

## MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charity No. SC034056

### NEWSLETTER February 2012

Next meeting will be held in The Castle, Maybole

**MONDAY 6th February 2012 at 7:30pm**

### Membership

#### 2011-2012

New Members are always welcome and if you would like to join the Society please contact our treasurer:

**Jack Boyd,**  
**9 Kinraig Court,**  
**Maybole, KA19 8AQ.**

Individual £10  
Couples at same address £15  
Students & Disabled Free

Please make cheques payable to  
*"Maybole Historical Society"*

*If you have any changes to your address, e-mail etc. please let us know to keep our database up to date-Thanks*

### Dates for your diary:-

**5th March-Duncan Doran-**  
**Scottish Farming Museum**  
**East Kilbride**

**2nd April-Ayrshire Safari-**  
**Ian Fraser**

**14th May-AGM & John**  
**Dunn**

### Committee Meeting Dates:-

Meetings held in the Castle,  
Maybole at 7pm  
**21st February 2012**

## Our Speaker for February is Catherine Czerkowska who will be speaking about the "History of Ayrshire White Work"

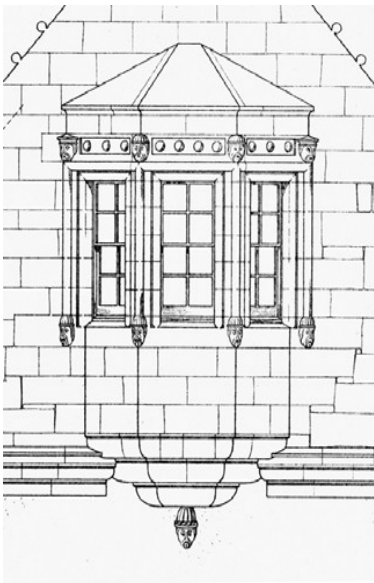
In 1814 **Lady Marie Montgomerie** travelled from Europe to her family home in Ayrshire, bringing with her a French baby gown, beautifully embroidered. She lent it to her friend Mrs Jamieson, who was married to an Ayr cotton agent. Mrs Jamieson copied the stitches, and then began to teach this fine 'sewed muslin' with needlepoint fillings to women from the small towns and villages round Ayr, including Maybole. The work was sometimes known as *spriggin* from one of the characteristic stitches, which produced a decorative sprig, like a little leafy branch, or *floo'erin* because of the dense, but delicately floral nature of the embroidery. By the 1830s there were many sewing agents, acting as middlemen between the embroiderers and their market. Whitework became a flourishing cottage industry in Ayrshire villages with women working at home on what were called *floo'erin wabs*, bolts of fine cloth, already stamped with patterns, ready for embroidering.

Playwright and novelist Catherine Czerkowska relates the history of this local craft, and how it affected the health and wellbeing of the women involved, bringing a selection of fascinating items from her own whitework collection for people to see, and examine for themselves.



### "CELEBRATION OF SCOTLAND"

In December 2011 MHS held the annual 'Celebration of Scotland : St Andrew's Night Event' for members and friends. To start off the evening in style guests enjoyed a welcome drink before tucking into a splendid savoury buffet. The Toast to Scotland recognised and linked the contribution of local people and events to the developing national history of Scotland. The Toast was followed by an entertainment programme of traditional music, song, poetry and highland dancing provided by very talented people from the local area. In response there was spontaneous audience participation with foot tapping, hand clapping and singing along. Tea, coffee and biscuits were served halfway through the evening and the raffle raised £157 for MHS's funds—thanks to all who donated prizes. The evening ended with the company singing Auld Lang Syne. Many thanks to all who contributed to a very entertaining and successful evening.



**THINGS TO DO?  
PLACES TO GO?  
OR KNOW OF  
INTERESTING  
SPEAKERS?  
—WE WANT TO  
KNOW ABOUT THEM.**

If you know of any interesting exhibitions or places to visit or heard a good talk recently that our members would be interested in—please let us know. It's great to be able to pass this on. Please contact a member of the committee with the information.

**6th February 1952-  
Princess Elizabeth  
succeeds King George  
VI as Queen Elizabeth of  
Great Britain, Ireland  
and British Dominions  
beyond the seas. In 2012  
Queen Elizabeth  
celebrates her Diamond  
Jubilee.**

### **THE ESTATE OFFICE**

The estate office is now located at Maidens. To contact them their e-mail address is [chris@cassillisestate.co.uk](mailto:chris@cassillisestate.co.uk)

## **KIRKMICHAEL OPEN HISTORY DAY**

Maybole History Society presented their summer exhibition “**Maybole Past and Present**” at the above open day in November. Wendy Bibby and Myra McLanaghan attended the day to lend our support as the village are trying to set up a history group. It was a very busy afternoon and many people took time to look at our exhibition and enjoy past memories.

## **PORTENCROSS CASTLE**

Some Committee Members took time out to visit the castle on what was a lovely afternoon not only weather wise but to see what the castle has to offer the visitor. The castle received a substantial sum to renovate and entice visitors to Portencross. It is certainly worth a visit. Want to know more visit [www.portencrosscastle.org.uk](http://www.portencrosscastle.org.uk)

## **WANTED: SPEAKERS FOR OUR AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2012**

If you have any ideas for Speakers for our autumn programme please let any Committee Member know. Many thanks.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY GROUP PHOTOS OF ORGANISATIONS  
OR SPECIAL EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN THE TOWN-WE  
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW-WE CAN SCAN THE PHOTOS AND  
HAVE THEM RETURNED TO YOU.**

## **MAYBOLE CLOTHING WORKING PARTY**

The picture below includes the maternal great grandmother and grandmother of our committee member Ken Gray. She was Margaret Smith, wife of the Culzean Estate Factor Thomas Smith Sr. (The same lady in the miniature on the mantelpiece in the Bay-windowed room in The Castle) and her daughter Margaret Paterson, wife of Peter Paterson, Solicitor, Maybole. It is reckoned that the picture was taken during WWI as the ladies are seen with needles in their hands, probably making mufflers and socks for the troops. Smiling was definitely not a requirement of the day! Read more about this on the Maybole website under History/Articles and Stories.

