

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 43 * September, 2005

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



NEXT MEETING

Donald Reid
& Ian Shaw

Robert W.
Service
Poet of the
People



Robert W. Service
1874 - 1958

A fascinating and humorous illustrated talk about the Ayrshire poet most people remember for his character Dangerous Dan McGrew.

Monday 3rd October 7.30 pm

MAYBOLE CASTLE

ALL WELCOME VISITORS £0.50

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2005/6

Saturday 22nd October – FIFE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR, Rothies Halls, Kingdom Centre, Glenrothes. Further details from Janet Klak, Central Area Library H.Q., East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 1XT. The Society will have a stand at this bi-annual event that attracts major exhibitors from England with family history software and materials.

PROGRAMME FOR 2005/6 SEASON

Monday 7th November 2005 – Margaret Morrell : **The History of Turnberry Airfield**

Monday 5th December 2005 – **Members Christmas Night with Cheese, Wine, Mince Pies and various diversions**

Saturday 10th December – **Maybole Christmas Bazaar, Maybole Town Hall. MHS Display & Stand**

Monday 6th February 2006 – **Burns Supper, Carrick Sports Club** – Tickets (priced £12.00) now available from Helen McAdam.

Monday 6th March 2006 – John Steele : **Secrets of Horse Island**

Monday 3rd April – John Miller : **The Smugglers Who Saved the Language**

Monday 8th May 2006 – AGM & Archie Scobie : **Maybole Emigrants**

Dr. Brian Moffat (who recently featured in the tabloid and television news) was unfortunately unable to talk to the Society on his **“Discoveries at Soutra”** at the September 2005 meeting due to a bout of Gastric Flu and he will now present his talk at the meeting in September 2006.

It is with great sadness that we must report the recent death of Norah Hempink. Norah was one of the founder members of the Society and a great supporter of all our activities.

DOORS OPEN DAY 2005 AND OTHER VISITORS

Maybole Castle was open once again as part of the European Doors Open Day programme and this year we had in excess of 240 visitors over the day. Rather than providing guided tours, this year saw the introduction of a small printed guide which was given to each individual and this allowed them to wander round the Castle at their own pace with guides placed strategically about the Castle to answer specific questions. The new arrangements proved to be a great success for both visitors and volunteers.



This year has seen a large increase in the overall number of visitors to the castle and we have been pleased to provide special tours for groups outwith the advertised opening hours. These recently included a business delegation from Schotten in Germany and a party over as guests of Lord Ailsa for the 1945 anniversary celebrations at Culzean (pictured above with Lord Ailsa on the left and Archie Scobie & Murray Cook from the Historical Society on the right).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees were due for renewal on 1st September except for those whose subscription was received after 1st February 2005. Membership will be valid until 1st September 2006.

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.

CASTLE OPENING

Please see our posters and local press for details of the rest of this season's opening times. The Castle will close to the public except by special request at the end of September

If you wish to have a special visit (providing sufficient notice is given) or if you wish to arrange a function or hold a meeting at any time please contact -

Dave Killicoat Tel. 07776 445033

e-mail 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

**c/o Maybole Resource Centre
48/50 High Street
MAYBOLE, KA19 7BZ**

Committee 2004-5

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

Chair – Helen McAdam
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair – Archie Scobie

Project Co-ordinator – Dave Killicoat

e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk
(Tel. 07776 445033)

Secretary – Jim Hastings

Treasurer – Jack Boyd

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

Members - David Kiltie MBE
Alex Davidson Mary Henry
Eleanor Jamieson Arnold Lake

FOUR WEEKS OF CELEBRATIONS

The 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII and also the handing over of Culzean Castle by the Kennedy family to the National Trust for Scotland were commemorated by a series of events, the former being supported by the National Lottery through a special Home Front Recall Fund, and in both of which the Society was heavily involved.



A Drumhead Service on the 21st August (pictured left) was the first of these events. Maybole Pipe Band led a large turnout from the Royal British Legion Scotland and the local community from the Greenside to Memorial Park where Rev. David Whiteman held a short service of celebration remembering those who served at home

as well as those who served in the front line. This was followed by a march past at the Town Hall and a civic reception there afterwards.

Over the weekend of 27th/28th August it was planned to have the Castle open to visitors and a display of WWII vehicles in the grounds. The Saturday proved to be very successful with a 1944 AEC Matador, a 1944 Bedford QL, a 1943 Dodge WC54 Panel Van and a 1942 Wallys MB Jeep all



making it in through the gate (quite a feat with an inch to spare on either side and no power steering!). Unfortunately we received a severe weather warning for the Sunday and cancelled the event although, in the end, the Met Office seem to have been over cautious.

A competition was held to find the best "Recipe on a Ration" with the winning entry being cooked and sampled at the Castle on Sunday 11th September. The winner was Shona Law from Gardenrose Path who received her prize from Provost Gordon Mackenzie the following week (see picture below).



The culmination of the initial series of events was a 1945 day at Culzean on Sunday 18th September. This was preceded by a celebration dinner in a marquee on the lawn on the Saturday night at which the Marchioness of Ailsa (now in her 90s) was able to lead off the dancing in grand fashion.

The day itself was a great success with a large range of period displays, entertainment and activities including an Air/Sea Rescue demonstration by a helicopter from HMS Gannet and the Girvan Lifeboat. Thousands of people turned out and our congratulations go to Mike Shafer, his staff and volunteers at the National Trust for Scotland for a very well organised event. Even the weather stayed good for the whole day.

Still to come are two 1945 style concerts in Maybole Town Hall within the next two months. Watch out for further details!