OUR SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER IS TOM BARCLAY speaking on “The War with Norway and the Battle of Largs 1263”

Tom Barclay is a regular contributor to the Society and we are delighted once again to welcome him to speak this time on the War with Norway and the Battle of Largs.

This year sees the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Largs, fought on the 2nd October 1263. It was not the full scale decisive engagement between the armies of Scotland and Norway which some later historians would claim. It was however the most dramatic incident in a war which finally decided which kingdom would possess the Hebrides, and which brought Ayrshire to the forefront of Scottish history for the first time. While the battle itself will be the climax of the talk, the broader picture of the war and its background will also be covered, particularly with regard to Ayrshire’s involvement.
MAYBOLE GALA DAY: There were no complaints regarding the weather for Gala Day as it was one of the hottest day of the year. The Society took a stall this year and were delighted with those who visited our stall and made enquiries about the Society. With the theme being boots and shoes we put on a display of artifacts and information regarding the boot and shoe trade in the town. Thanks to everybody who helped out on the day.

MAYBOLE CASTLE: Due to the start of de-humidification programme to dry out the Castle all MHS papers, books, maps and artifacts have been removed. MHS would like to thank member Tom Sloan for providing storage for the Society’s chairs. Thanks also to committee members who helped remove the items and to those who are storing them in their homes.

Cassillis House—BBC Restoration House—did you see this programme which was broadcast on Friday 9th August—if you missed it - it can be seen again on BBC I Player. Kate Armstrong, an Australian internet tycoon (confused.com) bought the castle in 2009 and spent, I am sure millions, on its restoration. MHS were approached to advise if we had any details about the House. Although we did not have anything to hand we passed on who might be able to assist them. It was interesting to note that the House had such a great connection with the great, good and bad in Scottish history from Mary, Queen of Scots, the 4th Earl of Cassillis to Henry VIII and many others. Lady Elizabeth was interviewed about her life at Cassillis and was invited back to see what Kate Armstrong had achieved. To see what was achieved was excellent and certainly Kate Armstrong was not ‘confused.com’ in accomplishing her dream castle.

THE ESTATE OFFICE—The estate office is now located at Maidens. To contact them their e-mail address is chris@cassillisestate.co.uk

THINGS TO DO? PLACES TO GO? OR KNOW OF INTERESTING SPEAKERS? —WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THEM.

If you know of any interesting exhibitions or places to visit or heard a good talk recently that our members would be interested in—please let us know. It’s great to be able to pass this on. Please contact a member of the committee with the information.

Sept 2nd 1913—Bill Shankly was born in Glenbuck. His early career saw him winning 7 caps for Scotland and at the age of 33 he embarked on a new career as a manager. Dying in 1981 from a heart attack he remains to this day a charismatic legend of British football.