

## *Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies*

*Grey figures stealing, and a headlong dash  
From hedge to house, from house again to hedge,  
And fifty rifles levelled on the ledge!  
One instant on the aim, and then, crash!  
He went to earth, and vanished in a flash.  
And there once more was house, and there was hedge,  
With sprouting field, and farm and ditch with sedge,  
And crop-head pollard row and leafless ash—  
A cheerless landscape grey, and the profound  
Loneliness of the battlefield. The next  
Moment trench-mortar shells were on our head;  
Another, and the day was sealed and fixed  
On front and flank. Among the stricken dead,  
One in the skull, behind, his summons found.*

From 'In the Field',  
Archibald Allan Bowman (1883–1936).  
B. Beith; educated: Beith Academy & Speirs School;  
served in HLI 1915–18; POW 1918.



The 51st (Highland) Division Memorial at Beaumont Hamel

### **Why Rozelle House?**

**Rozelle House has been chosen for the conference venue as it will also be hosting a National Museums of Scotland touring exhibition, Next of Kin: Scottish Families and the Great War. The exhibition highlights through local stories and artefacts the profound personal stories of separation and loss experienced in Scotland as loved ones fought across the fronts in the First World War. The hourly No. 361 from Ayr Bus Station passes Rozelle House.**

# AF

AYRSHIRE FEDERATION  
OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

# HS

Scottish Charity No.  
SCO 09964

## **Ayrshire and the First World War**

*A Day Conference*

*Rozelle House, Ayr, KA7 4NQ*

*Saturday 12 September 2015*

## Programme

Rozelle House, Ayr, KA7 4NQ

**Chairman: Prof. Donald E. Meek**

### 10.30 Registration & Coffee

11.00 Ayrshire's Great War: An Overview, Tom Barclay

11.35 Global Conflict, Local Impact, Stuart Wilson

12.10 The Butcher of Helles? An Ayrshire General at Gallipoli,  
Elaine McFarland

### 12.45-1.45 Lunch [provided]

1.45 Conflict, Patriotism and Protest: An Ayrshire Perspective,  
Billy Kenefick

2.20 "Whitby does not have a War Memorial", Rob Close

2.55 Ayrshire Poets and the War, Rab Wilson

3.30 Plenary Session, Donald Meek

### Who's Who

**Tom Barclay** is the Local History Librarian at the Carnegie Library, Ayr.

**Rob Close** has published two books on Ayrshire architecture, most recently the Ayrshire volume in the Buildings of Scotland series.

**Billy Kenefick** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Dundee and among his publications is *Ardrossan – 'The Key to the Clyde'*.

**Elaine McFarland** is a History Professor at Glasgow Caledonian University and her most recent publication is *The Butcher of Helles? The Life of Lieutenant General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston*.

**Donald Meek** is Emeritus Professor of Scottish and Gaelic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and recently presented a documentary on BBC Alba about two First World War soldiers.

**Rab Wilson** is a widely published Scottish poet who writes mainly in the Scots language.

**Stuart Wilson** is a retired Depute Headteacher at a Kilmarnock secondary school who has researched the history of Glenfield & Kennedy.

## Booking Form

**Conference fee £15**

(including morning coffee/tea & lunch)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

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Email: .....

If you are booking for more than one person please give the other names here:

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.....

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Please note any dietary requirements:

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**Return this form with payment to: Rob Close  
1 Craigbrae Cottages  
Drongan  
AYR  
KA6 7EN**

**to arrive by 4th September 2015**

Cheques should be made payable to: 'The Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies'

For more information please contact Rob Close:

- e-mail: [craigbraecottages@gmail.com](mailto:craigbraecottages@gmail.com),
- telephone 01292 590273
- receipt of payment will only be issued by email or if an SAE has been provided.