

WIN WITH WEANS' WURLD
PAGE 16

Ulster-Scots Agency (Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch) official publication

SATURDAY MAY 17 2014

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STEPPING BACK
IN TIME AT
BANNOCKBURN
LIVE - PAGE 15



Fair faa ye



Fair Faa Ye

Welcome to the May 2014 edition of *The Ulster-Scot*. Summer is almost upon us once again and the Ulster-Scots Agency is gearing up for a few busy months of festivals and outdoor events.

This month we will be taking part in the Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival at the Titanic Dock & Pump-House and Thompson Dry Dock at Queens Island with a range of Ulster-Scots activities (including the Agency's juvenile pipe band). We will use the event from May 24-26 to launch our long awaited Ulster-Scots Innovators Gallery. You can read more about the festival on Page 7.

The Agency will also be present at the Ballyclare May Fair (May 20-24) and the Northern Ireland Countryside Festival (May 31-June 1), which has been relocated this year to Balmoral Park in Lisburn. More details can be found on Page 11.

Also in this edition we look back at some of the highly successful events that have taken place over the past couple of months – including the Ulster and Scotland Conference at the Europa Hotel on Page 6, the annual Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture on Page 10 and the Ulster-Scots Cultural Evening in Craigavon on Page 8.

Hopefully everyone will find something of interest.

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency



CLASSES INTRODUCE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE



A series of classes took place in The Auld House in Moneyreagh village during March and April aimed at introducing participants to various aspects of Ulster-Scots history, culture, language and literature.

Organised by Castlereagh Borough Council, with support from the Ministerial Advisory Group (Ulster-Scots Academy), the classes were designed and delivered by Laura Spence of Stone Circle Consulting. More than a dozen students signed-up from Belfast, Ballynahinch, Saintfield, Carryduff, Comber and Newtownards, and the class numbers were sustained for the entire course duration, which was particularly encouraging. The participants had little or no previous knowledge of Ulster-Scots but were very keen to find out more. The course examined key events and periods in Ulster-Scots history including the Bruces in Ireland, the failed colony of Sir Thomas Smith, the 1606 settlement of the Ards

Peninsula, the Plantation of Ulster, the Black Oath, the Eagle Wing, the 1641 massacres, and the 1798 Rebellion.

In terms of language and literature, the group studied Ulster-Scots poets from the rhyming weaver tradition as well as modern-day authors including James Fenton and Charlie Gillen. They also wrote their own impressive poetry using the traditional Standard Habbie and Christis Kirk stanza forms. Dialogues, role plays and class conversation each week introduced elements of Ulster-Scots language – and this was reinforced through listening to Ulster-Scots dramas and recitations.

Each week a guest speaker was invited to join the group – and their talks included Ulster-Scots musical traditions; the impact of Robert Burns on Ulster; the Scotch-Irish in America; the Plantation of Ulster; Ulster-Scots surnames and local townlands; and Ulster-Scots cookery.

The students thoroughly enjoyed

banging a Lambeg drum and tasting home-made fadge, hot off the griddle, with cock-a-leekie soup and cranachan.

Students learned the correct way to 'perform' Auld Lang Syne, as well as encountering villains and raiders, mercenaries and entrepreneurs – and even a few tales of Ulster-Scots romance.

And then of course there was homework! Tasks were set including translation, prose and poetry – and several gold stars were awarded. The course concluded with an extra party night for students with their friends and families. There was musical entertainment from 'Risín Stour', humorous recitations, presentation of certificates – and a delicious supper.

Overall the class was enormous fun, and plans are already under way for a Level 2 course, subject to funding.

For more information or to be kept informed about further classes, contact ispence@stonecircleconsulting.co.uk.

The Ulster-Scot

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WORD OF THE ISSUE

Clatchin

Meaning:
a collection

BUSHMILLS HOPES TO HONOUR A TRUE **WORLD WAR ONE** HERO

Talks have begun to explore the possibility of having a dedicated memorial or sculpture in Bushmills to honour one of the village's World War One heroes.

Sergeant Robert Quigg was awarded the Victoria Cross for his valour at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and Moyle Council has now agreed to write to the Royal British Legion in Bushmills and the Macnaghten family, of Dundarave, to get their views. Many are keen to see a memorial in place in Bushmills ahead of 2016 to mark the centenary of Quigg's WW1 heroics. Local historian Robert Thompson said: "In July 1916 Robert Quigg risked his life to rescue wounded soldiers at the Somme and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his efforts. "He is the only Victoria Cross winner north of Belfast, yet he is ignored by his home town. If this was anywhere else in the world, he'd be feted and honoured forever." North Antrim MLA Robin Swann, who is among those pushing for a memorial, said: "While Robert is acknowledged by the presence of a plaque at the war memorial, the community have suggested that a more fitting tribute or a statue or sculpture could be provided in time for the centenary of his actions. "I'm sure the community will play a full part in planning such a tribute, though clearly

leadership from the Council in delivering such a memorial will be important." Robert Quigg left Bushmills to enlist in the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Mid-Antrim Volunteers) during World War One. His platoon commander was Lieutenant Harry Macnaghten (Sir Edward Harry Macnaghten, 6th Baronet, 1896-1916). On July 1 1916 Robert's platoon advanced three times, only to be beaten back by the Germans. Many hundreds of the 12th Battalion were either killed or wounded. In the confusion of battle, it became known that Lieutenant Macnaghten was missing. Robert Quigg immediately volunteered to go out into no-man's land and search for his commander. His actions during that fruitless search led him to receive the Victoria Cross. His Victoria Cross citation reads as follows: "Hearing a rumour that his platoon officer was lying wounded, he went out seven times to look for him, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, each time bringing back a wounded man. "The last man he dragged on a waterproof sheet from within yards of the enemy's wire. He was seven hours engaged in this most gallant work, and was finally so exhausted that he had to give it up." The body of Sir (Edward) Harry Macnaghten was never found. Most tragically for Edith, Lady Macnaghten, her two sons, the 6th and 7th Baronets, were both killed in action.



Sergeant Robert Quigg

"Hearing a rumour that his platoon officer was lying wounded, he went out seven times to look for him, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, each time bringing back a wounded man."

Robert Quigg returned to Bushmills to a hero's welcome. He died in 1955 and was buried with full military honours at Billy Church. Councillor Joan Baird described Quigg as "a very famous hero of our area".

NEWS AND EVENTS

PRONI lecture series on Belfast's past, present and future

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) is hosting a special series of lectures this month and next focused on the history of Belfast.

This year marks the 180th anniversary of industrial flax-spinning into Belfast; 175 years since the city's first railway; and 125 years after the death of Sir Charles Lanyon. Within this context, the series will unravel the historical development of Belfast's architecture, layout and society, as documented in PRONI collections. Latest experts lined up to speak are:

- Tuesday May 20 - Dr Peter Smyth, historian and author: Belfast post-1945: a society in transition;
 - Tuesday May 27 - Andrew Molloy, University of Ulster: Modernism vs. Conservation: planning 20th century Belfast;
 - Tuesday June 3 - Gary Potter, PLACE NI: The Contemporary City: Current developments, visions for the future.
- All lectures will be held from 1pm-2pm at PRONI's headquarters at 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast.

Admission is free but booking is essential. Email proni@dcalni.gov.uk or phone (028) 9053 4800 to reserve a place.

For further information visit the Talks and Events section at www.proni.gov.uk.

CELEBRATE ALL THINGS ULSTER-SCOTS IN CARRICKFERGUS...



Come and celebrate the Ulster-Scots cultural heritage of Carrickfergus in the very heart of Scotch Quarter! The events on Saturday and Sunday August 16 & 17, which take place from noon to 5pm each day, include live music, cookery demonstrations, food, highland dancing, children's entertainment and much more! Carrickfergus is only one of two walled towns in Northern Ireland, and on the Sunday it will celebrate international Walled Towns Day, when re-enactors, historical vignettes and tours will combine to bring the history of the town to life.

Scotch Quarter Festival

ADMISSION FREE

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 June 2014

'Incorporating Walled Towns Day on Sunday 17 August'

Scotch Quarter, Carrickfergus

Saturday: 12pm - 5pm; Sunday: 2pm - 5pm

Come and celebrate the Ulster-Scots cultural heritage of Carrickfergus during our inaugural Scotch Quarter Festival in conjunction with the Ulster Scots Agency!

- Live music
- Historical re-enactment
- Highland dancing
- Haggis-tasting
- Children's entertainment and much more!



For further information contact:

T: 028 9335 8049 E: touristinfo@carrickfergus.org www.carrickfergus.org

Carrickfergus Borough Council

in partnership with the Ulster Scots Agency

Ulster-Scots Agency
The Board o' Ulster-Scotch

THE BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR RETURNS FOR MORE TRADITIONAL FUN AND FESTIVITIES

More information is available at www.ballyclaremayfair.com or by contacting Newtownabbey Borough Council at 028 9034 0000.

The Ballyclare May Fair, one of the oldest continuously-running festivals in Ireland, dating back more than two and a half centuries, takes place from Tuesday May 20 until Saturday May 24.

The Ulster Scots Agency will again be supporting the fair by putting on a wealth of activities to keep the family entertained.

Highlights from the fair (which is held in partnership with Newtownabbey Borough Council) include the annual horse trading fair, piping and lambeg drum workshops, Tim McGarry's Ulster Scots history night, traditional Ulster-Scots music and ceilidh dancing and the annual May Fair Parade. The Ballyclare May Fair dates back to 1756 and was an occasion for young girls to dress up in their finest and dance

around the May pole to traditional music in the hope of attracting a suitable husband or, more likely, an employer.

On December 16 that year George II granted to the Earl of Donegal the right to hold "two fairs yearly at the Town and Lands of Ballyclare - yielding therefore yearly to us the sum of thirteen shillings and four pence for the said fairs, to be paid forever".

At first the fairs were markets for animals and goods, but as they grew to four in a year it was the May and November fairs which became the most important as it was there that the farmers hired their labouring men and servant girls for the

next six months.

The May Fair was traditionally held on a Tuesday in late May but in the 19th century such was the demand for horses that the Monday was given over to the trade. One dealer alone brought 100 horses each year while others came into Ballyclare riding bareback and leading a string of horses. Representatives of cavalry regiments from all over Europe came to buy as the reputation of the fair spread. Local farmers also needed horses to plough and transport their produce while Belfast sought carriage horses and sturdy animals to pull carts. Any of the huge bakeries that serviced Belfast and the

surrounding areas would need a hundred animals each. The great days of the horse fair ended with the First World War and growing mechanisation. But at a time when the working day was from dawn to dusk the May Fair day was the only break in the year when the workers could enjoy some simple fun.

However, in recent years Ballyclare's Main Street again echoes with the sound of horse being exercised and dealers shouting. This is not just a colourful revival of part of the town's cultural heritage but a real market where bidding is keen. It is now the centrepiece of the week of festivities which is the May Fair Festival.

A look back at one of the oldest festivals in Ireland...

The Charter which began the Ballyclare May Fair in 1756 is preserved in the Public Record Office. This is one set of photographs of the fair taken in the 1880s. They were discovered in Lancashire by Andrew Gill who collects and shows Victorian Lantern Slides.

RIGHT: A group of farmers and barefoot boys have gathered at the bottom of the Square to watch some entertainers.



RIGHT: On May Fair day the square in Ballyclare was filled with stalls selling hard nuts and yellow man. The farmers are in their Sunday suits while small boys all wear caps. On the left there is a glimpse of the hobby horses as they swing past. Very few women are to be seen.

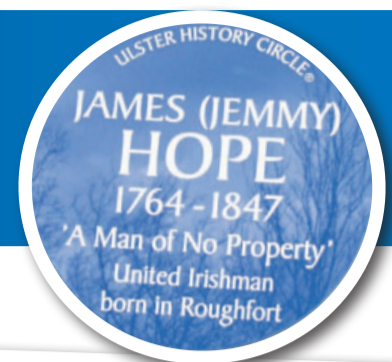


LEFT: There was always gambling of some kind at the fair in the 19th century, like this table with a spinning pointer, a primitive form of roulette. Various characters were to be seen operating the three-card trick until the police appeared on the scene. Since this was the one time in the year the farm boys might have a few coins, they became the target for all such tricksters.



ABOVE: The early amusements at the fair were swings, but the big change came with the arrival of steam power. These engines drove the hobby horses and the steam organ which provided the music for the fair. From 1901 until 1972 the Sharples family provided the rides, and today Cullens have the most up to date amusements.

BLUE PLAQUE IN MALLUSK HONOURS UNITED IRISHMAN AND 'MAN OF NO PROPERTY'



A blue plaque has been unveiled in Mallusk to perpetuate the memory of Co Antrim man Jemmy Hope, a United Irishman and faithful friend of Henry Joy McCracken.

The plaque at Mallusk Cemetery was unveiled by the Ulster History Circle in partnership with the Ulster Scots Agency.

Born on August 25 1764 in Roughfort, near Templepatrick as the son of a linen-weaver, James (Jemmy) Hope was greatly influenced by the American and French Revolutions, and he joined the Society of United Irishmen in 1795.

He quickly established himself as a prominent organiser and was elected to the central committee in Belfast, becoming close to the leaders including Samuel Neilson, Thomas Russell and Henry Joy McCracken.

In 1796, he was sent to Dublin to assist the United Irish organisation there to mobilise support among the working classes, and he was successful in establishing several branches throughout the city and especially in the Liberties area. He also travelled to counties in Ulster and Connaught, disseminating literature and organising localities. Known as 'the Spartan', he was described as being observant, discreet, thoughtful, incorruptible and independent. After the collapse of the general rising in 1798, Hope refused to avail of the terms of an amnesty offered by Lord Cornwallis on the grounds that to do so would be "not only a recantation of one's principles, but a tacit acquiescence in the justice of the punishment which had been inflicted on thousands of my unfortunate associates".

He lived the years following 1798 on the move between counties Dublin, Meath and Westmeath but was finally forced to flee Dublin following the failure of Robert Emmet's rebellion in 1803. He returned to the north and evaded the authorities' attentions in the ensuing repression by securing employment with a sympathetic friend from England. He is today regarded as the most egalitarian and socialist of all the United Irish leadership. Jemmy Hope died in 1847 and is buried in the



Above: Chris Spurr and Mayor Alderman Blanche McMordie
Right: Maynard Hanna, Ulster-Scots Agency, Alderman Fraser Agnew, Dr Ian Adamson
Far right: Jemmy Hope



Mallusk Cemetery.

The plaque refers to Hope as 'A man of no property', which was a label that could be attached to any United Irishman (Wolfe Tone coined the phrase when he talked about the 'respectable class' and said that 'Our strength is in the men of no property'). His is the fourth plaque unveiled in Newtownabbey, alongside those of antiquarian and Celtic revivalist Francis Joseph Bigger, who is commemorated at the

Crown and Shamrock; aviatrix Lillian Bland, who is honoured at the site of Tobercorran House; and philanthropist Sir Edward Coey, whose commemorative plaque is at Merville House.

Chris Spurr, chairman of the Ulster History Circle, said: "This is the latest in the series of Circle's blue plaques, joining those already in Newtownabbey and today these plaques are to be joined by one to a man whose name matched his aspirations.



"His Scottish forebears gave him the zeal to follow his principles. The Ulster History Circle is delighted to celebrate the achievements of Jemmy Hope, and would especially like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their support towards this plaque."

Maynard Hanna, development officer at Ulster-Scots Agency, said "I'm delighted that we are honouring Jemmy Hope, a man who would not lie down, a man who truly lived what he believed in."

Newtownabbey mayor Alderman Fraser Agnew and Mrs Blanche McMordie, a direct descendant of Jemmy Hope, were both in attendance for the unveiling. Blanche had been born in a bungalow close by and Jemmy himself had been born just over the wall. His wife and four children, and both his parents, are buried at the back of the cemetery.

MAGUS chair launches new book on Ulster-Scots

The Ulster-Scots Academy Group, part of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, has launched a new book highlighting words and phrases from Ulster-Scots which are in common usage.

'Thon Ulster Scots Book' is written by Liam Logan, a contributor and presenter of BBC Radio Ulster's flagship Ulster-Scots programme 'A Kist O' Wurd's'.

The book has already been distributed to a segment of schools free of charge through a pilot exercise which was a condition of funding from the Ulster-Scots Academy - Ministerial Advisory Group (MAGUS) through DCAL.

MAGUS chairman Bill Smith said: "What makes this book such an interesting read is that Liam Logan has focused this book on exchanges and words that many of us use on a daily basis, sometimes without even being aware of their Ulster-Scots significance.

"The Ulster-Scots Academy - Ministerial Advisory Group is delighted to have part-funded this book which provides the reader with a light hearted and enjoyable insight into the everyday terminology that we all share.

"We will now be considering how it can be used as part of our Ulster-Scots education project in both mainstream education and lifelong learning."

Author Liam Logan said he hoped

the book would be a useful source of reference and learning for students of Ulster-Scots.

He said: "I'm pleased much of the material for the book began life as a series of columns in *The Ulster-Scot* newspaper, for which I was responsible.

"While many Ulster-Scots words are incorporated into everyday urban speech, there's a rich linguistic tradition associated with rural life that lives on in the minds of so many people.

"Through the funding the Ulster-Scots Academy Group has provided, I have been able to undertake a pilot exercise of free distribution of the book to various schools around the north of Ireland, in the hope that young people will get to experience



L to R: Dr Ian Adamson, Liam Logan, Alister McReynolds and Bill Smith

and learn from their shared linguistic heritage." DCAL minister Carál Ní Chuilín said she believed the book would make a useful contribution to Ulster-Scots through wider

understanding and enhanced learning opportunities.

To purchase this book or for more information email Liam Logan at gonoorthat@gmail.com

SHARED INHERITANCE CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE EXPLORES DIFFERENT CULTURES

A two-day 'shared inheritance conference' in Belfast's Europa Hotel explored the links that exist between Ireland, Ulster and Scotland.

The hugely successful event had a representative cross-section of speakers and activities, and was attended by more than 30 exhibitors from across the community. The exhibitors showcased the work of their organisations and included the Ulster-Scots Agency, Ulster-Scots Community Network, Ulster-Scots Language Society, the Ulster-Scots Academy, the GAA, Colmcille, Foras na Gaeilge and the Orange Order. The Ulster-Scots Academy Ministerial Advisory Group worked in partnership with the Ulster Historical Foundation to organise the conference, where the theme was to explore, explain and improve understanding of our rich and diverse cultural inheritance. The packed programme consisted of spoken, literary, musical and historical contributions from all sections of society. Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín, who officially opened the conference, said: "The event allows us to reflect on our shared heritage across Ireland, Ulster and Scotland. Through music and speech we will celebrate the bonds that exist between our communities.



At the Orange Order stand at the Shared Inheritance Conference on Wednesday March 26 are L to R: (seated) Tim McGarry and Paul Clark and (back row) John Erskine, Mark Thompson (Guest Speaker), Ashleigh Hill, Dr Jonathan Matison, Dr David Hume and Brian McTeggart.

"Ulster-Scots traditions are key components of Ireland's culture in this part of the island, which we can all celebrate and cherish. "I'm delighted to be supporting such an important event through the work of the Ulster-Scots Academy. "Both the Ulster-Scots and Gaelic traditions are something everyone on this island, and

especially those of us from the north, can benefit from, as are the common traditions, dimensions and cultural history we all share. "The key aim of the conference is to celebrate our shared inheritance and recognise that a wide range of commonalities and bonds exist across our community. This is another example of

steps we are taking to help build a united community and a shared and better future." Entertainment included a fusion of Ulster-Scots and traditional Irish music and dance. Speakers included Dr Roger Blaney (director of the Ullans Academy), Aodán Mac Poilin (ULTACH Trust) and well known actor, comedian and broadcaster Tim McGarry.

OVID AND HIS RHYMING BRITHERS

By Frank Ferguson

In recent years there's been much scholarly work done on discussing the connections between Ulster writers and the Lowland Scots literary tradition. Quite rightly, these associations have been celebrated in many books, articles, conferences, soirees, radio and television programmes.

Yet less acknowledged, but no less significant, has been the link which Ulster-Scots poets have shared with the classical tradition. You do not have to go far to look for the guiding influence of ancient Greek and Latin writers amongst the makars of the hamely tongue. Arguably, Ireland's first great poet in Scots, William Starrat, was a fine exponent of the classical pastoral tradition. His verse letter to Allan Ramsay, thought worthy enough to be included in Ramsay's published poems along with a courteous reply, imagines Starrat as a lowly shepherd writing to Ramsay from a cold and watery hillside in Donegal:

*Ae Windy Day last Owk, I'll ne'er forget,
I think I hear the Hailstones rattling yet;
On Chrochan Buss my Hirdsell took the Lee,
As ane wad wish, just a' beneath my Ee:
I in the Beid of yon auld Birk-tree Side
Poor cauldribe Coly whing'd aneath my Plaid,
Right tozylie was set to ease my Stumps*

Such poems play on the fact that their writers

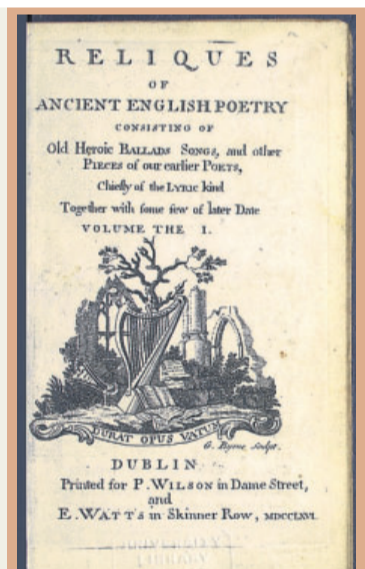
very self-consciously portray themselves as humble types, an act whose pedigree can be traced back to the acclaimed Greek poet Theocritus in the 3rd century. The pastoral genre developed at a time when the rise of cities began to erode the traditional values of everyday rural living. Poetry played a role in harking back to simpler times, where shepherds would compete in verse with each other and their world was supposedly more manageable and perhaps more magical. The poetry of pastoral was always a balance between the use of rustic speech and an ability to handle sophisticated metre and style. The vitality of the language of individuals working the land was matched with the elegance of finely turned lines. Such energising combinations in verse continued through the worlds of ancient Greece and Rome, on into renaissance Europe and ultimately into modern Ulster and perhaps encapsulate what lies at the heart of great literature - the art of finding creative harmonies between dissonant form and content. This legacy is neatly encapsulated in Ovid's phrase 'Durat Opus Vatum' - the work of the bards endures. The line was used by Thomas Percy, one time Bishop of Dromore, County Down, for the titlepage to his influential collection of English and Scottish Ballads, *The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*. Ovid's elegy to his friend Tibullus suggests that the work and words of poets remain while all other things in life fade and disappear (Amores III, 9, 29).

The enduring power of poetry against many

hardships is something attested to by many of the Ulster-Scots poets. The dignity in tholing troubles occurs throughout the tradition. David Herbison's *The Auld Wife's Lament for her Teapot* tells the poignant story of a woman's life through the central object of her teapot.

**'Twas then my teapot had to thole
The power of mony a blazing coal,
Which knaw'd me to the very soul
To hear it crackin',
While they prepared the butter'd roll
For lads to smack on.**

Thole is a great word, with its softening combination of the 'th' at the beginning and the cradling 'o' vowel sound at the end, its very sound as well as its meaning seeks to reassure and provide comfort - especially in this poem where life's tribulations are so painful, evidenced in the harsh 'z' of the 'blazing coal' and the sharp 'ack's' of 'crackin' and 'smack'. Herbison's poem highlights the role of poets to offer a means to endure life in difficult times. Here, the story of ageing and loss is poised between the musicality of the vernacular and the regularity of the Standard Habbie or Burn's Stanza verse form. Of course this is a clear demonstration of Herbison's kinship with his Scottish literary influences, but also perhaps as important, if less obvious, it indicates the influence of the classical tradition upon his work. When Herbison's poetry helps us to thole the human condition, it might be said we owe as much to the legacy of Ovid and Tibullus, as we do to Scotland's bards.



Titlepage of Dublin Pirate Copy of Thomas Percy's *The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*

The enduring power of poetry against many hardships is something attested to by many of the Ulster-Scots poets. The dignity in tholing troubles occurs throughout the tradition.

BELFAST MARITIME FESTIVAL

Ulster-Scots take to the sea for Belfast Maritime Festival

Ahoy there land lubbers and seafarers... get down to Belfast's quaysides next week as they play host to a fleet of Tall Ships as part of the 2014 Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival.



For further information on the Ulster-Scots element of the festival click on www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/event/573/ulster-scots-family-fun-at-the-belfast-titanic-maritime-festival

For general information on the Titanic Maritime Festival contact the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609 or visit www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events

Gallery honours 10 of the great ULSTER-SCOTS INNOVATORS

A major exhibition is to be launched at the Thompson Dry Dock on Belfast's Queen's Island during this month's Titanic Maritime Festival to honour and celebrate famous Ulster-Scots innovators.

The Innovators Gallery, launched in partnership with the NI Science Park, promotes the involvement of Ulster-Scots in some of the most important scientific, engineering and entrepreneurial achievements. And it's fitting that its home will be within the Thompson Dry Dock, which once held another Ulster-Scot designed marvel – the Titanic. The Innovators Gallery features 10 famous Ulster-Scots who

made major discoveries, altered our understanding of the natural world and developed products of worldwide significance. Those featured are scientist William Thomson; Lord Kelvin; Harry Ferguson developer of the modern tractor; William Ritchie, Belfast's original shipbuilder; John Boyd Dunlop, inventor of the pneumatic tyre; physicist Sir Joseph Larmor; Robert Adrain, scientist and mathematician; Lillian Bland, the first woman to design, build and fly her own aeroplane; Sir James Martin who designed the ejector seat; Edward Robinson, founder of the world's largest mail order business; and Ernest Thomas Sinton Walton who won the Nobel Prize for splitting the atom. It will be officially launched on Saturday May 24 at 11am in the Thompson Dry Dock.



Organised by Belfast City Council and supported by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Belfast Harbour, the festival takes place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend (May 24-26) at Queen's Quaysides.

It will celebrate the city's unique maritime heritage alongside Titanic activities that will include tours, talks, exhibitions and drama as well as family friendly entertainment and music throughout the three days. And the Ulster-Scots Agency will have a significant presence at Titanic's Dock and Pump-House over the weekend, and will also use the festival to launch the Ulster-Scots Innovators Gallery. With Belfast gearing up to welcome back the Tall Ships Races from July 2-5 next year, the Titanic Maritime Festival will offer a taste of the excitement we can expect in 2015! Organisers have lined up a fantastic range of land-based fun, free activities and entertainment for friends and family. There will be an opportunity to learn more about Belfast's unique maritime history, to board the Tall Ships and watch the thrilling pirate re-enactments on the River Lagan by Vilma and Soteria!

Among the visiting Tall Ships is Morgenster, on its first visit to Belfast, and the welcome return of Pelican of London and the Gulden Leeuw. Along the quaysides, children can take part in a fantastic range of free maritime themed arts and crafts, face painting, balloon modelling and caricature drawings. Enjoy the 'crazy carry-ons' of sea life with laugh out loud street theatre a plenty! And you'll be able to enjoy close up views of the ships in berth from the water by taking a boat tour. Sail on down into the Titanic Quarter and delve into the hidden treasure of activities taking place there. Get the kids' day off to a swashbuckling start with pirate and kite making workshops, or if you're feeling more adventurous, try your hand at Zip lining or even take to the water on Belfast's only Cable Wake. Scale the walls of the

famous Titanic Dock and learn all about urban sports with our highly trained experts! All that sea air is sure to generate a healthy appetite, and the Continental Market returns to Queen's Quay with all of its popular goodies and treats. And with a free Maritime Festival shuttle bus running between Chichester Street and the Odyssey and Titanic Belfast from 24-26 May - it's so easy to get around! The Ulster-Scots Agency will also be celebrating the contribution of Ulster-Scots have made to Belfast's maritime industry. The Agency will be in attendance at Titanic's Dock and Pump-House (11am-4pm) with a variety of free entertainment, including performances from the popular juvenile pipe band, highland dancers, 'living history' characters, face painting, children's craft workshops, piping and drumming workshops and the launch of its Innovators Gallery. On Sunday May 25 the juvenile pipe band will join the festivities and perform in the Thompson Dry Dock. Daily activities will include a Doodlebugs craft workshop, face painting, highland dancing, live Ulster-Scots music and a chance to meet some famous Ulster-Scots characters!



Belfast part of it

Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival 2014

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May, 11am – 6pm
Monday 26 May, 10am – 5pm

- Ships
- Maritime market
- Live entertainment
- Family fun

Queen's Quay and Titanic Quarter, Belfast

Call Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609

Belfast Harbour **northernireland tourist board**

TITANIC QUARTER **TITANIC FOUNDATION** **ODYSSEY TRUST**

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events

PIPING ROUND-UP

In conversation with Ulster-Scots Agency juvenile pipe band member Aaron Magee...**How long have you been playing the pipes?**

My tutor Andy McGregor gave me a set of pipes just six weeks before I went to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow last August.

How did you come to join the band?

The Ulster-Scots Agency were holding pipe lessons in my school, Royal & Prior in Raphoe, and after a few weeks I started to attend.

Do you enjoy playing in the band and what types of challenges do you face?

I wouldn't do it if I didn't enjoy it! The biggest challenge is learning new tunes.

What are your plans for the future?

This year I intend to continue playing with the Ulster-Scots Juvenile Band at concerts and festivals and hopefully compete with my local band, Raphoe. Longer term I hope to get into Bristol or Liverpool University to study Veterinary Medicine.

What was it like to play at the World Championships in 2013?

It was good crack, although I was a wee bit nervous because I was worried about making mistakes and getting my pipes stopped at the end.

What would you say to anyone thinking of taking up the pipes / drumming?

I would tell them it's hard but doable. If you work at what the instructors tell you, you'll get lots of opportunities. In the past year I've competed at the World Championships, played at a concert in the Waterside Theatre, performed with the Ulster Orchestra in the Waterfront Hall and hopefully later this year we will be taking part in the Walled City Tattoo.



ULSTER-SCOTS HERITAGE CELEBRATED IN CRAIGAVON

The Ulster-Scots heritage is alive and thriving in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon areas.

This was underlined when more than 300 Ulster-Scots enthusiasts descended on Craigavon Civic Centre for a special cultural evening celebrating the Ulster-Scots vibrant heritage and its influence on the local area. Organised by Craigavon Council and funded by OFMDFM, the free event provided an insight into the tradition of Ulster-Scots across the borough and its adjoining council areas.

The evening included inspiring recitals of Ulster-Scots stories and heritage from BBC radio presenter Liam Logan, and a feast of music and dance.

Topping the bill were the Bleary & District pipe band, which lived up to their billing as genuine contenders for silverware this season with an impressive debut of their 2014 contest pieces.

Nigel Davidson's ensemble - comprising 14 pipers, six sides and a seven-strong bass section - wowed the capacity audience as they premiered their first-choice MSR (Balmoral Highlanders, Susan McLeod and John Morrison of Assyant House) and also gave a debut to a stunning medley selection which opens with Jimmy Troy's Wedding hornpipe and culminates with the impressive Aylesbury Fiddle Rally.

The night also included rousing piping and drumming performances from cousins Lee Lawson and Mark Wilson (who was the show's musical director), a display from world championship-winning drum major Lauren Abraham and solo piping stints from Bleary's James Fraser and Dion Boyle.

There were also various pieces from the Markethill highland dancers, song from Caitlin Cousins and Alice Cartmill, and traditional music from the Bernagh folk group under the guidance of the multi-talented Brendan Monaghan from Banbridge.

The event was also the perfect opportunity to showcase a newly developed publication 'Ulster-Scots in Craigavon', which highlights Ulster-Scots tradition across the Borough and was supported by Council and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure on the recommendation of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster-Scots Academy.

Councillor Carla Lockhart, who chairs the council's development committee, said: "I'm delighted to see so many local Ulster-Scots enthusiasts come along to this fantastic event which was full of wonderful music, dance and literature recitals detailing the borough's vibrant Ulster-Scots culture and heritage.

"Our new publication contains a treasure trove of historical information on Ulster-Scots and is the perfect read for people interested in researching this area further."

For your free copy of 'Ulster-Scots in Craigavon' contact Susan Burns on 028 3831 2540 or email susan.burns@craigavon.gov.uk



Markethill Highland Dancers accompanied by the Bernagh Folk Group



Caitlin Cousins from Banbridge and Alice Cartmill and her family from Rathfriland performed with Bernagh Folk Group

Ormeau Park prepares to host UK Championships

More than 110 pipe bands are in the starting line-up as Belfast's Ormeau Park prepares to host the inaugural UK Championships on Saturday June 14.

This is a new date on the calendar for this year and 2015, and it replaces the Cowal Games, which has been stripped of its majors status after more than a century.

The line-up of bands at Ormeau includes 37 from Northern Ireland, 14 from the Republic of Ireland and even one from the Netherlands (Concord, who will compete in grade 3a).

The Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile band will take its 2014 competitive bow at the Belfast showpiece.

Under pipe major Andy McGregor, the band has been drawn to play second of the nine ensembles in the novice juvenile grade, and will take to the arena at 10.37am.

The full breakdown of the eight grades is: novice juvenile - 9 bands; juvenile - 6; grade 4B - 20; grade 4A - 18; grade 3B - 16; grade 3A - 17; grade two - 12; grade one - 13.

The running order for the top grade is: Police Scotland Fife Pipe Band (2pm); Ravara (2.10); Field Marshal Montgomery (2.20); Inveraray & District (2.30); Ballycoan (2.40); Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (2.50); Cullybackey (3pm); Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles (3.10); St Laurence O'Toole (3.20); Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia (3.30); Vale of Atholl (3.40); Scottish Power (3.50); Greater Glasgow Police Pipe Band (4pm).

The pipe band contesting season in Northern Ireland begun in Lisburn on May 10 and continues today at Newtownards. Upcoming dates for the pipers and drummers are:

- May 24 - Enniskillen
- May 31 - British Championships (Bathgate)
- June 7 - Antrim
- June 14 - UK Championships (Belfast)
- June 21 - Lurgan
- June 28 - European Championships (Forres)
- July 5 - All Ireland Championships (Wexford)
- July 26 - Scottish Championships (Dumbarton)
- August 2 - Cookstown
- August 9 - Ulster Championships (Omagh)
- August 15/16 - World Championships (Glasgow)
- August 23 - Portrush

PIPING ROUND-UP

CALLING ALL PIPERS...

Have you an interest in pipe bands? Are you a current (or past) player, supporter, supplier or family member? Have you been attending band parades or competitions for as long as you care to remember?

If so, the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association's Northern Ireland branch (RSBPANI) wants to hear from you. The branch is currently undertaking a major research project to investigate important aspects of its own history and the associated Scottish highland bagpipe tradition in Northern Ireland from its earliest days at the turn of the 20th century. It is seeking to delve into the past, from its inception just after the Second World War, through the difficult and complex "Troubles" period in Northern Ireland, and to the post conflict peace agreement period of the 21st century. The organisation also hopes to develop an ethnographic overview of the current pipe band tradition. Although recent decades have seen the pipe

band community form organisations in the preservation and promotion of a rich musical heritage, records remain sparse and difficult to locate. That scarcity of records is not due to any form of limited capacity within pipe bands, which were in essence part-time voluntary organisations based within communities where the primary objective was to perform and promote music (and not necessarily record it for future reference). Similarly, bands which existed prior to the formation of the branch have left little or no tangible documentation of their existence, yet they remain ever-prominent in the memories of those who learned, performed and appreciated their music in years gone by. "It is these collections of memories that form the basis of what is an oral history and ethnographic project in ethnomusicology," says NI Branch projects officer Ian Burrows, who is overseeing the project. "Initial research has already made some key findings on the history of the local branch, and these findings are exclusively due to the generosity of spirit of numerous figures from



the highland bagpipe tradition in Northern Ireland. "But we need to learn more, and if anybody has any nuggets of information we'd be delighted to hear from them." • **If you have information which might be relevant to this project contact Ian Burrows on +44 (0)28 9267 0445 or via email info@rspbani.org**

Dancing all over the world

On Saturday June 21 2014, organisers of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games are holding a global 24-hour Commonwealth Ceilidh. The Commonwealth Ceilidh begins on June 21, and then follows the time zones to create a 24 hour global ceilidh event to celebrate the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. The Ulster-Scots Agency is taking part by hosting a Commonwealth Ceilidh in Belfast - further details will be published at www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events over the coming weeks. Dancing in the Commonwealth Ceilidh is an easy, enjoyable and sociable way to share in the celebrations of Scotland's culture and heritage with 15 dances, including three specially devised ones. Entry will be free and open to everyone. Don't worry if you have never attended a Ceilidh before as members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Belfast Branch will be on hand to offer support and a 'caller' will accompany the Alistair Scott Ceilidh Band to talk you through the dance steps. This will be a fantastic evening of Ceilidh music, dancing and fun!

PIPING IN NI: A FACTFILE

- Bagpiping, as a marching band tradition, was already established well before the advent of the Northern Ireland branch. It was particularly vibrant in Antrim at this time, when prominent bands in the area included Seven Towers, Hillstown, Cullybackey, Ballydunmall, McNeilstown, Rasharkin, Flower of the Hill and Crumkill.
- Many bands lost momentum during the World War Two as members joined the forces. Rehearsals were also stopped in the evening due to the blackout policy. But new bands developed in the post-War era from the remnants of other types of marching bands (flute, and/or brass) or defunct pipe bands.
- Initially the key attraction for joining bands was a balance between the social network that stemmed from membership and the enjoyment of performance. For pipe bands in Antrim and Down the emphasis later shifted to prioritising performance skill and winning competitions. But pipe bands in Fermanagh maintained emphasis on musical performance as a source of enjoyment, with competition success being an added component.
- Bands typically used rope tension drums with gut snares and natural skin. In the 1940s there was no lead tip or lead drummer in the drum corps, where a 'time drummer' instead informed the band what the upcoming time signature would be.
- Bands tended to be smaller in size, ranging from six to 12 pipers.
- Competitions for pipe bands were initially organised through the North of Ireland Bands Association (NIBA) which was formed in 1907 and accepted non flute bands from 1909. The NIBA affiliation was later viewed by pipe band musicians as a limited opportunity to perform competitively, with only two large competitions taking place. And with NIBA competitions held mostly indoors, pipe band musicians argued the full capacity of their instruments were not being appreciated.
- In 1945 the pipe band movement in the Irish Free State organised a Pipe Band League. Pipe band musicians from Northern Ireland (among them Sam McManus, Mickey Magee, John Drennan, Eddie McVeigh and Tom Hart) sought to organise the first All-Ireland Pipe Band Championship in tandem with the newly-formed Pipe Band League, leading to the first All-Ireland on August 26 1946 in the Iveagh Gardens in Dublin, when 26 pipe bands took part.
- In 1950 the Northern Ireland Pipe Band League was formed to organise outdoor performances and competitions. At its first annual general meeting it was proposed the League should join the Scottish Pipe Band Association (the addition of 'Royal' didn't come until 1980).
- A sustainable Northern Ireland branch of the SPBA would require 10 bands to form, and declarations of interest came from Ballynahinch, Ballycoan, Sydenham, Warringsford, St Joseph Artana, 8th Belfast Memorial, Duke of York, Raffrey, Boardmills and Rasharkin.
- When the branch was formed in 1950 its inaugural elected office-bearers were: President - James A Faulkner; vice-chairman - George Milligan; secretary - Tom Hart; assistant secretary - George Finlay; treasurer - Arthur Nelson; reps to Scotland - Tom Hart and Arthur Nelson; advisory reps - pipe major William Woods and drum sergeant William Reynolds.
- Outreach from the umbrella organisation of the SPBA began in 1951 when officials from headquarters in Glasgow - president McLean and general secretary McIntosh - travelled to Northern Ireland to formally legitimise the local branch, which was made up of four sections: Mid-Ulster, Fermanagh, Antrim and Down.
- The first Ulster Pipe Band Championship was held on Saturday May 5 1951 in Ballymena Showgrounds. There were four grades of



The Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band has won the World Championship on 9 occasions

- musicianship (open, intermediate, second grade junior and first grade junior) and 13 bands took part.
- Due to ever increasing prominence of the Northern Ireland branch, the SPBA opted to host the European Pipe Band Championships in the Balmoral Showgrounds in 1953, with the World Championships following later at the same venue in 1956 and 1962.
- Structured summer schools were offered and/or supported by the SPBA to assist in the development of the tradition and musical standard in Northern Ireland. It was the beginning of a tradition of musical education that continues today.
- In 1969 the annual North West Championships in Portrush, organised by the branch, was cancelled due to security concerns. It was the only competition cancelled as a result of the Troubles.
- By the 1980s the Northern Ireland branch membership surpassed 100 pipe bands for the first time.
- Prior to the Troubles bands were protected from sectarianism but most formed along traditional community lines. But it was not a pre-requisite in pipe bands for a member to be from a particular community, and a Roman Catholic could, and often did, join pipe bands formed within Protestant communities. Often this was because there was a lack of pipe bands associated to a particular community, or the musician was sought simply for his or her musical talent.
- Sectarianism, however, did have an impact as some fraternal organisations, for instance, refused to engage pipe bands where a member from another community was performing. Other bands were often ridiculed by those from outside the tradition who disagree with them performing at events not typically associated to their tradition (for example a Protestant pipe band performing on St Patrick's Day in the Republic).
- In recent years pipe bands have been affected by the changing dynamics of contemporary rural life. Young members often take lengthy breaks from their band membership to attend university. Sometimes they return to the tradition, but often they don't, and the number of bands is generally in decline.
- Today, Northern Ireland is seen as one of the world's piping "super-powers" largely thanks to the success of the Field Marshal Montgomery band, which has won the World Championships on nine occasions and has often enjoyed a clean sweep of every single major trophy.

WHITELAW REID LECTURE SERIES

Whitelaw Reid Lecture hears War of 1812 story

Dr John McCavitt, widely known for his extensive knowledge on General Ross, the War of 1812 and the involvement of Ulster-Scots on both sides of the war, was guest lecturer at this year's Whitelaw Reid Lecture in the Presbyterian Assembly Buildings.

Those attending the event included US Consul General Gregory S. Burton and his wife Nana Lee Felding; Minister Nelson McCausland and Bill Smith, chairman of MAGUS.

He spoke about the Battle of Baltimore, which that time had profound Ulster-Scots connections on both the British and American sides, and which is symptomatic of the War of 1812.

Fort McHenry in Baltimore was named after Dr James McHenry from Ballymena, whose son fought against the British at that time (the British army was led by Major General Robert Ross, an Ulster-Scot from Rostrevor).

One of the lasting legacies of the War of 1812 is the US National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, which will mark its 200th anniversary in September this year. The lyrics of the Star-Spangled Banner come from 'Defence of Fort McHenry, a poem written in 1814 by the 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key, who had witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Chesapeake Bay during the War of 1812.

In penning his lyrics, Key was profoundly influenced by Ross's victory at the Battle of Bladensburg, followed by his burning of the public buildings in Washington, including the White House and the Capitol. His opening lines of the US National Anthem are:

***Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we
hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?***



For further information on the War of 1812, the US National Anthem or Dr John McCavitt click on www.themanwhocapturedwashington.com

Nana Lee Felding; Gregory S Burton US Consul General; Nelson McCausland, Minister for Social Development; Dr John McCavitt; Tom Scott, Chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency

ULSTER-SCOTS PLACES TO VISIT: CASTLE COOLE

Located on the edge of Enniskillen, the 18th-century Castle Coole mansion is widely recognised as being among the finest neo-classical houses in Ireland and one of the jewels in the crown of the country's built heritage.

But did you know the property - currently managed by the National Trust - has strong Ulster-Scots connections?

'Belmore: The Lowry-Corry Families of Castle Coole 1646-1913' tells the fascinating story of two families who left Dumfries in the mid 17th century to settle in Fermanagh and Tyrone.

The marriage of Galbraith Lowry to Sarah Corry united their considerable fortunes and political clout. Their only surviving son, Armar Lowry Corry, inherited some 70,000 acres and an income of £12,000 and moved up in the heady world of Irish society and politics as Baron Belmore with a marriage arranged to a beautiful young wife and heiress, the eldest daughter of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

To celebrate he built a great fashionable house - which we know today as Castle Coole.

But a year later his life was in despair; his marriage over, leaving him with a baby girl and a sickly son. The expense of building and politicking made him 'poor as a rat'. Bitter opposition to the Union with England in 1801 resulted in their exclusion from political power for many years.

His son, Somerset the 2nd Earl, an extravagant Regency figure, furnished Castle Coole in the latest style, and with characteristic panache, refitted a captured American schooner and took his whole family for several years around the Mediterranean, up the Nile and into the Holy Land.

As Governor of Jamaica he successfully faced the bigotry of settlers and the great slave rebellion of 1832. His death in 1841 left the family facing bankruptcy and contributed to the 3rd Earl's early death. In spite of this threat to his family, Somerset



For more information ring 028 6632 2690 or email castlecoole@nationaltrust.org.uk

OPENING TIMES:

Grounds are open:

January 1 – February 28:

10am to 4pm daily,

March 1 - October 31: 10am

to 7pm daily,

November 1 - December 31:

10am to 4pm daily.

Opening times for house, shop and tea-room:

Open at weekends until May

31, then daily until the end of

August, then at weekends through

September. House: admission by guided tour (last tour at 4pm).



Richard, the 4th Earl, by a combination of hard work, prudence and sales of large parts of his estates, was able, above all, to keep Castle Coole.

The Castle Coole estate actually dates from 1611, when Roger Atkinson was granted an estate of 1,000 plantation acres called Coole.

Today property, together with the estate, is a mere fraction of its original size (just 79 acres) and was given to the National Trust by the Ulster Land Fund in 1951.

The present Lord Belmore still retains the family wine cellar in the house, situated in the basement of the house it is equipped with a massive iron door which is surmounted by a carved effigy of Bacchus god of wine.

Across the lawn is Lough Coole where greylag geese have nested for the last 300 years. The Lords Belmore have a triple-barrel surname "Armar Lowry-Corry" which represents the three components of the estates.

As today's visitors will discover, Castle Coole showcases stunning architecture, regency interiors, magnificent vistas and beautiful parklands.

- Be wowed as you visit the opulent state bedroom on a guided tour
- Discover the servants' tunnel from the basement to the grand yard
- Soak up the changing seasons on woodland walks
- Enjoy stunning views from the shores of Lough Coole
- Hear stories about the filming of period drama *Miss Julie*
- Try some tempting lunches or snacks served in the Tallow House tea-room



COUNTRYSIDE FESTIVAL MOVES TO THE MAZE

The ever-popular Northern Ireland Countryside Festival will have a new home this year.

After more than a decade at Moira Demesne, the 2014 showpiece on Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1 will move to Balmoral Park, the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society exhibition centre at the Maze in Lisburn.

But despite the four-mile venue move, the event - one of the largest in Ireland - will retain much of the attractions which have helped it attract many thousands of visitors each year.

And whether you're interested in the countryside, country sports, rural lifestyle, artisan food, local crafts, music, dance and culture, great children's entertainment or just a wonderful day out with your family, this really is the place to be!

Festival director Bill Beckett says the move is a positive one for the event which has grown so much over the last few years that retaining it within the confines of Moira Demesne had become extremely difficult. He explained: "We were obviously reluctant

to move from Moira, which has been our home venue for 10 years.

"But over the last few years it's been difficult to accommodate the ever increasing numbers of visitors and exhibitors to Moira Demesne.

"The land we used for car parking adjacent to the Demesne is no longer available and in any case it is not adequate for our increased visitor numbers and it has been frequently affected by inclement weather. "Fortunately the new venue at Balmoral Park will not be adversely affected by wet weather and its hard surface car parks will provide parking for several thousand vehicles."

With dozens of country sports activities planned, some 200 trade stands confirmed and a range of satellite activities such as Ulster's strongest man competition, rural life displays, food and crafts festivals, Ulster Aviation Society displays, cookery demonstrations, traditional and contemporary music this will be a another great family experience with lots to see and do and with the under 12s going free and

free parking too, it is not an expensive day out either!

Lisburn Council's economic development committee chair Allan Ewart said: "We are pleased to again support the NI Countryside Festival and look forward to seeing the changes in the new venue of Balmoral Park."

The Ulster-Scots Agency has been exhibiting at the event for several years and says it is delighted with the news that the festival is moving to the new venue.

The Agency is planning a range of new attractions within its stand at the Festival, including celebrating famous Ulstermen who were also from an Ulster-Scots background, including Harry Ferguson of tractor fame, Sir James Martin, inventor of the ejection seat and John Boyd Dunlop, inventor of the pneumatic tyre.

There'll also be soda bread making, live music, dressing up for kids and historical re-enactments within the Ulster-Scots marquee on both days.

Festival visitors will also be entertained by a programme of fishing, shooting and dog

events including the Scruff's Pet Dog show. Northern Ireland's champion strongman, Glenn Ross will bring together some of Ireland's strongest men on both days for the Highland Games and Ulster's Strongest Man.

If it's shopping that interests you then browsing around the estimated 200 stalls packed full of food and crafts, country clothing, boots and leather goods, gardening equipment, off-road vehicles, ladies fashion and outdoor living items to mention but a few, will delight visitors young and old. But it's the festival's main arena programme that is really family-orientated, with never seen in Ireland before Cyril the Squirrel and his racing terriers from Loch Lomond, the Drakes of Hazard dog and duck herding display, Young Farmer's "Farmathon", the pet dog shows, horses and hounds, vintage vehicles and gundog training displays all designed to entertain and educate.

- For more on the Festival click on www.countrysidefestivals.com or see the Festival's social media sites which are linked from the website.



ABOVE: In a festival first, Cyril the Squirrel and his racing terriers are travelling from Loch Lomond to showcase their skills at the new Maze location

- To celebrate their move to Balmoral Park, organisers of NI Countryside Festival are giving away four family passes to the event. Visit www.facebook.com/countrysidefestivals for more information.

new venue Northern Ireland

Countryside festival

Balmoral Park Maze, Lisburn
Saturday 31st May
Sunday 1st June

FREE CAR PARKING

UNDER 12's GO FREE

100% FAMILY FUN

northern ireland tourist board

www.countrysidefestivals.com

ANOTHER PAT & PLAIN SCRIPT BROUGHT TO LIFE BY MEADOW BRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 2009 the Ulster-Scots Agency commissioned a series of six 'Pat & Plain' plays, written by Dan Gordon. The project was developed in partnership with the Lyric Theatre and ran in 36 schools across Ulster. The titles of the plays are *The Boat Factory* (Belfast shipyard), *Kissing the Shuttle* (the linen industry), *A Lemonade Bottle for Clabberin' Hitler* (the Blitz), *Sit There For The Present* (education), *Scahldies Up The Chimley* (World War II evacuees) and *She Was Alright When She Left Us* (the Titanic). Now Meadow Bridge Primary School in Hillsborough has just completed production of its third Pat & Plain play. Principal Joan Shields explains the school's fascination with the project.

• Joan, this is your third Ulster-Scots play after *Lemonade Bottle for Clabberin' Hitler* and *The Boat Factory*. Why did you decide to do another one?

We chose to do a third Pat & Plain play after the success of our previous productions. We all thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of *A Lemonade Bottle for Clabberin' Hitler* and *The Boat Factory* - children and adults alike learnt so much about life and work in the past and this is brought alive for everyone through Dan Gordon's amazing scripts. The opportunity to involve the talents of so many children, in a production which is so different from the norm, always really catches the attention and enthusiasm of the children. There are many varied opportunities involved in a Pat & Plain production for the children to benefit from - and it's fun!

• How did you introduce the idea to the children?

At Meadow Bridge it has become traditional to present a play on alternate years, so the P6 and P7 children were asking about this year's production plans, from term one! To set the scene for *Kissing the Shuttle*, the Children visited the Linen Museum in Lisburn and a linen factory in Banbridge. We gathered photos and archived old radio broadcasts - the excitement mounted from day one!

• How did you schedule your rehearsals?

Rehearsals were scheduled initially with P7 children on several afternoons (2-3pm). From these early sessions, the larger speaking parts were allocated and after-school rehearsals began with these boys and girls. P6 and P7 began to work on the larger group scenes, again in the afternoons. Gradually the scenes came together and the smooth transition from one scene to the next evolved. We constantly worked with ideas from the children and they gave huge input to the final presentation. It was great to be able to involve the children from our P4 and 5 choir during the play, and in total we had approximately 85 children costumed and making memories, while entertaining friends and family, on two evenings.

• How did the play and rehearsals fit in around school life and the curriculum?

The play became a huge part of school life from February to April. The P5, 6 and 7 children had Friday clubs based around the linen industry. These involved activities such as weaving, painting flax flowers and building model mill houses. Primary seven worked on all aspects of the mill - producing display work for the foyer of school showing Conor artwork, podcasts on mill life, information posters



The cast of *Kissing the Shuttle*, the third Pat & Plain script to be brought to life by Meadow Bridge Primary School

on mill jobs and street signs, to name but a few examples. The opportunities to involve all areas of the NI curriculum are vast and history came to life through *Kissing the Shuttle*. All our staff, both teaching and non-teaching, pooled their skills with parents, in so many ways to support the children - team work is the key!

• The P6 and P7 classes took part in the performance; did the rest of the school also get involved? If so, how?

P6 and 7 were joined by the choir for this play, widening its impact to include P4 and 5 children. The younger children enjoyed all the street games and songs which featured in the performance! We turned the school foyer into a museum, linked to linen production, complete with a ten foot loom built by one of our parents. All the children in school were involved in this exhibition and enjoyed a full dress rehearsal of the play. The budget team from P6 and P7 'balanced the books' regarding the finance involved in the production, designing and selling tickets, and managing expenses!

Hard copies of all six scripts (which include a CD sound track) are also available to schools and community groups in Northern Ireland and the Republic - contact the Ulster-Scots Agency by emailing info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk for more information.

• What sort of feedback have you received from your pupils, other teachers and parents about the play?

Positive feedback from parents and other guests is much appreciated and is shared with the children. Verbal compliments, letters and cards mean so much and recognition of the children's hard work is so important in developing their self-confidence.

• What advice would you give to someone thinking about undertaking one of the Pat & Plain plays?

My advice to anyone thinking about undertaking a Pat & Plain play is definitely to go ahead and do it! Our school community has gained so much from three different productions and children have priceless memories of an amazing primary school experience.

For more information or to download the six scripts, click on www.ulsterscotsagency.com/education/pat-and-plain-drama-series

BRUNSWICK ACCORDION BAND LAUNCH CD AND DVD

Annalong-based Brunswick Accordion Band has launched a CD and DVD at an event in the Bracken Centre in Ballinran, where 350 people enjoyed a celebration evening highlighting the band's 56-year history.

Presentations were made to foundation members and current players, including eight junior members of the band who are products of the Ulster-Scots Agency's music tuition programme. Band president Professor Fred Gordon OBE delivered

an entertaining overview of the history of the band since its formation in 1958 before the band entertained the audience with a selection of pieces from their new recording.

The CD/DVD package is part of a year-long programme of events which saw the band research their history and create a photographic and video archive cataloguing major events over the past five decades. The project was supported by the Culture for All scheme from Big Lottery NI.

The band can be contacted via their Facebook page or by emailing brunswickband@live.co.uk

LEFT: Compere Gary Wilson launches the Band's new CD and DVD



Young members of Brunswick Accordion Band who are receiving tuition as part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's Music Tuition scheme.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Presbyterian Historical Society annual lecture

The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland has unveiled details of its upcoming events, which include a lecture and field trip.

It begins on Thursday May 22 with the annual Robert Allen Lecture at 8pm in Belfast's Union Theological College where Dr Olwen Purdue (Queen's University) will speak on the subject of 'Paupers, Presbyterians and the Poor Law in 19th Century Ulster'. In 1969 Mrs Doris V Allen, widow of the Rev Dr Robert Allen, who had been honorary secretary of the Presbyterian Historical Society for many years, made a donation to the Society to create this annual lecture dealing with some aspect of Irish ecclesiastical history. Indeed this particular lecture has been delivered every year since except 1972, 1983 and 1986. Meanwhile the Society is



hosting a field trip on Saturday June 14 which will take participants to visit churches and sites in the Belfast area. Starting at 10.15am at the Bobbins coffee shop in Belfast City Hall, the trip will include visits to Assembly Buildings, City Hall, May Street Presbyterian Church and Balmoral Cemetery. The cost is £25 for the 'wheels and meals' option or £20 for the 'meals only' option.

To book contact the Librarian, PHSI, 26 College Green, Belfast, by emailing phsilibrarian@pcinet.org or by phoning 028 9072 7330.

Sarah's success in Scotland

Bright Lights dancer Sarah Graham (pictured) won the overall highland and overall national trophies in the 15-years premier section at the Stranraer and District annual highland dance competition at Stranraer Academy Hall. Sarah has been dancing for nearly eight years and has had a steady stream of titles under her belt from recent competitions.

Having won her pre-championship highlands at the BATD Championships in Paisley in 2012, she went on to win her pre-championship nationals at the British Championships in Edinburgh in 2013 and came third in the Ulster Championships in Londonderry last year.

She is currently working towards becoming a teacher in highland dancing and has plans to start up her own dance group while also teaching at the Bright Lights dance group.



Siege of Carrick

The now annual re-enactment of the siege of Carrickfergus Castle and the landing of King William takes place on Sunday July 13 at Carrickfergus Castle and Castle Green (noon to 5pm).

Events include re-enactment groups from around the country dressed in period costume followed by a pageantry parade to meet King William upon his landing.

This event has proven in the past to be a hugely popular attraction over the July holiday period.

RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLOUGHLIN



SYLLABUB WITH IRISH WHISKEY AND MEYER LEMON

The story:

Syllabubs are so refreshing after a meal and so delicate and light and one of those ancient desserts that seems to be getting popular again.

Most old English recipes use white wine to infuse the sugar and lemon juice but because I am an Ulster girl my recipe includes Irish whiskey.

Meyer Lemon trees are commonly grown here in Georgia and somewhere between an orange and a lemon to my tastes. Lemons will of course work if you cannot find Meyer lemons.

Ingredients:

(Recipe makes 4 mason jars or 6 small martini glasses)

- 1 Meyer lemon (zest and 3 Tbsp juice)
- 2 oz (1/4 cup sugar)
- 3 Tbsp honey
- 5 Tbsp whiskey
- 8 oz heavy whipping cream (1 cup)
- 1 large egg white (beaten)



www.shamrockandpeach.com

How to make it:

1. Zest Meyer lemon and squeeze 3 Tbsp of juice in to a small bowl.
2. Using a whisk stir together the lemon juice, whiskey, sugar and honey until sugar has dissolved.
3. Beat the heavy whipping cream until soft peaks appear. Add lemon and whiskey mixture to the cream.
4. In a clean bowl beat the egg white until it is firm enough to leave a trail with a spoon.
5. Fold the egg white in to the cream mixture. Transfer syllabub in to 4 small mason jars or preferred glass container.
6. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
7. Serve with thin almond or ginger cookies for dipping.

The new Marlagh booklet

Marlagh Educational & Cultural Group's new booklet, *Marlagh n' Braid* has been launched in Ballymarlowe Orange Hall by Gary Blair from the Ulster-Scots Agency. The booklet features a collection of local interest stories written using Ulster-Scots language, on subjects such as the 1859 Revival in the area, Crebilly Fair and local aristocrat Henry Hutchinson Hamilton O'Hara. The venue was packed for the event, and the crowd were entertained by local fifiers and Matthew Warwick from the Ulster-Scots Community Network, who read extracts of local Ulster-Scots poetry by David Herbison, "Bab McKeen" and Thomas Given.

To receive a copy of the booklet contact Reuben Glover
07733100803



Pictured at the launch of *Marlagh n' Braid* are (from left) Reuben Glover, Roberta McCauley and Mary Carson (Marlagh Educational & Cultural Group), with Matthew Warwick (USCN) and Glenda Gaston (Ulster-Scots Agency).

WRITERS FESTIVAL SHOWCASES TOP NI LITERARY TALENT

Belfast's Linen Hall Library welcomed top Northern Ireland writing and acting talent earlier this month at its inaugural Writers on Writers Festival.

Dan Gordon, Martin Lynch, Sinéad Morrissey and Glenn Patterson were among those who led workshops and debated past Belfast writers who have significantly contributed to the body of work produced by the city.

The four-day event took place during the Library's Founders' Week (it was formed on May 13 1788), and comprised a selection of free events including workshops and discussions. The festival concluded with a debate on how the city should honour its Belfast literati.

Linen Hall Library director Julie Andrews said: "The Linen Hall Library is a literary treasure trove which has always supported local writers. Our collection of Belfast and Ulster publications are the most comprehensive in the world.

"The new Writers on Writers Festival was a way of congregating some of our most influential talent and encouraging members of the public, local schools, and local community groups to come in and interact, learn and be inspired by the wealth of talent that has gone before and those who are currently taking the literary mantle forward."

The Festival was funded by Belfast City Council through an Arts and Heritage Project Grant, and the Department for Social Development.

Complementing the Festival was an art display by Helen Heron featuring work inspired by Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley. The Linen Hall Library is one of the oldest charities in Belfast and depends on public support to ensure its survival. Readers can donate online at www.linenhall.com.

ON THE LITERARY TRAIL IN MONEYREAGH

A new Ulster Scots literary trail has been launched in Moneyreagh.

The event was opened by Rev Chris Wilson in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church and the guests were welcomed by Castlereagh's deputy mayor Cllr Anne-Marie Beattie. The children of Moneyreagh PS provided a wonderful display of artwork and entertained guests by singing a Robert Huddleston poem and later in the church hall reciting some of his more famous poetry. Chris Spurr from the Ulster History Circle presented a blue plaque to honour Robert Huddleston. It was unveiled by Annemarie Beattie the deputy mayor and Mark Thompson gave the guests a tour of the Literary Garden where he explained the background to the project and the history behind the various pieces. The launch was attended by 63 guests including Natasha Wells, a descendent of Robert Huddleston, who read a poem by the famous poet. Sandra Gilpin, a renowned expert in Ulster-Scots, talked about the history of the famous poet and the links to Moneyreagh. Bill Smith from MAGUS was in attendance and spoke about the work it currently carries out and the organisation's ambitions for the future. The event was a great success and the final product includes the restoration of Robert Huddleston's grave stone, the installation of an Ulster History Circle Blue Plaque in memory of Robert Huddleston and the literary garden on the site of the former playground in Moneyreagh which has five pieces of public art recognising the contribution to Ulster-Scots literature from Robert Huddleston, Nesca Robb, Charlotte Cowan, Francis Boyle and Robert Brown.



LEFT: Mark Thompson, Castlereagh Borough Council deputy mayor Cllr Ann Marie Beattie and Sandra Maslanka of Moneyreagh PS pictured in the new Literary Garden in Hillmount Drive, Moneyreagh, beside the commemorative plaque to Robert Huddleston



The replacement headstone to the Huddleston Family in Moneyreagh Churchyard, with the original broken headstone covering the grave



BELOW: Mark Thompson with Tim Smyth of the Ulster Historical Foundation beside the interpretation panel to Robert Huddleston in Moneyreagh Church car park



Cultural days at Fort Hill PS



Pupils at Fort Hill Integrated Primary School enjoyed two exciting Ulster-Scots cultural days as a launch to Integration week, during which the school celebrated the rich diversity within the school family and community.

Pupils from nursery class through to P7 were introduced to the tutors in a special assembly

followed by lessons in highland dance, fife and drums, accordion, Ulster-Scots Innovators, singing, lambeg drum, bagpipes, and Scottish dance. The celebration of Ulster-Scots culture and exciting learning opportunities was brought to a fitting and impressive climax as William Wallace piped the Key Stage 2 pupils out of school and up to their waiting parents at the end of the school day.



Six-year-old Kian McBrier urges *Game of Thrones* fans in Northern Ireland to join him for Blockbuster Battle at Bannockburn Live next month. Visitors are invited to step back in time to June 1314 and soak up the atmosphere, sights and sounds of medieval life and experience a large-scale re-enactment of the legendary clash taking place on Saturday, Sunday and Monday June 28-30 in Stirling. With more than 40 clans attending, it's the perfect opportunity for Ulster-Scots to uncover their roots and family role within the battle. For more information go to www.visitscotland.com

WEANS' WURLD

Never tyre of discovering something new...

Unless you have been living in the Outer Hebrides, you can't fail to have noticed the buzz surrounding this year's Giro d'Italia – professional cycling's second most prestigious stage race after the Tour de France – which kicked off in Belfast earlier this month.

But who'd have ever thought that one of the world's most popular sporting activities has its roots right here in Northern Ireland, where 125 years ago a local cyclist Willie Hume took part in a series of races at the North of Ireland cricket ground on Belfast's Ormeau Road. Hume was not considered one of the better cyclists at the time, but on May 18 1889 he won every race he entered – and why? His secret weapon was an air filled rubber

tyre – or pneumatic tyre - which had been recently invented by Ulster-Scot John Boyd Dunlop!

Dunlop's pneumatic tyres made bikes faster and more comfortable, and led to a huge increase in the number of women who were able to take up cycling and indeed revolutionised the way we travel. More than 125 years later, Northern Ireland is still at the leading edge of innovation and Dunlop's tyres can be used for many things other than cycling including solving crimes as W5's Crime Lab 'Tyretracks' exhibit shows.

Tyre tracks are sometimes used as evidence in the solving of crimes and in this exhibit visitors can compare a cast of a car tyre track with a number of car tyres. By examining the patterns on the tyre treads and on the cast, they must work out which of the tyres could have made the



This exhibit is just one of 250 interactive exhibits to be found at Ireland's award winning science centre, W5. For more information on this and what's on at W5 this month visit www.w5online.co.uk

original track. This is done in the context of a simple crime story. Forensic science services use databases of tyre tread patterns, so that a track can be used to establish what make and model of tyre made the track, and hence possibly which make and model of car was involved. In addition, the pattern of wear and damage on a car tyre may be used to match a particular tyre to a tyre track.

the **Ulster-Scot** **COMPETITIONS**

WIN
A FREE FAMILY
PASS FOR FOUR
PEOPLE TO W5

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:

Just tell us:

Q. What famous Ulster-Scot invented the pneumatic tyre?

Email your answers to: competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with 'W5 Competition' in the subject line, providing your name and address.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday June 25

WIN TWO FAMILY PASSES TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND COUNTRYSIDE FESTIVAL

The Ulster-Scots Agency have two FAMILY PASSES for the Northern Ireland Countryside Festival to give away!

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN: To enter simply email your name, address and telephone number to competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk by noon on Friday May 23. Good luck!



Weekend entertainment at **Cockle Row**

A full programme of Ulster-Scots entertainment is coming back to Cockle Row Cottages in Groomsport during the summer months.

Audiences will be treated to a range of musical talent including pipers Ian Burrows and Andy McGregor, Ulster-Scots band Risin Stour, the Down and Out Bluegrass Band and The Woodworms. Highland dancers from Bright Lights Highland Dance School will also be performing throughout the summer.

The entertainment will run from 2pm-4pm each Sunday, and the events are free to attend. Cockle Row Cottages are also free to attend. They are open from 11am-5pm at weekends and daily from June to September.



For a full line up of weekend activities for the whole family, from children's activities to live music, visit www.northdowntourism.com