

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 39 * February, 2005

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

NEXT MEETING DAVE KILICOAT DESCRIBES "the infallible sources of error"

THE REAL STORY BEHIND REGISTRATION IN
SCOTLAND IN THE YEAR OF THE 200th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF
COMPULSORY REGISTRATION – THE *POSSIBLE*
PREDECESSOR TO THE FUTURE PROSPECT OF
IDENTITY CARDS!

Monday 7th March 7.30 pm

MAYBOLE CASTLE

ALL WELCOME VISITORS £0.50

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2005

Monday 4th April – Kevin Wilbraham/Christine Lodge, Ayrshire Archives – “**The Archives in the Castle**” Details of the Culzean & Cassillis Estate archives collection in Maybole Castle, its condition and future preservation.

Saturday 23rd April – Scottish Association of Family History Societies’ Conference, Paisley Grammar School, 9.30am – 5.00pm, tickets £10.00 – “**Surfing the Past**” – further details at www.renfrewshirefhs.org.uk or contact The Secretary, Renfrewshire FHS, c/o Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA.

Monday 9th May – Tony Collins – “**What did you do in the war Dad?**” The untold story of The Sparrows (H.M.R.N. Patrol Service)

Saturday 4th June – **Troon History Fair**, Walker Halls; further details from the Scottish & Local History Department, Carnegie Library, Ayr. The Society will have a stand at the Fair.

Saturday 18th June – **Maybole Gala**. The Society will be opening the Castle and participating in several events. Volunteers needed to help man the Castle and help out elsewhere. If you are available please let a member of the committee know.

CAN YOU HELP?

James Brown, one of our members and a past Chairman of the Society, is researching the Maybole Templars of the late 18th/early 19th centuries. He is looking for anyone with material on these Templars and freemasonry in general at that time. James can be contacted through his own website at www.baltersan.com

or by post at The Wash-house, 7 Southpark Road, Ayr, KA7 2TL. If anyone has an interest in modern day Knights Templar, James will be pleased to help.

A Vision of

Britain

Through Time

A vision of Britain between 1801 and 2001. Including maps, statistical trends and historical descriptions.

A new website has been launched that, for the first time, offers free access to an unrivalled collection of historic maps, statistics and stories about the places where people live.

The website –

www.visionofbritain.org.uk

has been created by a team of historical geographers at the University of Portsmouth to share data on how Britain’s towns, cities and landscapes have changed over the last 200 years.

Simply entering a postcode or place-name into the site’s cutting-edge search engine, or clicking on a map, calls up what is known about a particular area, from census statistics, official maps, early gazetteers and the observations of travel writing pioneers.

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership for all those who last paid prior to January 2004 is now overdue. New or renewed membership for all those whose membership fees are received after 1st February 2005 will now be valid until 1st September 2006. 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 below.

WINTER CASTLE OPENING

The castle will re-open on advertised days from Saturday 26th March 2005. In the meantime if you wish to see inside (providing sufficient notice is given) or if you wish to arrange a function or hold a meeting at any time please contact -

Dave Killicoat Tel. 07776 445033
e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk

Helen McAdam Tel. 01655 884255

or

Murray Cook Tel. 01655 883235

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 – Arnold Lake

Project Co-ordinator – Dave Killicoat
e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk

(Tel. 07776 445033)

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Jack Boyd

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

Members -

Alex Davidson Mary Henry
Eleanor Jamieson David Kiltie
Archie Scobie

WILL WE EVER GET THE CROSS BACK?



It might not look like much but the small cross in the High Street (circled in the picture on the left) is badly missed by visitors to the town. All the Castle guides were able to show everyone the two surviving stones from the top of the town cross which now form part of the gate posts at the west of the Castle garden and then point out exactly where the cross used to be situated from the safety of the Prospect Room inside the Castle. When the non-slip surface was applied to the crossing the small metal cross was removed and not replaced. We have now spent a whole season with our visitors asking why it has not been put back – and so far we don't have any answer!

PROSPECTS OF A VERY BUSY YEAR AHEAD

It is still almost a month before the Society officially opens the Castle to visitors and there have already been more than two hundred people in the Castle this year – as many as we had up until the middle of August last year! Many of these visits are due to increased publicity that is letting people know that the Castle can be opened at *almost* any time for individuals or groups providing we receive sufficient warning. Apart from individuals who choose to visit Maybole at this time of year (it is after all the hottest time of year in Australia!) the types of groups we have had in the Castle so far have included other societies, school classes, our own Society meetings, open days and courses and a birthday party.

We are pleased that several more volunteers have come forward to act as guides during the days the Castle is open to the public but we can still use more. If you would like to help, please contact Helen McAdam or Dave Killicoat. Full training is given to anyone interested.



Murray Cook outlines the history of the castle to members of Kyle and Carrick Civic Society on the afternoon of Sunday 27th February.