

# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

## Newsletter 29 \* November, 2003

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



### NEXT MEETING

## CROMWELL'S AYRSHIRE

with Tom Barclay  
Librarian & Historian

A fortnight before the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Oliver Cromwell assuming the position of Lord Protector, Tom gives us a fascinating insight into that period in time when he ruled the country and his army garrisoned Ayr, a subject on which Tom has done very extensive research and is *the* local authority.

### MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

VISITORS £0.50

### CARTED INTO THE PAST



Having tried our best to encourage people to let us know of any Maybole heritage that might be lying about "undiscovered" it was great to hear from David Kiltie that someone had been in touch to let us know that they had an Alexander Jack & Co. Turnip Cart - and would we be interested?!!!

After a slight

telephonic detour via Glen Luie near Braemar in Aberdeenshire (Sorry, but I am an Aberdeenshire loon! - Ed.) we made contact with the Sutherland family at Glenluie Farm only a few miles south of Maybole. At first I thought that the number in Aberdeenshire had connected at last as the Doric accent was so familiar but I was assured that this was just outside Maybole and yes, they had a Jack's "neep cairt". Immediately we told them that we were interested and asked if it would be possible to take some photographs. The answer was more than we could have hoped for as we were told that if we were able to come down on the Sunday morning they would actually harness a horse and let us see the cart being drawn.

It was therefore with some excitement that our wee party set off at the appointed time, but even we could not have foreseen the wonderful heritage that was to be shown to us that morning. We arrived at Glenluie to find ourselves very welcome guests of Brian and Susan Sutherland and their

children Claire, Sara, Kimberley and Connor. Young Connor came out to meet us and ushered us in to one of the many stable boxes where the rest of the family were preparing a magnificent Clydesdale horse for a turn out. What was even more wonderful was that this was only one of the many beautiful horses (mainly Clydesdales) which they keep at the farm and show regularly under their Sans Peur Clydesdale banner. We had already noticed a cart sitting ready in the yard so the lumps in our throats were becoming bigger and bigger. Murray Cook, our indomitable President, was even found to be searching for words to describe what was being unveiled before his very eyes.

At last Sonnie (Sans Peur Sonnie to give him his proper title - justly deserved as a participant in the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and one of the few invited to Stella McCartney's wedding) was led out and carefully backed in to position to be harnessed up to the cart. We were then privileged to witness a sight that cannot have been seen (or at least has not been reported to have been seen) around Maybole for many years. According to Murray, he had not seen anything like it for at least sixty years, as Claire and Sara with Connor on the cart for support posed in the yard for photographs. Brian then took over on the cart and off they went around the farm stopping briefly on one of the lanes to give us another photographic opportunity (this appeared to be too much for Sonnie's stablemate Bobby who to everyone's consternation made his own, short lived bid for the freedom of the open road).

Our grateful thanks to Brian, Susan and family for helping to preserve a bit of our local heritage, providing a wonderful setting and home for their horses and making *us* feel so welcome while at the same time making us feel that it was really only the horses and heritage they were really mattered.

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## 2004 MEETINGS

### BURNS NIGHT –

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2004  
Maybole Town Hall

7.30 p.m. – 11.30 p.m. (app.)

The evening will commence with a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink followed by a two course meal (traditional haggis, neeps and tatties with Scottish oarcakes and cheeses to follow). The evening will be chaired by David Kiltie, Jack Boyd will provide us with the Selkirk Grace and propose the Toast to the Lassies. The haggis will be piped in by Fergus Cook and addressed by Dave Killicoat both of who will make further poetic contributions later, Murray Cook will give the Immortal Memory and musical entertainment will be provided by Miss Alison M. Dixon on piano with Mrs Lesley Rodger, Mrs Jessie Thomson, Mrs Margaret Hutchison and Mr Alex Davidson.

Tickets (price will be advised at the December meeting) will be available at the December meeting or through any member of the committee. A separate mail shot with ticket order forms etc will be sent out to all members during the first week in December.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – Alastair Dinsmor, Curator, **Glasgow Police Museum** – Maybole Town Hall

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April** – Tony Kerrigan – **A Photographic Record of Crime** – Maybole Town Hall

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May** (**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE SECOND MONDAY IN MAY TO AVOID THE MAY DAY HOLIDAY**) – AGM followed by **Preserving Artefacts and Looking After Our History** – Rozelle House, Ayr (transport from Maybole provided)

**SUMMER OUTING** (Date to be confirmed) – Hamilton Museum (including Mining exhibition and the Cameronians Regimental Museum), lunch then to Cadzow Castle and archaeological dig, and Chatelherault.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** – Lead Mining at Wanlockhead

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October** – Sources for History in Dumfries and Galloway

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Dalgarnen Mill Museum of Ayrshire Country Life

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – The return of our very popular **St. Andrews Night**

**(September, October and November meetings are provisional)**

### MAYBOLE OLD KIRK FONT



The history of the strong Christian tradition in the Parish of Maybole is well documented and we are able to see the physical evidence in the remnants of old ecclesiastical buildings which survive at Crossraguel Abbey (founded 1186), the Old College (built 1371) and the remains of the church in Kirkbride Kirkyard near Dunure (ca. 12<sup>th</sup> century).

Until the present church was built in Cassillis Street in 1808 the Parish Church and the centre of Parish life had always been situated within the site we now call the Old Kirkyard at the foot of the brae in St Cuthberts Road, which, until the middle of the 19th century, would actually have been situated at the foot of the Kirk Venal or Kirkwynd (one of the few original street names remaining).

The walled kirkyard we see now does not represent the scene that a passer-by would have seen in the 18th Century. Instead he would have found a hive of activity with the main market being held in front of the small church (built in the 16th century to replace an earlier building probably dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century) which had the parish school attached to the back of it, no wall surrounding it, and many of the burials taking place inside the church itself.

A glance at the level of the road outside the present kirkyard walls compared with the level of the ground within gives some idea of the number of people who have been laid to rest there. This has also covered the remaining foundations of the original church although their exact position was recorded during some remedial work in 1924. The sole remaining artefact from the original pre-reformation kirk is this font which until very recently lay unmarked and unprotected beside the Old Kirk marker stone in the kirkyard. Alerted by Maybole Historical Society about its perilous condition, the Museums Service of South Ayrshire Council has taken it into their care. The future of the font is still under discussion but it is hoped that it will find a permanent home on display in the new church. In the interim we are looking for a suitable place to keep it where it would remain safe and protected until its final resting place is ready.

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 2003-4

**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 -

Willy Connolly

Alex Davidson

David Kiltie

Arnold Lake

## Scottish History Week

Over the last two years the Society has participated in the British Local History Month. This year it is proposed that we participate in Scottish Local history week which runs from 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April with the theme of “Scottish Graveyards” and culminates in the Scottish Association of Family History Society’s conference in Stirling entitled “In Loving Memory – a Celebration of Graveyards”.

A range of local events and displays will be arranged during the week.

The Society will continue to assist in opening Maybole Castle to visitors and this will be done over the summer months with a full day opening during Doors Open Day in September

### MEMBERSHIP –

**ALL MEMBERS WHO LAST PAID PRIOR TO 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2002 PLEASE NOTE THAT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR RENEWAL.**

**Membership, once paid, is valid until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004.**

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 above.**