

# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

## Newsletter 37 \* November, 2004

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



### NEXT MEETING ST ANDREWS NIGHT

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
7 pm for 7.30 pm – 10.30 pm approx.  
DRUMELLAN HOUSE  
by Maybole

**A welcome glass followed by a supper of real Scottish stovies (meat or vegetarian) or Shepherds Pie, cheese and oatcakes with a glass of wine or soft drinks and then traditional Scottish entertainment provided by members of the Society and special guests.**

**Ticket Price £7.50** – PLACES ARE LIMITED. There are still a very few tickets left. Please contact either Helen McAdam or Dave Killicoat now if you wish to go. Tickets must be paid for by return.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2005

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – John Steel – The HMS Dasher Disaster.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – Dave Killicoat – “Registration - Finding the Whole Story.” A complete look at the history of registration in the year celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of official registration in Scotland.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Kevin Wilbraham/Christine Lodge, Ayrshire Archives – “The Archives in the Castle.” Details of the Culzean & Cassillis Estate archives collection in Maybole Castle, its condition and future preservation.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May** – Tony Collins – “What did you do in the war Dad?” The untold story of The Sparrows (H.M.R.N. Patrol Service)

### FINDING OUT WHO YOU ARE IN SCOTLAND

In the last newsletter there was an article that was critical of the BBC Initiative and series “Who Do You Think You Are?” Since then I have heard from many people how much they agree with my sentiments but quite a few of them also wanted to know why Scotland was so much better for researching family history and where the best websites are.

First of all, to explain why researching in Scotland is so much easier, we normally use **The Five Maxims** –

1. In Scotland the female retains her maiden name all her life which allows a cross reference to be made to her husband's name for positive identification of her marriage, death or children
2. The registration system in Scotland provides THE ULTIMATE KEY FOR ALL RESEARCH with computerised indices to birth marriage and death certificates after 1855 and to all births or christenings and proclamations or marriages where records survive from prior to 1855
3. The naming pattern was a basic principle within the Scottish family
4. Scottish records can be accessed (world wide) far more easily and economically than any others
5. Throughout the world a vast number of people claim Scottish ancestry and their interest in finding their roots has provided the incentive to ensure the preservation of Scottish records

As far as finding the best websites is concerned, neither this newsletter nor a fairly large book could cover the vast number of relevant websites and internet resources available today to assist in both family and local history research and new ones are being added daily. For Adult Learners Week in 2003, the Society published a small booklet “Surf Your Way Into History”, designed to help out in a small way. For those readers of the Newsletter who have not seen this publication and who are interested, a shortened A4 version is enclosed.

**But of course, you must always remember the best site of all**

[www.maybole.org](http://www.maybole.org)

# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter 37 \* November, 2004

## MEMBERSHIP

**We were very pleased at the substantial number of members who have already paid or renewed their membership for 2004/5. Membership for all those who last paid prior to January 2004, is now due for renewal. Membership, once paid, will be valid until 1<sup>st</sup> 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 below.**

## WINTER CASTLE OPENING

The castle will re-open on advertised days in the spring of 2005. In the meantime if you wish to see inside (providing sufficient notice is given) or arrange to hold a meeting or function please contact -

**Dave Killicoat** Tel. 07776 445033

e-mail [maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk](mailto:maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk)

**Helen McAdam** Tel. 01655 884255

or

**Murray Cook** Tel. 01655 883235

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 2004-5

**Hon. President** - J. Murray Cook  
(Tel. 01655 884235)

**Chair** - Helen McAdam  
(Tel. 01655 884255)

**Vice Chair** - Dave Killicoat  
e-mail [maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk](mailto:maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk)  
(Tel. 07776 445033)

**Secretary** - Mary Henry

**Treasurer** - Jack Boyd

9 Kincaig Court, Maybole, KA19 8AQ  
Tel. 01655 882109

**Members** -

Alex Davidson      David Kiltie  
Eleanor Jamieson    Arnold Lake  
Archie Scobie

## ANOTHER KENNEDY VISITS THE CASTLE

Although the castle is not officially open again to visitors until the spring we continue to average a couple of groups a week who ask for a special tour – which we are more than happy to provide if we can possibly manage it. On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October we had a visit from Susan and Peter Kennedy from Glasgow and Susan has traced her ancestry way back through the Kennedys of Cassillis and Culzean to Duncan Strathern (born ca 800). Susan was kind enough to leave a copy of her research with Eleanor Jamieson in the resource centre (who organised the visit) and also left a transcription done by Peter and her of a Latin document in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow and showing



the descendants of Gilbert Kennedy of Dunure over nine generations as far as John Kennedy who died in 1615 at Greenwich “without heirs”.

Susan was very knowledgeable about the overall history of the Kennedys as well as her own family history, however she and Peter (pictured left with their guide Murray Cook) still enjoyed their tour and found new information as well as learning much more about the history of Maybole.

## FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF CARE

To celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the first hospital in Ayr an exhibition was on display in Rozelle House showing the history of Health Care in Ayr over the last four centuries. For those of you who missed it, you missed a very good experience. However, all is not lost. Kevin Wilbraham (Ayrshire Archivist) and Professor Gordon M. Wilson (NHS Ayrshire and Arran) have produced an excellent small book detailing the history of Hospitals in Ayr 1604 – 2004. The book (ISBN 0-907526-84-5 and priced at £3.00 excluding P&P) is being sold with all the profits going to the Ayrshire Hospice and Malcolm Sergeant Fund.

As well as the exhibition, book and various open days in the hospitals, the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies had this subject as the theme for their 2004 conference in Troon. The conference was well attended with highly qualified speakers giving a wide-ranging presentation on all forms of physical and mental health care from medieval times to the present day.

One of the most fascinating glimpses into the past was that given by Dr. Brian Moffat about the recent discoveries at Soutra Medieval Hospital in South East Scotland. Dr. Moffat, although showing that our predecessors were very aware of the incredible medicinal properties of plants such as combining three plants, which would each in their own right prove fatal, in such a way as to provide a suitable anaesthetic for use in amputations, also brought things right up to date by outlining how the most modern of drinks being promoted for its health giving properties (blaeberry juice) was known about many centuries ago as being effective against food poisoning. In fact I will never accuse sheep of being stupid again as, in a certain part of Scotland, *they* apparently changed their diet to include blaeberries in response to a localised outbreak of cryptosporidium in their water supply. Neither will I reveal here Dr. Moffat's suggestion as the ultimate - and readily available - alternative to the Atkins Diet!