OUR SPEAKER FOR DECEMBER IS MARY HOGG speaking on “THE GIRVAN VALLEY”

Born and brought up in the Borders in Galashiels Mary came with her husband to live in Crosshill in 1970. She was a geography teacher at Carrick Academy leaving in 1976 to start a family. She had a long career break but was involved in childminding, creche work, play leader and Cub leader and is still involved in the Scouting movement. She changed career in the 1990s to work in SRCs Pre-Five Services, registering childminders and playgroups and then moved to the Care Commission where she was responsible for all regulated care services in Ayrshire. Mary retired in 2005 and with a new digital camera in hand was introduced to the Geograph Project (www.geograph.org.uk) collecting thousands of photos be it scenery, wildlife, places of interest of which she is now putting together into talks. As Mary puts it she came over from the “Dark Side” to the Historical Society, hoping to learn more about the local area. The pictures below are only a snippet of photos you can see on the above website of Mary’s and we look forward to Mary enlightening us about the Girvan Valley.
ON YOUR DOORSTEP—TURNBERRY HOTEL

Golf at Turnberry was a secret treasured only by locals until railway companies began to develop Scotland’s landscape. On 17 May 1906 the hotel opened, offering luxury rarely seen at the time with electric lighting, central heating, hot and cold running water. The Station Hotel offered a glimpse into a whole new way of living. Designed by James Miller, the hotel at Turnberry was grand but not ostentatious. With white plasterwork and red pantile roof it is still part of the topography of Turnberry today. Service was of an high standard with maids, butlers, cleaners, cooks, liverymen and boilermen comfortably outnumbering the guests.

EXHIBITION “BATHING BELLES” AT SCOTLAND STREET SCHOOL MUSEUM, GLASGOW until 5th January 2014.

Time 10am to 5pm
Admission FREE

From the earliest swimmers in rivers, through the opening of the first public baths to the development of the state-of-the-art swimming pool for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, swimming in Glasgow has come far. Whether on holiday or at school, swimming and what you wear has also moved with the times. From the modest, woollen Edwardian swimwear to the super-fabric Speedos of the Olympics today, this exhibition looks at the role of swimwear whether it is for covering up for modesty or religious reasons, protection from the sun – or getting a tan! These costumes, as well as trophies, postcards and souvenirs, chart the rise of swimming clubs in Glasgow, learning to swim at school and going ‘doon the watter’ for the traditional West Coast holiday.

DID YOU KNOW THAT NEXT YEAR IS haggis—a Scottish dish consisting of a sheep’s or calf’s offal mixed with suet, oatmeal, and seasoning and boiled in a bag, traditionally one made from the animal’s stomach

The Robert Burns World Federation have nominated 2014 as the Year of the Haggis (this is a Scotland only thing). Many Burns Clubs in Scotland are being encouraged to help by taking part in events which will happen throughout the year. Many local butchers have close relationships with Burns Clubs so if you have never tasted haggis here is your chance now (vegetarian haggis is also available).