

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 34 * August, 2004

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

NEXT MEETING



DAVID HUNTER

FSA Scot

OUR CARRICK VC's

Monday 6th September

MAYBOLE CASTLE

(Please note new venue) 7.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME VISITORS 50p

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

OPEN DAY AT THE CASTLE

SATURDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2004

12 Noon – 6 p.m. (See over for further details)

DOORS OPEN DAY 2004

SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

2004 MEETINGS

Monday 4th October – Mr Tom Barclay – Covenanters in the Carolinas

Monday 1st November – Marion Stewart – Dumfries & Galloway Archives

Monday 6th December – The return of our very popular

St. Andrew's Night at Drumellan House

Ticket Price £7.50 – Ticket bookings now being taken

Places are limited and our last St. Andrew's was extremely popular and several members were disappointed as they did not get tickets. Bookings are now being made available to members so if you would like to go please let either Helen McAdam or Dave Killicoat know now or add your name to the list at the next meeting. Tickets must be paid for by 1st November.

2005

Monday 6th February – John Steel - The HMS Dasher Disaster.

Willy Connelly 1934 – 2004

It is with great sadness that we have to report the recent death of Willy Connelly, a founder member of the Society, a founder member of the Committee and a very good friend.

Willy's greatest passions were his love of the outdoors and hill walking and dedication to the preservation of Maybole's history. He will always be remembered for his wit and notes of moderation at committee meetings that contributed greatly to the success of the Society. He will be greatly missed by us all.

With the family's permission we hope to provide a fitting form of memorial to Willy, possibly in the form of a bench seat in the grounds of the Castle.



The Society recently received a letter from Margo Wilson from Dumbarton who enjoyed her visit to the Castle in July. She also writes "I thought you might be interested in this postcard I came across among my late mother's photos. It was addressed to my grandmother who was born and raised in Maybole."

This just goes to show that news travelled fast even in 1906. The Maybole exiles in the boot and shoe factories in Govan new about the Free Kirk going up in flames the day after it happened.

MEMBERSHIP

That time of year has come again when membership, for all those who last paid prior to January 2004, is due for renewal. Membership, once paid, will be valid until 1st September 2005.

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.

All those whose membership is already paid or who are Honorary Members of the Society will find their membership cards enclosed. Those whose membership is now due will find a Membership/Renewal Form enclosed. Those on the mailing list for the Newsletter only will find neither but can be assured of receiving the Newsletter for the forthcoming year.

Please send all membership applications and renewals (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address below.

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 2004-5

Hon. President – J. Murray Cook
(Tel. 01655 884235)

Chair - Helen McAdam
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair- Dave Killicoat
e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk
(Tel. 07776 445033)

Secretary - Mary Henry

Treasurer - Jack Boyd
9 Kincraig Court, Maybole, KA19 8AQ
Tel. 01655 882109

Members -

Alex Davidson David Kiltie
Eleanor Jamieson Arnold Lake
Archie Scobie

WHAT A SUMMER!

The summer of 2004 may have been wet and miserable for many but for our Society it has been a great one that will be remembered for many years to come. With MAY-TAG leaving the Castle an approach was made to the new estate Factor, Chris Savage, to ask if it would still be possible to open the Castle to the public on Ayrshire Doors Open Day on 5th September. The reply we received was beyond our wildest expectations as we were asked to open the Castle to the public on behalf of the Estate on any number of days we wished over the summer period. We were also asked to be part of a new "trust", which will hopefully be formed very soon, to take over the running of the Castle and turn it in to a Heritage Centre. We are still trying to convince our venerable President that this is **not** a dream!

A programme of openings was prepared covering different days of the week and different times during the day, the idea being to test the water and find out what the best times to open might be. We have been overwhelmed by the number of visitors, the diversity of their countries of abode and the enthusiasm they have shown about what we are doing in the castle. Our original idea on opening times has had to be rethought as we have now discovered that if we open the castle twenty four hours a day, seven days a week we will probably never have a time without at least one visitor!

Another great delight has been the fact that people have been offering their photographs for copying and display and we have now more than doubled the collection of images of old Maybole. There is also a display of old maps and a number of local and family history resources and by the time you receive this newsletter there will also be a number of original oil paintings of Maybole by Gordon Cockburn (for sale through his gallery in the High Street), a display of Carrick's natural history by Fred Westcott, a room dedicated to the ancestry of the various branches of the Kennedy Clan and a display on the boot and shoemaking trade in Maybole.

One other piece of news that has great significance for the preservation of the history of North Carrick is the transfer of the vast collection of archives from the castle to Ayr Archives. We are very grateful to the factor and trustees of the estate for allowing this and to Ayr Archives for their continuing hard work in facilitating this. It is possible that this is one of the most significant acquisitions of archives anywhere in Scotland for some considerable time and its value cannot be underestimated.

A SPECIAL INVITATION

In order to let members of the Society and our many friends (if you are reading this newsletter, that includes you!) see exactly what is happening in the castle, we are having a special open day on Saturday 4th September from 12 noon to 6 pm. Please come along. The atmosphere will be very informal with guided tours of the castle on request but you will also be free to wander through our displays at a leisurely pace, ask questions of our volunteers, make suggestions for improvements or other displays (*PLEASE!*) and also partake of our light buffet with a glass of wine or other liquid refreshment. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day.

SUMMER OUTING

Our activities in the Castle did not stop a number of us making a visit to the Low Park Museum in Hamilton and Chatlerhault. Apart from having a most enjoyable day we also found many good ideas for displays that we can use in the Castle in the future. We were slightly disappointed in the small number who actually came with us but all we can say to those who did not is that you missed a really good day out with lots of interesting things to see. Make sure you do not miss out on our next outing!