

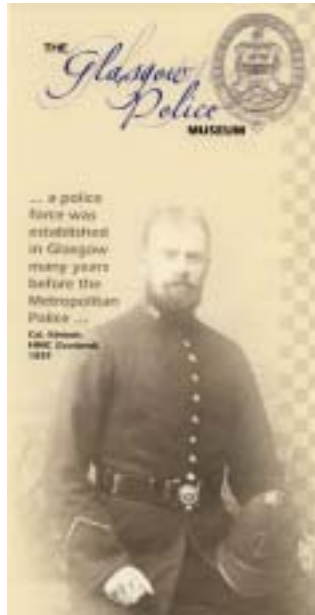
MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 31 * February, 2004

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



NEXT MEETING THE GLASGOW POLICE FORCE

THE STORY OF THE OLDEST
POLICE FORCE IN BRITAIN
AND THE LIVES AND
CAREERS OF THE
PERSONALITIES AND
CHARACTERS WHO POLICED
THE CITY DURING 200 YEARS
OF ITS HISTORY
(AND MANY SUBSEQUENTLY
POLICED MAYBOLE)

ALASTAIR DINSMOR
(Curator - Glasgow Police Museum)

MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

Monday 1st March 7.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME NON-MEMBERS £0.50

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

Members -

Willy Connelly Alex Davidson
David Kiltie Arnold Lake

IF IN DOUBT! – There is now a central point for information, advice and support for conservation of buildings and artefacts in Scotland. The **Scottish Conservation Bureau Enquiry Service** can be contacted by telephone on (0131) 668 8668/8683 or e-mail at hs.conservatonbureau@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN LONDON – JUST A DAY TRIP AWAY!

Having heard wonderful things about the Nation Archives at Kew in London and having some research to be done on the military records of my grandfather and some others in the family, I wondered if it was feasible (and economical!) to make a day trip from Ayrshire and do the necessary searches myself?

With Prestwick Airport and Ryanair right on the doorstep the first stage was easy. Looking out for the best deal I managed to get a return flight to Stansted (including charges) for under £15.00. Leaving Prestwick at seven in the morning and arriving back at nine in the evening would give me a full seven hours in the city allowing for travel in from the airport and check in times on the return. The journey into London on the Stansted Express takes 45 minutes and is certainly the most expensive part of the journey at £24.00 return! With a Daily Rover ticket for the underground at £4.70, I was able to reach Kew by 10.30 a.m. Total cost £44.00.

The National Archives is only a short, well signposted walk from the station and the first thing that impressed me was the modern, light, airy building in lovely grounds with their own eco-friendly pest control system – a man with a hawk on his arm! Fortunately I already new that, as this was my first time, identification was required to allow me to obtain a reader's ticket – a credit card type ticket with a bar code on it that is your entry ticket to everything. This only took a few minutes and even after having a wander round the shop and exhibition I was in the search room just after 11 o'clock. Here things could not be simpler. A series of 'idiot cards' is available covering all aspects of any search and by finding the right one and following the stages shown, you are very soon in possession of the reference for the material you want to see. If you do get stuck the very pleasant and friendly staff cannot do enough to help.

Very quickly I was in the reading room, had my space at a table allocated and ordered the documents I wanted to look at. Here there is a delay (about half an hour or so) while the documents are brought from the archives to the reading room but this is an ideal opportunity to grab a light refreshment in the excellent cafeteria. Even from there you can check if your documents are ready for you. Using your reader's card to swipe one of the many terminals on the walls shows you the exact status of your request. By one o'clock I was sitting looking at my grandfather's original army record – amazing! He was the fifth member of his family to serve in Gallipoli in WWI, the rest having reached there from Australia. I wonder if he met any of his brothers when he was there, or even if he knew they were in the same place?

Was it worth it? For me, definitely, and if you consider that a **cheap** researcher would cost at least £11.00/hour it was actually economical as well as I had over four hours actually in the National Archives. *Would I do it again?* I am just trying to plan time off when the next cheap flights are available - although I am considering staying overnight next time! *Hud me back!!!*

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MEMBERSHIP –

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

Membership, once paid, will now 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. **Please send all membership applications and renewals (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address above.**

2004 MEETINGS

Monday 5th April – Tony Kerrigan – **Crime Scene Investigations** – Maybole Town Hall

Monday 10th May (**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE SECOND MONDAY IN MAY TO AVOID THE MAY DAY HOLIDAY**) – AGM followed by **Preserving Artefacts and Looking After Our History** – Rozelle House, Ayr (transport from Maybole provided)

SUMMER OUTING (Date to be confirmed) – Hamilton Museum (including Mining exhibition and the Cameronians Regimental Museum), lunch then to Cadzow Castle and archaeological dig, and Chatelherault.

Monday 6th September – Lead Mining at Wanlockhead

Monday 4th October – Archive Sources in Dumfries and Galloway

Monday 8th November – Dalgarven Mill Museum of Ayrshire Country Life

Monday 6th December – The return of our very popular **St. Andrews Night** (September, October and November meetings are provisional)

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR SPEAKERS OR OUTINGS? IF SO, PLEASE LET THE COMMITTEE KNOW – IT IS YOUR SOCIETY!

SOME NEWS FROM THE WEB!

The official website of the **General Register Office (Scotland)**, www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, gets better and better to the point where it is now almost as good as visiting Register House itself. The only real difference is that the registers are searchable until fairly recent years at Register House, complex searches or searches for common names can be much quicker, and the quality of the printed images seems to be much better (although they will cost you an extra £0.50 each on top of the £17.00 fee for a day). Basically what this means is that a visit to Edinburgh is only economical if you are going to find more than 20 certificates - and this excludes the cost of getting there! Following the release of new year data for the Statutory births, marriages and deaths, customers can now access, online, records from the Statutory Register of Births 1855 – 1903, Marriages 1855 – 1928 and Deaths 1855 – 1953 and download the images of the certificates once found.



The maps section of **The National Library of Scotland** website which can be found at www.nls.uk/maps gives us the following news item regarding the **Blaeu Atlas of Scotland, 1654** :-

On the 350th anniversary of the publication of Scotland's first atlas, Joan Blaeu's *Atlas Novus*, Volume V (1654), this website presents the first translation into English of its entire textual

contents. The texts contain detailed historical and topographical descriptions of Scotland and its regions, freshly translated by Ian Cunningham, and complemented by 49 engraved maps.

- the entire content can be browsed and searched by a wide range of methods
- high resolution, zoomable images can be viewed of every opening
- detailed supporting information and biographies assist the interpretation of the content
- the website complements earlier source mapping for the Atlas by Timothy Pont and Robert Gordon, already on the website

Communities and Graveyards Past and Present

A one day conference is being organised by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Historic Scotland, Technical Conservation and Research Group (TCRE) in the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh on Saturday 13th March 2004. There are a number of very interesting subjects being presented and this conference is a very apt precursor to Scottish History Week in April. Further details can be obtained from Dave Killicoat.

Scottish History Week – Scottish Graveyards

This year it is proposed that we participate in Scottish Local History Week running from 18th – 24th April with the theme of “Scottish Graveyards” rather than the national History Month in May. A few local events and displays will be arranged during the week but the main part of our contribution will be the publishing in hard copy of Kirkoswald, Maybole Old Kirkyard and Kirkbride Kirkyard Monumental Inscriptions, a comprehensive index to all the inscriptions from the old kirkyards of North Carrick and completion of the Graveyard Recording Forms for all these churchyards as part of the project run by the Carved Stones Adviser from TCRE at Historic Scotland.

“In Loving Memory” A Celebration of Graveyards

The culmination of Scottish History Week will be the annual Scottish Association of Family History Societies' conference which is being run by Central Scotland Family History Society and has this year taken its theme from Scottish History Week. The conference is to be held in the Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling on Saturday 24th April 2004. The cost of the conference is £10.00 and for those who wish to stay overnight there is a 'wake' in the evening including a full buffet supper, glass of wine and entertainment at a cost of £6.50. Booking forms can be had from Dave Killicoat or downloaded from the SAFHS website at www.safhs.org.uk