Belfast Telegraph

SUISTER-Scots Agency Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch SUISTER-SCOTCH Control Co

competition and be in with a chance to win a £25 Lego Voucher! (see back page)



Enter our latest 'Wean's Wurld' competition and be in with a chance to win a £25 Lego Voucher! (see back page)



With exciting Leid Week events taking place all over the country, join us in celebrating and promoting our wonderful Ulster-Scots language! Find our extensive 5-page guide to Leid Week 2025 on pages 3-7

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♦ Ulster-Scots culinary icon, Paula McIntyre, provides us with some delicious 'Hamely Winter Warmers' recipes



♦ Killylea and Lisbellaw Primary Schools receive their Ulster-Scots Agency Flagship Awards

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New Ulster-Scots programmes airing for Leid Week

NVTV teams up with That's TV, Dublin and Cork Community TV to showcase Ulster-Scots culture

celebrating Ulster-Scots language, music, and culture will air from Monday to Sunday, November 24-30, as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week (Language Week).

SPONSORED

Funded by Northern Ireland Screen's Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund, the programming will be broadcast on That's TV (Freeview Channel 7 / Virgin 159) in Northern Ireland, and for the first time on Dublin Community Television (DCTV Virgin 802) and Cork Community Television (CCTV Virgin 803), extending the reach of Ulster-Scots stories to two million households across the island of Ireland. All times can be found in local listings.

All programming will also be available to stream on NVTV's Ulster-Scots website at ulsterscots.nvtv.co.uk/ which includes over 250 programmes celebrating the rich Ulster-Scots cultural traditions of heritage, language, music and storytelling.

The new season of programmes marks the continuing partnership between NVTV and That's TV who are ommitted to sharing authentic local stories and celebrating the cultural diversity of our communities. Through their partnership, now joined by Dublin Community Television and Cork Community Television, Ulster-Scots language and creativity will be showcased to an all-Ireland audience, connecting communities across regions and traditions.

The support of the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund has enabled the creation of new content that celebrates the shared cultural bonds between Ulster, Scotland and America. At the heart of the schedule is the flagship documentary The Man Who Fell into Muttonburn Stream, premiering on Sunday, November 30, following a screening at Larne Museum & Arts Centre on Friday (28th) at 2pm as part of Leid Week.

with the producer Dean Hagan and presenter David Hume, giving attendees a unique insight into the making of the film and the enduring influence of William Hume's

Belfast Telegraph

"Our ongoing partnership with That's TV, now joined by Dublin and Cork Community Television, gives Ulster-Scots culture a new and exciting platform," said Dean Hagan from NVTV.

Ulster-Scots voice.

"With support from the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund. we're proud to share six hours of new programmes that bring language, landscape and heritage together with The Man Who Fell into Muttonburn Stream as a moving

Ulster-Scots Word of the Issue

Greet



Contact the Ulster-Scots Agency:

Belfast (Main office) The Ulster-Scots Agency The Corn Exchange 31 Gordon Street BT12LG

Tel: (028) 9023 1113

Raphoe (Regional office) The Ulster-Scots Agency William Street Raphoe Co Donegal

Telephone: +353 7 4917 3876 Email: freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

Or find us on social media: Facebook - @UlsterScotsAgency X (formerly Twitter) - @UlsterScotsAge



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: @ULSTERSCOTSAGENCY

Join almost 23,000 people and follow our Facebook Page to keep up to date with the latest Ulster-Scots:

- Events
- · 'Word of the Day'
- Tuition funding streams
- · ...and much more!







Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 – Exciting daeins aa ower tha kintra!

lster-Scots Leid Week 2025 has arrived, and with it, an exciting opportunity for people all over the country to engage with the Ulster-Scots language through a wide variety of workshops, children's events, poetry readings, short films and much more.

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On Pages 4-7, you will find a full listing of all the events taking place from November 24 – 29, including details explaining what each event is about: the venue and time: and how to book your tickets (if booking is required).

As these events unfold over the coming days, we know that young and old alike will enjoy learning new words and phrases (as well as revisiting some old favourites); grow in their knowledge and understanding of the language; feel increasingly confident in their use of Ulster-Scots; and delight in the community and kinship that comes from uniting with other kindred spirits who share a similar interest and enthusiasm.

This can only be a good thing for the Ulster Scots language, and indeed for the wider expression and celebration of Ulster-Scots culture, history and heritage.

Many of the events have free admission which will undoubtedly help to encourage a good turnout, so make sure to get tickets booked for any events you would like to attend You don't want to miss out on this fantastic opportunity, and please mention the events of others as well, so that as many people as possible are able to enjoy all that's on offer.

Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 is a time to come together, learn together and grow together, as we amplify the voice of the wonderful language which surrounds us every day, bringing it to the masses for everyone to appreciate and enjoy.



learning about the Ulster-Scots Leid during a visit to

A Brave Wheen o Yarns an Nae a Gansy in Sicht

number five of the 'Yarns' journal of contemporary Ulster-Scots and Scots writing. What started out as a one-off initiative - funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency - has over the last five years taken on a life of its own, and it's hoped, become an important outlet for the Ulster-Scots creative

Writing in Scots and Ulster-Scots has a long tradition in Ulster. We can go back to the 18th and 19th Centuries with the work of William Starratt, James Orr, the bards Samuel Thomson, David Herbison and James Campbell, or even into the early 20th century with the work of Thomas Given for the historical connection. More recently, as part of the Ulster-Scots revival in the 1980s and 1990s, we had work from the Twa Charlies - Charlie Gillen and the late Charlie "Tha Poocher" Reynolds - as well as the hugely influential work of the late James Fenton, all of which showed us that the language was alive and well and still producing new work with relevance to an engaged community

'Yarns' was designed to help people come forward and get their work out into the world. showing that there is a still a thriving creative element within the Ulster-Scots community. In the absence of many outlets for those writing in Ulster-Scots to publish their work, the thought was that we could provide a space for newer writers, or those who hadn't traditionally been engaged. We also wanted

to highlight the connections across the North Channel to Scotland and to encourage writers in Scots to engage with their creative cousin this side of the sheugh.

Over the last five years we've published over 170 pieces of new Ulster-Scots writing by over 50 contributors - many of whom were being published for the first time. The connections have been strengthened, too, with many of the writers connecting away from the journal and working in collaboration with each other on new and exciting projects, and it's been encouraging to watch many of those writers' names appear in the lists of competition winners across the years.

Much of this wouldn't have happened if 'Yarns' wasn't there and it's a fervent hope that we can continue to offer those who want it an outlet for their writing. We want to continue to encourage people to explore their creative writing and to continue to weave their names into the fabric of Ulster-Scots writing.

Launch of 'Yarns' Poetry Book (Fifth Edition) by the Ulster Scots Agency

Venue: Ballyclare Town Hal

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm Join us for the official launch of the fifth edition of 'Yarns', a vibrant new poetry collection published by the Ulster-Scots Agency as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@ wnabbey.gov.uk to secure vour space



Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 Events

Sunday, November 23

'Leid and Lairn' Walking Tours: The Story of the Ulster-Scots in Ards

Venue: Ards Arts Centre, then walking to The Priory, Market Cross and the old Town Hall

Times: 11am-12pm and 2pm-3pm Booking Required: Tickets are £5 and can be booked at: https://andculture.org.uk/whats-on/ leid-and-lairn-story-ulster-scots-ards

Monday, November 24

'Weavin' the Wirds' - Traditional Basket Weaving Workshop in Dromara

Venue: Dromara Village Centre **Time:** 10am-1pm (includes lunch) Rooted in Ulster's rural traditions, this hands-on workshop explores the age-old craft of willow basket weaving, connecting language, place and heritage. Led by a skilled artisan.

Booking Required: Contact community services@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Antrim Ulster-Scots Walking Tour Starting Point: The Courthouse, Market Square,

Time: 11am-12:30pm

Step into the story of Antrim's Ulster-Scots legacy on this immersive walking tour. Wander through ancient streets, past historic churches, old mills, and landmarks that echo the faith, industry, and resilience of the Ulster-Scots people. Along the way, hear local tales, explore traditional language, and uncover cultural insights that bring history to life. Guided by Donal Kelly & Stephen

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@ antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure

'Leid and Lairn: Hae a Bite an a Blether' Venue: Rathcoole Library, 2 Rosslea Way, Newtownabbey BT37 9BJ Time: 2pm-3pm

Join Dr. Dayna Jost from the Ulster-Scots Community Network for an introduction to Ulster Scots Language. Explore the origins, sounds, and cultural richness of the language in this interactive session. Through listening, reading, and speaking activities, participants will discover everyday words and grammar while building confidence in using the language - whether they have a wheen o wurds or none at all. **Booking Required:** Email goodrelations@ antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'Walkin' tha Weaver's Ain Trail' Venue: Ballycarry Village Centre

Time: 2pm – 4pm A guided walk of weaver poet James Orr

sites in Ballycarry village centre, followed by refreshments in the local community centre and viewing of the Weaver's Trail exhibition For more information, please contact

Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

'The Witch of Glentow' by Tristan Crowe: **Short Film Screening**

Venue: Whitehead Community Centre **Time:** 7.30pm

Set amid the rugged beauty of North Antrim, a storyteller recounts 'The Witch of Glentow' to children around a bonfire - until eerie events blur myth and reality. This, and several other short films with an Ulster-Scots theme, will be shown on the night.

For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Ulster-Scots Language Workshop and Discussion event with William Olphert, **Director of Education and Language,** Ulster-Scots Agency Venue: Reivers House, Kilkeel

For further information, please contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com



William Olphert, Ulster-Scots Agency Director for Education and Language, and Derek Reaney, Ulster-Scots Agency Development Officer, pictured with Deputy Mayor, Alderman Niree McMorris, and Pól Ó Frighil, Policy Ófficer and Languages Team, at the launch of Leid Week

'Blether and Bounce' Children's Event - An interactive dance and language programn with the Sollus Highland Dancers

This programme will provide 10 sessions across four schools in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area during Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025, giving approximately 300 children the opportunity to explore and celebrate Ulster-Scots in an active and memorable way.

For more information, please contact: Sollus Highland Dancers, The Sollus Centre, 231 Victoria Road, Bready BT82 OEB. Tel: 028 7184 1892 or

Story Creation Workshops Children's Event - Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin in partnership with writer and storyteller Robert Campbell

Story creation workshops with children in three Irish medium primary schools in the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area, helping young people to explore language and storytelling using Ulster-Scots words and

For more information, please contact: Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin on Tel: 028 71 264132 or

Lambea Drumming Performance and Ceilidh Dancing Sessions

Venue: Cooley Primary School Cooley PTA will host two engaging events aimed at deepening local understanding of Ulster Scots culture and history while encouraging participation and collaboration.

Lambeg Drumming Performance: A live demonstration featuring information on the history and craftsmanship of the traditional

Ceilidh Dancing Sessions: An introduction to well-known Highland dances, with opportunities for pupils to take part and learn the steps.

'Lairnin the Leid' - Ulster-Scots Language and Heritage in Schools

Venue: Moneyreagh Primary School (happening throughout Leid Week) A creative in-school programme introducing pupils to Ulster-Scots words, phrases, and local stories through music, games, and storytelling celebrating language and local identity in a fun, age-appropriate way.

Patrick - Ulster's Scottish Saint

Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown Free to visit exhibition on display in the exhibition space of The Burnavon Arts Centre (first floor) throughout the month of November 2025. No booking required.

'Ulster-Scots Mountins an Toonlans o Mourne' Exhibition

Venue: Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick (Monday-Saturday, November 24-29) This exhibition will provide an opportunity to learn about the meanings of both mountain and townland names in Mourne, and their translations

'Tha Wee Schuil' - A Short Film Written and Performed by Anne McMaster

A 15-minute narrative film with an original Ulster-Scots script/voiceover drawing on archival photographs, images and memories of rural children who attended Moneydig Primary School (between Garvagh and Kilrea).

Available online from Monday, November 24

at www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots

'If Headstones Could Speak - Derry City Cemetery and the Ulster-Scots': A Short Film Narrated by Seamus Breslin, Friends of Derry City

"If these stones could speak, they would echo

the praise of generations past - Ulster Scots who helped raise this city from the ground up." Available online from Monday, November 24 at www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots

Ulster-Scots Guided Tours of Kilkeel

For further information, please contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com

Ulster-Scots Language Session in Newry For further information, please contact the

Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 25

Whitehouse Ulster-Scots Walking Tour -**Glengormley Starting Point:** The Whitehouse, 34 Whitehouse

Park, Newtownabbey BT37 9SQ Time: 11am-12:30pm

Uncover the Ulster-Scots legacy on this engaging walking tour through Whitehouse Village and Hazelbank Park. Begin at the historic Whitehouse and follow a scenic route filled with stories, landmarks, and cultural insights. Guided by Donal Kelly & Stephen McCracken

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@ antrimandnewtownabbev.gov.uk to secure

Schools Workshop with Dr. Frank Ferguson, University of Ulster Venue: Antrim Library

This workshop will focus on poets from South Antrim and invite young people to look at their wider context in writing poems about their surroundings.
Closed Event

'Brocht Ower' - An Illustrated Talk with writer Robert Campbell Venue: Whittaker Suite, Guildhall, Londonderry

Time: 1pm (Light refreshments provided from 12.30pm)

Join poet and author Robert Campbell on a fascinating personal journey that seeks to understand the complex history and evolution of the Ulster Scots language, and answer many of the hard questions.

Free Admission but Booking Required: Call 028 71 376 579 or email ulsterscots@ derrystrabane.com

Launch of 'Yarns' Poetry Book (Fifth Edition) by the Ulster Scots Agency

Venue: Ballyclare Town Hal **Time:** 6.30pm-8.30pm

Join us for the official launch of the fifth edition of 'Yarns', a vibrant new poetry collection published by the Ulster-Scots Agency as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025.

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@ ownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'A Quair Wurd o'Things' - Ulster-Scots Panel Discussion

Venue: Larne Town Hall **Time:** 7.30pm

Participants include broadcaster Laura Spence, linguist Dayna Jost, and poets and writers Charlie Gillen and Davy Moore. Music at the event will be provided by the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band. For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Yarns, Stories and Music from Anne McMaster, Colin Urwin, Alan Millar and Kilrea Pine Band

Venue: Kilrea Orange Hal Time: 7:30pm

Weans in Florencecourt, Co. Fermanagh enjoyed learning about the Ulster-Scots Leid during a recent workshop held at the Old





'Is it teemin? Ave!', are not uncommon words to hear across Ulster!

Stories and poems from Anne McMaster and Aileen McCahon; readings and songs from Colin Urwin; and local pieces read by Alan Millar. The evening will close with music from Kilrea Pipe

For more information, please contact goodrelations@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Wednesday, November 26

Randalstown Ulster-Scots Walking Tour Starting Point: Randalstown Library **Time:** 11am-12:30 pm

Step into the story of Randalstown's Ulster-Scots heritage on this immersive walking tour. Wander through historic streets, past Scots-associated churches, old mills, and landmarks that echo the faith, industry, and enduring legacy of the Ulster Scots people. Along the way, enjoy tales of local characters, explore traditional language, and gain cultural insights that bring history to life. Guided by Alastair Donaghy & Stephen McCracken. Booking Required: Email goodrelations@ antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure

'Weavers an Scrievers': Celebrating Ulster-

Scots at Cullybackey

Venue: Arthur Cottage

your space

Time: 12pm-1.15pm and 1.30pm-3pm Poetry and readings from the Ulster-Scots community will be complemented by baking displays, and will include poets David Herbisor (The Bard of Dunclug), James Orr (Bard of

Ballycarry) and Samuel Thomson (Bard of Carngranny).

For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Ulster-Scots Ceilidh, with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown

Enjoy a 100% authentic ceilidh with Alastair Scott

Ceilidh Band. With lots of well-known favourites like 'Strip The Willow', 'Dashing White Sergeant', 'The Gay Gordon's and some surprises along the way! No dance partner needed, there is something for everyone, from the very young to the not so young, seasoned dancer or absolute beginner and even those in possession of 'two left feet'! Children must be accompanied by an

Booking Required: Tickets are £4 and can be

Leid Week Celebration for School Children at **Belfast City Hall**

Venue: Belfast City Hall Schools from across Belfast will get an opportunity to take part in taster workshops for drumming, dancing and Drum Major skills, with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tracy Kelly, calling in to show off her skills as well. The pupils will also enjoy language workshops with the Ulster-Scots Agency's Director of Education and Language, William Olphert.

Pupils from Carr's Glen Primary School enjoying the crack and learning new words



nners and judges at last year's Ulster-Scots Writing Competition organised in partnership between The Linen Hall and the Ulster-Scots Agency. This year's award ceremony is taking place on Wednesday, November 26 (find details of how to book your ticket below)

Ulster-Scots Writing Competition Award Ceremony Venue: The Linen Hall, Belfast

Time: 1pm-2pm Drum roll, please, as The Linen Hall, in partnership with The Ulster-Scots Agency, announce the results of their fifth Ulster-Scots Writing Competition. They will reveal the winner and runner-up for each of the two categories in

the competition: prose and poetry. The winning entries will be published in a special edition anthology. Join us for a celebration of new Ulster-Scots writing talent.

Free Admission but Booking Required: Visit www.linenhall.com/whats-on

The Witch of Glentow: Public Screening of a Short Film with Award-Winning Director Tristan Crowe and Negative Waves Venue: Green Room, Guildhall, Londonderry

Time: 6pm Set amid the rugged beauty of North Antrim, a storyteller recounts 'The Witch of Glentow' to children around a bonfire - until eerie events blur myth and reality. Also screening are four Ulster-Scots shorts: Freedom in Tha Dairkest Oo' (Aileen McCahon), Keps (Charlie Gillen), This Moarnin Shuld Be a Plantin' (Anne McMaster). and The Wanderer (James Orr), each inspired by Ulster-Scots poetry and storytelling. The team

Rebellion project. **Booking Required:** Call 028 71 376 579

will also be previewing their new Rhymes of

'More than a Birler for Burns': Seamus Heaney's Ulster-Scots Poetry with Dr Frank Ferguson, University of Ulster

Venue: Ballyclare Town Hall, The Square, Ballyclare BT39 9BB

Time: 6pm-7.15pm In this talk, Dr Frank Ferguson will explore Heaney's long affiliation with Scots and Ulster-Scots literary forms, writing and language. He will argue that rediscovering Heaney's Ulster-Scots side provides a new and exciting way of comprehending his literary achievement and highlights the significant and overlooked wider impact of the language and literary tradition upon Northern Irish writing, culture and communities. **Booking Required:** Email goodrelations@

vour space

cownabbey.gov.uk to secure

Ulster-Scots Leid Week Celebration

in Maguiresbridge Venue: Market House, Main Street, Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh, BT94 9RZ Time: 7pm

This informal evening event will bring the community together to celebrate and explore Ulster-Scots language and culture through poetry readings, traditional Lowland pipe performances, and excerpts from a newly published Ulster-Scots book detailing the history of Market House and the local area. No Booking Necessary.

'From Larne to Bellaghy': Ulster-Scots poems

with Angeline King Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown **Time:** 7.30nm

Larne novelist Angeline King, author of 'Dusty Bluebells' and 'Snugville Street', brings a taste of her award-winning poetry to Mid Ulster. Writer in Residence of Ulster University from 2020 to 2023, Angeline has a keen interest in languages and local dialects. When commissioned to write an Ulster Scots poem for a Linen Hall Library Poetry Jukebox programme in 2025, Angeline wrote about Bellaghy's oldest known woman, Ballymacombs More Woman. This is one of several new poems inspired by the Bellaghy area. **Booking Required:** Tickets are £3 and can be booked at www.burnavon.com/whats-on

A Flavour of Ulster-Scots with Paula McIntyre - Cookery Demonstration

Venue: Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, **Time:** 7 30nm

Thursday 27th November

*Fully Booked

Footsteps and Verses – The Ulster-Scots **Poets Trail with David Douglas of Derrie**

Start/End: Starts at New Gate, 2-4 Kennedy Place, Londonderry, BT48 6RF and finishes at the Guildhall Time: 10:30am-12:30pm

Join David Douglas for two exclusive literary walking tours of the city and learn more about the life and work of some of the most iconic poets to hail from the Ulster-Scots literary tradition.

Booking Required: Please visit https://www.newgatearts.com/events/ footsteps-verses-the-ulster-scots-poets-trail-1

Children's Workshop with Shirlie Gregg **Venue:** Antrim and Newtownabbey Council Area *Closed Event*

Sea and From Carrick to the Carolinas

SPONSORED

Museum, Carrickfergus

Dr Frank Ferguson

Time: 1pm (Light refreshments provided from 12.30pm)

Ulster-Scots influences that helped shape C.S. Lewis's life.

Call 028 71 376 579 or email

Rowallance Ulster-Scots Leid Week Celebration

Venue: Sir Hans Sloane Centre, High Street,

Time: 1pm-3pm (includes a free lunch) Discover the rich history and origins of the Ulster-Scots language through an interactive workshop led by The Schomberg Society, and enjoy Ulster-Scots poetry with Roy Ferguson, a local enthusiast and published poet.

Free Admission but Booking is Required: Please contact nicola.whyte@nmandd.org

Poems, Stories and Tin Whistle Venue: Fuse Centre. Ballymoney

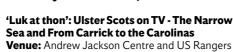
Time: 7pm An evening of poems, verses, and stories from Ivor Wallace and guests, plus Dick Glasgow and

the Fuse Tin Whistle/Bodhran Group For more information, please contact goodrelations@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Special Dailygan Concert

Venue: Ballymena Studio Theatre **Time:** 7.30pm-10pm

A special concert of music, song and storytelling at the Studio Theatre in The Braid. The band Stonewall - named after General Stonewall Jackson, whose ancestors were from County Armagh - will be taking to the stage for the event, along with piper Duane Johnston, who has a background in the Royal Irish Regiment Pipe Band and Broughshane and District Pipe Band, as well as singer/songwriter and storyteller Colin Urwin from Glenarm, whose published work includes The Madman's Window and Dalriada



Time: 12pm and 1.30pm A film following Elizabeth Jackson, mother of the Seventh US President Andrew Jackson, on her journey "From Carrick to the Carolinas".

For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

'Narnia and Hame by the Sandy Loanen', with

Venue: Whittaker Suite, Guildhall, Londonderry

In this talk, Dr Ferguson will chart the

Free Admission but Booking Required: ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com

Footsteps and Verses - The Ulster-Scots Poets Trail with David Douglas of Derrie

Start/End: Starts and finishes at New Gate, 2-4 Kennedy Place, Londonderry, BT48 6RF Time: 10am-12pm

Join David Douglas for two exclusive literary walking tours of the city and learn more about the life and work of some of the most iconic poets to hail from the Ulster-Scots literary tradition. Booking Required: Please visit

Booking Required: Please contact Members.

Venue: Presbyterian Church Hall, Seskinore,

This Leid Week celebration will present a lively

bringing together the local community in an

For more information, please contact:

mix of Ulster Scots language, music, and culture,

Leid Week Celebration in Seskinore

enjoyable and educational evening.

Friday, November 28

Belfast Telegraph

https://www.newgatearts.com/events/footsteps verses-the-ulster-scots-poets-trail

'Hinba: The Lost Isle of St Columba', with Alan Millar

Venue: Glenelly Suite, Derry City and Strabane District Council Office, Strabane Time: 1pm (Light refreshments provided

from 12.30pm) Join Alan as he recounts his 2024, ACNI-assisted journey to the southern Hebridean island of Colonsay, in search of his Mesolithic ancestors, only to be astounded and delighted by how powerfully fellow Donegal man St. Columba still resonates through this region.

Free Admission but Booking Required: Call 028 71 376 579 or email ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com

'The Man who fell into the Muttonburn Stream': An Ulster-Scot Poet and His Story Venue: Larne Museum and Arts Centre

Time: 2pm-4pm The story of local poet William James Hume, whose 1930s folk song about the small stream outside Ballycarry has been recorded by several artists including Richard Hayward, Houl Yer Whist and the Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra over the decades.

For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Belfast Telegraph

Tales and Tunes from Colin Urwin and Alan Venue: Ballynarrig Orange Hall, Limavady

Time: 7:30pm

Colin Urwin, a folksinger, songwriter, storyteller and author, will share tales and tunes, before local Ulster-Scots writer, Alan Millar, reads some of his work. The night will close with music from Bellarena Accordion Band and Pipes and Drums.

For more information, please contact goodrelations@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Ulster-Scots School Workshops Venue: Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House.

The Ulster-Scots Agency Education and Language Team will deliver a workshop with a focus on language and culture in local schools. *Closed Event

'Bards and Bachles': My Journey in Ulster-Scots with Dr David Hume

Venue: Sentry Hill, 40 Ballycraigy Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4SX Time: 11am-12pm

Join renowned historian and writer Dr David Hume for an engaging talk exploring the rich anguage and heritage of Ulster Scots. 'Bards and Bachles': My Journey in Ulster Scots traces a cultural journey from the Borders of Scotland to the Carolinas in the United States, uncovering the stories, voices, and traditions that have shaped Ulster-Scots identity across generations

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'Ulster-Scots Leid Week Poetry, Arts and Crafts Workshop for Weans' Venue: Tha Hairtlan Hub, Kilkeel Time: 2pm

For further information, please contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com



The flag might be a wee bit footery but the

Saturday, November 29

'Tuff, Slane and Sneddin'

Venue: Evan's Wood, Clabby, Co. Fermanagh, BT75 0RN Time: 10am

Tuff, Slane and Sneddin is an Ulster Scots-themed art event exploring the natural and cultural heritage of bogland and peat cutting. The session will include a talk on the origins and wildlife of bogland, alongside Ulster-Scots readings reflecting on the traditions of turf cutting. No Booking Required.

Belfast Tartan Day Dander 2025

Venue: Discover Ulster-Scots Centre to Belfast City Hall

Time: Gathering from 10.45am, with the Dander departing at 11.30am sharp. After the tremendous success of the inaugural event last year, we're delighted to bring the celebration, pageantry and colour of the Belfast Tartan Day Dander back to the heart of the city once again.

Registration Required: Visit https://forms.office.com/e/1EhP4Btjna



A pupil from Carr's Glen Primary School helps demonstrate the Ulster-Scots language





SPONSORED

(Left) Executive Vice President of America 250 Jen Condon, Communities Minister Gordon Lyons, Commissioner of America 250 Joe Crowley, and Ulster-Scots Agency CEO lan

Belfast Telegraph



sioner Joe Crowley in discussion with Heidi McAlpin, Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund

America 250 Commission visits the Discover Ulster-**Scots Centre**

s major plans to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence in 2026 continue to be developed, we were delighted to welcome Joe Crowley, Commissioner of America 250, and Jen Condon, Executive Vice President of America 250, to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast earlier this

Part of a landmark two-day visit to Northern Ireland organised by the Communities Minister, Gordon Lyons MLA, the pair were



The visit including viewing a selection of

given a guided tour of the centre by Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier, before viewing special memorabilia relating to some of the significant figures who went to America from these shores.

The roots of several founding figures in the US can be traced back to Ulster. including:

Charles Thomson, from Maghera was the first Secretary of the Continental Congress; his name graces the first copy of the Declaration. He also designed the Great Seal of the United

John Dunlap, a printer from Strabane produced the first printed version of the Declaration of Independence.

James McHenry, born in Ballymena, signed the US Constitution.

Hercules Mulligan, born in Coleraine was a tailor, spy, and hero who twice saved George Washington's life and has been immortalised in the hit musical Hamilton.

Speaking about the visit to Northern Ireland, which also included events at Hillsborough Castle, Parliament Buildings, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the Ulster American Folk Park Minister Lyons said: "It is a privilege to welcome Commissioner Joe Crowley and Executive Vice President Jen Condon to Northern Ireland in recognition of the unique contribution our people have made to the foundation of the United States of America.

"The stories of our nations have been woven together over the last 250 years. More than 250,000 people left these shores during the 18th century to help shape modern America.

"We must seize this special opportunity to showcase our contribution and celebrate our continued strong relationship."

The visit also saw the signing of an historic Memorandum of Understanding, which sets out the terms for co-operation in support of the anniversary commemorations. This includes a USA-NI250 funding programme, managed by the Ulster-Scots Agency, for organisations to commemorate Northern Ireland's contribution to American history.



The event was attended by influential figures from across the wider Ulster-Scots community



Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier provided a guided tour of the centre, including the Montgomery Gallery which tells the story of emigration from Ulster to America

Belfast Tartan Day Dander Returns for 2025!

inaugural event last year, the Ulster-Scots Agency are delighted to be bringing the celebration, pageantr and colour of the Belfast Tartan Day Dander back to the heart of the city on Saturday, November 29!
The event will once again begin at the

Belfast Telegraph



Making memories that will last for

open from 10.45am. The dander will depart at 11.30am sharp and make its way to Belfast City Hall, filling the air with spectacular Ulster-Scots music, dance and fanfare all along the

At City Hall, participants will enjoy the popular 'Tartan Tay' part of the day, where there will be some short speeches and refreshments.

The event will end at approximately 1.30pm, leaving plenty of time for participants to go Christmas shopping in the city, not forgetting the Christmas Market at City Hall.

Individuals/families/groups of friends are invited to register to walk in the dander - just remember to wear some tartan! Pipers, tenor drummers, snare drummers and drum majors are welcome to register to take part in the Massed Pipe Band.

We hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be another very memorable occasion, as we bring the sights and sounds of our proud Ulster-Scots culture, history and heritage to the streets of the capital once more!

*To participate in the event, register today at https://forms.office.com/e/1EhP4Btjna or scan the QR code on the poster. If your registration is successful, you will receive an email, detailing parking options, the tunes for the Massed Pipe Band etc. Please note – regarding music on the day, we are not seeking any more bands to take part. There is a limited number of spaces available for individual musicians and drum majors to apply to join the Massed Pipe Band through the link.





Campbell College Pipes and Drums will be taking part in their second Belfast Tartan Day Dander





Even Santa made an appearance at the



Highland Dancers brought colour and flare to



BELFAST TARTAN DAY **DANDER 2025 SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER**

REGISTRATION OPEN

Join us for what promises to be another very memorable occasion, as we bring the sights and sounds of our proud Ulster-Scots culture, history and heritage to the streets of the capital once more!





CATHEDRAL QUARTER TO CITY HALL Belfast City Council



The Bessy Bell & Mary Gray **Ulster-Scots Festival 2025**

est Tyrone will be awash with Ulster-Scots revelry during Leid Week 2025, as the Bessy Bell and Mary Gray Festival brings top class Ulster-Scots language, music, cookery, crafts and

As you can see from the event listing, there is literally something for everyone, from the very young to the elegant elders, but with events ticketed, you need to get in touch ASAP or risk missing out!

Ulster-Scots Ceilidh & Dinner with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band in Mullinagoagh Orange Hall

Time: 8pm Where: Mullinagoagh Orange Hall, Dromore,

Booking Required: Contact Gregory on 07511 534 724 or Rebecca on 07783 713 762

A Night with Blair Memorial Flute Band during their 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Tuesday, November 25 Time: 8pm

Where: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart Come along for a terrific night of entertainment from one of the finest marching bands in Ulster, Blair Memorial Flute Band, as they celebrate 50 years of music, pride and tradition

Ulster-Scots Afternoon of Cookery Music and Yarns

Wednesday, November 26 Time:2pm

Where: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart Kate Allison of KVC Creativity will facilitate the Cookery Demonstration; Bill Robb will be along to recite some Ulster-Scots Poetry and Yarns; and the Strule River String Band will come along and entertain everyone with some Ulster-Scots music.



Booking Required: Contact Elaine on 07904 019 483

Schools Choral Speaking Competition

Thursday, November 27 Ardstraw Jubilee Primary School and Gortin Primary School will take part in this choral speaking competition. Pupils from both schools have taken part in four weeks of choral speaking workshops, which have been facilitated by the Ulster-Scots Agency. *Closed Event'

SPONSORED

Ulster-Scots Ceilidh with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band in Mountfield Orange Hall

Time: 8pm

Where: Mountfield Orange Hall Booking Required: Contact Donna on 07880

Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival Concert Night

Fridav. November 28

Where: Somme Memorial Hall,

Newtownstewart Compere-William Sayers will introduce a talented selection of performers, including Ulster-Scots traditional folk band. Stonewall: Kilclean Pipe Band; Blue Thistle Highland Dancers; and Kyle Duddy, Stuart Wilson and Somme Hall Students **Booking Required:** Contact Elaine on 07904 019 483

Ulster-Scots Youth Crafts. Music & Rhymes

Saturday, November 29 Time: 10am-12noon

Where: Somme Memorial Hall.

Newtownstewart Come along and enjoy some Ulster-Scots themed Youth Crafts, Music and Rhymes with Carol and David. Suitable for ages 7 – 12.

Booking Required: Contact Elaine

St Andrews Day Gospel Concert & Finale!

Time: 3pm

Where: Newtownstewart Presbyterian Church, 41 Moyle Road, Newtownstewart, BT78 4AP Entertainment from Killen Orange District Male Voice Choir, vocalists Callum and Lexie Rose, and Piper Kyle Duddy accompanied by David Doonan Everyone welcome



Huge crowds for Kilkeel's annual Guy Fawkes celebrations

Fawkes Festival has been hailed as a tremendous success once again, after a fantastic series of events in Kilkeel culminated with the traditional 'Bonfire Night' celebration.

During the Festival, events organised by the Society included a talk and presentation on the Gunpowder Plot by local historian. Ouincev Dougan, and a 'Bonfire Breakfast' hosted by the Society's Hairtlan Men's Shed.

The Society also loaned the Ulster-Scots Agency's 'Charter Towns' exhibition, which was on display in Newcastle Library, helping to give folk a better understanding of the story and the impact of the Plantation of Ulster.

Other elements of the festival included two Ulster-Scots Arts and Crafts sessions for weans, forbye a two-day Ulster-Scots themed Guy Fawkes Camp, creating an opportunity for children to learn more about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot.



Special Guest, Junior Minister Joanne Bunting MLA, lit the beacon at the end of the children's

anticipated children's lantern parade, which made its way through Kilkeel Town Centre. They were led by King James VI of Scotland and I of England on horseback, the Schomberg Fife and Drum Band, and 17th Century living history re-enactors carrying fire torches. The crowds also enjoying seeing the recently formed Schomberg Academy Pipe Band on parade, followed by Ballymageough Accordion Band, both of whom were in fantastic form.

Belfast Telegraph

Hundreds of children and their families took part in the lantern parade, which finished off with crowds gathering for the lighting of a beacon by the special guest, Junior Minister Joanne Bunting MLA, and the burning of a specially hand-crafted willow Guy Fawkes effigy. The finale also featured live musket firing, a fireworks display, children's entertainment, and an Ulster-Scots music and dance showcase in the Lower Square, Kilkeel.

King James I was a pivotal figure in the story of the Ulster-Scots, overseeing the Plantation of Ulster, and the Schomberg Society's Guy Fawkes celebrations aim to create a better awareness of this monumental event in our

The tradition of Ulster-Scots celebrating Guy Fawkes Night in Kilkeel stretches back well over 100 years, when there were performances by marching bands, fifes and lambeg drums, and bonfires. The Schomberg Society is very pleased to have successfully revived this tradition, which now welcomes visitors from right across Northern Ireland.

The Society expressed their sincere thanks to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for supporting the Festival.



Highland Dancers are always popular at the festival

New Ulster-Scots Heritage Tours Now Available at Fermanagh's Crom Estate

SPONSORED

ew tours focusing on the early Ulster-Scots plantation of Crom estate by the Crichton family, Earls of Erne, and the Williamite-Jacobite wars in Fermanagh, have recently been launched in the Lakeland county.

The tours are organised and managed by local historian, Simon Wiggins, who provided an example of what visitors could expect. He said: "In September, with the support of Ulster Scots funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, I organised the first Ulster-Scots heritage tour to Crom Castle, which is situated on the tranquil shores of Upper Lough Erne in County Fermanagh.

'Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by Lord and Lady Erne, who graciously led us on a guided tour of their magnificent family home. Throughout the visit, Lord Erne shared fascinating stories about the castle's history and the long heritage of the Erne family, whose Ulster-Scots roots trace back to Crichton Castle near Edinburgh. Each room revealed a new chapter in the family's story, with portraits, heirlooms, and architectural details llustrating centuries of local and national

Following the tour, the group were treated to a delightful afternoon tea in the castle's conservatory, where they enjoyed homemade scones, sandwiches, and tea overlooking the scenic estate gardens and castle's tennis



Tour quide Simon Wiggins leading a group and the parklands at Crom

court. The hospitality of Lord and Lady Erne made the experience both personal and unforgettable with many visiting Crom Castle for the first time.

In the afternoon, the group embarked on a Williamite walking tour of the estate, exploring the Old Castle ruins, dating back to 1611. Simon recounted how the strategic stronghold played a significant role during the Williamite-Jacobite war in Fermanagh notably surviving two Jacobite sieges in 1689 The defenders of Crom, loyal to William of Orange, successfully resisted attacks from the Jacobite forces of James II, who were defeated by an Enniskillen Williamite army at the Battle of Newtownbutler 1689, marking an important



moment in local and Ulster history. "The day concluded with a leisurely stroll through the surrounding parklands, where the blend of natural beauty and historical significance left a lasting impression on all in attendance. Overall, the visit to Crom Castle provided a rich insight into Ulster's heritage

blending noble history, architectural grandeur, and warm hospitality in one of Fermanagh's most captivating settings."

If your group would like to undertake a similar tour or to discuss tailored options you can contact Simon at sjwiggins90@gmail.com



Crom Castle is situated on the picturesque banks of Lough Erne

Fusefm Mourne Radio to light-up the Airwaves this Christmas!

here will be plenty of crack in Studio One in Reivers House Kilkeel in the coming weeks, as they welcome back the ever-popular Christmas broadcast of Fusefm Mourne Radio Returning to the airwaves from Monday, December 8, and broadcasting for two weeks until Sunday, 21st, from 8am – 11pm daily, more than 80 volunteers will be involved with the broadcast, hosting a range of Ulster-Scots shows, including poetry, gospel, country music and Scotch-Irish, to name just a few.

One of the highlights will be the annual Ulster-Scots Christmas Carol Service, which will take place on Sunday, December 21 from 8.30pm, live on air from Reivers House.

A spokesperson from Fusefm Mourne commented: "Fusefm Mourne is a fantastic outreach initiative from The Schomberg Society, providing us with a very successful platform to promote the best of Ulster-Scots music, culture, traditions, and of course, the language that we all use every day



Fusefm Mourne Radio Presenter, Gareth Crozier, in Studio One at Reivers House in

We are very thankful to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued support with these broadcasts."

Folk can tune in this Christmas locally in Mourne on 106.2fm. online at fusefmmourne co.uk, via the Fuse FM App, or via Alexa





Paula's Hamely Winter Warmers

us will dream of settling down to a warm, delicious homemade meal, and here to help us do just that, with the return of her fantastic 'Hamely Winter Warmers' recipes, is renowned Ulster-Scots culinary expert, Paula McIntyre. We hope you enjoy these amazing dishes!

Slow cooked pork shoulder with sage, walnuts and buttermilk mash

- 1.5kg rolled and netted pork shoulder
- · 2 onions, peeled and quartered
- · 2 sticks celery chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 75g walnuts, chopped
- · 4 tablespoons Broighter Gold rapeseed oil 150ml dry cider or local apple juice
- 500ml chicken stock
- · 2 tablespoons sage leaves

Set oven to 160C.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a casserole and when smoking add the pork. Season with salt and seal all over. Add the onions and celery and cook until golden. Add the garlic and walnuts and cook for a minute. Place the pork on top of the vegetables and add the wine. ring to a simmer and add the stock. Place a lid on top and place in oven. Cook for about 3 hours or until fork tender. Blend the cooking liquor and check seasoning. Fry the sage in the remaining oil until crisp. Allow pork to rest for 15 minutes then slice, spoon over the sauce and

Buttermilk Mash

- 1.5kg potatoes, peeled
- Salt to taste

Boil the potatoes until soft, drain well and return to pan. Cover and cook on a low heat to dry out the potatoes for a couple of minutes. Add the buttermilk and mash well. Season to taste.

Beef and potato soup with crispy potato bread croutons

- 750g bone in shin of beef
- · 3 tablespoons cooking oil



Paula is known all over the world for her fantastic cooking, bringing Ulster-Scots nary delights to a global audience. Keep up



- 2 medium carrots, diced 2 onions, chopped
- 6 stalks soup celery, chopped
- 1.5 litres water with 2 beef stock cubes added
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar · 2 potatoes, peeled and diced

Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a frying pan until smoking hot. Season shin with salt and seal on both sides. Transfer to a large saucenan Add remaining oil to frying pan and add the carrots and onions. Cook until golden and add to the saucepan with the soup celery. Cover with the stock and add the Worcestershire sauce and balsamic and simmer with a lid on for about 2 hours (I also do this in the oven in a casserole - 180oc) or until beef is fork tender Remove beef from pan and add the potatoes.

Cook until tender - about 25 minutes. Shred the beef and set aside. Blend the soup to a

smooth puree and add the shredded beef.

Crispy potato bread croutons

2 pieces potato bread cut into ½ cm dice Oil for frying

Cover the bottom of a frying pan with oil and heat over medium heat. Add the potato bread and cook until golden and crisp. Drain on kitchen paper. Scatter while hot over bowls of the soup and garnish with chopped chives.

Baked apple and pear sponge pudding with spiced caramel custard

Baked apple and pear sponge pudding

- 3 pears Juice 1 lemor
- 150g castor sugar

Cut the lemon in half and squeeze into 2 bowls. Peel, core and chop the apple and toss in the lemon in one bowl. Peel and quarter the pears,



Custard and sponge, an Ulster staple

Place the apples in a pan with 75g of the

Heat the sugar in a frying pan and when hot add the pears and cook for a couple of minutes. Mix into the apples and then place in a buttered baking dish.

Sponge topping

- 175g soft butter75g dark brown sugar
- 100g castor sugar
- 3 eggs 175g self raising flour 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Set oven to 170C.

Beat the butter and sugars until pale and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time and then whisk in the flour and vanilla

Spread onto the apple and pear mix and

skewer comes out clean.

Spiced Caramel Custard

- 3 egg yolks
- 100g sugar 15g cornflou
- 250ml whole milk 100ml cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice

Place milk and cream in a saucepan and scald Heat another pan until hot and add 50g of the sugar. Cook to a rich amber liquid and then carefully add the hot milk mixture - it will bubble up! Add the spices and vanilla and simmer until the caramel has dissolved. Whisk the egg volks with the remaining sugar and cornflour and pour over the hot spiced caramel milk. Whisk and then return to the pan and whisk over a medium heat until thick Serve immediately over the warm sponge with cream

Killylea and Lisbellaw Primary Schools annual Hawick Reivers Festival in Scotland for here was much to celebrate in counties Armagh and Fermanagh recently, as two local primary schools

Agency Flagship Awards. Killylea Primary School have undertaken great work with the Ulster-Scots Agency over several years, providing pupils with the opportunity to engage with their Ulster-Scots history and culture, particularly in the disciplines of music and dance.

Pupils at Lisbellaw Primary school have done a brilliant job promoting Ulster-Scots in their village and beyond, having successfully completed over 30 weeks of tuition in Highland Dance with Kenzey Downey and Piping with Gordon McKeown.

Lisbellaw have also participated in the

the past three years, winning the prestigious Andy Norman Trophy on every occasion

Ulster-Scots Flagship Awards presented to

SPONSORED

Speaking after the presentations, William Olphert, the Agency's Director of Education and Language, said: "We are delighted to celebrate with both Killylea and Lisbellaw Primary Schools as they receive our Flagship Award.

"This award requires pupils to undertake a range of activities that encourage and promote Ulster-Scots culture and heritage, building up their knowledge, increasing their confidence and giving them new skills

"A massive 'Well done!' to all the pupils and to the schools who provided tremendous support. We trust they will enjoy this special recognition and take great pride in their





Lisbellaw Primary School Principal, Jason Kilfedder, and Vice-Principal, Sarah Auterson, alon with pupils and pipe tutor Gordon McKeown, receiving their Flagship Award



Stepping into joy

Celebrating Scottish Country Dancing in Schools with Ruth Clarke

he Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) offers a wonderful initiative - the Primary School Accreditation Programme - designed to help schools learn, celebrate, and take pride in Scottish Country Dancing. Through a structured framework, pupils can achieve Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, receiving certificates and pin badges as recognition of their progress. Over the past few years, I've had the

privilege of teaching Scottish Country Dancing (SCD) in schools across Northern Ireland - including Fermanagh, the far reaches of Tyrone, Armagh, and even into Cavan - thanks to funding from various groups supported by the Ulster-Scots Agency. Each week, I've engaged with over 500 children in dozens of schools, introducing them to lively ceilidh dances like 'Virginia Reel', 'The Gav Gordons', and 'The Dashing White Sergeant', as well as structured SCD favourites such as 'Simon's Dance', 'The Cavehill Jig', and 'And Fo

One particular favourite among the children

is 'The Marmalade Sandwich'! They absolutely love the imaginative aspect of "making" their sandwich - though, of course, the best part is always the "eating" of it. It's always a joy to watch the transformation

in the classroom. Sometimes, boys walk in with 'faces like thunder', clearly sceptical - but by the end of that first session, I look around and every single child is smiling and laughing, caught up in the fun of dancing with their friends.
For me, the highlight of each teaching block

is the final class - not because it's the end, but because it's a celebration. I let the pupils choose their favourite dances, we do one walkthrough, and then I step back and watch them go. It's deeply rewarding to see just how much they've learned and how confidently they perform.

I only recently learned about the RSCDS accreditation programme, and I'm so proud to now see pupils proudly wearing their Bronze lapel pins and receiving certificates on behalf of their schools. It's a fantastic way to recognise their hard work and to encourage the nation of this joyful, cultural tradition.



who produced a brilliant, colourful picture of our farmyard scene! As a result, she walked away with a fantastic Ulster-Scots goodie bag full of exciting bits and pieces; an art set, to help her create even more wonderful art; and one of the top fashion items

Other highly commended pictures included those submitted by Lucy and Harry, who also received Ulster-Scots goodies and a wee art set. Congratulations Leah, Lucy and Harry, and many thanks to our good friends at the

GRASSMEN for providing the hoodie as a top

in Ulster - a marvellous GRASSMEN hoodie!

Don't forget to get your entry in for our new ompetition. Details on the back page!







TAAKIN BRAID

Building Confidence in Ulster-Scots: A Language Revival in Action

we've explored why Ulster-Scots deserves recognition as a vital part of these islands' linguistic heritage. From its roots in Scots migration to Ulster, the language has evolved into a distinctive form spoken across the province. Whether we realise it or not, Ulster-Scots influences everyday speech for everyone in Ulster. In areas such as North Antrim, the Ards Peninsula, and the Laggan in Donegal, you'll often hear people switching seamlessly between English and a richer, more traditional Ulster-Scots—a practice known as codeswitching, which is key to understanding the language's modern use.

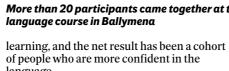
Since joining the Agency, I've received

countless requests from people eager to go beyond a handful of words and truly engage with the language. Our response? The "Dinnae"

SPONSORED

New Ulster-Scots Language Class Launched In October and November, we launched a

six-week Ulster-Scots language course at Ballymena Library, More than 20 participants - representing diverse ages, backgrounds, and erests - came together for this inaugural class. The question was: how do you teach Ulster-Scots? Like French lessons at school, with dialogues and drills? We suspected that this approach wouldn't work. Instead, we prioritised enjoyment—and it paid off. The sessions were filled with laughter and much



Taak it Baak - A myth-busting segment aimed at reclaiming Ulster-Scots and deepening understanding of how languages function. **Taak** – Practical speaking exercises, such as "A'm frae Ballymoney but A leeve in Antrim" (I'm from Ballymoney but I live in Antrim). Hamewurk - Homework tasks that encouraged learners to not only practise the words but also included other tasks i.e.

expression with everyday use

What did participants think? Their feedback

Learning & Knowledge: "Learning new things," "History behind the language," "Better understanding of Ulster-Scots."

welcoming environment."

Community & Networking: "Meeting likeminded folk," "Access to speakers," "Grassroots

Belfast Telegraph

Facilitators & Resources: "Knowledgeable trainers." "Good communicators." "Lots of

AWhatsApp group, set up from day one, proved invaluable for ongoing engagement. It's now buzzing daily with learners practising Ulster-Scots writing - a promising sign for a community historically lacking literacy but growing in confidence.

Friendships blossomed too, with genuine sadness when the course ended. Some participants even penned laments - a creative estament to their enthusiasm!

So what's next? The success of this pilot means Dinnae Houl Yer Wheest (DHYW) will roll out across Ulster, with plans for OCN accreditation. DHYW2 is already in development, focusing on "rewilding" the digital space and introducing drama and creative sketches to strengthen practical language use.

One thing is certain: we're not about to "houl oor wheest." The appetite for Ulster-Scots is strong, and with continued effort, we'll see a vibrant, confident speech com



William Olphert, Director for Education and Language at the Ulster-Scots Agency, and author of



Each lesson featured several key

mapping where they use Ulster-Scots in daily life, helping create safe spaces for authentic

Wheest tae A Tell Ye – Guest appearances by writers, poets, and academics who have championed Ulster-Scots, linking creative

Interactivity & Engagement: "Interactivity of the class," "Group support," "Friendly,



OCN Ulster-Scots Courses - Now **Available** have announced the return of their popular range of courses. Offered free of charge to

community organisations, and accredited by the Open College Network

including history, language, faith and emigration, and much more besides. There is

certainly much to be learned and enjoyed

below (please note: only participants who have completed the Level 1 course can register

to progress to the more advanced Level 2

Level 1: Introduction to Ulster-Scots:

• Overview of the Plantation of Ulster:

Ulster-Scots and family history

♦ Taakin with Ulster-Scots (language) and

Identity

Duration: Four, two-hour sessions covering

Definitions and indicators of an Ulster-Scots

The details for Levels 1 and 2 are listed

Level 2: Impact of Ulster-Scots on Ulster Duration: Eight, two-hour sessions covering:

SPONSORED

- ♦ Early 17th century Ulster and evolving
- Ulster-Scots Identity Impacts of Plantation on Rural and Urban
- Rural Revolution in 18th century Ulster and
- impact on Ulster-Scots

 A Leap of Faith; Ulster-Scots perspectives in 19th and 20th Century
- Home and Away: The Ulster-Scots Diaspora and Resurgence of the culture

If any of the options listed above capture your interest and you would like to express an interest in either attending a course at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, or facilitating a course in your area, please email charlesn@ulster-scots.com for further information.

Additional courses can also be delivered to specific groups at their own preferred locations, or in some circumstances, via Zoom lf interested, please also send any requests to the same email address.

Discover

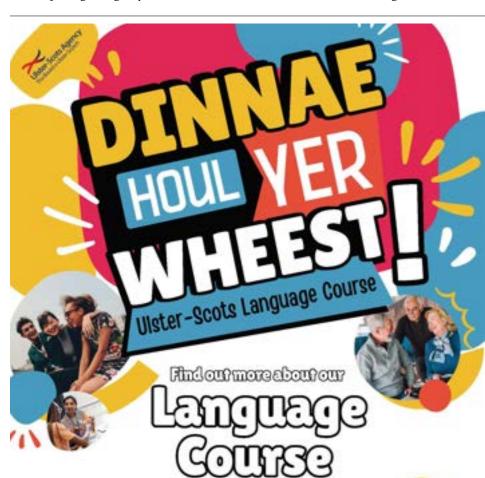
VISIT THE DISCOVER

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VICTORIA STREET, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

EXHIBITION . LITERATURE . GIFTS



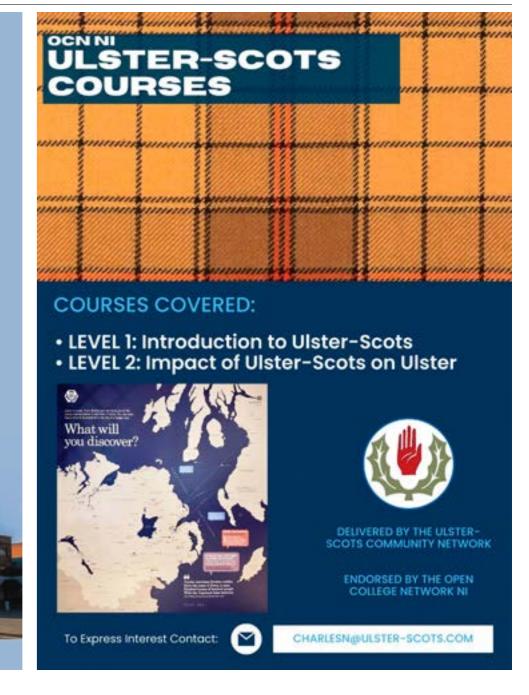












Wean's Wurld

Have a festive season full of faith, fun... and a new twist on the nativity!

s Christmas time approaches, Ulster-Scots across the country are preparing to gather with their families and friends to attend church services to celebrate Jesus birth; take part in or watch nativity plays; organise presents; put up their Christmas trees; write their letters to Santa (and then wait to see if he comes!); enjoy lots of delicious food and drink; and have plenty of fun and crack!

It's a time of terrific celebration and anticipation, and it has long been a very important date on the calendar for our community stretching back over hundreds of years, bringing people together in faith, hope



Enter our competition for the chance to win a LEGO voucher. Photos used with permission. ©2025 The LEGO Group

<u></u>≝Ulster-Scot COMPETITION

Competition Time

ith this in mind, the competition in this edition of 'Wean's Wurld' centres on Christmas. Below, you'll find a chapter from the Bible Luke 2 - which has been translated into Ulster-Scots. We want you to locate the words in the text which mean the same as the English words below the crossword, fill them in, colour the nativity scene around the crossword, and send your completed, colourful sheet back to us. It's that easy.

The winner will receive a wonderful £25 voucher for one of the most amazing toys the world has ever seen - Lego!

You can either take a photo of your completed sheet and email it to competition@ ulsterscotsagency.org.uk, or post it to us at: Education and Language Team, Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG, Northern Ireland.

The closing date for entries is Friday 12th December 2025, so get your entry in soon! Good luck!

LUKE 2 v 1-20

Tha Birth o Jesus

^{1.} Roon aboot this time tha Emperor, Caesar Augustus, gien orders that a heid-coont wus tae be taen o aa tha fowk in ivery pairt o his empire. ² This wus tha furst coont daen whan Quirinius wus tha Governor o Syria. ³ An iveryboady wus haein tae gae bak tae whar they wur boarn tae pit thair names doon for it. ^{4.} Noo acause Joseph's femlie went bak tae King Davit, he haed come frae Nazareth in Galilee tae Bethlehem in Judea, whar Davit wus frae. 5. Mary, his wife tae be, trevelt wi him, tha mair o bein near hir time.

^{6.} But whan they wur thair, hir time come tae hae tha wean. An she haed hir furst babbie, a

sinn. She rowlt him up in bits o claith an put him.

in a manger wi tha fother, acause thair wus nae

Tha Shepherds an tha Angels

ruim for thaim in tha ludgin hoose.

⁸ That nicht a wheen o herdmen wus oot in tha fiels mindin thair sheep. ⁹ Aa o a suddent, an angel o tha Loard come amang thaim, an tha hale kintrie wus lichtit up bi tha glorie o tha Loard, an they wur wile feart. ^{10.} But tha angel sayed, "Dinnae be feart, for A'm bringin yis tha best news ver; an it's for tha hale war!! "Tha Saviour, ay, tha Christ, tha Loard, haes this nicht bin boarn in Bethlehem, tha toon o Davit. ^{12.} An this is hoo ye'll ken him. Ye'll fin a babbie, rowlt in bits o claith, lyin amang tha fother in a manger." 13. An aa o a suddent thair wus a hale thrang o angels, tha airmies o haiven, praisin God an sayin, 14. "Glorie tae God in tha maist heich haiven, an peace on

irth tae aa fowk that plaises him."

15. Whaniver tha angels went bak tae haiven, tha herdmen sayed yin tae anither, "Come on, we'll gang tae Bethlehem an see this wunnerfu thingthat haes happent, that tha Loard haes toul

iz aboot."

16. They hurriet aff an they fun Mary an Joseph.
An thair wus tha babbie lyin in tha manger! 17. Whaniver they saen him, tha shepherds toul whut tha angel haed sayed aboot this wean, an aa that haed happent. ^{18.} An they wur aa thunnerstruck bi whut they heerd frae tha shepherds. 19. Mary didnae say much, but she kep turnin these things ower an ower in hir hairt. 20. Tha shepherds went bak tae hirdin thair sheep in tha fiels, praisin an giein glorie tae God for whut they haed saen an heerd. It haed bin jist tha wye tha angel haed toul

Adapted from the Fower Gospels in Ulster-Scots https://bible.com/bible/885/ luk.2.1-52.USNT

