

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 24 * April, 2003

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

Next Meeting



Annual General Meeting

The committee of the Society would like to see fresh blood in their midst so if you would be willing to help by becoming a member of the committee (*not an onerous task!*) please let us know or volunteer on the night.

Society Display MAYBOLE CASTLE SHORT TALK AND GUIDED TOURS

Your opportunity to see our displays and tour the castle separately from the public openings.

Maybole Castle

(please note the venue)

Monday

5th May 2003

7.30 p.m.

Programme for Autumn/Winter 2003-4

September 1st – Dane Love

Scottish Covenanters

October 6th – Major Shaw

Military Historical Resources

November 3rd – Kevin

Wilbraham – Poor Relief

December 1st – Tom Barclay

Cromwell's Ayrshire

February 2nd

Society Burns Night

SUMMER OUTINGS

It is proposed that we will have several day or half-day outings over the summer months. These will be as follows :-

Kirkoswald Walk led by Mary Hendry and taking in Souter Johnnie's Cottage, the church with its Adam connections and the old Kirk and kirkyard (June/July).

Bargeny Walk, ancient seat of a branch of the Kennedy family, led by David Hunter (June/July).

Dunean Walk and an introduction to the hill forts of North Carrick led by Murray Cook (July).

Day outing to the **Arran Museum and Heritage Centre** in Brodick (August - the new archive and family history centre will also be open for members of the society)

FURTHER DETAILS IN THE MAY NEWSLETTER *(Yes, there will be one! Ed.)*

**THE CASTLE WILL BE OPEN
FROM 10 – 12 and 2 – 4 during
DOORS OPEN DAY
on Sunday 7th September 2003
– Volunteers required to assist
as this is a very busy day!**

Maybole Historical Society

All communications to the society may be addressed to :-

The Local & Family History Centre
c/o Maybole Community
Development Group,
48/50 High Street,
MAYBOLE, KA19 7BZ

Committee

Hon. President – J. Murray Cook
(Tel. 01655 883235)

Chair - Helen McAdam
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair - Dave Killicoat

e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk
(Tel. 07776 445033 – new number)

Secretary - Margaret Dick

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.



NORTH CARRICK LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY ROADSHOW

PROGRAMME

- Saturday 3rd MAY STRAITON** -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
McCandlish Hall
- Sunday 4th MAY MAYBOLE** -
Castle Tours &
Exhibition 14.00 - 16.00
- Saturday 10th MAY MAYBOLE** - Castle
Tours & Exhibition
14.00 - 16.00
- Sunday 11th MAY KIRKOSWALD** -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
Richmond Hall
- Saturday 17th MAY KIRKMICHAEL** -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
McCosh Hall
- Tuesday 20th MAY MAYBOLE** - Castle
Tours & Exhibition
18.00 - 20.00
- Saturday 24th MAY DUNURE** -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
Kennedy Hall
- Sunday 25th MAY MAYBOLE** - Castle
Tours & Exhibition
14.00 - 16.00
- Saturday 31st MAY CROSSHILL** -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
part of Gala Activities

We would welcome any assistance at all from society members at the above events – if you are available please let Dave Killicoat or Helen McAdam know. Transport can be provided if required.





KIRKBRIDE KIRKYARD GETS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE



The Ramsay/McCulloch Stone in 2000 (above left) and re-erected in 2003 (left) with the kirkyard taken from the south east showing the new fence and gate (above).
Photographs © Dave Killicoat 2003

A small piece of the history of North Carrick has provided the Society with a real success story and a lesson in co-operation.

Nearly three years ago, after prompting from one of our noted local historians Alastair Hendry, some of our members carefully recorded and photographed the small kirkyard at Kirkbride with the remains of its 16th century church and

remaining fifty-two gravestones. This was in effect our 'millennium project'. At that time there were large gaps in the drystone dykes and cattle were able to wander about the kirkyard, damaging the stones and churning up the ground. Further research was done on the family histories of anyone whose inscription was still legible and Alastair Hendry kindly wrote a short history of the kirkyard. Nearly a year later Rich Pettit received a copy of the results of the project and compiled all the information in a format which could then be placed on the Maybole website.

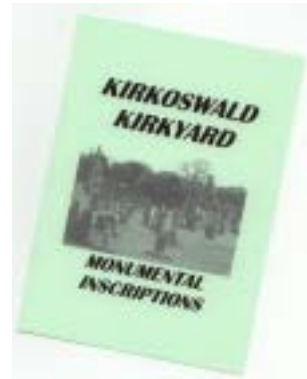
www.maybole.org/history/Archives/kirkbride/kirkyard/htm

The information on the website generated a large amount of world wide interest from the descendants of families buried there and in particular those of James Ramsay and Isabella McCulloch. Bruce Ramsay from South Australia paid a visit to Ayrshire and it was he who had the family memorial re-erected by a local monumental mason in 2002. John Kinloch from Spain has also visited Ayrshire in search of his roots and was able to fill in some family detail from a bible that he inherited from his great-grandmother. Both Bruce and John are great-great-grandsons of the couple and John's great-grandmother, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ramsay was a noted local poet, as was her son David Ramsay and grandson Allan Ramsay. Allan still lives in Ayr at the grand old age of 92 and we had the pleasure of welcoming him to one of our meetings last year on the subject of the kirkyard. Other corresponding relatives are Joan Stenson from Sydney, Australia and Evelyn Ramsay from Canada.

Because of the close links between our society and the community, the Community Council brought the condition of the kirkyard to the attention of the local councillor, Alan Murray. Alan argued the case for some protection to be provided for the kirkyard and was persuasive enough to have South Ayrshire Council erect a very substantial (but not inappropriate) fence, with an opening gate, around the site. The results of this are already being seen with the ground no longer churned up and the re-appearance of snowdrops and daffodils.

Our final achievement will be the official listing of the kirkyard by Historic Scotland which we hope will happen this year.

Publications



The publication containing the monumental inscriptions from Kirkoswald Old Churchyard (ISBN 0-9537811-3-5) is at long last complete and is now with the printers. It will soon be available from the Society at a price of £3.50 (plus £0.50 p&p UK or £1.00 elsewhere).

This completes the series of monumental inscriptions from all the old kirkyards in North Carrick. Maybole and Kirkbride are available on the website and other booklets available to purchase are

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS	
KIRKMICHAEL	£3.00
STRAITON	£3.50
(Straiton includes Deaths/Burials in the Old Parish Registers)	

The Details in the Old Parochial Registers of Ayrshire	£2.40
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MEMBERSHIP –

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

Membership for all who pay their subscriptions after 1st February 2003 are 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 (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address overleaf.