

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 23 * March, 2003

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

Next Meeting



Enid Blyton

How I Got
Involved
with Enid
Blyton

Presented by
Rob Close

An intriguing subject from one of the best known local and architectural historians in Ayrshire. Rob is also an author of many books and articles and a stalwart of the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies, the Scottish Local History Forum and many other bodies.

Maybole Town Hall
Monday
7th April 2003
7.30 p.m.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Maybole Historical Society will take place on Monday 5th May at 7.30 pm. In Maybole Castle (please note the venue). The actual AGM is short and will be followed by a short talk on Maybole Castle, a display of material on Old Maybole and guided tours of the Castle. This will give members the opportunity to see our displays and tour the castle separately from the public openings in May. The committee of the Society would like to see fresh blood in their midst so if you would be willing to help by becoming a member of the committee (*not an onerous task!*) please let us know.

Maybole Historical Society
All communications to the society may be addressed to :-
The Local & Family History Centre
c/o Maybole Community
Development Group,
48/50 High Street,
MAYBOLE, KA19 7BZ
Committee

Hon. President - J. Murray Cook
(Tel. 01655 883235)

Chair - Helen McAdam
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair - Dave Killicoat
e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk
(Tel. 07713 309450)

Secretary - Margaret Dick
Treasurer - Jack Boyd

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

Members -
Willy Connelly
Alex Davidson
David Kiltie

Any member who would like to join the committee or help the society in any other way please contact any one of the above.



NORTH CARRICK LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY ROADSHOW

The roadshow consists of displays of local material by Maybole Historical Society, Ayrshire Archives and South Ayrshire Museums & Galleries Service, old maps, microfilms, computer resources and help with any local or family history queries.

PROGRAMME

- Saturday 3rd MAY** STRAITON -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
McCandlish Hall
- Sunday 4th MAY** MAYBOLE -
Castle Tours &
Exhibition 14.00 - 16.00
- Saturday 10th MAY** MAYBOLE -
Castle Tours &
Exhibition 14.00 - 16.00
- Sunday 11th MAY** KIRKOSWALD -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
Richmond Hall
- Saturday 17th MAY** KIRKMICHAEL -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
McCosh Hall
- Tuesday 20th MAY** MAYBOLE -
Castle Tours &
Exhibition 18.00 - 20.00
- Saturday 24th MAY** DUNURE -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
Kennedy Hall
- Sunday 25th MAY** MAYBOLE -
Castle Tours &
Exhibition 14.00 - 16.00
- Saturday 31st MAY** CROSSHILL -
Demonstration &
Display 13.30 - 16.30
part of Gala Activities



REMEMBER THE LOCAL LIBRARY!

We are very well catered for in Maybole when it comes to computer resources and free access to the internet. As well as the computers available to children in the schools, there is the training centre at May-Tag, the public computers in the Community Development Office and of course those computers available in the local library. With the amount of information now available on the world wide web from any computer with a modem, the only essential point is to know how access it! By far the largest number of good and useful websites are first found through specialist magazines. This is also the best source for catalogues (or sources of catalogues) for available CD-ROMs and reviews of new programmes.

Search engines are very good if you know what you are looking for, but if you are trying to find what is commonly known as "The St Catherine's Index" (the index to births, death and marriage certificates in England and Wales) putting that into a search engine will not come up with the website www.1837online.com. In any case this is a pay to view site (£5.00 for 50 page views) and I dread to think how much it would cost to find the marriage of a John Smith between say 1851 and 1855! These indexes are readily available on microfiche in local libraries in England although the nearest to Maybole would be Carlisle or the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Some LDS Family History Centres also carry the index, as well as other useful resources, on microfiche and microfilm.

Many other resources such as the English Census returns, business directories, the Irish Griffith's Valuations or George F. Black's "The Surnames of Scotland" are available in computerised format (CD-ROM) but are not on a website and if they were, would probably once again be pay to view. Whatever your query, in many cases it might just be easier – or cheaper – to find the information in the old fashioned way.



Although a certain amount of space in the recently refurbished Carnegie Library in Maybole (left) has been turned over to modern technology, its main purpose is still to make available written material for loan or reference. The Maybole library already has a few relevant local and family history

reference books (including the above mentioned "The Surnames of Scotland") and of course if you cannot find the book you are looking for, you can always use the request service to obtain it, even on a temporary basis. The more we use the services of the library, the better it will get and the greater the range of historical reference books it will acquire.

Not only are books available through the library, magazines and newspapers are also available. Susan Russell, the local librarian, has recently arranged to have the Family History Monthly added to the list and this contains items of interest in all aspects of history. The April 2003 issue includes articles on the Royal Naval Air Service, the Clan System in Scotland (including a comprehensive list of sept names and their clans), making the best use of the National Archives (England) and the development of Cremation in Britain.

Remember the local library – do not let it reach the stage where we have to be reminded "Use it or lose it!"

MEMBERSHIP - ALL MEMBERS WHO LAST PAID PRIOR TO 1ST FEBRUARY 2002 PLEASE NOTE THAT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL. Membership for all who pay their subscriptions after 1st February 2003 will be valid until 1st September 2004. Membership is only £10.00 and covers individuals or couples staying in the same household. Registered disabled and anyone in full time education can join the society free of charge. Please send all membership applications (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address overleaf.

The LDS and the IGI

In case you are wondering, the initials LDS stand for Latter Day Saints and refer to the church we normally call the Mormons. More correctly the part of the church that we are concerned with here is the GSU or Genealogical Society of Utah. The GSU carries out microfilming of material all over the world if there is a genealogical link to it and provides the service free of charge on the basis that the end results will be available to church members to further their own family history research.

Within the last few years a GSU microfilm unit has been in Ayrshire Archives and has microfilmed Poor Relief Registers and some Kirk Session Records. It was the GSU who were initially responsible for microfilming all the Scottish Old Parish Registers in Edinburgh.

One of the many resources produced by the GSU is the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and this is now available on microfiche and on the internet at www.familysearch.org. The big advantage of the internet as opposed to the microfiche is that due to recent improvements to the software you can now literally do a family search (enter the parents and all submitted children will be shown in seconds).

The IGI is not comprehensive and there are very few entries subsequent to 1875. It also consists of submitted information only and is not an index of transcriptions of entire records. Thus for some counties up to 40% of extant records of births, christenings, marriages or proclamations in Scotland are not included. For family historians researching their Scottish roots, the best use of the IGI is for locating births and marriages between 1855 and 1875.

The GSU have produced another resource on CD-ROM entitled **Scottish Church Records** however this is not available on the internet or to purchase. It can only be accessed at any LDS Family History Centre (our nearest is in Kilmarnock) using their Family Search software. This index includes all extant records prior to 1855 except deaths and burials. The index contains the same information as that given in the General Register Office (Scotland) website *with four advantages* – similarly spelt or sounding surnames are shown, family searches are possible, frame numbers are given where available for the relevant microfilm AND IT CAN BE ACCESSED FREE OF CHARGE.