



## Agency extends warm welcome to cross-border ministerial delegation



Ulster-Scots Agency chief executive Ian Crozier (left) extends a welcome to Dail ministers Dinny McGinley and Jimmy Deenihan along with DCAL Minister Caral Ní Chuilín during a tour of the city last month to showcase cultural traditions and creative arts venues. Full story on page 4

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Walled City Tattoo takes centre stage in City of Culture



Special focus on the works of the Weaver Poets

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Boat Factory sets off on summer tour to the States



## Fair faa ye



Welcome to the May 2013 edition of the Ulster-Scot. As we approach the end of May and the evenings are getting longer, community groups, councils and private organisations are busy making the final preparations for events and festivals that will take place over the coming weeks and months – the National Countryside Festival this weekend at Moira Demesne being just one of many, further details are on **Page 3**.

Also, we are just days away from The Boat Factory by Dan Gordon making its debut on Broadway! Read more about this exciting project on **Page 14**. In this edition we also look at the story of the Weaver Poets and in particular we look at the life and works of Robert Huddleston. We are grateful to Sandra Gilpin, a local historian for contributing an insightful article about this famous Weaver Poet on **Pages 8 and 9**. Thanks also to Dr Frank Ferguson from the University of Ulster for his contribution to this feature. As pipe band season approaches our editor Gary McDonald looks at what we have to look forward to in this coming season and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association's Northern Ireland Branch have provided a summary of the various other projects and events that have taken place since last year's season – all of this aimed at promoting the advancement of pipe band music in the community. More on **Page 6**. As we have recently celebrated World Poetry Day and with our centre page feature on the Weaver Poets, we're running a poetry competition in this edition. We are looking for entries from young poets – more details can be found in our Wean's Wurd section on **Page 16**. I hope you enjoy our May 2013 newspaper!

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency

# Setting the standards for modern Ulster-Scots

**A launch event was held at the Ulster Museum on Wednesday March 27 for two new language guides - a spelling and pronunciation guide and an English/Ulster-Scots glossary.**

These have been published by Ullans Press for the Ulster-Scots Language Society, supported by the Ministerial Advisory Group – Ulster-Scots Academy (part of the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure).

The launch event was well attended, with speakers including Ivan Herbison and Anne Smyth, both of whom served on the original Spelling Standards Committee, and Bill Smith, Chairman of MAGUS.

The spelling and pronunciation guide, edited by Ivan Herbison, Philip Robinson and Anne Smyth, is a record of the methodology and conclusions of the Spelling Standards Committee, which was set up under the Ulster-Scots Academy Implementation Group, a predecessor to MAGUS. This publication demonstrates that agreement on standard spelling for modern Ulster-Scots can be achieved. Delivering an agreed standard spelling system was one of the highest development priorities for the Implementation Group. In the classroom, the introduction of these standards for modern Ulster-Scots remains an urgent need. Educationalists have long insisted that it is an essential prerequisite to the teaching of the language in schools, and it is also a first step in the urgent task of providing standards and quality assurance for translations and modern



From left to right:  
Dr Ivan Herbison,  
Dr Bill Smith and  
Anne Smyth

documentation. The English/Ulster-Scots glossary, compiled and edited by Philip Robinson, acts as an educational tool. It provides a reference for basic core vocabulary, consisting of well in excess of 2,000 words in everyday use. It is also intended as a reference index to the spelling 'rules' agreed by the Spelling Standards Committee, as set out in the spelling and pronunciation guide. The publication of these language guides is intended to open an informed dialogue among practitioners and language activists, with the ultimate aim of enabling them to endorse a spelling system of which all may take ownership.

Copies of both guides are available from the Ulster-Scots Agency's Visitors' Centre on Great Victoria Street. They can also be obtained, in both hard copy and electronic form, by emailing the Ulster-Scots Language Society at [info@ulsterscotslanguage.com](mailto:info@ulsterscotslanguage.com), or ringing them on 028 9043 6716. The process for agreeing new and historical conventions for spelling is a complex one, but the most important aspect is the need to involve native speakers and writers. Without the consent of the users of the language, no consensus on spellings can be achieved. It is an ongoing process and one which will be subject to regular revision.

Comments on the booklets are extremely welcome, and can be sent by email to [maglanguage@dcaini.gov.uk](mailto:maglanguage@dcaini.gov.uk) or in writing to MAGUS, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Causeway Exchange 7th Floor, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7EG.

## The Ulster-Scot

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### Main office:

The Ulster-Scots Agency,  
68-72 Great Victoria Street,  
Belfast, BT2 7BB  
Northern Ireland  
Telephone: 028 9023 1113  
Fax: (028) 9023 1898  
Email: [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)

### International callers dialling the Ulster-Scots Agency:

Europe - 00 44 28 9023 1113  
Australia - 00 11 44 28 9023 1113  
USA - 011 44 28 9023 1113

### Regional office in Raphoe:

The Ulster-Scots Agency,  
William Street, Raphoe,  
Co Donegal  
Telephone: +353 7 4917 3876  
Fax: +353 7 4917 3985  
Email: [freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)

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## WORD OF THE ISSUE

*'Stoor'*

Meaning:  
Dust



# Massey Memorial Lecture 2013 examines the 'world view' of **Ulster-Scots**



At the Massey Memorial Lecture are (from left) Cllr Edwin Stevenson, Lord Laird, Hon. Consulate of New Zealand Margaret Lee, Ulster-Scots Community Network Iain Carlisle and Hon. Secretary William F. Massey Foundation Aaron Callan

**On Saturday April 13 the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre was the venue for the first annual William Ferguson Massey Memorial lecture. Lord Laird of Artigarvan had the honour of being the William F. Massey Foundations' invited guest speaker for the occasion.**

Lord Laird chose to speak on the topic 'Ulster Scots: A World View'. Following his talk there was enthusiastic audience participation in a somewhat lively question and answer session. A wine and cheese reception brought the event to a close. In celebrating Massey's homeland and his adopted homeland, the wine was from New Zealand and the cheese from Northern Ireland. This was much enjoyed by all present.

To compliment the evening the Ulster Scots Community Network launched their new booklet publication, entitled *Ulster & New Zealand, Migration, Interaction & Legacy*. (See Page 13). The William F. Massey Foundation would like to thank their event sponsors, The Ulster-Scots Agency, in particular Maynard Hanna for his efforts on the Foundation's behalf. Also much appreciation to the Ulster-New Zealand Trust, Honorary Consulate, Margaret Lee, Iain Carlisle of the Ulster Scots Community Network and all the staff at the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre. Finally thanks to everyone who attended to make the event the success it was and we most certainly look forward to welcoming everyone back for our 2014 lecture.

## Three great events at one giant festival



Visitors at last year's Northern Ireland Countryside Festival enjoyed glorious sunshine

**The Ulster-Scots Agency will be showcasing Ulster-Scots cultural traditions at the Northern Ireland Countryside Festival at Moira Demesne on May 25 and 26.**

The two-day event which is made up of the National Countrysports Fair, Finn McCool Strongman Festival and (new for 2013) Back to Our Roots Festival has something to offer people of all ages.

The Agency's information stand will be located in the Ulster-Scots marquee where staff will be on hand to answer queries from festival goers and to distribute a selection of literature about Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and language.

A full programme of Ulster-Scots entertainment has also been arranged for the two days, this will include Ulster-Scots music, piping, dancing and a cookery demonstration of traditional soda and potato bread.

Visit the Agency's information stand for further details about the planned programme of Ulster-Scots activity for the weekend.

On Saturday May 25 Ulster-Scots traditional group Risin' Stour will perform inside the Agency's marquee, while outside on the festival show stage, another traditional group Rightly On will perform and Cleland Memorial

Pipe Band will play in the festival arena.

A series of displays of highland dance will also be provided within the marquee by Highland dancer, Emma Copeland.

On Sunday May 26 Risin' Stour and Rightly On will alternate performances in the marquee and on the festival show stage, while Cleland Memorial will be back in the festival arena to perform for a second time. Emma Copeland will also back in the Ulster-Scots Agency marquee for her dance display.

On both Saturday and Sunday, an Ulster-Scots cookery demonstration will take place within the marquee - freshly made potato and soda bread will be available for visitors to sample during both days of the festival.

The cookery demonstration has proven to be a popular part of the Ulster-Scots showcase in Moira over the years, so visitors are encouraged to come along and experience it for themselves!

The Northern Ireland Countryside Festival runs from 10.00am – 6.00pm on both Saturday 25th May and Sunday 26th May. Entry is £12 for adults with children admitted free (when accompanied by an adult). Parking is also free of charge. [www.nicountryside.com](http://www.nicountryside.com)

## Northern Ireland



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**25th & 26th May 2013**



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Adults £12 - Children FREE [info@nicountryside.com](mailto:info@nicountryside.com)



# Cream of the crop compete in prestigious dance event

**The annual European and Ulster Highland Dancing Championships visited Londonderry for the first time in April, where up to 400 dancers gathered in the city as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations.**

The choice of Ulster, and specifically Londonderry, as host for this year's prestigious European Highland Dancing Championships turned out to be relatively easy.

Tempting offers had been received from Belgium and England, but Ulster had that little edge. Yes, the event had been to Belgium previously, sharing the excitement of the young people visiting a foreign country to compete, complete with wall to wall sunshine, in the shadow of a medieval castle. Blackpool, too, offers many features that were found attractive particularly for the youngsters who travel to compete and combine work with a short holiday. So Londonderry was the decision (the only Northern Ireland representative, James Kee, was rather persuasive in ensuring it was the venue!).

What was so appealing for the large number of Scots who made the journey by ferry and by plane? Well, here was the excitement in travelling, but in groups of friends rather than by car, setting off in the morning and returning home in the evening. But importantly was the feeling that they were among kindred spirits; they share to a large extent a common ancestry; witness the many Scottish family names amongst the Irish competitors. We're a' the same fowk! We share common interests in Scottish music, dance and even share a few words o' the mither tongue. The festival is billed as the Ulster and European Highland Dancing Championships, but the 300 to 400

competitors enjoyed the wide range of ancillary and graded events.

The Friday events were dominated by the competitions for less experienced dancers from four years and over. There were four dances in primary grades, with beginner, and novice and intermediate grades offering additional dances in a comprehensive regime, designed to assist young people progress.

The most sought-after events on Friday were undoubtedly the pre-Championships, restricted to those who aren't champions. This was a top class competition, well supported by parents and friends alike. Friday evening included a mini-disco and ceilidh and concluded with a fabulous performance from Sontas. Saturday was the big event, and commenced with the Ulster Championships. This is a confined championships restricted to those resident in Ulster, and incorporates three age groupings. Competition was very keen, and attracted the top dancers from around the province.

- 12 years Champion: Sarah McCreary, Moneyreagh
- 15 years Champion: Jasmine Ng, Antrim
- Adult Champion: Michelle Johnston, Belfast

The festival also provides additional dances for the experienced competitor, and following the Ulster Championships, the audience enjoyed a treat as contestants showed off their skills in lesser-known and Hebridean dances such as Wilt thou go to the Barracks, Johnnie?, and Flora McDonald's Fancy. The top event of the festival followed: the 2013 European Championships. And as was expected, the championships attracted the cream of competitors from all parts of Scotland, and Canada and the USA, including

two current world champions, and more than a few UK and Commonwealth champions. Their strength was to dominate the prize list:

- 9 years European Champion: Christy Graham, Dundee
- 10 years European Champion: Connor Woodcock, Forfar
- 11 years European Champion: Ellie Dalrymple, Tranent
- 12 years European Champion: Cerys Jones, Dunfermline
- 13 years European Champion: Holly Donaldson, Kirriemuir
- 14 years European Champion: Charlotte McFie, Alexandria
- 15 years European Champion: Abbie Macneil, Glasgow
- 17 years European Champion: Natalie Moir, Elgin
- Adult European Champion: Laura Smith, Cairnie

Even the champions were entitled to their winding down session, and Saturday evening's ceilidh to the Cutting Edge Band from Dundee with non-stop Scottish social dancing brought the festival to an end. Like all major events, and where a great effort has been put in to ensure its success, there is little doubt that the European Championships will leave behind a legacy for the highland dancers in Northern Ireland. They have trained for and taken part in a large competition, they have shared in the excitement of winning medals and trophies, and have danced alongside established champions. Highland dancing in Ulster continues to flourish and standards of competitors and teaching continues to rise. Major events such as this cannot take place without the help of many people, and the organisers would wish to express gratitude to the Ulster-Scots Agency for continued support.

## Sophie follows steps to success

A vast array of both local and international talent was on show at the Everglades Hotel in April as dancers competed for prestigious titles. And it was local girl Sophie Killen who caught attention as the only dancer to keep a European trophy here in Northern Ireland. Sophie, member of Sollus Highland Dancers, clinched sixth place in the 10-year-olds European Championships. The Bready dancer is delighted to be in among the best

dancers in the world and says it was a big surprise to get a European trophy. Under the direction of tutor Georgina Kee, Sophie has progressed through competitive grades. Georgina said: "We have a potential future champion dancer in Sophie, and it is rare to get such commitment from someone so young." Sophie will play an integral part in the troupe of dancers to perform at the Walled City Tattoo in August.



Trophy winner Sophie Killen with competition judge Anne Stirtion

# Ministers visit Ulster-Scot headquarters as part of city tour

**The Agency's Belfast headquarters played host to two senior government ministers from the Irish Republic last month - along with the Stormont Culture Minister.**

The Dail's Department for Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht's Minister Jimmy Deenihan and Minister Dinny McGinley (who earlier this year opened the Agency's new-look Raphoe office) were in the city at the invitation of DCAL Minister Carol Ní Chuilín. Their one-day tour of the city was aimed at showcasing cultural traditions and creative arts venues, and as well as the Ulster-Scots Agency, they visited the Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC), the Cultúrlann and the Gaeltacht Quarter.

Ministers Ní Chuilín, Deenihan and McGinley were welcomed to the Ulster-Scots Agency's information and visitor centre by chief executive Ian Crozier and board members Hilary Singleton, Val O'Kelly and Sharon Treacy Dunne.

After they viewed a Titanic exhibit produced by a local group, the ministers were treated to light refreshments before Mr Crozier gave a short presentation to the group entitled 'Virtual Ulster-Scots Tour of Belfast'.

This provided an opportunity for the ministers to hear more about the strong Ulster-Scots heritage in the city of Belfast.

"We were delighted to have hosted such a senior ministerial delegation and trust they were enlightened as to the work of the Agency," Mr Crozier said.



DCAL Minister Carol Ní Chuilín with Ministers for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Dinny McGinley and Jimmy Deenihan with Agency Board members Val O'Kelly, Sharon Treacy Dunne and Hilary Singleton and Chief Executive, Ian Crozier



# Walled City Tattoo will take centre stage in City of Culture

**Northern Ireland's first full-scale tattoo planned for late summer has become the fastest-selling event of the Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture calendar so far.**

Nearly 15,000 spectators are expected at the inaugural Walled City Tattoo over three nights on Ebrington Square from August 28-30, headlined by an array of international and local talent.

And even though the event was only launched last month, it is understood more than 5,000 of the £18.50 tickets have already been snapped up.

"Northern Ireland is ready for this, and we guarantee our audiences an incredible musical and artistic experience, with a fusion of cultures from around the world," event director James Kee of production company Sollus Cultural Promotions said. "Our Walled City Tattoo will combine the pomp, ceremony and grandeur of traditional Tattoo events with a special Derry~Londonderry twist and will see music, song, theatre and dance come together in an evening inspired by the rich heritage of the city, all culminating in a hair-raising finale." There will be a 500-strong cast of performers from Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Tanzania, Northern Ireland and Britain.

Headlining the August extravaganza is the world's leading drums corps, Top Secret from Switzerland, who will perform their phenomenal routine in their only performance of 2013 in the UK or Ireland.

The Crossed-Swords Pipe Band (under pipe major David Johnston), Afrikan Warriors, Sontas, various mass brass and melody flute bands, drum majors (including local champions Paula Braiden and Stephen Gilchrist) and Highland and Irish dancers will also be included on the packed programme. And the ever-popular age-old tradition of the massed pipes and drums will be part of the show's finale, comprising more than 100 pipers and drummers from Tyrone, Donegal, Fermanagh and Derry, as well as from Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Germany. Among the pipe bands already committed to taking part are Londonderry-based Tullintrain and Colmcille, along with Tullylagan from Cookstown.

James Kee added: "We know our 14,000 strong audience won't be disappointed because we've assembled an unforgettable cast of musicians, dancers and actors in a production that will be unlike anything



Tourism Minister Arlene Foster with performers at the launch of the Walled City Tattoo

ever seen in Northern Ireland. "The Royal Edinburgh is probably the world's most famous Tattoo and has become an international phenomenon watched by a 215,000 live audience and 100 million people on TV. "We know many local people travel to Edinburgh each year for that Tattoo, and we invite them to add the Walled City Tattoo to their must-see list of annual events." Culture Company 2013 chief executive Shona McCarthy said: "From the moment we announced our UK City of Culture programme back in October, the Walled City Tattoo was one of the events which immediately piqued the public interest.

"The line-up of acts will produce a world-class display representing a vivid reflection of our rich history. Ebrington will be awash with colour and alive with music and dance during the three days of the Walled City Tattoo which promises to round

off our Derry~Londonderry summer in serious style."

Tourism Minister Arlene Foster said: "People in Northern Ireland, whether locals or visitors, are already spoilt for choice when it comes to things to see and do.

"But the Walled City Tattoo is a welcome addition to our superb line-up of events for 2013 and Londonderry's reign as UK City of Culture. We are continuing to show the world that we have so much to offer tourists and by staging the Walled City Tattoo we are further bolstering our growing reputation as a great to visit."

The Walled City Tattoo takes place at 8.45pm on each evening (Wednesday August 28 to Friday August 30). Tickets from £18.50. For more information visit [www.walledcitytattoo.com](http://www.walledcitytattoo.com) or to book visit [www.millenniumforum.co.uk](http://www.millenniumforum.co.uk) or call 028 7126 4455

**"We are continuing to show the world that we have so much to offer tourists and by staging the Walled City Tattoo we are further bolstering our growing reputation as a great to visit."**

Tourism Minister Arlene Foster



Sontas perform at the launch of the Tattoo

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# RSPBANI: keeping standards high

It has been an extremely busy period for the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI) after the end of last year's competition season.

The high standards were maintained in 2012 with member bands and drum majors winning World, British, European, Scottish and Cowal titles. Various other projects and events have taken place some on-going in order to further and promote the advancement of pipe band music in the community.

## School's In

The RSPBANI Branch School, which was formed in 1980, achieved record enrolment numbers during the 2012/12 terms with 241 students having registered for tuition in piping, snare drumming, bass, tenor drumming and drum majoring.

The school was re-organised in 2010 and operates in five centres - Ballymena, Enniskillen, Derry/Londonderry, Banbridge and Cookstown.

Classes are held once weekly and are divided into two terms, October-December and January to March. Graded exams are offered at the end of each term and successful candidates will receive internationally recognised qualifications from the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board, a standard also issued by the RSPBA, the College of Piping, the National Piping Centre, the Army School of Piping and the Piobaireachd Society. In conjunction with the Ulster-Scots Agency a pilot summer camp for young piper and drummers was held in Bushmills in August. This residential not only offered piping and drumming tuition but also adventure activities such as kayaking, hill climbing and archery. The summer camp was such a great success with the young people that it has been planned again for August this year. Another new pilot project has been



The Field Marshal Montgomery pipe band from Lisburn are the reigning RSPBA world champions

undertaken again in conjunction with The Ulster-Scots Agency, the aim of which is to promote the art of piping and drumming within mainstream education in Belfast and Omagh Secondary and High Schools.

## School's Out - On Tour

On Sunday March 3 members of the RSPBANI Branch School appeared at Waterfront Hall with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland on the final leg of a national tour entitled 'Peace Proms'.

The tour involved concerts in Limerick, Galway, Cork, Kilkenny and Belfast with two concerts taking place each day which provided the Branch School the opportunity to showcase their talents and adaptability to perform with a full orchestra and introduce bagpipe music to a wider audience.

Peace Proms is a musical and cultural celebration and provides a unique platform for young people to showcase their talent while promoting peace, unity and tolerance through music. The aim of the choral programme is to entertain, educate and engage children and young people in music and to enrich their lives

through exceptional musical experiences and performances and by providing a stimulating music programme that nurtures and advances their musical, social and cultural development. Peace Proms is a unique and ambitious musical education programme in which 7,000 children from 250 schools throughout Ireland participate annually.

Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland founder Sharon Treacy-Dunne said: "It's been such a pleasure working with the RSPBANI Branch School over the past five weeks. The members were extremely professional in their approach to the performances and were wonderful throughout the entire tour but the Waterfront Hall was definitely the highlight, they were all magnificent to say the least. The quality of the playing and their presentation was exceptional. What a splendid showcase of Ulster-Scots culture and what wonderful ambassadors for the Ulster-Scots tradition the RSPBANI Branch School are."

RSPBANI chairman Ray Hall said: "The partnership between the Branch School and the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland is a wonderful opportunity for our school students

to demonstrate their skills and combine with another musical genre. The partnership is expected to continue and flourish later on in the year presenting further opportunities for further school students to participate."

## RSPBANI Go Global On Air

The RSPBANI Branch and School presented the *Up to the Line* live online radio programme over six weeks in the run up to and after Christmas, presented by press officer Gail Graham with assistance from branch secretary David Scott.

An audience from right across the UK and as far afield as USA and Saudi Arabia tuned in. Some amazing musicians and personalities were interviewed including pipe major Chris Armstrong from Scottish Power, Tyler Fry, tenor drummer with Shotts & Dykehead, not to mention local pipe majors of world champion bands and also senior drum major world champion Paula Braiden. Further broadcasts of the show will take place in the near future.

## Transatlantic Piper Development Programme

The Transatlantic Piper Development Programme is a new RSPBANI initiative, which is aimed at inviting young pipers from across the world to come and play with pipe bands in Northern Ireland.

The first young piper to take part in this ground breaking scheme is 16-year-old Jack Williamson of Topeka in Kansas, who will play with the newly-reformed grade two Bleary & District Pipe Band at several competitions, including the British, Scottish and World Championships.

Jack will also have the opportunity to spend two weeks competing in juvenile solo contests in Scotland. He already is an accomplished juvenile piper in the US, and last November won the MSR event, taking third place overall at the Balmoral Classic US Junior Solo Piping Championship in Pittsburgh.

He hasn't let his success get in the way of knowing he still has a lot to learn, and he has every intention of making the most of his 14 weeks in Northern Ireland.

"I hope that the standard of play will be higher and I think it will be," Jack said. "This will be a great chance to hear the instrument and the music played by people from the culture that created it."

Jack is being hosted by different Bleary & District pipe band members and their families, and in between piping contests, he'll be immersed in the culture and history of Northern Ireland. RSPBANI would like to acknowledge and thank the financial support received from the Ulster-Scots Agency for our education programmes, Summer Camp and Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland projects.

## Piping Up on the Hill



Promoting pipe band music at Stormont

The worldwide success of RSPBANI branch member bands was recognised at Parliament Buildings, Stormont with cross party support on January 22. The event was hosted by Robin Swann MLA, with a large audience of MLAs and representatives from the Ulster-Scots Agency, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and other statutory and voluntary organisations. It was a tremendous opportunity for the RSPBANI branch to showcase how they promoted and advanced pipe band music in Northern Ireland and further afield.



# Blue plaque unveiled for James Viscount Bryce

On Friday 10 May the Ulster History Circle and the Ulster-Scots Agency unveiled a blue plaque for James Viscount Bryce OM at 13 Chichester Street, Belfast. Ulster-Scots Agency CEO, Ian Crozier officially unveiled the blue plaque with Ulster History Circle Chairman, Chris Spurr with guests including Sir Peter Froggatt, Dr. Muriel Hill, Professor William Hutchinson and representatives of the Ulster-Scots Agency and Ulster-Scots Community Network.

Following the unveiling of the blue plaque, the Ulster-Scots Agency hosted a reception at the Ulster-Scots Visitor and Information Centre on Great Victoria Street where local historian Gordon Lucy delivered a short lecture on the life of James Viscount Bryce. James Bryce was born in 40 Arthur Street, Belfast on 10th May 1838, the eldest son of James Bryce (1806-1877), who was teacher of mathematics at Belfast Academy. The Bryce family had been bonnet lairds (landowning farmers) in Dechmont, near Coatbridge in Lanarkshire but they lost most of their land as a result of supporting the Covenanted cause. Bryce's grandfather, James Bryce the elder (1767-1857) was a Presbyterian minister who came over from Scotland to Killaig, outside Coleraine, in 1805. His son James married Margaret Young, daughter of the Belfast merchant James Young of Abbeyville. As Ulster-Scots the Bryce's were part of that Presbyterian enlightenment which had its issue in the United Irishmen and in the political ideas of William Drennan and Henry Joy McCracken: a political community which was virtually indivisible from the covenanting radicalism of South West Scotland.

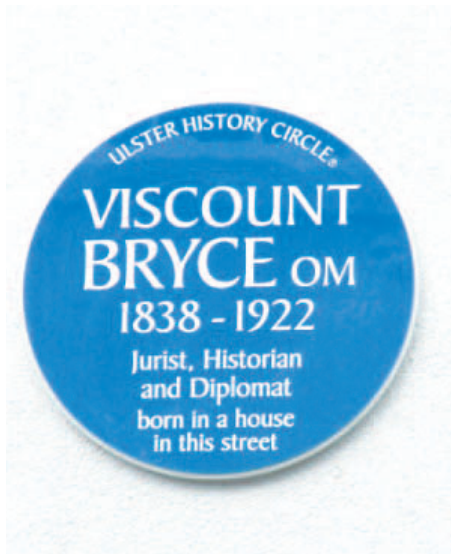


Ulster-Scots Agency CEO, Ian Crozier and Ulster History Circle Chairman, Chris Spurr with guests including Sir Peter Froggatt, Dr. Muriel Hill and Prof. William Hutchinson at the unveiling of the blue plaque for James Viscount Bryce



This is the first of a series of plaques funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency to be unveiled. The Ulster History Circle blue plaques commemorate men and women, born in or associated with the province of Ulster, who have made a significant contribution to its history and development. To date the Circle has put up more than 150 plaques in every

county in Northern Ireland, in most of its cities, and in many towns and villages. Chris Spurr said, "James Bryce excelled in so many ways throughout a busy life devoted to public service. Although he lived in a very different age to our own, his achievements remain exemplary in these present times. This is the first of a series of plaques funded by the



Ulster-Scots Agency, and the Circle would especially like to thank the Agency for their support, and for their continuing partnership. Between us, we are all delighted to celebrate Viscount Bryce exactly 175 years since his birth in Belfast with this permanent recognition of his life and achievements." James Viscount Bryce's full biography is available to view on the Agency's website – see [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/what-is-ulster-scots/famous-ulster-scots/person/22/james-viscount-bryce-1806-1877](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/what-is-ulster-scots/famous-ulster-scots/person/22/james-viscount-bryce-1806-1877).

For further information about blue plaques and the Ulster History Circle, contact Chris Spurr on 07968 256 011 or email [chris.spurr1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris.spurr1@hotmail.co.uk). Further information is also available at [www.ulsterhistory.co.uk](http://www.ulsterhistory.co.uk).

## From Ballyboley to Lorient

**With an incredible, yet understandable, degree of excitement, the pipers and drummers of Ballyboley Pipe Band are busy making preparations to travel to Brittany in August to take part in the 'Festival Interceltique de Lorient' in north west France.**

A party of 25 pipers and drummers leave the hall on August 1 for an all-expenses paid trip to represent Ireland in France, returning on August 14. They will take part in various concerts and parades during the festival, when around 700,000 people from all over the world invade the Celtic land of Lorient. From Galicia to Scotland, the cream of Celtic music can be found here, enjoyed in a really convivial atmosphere, and the festival featured 5,000 performers taking part in around 200 events and shows,



including the mesmerising inter-Celtic night at the Moustoir stadium. Founded in 1919 in the Old Schoolhouse in the town land of Ballyboley, between Ballyclare and Lame, and still meeting there some 94 years later, the band has been able to prosper thanks to the sheer determination of its members, assisted by the moral and financial support of a countless number of people from

the locality. Ballyboley pipe band has always retained its links to the community, with local families providing the majority of the band's official personnel and playing membership. The band is a well-groomed and disciplined outfit, determined to grow in number and is fully committed to providing a rich musical legacy for future generations. In addition to its

Ballyboley pipe band are off to Brittany in August to take part in the 'Festival Interceltique de Lorient' in north west France

competition workload, the band finds time to take part in local community events such as church functions, charity concerts, festivals and parades. A historical landmark will be reached in 2019 - the band's centenary - and, in preparation for this, an aggressive recruitment campaign to search for and teach young talent in the area has begun. Aided by a generous tuition grant from the Ulster-Scots Agency, many new learner members have been recruited with classes in both piping and drumming taking place on a weekly basis. The band is now moving into a new phase in its history and has already managed to capture some imagination with its emphasis on youth and cross community integration. The invitation to the band to take part in the 'Festival Interceltique de Lorient' is considered a direct result of this. For further details and information, see the Ballyboley pipe band Facebook page.



# Sandra Gilpin goes in search of the poet Robert Huddleston

**I was a small child when my father told me the story of the Poet Huddleston's wedding in our church at Moneyrea.**

The bride was waiting at the church but the groom had not turned up, so someone went looking for him. The Poet, as he was known locally, was found working at drains in the field. When they told him it was high time he was at the church he (replying that he "didnae ken it were that far oan"), untied the sacking lapped round his trouser legs, left them to one side, wiped his hands to clean them and made his way directly to the church.

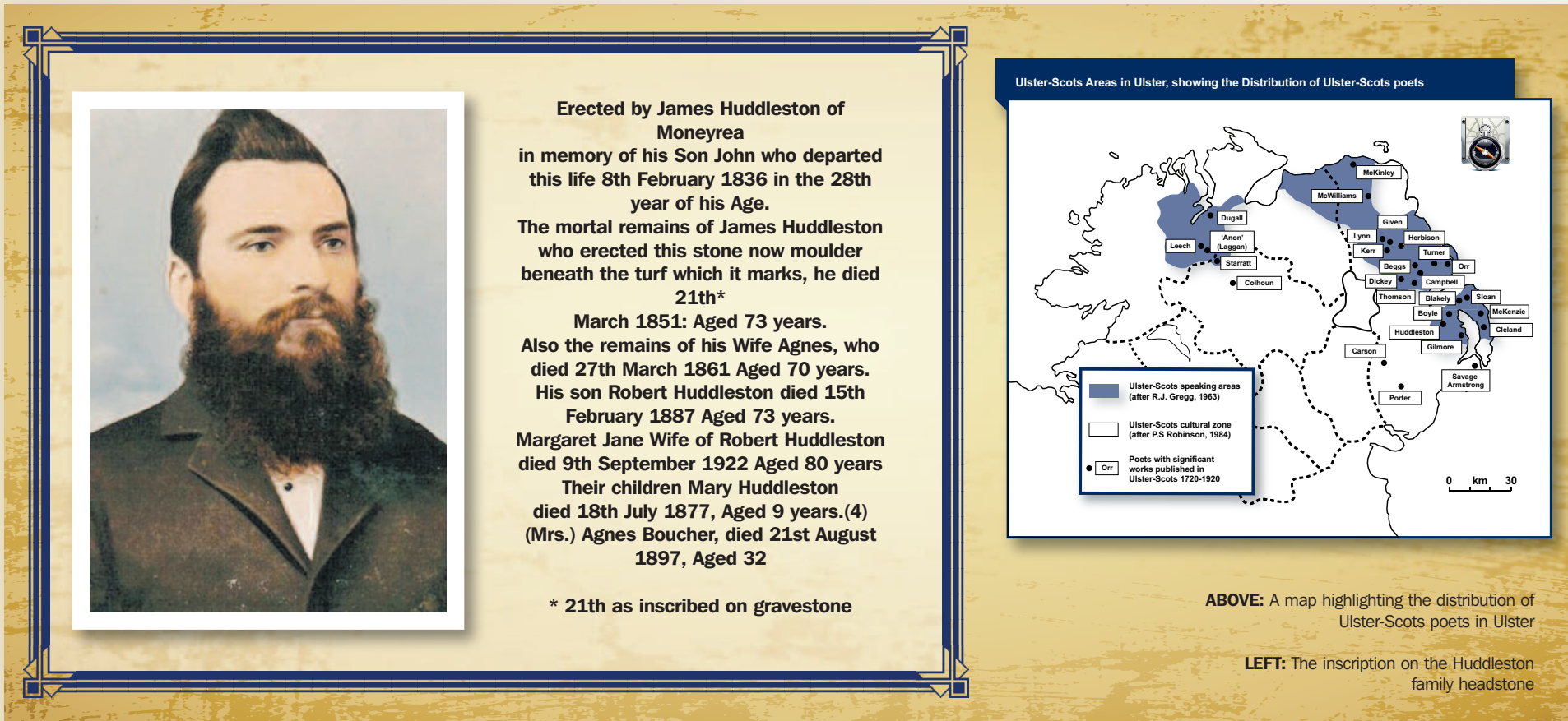
After the ceremony, he turned to his new wife telling her to go on up to the house as he had a "bit 'o th' drain tae finish aff" and that he would be up later for a "bite tae ate"!

Naturally this tale was followed up by a number of questions on my part. When did this all happen? What were the names of the Poet and his bride? Where did they live? What did the Poet write about?

Solid facts were scarce. The tale at that time was a hundred years old and had been told to my father (Moore F. Johnston) by his grandfather (Moore Fisher, who lived between 1860 and 1951).

My father was unsure of the Poet's name, his dates or the location of his farm but knew that he had published a book of his poetry. The only fragment he believed might be attributed to the Poet was a rhyme which stated that Moneyrea had 'A Preachin' House, A Teachin' House, wi' the Aitin' House between". This described Moneyrea in the 19th century when Magill's public house was located, between the church and the National School, on the site of the present manse's front garden. By the early 1960s the generation who had known Huddleston personally had almost passed away, only octogenarians who had been children when he died remained; a child myself I never spoke to these people about 'The Poet. Their children still knew about the Poet Huddleston, the details of his life amongst us in Moneyrea fading as the years passed.

But I gathered that he was a man of deeply held convictions who could lampoon those he did not agree with. It was generally believed that his papers had been destroyed after his death and, as copies of his published work were rare, no-one really knew much about his poetry. For me he was a shadow glimpsed only obliquely in reflected images in glass, glass in windows on the 19th century left ajar by people like my great - grandfather, a man who died



before I was even born.

It was not until the 1980s that I saw a copy of the Poet's poems and then only briefly. This book belonged to William James Brown, a relation of Huddleston. As a family we looked at the book with interest and noted that it was produced in the 1840s with the aid of subscriptions. Some of the poetry proved to be more difficult than we had expected; we were not familiar to seeing our speech in print and in addition standardised English had made great inroads in Moneyrea in the intervening 140 years! It was at that time too that I saw a picture of the Poet, a bearded individual with quiff gazing over my right shoulder in the detached, distant way determined by the technical requirements of 19th century photography.

Nearly two decades passed until came the day I happened to pick up a copy of *Ulster-Scots - A grammar of the traditional written and spoken language* by Dr Philip Robinson. I noticed that this study cited the works of a variety of local poets, a strong sense of chauvinism prompted me to look for Huddleston: sure enough he was there. I duly reported back to the folk in Moneyrea "The auld Poet's an authority now!" In March 1999 I finally got around to seeking the permission of the committee of Moneyreagh Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church to have a copy of Huddleston's photograph made. This hand-tinted photo had been presented to the congregation by William James Brown before his death in 1994. Permission was granted and, memories jolted, we at last got a Christian name for the Poet (Robert) and found that he had lived in Moneyrea, half a mile south of the church, on a 15-acre farm

on the Tullyhubbert Road.

A couple of phone calls later and I was speaking to the author of the Ulster-Scots grammar at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. As I suspected, Dr Robinson did not know that a photograph of the Poet Huddleston existed; however I did not expect to find that he was acquainted with the unpublished writings of the Poet which had at some point been deposited in the Folk and Transport Museum. Unbelievably, the papers which 'the country' had believed lost had survived, indeed they had been for some time the object of academic study. I related the story of the Poet's wedding and, realising that I had no facts to back it up, promised to find out what I could from the church records.

Moneyrea is located seven miles south of Belfast. It is in the Parish of Comber and in the 19th century at the edge of Lord Dungannon's Hill Trevor Estate. Since 1719 there has been a Presbyterian congregation in the area, the village has grown up round the church and in the 19th century the majority of he inhabitants were members of it.

Up until the middle of the 20th century it could scarcely be called a village as it consisted of only a handful of houses boasting, in addition to the church, a school, a Masonic hall, an Orange hall, a blacksmith's shop, a small shop, a post office and a public house.

One small group of houses was known as 'The Onset', but Moneyrea itself is a townland which extends beyond the area covered by housing.

Before embarking on a search of the records

held by Moneyreagh congregation I spoke to Mr James Blair, who now lives in County Antrim. As a child Mr Blair lived on the farm adjoining the home of the Poet's widow. Mr Blair told me that the Poet was a farmer and also made and fitted the wooden stocks of guns. The business was carried on in the upper room of the adjoining outhouse. Mr Blair knew of only one child of Robert Huddleston, a son who was known as 'The young Poet'. This was probably a nickname as there is no evidence that he ever wrote poetry. He lived an unsettled life, emigrated to America and died young as a result of a shooting incident following a dispute. Mr Blair said that at the turn of the century Mrs Huddleston brought up a young girl called Bessie Boucher, whose mother had died when she was very young, but he was unsure of their relationship. Bessie married a Moneyrea man named Dickson (in London) and emigrated to Australia after the First World War. Bessie maintained contact with her friends in Moneyrea and her son John has visited the area.

Armed with only the knowledge that Mrs Huddleston had died in the 1920s, we contacted Mr Hugh Casey, a former church secretary whose knowledge of the church records is second to none, and he advised us throughout the search. There are no records of individual burials available prior to 1920 but a record of burials book compiled by Mr Andy Lappin (sexton) notes a burial Section B, Row 2 plot 20 in 1922 of Margaret Huddleston aged 80 years.

In the three graveyard registration books we found section B, Row 2 plot 20 (three

graves) registered in the name of James Huddleston, Moneyrea, the above grave plot was transferred by the church committee in 1924 to Mrs Bell, 113 Bellevue Street, Belfast.

In the same hand the words 'Poet Huddleston' were written, probably by the church secretary at that time who was Samuel McKenna Turkington, a neighbour of the Poet's widow and an executor of her will.

In the 1948 graveyard registration book plot 20 was registered in the name of Mrs Boyd, "Adjlon", Calledonia Road, Ayrshire. In the marriage register we discovered that Robert Huddleston of Moneyrea (father James Huddleston, farmer) and Margaret Jane Ellison of Moneyrea (father James Ellison, farmer) were married by Rev John Jellie on February 28 1862. A quick calculation suggested Margaret-Jane was almost 20 that day while Robert was nearly 50.

The only child of Robert and Margaret found in the baptismal register was Nancy (the diminutive form of Agnes), born March 1 1865 and baptised on April 6 by Rev David Thompson. There was no record of either the son who died in America or Mary (according to Robert Huddleston in an unpublished poem she was born on March 11 1868).

Names and dates in the stipend book were consistent with the information we had this point, ie that a Mrs Robert Huddleston died in the early 1920s and that her husband died in 1887. However we had to wait another week to confirm that we were looking at the correct records, only then could we examine the Huddleston family headstone.

Moneyrea graveyard is very well maintained and the records are good. When we went to

Section B Row 2 we discovered that the headstone had fallen, the base only was visible. The church committee gave permission for this headstone to be uncovered and turned, although the stone had broken the inscription on the headstone and plinth was easily read:

**Erected by James Huddleston of Moneyrea**

in memory of his Son John who departed this life 8th February 1836 in the 28th year of his Age.

The mortal remains of James Huddleston who erected this stone now moulder beneath the turf which it marks, he died 21th\* March 1851: Aged 73 years.

Also the remains of his Wife Agnes, who died 27th March 1861 Aged 70 years.

His son Robert Huddleston died 15th February 1887 Aged 73 years. Margaret Jane Wife of Robert Huddleston died 9th September 1922 Aged 80 years Their children Mary Huddleston died 18th July 1877, Aged 9 years.(4) (Mrs.) Agnes Boucher, died 21st August 1897, Aged 32

\* 21th as inscribed on gravestone

There followed a visit to the Public Records Office in Belfast, where my father and I spent two afternoons looking at wills and census returns.

The will of Robert Huddleston of Moneyrea is held on microfilm, it was proved by John Boucher of Monlough on March 11 1887. It confirms that at the time of writing (February 13 1885) Robert Huddleston's wife, a daughter and son, were still living, but only Nancy is named. It is a standard farmer's will concerning itself with the tenancy and does not yield a great deal of additional information.

The will of his wife Margaret-Jane was much more interesting. It provided evidence of the identity of Mrs Mary Bell, daughter of John Boucher (and therefore daughter of Agnes or Nancy) as a granddaughter of Robert Huddleston. It is stated that Mrs David Dickson was also a granddaughter and daughter of John Boucher. This is Bessie Boucher mentioned by Mr Blair, whose mother Nancy died while she was an infant. Two other grandchildren are named, Joseph and Margaret-Jane Huddleston; children of James, son of Margaret-Jane (and the Poet Robert Huddleston).

At the time of her death Margaret Jane had four "other more remote lawful issues", which confirms that her children had pre-deceased her. In addition to providing details of family relationships of beneficiaries the will contains instructions concerning the papers of Robert Huddleston. These were entrusted to Samuel McKenna Turkington along with the cabinet in which Robert Huddleston stored them. These are the papers which are now held by the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

Amongst the folk of Moneyrea I spoke to there was a great curiosity about the Poet's works. He was remembered as being a powerful man, and people were naturally anxious to hear his own voice.

## The Rhyming Weavers

**By Dr Frank Ferguson, Ulster Poetry Project, University of Ulster.**

The poet and critic John Hewitt created the phrase 'Rhyming Weaver' to distinguish one of the most creative literary movements in the history of Ulster-Scots writing. As the term suggests these poets were mostly associated with the linen industry in Ulster and they tended to live in the counties of Antrim and Down. Over a period of time from the late 18th to the late 19th century they produced hundreds of poems that captured their thoughts, desires and hopes.

Hewitt was fascinated by the rich use of Scots language in their verses, which their best writers used naturally and unselfconsciously. While he felt other Ulster writers at the time attempted to imitate literary fashions elsewhere in Britain and Ireland, the weavers had a strong sense of local authenticity in their work. They were ordinary people writing extraordinary poetry. Steeped in the Scottish literary traditions of Allan Ramsay, Robert Fergusson and Robert Burns, they were not mere mimics of this tradition, but part of the same cultural background to their Scottish ancestors. Furthermore, they were Ulster-based poets writing about Irish themes and issues, confident of their place in the universe.

At their best, the weaver poets such as Samuel Thomson, James Orr and Hugh Porter, stand shoulder to shoulder with any Irish or Scottish poet of their generation.

What is most exciting is the enduring vitality of their verse today. Like any good poetry that is aware of everyday life, their work still expresses the energy of human nature keenly observed in all its joys and sorrows. These writers lived through revolutions and global change, and yet, their work reflects the ability to notice the details of nature and the human heart in the middle of turmoil and difficulty. In the coming months we hope to tell you more of this great tradition.

The surviving papers in the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum (copies of letters, poems and even a novel along with some work by "John Huddleston, Gunmaker - Ballynahinch" - possibly Robert's older brother) cannot be digested in a few afternoons.

So what have I found so far? Robert Huddleston both reflects and illuminates his community: he is radical in both religion and politics - as most of his neighbours were - but through his writing he is the only one who has allowed us to hear that voice. He gives tantalising hints of the debates which fired their social gatherings and records the minutiae of a way of life that proves to be less inward looking, isolated and conservative than we might tend to assume.

Although Huddleston may not have had many opportunities to travel, he peppers his works with exotic references to places such as the Andes and the Pitcairn's Isle besides corresponding with friends who have emigrated to America. His reading of the newspapers such as the Northern Whig gave him a good knowledge of current affairs (he used newspaper to bind some of his poems and even an obituary clipped from the Northern Whig has been

preserved). Leaving aside all judgments as to the literary merits of his work, Huddleston is, from the point of view of the local historian, an invaluable resource. He comments on political, religious and social events as his century unfolds; name practically any subject and he has an opinion on it - hare coursing, capital punishment, exploitation of tenants, clergy who put the letter of the law before the spirit, hypocrisy and narrow-mindedness in all its forms. Taken as a whole the papers become a sort of poetical diary charting the development of the young man - full of high hopes and literary ambition to the older, wiser man. The recognition which so persistently eluded him during his lifetime was finally given when Robert Huddleston was given an entry in the New Dictionary of National Biography in 2002.

Through the papers so carefully deposited over the years in the Poet's cabinet we no longer stand under the old alder tree waiting to catch a reflection in the window panes. By turning the pages we can tiptoe inside the little lamp-lit study in Moneyrea to peep over the shoulder of the Bard whose Muse went "weaving free": the shadow has been given substance.



# Remembering our Ulster-Scot scribes as part of *National Poetry Day* 2013

**In November 1999 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) designated World Poetry Day to be held on March 21 each year.**

To mark the 2013 event, the Ulster-Scots Agency encouraged those community groups and primary schools situated close to places of association with the Ulster Weaver poets to visit such locations and read a poem of their choice at each chosen site. Many took up the challenge. Photographs and readings took place at locations such as the poets places of birth, schools with an association to a particular poet, and at church graveyards, when places of their burial. Poets remembered were The Rev William Forbes Marshall (the Bard of Tyrone), Samuel Thompson (Templepatrick), David Herbison (Ballymena), Sarah Leech (Donegal), James Orr (the Bard of Ballycarry), Hugh Porter (the Bard of Moneyslane) and Robert Huddleston (the Bard of Moneyrea). The Ballymoney Ullans Group, Ballycarry heritage personnel (including Dr David Hume), Cloiskelt and Moneyslane folk, as well as Donegal Ulster-Scot Jim

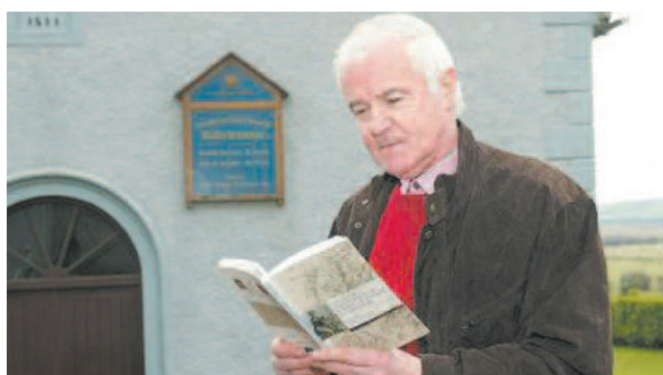
Devenny and schoolchildren from Moneyrea Primary School and Drumcorrin National school in Drum, County Monaghan, were among those who collectively took time out to remember these gifted and all too often forgotten scribes of our Ulster Scots diaspora.

A number of other schools took up the challenge of learning the Rev W.F.Marshall's famous poem *Livin in Drumlister* (also known as *Me an me Da*).

So on March 21, throughout the Province, World Poetry Day was marked with Ulster-Scots folk and school pupils reading weavers poems in school assemblies, in class and on the open roads and loanens of Ulster's countryside. The Agency would like to thank all who took part, especially those who sent in photographs of what was a most memorable and educational day.



Rebecca Welsh, Rebekah Keery, Sandra Gilpin (local historian), Tyler Smyth, Maynard Hannah (Ulster-Scots Society) Stephanie Ellis, Katie Ellis, Nathan Girvin, Roy Greer (Principal, Moneyrea Primary School)



Jim Devenney reads poetry by Sarah Leech



Pupils from Drumcorrin National School, Monaghan



Causeway World Poetry Day



# Groomsport set to embrace Ulster-Scots heritage this summer



Dancer Kelly Forsythe and piper Alan McCormick, two of the acts taking part in this summer's Ulster-Scots entertainment at Cockle Row Cottages in Groomsport.

**This July and August will see Groomsport embrace its Ulster-Scots heritage with the Ulster-Scots Agency and North Down Borough Council joining together to put on traditional Ulster-Scots entertainment in the village.**

The entertainment will take place at Cockle Row Cottages, beside Groomsport Harbour, starting on Saturday July 6 with music and dance and then each Sunday, throughout July and August, there will be a mix of traditional Ulster-Scots music, dancing, pipers and baking. The first weekend in September will see the season close with an Ulster-Scots/Eagle Wing finale with music, dancing, kids entertainment, baking and re-enactors. Groomsport's Ulster-Scots connections date back to the settlements of Sir James Hamilton and Sir Hugh Montgomery at the turn of the 17th Century. Groomsport made up part of the lands of Hamilton which stretched on to Holywood and Castlereagh. During this early period Groomsport became known as a busy working port with ships passing back and forth from Scotland for both legal and illegal trade! And

locals worked in agriculture, fishing and linen. The settlements of this time were peaceful, unlike the English led attempts before them. They saw hundreds arrive, mainly Scots, though some English, especially in Holywood, which today has



Ireland's only Maypole - having stood since the early 1600's. The influence of these settlers is today largely responsible for shaping the land of Ulster as we know it. Groomsport is also famous for its link to the Eagle Wing ship. The ship built to carry Presbyterian settlers to America that at the time were suffering persecution in Ulster. On September 9 1636, 140 passengers departed for the New World with the promise of liberty, religious freedom and economic prosperity. The voyage however came to an end with fierce storms off Newfoundland damaging the

ship and forcing its return to Ulster. Rev Robert Blair aboard the ship, wrote "If ever the lord spoke by his winds and other dispensations, it was made evident to us that it was not His will that he should go to New England". The ship returned, dropping anchor on November 3 1636 in Carrickfergus. The entertainment this summer will aim to celebrate these Ulster-Scots connections and the influence it has had to our cultural and entertainment ever since. Cockle Row Cottages are open weekends in May then daily from June 1 from 11am- 5pm with free family entertainment each weekend from 2-4pm. In addition to the Ulster-Scots content the programme sees kids entertainment including face painting, magic shows, animal road shows, along with music and craft fairs to name a few.

**LEFT:** Groomsport as mapped by Thomas Raven in his maps of 1625-26 chronicling the lands of Sir James Hamilton

For more information contact Alex Irvine, Tourism Development Officer 028 9127 8083 or alex.irvine@northdown.gov.uk. Or contact Bangor Tourist Information Centre on 028 9127 0069, email tic@northdown.gov.uk or visit www.northdowntourism.com

## CHARLIE 'THA POOCHER' RANNALS



### Tae dee ir naw tae dee

A wus readin tha ither dey that someboady doon in tha Free State sed that ower mich siller wus baen squanered on tha Irish Leid. He sed that he thocht tha tongue wus niver affen used an wud bae better left tae dee. Aff coorse A dinnae houl tha saim opeenion as he daes, for tha mair A dinnae spake nae mair nir twa wurd in tha Irish A think it shud bae alloed tae leeve an bae spake an scribed in, bae them wha wants tae. Noo they sae that naethin is new unner tha sun an mann A hae tae agree, for A kno yin ir twa roon mae ain duers wha wudnae loose mich sleep if wur ain Ullans tongue wus alloed tae dee. They wud sae that it shud bae left in books an tha lake an jest taaked aboot noo an agen but niver used as a wye o spakin. Aff coorse some o yese ir noddin yer heid at this very minute, an saen tae yersels that am richt. But aff coorse tha wye A see it, very little haes heppened in oor Ulster Scots femelie tae try an pit forrit wur ain tongue. Lakely aff coorse yins wud try an baffle is wae nummers that wud tell is hoo mich is baen spent on wur ain tongue an they micht bae richt. Hooiver, A maesel see naethin on tha grun tae maak mae beleewe that this pairt o wur rich culture is baen gien ony wile credence in tha wye o things. Noo jest tae pit yese aa in tha picture, tha wye A scribe is tha wye mae ain feyther wha is in haes nineties taaks an mae granfeyther afore him taaked forbye. Its naw nae made up tongue, an wus an still is spake bae a when o aa creeds in pairs o oor ain wee Province tae this very dey. Noo in mae ain opeenion thaur is nae doot in mae heid that oor tongue is bottom o tha cless an is doomed tae stye there. What's tha rayson o that A hear ye ax, weel freens here is what A think, maistly whun ye hear ony taak aboot Ullans its aa dane bae yins wha spake English. They wull tell aboot hoo mich they lake wur tongue an sae on but they niver spake yin wurd in Ullans. Mair shud bae dane tae get wha yins taak Ullans brocht tae tha fore frae oot o tha darkness that seem tae hae baen bae left in. They themsels ir seek o listenin tae yins maakin a fool oot o thaur Ullans tongue. Gie them a voice A sae, an let them bae ha'rd, becaase tae hear true Ullans speakers is lake a tonic tae tha sowl. Am lukin forrit tae tha dey whun Ullans wull bae trated in tha wye it shud an naw bae gecked at bae pairt o wur ain Ulster Scots femelie niver mine ootsiders. Tae tha true Ullans speaker A hae this tae sae, stap hidin yer licht unner a bushel an bae proud o yer tongue an let tha wurl know yer proud o it. Noo A think that is mae wee rant ower for anither time, whiles A think tha ouler A get naebody listens tae mae onywe. Someboady yince sed A wus yin o yisterdey's men they micht bae richt, but Am proud o wha A am an am proud o mae ain Ullans tongue, an hope it leeves foriver an is naw pit tae daith bae its ain folk. Charlie 'Tha Poocher' Rannals 2013

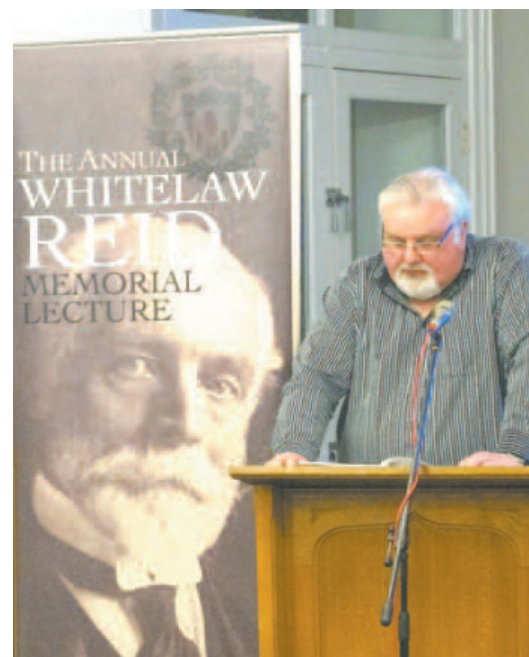


# Annual Whitelaw Reid Lecture

On Thursday March 28 the Ulster-Scots Agency hosted its second annual Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture, with guest speaker Alister McReynolds. He highlighted biographies from his forthcoming book *Kith and Kin*, which looks at the sometimes surprising role of the Scotch Irish in America, and in particular the key part they played in the development of the modern world. The event - held in the boardroom at Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place -

enjoyed a good turnout, with numbers up on 2012. Attendees included Frank Ferguson from the University of Ulster; Valerie Adams, Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland; Malcolm Johnston, Colourpoint (Publishers of Alister's forthcoming book) and Chris Spurr, BBC. A number of members of the general public were also in attendance, having heard about the lecture after reading an article about it in the March edition

of The Ulster-Scot newspaper. Feedback received on the night was all very positive, with a keen interest in the topic of Alister's lecture and there was a lengthy question and answer session following the lecture, which is held to commemorate the life and times of Whitelaw Reid, who was of County Tyrone Ulster-Scots descent, was US Ambassador to Britain and was a former Vice-Presidential candidate, who passed away in London in December 1912.



Guest speaker Alister McReynolds at the annual Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture hosted by the Ulster-Scots Agency



Discover your history.

  
**Ulster-Scots Agency**  
Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

## Could you share your skills?

Do you have a skill or qualification that could help promote Ulster-Scots? Are you a skilled musician, dancer or storyteller, perhaps you're a drama or an arts and craft enthusiast?

Indeed if you have any specialist skills, we would like to hear from you.

And if your skill and enthusiasm is matched by a genuine desire to support the Ulster-Scots tradition, then you may be able to earn a little extra income by supporting the Ulster-Scots Agency in the promotion of Ulster-Scots culture, language and heritage. You can do this by applying to join our select list of occasional tutors and facilitators.

The Ulster-Scots Agency is compiling a select list of occasional tutors and facilitators who can assist the Agency in the continuing delivery of programmes for both the education and community sectors. The Agency is seeking individuals who are interested in working on a self-employed basis to deliver services for 'one off' workshops or structured programmes.

If you have both the skills and the interest you should submit a CV and a statement of personal attributes including your relevant qualifications, experience and indicate which

Ulster-Scots activities you are competent to tutor. Tutors are required to demonstrate their skills and expertise in relevant areas of Ulster-Scots culture and language. The Agency seeks to establish a select list of occasional tutors in the following activities:

- Scottish country dance
- Highland dance
- Bagpipes
- Drumming
- Lambeg drumming
- Flute
- Accordion
- Fiddle
- Fife
- Tin whistle
- Drum major
- Drama
- Storytelling
- Language
- Living history
- Arts and crafts
- Poetry/creative writing
- Any other relevant area of expertise related to the Ulster-Scots tradition.

Applicants should indicate which of the above activities they wish to be considered for.

The appointment of tutors will be subject to

confirmation of an enhanced Access NI checks and if appropriate, a Garda vetting check.

Individuals seeking admission to the select list should submit their CV and a statement of personal attributes including your relevant qualifications, experience and indicate which Ulster-Scots activities you are competent to tutor, in an envelope marked,

**'OCCASIONAL TUTOR APPLICATION'** to the Ulster-Scots Agency 68-72 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7BB, or to our regional office, William Street, Raphoe, Co Donegal. The closing date for applications is 2pm on Friday June 28.



If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Derek Reaney at the Raphoe regional office on 00353/749173876 or reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

### Have you a skill which can help us promote Ulster-Scots?

The Ulster-Scots Agency needs skilled tutors to deliver one off workshops and or structured tuition.

We will establish a select list of tutors to deliver programmes in Schools and Community settings.

**Simply forward to us your CV and a statement of your personal attributes including your relevant qualifications, experience and indicate which Ulster-Scots activities you are competent to tutor.**

Please forward this information by 2pm on Friday 28th June 2013, to the Ulster-Scots Agency, 68-72 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BB or to the Ulster-Scots Agency, Regional Office, William Street, Raphoe, Co Donegal.



# Ulster and New Zealand - exploring the historical links

Ulster emigration to New Zealand is the subject of a new publication, entitled *Ulster & New Zealand: Migration, Interaction and Legacy*, produced by the Ulster-Scots Community Network.

North Island and South Island, New Zealand's two main islands, may soon be officially renamed as Te Ika-a-Maui (The Fish of Maui) and Te Waipounamu (the waters of Greenstone).

The name 'the Fish of Maui' is inspired by the Maori legend that the North Island was fished out of the sea by an early explorer named Maui. The Maori name for South Island is a reference to the widespread presence of jade there.

Between 1841 and 1846 all of New Zealand's North Island north of the Patea River was referred to as New Ulster. South Island was known as New Munster.

Furthermore, Stewart Island, the small island just south of South Island, was briefly called New Leinster.

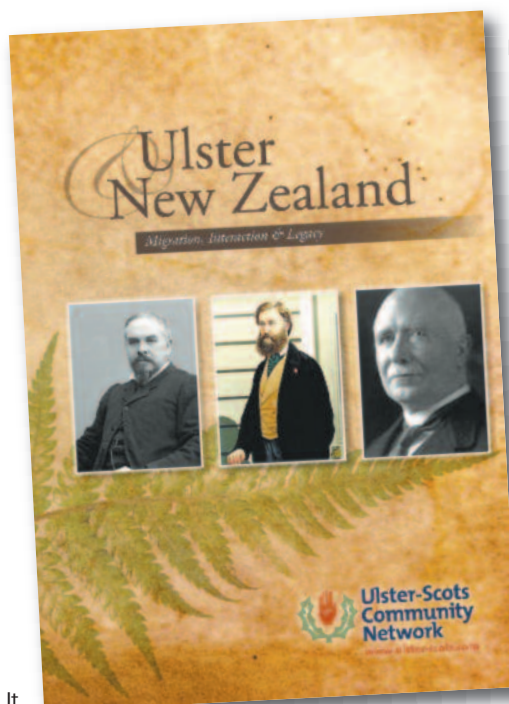
Over 80 per cent of all Irish migrants to New Zealand either originated from Ulster or Munster. From the early 1850s Ulster accounted for more than 40 per cent of annual Irish migration to New Zealand but by the 1890s Ulster accounted for over 50 per cent of migrants from Ireland.

Ulster emigration to New Zealand is the subject of a new publication, entitled *Ulster & New Zealand: Migration, Interaction and Legacy*, produced by the Ulster-Scots Community Network.

Among the figures featured are John Ballance (from Glenavy) and William Ferguson Massey (from Limavady), the 14th and 19th Prime Ministers of New Zealand respectively. James Dilworth (from Donaghmore) and George Vesey Stewart (from Ballygawley) also feature prominently.

Dilworth, a shrewd investor in land and property, bequeathed the bulk of his vast wealth to a trust to establish a school which would take in and educate boys who were living in 'straitened circumstances' and 'sons of persons of good character': the Dilworth School. Within a century Dilworth School became one of one of New Zealand's largest boarding schools. It and the Royal School, Dungannon enjoy a warm and friendly relationship and operate an exchange scheme by which gap-year students travel to their sister school to act as tutors and to experience life and education on the other side of the world.

In 1875 George Vesey Stewart founded the remarkable Ulster/Orange settlement of Katikati (which the historian D H Akenson has described as 'the purest Irish Protestant community ever to exist in New Zealand').



Between 1877 and 1885 Stewart published eight pamphlets advertising his special settlements. He is credited with bringing about 4,000 emigrants to New Zealand.

Stewart was an exceptionally able man with imagination, drive and determination and possessed great organizational flair.

He aspired to prominence politically but while success eluded him at national level, his achievements at local level were genuinely impressive. For example, he managed to secure more money for the

Bay of Plenty from central government than all the area's parliamentary representatives put together. On a national level, his personal contribution to the settlement of New Zealand was in a league all of its own.

Today, Katikati is famous for its many murals. Beginning with three murals in 1991, there are now 44 murals. Most offer interpretations of the town's history but some look to the future.

Originally a tourist project to attract more visitors to the town and the surrounding area,

the murals assisted Katikati secure the distinction of being New Zealand's 'Most Beautiful Small Town' in 2005.

David Gallaher (from Ramelton) was one of the most interesting people to settle in Katikati. Gallaher was the captain of the Original All Blacks (often simply referred to as 'The Originals'), New Zealand's first national rugby union team to tour outside Australasia. He captained the team from 1903 to 1906. The legendary All Blacks tour of Britain in 1905 probably constitutes the highlight of his career. The All Blacks scored 976 points and conceded only 59, setting a high standard for all subsequent All Black sides.

Close examination reveals that Ulster men and women played a significant part in the making of New Zealand and their role is by no means confined to Katikati. The figures highlighted in *Ulster & New Zealand* convey a flavour of Ulster's contribution to many aspects of New Zealand life, including politics, industry and commerce, education, journalism, trade unionism and sport.

Through the efforts of John Ballance New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the vote in parliamentary elections. Women enjoyed a prominence in New Zealand society much earlier than they did elsewhere in the world.

Names to look out for are Aileen Anna Maria Garmson (from County Cavan), Mary Jane Milne (from Coalisland), Harriet Morison (from Magherafelt), Frances Jane Ross (whose mother came from County Cavan), Margaret Jane Scott (also from County Cavan) and, Marianne Smith (from Portaferry).

## An action-packed Ulster-Scots day out

Earlier this year Ulster-Scots Agency welcomed a group of 25 guests from the Atlas Woman's Centre in Lisburn and, later, a group of 30 guests from Eglington Senior Citizens group in north Belfast to the Ulster-Scots Visitor and Information Centre on Great Victoria Street.

A specially organised half day programme of Ulster-Scots activity was planned for each visit, which included an introduction to Ulster-Scots and the work of the Agency by chief executive Ian Crozier, a talk on the Ulster Covenant by Gordon Lucy, a showcase of Ulster-Scots music, an Ulster-Scots language workshop with Gary Blair and a highland dance display with Emma Copeland.

The events were a huge success

and both groups thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Ulster-Scots Information and Visitor Centre.

The Agency is currently looking for further opportunities to host Ulster-Scots events for groups in the Visitor and Information Centre. Are you a member of a group that would like to come along to one of our specially organised programmes of activity?

If so, we want to hear from you! Simply email your name, the name and address of your group and a telephone / mobile number to [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) and a member of Agency staff will get in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

Alternatively you can write to The Ulster-Scots Agency, 68-72 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BB.

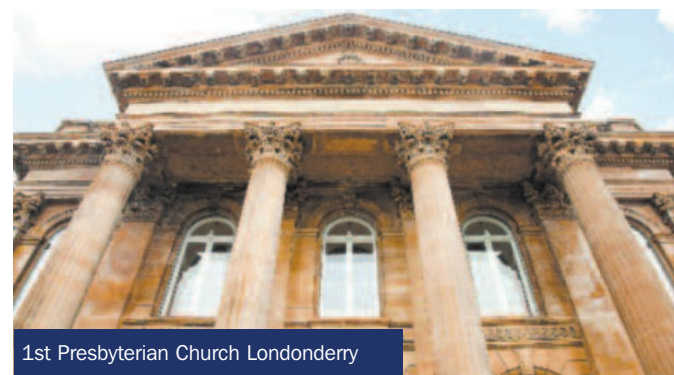
## Book your place for an extra special trip to Derry-Londonderry

Looking for a good day out? Why not join the Presbyterian Historical Society on their annual field trip to Presbyterian churches in Derry-Londonderry on Saturday June 15.

There will be visits and talks to Glendernmott Presbyterian Church where we will have morning coffee and then to 1st Derry Presbyterian Church where lunch will be served.

There will also be an opportunity to visit the Blue Coat School Visitors' Centre adjoining 1st Derry.

After lunch there will be a visit to Magee College which was opened in 1865 to educate entrants for the Presbyterian ministry and the day will end at Kilfennan



1st Presbyterian Church Londonderry

Presbyterian Church where the evening meal will be served. Information on the history of other churches on route will be relayed on the coach.

Cost is £30 for the coach and meals (or £20 for meals only).

The coach will leave from Malone (Belfast) Presbyterian Church car park at 9am. For a booking form contact the librarian at 26 College Green, Belfast BT7 1LN, phone 028 9072 7330 or e-mail [phslibrarian@pcinet.org](mailto:phslibrarian@pcinet.org).



# The Boat Factory sets off on a summer tour

Dan Gordon's critically-acclaimed *The Boat Factory*, which evokes life in the Belfast shipyards with passion, humour and authenticity, is heading off on a tour across Ireland, Britain and America.



Dan Gordon's play *The Boat Factory*, presented by Happenstance Theatre Company, will be shown to audiences in New York, London, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland during the summer

**So far the production - based on Dan's close personal knowledge of the subject matter through his family history - has been enjoyed on home turf by more than 10,000 people.**

But now the play, presented by Happenstance Theatre Company, will be performed for a month in New York (June 4 to June 30) and then a month in London (July 19 to August 18), as well as in high profile venues and festivals in Wales (May), Scotland (August), and the Republic of Ireland (July). This is the longest overseas tour staged by a theatre company from Northern Ireland in the last decade, and the project has been made possible due to the generous support of the Ulster-Scots Agency, Tourism Ireland, Edwards & Co Solicitors, and a number of private donors.

Dan Gordon wrote the play and also performs in it alongside actor Michael Condrón. Together they

chart the history of the men who worked in the yard, conjuring up a host of colourful characters from the glory days of the shipbuilding era.

Dan Gordon said: "Growing up in east Belfast I listened to many astounding stories, myths and legends documenting the rise of the Belfast Shipyard.

"I decided to write a play that celebrated my Ulster-Scots ancestry, the people, history and triumphs of Belfast's Titanic shipyard and now it is heading for the bright lights of New York and London as part of an extensive four-month overseas tour.

"The tour began with a special performance of *The Boat Factory* at the Grand Opera House on Sunday April 28, after which Michael Condrón and I headed off to represent Northern Ireland on the national and international stage with what I hope is a poignant, entertaining and uplifting story of Belfast life."

## RECIPES

Cooking with **Judith McLoughlin**



## Pan-fried Halibut with a Scots Oatmeal & Herb Crust and carrot and orange puree

### The story:

This dish is a true Ulster-Scots gem that is both pleasing to the eye and to the palette. I just love the simplicity and purity of the dish as it incorporates traditional Scots rolled oats, one of the great traditional foods of these islands, into the recipe which brings texture and flavour to the fish without overpowering it. The carrot and orange purée is wonderfully light and refreshing and adds a delightful streak of colour to the plate as well as a delicious kick to the overall flavour of the dish. And all this colour and flavour is just in time for warming days, roll on summer!



#### Halibut and oatmeal crust ingredients:

4 halibut fillets (6 oz. each)  
4½ oz. (¾ cups) Scots oats  
1 oz. (¼ cup) all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. ground black pepper  
2 tsp. tarragon (chopped) plus little extra to garnish  
2 eggs (beaten)  
2 Tbsp. buttermilk

Oil for frying  
Orange zest (to garnish)

#### Carrot and orange purée ingredients:

6 medium carrots or 1 lb. (peeled and cut)  
2 fluid oz. (¼ cup) heavy whipping cream  
2 fluid oz. (¼ cup) chicken stock  
Juice of 1 medium orange (1/3 cup)  
½ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper

### How to make it:

Rinse the fish fillets and pat dry with paper towels.

Measure the oats, flour, salt, pepper, and tarragon out and pulse everything together in the food processor for a few seconds until it is the consistency of corn meal.

Prepare carrot purée by filling a medium saucepan with cold water & bring carrots to a boil. Cook carrots for 10–12 minutes until tender when pierced with a fork.

Drain the carrots in a colander then blend the carrots in a food processor or blender with chicken stock, orange juice, and cream. Add salt and pepper and taste to adjust seasoning.

Beat the buttermilk and eggs together in a shallow bowl.

Add oil to a deep-sided skillet and bring to medium-high heat.

Dip the fish in the oatmeal mixture and then in the eggs and buttermilk.

Double dip the fish in the oatmeal.

Place fish into the hot oil and cook for about 5–6 minutes, turning once. The batter should be golden and crispy and the fish, flaky and white.

To serve, place purée in centre of plate and then add the oat-crusted fish on top. Sprinkle with a little fresh tarragon and orange zest.



# Agency marks International Book Day

To mark International Book Day on April 23, the Ulster-Scots Agency invested significant funds in a number of specialist publications which were then delivered to a number of post primary schools throughout Northern Ireland and Donegal.

The books were donated free to the schools in a bid to boost the Ulster-Scots content of their libraries.

Gary Blair, education officer at the Ulster-Scots Agency, delivered 10 books to Ballymoney High School, where they were received by principal Rodney Scott. The book titles were:

- *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America* by RJ Dickson
- *The Scottish Migration to Ulster in the Reign of James I* by M Perceval-Maxwell
- *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors* by William J Roulston
- *The Plantation of Ulster* by Philip Robinson
- *Scottish Covenanters and Irish Confederates* by David Stevenson
- *"Men and Arms": The Ulster settlers, c 1630*
- *The Ulster Port Books 1612-15* edited by R.J Hunter
- *Essays in Scotch-Irish History* edited by E.R.R Green
- Robert Dinsmoor's *Scotch-Irish Poems*
- *The Scot in America and the Ulster Scot* by Whitelaw Reid



Gary Blair and Rodney Scott, school principal at Ballymoney High School  
Photo courtesy of the Ballymoney Chronicle

## Carrickfergus looks forward to Scotch Quarter Festival

The Broken String Band will perform at the first Scotch Quarter Festival taking place in Carrickfergus in June



The public have the chance to come and celebrate the Ulster-Scots cultural heritage of Carrickfergus during the inaugural Scotch Quarter Festival in June in conjunction with

the Ulster-Scots Agency. The event - which is free to attend - takes place on Saturday June 15 from noon to 5pm and on Sunday June 16 from 2pm to

5pm in the town's Scotch Quarter. The programme features plenty of live music with historical re-enactment, highland dancing, haggis-tasting, children's

entertainment and much more! For more information contact Carrickfergus Visitor Information Centre on 028 9335 8049 or visit [www.carrickfergus.org](http://www.carrickfergus.org).



## WEANS' WURLD

## Children's Recipe...

## Shortbread

## Ingredients:

12oz slightly salted butter  
40z caster sugar  
120z plain flour  
30z cornflour  
10z ground rice

*How to make it:*

- Cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy
- Work in sifted flour, cornflour and ground rice until it forms a firm paste
- Knead it lightly on a well floured board
- Roll it out until quite thin and cut into shapes. Using a palette knife, lift the biscuits onto a well buttered baking sheet
- Bake on the centre shelf at 190 degrees Celcius / gas mark 5 until pale golden in colour
- Sprinkle with caster sugar while still warm
- Or can be decorated with icing, sprinkles etc
- Leave on a wire tray to cool

## Word Search

Y	E	F	T	E	R	E	C	H	Y
Z	P	S	J	S	S	Z	M	K	L
E	F	G	O	A	I	B	Q	W	I
Q	I	B	D	P	F	A	W	E	M
A	Z	N	H	S	E	E	M	K	E
W	I	G	A	H	Z	W	C	L	F
W	Y	Z	M	A	R	H	Z	O	A
E	M	Q	E	U	A	T	G	Z	K
Y	Y	J	C	K	X	H	Y	J	C
Y	L	T	H	C	I	R	B	F	J

Ulster-Scots  
Word search

See if you can find the following Ulster-Scots words below:

**Family** (family)  
**Brichtly** (brightly)  
**Gye** (very)  
**Efter** (after)  
**Almaist** (almost)  
**Hame** (home)  
**Sope** (sip)  
**Windas** (windows)

Saint Patrick's  
Competition Results

Thank you to everyone who entered our Saint Patrick's competition in the March edition of The Ulster-Scot. The lucky winner of an Archaeology Road Show visiting their primary school is Michelle Rea (age 11) from Riverdale Primary School, Legacurry, Lisburn.



The Saint Patrick Centre will be in touch to arrange a date for this unique interactive workshop at your school. Congratulations!

the **Ulster-Scot** Competition

We celebrated World Poetry Day on March 21 and looked at the work of the Weaver Poets on pages 8 and 9 of this edition of The Ulster-Scot, so for our latest competition we're inviting all young budding poets out there to send us their work.

The poem can be written in Ulster-Scots or English. If you choose to write in Ulster-Scots the subject matter can be anything you like and if you would like to write your poem in

English, it should be about an Ulster-Scots subject – maybe you've an Ulster-Scots family that you can write about? Or you have participated in one of the Agency's Ulster-Scots after schools clubs or summer schools and you would like to share your experiences of that with us?

Maybe you are a highland dancer or play an Ulster-Scots musical instrument? You can write about any aspect of Ulster-Scots culture or heritage. One overall winner and three runners up will be selected.

**The prizes are as follows:**

**Winner – Book voucher for £20; three runners up – Book voucher for £10 each**

All four winning entries will also be displayed in the Ulster-Scots Agency's Visitor and Information Centre on Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

**Entries should be emailed to** [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) with 'Poetry Competition' in the subject line, providing your name and address.

**Closing date:** Monday June 24.