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**Banquet to J. Parkinson by the Muslim Gentlemen of Rangoon
on his departure for England June 1909: Chairman A. M. Dawood Esq.**

Contributions for the Spring 2006 issue of *Ayrshire Notes*, including information about the activities of Member Societies, should be sent before the end of January to Rob Close, 1 Craighrae Cottages, Drongan, Ayr KA6 7EN, tel. 01292 590273.

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Further information about the AANHS (Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society) and its publications will be found on the society's website: www.aanhs.org.uk

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Cover illustration

Group photograph taken at a banquet held in honour of John Parkinson of Kilwinning (1876-1918) author of *Lays of Love and War* (private collection). Further information on John Parkinson will be found on the following page of the Ayrshire History website: www.ayrshirehistory.org.uk/postings1/parkinson.htm

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The Passing of the Handloom Weaver

Memories of Bygone Days in Ayrshire

The following article appeared in the *Ayrshire Post* of Friday, 14th July 1916, shortly after the death of Robert Brown, Boyd Street, Prestwick, who was at that time regarded as being the oldest working hand-loom weaver in Scotland. There is a brief note about Brown in the AANHS's *Historic Prestwick* (Ayr, 2003) p.18. I think the town referred to in this article is Beith.

On reading the notice in last week's *Ayrshire Post* about the death of Robert Brown, the well-known Prestwick handloom weaver, it struck me that I might jot down a few notes regarding an occupation about which the present generation knows very little. I was only eleven years of age when I was put to the "lim", where I worked for three and a half years. While, of course, I couldn't possibly gain anything like a thorough knowledge of the intricacies of the trade in that period, I learnt as much as made the occupation interesting to me, and what little I gleaned I have here recorded.

Fifty years ago handloom weaving was the calling followed by thousands of Ayrshire people of both sexes. In the North Ayrshire town I am writing about there would at that time be seven or eight hundred weavers. These were not weavers in factories or mills, but each and all working away "on their own" at "wabs" they had got from weaving agents in the town or in Paisley and Glasgow. The weaver owned his own "limstead" and all its appurtenances, and there were sometimes six "limsteads" in the "weaving shop", the rent of which was paid to a factor or landlord. In the town in question it was almost all harness weaving that was done, there being very little heddle weaving. Harness weaving produced many kinds of cloth with the patterns woven in colours, such as what were called Paisley shawls, without which no bride of those days could be considered to have a complete trousseau. The grandmothers of the present generation will most of them have vivid memories of these shawls, and beautiful bits of cloth they were. Another cloth that was extensively woven was called "Zebra", and was for export trade. This was not such fine work as the Paisley shawls. Harness work was much more intricate than heddle work. The harness weavers received their warp, or yarn, in large coils and took it to the beaming house, where the beamer, assisted by the weaver and two or three others, wound the warp on a big drum, after which the beamer separated the strands and placed them in order along a large wooden reed, like a huge comb; then these strands were tightened by weights and wound on the weaver's beam, after which the latter was carried up the town to the weaving-shop wherever it was situated, and placed in position at the back of the loom. If this was the same kind of a cloth that he was going to weave as he had been previously working at, the new warp was called a "twist", and the weaver, or someone engaged by him who could do it better, proceeded to twist the ends of the new warp to the corresponding ends of the old warp which remained in the mails (small metal discs with holes through which the threads

ran) attached to the harness. After that was done the weaver proceeded to tighten up the web and go ahead with the weaving, working till the Saturday, when he cut out the cloth, took it to the agent, and received his wages, generally at so much per shawl or per ell (45 inches).

If the weaver could not get from the agent a web of the same kind as that he had been working upon, but had to take one of a different kind, that was what constituted a "tie", which meant the loss of about a week's work and some expense besides. The harness, each thread of which carried a strand of yarn, had all to be cut down from the tails of twine attached to the machine, the principal parts of which were the needles and the four-sided cylinder, the latter being perforated with holes. The harness then had to be properly re-set in what was called the holey-brod, and when ready was, of course, too short to be tied up to the tails again, so what was called a "beating" took place. The weaver went round a certain number of shops and announced that there was to be a "beating" at his loom at half-past two o'clock, which was generally the hour fixed. The weavers thus notified turned up sharp and surrounded the holey-brod. Each man got a bunch of harness ends and another bunch of short threads of harness twine, about six or seven inches long, which latter they stuck in the breast of their waistcoats. They held the bunch of harness in the left hand, picked out one end of it with the right hand finger and thumb, then picked out one short thread from the bunch in their waistcoat, and proceeded to tie it to the harness end, so that when all were tied they would be long enough to enable the weaver to get them gathered up and attached to the proper tails in the machine. A "tie" (a new kind of web) was a costly business to the weaver, for he had himself to bear all the expense of the alterations necessary. Some weavers could negotiate a "tie" themselves, with a little assistance (generally from members of their own families) but the majority couldn't, so these latter had to engage one of the few men in the town who laid themselves out to undertake such work. The "tie" took almost a week, during which the weaver earned no wages, but instead laid out money.

The "tie" being completed at last, the weaver then got a new set of cards, which latter played a very important part in making the pattern on the cloth. These cards were, I should say, about 15 to 18 inches long and about 3½ or 4 inches broad, pierced with many small round holes. The cards were the same size as the perforated cylinder in the machine, and fitted on to the machine by two peg holes - one at each end. They were all strung together, edge to edge, and lay in a box at the side of the loom. Treadles underneath the loom, worked by the weaver's feet, set the machine in motion, the needles operating where there were holes in the cards, so that the holes regulated what parts of the yarn were lifted by the tread to allow the weft or "shot" to get through from end to end of the web. The threads of yarn went through the mails of the harness already referred to and then through the "reed." This reed consisted of a frame the breadth of the web, about 4 inches deep with thin metal upright slips. There were so many of these slips to the inch according to the fineness of the cloth. This reed was inserted in the "lay" or "lathe", which had moveable boxes at both ends to accommodate the "shuttles", on which latter were the "pirns" of weft. Each shuttle had a pirn of coloured weft, say one blue, one red, one white and one green, which were the colours used for Zebra cloth. The shuttle ran on "horalls" or wheels, and in the side of the former was a small hole with a china casing through which the end of the weft

was sucked by the weaver, as it would have been a “dreich” business to have threaded it any other way. There was a race or track across the lay from box to box, and at the extreme ends of the boxes were the drivers, one to each box. These drivers were upright blocks of wood, faced with guttapercha, which slid along a spindle, and were attached by a long string to a “pookin’-pin”, which the weaver held in his right hand, the pin thus having two strings - one to each driver. The ends of the yarn were attached to the cloth beam in front of the loom, and the “saitrie” or seat on which the weaver sat, was close up to the beam. When all was ready the weaving began. First the weaver trod down a tradle which set the machine in motion, and lifted so many threads of yarn, pushed back the lay, and gave the pin a pook which brought the face of the driver against the nose of the shuttle and propelled the latter across the web between the open space in the yarn, the shuttle landing in its place in the box at the other side. The lay was brought forward and the reed carried the thread of weft as far as was necessary. The weaver then touched a lever with his thumb and shifted the box so that the next shuttle with a different colour came into position to be driven through a new opening made in the web by the treading of the treadle. The web was kept a proper width by what were called taniples, these being two pieces of wood set to a certain width with teeth in the ends which were inserted in the selvedge at the sides of cloth. After shot went through the yarn the weaver, whose left hand and arm swung the lay, brought forward the lay and dumped up the shot close to the one which had been previously sent home, and the dump had to be regulated according to the thickness of the cloth required - so many “shots to the glass” (a small round microscope whose circle covered a certain diameter). Then the worker proceeded to weave week after week till the yarn was all used up; after which he had to get “a twist” or “tie” over again.

Harness shawls and Zebras have been out of vogue for many years now, and there are very few weavers left in the town under notice. Most of those are, I think, now engaged in weaving bed mats, red and white, blue and white, and black and white.

Pirn-filling was a separate operation but every weaver had to have a pirn-filler. Pirns were small wood pins with a hole in one end, and upon these the weft was wound, generally by women in their own homes, the weaver calling for them when his stock was exhausted. The pirn was stuck in the shuttle and plied between the yarn till the weft was all unwound, when the empty one was taken out and a full one put in.

Weavers had to work hard to make what was called a good wage in those days, but most of them contrived to make both ends meet, with often a little over for a “rainy day.”

The weavers all made their own time, that is, they could start when they liked and stop when they liked. They could “throw their legs off” the “saitrie” when anything unusual was to be seen or heard, and afterwards make up for lost time by working later or starting earlier. In the days referred to occasions like Bogside and Ayr Races drew a large number of weavers to Kilwinning, Irvine and Ayr. There was not so much betting then as now, and most of the weavers and their families were on these occasions out for pleasure.

In the shop where I worked there were four weavers. Three of us could do a little at the signing, and “although I say it wha shoodna”, we often cheered ourselves and visitors with harmonised snatches of songs and glees, working heartily all the while. This was typical of what went on in many shops; and when everything was going well the weaving

shops were very cheery spots indeed, especially when the weavers were “lichtin” and friends dropped in to site on the end of the “saitrie” for a crack. Even courting was done in this manner.

The weavers, at least the male portion of them, were great politicians, and the discussions which went on during the meal hours at “The Head Street”, “Newhouses” and other places were often interesting and educative.

JC

Lord Justice Sir Anthony McCowan (1928–2003)

I have long thought of learning more of my ancestors but have never got further back than my grandfather who was born in the Parish of Neilston (Renfrewshire). [Sir Anthony McCowan, 18 Jan.. 1986.]

Sir Anthony McCowan, who was a pillar of the English legal system for several decades, was descended from Cumnock tenant farmers.

Anthony James Denys McCowan was called to the bar in 1951, appointed Deputy Chairman of the East Sussex Quarter Sessions in 1969 and leader of the South Eastern Circuit in 1978. In 1981 he was appointed to the High Court Bench and served as Senior Presiding Judge of England and Wales between 1991 and 1995. From 1989 until 1997 he was a Lord Justice of Appeal. One of his earlier achievements was the 1952 publication of *Coloured Peoples In Britain* which ultimately helped re-shape British immigration policy. Born in Georgetown, British Guiana, Anthony was the son of a Senior Magistrate in the colonial administration. He was educated at Epsom College and won a history scholarship at Brasenose College in Oxford.

Sir Anthony had a sincere interest in his family history and kindly consented to be an Honorary Chairman of the James McCowan Memorial Social History Society. His first ‘McCowan history’ letter of January 1986 is one of our treasures.

Like many of us who have always lived outside Scotland, Sir Anthony McCowan’s Ayrshire connection is in the very distant past.

The trail back to Cumnock, Ayrshire, from British Guiana is certainly an interesting one, partly told by Sir Anthony:

My grandfather was William McCowan, born on the 18th May 1838. My grandfather, it was always said in the family, ran away from home three times in order to fight in the Crimea, the last successfully at the age of 16. He served in the Royal North British Fusiliers. At some stage he transferred to the West India Regiment. In St. Vincent he met and married Jane Corner. He went on to serve in British Guiana where he died in 1888.

Even Sir Anthony's great-grandfather, John McCowan (a calico printer), was not born in Ayrshire, but rather, at Clober, New Kilpatrick Parish in Dunbartonshire. At this time -- June 1808 -- Sir Anthony's great-great grandfather, Robert, was probably employed at one of the dozen or so bleachfields, mills, manufactories and ironworks in Old and New Kilpatrick. Robert McCowan was a millwright and the industrial revolution was steaming ahead at full throttle. This was an era of extreme mobility -- by 1822 Robert was in Renfrewshire building the industrial infrastructure of Neilston Parish. He had been preceded in Neilston by his two cousins, William and Hugh McCowan. All three of these McCowans had been born in Old Cumnock Parish, Ayrshire.

Sir Anthony's great-great grandfather, Robert, was born to John McCowan (1743-1812) and Janet Mitchell on Oct. 25 1782 at the height of another revolution -- the agricultural revolution. Lord Dumfries, owner of the large Dumfries estate in Old Cumnock Parish, recognized that there was indeed some fallout from his extensive land-use management changes. In August 1784 Lord Dumfries wrote:

I found that yearly a number of my farmers sons go to Glasgow Paisley &c to acquire trades. If that could be done nearer home it would be more comfortable to the poor people.

Was Robert McCowan one of Lord Dumfries' 'farmers' sons' when he took up the trade of millwright? The simple answer is "No... but ..."

The farm of Hill of Leifnorries in Old Cumnock had been tenanted by Sir Anthony McCowan's ancestors for close to 150 years -- and quite probably much longer. In 1628 John McCowane in Hill acted as bailie in some local land transfer matters.¹

In the mid 18th century, the old paternalistic methods of transferring land occupation rights from father to son quickly started giving way to a more capitalistic method of selection of tenants on the basis of capacity to pay rent, to keep the buildings in repair and to make further improvements.

Robert McCowan's grandfather, John, signed a new 19 year lease for Hill of Leifnorries in 1754. John died 2 or 3 years later. By 1761 his eldest son, Robert had died. It appears that continued operation of the farm fell to the youngest son, John (1743-1812).

From a 1773 'Rental of the Lands to be Sett by the Earl of Dumfries With the Grassums ofered by the Tennants for a Nineteen Year Tack' we know that:

The Tenents Names marked thus + are reputed honest people and good neighbours but have hitherto only been able to stock their possessions and pay their rent with some difficulty.²

'+ John McCowan for Hill of Leifnorries' was so marked. It is quite likely that John's offer to re-rent the farm was not accepted on the basis of the factor's criticism above.³ John McCowan evidently turned to the transportation business as he was a 'carrier' in Cumnock by at least 1789. He probably joined his older brother, William, in his locally important transportation operation. William had many accounts with the Earl of Dumfries. Toward the end of John's life he lived at Burnswelltrees -- it is uncertain as to whether or not the family was then actively farming.

Lord Justice Sir Anthony McCowan was from a very old Ayrshire family. Sir Anthony's illustrious legal career near the peak of Britain's justice system in the late twentieth century is a curious contrast to one of the earliest notations concerning his McCowan ancestors in Cumnock -- the Protocol Book of Gavin Ros reveals that, in 1515, "William McCowane was confusedly apprehended."

There is further information about Sir Anthony's McCowan heritage in Ayrshire at www.mccowan.org and in *To Sustene the Personis: The Agricultural Revolution*.⁴

D. Bruce McCowan, P.Eng.
James McCowan Memorial Social History Society

¹ Rev. Henry Paton, *The Clan Campbell*, Vol. 5, p. 62.

² Dumfries House Papers.

³ A chapter in BBC Radio Scotland's *The Lowland Clearances* (and the Radio series of the same title) details the experiences of another branch of the Cumnock McCowans. (P. Aitchison and A. Cassell, Tuckwell Press) (www.beamccowan.com/lowland.htm)

⁴ This 49 page booklet, described as 'a modest study of the changing relationship between people and land in Old Cumnock Parish' can be ordered at the McCowan website: www.beamccowan.com/to.htm

Book Review

Rob Close, **Ayr: A History and Celebration**

Salisbury, The Francis Frith Collection, 2005.

ISBN 1 84567 739 0. Illustrated. £15.99 (including free mounted print).

So you think you know? Ayr [from original material supplied by Rob Close.]

Salisbury, The Francis Frith Collection, 2005.

ISBN 1 84567 790 0. Illustrated. £8.99.

This reviewer recalls the disappointment he felt as a child upon discovering that Woolworths in Dublin was much like Woolworths in Belfast. They were in cities separated by many miles and a border crossing, and he expected them to differ in every way. Now places are all very much the same: supermarkets, chain stores, charity shops, building societies, bakeries, and coffee shops are replicated throughout the country in towns and cities corralled by similar ring roads, and with similar retail barns on cleared industrial sites where things used to be made. What is the point of a day trip to Dumfries, for example, when what you find there is what you left behind in Ayr? Do we want to compare the finer points of their respective branches of W. H. Smiths, or even Ottakar's?

Yet if we are to have pride in our towns and cities, we need to be reminded of their different histories, culture, and heritage, and to celebrate them.

Enter bookshop chain Ottakar's and photograph archive and publisher The Francis Frith Collection and their *History and Celebration* series. According to Ottakar's website (1st September 2005) there are 54 of these volumes and their associated merchandise available, and that does not include *Ayr: A History and Celebration*, which must be the 55th.

This is a history of [Ayr] with a difference. Read it, and you will find out what really shaped your locality. In an authoritative and highly readable text, the author recounts the stories and events that together make up [Ayr's] history, and relates them directly to what you can still see on the ground today. Throughout are carefully chosen photographs sourced by the world-famous Francis Frith Collection. These are supplemented by specially commissioned colour photographs picturing the locality as it is today. Topic boxes cover subjects of particular interest, and the "Did You Know?" boxes will test your local knowledge to the full. Learn, too, about [Ayr's] worthies, past and present, whose energy and innovation have played such a vital role in shaping the locality. History is not just a phenomenon of the past – it is in the making at this moment. The author also celebrates the living, breathing organism that is the community today, and gives us a timely and enthusiastic appreciation of the new [Ayr] that is developing before our eyes.

That is actually the promotional paragraph for Grimsby, a template followed for the other 53 volumes, and it sets out what must have been the brief for Rob Close as he set about writing the text for the Ayr volume. Bookshop and publisher were well-served by their author. He has produced a concise and entertaining account of a town he has known for 30 years, backed by the detailed research he undertook in producing *Ayrshire and Arran: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* (Edinburgh 1992) and *The Street Names of Ayr* (Ayr 2001), among other works. It fits neatly into the gap between the AANHS's pocket-sized *Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors* (Ayr 1998, rev. 2001) and John Strawhorn's shelf-bending *History of Ayr: Royal Burgh and County Town* (Edinburgh 1989).

The Francis Frith Collection's selection of images of Ayr is limited to a few photographs taken in 1897 and 1900, but it has been supplemented here with others from the University of St Andrews, and many from private collections.

This attractively-produced book is particularly welcome, being published in 2005, the year in which we celebrate the 800th Anniversary of Ayr becoming a Royal Burgh. If you are going to mark this occasion by buying one book about the town (and you should), let it be *Ayr: A History and Celebration*. And if you are into quizzes, there is its companion volume, *So you think you know? Ayr*.

DCM

Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

About 30 members and friends of the Federation attended the 2005 Annual General Meeting, held on the 21st May, in the Benedictine Monastery, Largs, where we were made most welcome by Sister Aeldred and her colleagues. The Monastery, which is in Makerston Place, has a friendly tea-room and a small museum explaining monastic life, and the overseas links that the monastery has.

At the AGM we welcomed our new secretary, Pamela McIntyre, from Ayr. Pamela will, of course, be known to many of you through her work with Ayrshire Archives, especially through talks to local societies (see the Diary in this edition of *Ayrshire Notes*). We know that Pamela's expertise, energy and enthusiasm will be a great asset to the Federation, and look forward to working with her.

Also at the AGM, we welcomed Kathryn Valentine, from Largs, on to the Committee. We have been keen to have a representative from the north of the county on the Committee, and are pleased that Kathryn has agreed to join us.

John Strawhorn Quaich

During the course of the meeting at Largs, the John Strawhorn Quaich for 2005 was awarded to John Miller. Although closely associated with Stevenston, John now lives in Fairlie. He has been a constant friend to local history in the north of the county, and a well-known face at the library at Ardrossan. He is, though, best known for his knowledge of, research on, and publications about the Lithuanian community not only in Ayrshire but

throughout Scotland. His acceptance speech traced his family background in Lithuania and Scotland with spirit and good humour. He is a worthy recipient of this annual award.

Swap Shop

The annual Swap Shop of the Federation will be held on Sunday 30th October 2005, in the Community Centre, Springside. One of our committee members has been working with a local group in Springside who are keen to learn more of the history of the village, and we hope that the combined knowledge and enthusiasm of a Federation Swap Shop will help and encourage them. The meeting will begin at 2 o'clock, and follow the usual pattern.

Troon Conference 2006

After the success of the Conference in 2004, the Federation has decided to go ahead with a further conference in 2006. The venue remains unchanged - the Walker Halls, Troon - and the date will be Saturday 21st October 2006. The theme will be Food and Drink, and we have already identified a host of interesting potential speakers. More details will be available next year, but keep your diaries clear for what promised to be a very good conference.

Diary of Meetings September 2005 to May 2006

AANHS	Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Meetings in Carnegie Library, Ayr, at 7.45 p.m.
ASA	Alloway & Southern Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Doonfoot Primary School, Abbots Way, Doonfoot, at 7.30 p.m.
BHS	Beith Historical Society. Meetings in Eglinton Inn, Beith at 8.00 p.m.
CSD	Catrine Sorn & District History Society. Meetings in A M Brown Institute, Catrine, at 7.30 p.m.
EAHFS	East Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock, at 7.30 p.m.
FHS Joint	Joint Meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies. In Carnegie Library, Ayr.
KCCS	Kyle and Carrick Civic Society. Meetings in Loudoun Hall, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m.
KDHG	Kilmarnock & District History Group. Meetings in Kilmarnock College at 7.30 p.m.
Largs Jt	Joint meeting of LDHS and LNAFHS. In Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
LDHS	Largs and District Historical Society. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
L(MS)	LDHS, Marine Section. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.

LNAFHS	Largs & North Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Largs Library, Allanpark Street, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
MHS	Maybole Historical Society. Meetings in Maybole Castle, High Street, Maybole at 7.30 p.m.
PHG	Prestwick History Group. Meetings in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick, at 7.30 p.m.
SHS	Stewarton Historical Society. Meetings in John Knox Church Hall, Stewarton, at 7.30 p.m.
TAFHS	Troon @ Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon, at 7.30 p.m.
WKAS	West Kilbride Amenity Society. Meetings in Community Centre, Corse Street, West Kilbride, at 7.30 p.m.

September 2005

Mon 5 th	MHS	Brian Moffat	Discoveries at Soutra
Mon 5 th	SHS	John Steele	Final Episode of HMS Dasher
Tues 13 th	LNAFHS	Pamela McIntyre	Ayrshire Archives
Tues 20 th	TAFHS	Donald Reid	Doon Valley Bygones
Tues 27 th	LNAFHS		Beginners' Night
Thu 29 th	AANHS	Dauvit Broun	The Formation of Ayr as a Royal Burgh 800 Years Ago
Thu 29 th	BHS	Peter Aitchison	The Eyemouth Disaster

October 2005

Mon 3 rd	L(MS)	Tom Hamilton	Irish Sea Shipping Companies
Mon 3 rd	KCCS	Ian Gow	A Curator's Work: Threave, Broughton House and Newhailes
Mon 3 rd	SHS	Donald Reid	Dr Henry Faulds and Fingerprinting
Mon 3 rd	MHS	Donald Reid and Ian Shaw	Robert W Service - Poet of the People
Tues 4 th	KDHG	Jane Dawson	John Knox
Thu 13 th	PHG	John Hope	Scottish Aviation - Its Products and Its People
Thu 13 th	AANHS	Hugh McBrien	Recent Developments in Historic Ayr
Thu 13 th	EAFHS	tbc	
Tues 18 th	KDHG	Helen Dingwall	Medicine and Surgery in Early Modern Scotland
Tues 18 th	Largs Jt	Ian Johnson	Early Ayrshire Lifeboats
Tues 25 th	WKAS	Brian Moffat	Soutra Medieval Hospital
Thu 27 th	BHS	Elaine McFarland	Death, Mourning and Commemoration in 19 th Century Scotland
Thu 27 th	AANHS	Susan Bradbury	Stained Glass in Ayrshire

November 2005

Tues 1 st	`KDHG	David Easton	20 th Century Defences of Scotland's West Coast
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Thu 3 rd	PHG	Ian Jones and Scott Morrison	Prestwick Laundry
Mon 7 th	SHS	Val Parsley	Historical Story-Telling
Mon 7 th	MHS	Margaret Morrell	The History of Turnberry Airfield
Mon 7 th	KCCS	Drew Moyes	Old Ways, New Ways: Walking and Cycling in South Ayrshire
Mon 7 th	L(MS)	Chris Coup	Flying and Sailing - The Difference?
Tues 8 th	LNAFHS	Donald Reid	The Lost Villages of the Doon Valley
Thu 10 th	EAFHS	Robert Ferguson	tbc
Thu 10 th	AANHS	James Brown	Baltersan Castle
Tues 15 th	KDHG	June and Roger Watts	An Evening with Isabella [Isabella Bird, Victorian Traveller]
Tues 15 th	TAFHS	Pamela McIntyre	Ayrshire Emigrants
Thu 24 th	AANHS	Nigel Hawkins	The John Muir Trust
Thu 24 th	BHS	Stuart Robertson	Mackintosh - The Glasgow Legacy
Thu 24 th	LDHS	Roderick G Grahame	Tales of the Kirk
Tues 29 th	WKAS	David Pearson	The Restoration of Castle Levan
Tues 29 th	KDHG	Irene Hughson	The Pictish Symbol Stones
December 2005			
Thu 1 st	PHG	Alisdair Cochrane	The Mighty Amazon - Manaus to Atlantic
Mon 5 th	KCCS	Margaret Morrell	The Turnberry Airfield Story
Mon 5 th	SHS	Godfrey Bailey	Antonine's Wall
Thu 8 th	AANHS	Thomas Rees	The Archaeology of Auchalton Meadows SWT Reserve, Crosshill
Tues 13 th	KDHG	David A Roberts	Beasts of Burden, Engines of War: The Working Horse in Glasgow and the West of Scotland
Thu 15 th	LDHS	Members	Street Names of Largs
January 2006			
Mon 9 th	L(MS)	Ian McLagan	X Boats and Chariots
Mon 9 th	KCCS	Eric J Graham	Captain Macrae of Monkton and the Black Flag Pirates
Mon 9 th	SHS	John Chalmers	Mauchline Past and Present
Tues 10 th	KDHG	Murray Wilson	Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Enigma
Tues 10 th	LNAFHS	Dave Killicoat	Maybole Red Indians
Thu 12 th	AANHS	Eoin Shalloo	The Word on the Street - Chapbooks and Broad-sides in Scotland to 1900
Thu 12 th	EAFHS	Irene Hopkins	Street Names
Tues 17 th	TAFHS	Robin Nelson	How Railways Changes Ayrshire
Tues 24 th	KDHG	Robert Guthrie	Place Names in the Land o' Burns

Thu 26 th	LDHS		History of Education in North Ayrshire
Thu 26 th	AANHS	Sara J Crofts	Celtic Cumbria - St Mungo and the Early Churches
Tues 31 st	WKAS	Charles Woodward	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Country Park
February 2006			
Thu 2 nd	PHG	David Rowan and Alisdair Cochrane	Trades and Traders Over The Years
Mon 6 th	SHS	John Hall	A Dauner Roon Stewarton
Mon 6 th	KCCS	Bill Wright	<i>Rural</i> Scotland
Mon 6 th	L(MS)	Peter Reid	Behind the Waverley
Tues 7 th	KDHG	Sandy McIntosh	The Falkirk Wheel
Thu 9 th	EAFHS	Susan Smith	Loudoun Kirk - A Kirk in Ruins
Thu 9 th	AANHS	Carol Crawford Garth Foster	An Introduction to Woodland Bryophytes Beetles - Loved by Some
Tues 14 th	LNAFHS	Andrew Nichol	Scottish Catholic Archives
Tues 21 st	TAFHS	Sheila Dinwoodie	Des Res In Wellington Square Ayr
Tues 21 st	KDHG	Alistair Hendry	Whist with Napoleon
Thu 23 rd	AANHS	Miles Oglethorpe	Coal and Ice: Archaeology with Guns
Thu 23 rd	LDHS	Thomas Rees	Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Thu 23 rd	BHS	tba	Wally Closes
Tues 28 th	WKAS	Elizabeth Bell	North Ayrshire Local History Library's Resources
March 2006			
Thu 2 nd	PHG	Members	Pot Pourri
Mon 6 th	L(MS)	Tom Dunn	Mission of Hope
Mon 6 th	SHS	Pamela McIntyre	Ayrshire Emigration to Canada
Mon 6 th	MHS	John Steele	Secrets of Horse Island
Mon 6 th	KCCS	Greta Roberts	Planning - and the Lack of It
Tues 7 th	KDHG	Ian Brown	Museum of Flight - Airships to Concorde
Thu 9 th	AANHS	Liz Davidson	Merchant City Initiative - Regenerating the Historic Heart of Glasgow
Thu 9 th	EAFHS	Donald Reid	tbc
Tues 14 th	LNAFHS	Ian McCrory	The History of Caledonian MacBrayne
Sat 18 th	FHS Joint		
Tues 21 st	KDHG	David M Anderson	John Muir's Dunbar
Thu 23 rd	LDHS	Robin Urquhart	Handwriting
Tues 28 th	WKAS	David Palmar	The Birds of the Clyde Estuary
April 2006			
Mon 3 rd	SHS	Anne Geddes	Home Front in World War Two
Mon 3 rd	MHS	John Miller	The Smugglers Who Saved The Language
Thu 6 th	PHG	"The Intrepid Explorer"	The Mighty Pow and Its Tributaries - The Myths and legends

Tues 11 th	LNAFHS	Rebecca Quentin	Dating Old Photographs by Costume
Thu 13 th	EAFHS	Janice McFarlane	National Library Resources
Tues 18 th	TAFHS	Roderick G Grahame	Minutes and Kirkie Matters
Thu 27 th	BHS	George Ballinger	The Falkirk Wheel
Thu 27 th	LDHS	tba	
May 2006			
Thu 4 th	PHG	Members	Blether of 2006
Mon 8 th	MHS	Archie Scobie	Maybole Emigrants
Mon 8 th	SHS	Brodie Sisters	Tales of Stewarton

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John Strawhorn launched 'this little magazine' in the Autumn of 1991. Its first appearance was tentative; 'if this experiment proves successful we should be able to provide readers with articles of general interest relating to Ayrshire's past, news of work in progress, new publications, and circulate details of events and discoveries in various parts of the county.' It did prove successful, to the extent that it is now in its fifteenth year of publication. Over those years the various members of the AANHS and AFHS who have produced *Ayrshire Notes* have followed John's remit closely, while advances in publishing technology have allowed presentation and format to be improved. In short articles and reviews in 30 editions a lot of ground has been covered, and it was felt that an index would be a useful tool for local and family historians, and would ensure that work published in earlier editions would not be forgotten.

Note: Generally only the first occurrence of a term (name, place, institution, etc.) in an article is indexed. Volume number in bold face is followed by the page number.

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