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Entrance to the Museum of Scotland on the corner of Chambers Street and George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

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Visiting the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh

The Royal Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street, Edinburgh is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. It was opened on the Chambers Street site in 1866 and retains many of its original features. Its existence was complimented in 1998 by the addition of a new specially built Museum of Scotland adjoining the original building.

Entrance to both museums is via entrances in Chambers Street. The grand staircase to the original museum no longer functions as a point of entry and the main museum entrance is underneath to provide as wide an access as possible to the full range of visitors. Here in the entrance hall, you will be greeted by members of the Visitor Services staff who can provide guidance on the layout of the museums, location of special exhibitions, eateries etc. There is also a desk where tickets to events can be booked and purchased as well as the rendezvous point from where the free museum tours leave. Baggage can also be left in the cloakroom for a fee of £1.50.

The tower entrance at the corner of Chambers Street and George IV Bridge provides entry to the Museum of Scotland as well as after hours entry to the Tower Restaurant which is open until 11pm although the museum itself closes at 5pm. From the entrance desk the visitor passes by the gift shop and enters Hawthornden Court which currently displays the first Mini Morris bought in Scotland. This is Level 1 of the Museum of Scotland and entry can be gained to the exhibition galleries of the Kingdom of the Scots on this level. However these galleries house material which dates from the medieval period and to perambulate the museum layout in chronological order it is necessary to go down to Level -1 either using one of the two lifts in Hawthornden Court or using the short flight of stairs located under the two tapestries adorning the north wall. The following is a brief description of the layout of the Museum of Scotland -

Level -1 Beginnings and Early Peoples prehistory

Level 0 Medieval Church 900-1560 (accessed via Level 1)

Level 1 Kingdom of the Scots 900-1600s

Level 2 Kingdom of the Scots 900-1600s (accessed via Level 1)

Level 3 Scotland Transformed 1700-1800s

Level 4 Industry and Empire 1700s-1900s

Level 5 Industry and Empire 1700s-1900s

Level 6 Scotland: A Changing Nation, 20th century to present

Level 7 is the roof terrace which can be accessed via the terrace lift at the rear of the Kingdom of the Scots on Level 1 or can be accessed using the outside stairs on level 5.

Level -1 Beginnings

This shows the formation of the land mass and the creatures which came to inhabit it. There are two audio visual displays on the formation of Arthur's Seat and the evolution of the first

life forms. The exhibition runs round in a half circle and brings the visitor out at the top of the steps leading down to Early Peoples.

Level -1 Early Peoples

Here are the statues by Eduardo Paolozzi illustrating the development of the skills of making implements, early trade and kingship. There is also the early Viking grave and the Cramond Lioness on display. The galleries leading off from this central hall contain exhibitions on warfare, trade, Viking legacy, the Celts, early Christianity and the Romans. Here too is the Hilton of Cadboll cross slab with an accompanying audio visual display on its creation and interpretation.

Level 1 Kingdom of the Scots

This level starts with the medieval period and records the Stuart monarchs of Scotland including the contemporary replica tomb of Mary, Queen of Scots in Westminster Abbey. Howthornden Court is built to recall the structure of the ships built in Scotland and also the superstructure of an off shore oil rig. The galleries in Kingdom of the Scots also house displays on early burghs and housing, trade and commerce, the Covenanters and the Disruption of 1843 which formed the Free Church of Scotland. Access can be gained to Level 0 by the spiral staircase at the back of the gallery or via the wooden staircase also at the back. which houses a display on the pre Reformation church. This gallery is designed to evoke the feeling of the inside of a medieval church. Level 2 can be accessed via the spiral staircase at the back of the Kingdom of the Scots . This houses displays on guns and armour and tobacco.

Level 3 Scotland Transformed

This houses displays on weaving, the development of power looms as well as the full size Newcomen engine from Caprington Colliery. Level 3 also houses the special exhibition gallery (special exhibition gallery 2) which presently houses the exhibition Scottish Wild Life Photographer until the end of the year (2016). This can be accessed either by using the lifts from Hawthornden Court and turning right when you get to Level 3 or by using the stairs opposite the tapestry wall in Hawthornden Court and turning left.

Level 4 Industry and Empire

This is best accessed either by using the terrace lift or by taking the Hawthornden Court lifts to Level 5 and walking down the short flight of wooden steps from there. Here the engines of Andrew Barclay and Sons are located as well as the Arthur Seat coffins and displays relating to explorers and the development of science as well as ship and steam train models and displays relating to the building of Scottish bridges.

Level 5 Industry and Empire

This houses an audio visual display which covers both emigration and the Highland Clearances. There are displays on domestic life and the work of Charles Rennie MacIntosh.

Part of the gallery is built to mimic the structure of the Forth Rail Bridge.

Level 6 Scotland: A Changing Nation

This also contains a gallery devoted to Scottish sports achievements as well as black and white television recordings of Francie and Josie and the White Heather Club. Much criticised in the press for the display of an Irn Bru can, it nevertheless attempts to convey some of the huge changes in urban and rural Scotland which took place during the 20th century. There are audio visual presentations of Western Isles waulking songs, Glasgow slum clearance and rehousing the overspill and performances of plays relating to Scottish regiments. There is also a Hillman Imp, and some memorabilia of John Smith and Donald Dewar as well as audio visual presentations on steel making at Ravenscraig, 20th century politics and modern emigration from Scotland. There are also small displays relating to World War I and II although the main source of material relating to this is actually held in the sister museum at Edinburgh Castle – National War Museum of Scotland

Level 7 Roof Terrace

This can be accessed via the terrace lift which is the only lift which stops at every floor in the Museum of Scotland including Levels 0 and 2. The terrace has some displays of Scottish flora and offers spectacular views of Edinburgh Castle. Because of its height it can be quite windy at times but there are seats to sit on and take in the view and also a small set of binoculars to gaze through.

Some of the Ayrshire material on display within the Museum of Scotland

Bell from Dundonald Church, level 1

Wooden screen commemorating Cathcart of Carlton and Helen Wallace level 1

Door from Rowallan Castle level 1

Hunterston Brooch level -1

Newcomen engine from Caprington Colliery level 3

Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane level 5

Ayr Fort coin hoard level 0

Locomotive engine from Kilmarnock level 4

Graeme Obree's custom made bicycle level 6

Hunterston Brooch

This stunning brooch was found at Hunterston, Ayrshire during the 1830s. It was made about 700AD. It was made in Ireland or Western Scotland from gold, silver and amber. Usually the brooch is on display in the Early People gallery, Level -1, National Museum of Scotland but from 10 March – 25 September it featured in the Celts exhibition in special exhibition gallery 2 .

On the back of the brooch an inscription is carved in Scandinavian runes which translates as 'Melbrigda owns this brooch'.

Bell from Dundonald Parish Church

This is made from bronze about 1405 and originally hung in Dundonald parish church.

Graeme Obree's Bicycle

Graeme Obree's prototype bicycle frame, brazed tubular frame with Compagnolo rear drop outs, Allez front and DiaCompe brakes, 1992

Wooden screen from Killochan Castle near Girvan

Section of oak wall panelling from Killochan Castle, near Girvan, Ayrshire, the figures on the panels possibly representing members of the Cathcart family, mid to late 16th century. Possibly celebrating the marriage of John Cathcart of Carlton and Helen Wallace his wife. John Cathcart began building Killochan Castle in 1586.

Rowallan Castle Door

Door of oak studded with iron nails, the head carved with a fan-shaped device, with a sea monster below forming the subject of two panels: from Rowallan Castle, Ayrshire, late 16th century.

Ayr Fort Coin Hoard and Pot

Green earthenware pot found with silver brooches and coins at the old fort, Ayr, part of a hoard deposited c1292 – 1360

Images of most of these objects and a great deal more besides are available on the National Museum Scotland website at <http://www.nms.ac.uk/explore/search-our-collections/>

The Museum is accessible for those with mobility problems and all floors can be accessed from the lifts either in Hawthornden Court or the roof terrace lift at the rear of the galleries.

The Museum is open 7 days a week from 10am until 5pm closing only on Christmas and New Years days. Regrettably parking is at a premium and the nearest public car parks are in the Grassmarket or Castle Terrace. Entrance is free to all parts of the Museum and photography is usually permitted. The only part which may incur a charge is the visiting exhibitions in special exhibition gallery 1 which normally require an entrance fee.

Aubrey P. Haggo 1892-1916 2nd Lieutenant, 1/4th Battalion Royal Scots

Fusiliers

by Ola Smith

Aubrey Haggo, eldest son of Kilmarnock's town chamberlain, was born in his family home in Kay Park Crescent in 1892. Aubrey attended Kilmarnock Academy from the years 1898 until 1910 and was described by his teachers, as having an 'attractive personality, bright, happy and quick at repartee.' After school he served an apprenticeship in the Commercial Bank in Kilmarnock before moving to London in early 1913 to work for Messrs. Steel Bros., export and import merchants. It is recorded that in July 1914 Aubrey was training with the London Scottish battalion, which would be the first of the territorial units to go into the front line, with the responsibility of ambulance and guard duty.¹



Haggo's first experience of battle was during the first battle of Ypres at Messines in 1914. Haggo wrote to his father that he was looking forward to 'the greatest experience of my life.'² The London Scottish lost a vast number of soldiers during this battle, after impatiently advancing for battle. In the same regiment

as Haggo was the future Hollywood actor Ronald Colman. Both men came out the battle unscathed. On the other side of no-man's land fighting in the very same battle, possibly only yards away from Haggo, was Adolf Hitler. Hitler's bravery at Messines earned him the Iron Cross and he later claimed his survival meant 'great things were in store' for him.³ In a letter home, Aubrey Haggo sums up his experience in the battle by writing, 'suffice it to say I am well and of good cheer.'⁴ He then describes a near miss during the battle in which a tobacco tin was the only thing between Haggo and an artillery shell, 'one of the famous "Jack Johnsons" tore itself apart – burst is not the word- very near and a piece entered my pack. After getting under cover I found it had gone clean through the tin and out of the bottom of the pack.' Haggo also confided that his rifle was hit by a shell and rendered completely useless, 'I am now the proud possessor of a new one,' he wrote.

1 *Kilmarnock Standard*, August 26th 1916

2 *Kilmarnock Standard*, November 14 1914

3 MacDonald, Lyn, 'The Road to Flanders', 1914: *The Days of Hope*, Penguin Books, 2014

4 *Kilmarnock Standard*, November 21 1914

Soon after the battle Haggo was invalided home to recover from dysentery. He was discharged from hospital in December 1914 and began training for a commission, which was offered to him the following year, in November 1915, with the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He remained in the UK until July 1916, when he embarked for France. Following the disastrous localised losses that had been a consequence of the Pals' Battalions policy, the Army sought to "dilute" such units; accordingly, Aubrey was attached to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as bombing officer after volunteering to leave his own local regiment in order to fulfil the request for replacement officers for English regiments.. At the battle of the Somme he describes one evening watch by writing, 'I evidently annoyed a Boche machine gun emplacement and put a flare right into it, so I was peppered by a machine gun, but I was by this time below the parapet, and only got the dust.' Haggo then provides an insight into mealtimes in his company when he asks of his father, 'you might send me some parcels of cake and potted meat, also some sardines and anything in the food line. You see, we have a company mess here, both in the trenches and in the billets, and it's a great help to have parcels to swell the fare on the table.'⁵

At the beginning of August 1916, Haggo was relieved for rest and bombing training before rejoining his battalion in the second week of August. From Bouzincourt, they travelled to Ovillers where he was wounded in battle. Through a letter sent to his parents, it is known that Aubrey was sent to a dressing station to have his arm treated the day before his death. Of this day, the war diary of the 1st/6th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment describes the trench outside as 'blown to pieces, and full of corpses from the different regiments... German and English.' The writer had wandered the trenches and had found fellow soldiers cowering in trench, having been there forty-eight hours. The regiment was to be relieved that day to trenches further behind. At 5pm, 1/5 and 1/6 Royal Warwicks attacked and captured the Hindenburg Trench and Nab Valley. Aubrey Haggo was killed leading his platoon in the attack. In letters to the family from his colleagues, shared to the *Kilmarnock Standard*, it is known Aubrey's death came as a surprise to the family as it was hoped his wound from the previous day would have kept Aubrey out of the firing line for a short while. In the weeks following news of his death, Colonel F. G. Danielson, commander of Aubrey's battalion, sent a letter to his parents intimating that 'as he must have been as good a son to you as he was an officer to us, we know what an irreparable loss you have sustained. He was always bright, always reliable, and ready for anything.'

Aubrey Haggo is memorialised through both the Kilmarnock war memorial and the Kilmarnock Academy war memorial. He was buried in Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-la Boisselle on 12th May 1919.⁶

⁵ *Kilmarnock Standard*, July 22 1916

⁶ CWGC. (n.d.). *Aubrey P. Haggo*. Retrieved September 4th, 2016 from CWGC:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/588947/HAGGO,%20AUBREY%20PAXTON>

Some Notes on the Burgh of Newton on Ayr and the Royal Burgh of Ayr Relating to the Plague

The first burgh extant burgh court book of the former burgh of Newton on Ayr is now part of the Ayr burgh collection held by Ayrshire Archives at their site in Auchencruive⁷. It has an interesting provenance since it was not transmitted to the former Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh with the rest of the Ayr burgh records. It had been rescued from a bonfire by one of the members of the law firm of R and J A McCallum – the last the last town clerks of the former burgh of Newton before its incorporation with Ayr in 1873. The bonfire had taken place when the firm were moving premises and were trying to rationalise materials. One of the partners rescued the book because he thought it looked interesting.

On examination the book has been rebound at some time using a quality leather binding with gilt lettering on the spine possibly late 19th or early 20th century. Inside the front cover is a fragment of an earlier black letter manuscript possibly part of the Bible as it seems to be part of the gospel of St Matthew. It was fairly common to bind books using older parchments from the 17th century onwards due to the high cost of paper and leather binding.

The minutes themselves cover the years from 1596 to 1682 and open with the text of the charter of confirmation by James VI confirming the burgh's status as a burgh of barony with all former rights and privileges including the right of holding a market every Wednesday and for building a tollbooth (although this latter right was not enacted until later in the 17th century). The charter also states that the ancient foundation of the burgh was clearly attested although the evidence had been destroyed by wars, diseases and disturbances *antiqui fundatio dicti burgi clare testata est quamvis occasione bellorum pestis temporumque turbulentorum antequam evidentie destructe erant*.

The volume itself is fairly complete although the dates from 16th April 1613 until 5th March 1639 are missing due according to a note in the margin to the default of George Angus, clerk. This note is signed E Thomson, Ayr 1833. This would have been Ebenezer Thomson who seems to have worked on the Newton burgh records in the 19th century and was the classics master of the grammar school in 1824.

Most of the minutes and transactions recorded in this book are fairly routine and can be echoed in the records of other burghs of a similar size and nature. For example the dividing of the town's property for annual rent 'the seadails', the recording of the entry of heirs to property, fining of the inhabitants for various offences most notably polluting the mill lade which ran all too conveniently down the centre of what was to become Main Street and frequent enactments relating to the collection of 'wrack' from the shore and the calling out of the cattle to the town's moor are all present.

7 Burgh Court Book Ayrshire Archives B6/27/1A

There is one very interesting event recorded which stand out from the others. Plague comes into Newton on Ayr in 1604. on the 2nd May 1604 the minutes record that the baillies convened as usual and agreed that ' the haill gear that Robert Hamilton, tailor hes brought out of Ireland and brought into the said burgh of Newton be transferred with all possible diligence out of the burgh and liberty thereof unti further advice in respect that gear is under suspecting of the pest'. They also decided that Robert's gear was to be shut up in a chalmer or room (in Scots this is frequently used for a bedroom) or in a chist (Scots chest) until it could be disposed of properly and that Adam Wyllie, baillie was to keep the key for it. The council also concluded that 'no uncouth persons or gear should be received into the town until the baillies were first informed because of the great fear and suspicion of the pest in the land'.

Unfortunately there is no evidence that these precautions were effective. On the 1st June 1604 the council once again had to deal with the question of contamination. This time it was Hew Currie and his friends who had interfered with 'the Englishman's goods suspect of the pest'. The council on this occasion decided that the goods were to be taken from the said Hew's lands, put into his boat and taken out to sea where they would be jettisoned. Otherwise Hew's house was to be closed up together with himself.

After that the next few pages go on to describe the way in which the council believed that the infection was transmitted as can be seen from the following example – 'concludit that the prickers of Hew Currie and Adam Wyllie's skaymes (Scots skins) remain at the lochhead beside the burnfoot until the said skins be pricked , dressed and handled the space of twenty days and shall neither come into the town neither themselves nor their bairnes from that place they are appointed to... until twenty days be outrun under pain of 100 merks'. The names of these unfortunate people are recorded as John Arnot, Janet Duok, his spouse, Isobel Rayt, Katherine Arnot, Margaret Dickie, daughter to Bessie Arnot and Janet Fulton. All of whom we are told signed or made their mark on a bond of obligation undertaking that they will not enter the town.

The place mentioned in the above extract was probably located somewhere near the foot of Newton Loch. Later in the 19th century this loch was to be dredged and made into a deep water dock located near the light house and it remains so today. There is a small burn shown draining into this loch shown on Roy's map in the 1750s The area around it is shown as moor or perhaps very rough pasturage. It is also shown on a manuscript map by Robert Gordon⁸ surveyed c1640 although he almost certainly followed Timothy Pont's map for the shape and position of Newton Loch.

8 Robert Gordon's map National Library of Scotland Adv.MS70.2.10 available as a digital image at <http://maps.nls.uk/view/00000383>



The above shows the relevant section of Roy's map. The original is in the British Library in London.

The burn is not shown on Roy's map. Perhaps it was too small or had been diverted or dried up by then. It has disappeared on Captain Armstrong's map of 1778 though this map shows Newton Loch⁹ as being larger and more significant perhaps due to improvements in drainage and better management of agricultural lands which took place during the course of the later 18th century.

To return to the plague, there is no further mention how successful or otherwise the council's measures were to prevent the spread of the infection. Nor is there any information on what happened to the people mentioned in the bond. On the 17th July 1604 the council had once again to consider the problem of infection. On this occasion they chose George Quantane and William Young as quartermasters for the oversight of the town and the keeping of the town's ports of which there seems to have been two – one nearest the town of Ayr and the other at the townhead towards Prestwick. Everyone was also ordered to build up their back and fore dykes with all expediency under pain of being fined 5 pounds Scots and anyone found coming over any dyke was liable for the same fine 'in any time of this danger and judgement of God'.

9 Mss notes on Newton on Ayr by Rev Dr Peebles in Ayrshire Archives B6/27/15

There then follows further acts concerning removing turves or stones from the dykes and receiving uncouth persons into the town in case they carry the plague. The two town ports were to be opened at 5 in the morning and shut at 9 in the evening and the keys were to be kept by the quartermasters. After this no further mention is made of the pest in the burgh minutes for around this date and we can only speculate how successful or otherwise these measures proved to be. Nor is there any description of the signs and symptoms of the disease. Apart from the extract relating to the pricking of skins and the apparent belief that the infection was spread by contact with infected persons and their contaminate goods, we have no other clues as to what this may have been.

The mention of the pricking of skins may be significant in this respect. It may indicate some involvement in the tanning process. The hides would have been soaked to remove all the water soluble materials and the hair on the hide was loosened by a process which involved immersing the skins in a solution of lime and water. Hence the need for the prickers of skins to be located near a burn with flowing water. After this in the old method of tanning, fish or other oil and fatty substances would be stocked or pounded into the dried hide until they replaced its natural moisture. Assuming that the economy of Newton was relatively poor (certainly poorer than the richer Royal Burgh of Ayr) the town could probably ill afford to lose many skins in what would have been primarily a subsistence and agrarian economy.

If we concentrate on the skins as a possible source of infection, then a possible candidate for the disease could be anthrax. Anthrax primarily affects farm animals and usually proves fatal to them. The infection spreads to the human population when a break in the skin comes into direct contact with infected animals and their hides. There is also a pulmonary form which is caught by inhaling the spores of the bacteria.

The cutaneous form begins with a reddish brown lesion which ulcerates to form a black scab. The signs and symptoms which follow include internal haemorrhage, muscle pain headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. Interestingly the pulmonary form is often called Woolsorters' Disease and is often fatal unless it is treated early. Anthrax spores are also very resistant even to modern antibiotics and outbreaks of reinfection can occur. In the last century the British government's experiments with development of anthrax as a potential biological weapon on the Island of Gruinard off the west coast of Scotland show how virulent and hard to eradicate such an infection may be. Even in the 1920s the British government issued a series of orders forbidding the importation of shaving brushes from Japan because of fear of the spread of Anthrax. Anthrax still remains a notifiable disease to the Rural Affairs Department of the Scottish Government.

There is scant evidence for the outbreak of plague in the Ayr burgh minutes¹⁰ for this period. Those of Prestwick are not extant for this period. However in the Ayr burgh minutes in 1602

10 Ayr Burgh minutes Ayrshire Archives B6/18/1

there is mention of 'pest and contagion is infect in Kilwinning and thairabout and sundrie pairts in Cunninghame suspectit Swa that it is uncertain qhat pairt is foull...' This infection seems to have alarmed the Royal Burgh of Ayr so much that that as well as ordering the building up and closing of the taill dykes and back yetts no-one from beyond the Water of Irvine was to enter or leave except by the ports and thus with the knowledge of the magistrates.

Later in the Ayr Burgh minutes the council is concerned with the increasing prevalence of the pest in Edinburgh and the North Beriwck and Dunbar area. (20th Sept 1603) At this point they choose qartermasters to protect the three ports of Ayr namely the Brig Port, the Kyle Port and the Carrick Port and 'causit thair back dykes to be biggit up' (Scots built up).

Other interesting features of this particular outbreak were that on 27th September 1603 the Royal Burgh of Ayr agreed to pay to John Fergusson, chirurgeon the support of his house maill (Scots rent) for one year only as long as he agreed to dwell within the burgh. They also decided to employ the services of John Knight, mason to build a hospital for the town and ordered him to concentrate solely on that task. The burgh accounts for 1603/4 show payments to John Brown, officer of Alloway for men from Alloway for bringing sand and stones for the building of the hospital. At this date hospital had a slightly different meaning and function from those of its more modern successor on the outskirts of the modern town of Ayr. Its function would have been the care of the those disabled by disease and age and no longer able to support themselves.

The fact that it was built at this date may be significant. It could indicate that there was increased pressure on resources due to a higher incidence of disease, perhaps an increase in the population and also to plug the gap left by the dissolution of the Dominican Friary whose system of providing relief would have disappeared in the wake of the Reformation after 1560.

Elsewhere in the accounts of the Royal Burgh of Ayr¹¹ accounts plague is frequently mentioned in the years 1601-1606. 1606 seems to have been a particularly bad year and in Balfour's Annals of Scotland he states 'The burghs of Ayr and Stirling were almost desolate and all the jurisdictions of the land court deserted'. In 1601/2 the Royal burgh of Ayr authorised payment to 'ane puir wife that was put in the theiffis hoill suspect of the pest to support her 6s 8d'. Two boys who came from Mauchline and Ochiltree with news of the pest were also paid 9s.

It is impossible to say what these infections were or even if they were the same infection. It may be that the infection breaking out in the east was bubonic plague because of the east coast's trading links with the Baltic and North Sea and the increased probability that the infection entered via this route. But anthrax remains a possible candidate for in the Ayr

11 Ayr Burgh Accounts 1534-1624 edited by George Pryde 1919

Burgh minutes on 30th April 1604, the following extract occurs.

'in respect that John Blair, John G[avin] and Henry Reid ar [] this day cum forth of Ireland in ane boit .. with skinnes ar presentlie within the herber. The pestilence and plague being very greit and vehement in Ireland. Thairfore concludes and ordains that the saidis John Blair, John G[avin] and Henry Reid [] [neither] company boit or goodes salbe ressavit within this burgh or hous... but to be compellit to remove ower the bar again.. under pain of death besyde confiscation of boit ad guides'.

This seems to have features in common with the Newton infection in that the origin appears to have been Ireland and the belief that it was transmitted by contact with infected goods notably skins and containment was to be made by keeping the goods at sea beyond the rocks which act as a bar to the entrance of Ayr Harbour. To modern eyes the death threat seems a little extreme but a similar threat may be found amongst the minutes of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1585 when the council finding that the plague was in Perth and Aberdeen amongst other places, erected three gibbets for hanging any indweller of Aberdeen who harboured or brought in anyone contaminated with the plague except of course for women who would be 'drownit instead'.

Ayr Town Council ordered all the ports to be closed along with the vennels this time with stone or other work 'as may maist convenientlie be gotten.' This would seem to indicate that a more permanent means of controlling access was required perhaps because the infection was proving to be harder to contain and eradicate than they had previously supposed. Possibly too there may have been larger numbers dying than previously estimated and the council was struggling to keep control.

Interestingly there appears to have been an outbreak of plague in Ireland amongst English troops quartered around the old monastery of Derry in 1566-1567. The men's infection was ascribed to foul emanations from the soil as their quarters were built over the graveyard of the abbey. Anthrax spores can be spread by contaminated soil and are notoriously hard to eradicate (compare Gruinard which is still considered to be hazardous even after 60 or 70 years). This incident could be a source for the later outbreak in 1604 on the Ayrshire coast if anthrax is considered as the possible culprit.

There is a further entry in Ayr burgh accounts for 1606/07 which although it is slightly later than the outbreak described in Newton is still relevant. The town spent 28 pounds Scots for a kettle for cleaning pest clothes on the foul moor and also paid John Brown, officer of Alloway to bring coals to the cleaning cauldron on the moor. This is interesting because it refers to clothes as being a possible source of contamination instead of the skins mentioned previously. It also proves that although there was little understanding of the causes of disease, the town had some rudimentary system of quarantine and isolation.

Perhaps it is appropriate to mention Dr Gilbert Skeyne's treatise on plague¹² which was written roughly 30 years before the outbreaks described above. Dr Skeyne was one of a family of seven children from Buchan who later became professor of medicine at King's College in Aberdeen and later 'medicinar to His Majestie (James VI)'. His treatise written in 1569 attributed plague to a corruption of the air and came as a scourge and punishment from God. Although his tract seems very dated to modern eyes, it contains useful observations such as possible sources for infection in towns being refuse such as 'Lynt, Hemp and Ledder steipit in water.' His description of late 16th century Scottish towns being polluted and full of garbage as well as the occasional unburied corpse does bring to life the more odious aspects of later 16th century town life. He also conceded that the term pest covered a number of different infections. 'Ewin sa thair is divers kyndes of pest, quilkis may be eisily knawin and diuidit be weil lernit Phisicians, qhais conseill in tyme of sic danger of lyfe is baith profitable and necessar'. Apart from attributing the pest to God and reciting a very long cure in Latin which only 'lernit Phisicians' can understand Skeyne also states that no pest endures no more than 2 years continually. In fact the method of infection by anthrax was only proved conclusively by Robert Koch in 1876 ending several centuries of speculation. Koch proved that it could survive as spores in grazing and was ingested by sheep or cattle who passed on the infection either by contact with their infected hides or as part of the food chain.

12 Tracts by Dr Gilbert Skeyne, Medicinar to His Majesty James VI edited by W F Skene and published by the Bannatyne Club in 1940

Recent Ayrshire Books by Neil Dickson

Bioography of Lt General Almer Hunter-Weston by Professor Elaine McFarland, '*A Slashing Man of Action*': *The Life of Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston MP* (Peter Lang, 2014)

Lieutenant-General Sir Alymer Hunter-Weston was born at Anannhill House on the outskirts of Kilmarnock, and the family seat was Hunterston Castle in North Ayrshire. The Wikipedia entry cites him as 'a classic example of a "donkey" general.' He has been seen as 'in many respects ... a preposterous figure', and as someone 'who threw away troops the way lesser men tossed away socks'. In short, he was 'The Butcher of Helles'. Professor **Elaine McFarland** in her recent biography, '*A Slashing Man of Action*': *The Life of Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston MP* (Peter Lang, 2014), succeeds in rescuing his reputation from the detractors.

Hunter-Weston was born into the Scottish landed classes and had a privileged upbringing. He was educated at Wellington College, south-west of London, the Royal Military Academy, and, after he joined the Royal Engineers, the elite Staff College. He served in the North-West frontier in India, the Second Boer War, where he built a reputation for dare-do action behind enemy lines, and then in the British Expeditionary Force in the early stages of the First World War. His bustling efficiency earned him the nickname 'Hunter Bunter'. Because of his reputation as a 'thruster', he was appointed to the Gallipoli campaign which attempted to open a new theatre and to break out of the stalemate of the Western Front. Not for the last time, Hunter-Weston found himself committed to a plan over which he had severe doubts. But despite the limited fire power available to him, he maintained his willingness to attack despite the cost in men, which contrasted poorly with the jovial front he presented to them to sustain morale. Many men from his home region of north Ayrshire were among the casualties. He could hardly have been expected, however, to transform what was, notes Professor McFarland, 'a compromised, indeed, even a doomed, campaign.'

His reputation was not helped in that his next command was at the Battle of Somme in 1916

at Beaumont Hamel. Again he found himself involved in a doomed campaign, and he sat out much of the rest of the war in the Ypres salient at Passchendaele, another situation which was much to his dislike. One contemporary who met him at Ypres found him to have 'the hide of an elephant and the vanity of a peacock', but at the same time this observer recognized that due to the misfortunes he had been associated with, Hunter-Weston was 'no longer appreciated at his proper value'. During the war Hunter-Weston also became the MP for North Ayrshire, a position he held until 1935. His death had an element of the tragic-comic. Performing his morning exercises on the flat-roofed tower at Hunterston, he overbalanced and fell to his death.

Professor McFarland's work is a detailed academic work which fleshes out this flamboyant, loquacious little man. It places him within the historiography of the First World War that sees the British command, not as donkeys, but on a steep learning curve as technology began to transform the modern battlefield, making the old certainties outmoded. She persuasively shows that Hunter-Weston was among the learners, and the battles in which he fought are described in meticulous, technical detail. He was as much the victim of his background, as all his instincts dictated absolute loyalty to the military hierarchy which set the plans for what hindsight has shown to be disastrous offensives. Until the end, he was loyal to the codes he had learned at school of 'Christian, military and imperial values.' Quite apart from the primary purpose of the book as a contribution to war studies, as a study of a man and an institutional mentality, Professor McFarland's study is admirable.

Tom Smith's *A Seaside Practice: Tales of a Scottish Country Doctor* (Short Books, 2007)

Quite different in tone and intention is **Tom Smith's *A Seaside Practice: Tales of a Scottish Country Doctor* (Short Books, 2007)**. It is set in south Ayrshire among three villages with the thinly disguised place names of Collintrae, Braehill, and Kilminnel where Smith practised as a doctor from 1965 until 1970. The stories are gently comic, told with a warm humanity which are, as the blurb notes, in the tradition of James Herriot's tales of life as a Yorkshire vet. I am assured by someone from the area that some of the people on which the stories are based are readily identifiable, but Smith assures the readers in a note that

although all the events actually happened, the characters are composite. We are introduced to such hazards as lead poisoning, death by drowning, black ice on untreated roads, and much more. There's a rich range of characters that includes the local country set; a retired school teacher who had given up university lecturing to serve his days in a country school; the vagrants who are squatting in a remote cottage; a putative murderess and lady of the night; the somewhat less than honest behaviour of lawyers, doctors, and pharmacists; and the shepherds, fishermen, and local public servants who are the mainstays of the communities. We now identify the 60s as a time of revolution, but the book is a reminder that in rural communities, life went on much the same. It also emphasises just how isolated and different from the rest of Ayrshire is that corner of Galloway which William the Lion attached onto Carrick. Smith's tale of Miss Wallace and her lodger, a boarded-out psychiatric patient, will long remain with me. It is a reminder of an older, less institutionalised society. Smith himself regrets that the more functional 'general practitioner' has replaced the family doctor. The book is well worth hunting down and reading or giving as a gift—I found it so compelling that I read it one sitting.

The book is one of a trilogy of memoirs and Tom Smith has followed it with *Going Loco: Further Adventures of a Scottish Country Doctor* (Short Books, 2009) and *Medic on the Move: Even Further Adventures of a Scottish Country Doctor* (Solway Offset Services, 2015). The former is mainly concerned with Smith's adventures as a medical researcher in such far-flung places as Rio de Janeiro and Singapore, with only briefer interludes in South Ayrshire, but the latter book is more like the first of the trilogy, being set in his beloved 'Collintrae'. This time, he tells us, the disguises are heavier as in the first two books identities were too easily guessed. What is unchanged is the entertaining mixture of humour, human affection, and medical wonder.

Sib Scott, the last inhabitant of a cave at Bennane Head and kenspeckelt by older Ayrshire folk, turns up several times in *A Seaside Practice*. It is a mark of Smith's talent as a doctor that he establishes a relationship with him, and even wins a few words from the normally silent tramp. Sib Scott was the subject of a fascinating portrait in *Ayrshire Echoes* (reviewed in *Ayrshire Notes* No. 47). **John Kellie's** new collection of the byways of Ayrshire history,

Ayrshire Folk: Glimpses of Bygone Lives (Carn, 2015), is exceptionally welcome. The book is divided into three sections. The first has studies of older customs and institutions, such as the Barr Castle ball game, the Cadgers' races at Ayr, the visits of American 'wild west' shows to Edwardian Ayrshire, and the Tattie Howkers. Next come a series of studies of conflict and difficulties that visited Ayrshire since early modern times—from the witch hunts of the seventeenth century right up to the severe winter of 1947. The surprise in this section for me was just how troubled the 1830s were with riots in Girvan over Parliamentary reform infused with sectarian rivalry and in Cumnock over poaching. The final section of the book is a series of profiles of famous and infamous individuals, such as a gypsy king, highwaymen, murderers, and war heroes. One of the last is Ensign Ewart, whose capture on eagle at Waterloo is well known, but the other war hero is a namesake of the author, the Revd Dr John Kellie, who saved some of his parishioners from drowning at Croy Shore and as an army chaplain perished with his men in the First World War. Along the way fascinating facts emerge—did you know that Ayrshire's last native Gaelic speaker only died in 1760? This is a book that should be on the shelves of every lover of Ayrshire history.

Anna Fiorina Hess *Born in Internment* (Grape and Thistle Press, 2015).

Another recent book of memoirs is **Anna Fiorina Hess's *Born in Internment* (Grape and Thistle Press, 2015)**. The author is the daughter of Andy and Kathy Bertellotti, who owned a fish and chip shop in Kilmarnock at the outbreak of the Second World War. Andy was a second-generation Italian immigrant, and his brothers also ran cafes in the town. A policeman, who has always been their friend, arrests the Bertellottis and sends them to internment, cut off from friends and family. Some of the family are still in Italy, and the book follows their fortunes under Mussolini as well as the British internment in which the writer was born. It is a fascinating picture of the lot of immigrants to Scotland, and how they coped with turning overnight from being welcome entrepreneurs to enemy aliens.

Anna Fiorina Begg tells her relatives' stories as 'faction'—non-fiction that borrows the techniques of fiction. **James Andrew Begg's *The Man's the Gowd for a' That* (Carn 2012)**, is similar in its narrative strategy, but quite different in that it is written in Lowland

Scots. It is a family saga in which Begg traces the lives of his ancestors in south-west Scotland from early modern times until the end of the nineteenth century. This is a tale of ordinary folk—farmers, colliers, maid servants—invoked in the dialect that is sadly fast disappearing in much of Ayrshire, but happily clings on in the far east of the region where James Begg was born. His narrative, as Alan Riach says in his foreword, ‘demonstrates impressively and conclusively the qualities the language can deliver to written storytelling’.

Ayrshire Novels

Finally, a briefer round up of some fiction. Pride of place must go to **Andrew O’Hagan’s *The Illuminations* (Faber, 2015)**. The novel has a dual narrative, split between the British army in Afghanistan and a shelter housing complex in Saltcoats. The link is Anne Quirk, a now forgotten creative photographer, and in the early stages of dementia, and her grandson, who is a captain in the ill-fated Afghan expedition. The novel is a slow burner, but thematic enlightenment comes, fittingly, in Blackpool, when the reader achieves narrative illumination. This is a novel for grown-ups. Saltcoats also doubtless informs much of the settings in of a new book of short stories, ***Jellyfish* (Freight Books, 2015)**, by the Saltcoats-born novelist **Janice Galloway**. The title story explicitly invokes Millport, and the other stories in the collection reflect its concern with parenting, childhood, and growing up.

Ayr is the setting for several novels by local ‘tartan noir’ author Tony Black. His DI Bob Valentine series now has ***Artefacts of the Dead* (Black & White Publishing, 2014)** and ***A Taste of Ashes* (Black & White Publishing, 2015)**. A third, ***Summoning the Dead***, is due for release shortly. His first novel to use Ayr as a setting was ***The Storm Without* (McNidder & Grace, 2012)**, which also introduced retired Ulster Constabulary detective Doug Michie, and both setting and character make their return in ***The Inglorious Dead* (McNidder and Grace, 2014)**. (Both novels, incidentally, borrow their titles from Burns.) Ayr in Black’s writing shows its gritty underside, a literary descendant of the setting of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. As described in these books, the town will send shivers up your spine, not just of delicious recognition of streets you have walked, but also of frisson at scenes of crime.

The roundup is completed by two quite different novels, but linked by a Kilmarnock setting. **David F. Ross's** *The Last Days of Disco* (Orenda Books, 2015) belongs to the Irvine Welsh school of Scottish fiction—unruly tales of the urban precariat told in their patois. Don't say you've not been warned, but on the other hand, don't be put off by **Margaret Montgomery's** title, *Beauty Tips for Girls* (Cargo Publishing, 2105) as the problems of identity and body image which it explores are those of any human growing up. Kilmarnock is disguised as Craigie, but the novel turns to territory explored in Graithnock by the late William McIlvanney of class, education, adolescence, and (to change the sexes) mother-daughter relationships.

I've defined Ayrshire books throughout this review as ones with an Ayrshire setting, wholly or substantially (hence the omission of the Man Booker listed *His Bloody Project* by **Graeme Macrae Burnet** from Kilmarnock). I'm happy to report that Ayrshire writing is in rude health.

An Appreciation of Ronald Brash

Ronald Brash, M.A., FSA (Scotland) : 1914 - 2016

We were greatly saddened to hear of the death of Ronald Brash who died earlier this year.

Ronald grew up firstly in Pollokshields, in Glasgow's suburbs. and latterly in Ayr. From there after schooling at Kelvinside Academy he studied at St Andrew's University where he graduated with a M.A. However, the war intervened and he spent some time in the Near East. His subsequent career took him into teaching and then into lecturing.

He had a great number of local interest apart from his enthusiasm for local history. He was a member St Columba Church Choir for many years as well as that of the Choral Union. He also was a supporter of the Ayr Music Club and the Ayrshire Philharmonic Operatic Society.

However, he is better known to many of us for the history of St Columba Church, Ayr and also "The Tramways of Ayr". He served the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society as Secretary and then President and latterly was responsible for the distribution of the Society Publications. All of the job that he took on he did with dedication and the Society has greatly benefited from his input.

Ronald is survived by his sons David and Peter and his daughter Ann.

Arran Antiquarians Syllabus 2017

Meetings are held in Brodick Public Hall on the third Monday of each month and start at 2pm. Open to non-members for £2. Tea and biscuits served afterwards

Date	Speaker	Topic
16 th January	Annual General Meeting	
20 th Feb	Penny McWatters	Lochranza Church Windows
20 th Mar	Diana S Maxwell	Memories of HMS Drakemire Research Establishment
24 th April	Stuart Wilson	Alexander Fleming and Penicillin
15 th May	Mhairi Hastings	History of Savings Banks
19 th June	Roderick MacPherson	The Lyon Macer: the History of the Messenger at Arms
17 th July	Robert Tomlinson	The Hon Man – Don't Hold the Front Page
21 st August	Robert C Homes, diplomat and writer	Stalin's Legacy – KGB Spies
19 th September	Ian Quinn	The Clyde Steamers in the World Wars
16 th October	David Anderson	The History of the Electricity Industry in Scotland
20 th November	Alan Nicol	The Arran Drama Festival

Annual outing to Glasgow City Chambers in June 2017 date to be confirmed

Field trip dates to be arranged in 2017

Secretary: Hugh Brown

Strathisla, Glencloy, Brodick, Isle of Arran

Telephone number: 01770 303 577

Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Programme 2016-2017

Website: www.aanhs.org.uk

Email: aanhsayr@tiscali.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theaanhs>

Most meetings are held in the Blue Room, Town Hall, Ayr at 7.30 pm Thursday evenings

Date	Title	Speaker
13 October 2016	Paisley Abbey	Bob Will, GUARD.
27 October	The Loans Smugglers – An Update.	Frances Wilkins
10 November	Scotland's Early Silver.	Alice Blackwell, Glenmorangie Research Fellow, National Museum of Scotland.
24 November	Celts: Art and Identity.	Dr Fraser Hunter, National Museum of Scotland.
12 January 2017	The Mapping of Ayrshire.	Chris Fleet, The National Library of Scotland.
26 January	Vernacular Building in Scotland.	Simon Green, National Museum of Scotland.
9 February	Building Scotland's Canals.	Nick Haynes, Historic Environment Consultant.

Date	Title	Speaker
23 February	Prisoner of War Camps.	Dr Iain Banks, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology.
23 March <i>The 23 March Meeting will be followed immediately by the AGM</i>	Chrystal Ball Archaeology: Top Five Predictions for Scotland's Past.	Dr Jeff Saunders, Dig IT 2017 Project Manager, National Museum of Scotland.
13 April	Social Evening in Loudoun Hall	Note this meeting is NOT in the town hall

Beith Historical Society

Syllabus 2016/17

Meetings are held in the Chapel Hall, out Lady of Perpetual Succour, 2 Crummnock Street, Beith at 8pm unless otherwise advertised

Date	Speaker	Topic
29 th Sept 2016	Ian Valentine	Rudolph Hess
27 th October 2016	Ailsa Turner	Glasgow Boys
30 th November 2016	Allan Saunderson	St Andrews Meal, Beith Community Centre Main Hall
9 th December 2016	Christmas Outing	Glasgow Phoenix Choir, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
26 th January 2017	Barbara Graham	The Life of Flora MacDonald
23 rd February 2017	Tommy Lawton	The Forth and Clyde Canal
30 th March 2017	Cathy Mills	Old King Cole (400AD) to Georgian Times
27 th April 2017	Harvey Kaplan	Jews In Ayrshire

Cumbræ Historical Society

Programme 2016-2017

All talks start in the at 7pm in the Newton Lounge

Date	Title	Speaker
3 rd Oct 2016	Eaglesham, the Jewel in the Crown	Ken Mallard (Glasgow University)
7 th Nov 2016	The History of Ardrossan Castle	Amanda Simpson (Ardrossan Heritage Society)
12 th Dec 2016	A Personal Journey into Local History	Christine Watson (Kilwinning)
9 th Jan 2017	The Clydeside Flotilla	Bill Gilpin (Millport)
6 th Feb 2017	The Kilmarnock Edition of Robert Burns Poetry	Prof Alan Riach (Glasgow University)
13 th Mar 2017	The Hidden Histories behind our Favourite Nursey Rhymes: Tudors to the Civil War	Catherine Mills (Crosshouse)
24 th Apr 2017	From Herriot to Happiness via the North Ayrshire Coast (+AGM)	Melissa Donald (Saltcoats)

Dundonald Historical and Archive Society

Syllabus 2016/17

Date	Speaker	Topic
14 th September 2016	Ron Lilly	Scottish Ambulance Service
12 th October 2016	Alan Richardson	QEII
9 th November 2016	Charles Dudgeon	Kilwinning Abbey Myth and Reality
11 th January 2017	David Dickson	Craig House
8 th February 2017	Tom Doherty	Glasgow Photographs of the 1950s
8 th March 2017	David Adam	Scottish Fire Heritage Museum
12 th April 2017	Douglas Keith	Tracing the Clyde

May outing to be arranged

East Ayrshire Family History Society

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Syllabus for 2016/2017

Meetings are held at 7 pm in the **Johnnie Walker Bond, Strand Street, Kilmarnock** on the second Thursday of the months September to May

Date	Title	Speaker
8 th Sept 2016	The Kilmarnock I Remember (+ enrolment)	Frank Beattie
13 th Oct 2016	The Nobel Prize and Kilmarnock Academy	Neil Dickson
10 th Nov 2016	The Last Miners of Ayshire's Doon Valley	Donald Reid
12 th Jan 2017	Members' Talks	Members share family research experiences
9 th Feb 2017	History of Craufurdland Castle	Simon Craufurd
9 th Mar 2017	Heritage along the Clyde (includes annual joint meeting of family history societies in Ayrshire)	Dr Irene O'Brien
13 th Apr 2017	Topic to be arranged	Dane Love
11 th May 2017	AGM and talk (to be arranged)	

Largs and District Historical Society Syllabus 2016/17

Fortnightly meetings on Monday evenings
telephone: 01475 687081

Date	Speaker	Topic
1 st September 2016	Professor Stephen Harding at 8pm	Hakon Hakonsson
17 th October 2016	Max Nixon	Reform Agitation in North Ayrshire
21 st November 2016	Joint Meeting with North Ayrshire Family History Society at Hall Bath Street, Largs at 7:30pm	Exploring Oral History in the Community
16 th January 2017	Greg Beecroft	Wemyss Bay Station + Wine and Nibbles
20 th February 2017	Stephen Brown	West Kilbride Mausoleums
20 th March 2017	Ian Quinn	TS Queen Mary
17 th April 2017	Annual General Meeting	

All meetings are at 2:30pm except where noted above

North Ayrshire Family History Society Syllabus 2016/17

All meetings are held on a Tuesday in the meeting room, Largs Library, 26 Allanspark Street,
Largs at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated

Date	Speaker	Topic
13 th September 2016	Dane Love	Lost Villages of Ayrshire
29 th September 2016	Workshop or visit to Heritage Centre, Saltcoats	
11 th October 2016	J Wiggins	My Ancestors Got into Trouble: Court Kirk Sessions and Scandal
27 th October 2016	Workshop	
5 th November 2016	Coffee Morning Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs	
8 th November 2016	E D Bremner	Hair Styles Male and Female Through the Ages
21 st November 2016	Joint meeting with Largs Historical Society Dr S Morrison, Strathclyde University St John's ToCH, Largs 7:30pm	People's Histories: Exploring Oral History in the Community
24 th November 2016	Workshop	
13 th December 2016	Val Reilly	To Honour the Angels: the Story of the Christmas Carol Next Train for Largs
10 th January 2017	John Riddell	
26 th January 2017	Workshop or visit to Heritage Centre Saltcoats	
14 th February 2017	Tom Barclay	Resources of the Carnegie Library
23 rd February 2017	Workshop	
9 th March 2017	Joint meeting with East Ayrshire FH Society Dr Irene O'Brien at Johnnie Walker Bond, Strand Street, Kilmarnock	Heritage Along the Clyde
14 th March 2017	J O'Neill	Fenwick Weavers
30 th March 2017	Visit to Carnegie Library, Ayr	
11 th April 2017	Dr I Matheson	The Union of Parliaments
27 th April 2017	Workshop	
9 th May 2017	Annual General Meeting	

Prestwick History Group Syllabus 2016/17

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm in
65 Club Hall, 65 Main Street, Prestwick

Date	Speaker	Title
6 th Oct 2016	Pat Kane	Stories and Songs of Southwest Scotland
3 rd Nov 2016	Robert Smillie	Carrick Coast Nostalgia Old Railway Ayr to Girvan
1 st Dec 2016	Denis Rattenbury	Our Landscape Beneath Our Feet the Deep Time Story of Ayrshire
2 nd Feb 2017	John Kellie	Ayrshire Folk
2 nd Mar 2017	Group Members	Pot Pourri Your Very Own Choice
6 th Apr 2017	Robin Scott-Elliot	The Way Home Scotland's Ill Faed Band of Brothers
4 th May 2017	Group Members	Blether 2017

Stewarton and District Historical Society

Website: www.stewarton.org

email: sheilacoventry101@gmail.com (syllabus secretary)

Meetings start at 7:30pm and are held in the Town House, 8 Avenue Square, Stewarton

Date	Speaker	Topic
5 th Sept 2016	Jeremy Wyatt	The Gaiety Theatre
3 rd Oct 2016	Alan Hodgkinson	The Hunterston Brooch and Portencross Castle + short AGM
7 th Nov 2016	Elijah Beattie	Galston Memories sharing his boyhood memories of the town
5 th Dec 2016	Stewarton Night	Local tales longer or shorter ones welcome - Christmas drinks and nibbles
9 th Jan 2017	Sheila and Sandy Plant	The Missionary Man bravery and compassion of an ancestor at Rorke's Drift
6 th Feb 2017	Dr Natasha Ferguson	Treasure Trove in Scotland and Recent Archaeological Findings in Ayrshire and the South. The treasure trove officer of the National Museums Scotland explains treasure trove.
6 th Mar 2017	Valerie Reilly	Clarks and Coates – Threadmakers of Paisley
3 rd Apr 2017	Andrew Dick	The 1950 Knockshinnoch Disaster. This New Cumnock mining disaster was one of the worst in mining history
8 th May	Iain McGillivray	Alexander 'Greek' Thomson architect and Victorian pioneer

West Kilbride Civic Society Syllabus 2016/17

Talks are held at 7:30pm in West Kilbride Community Centre, Corse Street,
West Kilbride KA23 9AX

Date	Speaker	Title
27 th Sept 2016	AGM	Followed by social get together
25 th Oct 2016		Dundonald Castle
22 nd Nov 2016		Aylmer Hunter Weston – an Ayrshire General at Gallipoli
31 st Jan 2017	Vivian MacDonald	Down the Irrawaddy River in Burma
16 th Feb 2017	Denis Rattenburr	Ayrshire Pilgrims
15 th Mar 2017	Sheila Coventry	Hidden History of Nursery Rhymes

AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society (AANHS) are available from Sheena Andrew, Secretary, 17 Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick KA9 1SO. Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website: www.aanhs.org.uk

39 The Church Buildings of Ayrshire (Hume) 94 pages	£7.50
38 Excavations in Ayr 1984-1987 (Perry), 140 pages (A4)	£9.99
37 Historic Troon and its surroundings, 40 pages	£3.00
36 Burns & the Sugar Plantocracy of Ayrshire (Graham) 124 pages	£6.00
35 The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages	£4.00
33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages	£4.00
31 Tattie Howkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire (Holmes) 192 pages	£4.50
30 The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730 (Barclay & Graham) 104 pp.	£4.50
28 Historic Prestwick and its surroundings, 64 pages	£2.50
24 Historic Alloway, Village and Countryside: A Guide for Visitors	£2.00
20 Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors, 2nd ed.	£2.50
15 The Port of Ayr 1727-1780 (Graham)	£2.00
13 Tolls and Tacksman (McClure)	£1.50
11 Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson, revised 2010)	£4.00
Antiquities of Ayrshire (Grose, ed. Strawhorn revised 2010)	£4.00
Armstrong's Maps of Ayrshire (1775: reprint, 6 sheets)	£12.00