

# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

## Newsletter 40 \* March, 2005

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

### NEXT MEETING

## Dr. Christine Lodge

Ayrshire Archives

## THE RECORDS FROM THE CASTLE



WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PRESERVE THE WEALTH OF MAPS AND RECORDS

FROM MAYBOLE CASTLE

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm

MAYBOLE CASTLE

ALL WELCOME VISITORS £0.50

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2005

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** – Scottish Association of Family History Societies' Conference, Paisley Grammar School, 9.30am – 5.00pm, tickets £10.00 – “**Surfing the Past**” – further details at [www.renfrewshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.renfrewshirefhs.org.uk) or contact The Secretary, Renfrewshire FHS, c/o Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, High Street, Paisley, PA1 2BA.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May** – Tony Collins – “**HARRY TATE'S NAVY**” The untold local story of The Sparrows – the Royal Naval Patrol Service.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – **TROON HISTORY FAIR**, Walker Halls; further details from the Scottish & Local History Department, Carnegie Library, Ayr. The Society will have a stand at the Fair.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – **MAYBOLE GALA**. The Society will be opening the Castle and participating in several events. Volunteers needed to help man the Castle and help out elsewhere. If you are available please let a member of the committee know.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – **FIFE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**, Rothes 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 which attracts major exhibitors from England with family history software and materials.



### THE CROSS IS BACK!

After the article in last month's newsletter was picked up by the local press and made front page news, local man Michael Cooper thought he would do something about it. As an employee of Amey who are responsible for the road, he was in an ideal position to do so. He, David Page (also from Maybole) and Drew Fulton (**pictured below**) discovered that the whole surface had been stripped off the road a couple of years ago and dumped near Minishant. They searched the site and found the cross then came out at six o'clock on Sunday morning to replace it. Definitely above and beyond the call of duty!

Now the site of the old Market Cross, permission for which was given to Maybole in the Burgh Charter of 1516 (*but which had to be removed in 1773 due to traffic congestion in the High Street!*), can once again be pointed out to all visitors.

### WELL DONE AND THANK YOU.



# MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## MEMBERSHIP

All membership fees (new or renewed) received from now forward will be valid until 1<sup>st</sup> 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

The castle will re-open to the public on Easter weekend :- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March (1.00pm – 4.30pm) Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March (10.00am – 4.00pm) and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March (1.00pm – 4.30 pm. Full details of the dates and times of opening for the Castle in 2005 are advertised on our usual posters throughout the town and on the website. 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](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

**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** – Arnold Lake

**Project Co-ordinator** – Dave Killicoat  
e-mail [maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk](mailto:maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk)  
(Tel. 07776 445033)

**Secretary** – Jim Hastings

**Treasurer** – Jack Boyd

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

**Members** - Archie Scobie  
Alex Davidson Mary Henry  
Eleanor Jamieson David Kiltie

## MITCHELL LIBRARY

It has been announced that the Mitchell Library near Charing Cross in Glasgow, a major resource centre for both local and family historians and home of the Glasgow City archives (with a lot of the old Strathclyde archives as well!), is to close for two months in July and August this summer for major refurbishment. The "Mitchell" is the biggest public library in Europe and this major investment is to be applauded. The reason given for choosing the two summer months for the closure is that it is the quietest time of the year. Unfortunately one wonders if the fact that we get the greatest number of foreign visitors trying to trace their own family and local history at the same time of year has been taken in to account!

## Remembering Willie

Last year it was decided that the late Willie Connelly, one of our founder members and a much respected member of the original Society committee, should be remembered by placing a seat in the grounds of the castle so that members and visitors would have a comfortable place to sit in peace. The seat is to be formally put in place on Easter Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm and Father Stephen McGrattan will say a few words of dedication. All members and friends are invited to join us at that time.

## They Deserve a Medal Themselves.



A new and valuable resource has recently been made available on the internet by the National Archives. Many records of soldiers who served during the First World War were destroyed by enemy action during WWII. One record that survived was the index of the

campaign medals awarded to men who served in the British Army or Royal Flying Corps. The index can be searched free of charge at

[www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

by surname, forename, regiment (if known) and time period although with a slightly less common surname excellent results and the regiment of one Ayrshire soldier were recently found using only the surname and first initial of the forename. For a small fee of £3.50 the medal card itself can be downloaded.

As the site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) only gives details of the 1.7 million personnel who were actually killed during the wars, this is an important additional resource for tracing those who served and survived.

Also available on the same site as the WWI army medals is a record of medals claimed and issued to more than 100,000 Merchant Seamen from 1946 – 2000 giving details of the seaman's name, discharge book number and the medals, ribbons and clasps issued to him, with some entries also listing date and place of birth.