

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 47 * February, 2006

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

NEXT MEETING



SECRETS OF HORSE ISLAND

with a welcome return from John Steele

7.30 pm Monday 6th March

MAYBOLE CASTLE

MEMBERS FREE - VISITORS £0.50

APRIL MEETING

The Smugglers Who Saved the Language

with John Miller

**(2005 winner of the Ayrshire Federation of
Historical Societies' Strawhorn Quaich)**

7.30 pm Monday 3rd April Maybole Castle
Members Free Visitors £0.50

A CHANGE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Due to the ever increasing cost of printing and distributing this newsletter and in order to give more space for news and articles, the format will change to A5 with a minimum of 8 pages and will now appear four times a year in August, October, January and April

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2006

Thursday 16th March 2006 - Joint meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies in Carnegie Library, Ayr at 7.30 pm hosted by Alloway FHS - Mrs Joanna O'Rourke, New Register House : **The Scottish Family History Project**

Saturday 22nd April 2006 - **Scottish Association of Family History Societies Conference 2006** - 'Education and Recreation' : The Visitor Centre, New Lanark; 10.00 am - 5.00 pm; further information from the Conference Secretary, Lanarkshire Family History Society, 26A Motherwell Business Centre, Coursington Road, Motherwell, ML1 1PW.

Monday 8th May 2006 - Maybole Historical Society AGM plus Archie Scobie: **Maybole Emigrants**; Maybole Castle 7.30 pm

Saturday 3rd June 2006 - **Troon History Fair**, Walker Halls, Troon, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm : further details from The Scottish & Local History Department, Carnegie Library, 12 Main Street, Ayr, KA8 8EB. The lecture programme will be :- 10.00 am - "Kirks, kills and cults: saints and churches in medieval Ayrshire" with Thomas Clancy; 11.00 am - "In venture to the Barbadoes": the beginnings of Ayr's Transatlantic Trade with Tom Barclay; 2.00 pm - "From here to Posterity": the moving image as a source for Scottish Lives in the 20th century with Janet McBain; 3.00 pm "The Aviation History of Ayrshire" with Dougal McIntyre.

July/August 2006 - It is proposed that we have a local outing (probably a guided tour of Crossraguel) and a more distant trip to Dunfermline with its great historic past. Further details at the April meeting and newsletter.

Saturday 9th September 2006, 10.00 am - 4.30 pm - **The National Family History Fair** : Gateshead International Stadium, Neilson Road, Gateshead, NE10 0EF; full details at www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees are due on 1st September each year. For all new memberships or membership renewals received after 1st February 2006, membership will be valid until 1st September 2007.

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 has now ceased its regular openings to the public and these will start again at Easter in 2006. A full programme of opening times will be available in the new year. In the meantime, 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 2005-6

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

A SURPRISE FIND IN THE DAILY MUSEUM COLLECTION!



Amongst the collection accepted by the Historical Society for preservation from the Dalmoalkerran Historical Society museum in Dailly was one particular piece that intrigued us from the very start. It took the form of a dinner gong made out of a shell casing and had a small cardboard tag attached to it saying "Gong made from a naval shell fired at the Bismark". Also on the shell is a small shield stating "HMS Powerful LADYSMITH 1898-1900". Peter Scally and John Webster, local military historians, examined the shell and confirmed it was a naval shell and had been manufactured around 1896 which

put paid to the description given on the cardboard label but still left us wondering how HMS Powerful, a first class cruiser launched in 1895, could be associated with Ladysmith, some 190 miles from the nearest port.

When the explanation was found it caused some excitement in naval circles. It turns out that this dinner gong (or possibly mess gong) was a memento of the famous exploits of a naval brigade from HMS Powerful who dismantled the guns from the warship, built gun carriages for them and hauled them overland by train then using only manpower for the last section. The resulting support given by this naval brigade resulted in the ultimate relief of Ladysmith from the besieging Boers. Until recently this event was commemorated every year by several teams from the navy and army who competed at the Royal Tournament in the famous "Gun Run".

The gong has now been placed in the care of the local museums service at Rozelle in order to ensure its continued and proper preservation but one mystery still remains to be solved. *What is the connection between HMS Powerful and Dailly and how did the gong get there? Have you any answers?*



A GREAT DAY AT ALLOWAY

Alloway Family History Society must be congratulated on their excellent Drop In Day held in the church halls on Saturday 18th February. They designed a very innovative format with stalls from the Library and various local societies (including our own) in the round in the main hall and four short fifteen minute talks over a period of an hour in the morning, repeated in the afternoon. Everyone was pleasantly surprised at the numbers who turned out and this arrangement meant they all had a very successful day.