maybole.

We inadvertently picked the day of the Arran Highland Games for our visit which caused your editor some confusion and a little embarrassment as he failed to identify those that were part of our group and those who were with the Maybole Pipe Band, even forgetting the name of some of our members. However a very satisfactory day was had by all and everyone managed to see the Heritage Centre and visit the Games or Brodick for some shopping.

PUBLICATIONS

During the summer several new publications have been added to our list. Unfortunately, due to printing errors, we are still waiting for the Monumental Inscriptions for Kirkoswald, but this is finally expected in the next few days.

Our full list of available publications is now as follows :-

Kirkmichael Churchyard	£3.00
Monumental Inscriptions	
Straiton Churchyard	£3.50
Monumental Inscriptions	(Includes Deaths Recorded in the Old Parish Register)
Kirkoswald Churchyard	£3.50
Monumental Inscriptions	
The Old Parochial Records of Ayrshire	£2.00
	(Notes on their Origin, Extent & Condition)
The Covenanters of Carrick	£2.00
	(David Hunter)
Girvan Valley Coal Fields	£2.00
	(David Hunter)
Surf Your Way Into History	£0.50
Boot & Shoemaking in Maybole	£0.50
	(J. Murray Cook)
Carrick in 1696	£1.00
	(Abercrombie - transcription)
The Monks of Cluny	£0.50
	(Rev. D. Swan - transcription)
Childrens Family History Pack	£2.00
Forms for Recording	£1.00
Scottish Family History	
A Corner of Carrick	£4.00
The evolution of an Ayrshire Parish	(The story of Kirkoswald by James A. Guthrie - all proceeds to Kirkoswald Parish Church)
Exploring Scottish History	£7.00

All publications are available from the Society (p&p £0.38 per item in UK or £1.00/lot abroad) or from the Maybole Resource Centre in the High Street.

At present we are in the process of producing an A3 map of Maybole Past & Present and this will be followed during the winter by our next publication "Around Old Maybole".

REMEMBER –

the Society has a small reference library located in the Local & Family History Centre and members are welcome to borrow books from there. Many thanks to Fred Westcott for the most recent addition – 'Servants in Ayrshire 1750-1914' by Jean Aitchison.

An Unsuccessful Joint Venture – *this time!*



We were very disappointed to hear from Kevin Wilbraham at Ayrshire Archives that a joint bid at auction for the minutes (1897 - 1939) of Maybole Burns Club had been unsuccessful. We alone had initially been going to table a bid however on advice from Kevin that these lots are normally sold for about 30% above estimate - and Kevin has been very successful in recovering Ayrshire papers through auction houses - we decided to put our money together and placed a maximum bid more than 50% above the top estimate. Unfortunately this particular auction by Bonham's in Edinburgh is in the middle of the festival in order to maximise the going prices. Between visitors looking for a "piece of Scotland" to take home with

them and of course the inevitable Burns aficionados, we probably did not have any chance at all, whatever bid that we put forward. Kevin told me that he was very disappointed himself but he hoped that this would not preclude future joint bids with our own Society to maximise the potential of returning Maybole archives to their rightful home and that it could still serve as an example to others that working together is the only way forward to secure the future of Ayrshire's written heritage.



Hopefully we will be able to find this private collector and maybe we will be allowed to have copies of the material, or at least that part which is available publicly under the Data Protection Act.

MCDG becomes a new Resource Centre

Maybole Community Development Group, which had been instrumental in establishing the Local and Family History Centre within their premises in the High Street, finally closed its doors in May this year. At that time no-one knew what the future held but within a couple of weeks May-Tag had been able to secure new funding to re-open the premises as Maybole Resource Centre, still



*Alexander L. Marshall
(grandfather of Robert
Marshall from
Melbourne) born in
Maybole in 1891, who
became a President of
the Storeman & Packers
Union of Australia*

with the Tourist Information and Local & Family History Centre. To everyone's delight Elizabeth Blair and Eleanor Jamieson not only continue to run the centre but volunteered to work for two weeks unpaid in order to open it prior to the funding becoming available.

When the resource centre opened, few people would have prophesied that the Local & Family History Centre within would become even busier than it had been under the auspices of MCDG. Fortunately Elizabeth and Eleanor's previous experience in dealing with enquiries has been extremely useful assisting with what have become, in some cases, fairly complicated lines of research. In conjunction with the website, the Historical Society and the local registrars, the resource centre has enabled many visitors from Britain and abroad to find out more about their North Carrick ancestors than they could ever have expected in the short time they were here.

The feedback that has been received has all been very positive and full of praise for the welcome, the people and the resources. It is also very rewarding to be able to share Maybole's past with people whose ancestors were part of that past. It is also nice to see the successes that Maybole emigrants have had when they spread out all over the world.

To make the best of what is available it is always better to contact the Historical Society or the Resource centre well ahead of a visit so that some groundwork can be done and appropriate resources identified. Very little research will actually be carried out, merely some planning and suggestions as to how to best use the time available to make your visit as rewarding as possible.

- But One Success to Talk About



Early in July the Society ran a very successful seminar on the subject of Developing an Oral History

Project which was led by Howard Mitchell (Mitch) the former co-ordinator of the millennium 'Salt of the Earth' Oral History scheme. Members of our own Society, from the new Girvan Heritage Initiative, the Workers Educational Association and South Ayrshire Council were all given a thorough overview of the requirements for this type of undertaking, especially our responsibilities as regards to Copyright and ethics. We are very grateful to Liz Kwasnik and her staff at Rozelle for hosting and providing the excellent facilities for this event.

DOORS OPEN DAY SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2003



MAYBOLE CASTLE

OPEN

10am – 12 noon

and

2pm – 4pm

**Guided tours of the
Castle, see the LOCAL
HISTORY DISPLAYS,
get help with your
FAMILY HISTORY or
take a WALK ROUND
OLD MAYBOLE with
one of our guides.**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE