

# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

## Newsletter 30 \* January, 2004

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

### **NEXT MEETING** **BURNS SUPPER**

**7 p.m. Gathering**

with welcome glass of wine or soft drink.

**Chair for the evening – David Kiltie**

**7.30 p.m.**

#### Supper

**Selkirk Grace – Jack Boyd**

*The Haggis will be piped in  
by Fergus Cook*

**Address to the Haggis –**

**Dave Killicoat**

Haggis, Neeps & Tatties (Vegetarian available)

A selection of Scottish Cheeses with Oatcakes

Tea or Coffee

(All catering provided by Jane's Delicatessen

25 High Street, Maybole)

**8.15 p.m.**

Interval – recharge your glasses

**8.30 p.m.**

**The Immortal Memory – Murray Cook**

**Toast to the Lasses – Jack Boyd**

**Response – Helen McAdam**

**9.15 p.m.**

#### Poems & Songs

**Pianist – Miss Alison M. Dixon**

**Singers – Mrs Jessie Thomson, Mrs  
Margaret Hutchison, Mrs  
Lesley Rodger & Mr Alec  
Davidson**

**Poetry – Fergus Cook**

**Holy Willie's Prayer – Dave Killicoat**

**11.30 p.m.**

**Auld Lang Syne**

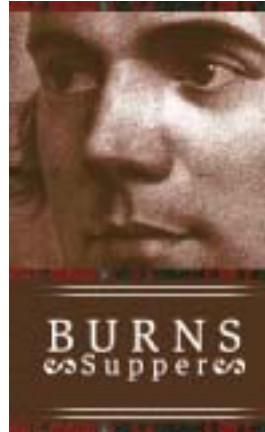
A fully licensed bar will be available throughout the evening

## MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Febraury 7.30 p.m.

### ALL WELCOME

**Tickets, priced at £10.00 each are available from Helen McAdam (Tel. 01655 884255) or through any member of the committee. Tickets should be purchased before Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. If you wish to come but cannot get your payment to us before this date then please let Helen know as we would like as many as possible to be able to attend this event.**



**We would like to wish  
all the members and  
friends of the Society  
a very happy and  
prosperous New Year**

#### **New Year Wishes**

Although the scene is cold I chose,  
And the gate is closed you view,  
These wishes sent are glowing warm,  
And the gate is open too,

May every blessing fill your hearts,  
Along the track you steer,  
And may the Ardeonaig sports be  
good,  
Dear freens – a Guid New Year.

The above greeting was penned by Allan Ramsay and is taken from his book of couthy poems "Frae a' the Airts" published by Carn in 1996 (poetry was a family trait inherited from his grandmother Elizabeth Ramsey of Lagg Farm). Although not a member of the Society, Allan was a frequent visitor and took a very keen interest in the progress of Kirkbride Kirkyard where many of his ancestors are buried. We were therefore very sad to read of Allan's death in early December at the grand old age of 93.

He was born at Brae Lodge Cottage, Auchendrane, and later moved to Annbank district where he attended Annbank School (which celebrated its centenary last year). Due to ill health he spent a great deal of his childhood on his grandmother's farm at Monkwood Mains and so also went to Minishant School.

In 1930 Allan started a livestock haulage business and became well known in all the markets between Glasgow and Stranraer and in 1937 he married his childhood sweetheart Marion Robson. Marion died in 1987, five months before their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Allan went in to semi-retirement in 1945 due to continued ill health but continued his life-long connection with the markets as an agent for a meal company and collecting accounts for a grain merchant in Kilmarnock. Latterly he moved to Ayr but as he found that his farmer friends did not like attending the market, he took on the job of selling cattle and sheep on their behalf. He was the last man out of the old market in Ayr and made a speech at the opening of the new one.

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## 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.**

## 2004 MEETINGS

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

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April** – Tony Kerrigan – **Crime Scene Investigations** – 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** – Archive Sources 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**)

## DID YOU HEAR.....?

Did you hear David Hunter and Murray Cook telling the story of Lady Jean and Johnny Faa on BBC Radio Scotland's "Past Lives" programme with Mark Stephen? It was broadcast on 11<sup>th</sup> November but there is a recording if anyone missed it.

## WATCH OUT FOR.....

reviews of four of our books in the Scots Magazine. Reviews were sent in January for the Straiton and Kirkmichael Churchyard MI's and David Hunter's "Covenanter's of Carrick" and "Girvan Valley Coalfields". Some of our publications of local interest are now also available for sale in the Carrick Gazette shop in Dalrymple Street, Girvan, Dailly Library and the local shop in Straiton

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



## A Quick Look Back

2003 was a very busy and successful year for the Historical Society. Our normal spring meetings were followed by History Month and we had a very full programme of open days both in Maybole Castle and in the villages around North Carrick. This was followed over the summer months by several local outings, including a very

popular evening visit to Blairquhan, and visit to the Heritage Museum and Family History Centre on Arran. If anything, there were too many things going on and this year we hope to continue to support local historic houses with visits but will be part of Scottish History Week in April instead of the longer and more time consuming History Month. The theme of Scottish History week is the Preservation of Graveyards and Gravestones so we will be consolidating all our work and producing a comprehensive display on the old North Carrick Kirkyards.

The first half of the year included an examination of the Urban History Report being prepared for Historic Scotland. This proved to be a worthwhile task as many corrections were able to be proposed to the final document which will hopefully be of assistance in preserving the architectural and archaeological heritage of Maybole. To our great disappointment we have not yet received a copy of the final report but we have made our feelings known to the relevant authorities.

During early summer the state of the water level in Lochspouts was brought to our attention and we in turn notified West of Scotland Archaeology Service who have taken an interest in the matter to ensure preservation of anything that might remain of the Crannog. As you can see from the photograph above, the water level has now returned to about two thirds of its original depth so this has proved to be a great relief to all although a continued watch will be kept on the situation in case this is a temporary respite. The Society has also been involved in the preservation of the Font from the Old Kirkyard in Maybole, the Maybole Burns Club Minutes and a catalogue of Maybole Boots and Shoes. We are also on the continual lookout for more artefacts relating to the lost industries of the area - **so keep your eyes peeled in 2004!**