

Bygone days *Before the need for a bypass*



THIS photo of Maybole in a bygone age was presented to Roads Minister Tavish Scott when Maybole Bypass Committee took their case to the Scottish Parliament in June. The Minister was told that in the 18th Century Robert Burns visited the middle building on the left, the

King's Arms Hotel, to collect money raised from the sale of six copies of his first edition of poems.

The building on the right was the home of his friend William Niven who had sold the copies. Burns visited Niven's home at weekends when at school at

Kirkoswald. The group stressed that the street has not changed since those days but the traffic had! They then showed him photos of the street as it is today before presenting other reasons why a bypass is essential. Find out more on page 3.

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Maybole: a can do community

By Maybole Councillor Alan Murray

HAVING moved to Maybole around 35 years ago, I almost feel part of the Community now. Maybole is a place I am proud to represent on South Ayrshire Council. One of the main reasons for this is that there are a large number of people who are willing to work to maintain a sense of identity for the town.

Recently we have had a success in getting the STAG Report in relation to the Bypass, this means that the case has been accepted by the Scottish Executive and they will now move to do a technical study on the best route, so thanks to everyone on the By-pass Committee who participated in our protests or who worked in the background over the years to get us to this stage.

The next exciting project for Maybole relates to local people taking over and developing The Castle as a Visitor and Conference Centre. There is still a lot of work to do on this but we are moving in the right direction to develop this

wonderful historical asset for the town. At the end of June we had a visit from the Culture Minister, Patricia Ferguson to look at this project.

We now have an up-to-date all-weather sports surface at Carrick Academy and once again local groups are discussing with the Council the best way to manage and develop this facility. It is a wonderful asset and something which we hope will be used to great benefit over the coming years.

There seems to be a new lease of life at Carrick Academy with trips to Barcelona and other places, a new school exchange to Crosne, our twin town, and an excellent school show all having taken place in June. It really is a school of ambition and I hope that over the coming year the staff will become ever more involved in the community as well as the community continuing to be involved in the school.

The last event I am going to mention is the Gala. Again lots of work by lots



of local groups and individuals to put on an excellent event in which hundreds and hundreds of people participated.

The problem is I could go on and on and list lots of other groups and individuals who have done so much for the town and continue to do so. I hope that we all appreciate the work that these individuals do to keep the civic life of our town active, and I hope that you, like me, are proud to live in this town and willing to do something to keep this spirit alive.

An Independent View

By Maybole Councillor Brian Connolly

Maybole By-pass
Maybole took a first step towards our long-awaited by-pass with the publication of the STAG-1 report, recommending a by-pass for our town. Our visit to the Scottish Parliament started with VIP seats at First Minister question time followed by a meeting with Transport minister Tavish Scott.

After thanking the by-pass committee for their campaign, the report was presented and we retired for a celebratory lunch, hosted by our MSP Cathy Jamieson. With the need for a by-pass never more obvious we appear to be making real progress and this may be one of the more tangible benefits, to the local area, of our Scottish parliament.

How will the by-pass affect our town? The removal of the heavy vehicles trundling through the High Street can only be good for the quality of life in the town centre. The community is already looking ahead to ensure that the town rises to the challenge that will be created by this huge change.

When we hear of the £800 million pounds that the executive have 'found' in the run-up to the 2007 elections, the cost of improving the life of all Minniebolers seems insignificant at £14 million.

Community Facilities
The decision to close Coyton library was correctly reversed at a recent council meeting, although it highlighted the ever-increasing pressure on the council to continue to provide community facilities. Unfortunately, the community centres at Whitlets and Mossblown are still scheduled to close as a cost saving measure. We are correctly labelled as the 'sickmen' of Europe and closing such facilities does nothing to encourage the physical activity vital to improve our nation's health.

In recent years, North Carrick has fared particularly well in the development of community facilities, resulting from the efforts of hard-working and enthusiastic communities and our community councils are held in the highest regard by SAC. As the largest community Maybole has fared particularly well with the all-weather sports facility the latest asset added to the area's portfolio. The rural communities are also working to raise funds to establish or upgrade the facilities within their expanding villages. There is plenty going on!

Wind Farm
Maybole Community Council recently voted to support the proposed wind farm above the electric brae. Although we all accept the need to utilise renewable energy, the location of the farm in an area of scenic beauty has generated considerable objections. Having discussed the genuine concerns of the objectors, Maybole Community



Council decided by a large majority that the significant long-term financial benefits to the local area warranted their support. The final decision, due later this year, may lie with the Scottish Parliament.

Summer-time in Carrick

There is nowhere quite like Carrick when the sun is shining and the flowers are in full bloom. From the stunning coastline of Dunure through Maidens down to Ballantrae, inland to the verdant Stinchar valley and everywhere in between, this really is God's country. We have such an array of impressive villages, each one with its own unique strengths and qualities that we can become blasé. My top Carrick village this summer? The cleanliness and tremendous floral displays as you drive around the village is a credit to every resident of - Crosshill.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Lady & St Cuthbert's

REPAIRS to the premises at Our Lady & St. Cuthbert's are still ongoing. Part of the hall ceiling fell down and immediate repairs had to be commenced and in genuine ecumenical partnership the ceiling from the West Parish church hall was gifted by the present owners to us - a true Christian sharing of goods!

Now major work is being done in repairing the sanctuary floor and once again the parish community owes much to the faithful band of volunteers who give so much of their time and labour to keep the premises wind and water tight, not to mention still standing!

First Holy Communion and Confirmation saw Bishop Cunningham visit our parish and it was a truly happy and holy celebration. Fr. Stephen took the youth to see Narnia and has since had a BBQ and camping overnight at Culzean with them. The grotto is now also being looked after by the youth and is looking better than ever before.

We are currently preparing for a parish weekend trip to Iona from October 20th -23rd.

The new parish pastoral council is settling in well, and will go on retreat in November. As usual Our Lady & St Cuthbert's is happy to welcome anyone who wants to find out more about the Catholic faith. We have a small group of parishioners willing to meet and help inquirers. Services are held at 6.30pm on Saturday evenings and 10am on Sundays, and there is a weekday Mass every morning at 9am, except Wednesday and Saturday, and on Wednesday evening at 7pm.

Ellen Hawkes

ship together. Again I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who feels they would like to join with us either at this service or any other service or meeting, you will be made most welcome.

The times of services and meetings are printed below so if you would like to come along, please do, or if you would like to know more about anything concerning the church or what we do within the church, give me a ring on the number below, don't be shy about giving me a call no matter what you would like to talk about, I look forward to hearing from you.

The Women's Fellowship has now stopped for the summer but there are coffee evenings each month, and their session resumes in October.

Also the Carrick Street Kids Club has finished for the summer but will resume after the school holidays, so if you know of a youngster who would like to come along when it begins again, then please feel free to ask them to try the club.

Sunday Church Services 11.30am and 6.30pm, with Communion in the morning service each week.

Monday Women's Fellowship 7.30pm.

Wednesday Carrick Street Kids Club 6.30pm.

Thursday Mid-week meeting for Prayer & Bible study - 7.30pm

Friday Cafe 11.30am. till 1.30pm.

If you would like to know more about any of the things above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tom Barry (Church Secretary).

Telephone-01655 889508

New Church Architects

ARP Lorimer have now submitted plans to South Ayrshire Council for planning consent. Contamination tests have been carried out on the site's ground and there are no serious problems. It is hoped as soon as the demolition warrant has been granted work will begin. This should start by the end of this month. There are new architect drawings on the website showing all angles of the buildings.

Youth Centre

Many applications have been sent to possible funders. There has been real interest from various Trusts, one of which is BBC's Children in Need. The Trustees of this charity will meet to discuss our project later this month. We will be aware of the outcome by the start of September.

The Fair Share Trust has received our application and a meeting was held with two of their assessors. A few more details are required but they are confident we will receive funding. The Robertson Trust has agreed to fund 10% of the overall cost of the youth centre and also a percentage of the car park.

Gordon Fleming of ARP Lorimer is currently in negotiations with Scottish Power for further funding as part of their Energy Efficiency Grant programme. This is estimated to be around £20,000. Our estimated shortfall is currently £307,505. Please encourage your children or grandchildren to organise fundraising activities for this much needed facility. They can learn new skills while having a ball!

Major Fundraising

Cheques and Pledges are now starting to arrive in the post. In the last few weeks £21,000 has been received from the Allchurches Ltd, Renfield Street Trust, Baird Trust, Ferguson Bequest Trust and M S Lumsdens Charitable Trust. Letters have been sent to the Trusts stating our thanks. They will of course be kept up to date on the progress of the project. A meeting with Lloyds TSB was mentioned in the April newsletter to discuss the project in more detail.

They have pledged £7,000 towards the cost of the community facilities. Many thanks to them also. We have requested funding from the Big Lottery Fund towards the community facility and youth centre. The outline proposal has been passed and the application has now moved into the second phase.

The full application takes much preparation as great detail is needed so it will be the start of September before it is ready to submit. In the meantime, over 100 applications have been sent to various Trusts and we are awaiting replies. To date we have raised around £900,000 towards the Church Community Centre, over half the amount needed.

Dates for your Diary

St Andrews Night Concert, Town Hall, 30th November 2006

Charity Shop, starts 11th November 2006

To find out more information for the above, please contact the fundraising committee. Please also remember there are the Maybole Parish Church Choir CD and other merchandise available from the Church and the Resource Centre. There will also be local Maybole Christmas cards for sale this year. If you would like to order a pack or find out more information, again please contact the fundraising committee who will be able to give you prices for the items.



An all-party campaign

WHEN a group of Maybole residents visited the Scottish Parliament in June they did not present Roads Minister Tavish Scott with loads of data to put the case for a bypass.

Firstly, they told him that the campaign had all party support.

Secondly, they produced quotes of promises to the people of Maybole of a bypass.

Then they showed him three photographs to illustrate their case, including the one of Maybole High Street today, and one in Robert Burns' day.

The group were delighted when the Roads Minister produced a STAG 1 report in favour of a bypass for the town, and local MSP Cathy Jamieson described the report as 'a tremendous victory for campaigners.' Due to the favourable report, the town's Bypass Committee is suspending any further protests for the foreseeable future.

Peter Mason, committee chairman, said: "The STAG 1 report that sets us on our way to our bypass was great news. We were further gladdened when the Roads Minister announced that STAG 2 will commence in August." He added: "We as a committee

are not disbanding. We are going to be holding a watching brief to ensure that the words the minister said are carried out. If at any time we feel that we are being side tracked, we will again call on the support of the people of Maybole. Please be assured that we will take action again. The committee would like to thank the Roads Minister Tavish Scott, Cathy Jamieson MSP who worked tirelessly on our behalf, Phil Gallie MSP, Derek Brownlee MSP, Chris Ballance MSP, Adam Ingram MSP and Sandra Osborne MP for their visits to the town and for their words of support and encouragement."

Mr Mason said that the committee would also like to thank the people of Maybole. "Without their support this report would not have been produced so soon, and in our opinion STAG 2 would not have been announced so speedily," he said.

"It has been a long hard struggle for the people who turned out for the protests. We as a committee thank each and every one of you; you are a credit to the town of Maybole the ancient capital of Carrick, and should be rightly proud of yourselves."

John Loudon McAdam - a colossus of roads

JOHN Loudon McAdam the famous roadmaker, although born in Ayr in 1756, was educated at a school in Maybole and he was a frequent visitor to the district until his death in Moffat in 1836.

From 1785 to 1798 he lived at Sauchrie, a few miles out of the town, and on leaving his Carrick home he spent the next 16 years studying the conditions of roads, travelling 30,000 miles and spending £535,000 of his own money on road research.

It is locally believed that he first carried out his experiments in 'Macadamising' on the stretch of roadway between where the Station Bridge is now sited in Culzean Road, and Whitefaulds Farm, and no one will disabuse a Minnieboler of this belief.

John Loudon McAdam was born in Ayr in Lady Cathcart's house in the Sandgate, on September 21, 1756. At one stage his

family moved to Blairquhan near Straiton. John attended Mr Doig's school at Maybole. When John was 14 years of age in 1770, his father James died and was buried in the old kirkyard of Straiton.

John Loudon was packed off to New York to the care of his uncle William McAdam, a New York merchant, and his wife Ann.

John also became a merchant and his business prospered. He and his uncle helped found the New York Chamber of Commerce in New York. When the Revolutionary War came, John along with the other McAdams in New York City adhered to the loyalist side in the Revolution.

John served in the British reserves and was a government contractor. After the war, John and his family were not welcome in America and he returned to Scotland in 1783 with his wife and two children. His property



JOHN Loudon McAdam.

and most of his other assets were confiscated by the new American government. However, he managed to keep enough money to purchase an estate - Sauchrie - near Maybole.

John held valid patents on his method of road building and his methods proved so important that his patents were not protected and enforced by the government. Parliament eventually awarded John some payment, but he was never completely compensated for his work or received royalties.



WISHFUL thinking? If Peter Mason was First Minister would his first act be to announce a bypass for Maybole?

Bobby's memories of a 'special town'

BOBBY Paterson lives in Stevenage, Herts, with wife Frances, and works for Monarch Airlines. He has three daughters Laura, Sarah, and Alexandra. He has three grandchildren Oakley, Courtney and Kyle.

Bobby is seriously trying to put a book together but says only Maybole people would understand it. He believes it is a special town. He is in regular contact with www.maybole.org and sends some of his memories to it. From time to time we will feature some of Bobby's memories beginning with his remembrances of a very special person.

"Wee Johnny Young (the wee man) what a character! He managed Maybole Boys Club football team to what seemed years of endless league championships and cup victories.

"His never ending enthusiasm, I am sure, played a big part in our success, not to mention all his hard work behind the scenes.

"In 1968 we had beaten our main rivals Ayr Boswell in a league championship play off at Crosshill with Wullie Hill and Billy Toye scoring.

"We received the cup but were shocked to hear no medals would be issued as money was tight. The committee were made up

mainly of people from Ayr.

"The wee man was not happy so he wrote them a nice letter explaining that this was not a problem as he would pay for medals out off his own pocket. The committee were delighted at his generous gesture but not so happy when he told them they would be made from the melted down championship trophy. There was an about turn and we were issued with medals.

"We had a presentation night in the old scout hall in Ladywell Road to receive our medals which included another four sets for the four cups we had also won. There were only 12 medals issued, the eleven who played at Crosshill plus one for a substitute. We had a pool of 16 players who had all played their part and we didn't know who to give the 12th one to.

"The wee man called out the five names but was told not worry as he was getting the 12th medal.

"He broke down in tears and said it was the happiest day of his life, he carried that medal in his pocket until the day he died and everyone he met was given the story behind it.

"It was a great gesture from the five lads involved to give the wee man the night of his life."



FIND out what these lads are up to on page 8.

John D. Cameron

32 QUALITY WINES ON OFFER • 10 CHILLED BEERS ON OFFER



21 to purchase off-sales

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Culzean Castle: Ike's Scottish White House

IN the last issue of the Maybole and District News, we told you about the Queen visiting Maybole in 1956. Now, we are going 10 years further back to 1946 to a very special occasion involving another famous person.

When the Marquess of Ailsa gifted Culzean Castle to the National Trust for Scotland in 1945, he made a stipulation that General Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, be gifted the top flat for his use as a Scottish home during his lifetime. This was as a thankyou from the people of Scotland for his wartime service.

Ike, as he was nicknamed, first came



GENERAL Dwight Eisenhower was President of the United States of America from 1953 until 1961.

in 1946 and was clearly touched to accept this gift. He visited the Castle three more times, once as the President of America after his election in 1952, when for a short time, Culzean was his Scottish White House. His longest stay was during his retirement when he enjoyed painting and walking in the woodlands and by the shore and, of course, playing golf in the area.

He was a frequent visitor to Maybole which he always considered, as he said, his 'Scottish hometown' and on Saturday 5th October 1946, the Freedom of the Burgh was conferred on him by the townspeople.

According to the late James T Gray, this was the first instance of such an honour being granted to anyone and President Eisenhower, in his remarks after the ceremony, said he would



GENERAL Dwight Eisenhower was granted the Freedom of the

"always consider himself a true Minnieboler, if not by birth, at least by adoption".

By the miracle of the Internet, we have now discovered the notes that he had written prior to the ceremony in Maybole Town Hall. The notes are as spelled in the original.

They read: I am delighted to meet you of Maybole today to begin an association that I know will be happy for my family and myself. It is a special honor to be welcomed into the community life of this village here in the country of Bobby Burns. I was born and raised in small towns of the prairie lands of the United States and I know that there is nothing impersonal about the relationships existing among the dwellers of the small community. It is the next thing to being accepted into the family itself, and I assure you that my wife, my son and I are exceedingly proud of your readiness to count us as part of Maybole.

I look forward to meeting and talking to the veterans with whom I served in World War II. They were part of those Scottish units that in numberless wars have established a soldierly record that was carried without blemish through the latest conflict.

My family and I will take special pleasure in discovering for ourselves many of the bits of loved ancient history that you know by heart. Centuries before my own home town of Abilene, Kansas, was more than an uncharted spot in an undiscovered continent, Maybole was an established community where men planned and worked, and were sending forth their sons to places beyond the seas to lend the vigor of their hands and brains to the building of the modern world. In America we count ourselves fortunate that a significant and valued portion of our population has Scottish forbears.

Good citizens and valiant protectors of their present home, they never fail to celebrate St. Andrews Day, and in every way show their justifiable pride in the land from which they sprang. They take great pains to preserve the burr in their speech, to quote the poems of Bobby Burns and to remind us that the best of our music is but pail imitation of the beauties of the bagpipe.

Much of your blood flows in the veins of America, so from the beginning, my family and I cannot feel strangers to you.

Add to this knowledge the warmth of the welcome and the wonderful hospitality extended to us by Lord Ailsa, by his family and by all of you, and you can see why we say - We are proud and happy to be of you as well as with you." These notes were merely referred to by Ike prior to giving his speech.

The Freedom Scroll presented to the President was encased in a beautifully carved oak miniature chest designed and made by Mr James Jeff, the Kirkcudbright artist who also carved the Town Staff which was carried before all Council processions by the Town Officer.

Present were Provost Tom Hicks, Bailies Alexander Burns and John Dent, other members of the Town Council, and the scroll was signed by David Briggs, Town Clerk



AMERICAN President General Dwight Eisenhower said he considered himself a 'true Minnieboler' during a speech from the Town Hall balcony in 1946.

Texas, and was named David Dwight. Later, the order of his given names was switched.

He served as President of the United States from 1953 to 1961 and was succeeded by President John F Kennedy.

Eisenhower married Mamie and they had two children, Doud Dwight Eisenhower whose tragic death in childhood haunted the couple, and John Sheldon David Doud Eisenhower.

John Eisenhower served in the United

States Army, then became an author and served as US Ambassador to Belgium. John's son, David Eisenhower, after whom Camp David is named, married Richard Nixon's daughter Julie in 1968.



MAYBOLE folk gathered outside the Town Hall to hear President Eisenhower's speech on being conferred

Gala Days from around Carrick

LOCAL villages have enjoyed their annual Gala Days and Fetes over the last couple of months. The great weather added to the

success of the events, and residents of all ages had a wonderful time. Scenic Straiton hosts their annual Fun Day on August 26th - the

same day that Maidens' popular Harbour Gala is held. Don't miss them!



MAYBOLE Brownies took first prize in the Best Walking Group at the towns Gala Day.



DUNURE youngsters dressed up for the fabulous and fun occasion of the Harbour Gala recently.



THIS year's King of Carrick Owen McDowall and Queen Amy Strang enjoyed being centre of attention at Maybole Gala Day.



YOUNG Ben enjoys the atmosphere at Maidens and Kirkoswald Fete recently.



LOCAL Councillor Alan Murray crowned 10-year-old Gala Queen Kelsie Scott at Dunure Harbour Gala.



CROSSHILL Gala Queen 1987 Carolyn Miller, crowned this year's lovely Queen, 11-year-old Jenna Dunlop.



RESIDENTS of Dunure soaked up the atmosphere, and the sun, at the village Harbour Gala last month.



LINDA Paterson has sent us this photograph taken on the steps of Interpak in Maybole.
Linda and her pals were trying to remember why it was taken and have asked us to publish it in the hope that it will jog someone's memory. They think it was about 20 years ago but they don't look as if they have aged at all!
Front row left to right: Linda Paterson;

Linda McVittie; Morag Henderson; Margaret Ann Milligan; Jan Milligan
Second row: Agnes Jamieson; Clare McCulloch (from Patna); Evelyn ? (from Patna)
Third row: Jean Harvey; Fiona Henderson; Williene Warnock
Back row: Rae O'Connor; Jean Boags; Sadie Lansburgh.

More sporting honours for Danielle

IT has been another successful year on the sports field for Maybole teenager Danielle Connolly as she was recently named the player of the year for the Paisley Saints under-17 team.
Danielle was also selected for the second time for Scotland in their defence of the Rosebowl tournament, with the tournament scheduled for mid-August again in Ireland against the home countries. The Queen Margaret Academy pupil also received the Excellence Award in Physical Education Studies in her fourth academic year.



MAYBOLE'S website is continuing to attract visitors and praise from people all over the world. The site remains a popular resource for Maybole emigrants,

genealogists, local historians and scholars. The site also acts as a valuable source of information for people planning a visit to this much loved part of Scotland.

JUST a quick note of thanks!
I made a connection with family through the Maybole site. It turns out Rev. Harry Colquhoun that is featured on your site is an uncle! When he talks of family members in the article, those are my family too. We connected shortly after the New Year and it is wonderful to have a connection to those that knew the family in Maybole and the family stories as well. A big thank you for your wonderful work!
Faith Lowe

DO you know where (if still possible) I can buy a copy of Maybole: A Pictorial history? I have tried all the usual book search sites but no luck. Do you know if it is still in print? - probably unlikely. Would be grateful for any ideas!
Anne Price anne_price@btinternet.com

GREETINGS from the Colonies. My parents bought a china cabinet locally. On the cabinet is a brass plaque which states that it was presented to Miss Ann Brannen upon her retirement from Cairn School, Maybole in June 1932. How the cabinet made it from Scotland to New Westminster, British Columbia is a mystery as is Miss Ann Brannen. Could you please point me in the direction of any sources of information about her. Any info! Photo! Anything! Thanks for your time and attention.
Len Osmond

Len was told that on 30th June 1932 a Miss Brannan (slightly different spelling) retired, having given over 40 years faithful service to the school. When the school opened in 1890 there was a Miss Mary Brannan but no mention of Ann.
In James Gray's book 'Maybole, Carrick's Capital' there are some references to the name:
All the schoolteachers lived in the town in days gone past and Miss Duncan, Miss Brannan, "Skin" and "Paddy", if they saw their pupils up to mischief in the evenings were not loth to "belt" them in school the following morning.
During the first World War, Miss Mary Brannan, a local school-teacher, organized many concerts to raise money for the war effort, where she, like a local Florrie Ford, led the audiences in spirited choruses of old songs and invariably gave her own inimitable rendering of "The cows are in the clover, they've trampled there since morn, Go and call them Maggie to the old Red Barn".
Cairn School was built in 1890 on the site of an old building known as "Cairn House" and there has been little external alteration to it although in the 1930s extra class rooms were added and the old rooms modernised. Many older people remember with affection Miss Duncan, Miss Brannan and "Skin" Nisbet the headmaster who all taught for many years in it, and afterwards the headmaster was A. B. Coburn who took a prominent part in the town's affairs.

I HAVE been searching for details of my great grandmother's family - Jessie McColm from Girvan, whom I know had relatives in Maybole and the Girvan area. I spent a lot of time in Girvan as a kid (I'm now in my 30s) and my father was then trying to put the pieces together.
I know I have relatives buried in the Maybole area because I remember visiting them as a young boy. However, from here it gets complicated. Jessie McColm (probably born around 1900) had a child, a boy, outside of wedlock and never got married and he (my grandfather) was given the name Robert Muir (born approx 1921)...but was given the surname of Malcolm (why the change from McColm I have no idea).
I wanted to post this just to see if anyone could help dot the i's and cross some t's. Much Thanks, Duncan (London)
Jessie McColm (great grandmother)
Robert Muir Macolm (grandfather)
Robert James Malcolm (father)
Robert Jason Malcolm (brother) - Duncan James Malcolm (brother)

HI, I found your website in my quest to find the Scottish ancestors of an 86-year-old Australian friend and I'm hoping that you might be able to help point me in a new direction.
Ron's family story is fascinating. His ancestor, John Henderson arrived in Victoria in 1840/41 along with his mother, Mrs Henderson, and a family friend, Alexander McQuater. An unnamed daughter, died on the voyage. Mr Henderson, probably John, according to legend, sold two fishing boats and bought another one to sail to Australia. He did not survive the journey.
A portable desk, belonging to Alexander McQuater, has been passed down. It has an inscription which states that the desk was given to him by friends, in Ayr, 1st September 1840, on the occasion of his departure for Australia. I can't find Alexander McQuater's birth, but I have found McQuaters in Maybole in the 1830s. I have also found the birth of John Henderson 1824 to John and Margaret Dunlop. They also had a daughter, Mary, b 1822. I can't find any of the family on the 1841 census, so any suggestions will be most appreciated.
Thanks, Thelma Thornton

WE have an Ash Grove Cement Co. here in Louisville, NE that started around 1928. The Sunderland family started it and the one in Chanute, KS and Springfield, MO. Since then AG has bought other sites in the US. Is there any way of finding out if a Sunderland is connected to your Ash Grove?
Thank you, Jean Mueller, Louisville, NE

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MAYBOLE Branch of the Royal British Legion.

So proud of their history

THE Maybole Branch of The Royal British Legion Scotland, and indeed the town of Maybole, are jealously proud of the fact that their Branch is the oldest one in the United Kingdom.

David M Hunter, Chairman of the Maybole Branch, explains the history behind the Maybole Branch of the Royal British Legion.

FOR three years after the First World War (1914-18) there were many ex-servicemen's organisations and this did not include hundreds of Regimental Associations, and several attempts were made to bring them together as one body in order that the Government could disperse to ex-servicemen funds left over from the Wartime Kitchens and other funds raised largely by Field Marshall Lord Kitchener "to provide help for needy ex-servicemen".

The Government needed to speak to a single body or the funds, jokingly referred to as "The Canteen Millions", would be dispersed on a basis of whichever organisation was the loudest or most threatening would gain the most benefit.

On 18th June, 1921, a Unity Conference was held by Field Marshall Lord Haig in Edinburgh's Usher Hall at which over one hundred ex-service associations met and agreed to come together under the title The British Legion.

These associations then had to go back to their members to get their agreement. Immediately after that meeting in Edinburgh, Field Marshall Lord Haig was at Culzean on a visit to the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, The Marquess of Ailsa. From that visit a communication was sent to Mr Hugh Fairlie, Provost of Maybole, who in turn instructed Mr John W Best, MM, the only remaining member of the Soldiers and Sailors Society left in Maybole, to arrange a public meeting in Maybole Coffee House on 28th June, 1921.

The meeting was chaired by Captain A K Ramsay MC and a Maybole Branch was formed under the title British Legion, becoming the first Branch to be formed in the United Kingdom under that title.

Amongst those who attended that first meeting were General Sir Charles Ferguson of Kilkerran GCB GCMG DSO MVO; and Mr John Paterson, the town's postmaster who served in the Royal Flying Corps and at one stage was stationed at Loch Doon which during the First World War was used as a flying boat station. Mr Paterson was appointed as Secretary to the newly formed Branch.

Mr James Munn was appointed as Treasurer, his two brothers (one who served in the Highland Light Infantry and the other in the Royal Field Artillery) also attended the meeting. Mr William Tweedily was appointed as Pension and Welfare Officer. Mr Tweedily served in the 9th Battalion The Royal Scots and died in 1995 aged 96 years and right up to his death he maintained a keen interest in the affairs of The Legion.

Two months after the formation of the Maybole Branch, the title became The British Legion (Scotland) when Earl



MAYBOLE Branch of the Royal British Legion under inspection at the town Gala Day during Trooping the Colour.



THE first branch standard held by Maybole Branch of the Royal British Legion was collected from Culzean Castle recently after it was laid up there for safe keeping in 1996.

Haig formed a British Legion in London. In 1971, during Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the Royal title was added and the organisation became The Royal British Legion Scotland.

At a Drumhead Service held in Maybole Memorial Park on 25th June 1939 the Branch was presented with their first Queen's Standard and a Branch Standard. That first Branch Standard was laid up for safe keeping at Culzean Castle on 30th June, 1996 and is retained in the Main Entrance to the Armoury. The first Queen's Standard, which for many years had been carried by the town's Women's Branch, was laid up in Maybole West Parish Church on 24th June, 2001. The present Queen's and Branch Standards were dedicated on the Low Green in Ayr at an Area event on 29th June, 1997.

The Branch Standard laid up for safe keeping at Culzean Castle in June 1996 was temporarily removed to be carried at a Trooping of The Colours in Maybole Glebe Park on 17th June, 2006 during the Town's Gala Week and to mark the 80th Birthday of H M The Queen; National Veteran's Day, the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion Scotland and in particular the 85th anniversary of the Maybole Branch, the oldest Branch in the United Kingdom.

On 20th August, 2006 the Branch Standard, which was removed from Culzean Castle to be used in the Trooping of the Colours, will be returned for continued safe keeping to Culzean during a Drumhead Service. At the same service, the Queen's Standard, formerly laid up in the West Parish Church, will be relocated to Culzean Castle for safe keeping alongside the Branch Standard as a fitting venue for both Standards due to the long association Maybole Branch has with Culzean.

Do you need volunteers?

MAYBOLE Resource Centre is currently carrying out a survey of volunteering needs in North Carrick.

Does your group need volunteers? If so, contact the Resource Centre on 01655 884022 to find out what the staff can do to help.

New community group courses will start again in September - what would your group like to learn?

One of the new courses they are looking at is 'Internet Parental Control'. If you are interested, let them know.

Two meeting rooms in the centre at 48/50 High Street are available for community groups to use, free of charge.

There is a small one on the ground floor, and a larger one on the first floor. These can be booked for daytime or evening meetings by calling 01655 884022.

The centre also have fax, photocopying, computer and Internet services available to anyone who is involved in a community group in the area. Staff can assist you to produce publicity materials for your group and you can advertise in their window.

If there is anything else your group needs help with, please contact staff and they will try to assist you.

Young Maybole Volunteers Receive Recognition

TWO young volunteers from Maybole received recognition for their volunteering efforts when they attended the 2006 Millennium Volunteers Awards (MV Awards) ceremony recently at Ayr Town Hall. Victoria Kennedy received a 50-hour award for her volunteering contribution with South Ayrshire Befriending Project and Christopher McGill received the 200-hour Award of Excellence for his environmental conservation work with Forestry Commission Scotland.

MV awards are endorsed by the Scottish Executive and are presented to young people aged 16-25 in recognition of their volunteering contributions with a wide variety of community agencies and groups. There are three award categories: a 50-hour award signed by the Deputy Communities Minister, a 100-hour award signed by the Communities minister and the 200-hour Award of Excellence, signed by the First Minister. This year's award



SOUTH Ayrshire Befriending Project volunteer Victoria Kennedy at the MV Awards ceremony

achievers clocked up an amazing 13,700 volunteering hours by carrying out volunteering roles such as: befriending senior citizens and vulnerable young people, hospital radio broadcasting, peer youth leadership, youth forum and committee work, forest conservation, advocacy work and charity shop duties.

Volunteer Centre Chairman Allan H Dorans said: "We are delighted to

have presented over 100 young volunteers for MV awards in 2006 which must be among the highest numbers presented from any local authority area in Scotland. It is to the great credit of the young people who have received these awards that they have given freely of their time for the benefit of the local community. It is both encouraging and rewarding to know we have such a robust youth volunteering culture in South Ayrshire".



FORESTRY Commission Scotland volunteer Christopher McGill with Audrey White.

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CARRICK Colts coaches agree that the new all weather pitch at Carrick Academy is a 'superb facility.'

Colts get set for new season

CARRICK Colts Football teams have commenced training at the new all weather pitch at Carrick Academy.

Some of the players and their coaches tried out their new training ground last week and are delighted with the facility, which they will use as well as the Glebe Park.

The Club was formed in 1967, when it was first known as St Cuthberts Boys' Club. Founded by the late Tom Corbett, the name of the Club was changed to Carrick Colts in 1971.

The Club are always on the lookout for new players to join their teams. Girls aged 5-11 and boys

aged 5-16 should contact Torrance Dempsey on 01655 882726 if they are interested in joining.

Carrick Colts and Carrick United U10s (born 1997) are also looking for boys and girls who are interested in playing football. Please call Brian on 07813662196 or Robert on 07766138047 for more information.

Skatepark graffiti art mural

OVER 30 young people from Maybole Youth Action Group and St Cuthbert's Youth Club were busy for most of July improving their local environment by completing a Graffiti Art Mural on the boards surrounding the Skatepark in the Boag.

Prior to starting the project, interested youngsters were involved in a series of arts workshops throughout May and June. These workshops enabled the young people to develop their ideas, and work on their designs in advance of committing themselves to the actual painting.

Artistic advice and expertise was provided by local artist Kirsty Gallacher who organised the workshops and who was assisted during the execution stage of the project by Gillian Harvey and Gary McIntyre.

There was a strong emphasis throughout the project on making sure that everyone who wanted to be, had a

chance to be involved and had the help they needed to put their ideas into practice.

As the project progressed, increasing numbers of young people participated and were greatly encouraged by the positive comments of many of the local residents who came down to see what was happening.

The help of parents Sandra Mackie and Jackie Hutchieson was invaluable, as was the assistance of the Community Support Officers. The project was made possible thanks to funding from the South Ayrshire Council Community Safety Local Action Fund, Community Education Service, Target Leisure Project, Strathclyde Police Community Wellbeing Fund, and Maybole Youth Action Group.

The Art Project has been Phase 3 of the Skatepark development by the Maybole Youth Action Group and the committee had thought that would be the final phase, however the young people are not short of ideas about what should be done next and are already looking at ways of developing the area surrounding the park.

If you would like to be involved in taking these ideas forward please contact Carol George, Community Education Worker, Carnegie Building, 1 High Street, Maybole 01655 882105.



Carrick Contacts List

Maybole Beavers	Mrs J Boughen	882683
1st Maybole Boys Brigade	Mr J Shields	882662
1st Maybole Brownies	Ms S Fergusson	882660
Maybole Parish Church Guild	Mrs Doris Brown	883467
Baptist Church Women's Fellowship	Ms Anne McPike	882467
Maybole & District Trefoil Guild	Miss E McCrindle	882212
Maybole Ecumenical Prayer Group	Mrs E Hawkes	882747
Our Lady & St Cuthberts Guild	Mrs N Connelly	882656
St Cuthberts Parish Council (Sec)	Mrs F Campbell	884034
Maybole Council of Churches	Ms Becky Fleming	882106
Maybole New Church Project	Mr W. Miller OBE	884022
Tree's Farm Riding Club	Ms Anne McClintock	882921
MMO Bowling Club	Mr C Kincaid	882968
Pontoon Golf	Mr W Westcott	889598
Maybole Ladies Golf Club	Mrs H McCormack	01292 560952
Maybole Bowling Club	William Grant	883312
Carrick Homing Society	Mr Robert Malone	882006
Carrick Homing North Rd Organisation	Mr John Dunlop	889788
Maybole Angling Club	Ms I Davidson	07779818311
Carrick Chess Club	Mrs Anne McDill	
Maybole Juniors	Mr A Meek	883419
Carrick Bridge Club	Mrs Ann Morrison	883197
Maybole Indoor Bowls Club	Ms S Scobie	882942
Tackety Bit Hillwalking Club	Mr Drew Mc Gill	882407
Maybole Amateur Swimming Club	Mrs M McGawn	883423
Carrick Rugby Club	Mr K Anderson	882105
Carrick Amateurs	Mr Jack Dewar	882856
Maybole Cubs/Beavers	Mrs J Boughen	882683
1st Maybole Guides		
Line Dancing	Ms Anne McDicken	01655 883862
Aqua Aerobics	Mr P Ingram	882568
Karate Club	Mr Rooney	01292 552756
Maybole Majorette & Dance School	Mrs A Bissett	882872
Maybole Men's Forum	Mr J Paterson	882137
Maybole Ladies Forum	Ms S Fergusson	882660
Over The Rainbow Project	Mr John Barr	883971
Historical Society	Mr M Cook	883235
Town Twinning	Mr W Grant	883312
Ayrloom	Mr D Killicoat	07776 445033
Dailly Road Residents & Tenants Assoc	Ms Karen Simpson	
Maybole Pipe Band	Mr Kevin McDermott	882393
Maybole Concert Party	Mrs M Hutchison	882469
Maybole & Dist Business Assoc	Mr Alan Martin	884388
Maybole Mums & Toddler Group	Ms T McPherson	882515
Tiddlers/Tadpoles Parents & Toddlers	Gail Murray	01655 889411
Tiny Tots Playgroup	Mrs Paula Menzies	884135
Gardenrose PrimarySchool/Nursery	Mrs Scott	883227
Cairn Primary Parents Assoc	Mrs Jackie Barrie	883386
Cairn Primary School Board	Mrs J Wallace	(Tel, Contact School)
Cairn Primary School/Nursery	Mrs Fiona McDougal	883292
Carrick Academy	Mr R Stewart	882389
Carrick Academy School Board	Mr Graeme Hamilton	01655 740301
Gardenrose Parents Ass	Ms Becky Fleming	882106
Gardenrose PrimarySchool Board	Mr Craig Alexander	883564
St Cuthberts Parents Association	Mrs Jodie Murdoch	07784079133
St Cuthberts Primary School	Ms E. Miller	882349
St Cuthberts Primary School Board	Mr G Murphy	882349
7th Ayrshire Scout Group	Mr L Boughen	882683
Maybole O.I.R.	Mrs M Barton	883218
O.A.P. Maybole	Mrs M Barton	883218
Crosshill Village Club	Mrs B White	01655 740391
Maybole & District Senior Forum	Mr David Kiltie	882644
Diamond Club	Mrs M Barton	883218
The Cabin	Mrs N Robertson	883937
Senior Citizens Tuesday Club	Mrs E McEwan	883131
Maybole Charity Shop	Mrs E McEwan	883131
Royal British Legion Women's Section	Mrs J Rodger	882843
Royal British Legion Scotland	Mr R Malone	882006
Maybole Community Council	Mrs A Walker	882796
Maybole Community Association	Mr D Killicoat	07776445033
Maybole By-Pass Committee	Mr Peter Mason	882660
Carrick Crime Prevention	Mr Alex Kelly	882970
Carrick Round Table	Mr Alan Thom	01655 750226
Maybole Women's Group	Mrs C.George	882105
Maybole After School Care	Miss B Gillespie	07754695570
Maybole Youth Action Group	Mrs S Whiteman	889456
Carrick Street Kids	Mrs Moira Gill	883238
Maybole Youth Club	Ms Yvonne Kiltie	882105
The Carrick Colts	Mr T Dempsey	882726