

# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Charity No. SC034056)

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014

Next meeting will be held in Lesser Town Hall, Maybole

**MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2014 At 7.30pm**

### Membership

#### 2014 –2015

New Members are always welcome and if you would like to join the Society please contact the treasurer:.

Individual £10

Couples at same address £15

Students & Disabled Free

Please make cheques payable to  
*“Maybole Historical Society”*

*and send to Mr. K. Gray, 48 St. Leonard’s Road, Ayr KA7 2PT*

*If you have any changes to your address, e-mail etc. please let us know to keep our database up to date-Thanks*

### Dates for your diary:-

6th October

3rd November

8th December—Social Evening

### Committee

#### Meeting Dates:-

Meetings held in the Lesser Town Hall, Maybole at 7pm

## ROY STORRIE will speak on “Dunure Harbour & Lighthouse”

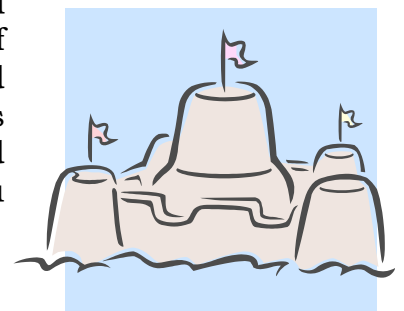
Dunure sits pleasantly looking out to the Firth of Clyde. The harbour is roughly a square basin with a breakwater quay, topped off by a characteristic cylindrical stone harbour light (thought to be unique in design). The Earl of Cassillis improved the harbour at a cost of £50,000 in 1811, making the location more attractive for fishing. The depth of the water in the harbour is 12 feet at ordinary spring tides, but could be artificially increased to almost 30 feet. William Aiton records in 1808 that the sole costs of the improvements to Dunure harbour were borne by Thomas Kennedy of Dunure. Dunure currently has a regeneration programme set up for the next five years and no doubt Roy will tell us more about this lovely village and the history of the harbour and lighthouse.

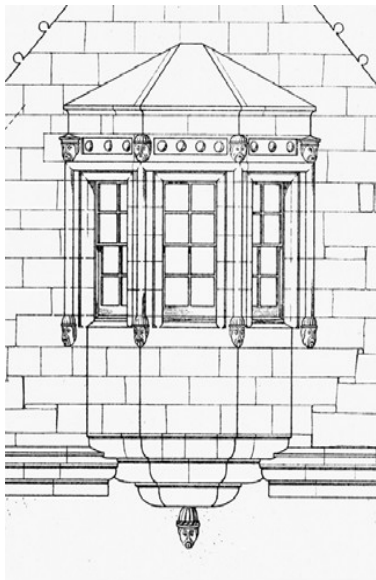


a

## Welcome Back–

The Committee hopes you all had a wonderful summer and were able to get out and about around Scotland and further field. We look forward to seeing you again at our meetings and as usual if you have a topic/idea that you would like the Society to do please let us know. Without you the Society could not continue and as usual thank you for all your support.





## MAYBOLE GALA DAY

A big thank to all who helped make our Gala Day a success, especially William Laidman and David Hunter from Carrick 800 Re-enactment Society who did an excellent display of costumes and weapons from the time of Robert the Bruce. To all members who helped



erect and dismantle the paladin tent—Jim McDermott, Norman McIntyre, Tom Sloan and Brad Mellor, the committee members who manned the “Spider” tent—Ken Gray, Helen McAdam, Mollie Garrie, Elspeth Kidd, Wendy Bibby and Nancy MacGregor and not forgetting our two gophers—Ian Kidd and Roy MacGregor.



**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.

**1st September 1939**-Germany invades Poland, despite British & French guarantees, bringing Europe to the brink of war, also on **1st September 1985**. **RMS Titanic** was found by a French-US search team.

**THE ESTATE  
OFFICE e-mail is  
chris@cassillisestate.co.uk**

## ON YOUR DOORSTEP—Electric Brae

The Electric Brae is a gravity hill in Ayrshire, where cars appear to be drawn uphill by some mysterious attraction. The Lowland Scots word *brae* means a hill-slope or brow and the “electric” name was given when electricity was a new technology associated with strange forces. This stretch of road is on the A719 south of Dunure, not far from Ayr between Drumshrang and Knoweside. Though the road appears to be running uphill, a suitably free-running vehicle will slowly move off from a standstill. It was widely believed that vehicles were being propelled uphill by a mysterious magnetic force but it is an optical illusion. In 1992 the name “Electric Brae” was brought to wider fame by the novel of the same name by Andrew Greig. There is a stone nearby describing this mysterious peculiarity.



## WORLD WAR I—1914-2014

This year commemorates 100 years since the outbreak of the Great War. For the next four years various events, exhibitions etc will explore this War. Television is also investigating each campaign and the effects of the war that changed our society. One exhibition ongoing until 20th December is **1914-1918-The Ayrshire Experience at the Baird Institute in Cumnock.**