

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 36 * October, 2004

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



NEXT MEETING

Marion Stewart

(Archivist – Dumfries & Galloway)

THE TREASURES IN THE ARCHIVES

The archive resources available in Dumfries and Galloway and the ongoing project to make them freely available on-line

Monday 1st November 7.30 p.m.

MAYBOLE CASTLE

ALL WELCOME

VISITORS 50p

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2004 MEETINGS

Monday 6th December – The return of our very popular

St. Andrew's Night at Drumellan House

7 p.m. for 7.30 pm. – 10.30 p.m. approx.

A welcome glass followed by a supper of real Scottish stovies, cheese and oatcakes with a glass of wine or soft drinks and then traditional Scottish entertainment provided by members of the Society and special guests.

Ticket Price £7.50 – PLACES ARE LIMITED. There are still a few tickets left. Bookings are being taken by Helen McAdam and Dave Killicoat now or at the next meeting. Tickets must be paid for by 1st November if pre-booked or on day of purchase if after this.

2005

Monday 6th February – John Steel – The HMS Dasher Disaster.

Monday 7th March – Dave Killicoat – “Registration - Finding the Whole Story.” A complete look at the history of registration in the year celebrating the 150th anniversary of the introduction of official registration in Scotland.

Monday 4th April – Kevin Wilbraham/Christine Lodge, Ayrshire Archives – “The Archives in the Castle.” Details of the Culzean & Cassillis Estate archives collection in Maybole Castle, its condition and future preservation.

Monday 9th May – Tony Collins – “What did you do in the war Dad?” The untold story of The Sparrows (H.M.R.N. Patrol Service)

DAVID HUNTER GOES INTERNATIONAL

An excellent revue of David Hunter's book “The Covenanters of Carrick” appeared in the “On Your Doorstep” section of the October issue of the Scots Magazine.

The book is available from the Society and this revue has resulted in an upsurge in requests for copies and these requests are now coming from people who have local connections but have not yet seen the Maybole Website.

Not only has “The Covenanters of Carrick” now become our best seller, the inclusion of a membership form for the Society and a full publications list has resulted in requests for other books as well. All this generates very welcome revenue for the Society.

COMPETITION WINNER



In the last but one issue of the Community news the Society ran a survey to find out the usage of the Resource Centre for Local and Family History. To encourage people to return their answers, all replies were entered into a competition with a prize of a Family History completed as far as possible back to the early 1800's.

The winner of the competition was Agnes McGill from Kirkmichael (shown above, with her daughter, receiving her prize from Society President Murray Cook).

Unfortunately Agnes is of Irish ancestry so she asked to get that of her husband Calum done instead.

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MEMBERSHIP

We were very pleased at the substantial number of members who have already paid or renewed their membership for 2004/5. Membership for all those who last paid prior to January 2004, is now due for renewal. **Membership, once paid, will be valid until 1st September 2005.**

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.

**WINTER CASTLE OPENING –
THE CASTLE WILL RE-OPEN ON
ADVERTISED DAYS IN THE SPRING OF
2005. IN THE MEANTIME IF YOU
WISH TO SEE INSIDE (PROVIDING
SUFFICIENT NOTICE IS GIVEN) OR
ARRANGE TO HOLD A MEETING
PLEASE CONTACT –**

**DAVE KILLICOAT Tel. 07776 445033
e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk
HELEN McADAM Tel. 01655 884255
MURRAY COOK Tel. 01655 883235**

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 2004-5

Hon. President – J. Murray Cook
(Tel. 01655 884235)

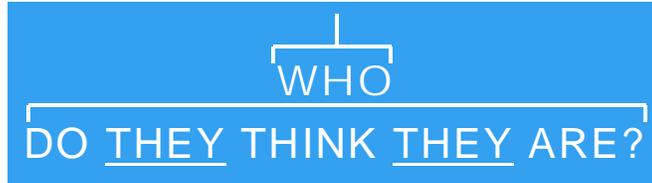
Chair - Helen McAdam
(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair- Dave Killicoat
e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk
(Tel. 07776 445033)

Secretary - Mary Henry
Treasurer - Jack Boyd
9 Kincaig Court, Maybole, KA19 8AQ
Tel. 01655 882109

Members -

Alex Davidson David Kiltie
Eleanor Jamieson Arnold Lake
Archie Scobie



In the same month as the spotlight was placed very firmly on Scotland with the opening of the new Scottish Parliament building, the British? Broadcasting Corporation came up with their “major new BBC initiative” to help people find their roots. As we are well aware in Maybole, any source of help in researching family history is of major benefit to individuals all over the world and has a resultant impact on the local economy in attracting visitors making the ultimate journey in search of the historical location of their ancestors. I was therefore looking forward to this new series, anticipating that it would encourage many more people to start the journey in search of their past and show everyone throughout the UK - and those who watch BBC programmes abroad with all the new technology available now – how much easier and cheaper to access, and how much more complete are the Scottish records.

This BBC initiative is in association with BBC History Magazine, Ancestors (the magazine of the English Family Records Centre) and the National Archives. Is this already a missed opportunity from ScotlandsPeople and the National Archives of Scotland or did the anglophiles at the BBC not give them the chance to be included? Certainly ScotlandsPeople seem to me to be spending more money promoting Islay Whisky than their own records!

The first thing I received was the 32 page pull-out supplement in the BBC History Magazine. I have no complaints about the magazine itself as I make sure I get every copy and find the coverage for the whole of Britain very good indeed. This cannot be said about the supplement. Apart from being factually incorrect and misleading, there is very little mention of Scottish records and no mention whatsoever that our records (not only the indexes!) are available very cheaply over the internet.

The Radio Times covering the week of the first programme in the series had a much simplified, 4 page guide which was slightly better in that it mentioned correctly that Scottish Census returns were available online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk and that wills are available at www.scottishdocuments.com however the crucial fact that certificates of birth, marriage and death in Scotland for a very large period are also available online at the former site, was missed out completely.

Amazingly the best free guide I received was from the National Archives (the mainly *English* archives) which included good clear sections on a number of topics including, crucially, Scotland and the International Genealogical Index.

All the BBC publications, the trailers for the programmes and the programmes themselves point you in the direction of the BBC website at bbc.co.uk/familyhistory for further information. Not only do I find this website difficult to navigate and lacking in Scottish content, it is obvious from the number of requests for help in finding good websites that I have received due to the upsurge in interest in family history caused by the programmes, that others experience the same difficulties.

Finally, the television series itself is only two programmes old so hopefully it will improve as it progresses. So far the only comment I can make is that it is anglophile and sensationalist and would probably have the opposite effect than that intended by putting people off starting their own search completely. I was surprised that there was not a link to a special counselling service after the first programme as it certainly left me feeling totally depressed – but then again that was maybe a combination of all the disappointments I have received after looking forward to what could have been an excellent series!