

Milngavie & Bearsden Historical Society

Newsletter February 2015

Dear Members and recent visitors,

I wish you a very happy New Year and all success in 2015.

As I write, we are well through our programme for 2014 /15 and the committee has already signed up speakers to a programme for next year. Time does seem to fly past us as we progress through twelve months of ritual celebrations and anniversaries.

So far we have had a journey through time in our lectures. Still to come are the Jewels of Maryhill and Len Murray's talk on GECAS, a war criminal, who resided in Edinburgh. I hope that you have enjoyed this year's varied programme and from the quite large numbers of visitors attending, we do seem to be striking the right note with our talks.

I always try and talk to the visitors who attend our lectures, to discover where they hear about us and their interests. This has resulted in quite a number of repeat visitors and a trickle of new members which is so important to ensure continuity.

We can look forward to a couple of outings in the next few months and our SOCIETY AGM/ Members night. With the AGM approaching we are seeking further members to offer their help as committee members as currently we are a bit light on numbers.

Jim Beck is doing an excellent job in updating and expanding the scope of our web site and I would encourage you to have a look. As always we seek your comments and suggestions regarding our speakers and the Society in general. This can be easily done through our web site www.mbhistorical.org and email system.

I look forward to welcoming you again to our upcoming events.

Hamish MacDougall - Chairman

Riddle of Paternity of James VI Solved

Mrs Margaret Lumsdaine, in her excellent lecture on Mary Queen of Scots, mentioned the stories about the paternity of James VI that circulate from time to time. One is that James VI's father was David Rizzo. The other is that a son of the Earl of Mar was substituted for Mary Queen of Scots' son, and later became James VI. This prompted me to look again at the articles that have appeared in the newspapers about DNA research into the Stewart family in order to refresh my memory of the details. The tests involved analysing the Y DNA of those participating in the research tests.

The Y DNA of an individual is the DNA that he or she receives from his or her father and earlier direct male ancestors.

One participant in the research was the present Duke of Buccleuch. He is a direct male descendant of Charles 11, who was the grandson of James V1. James V1 was the son of Mary Queen of Scots and, it was assumed, her husband Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. Lord Darnley, in his turn, was a direct male descendant of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyll, the great uncle of Robert 11.

Another participant was a direct male descendent of Charles Stewart of Ardshiel who fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie at the battle of Culloden. He was also a direct male descendant of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyll.

The tests carried out during the research showed that the Y DNA of both men contained the chromosome marker "S781+" which appears in other proven descendants of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyll.

David Rizzio was clearly not a descendant of Sir John as he was an Italian. The Earl of Mar was not a descendant as he was an Erskine, rather than a Stewart. Therefore the DNA tests showed that neither man could have been the Father of James V1.

Mary, Queen of Scots husband Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley was a direct male descendant of Sir John therefore the results of the DNA tests are totally consistent with the assumption that he was the father of James V1.

OUTINGS

Scone Palace

Thursday 14th May 2015

£15

Reacquaint yourself with the place that saw the crowning of Macbeth and Robert the Bruce by joining Milngavie and Bearsden Historical Society on a day trip to Scone Palace Perthshire. Lunch is not included in the price.

Lev. 10.00am from Milngavie Railway Station

Ret. 3.00pm from Scone Palace

Maryhill

20th April 2015

Donation £2.00 min.

This is an interesting tour as it covers the history of the building and the unique stained glass windows and many other Maryhill history-related artefacts. We will be accompanied by a volunteer guide who will lead us on a tour of the entire building. It will take about an hour after which we may adjourn to the café where you can enjoy coffee and cakes.(not included in donation)

Travel by Car or Bus and tour starts at 2.00pm

Scone Palace

Thursday 14th May 2015

£15

I/we wish to attend this outing and enclose £

Name/s _____

Tel No. _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Email _____

Please return this form and cheque to the treasurer Jim Sheldon, 69, Clober Road
Milngavie, G62 7SU with a self addressed SAE.

Maryhill Burgh Hall

Monday 20th April 2015

Donation £2 min

I/We wish to attend this outing and enclose £

Name/s _____

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Address _____

Post Code _____

Email _____

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Post Scriptum

The committee propose to distribute the next Newsletter by email, to members who have given their email addresses. Those without an email address will receive theirs in the usual way.

DATA PROTECTION Act 1998: Your name, address, telephone number, email address and membership number will be kept on computer file for use in our mailing lists and for sending out email notices etc and will not be passed on to any other third party. If you have any objection to these being on computer file please let any committee member know.