



## Minister opens Agency's new regional office in Raphoe...



Dinny McGinley (centre), the Republic of Ireland's Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, visited Raphoe in February to officially open the Ulster-Scots Agency's new regional office. He is pictured with its two permanent members of staff - development officer Derek Reaney and office administrator Audrey Freen.

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Music, poetry and dance as events celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns



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Agency delegation showcases Ulster-Scots cultural traditions at Westminster reception



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From Scotland to Ulster . . . a special focus on the story of Saint Patrick



## Fair faa ye



### Welcome to the March 2013 edition of the Ulster-Scot.

I am very encouraged by the continued level of positive feedback received on our new Ulster-Scot newspaper – I am delighted that our readers like the new format and look of the newspaper. As always, I would encourage you to get in touch with your feedback and suggestions for future editions.

With our second edition of 2013 being published on the eve of Saint Patrick's Day, I want to share the Ulster-Scots element of the story of Saint Patrick. Did you know Patrick's strongest link was with Ulster, rather than Ireland as a whole? Read more about this on Pages 8 and 9.

For the younger readers we dispel some of those myths about Saint Patrick in the Wean's Wurd section with our Fact or Fiction article and we have an absolutely fantastic competition open to all children of primary school age! Would you like the Saint Patrick's Centre's team of archaeologists come out to your school to add fun to your history lessons? Find out how you can be in with a chance of winning this great prize on Page 16.

Also in this edition we look back at the 2013 Burns celebrations, the official launch of a new regional office for the Ulster-Scots Agency in Raphoe, County Donegal, feature an Ulster-Scots visit to Westminster and the Ulster American Folk Park as our Ulster-Scots place to visit.

Hopefully everyone will find something of interest.

**Ian Crozier is chief executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency**

P.S. Have you liked us on Facebook yet? If not, check us out at [www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency](http://www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency)

## The Ulster-Scot

The official newspaper for the Ulster-Scots Agency /  
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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

# How the Scotch-Irish helped to shape the world that we know

**Well-known author and teacher Alister McReynolds has been confirmed as the guest speaker for this year's Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture.**

The free-to-attend event, now in its second year, takes place on Thursday March 28 in the boardroom at Presbyterian Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast, beginning at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Alister will highlight 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. He previously authored 'Legacy - The Scots Irish in America'. He has spent his entire working life as a teacher in the Northern Ireland secondary and tertiary sectors, including 14 years as a college principal. Among his many accolades, he was awarded Honorary Membership of City and Guilds of London Institute in recognition of his contribution to vocational education. In recent years Alister has lectured



Alister McReynolds

Alister will highlight biographies from his forthcoming book *Kith and Kin*, which looks at the sometimes surprising role of the Scotch-Irish in America

extensively in the United States, including at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and he has worked closely with the Maine Ulster Scots Project (MUSP) and with the University of Southern Maine.

He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at The Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies with the University of Ulster.

He also lectures part-time with The Open Learning Department in Queen's University Belfast.

In recent times Alister - who is known for his wit and charm - has also appeared in various TV and radio programmes.

In his new book *Kith and Kin*, due to be published in the spring, Alister presents an alternative image of the Scotch-Irish in America, partially drawing on some of his own family's history, and capturing between the covers portraits of a gallery of individuals who made an instrumental contribution to the creation of America as a bastion of the modern world.

In the Whitelaw Reid Lecture Alister will draw on this material and present an engaging image of an ingenious and energetic ethnic group whose achievements he believes should be better recognised, especially here in Ulster.

Entry to the lecture is free and everyone is welcome. To reserve a place or for more information email [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) with 'Annual Whitelaw Reid Lecture' in the subject line, or alternatively phone **028 90231113**.

## Click on this

- For details of what's on check out our events calendar - [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events)
- For Ulster-Scots news - [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news)
- To sign up for the Ulster-Scots E-Newsletter - visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/) register your details and receive updates on the areas that you are most interested.
- Join us on Facebook - visit [www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency](http://www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency) now and like our page to keep up to date on what's happening, upload your photos from Ulster-Scots events and share your comments.

Follow us on...

## WORD OF THE ISSUE

*'Forbye'*

**Meaning:** As well



# New Raphoe office to reflect the 'richness' of Ulster-Scots identity in County Donegal



By Gary McDonald

**The opening of the Ulster-Scots Agency's new regional office in County Donegal "will provide a vital doorway for generations tourists and local people alike to come to know and cherish their Ulster-Scots heritage".**

Those were the words of Dinny McGinley, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the Dail, at a reception in Raphoe. He was in the historic town (the rich agricultural land around Raphoe has been inhabited and cultivated since 2000 BC) to officially open the Agency's spacious new office in William Street. Replacing a former first-floor facility which has operated in the Diamond since 2004, the office gives the Agency a more visible and accessible presence - "more warm and welcome" the Minister said - in the Ulster-Scots heartland of Donegal. The regional office will be manned by two permanent members of staff - development officer Derek Reaney and office administrator Audrey Freen. The Minister was welcomed to the office by Ulster-Scots Agency chairman Tom Scott, chief executive Ian Crozier, education and language director Jim Millar and Board members Ida Fisher, Val O'Kelly and Tony Crooks. On his arrival he was greeted to

the skirl of the bagpipes courtesy of Rodney Goudie (pipe major of Raphoe Pipe Band), and he and guests were then treated to a display of highland dancing by Chloe McElhinney from the Moyne Highland dancers based in Donegal Town and music by local accordion player Stewart Buchanan. After unveiling a plaque to officially declare the office open, the Minister said: "These new premises represent a marvellous asset, not only for the visibility of the Ulster-Scots Agency and accessibility to its services, but also for the vitality of the town centre in Raphoe. "The Agency is charged with the responsibility of promoting the study, conservation, development, language and culture of Ulster-Scots both within Northern Ireland and throughout the island of Ireland, and the location of this regional hub in Raphoe is important in that overall policy context. "But it is also important on a practical level to acknowledge the Ulster-Scots identity which is such a rich part of life here in Donegal and to demonstrate that Ulster-Scots culture can make an



important contribution, particularly in the area of tourism." The Minister pointed to Raphoe being home for much of her life of Cecil Frances Alexander (nee Humphreys), the celebrated hymn-writer and poetess, famous for penning *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, *There is a Green Hill Far Away* and *Once in Royal*

*David's City*.

Mr McGinley added: "In short, this new office will provide a vital doorway for tourists and local people alike to learn more about Ulster-Scots heritage and culture, and I am delighted that the Agency is building on its commitment to the Donegal area." In reply, Agency chair Tom Scott said: "We are thrilled at having Minister McGinley as our guest on such an exciting day for the Ulster-Scots Agency in County Donegal. "We look forward to welcoming many more visitors, including local people and tourists, to our regional office over the coming months and years. "There is a keen interest in Ulster-Scots in Donegal and we're confident this move to William Street will ensure the Agency has a strong visual presence in the town and an office that is welcoming and accessible to everyone."



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Talk on Saint Patrick

On Wednesday March 20, Nelson McCausland will join the Ulster-Scots Agency at its Visitor and Information Centre (68-72 Great Victoria Street, Belfast) at 12.30 to deliver a talk about Saint Patrick. Entry to this event is free and everyone is welcome. For further information email [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) or telephone (028) 9023 1113.

The Ulster-Scots Agency is also participating in Belfast City Council's Saint Patrick's Day four-day festival, which is being organised by the City Events Unit and will take place in various venues throughout the city. This festival will coincide with the annual Saint Patrick's Carnival Parade and Concert. At Belfast City Hall there will be exhibitions, workshops and activities during the festival and the Ulster-Scots Agency looks forward to being part of this event. For further information about the festival visit [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/stpatricksday](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/stpatricksday).

### Visitor Centre

The Ulster-Scots Agency's Visitor and Information Centre at 68-72 Great Victoria Street, Belfast is open to the public from Monday to Friday between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

Visitors are welcome to call in to speak to a member of staff or simply to browse through a selection of Ulster-Scots literature. Additional copies of *The Ulster-Scot* are also available from the Visitor and Information Centre.

### Festival funding closing date

The closing date for receipt of applications for funding for Festivals in 2013 is Friday March 22 2013 at 2pm. To find out more, visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding)

### Sign up for the E-Newsletter

Why not visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe) register your details and receive updates on the areas that you are most interested? Areas include Ulster-Scots news, events, musical and dance tuition, publications and our 'Presbyterian 400' project in 2013.

### Like the agency on Facebook

Visit [www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency](http://www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency) now and like the page to keep up to date on what's happening, upload your photos from Ulster-Scots events and share your comments.



# Burns Night celebrations

## Ballywillan



## Gilnahirk



## Kilkeel



On Friday January 18, the Schomberg Folk Orchestra held a very successful Burns Night Celebration in Kilkeel with performances from Kirknara School of Dance and Schomberg Fife and Drum. Pictured is Colin Moffett who piped in the haggis, carried by Gareth Crozier and dancers Kirsty Donaldson, Lynsey Norris and Jessica Campbell

## Ardstraw and Baronscourt Youth Council



## Encore for 'My Heart is in the highlands'

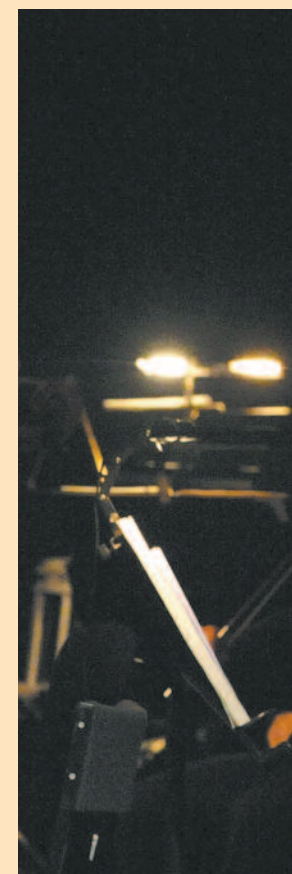
**F**or the second successive year, a collaboration between the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Ulster Orchestra to celebrate the life and works of Robert

Burns proved a resounding success. On Friday January 25 and Saturday January 26, the Agency worked in partnership with the Orchestra to host 'My Heart's in The Highlands', first at the Ulster Hall in Belfast and then at the Millennium Forum in Londonderry. The concerts were a huge success with the audiences, with vocals from Karen Matheson, David Brophy conducting the Ulster Orchestra and Alan McKee presenting.

The concerts were organised as a follow up to the Agency's first successful collaboration with the Ulster Orchestra the previous January, entitled 'Ye Banks and Braes'.

The Markethill Highland Dancers were delighted to be invited to perform with the Ulster Orchestra and become part of My Heart's in The Highlands in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry.

Dance tutor Kelly Forsythe was joined by five highland dancers to perform a series of dances she specially choreographed for the concert. The dancers received a rapturous welcome from David Brophy and all the members of the Ulster Orchestra and tremendous applause following each of their performances. Both concerts were extremely well attended and the Agency looks forward to working with the Orchestra on future Burns collaborations.



Pictures by Simon  
Graham, Harrison  
Photography



# across Northern Ireland



## Kingdom of Dalriada



This year the Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society returned to the Manor Hotel in Ballymoney on Friday February 8 for its popular annual Burns Supper. Scad the Beggar, a local group, played some traditional music as people took their seats while Gary Blair, Ulster-Scots Agency, welcomed everyone to the evening. Events began with the piping in of the haggis with Kingdom of Dalriada member Alan Wright delivering the 'Address to the Haggis' before asking Mr Blair to join him in toasting the haggis.

## Lisneal College



Performers from the Shelly Anne Campbell School of Highland Dance

## Portstewart





# Ulster-Scots invited to showcase cultural traditions at Westminster

**A delegation from the Ulster-Scots Agency was invited in January to showcase its cultural traditions at Westminster, the administrative base for Members of Parliament.**

The invitation was extended by Ian Paisley, the MP for North Antrim, and nine Ulster-Scots representatives made up the party who travelled to London. They included Agency chief executive Ian Crozier; director of language and education Jim Millar; former Agency chair Mark Thompson, and a number of representatives from the Ulster-Scots Community Network, including Iain Carlisle, Matthew Warwick and Alan McCormick alongside highland dancers, Michelle Johnston, Nina Robinson, Ellie Andrews and Sarah Graham. The main thrust of the visit was for the Ulster-Scots representatives to meet in particular with MPs from Scotland to identify opportunities to strengthen the East-West dimension of our Ulster-Scots agenda.

The showcase event which took

place in the Attlee Room in Portcullis House ran from 9am to 3pm and included Ulster-Scots music and highland dance.

It provided an opportunity for the Ulster-Scots delegates to talk to various MPs about the Agency and Community Network's involvement in the development of Ulster-Scots and discuss future opportunities to work together to help build an East-West dimension.

The Ulster-Scots Agency was encouraged by the number of MPs who joined them in the Attlee Room.

The list of MPs in attendance included Jim Shannon (Strangford), Gregory Campbell (East Londonderry), Sammy Wilson (East Antrim), Nigel Dodds (North Belfast), Cathy Jamieson (Kilmarnock and Loudoun), Graeme Morrice (Livingston), Damian Collins (Folkestone and Hythe), Laurence Robertson (Tewkesbury) and Jim Fitzpatrick (Poplar and Limehouse). Also present was Mervyn Storey, an MLA for North Antrim.

Chief executive Ian Crozier said: "We would like to thank Ian Paisley for facilitating our visit as well as all the MPs who joined us on the day and showed their support of building an East-West dimension."



Ulster-Scots representatives receive a warm welcome at Westminster. Included in the group are Ian Davidson MP, Chair of the Scottish Select Committee and event sponsor, Ian Paisley Jr MP

## The W. F. Massey Memorial Lecture 'The Ulster-Scots World View'

LECTURE DATE:  
**FRIDAY MARCH 22,**  
IN THE ROE VALLEY  
ARTS & CULTURE  
CENTRE, LIMAVADY,  
AT 7.30PM.

By Aaron Callan

**On Friday March 22 a memorial lecture on William Ferguson Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand will take place in the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre in Limavady, County Londonderry (7.30pm).**

This will be the first annual memorial lecture event held at the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, it is being delivered in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency and the guest speaker this year will be Lord Laird.

Entry to this event is free of charge and everyone is welcome to attend. For further information telephone (028) 7776 0650 or email information@rvacc.co.uk.

**Massey New Zealand's war Prime Minister**

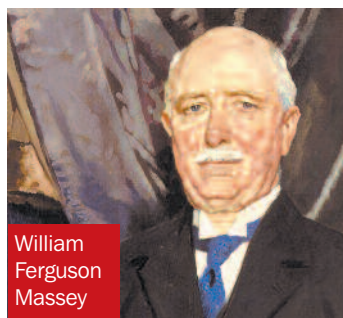
William Ferguson Massey (1856-1925) was of Ulster-Scots descent

and served as New Zealand's Prime Minister from 1912-25 and therefore led his country's participation throughout the First World War.

Born on March 26 1856 at Keenaught near Limavady, County Londonderry, he was the elder son of John Massey and Mary Anne (nee Ferguson). Massey's family immigrated to New Zealand in 1862, with Massey remaining behind to complete his studies, moving to New Zealand in December 1870.

He worked with his father until he was 17 and thereafter leased a farm of 100 acres in Mangere. He married in 1882 to Christina Allen Paul, the daughter of a neighbouring farmer.

In 1890 Massey stood for the seat at Franklin but was narrowly beaten. Within weeks he contested the vacant seat at Waitemata and was this time elected. He once again



William  
Ferguson  
Massey

challenged for the seat at Franklin at the next election in 1896, and held it until his death. Massey was elected leader of the opposition Conservative (later Reform) Party in September 1903. His was the first Conservative administration in New Zealand for 22 years when he set about establishing a Cabinet in the wake of electoral victory in 1912. He nevertheless remained in place at the head of New Zealand government for the following 13 years until his death. Massey's

incoming administration brought to an end that of Sir Joseph Ward (Prime Minister from 1906-12). However Massey continued Ward's policies of increased defense expenditure, a strategy Massey wholeheartedly endorsed during Ward's tenure in power despite the latter's status as a liberal and Massey's reputation as an imperialist. The 1909 Defense Act had introduced compulsory military service (overseen by Alexander Godley); its effect was to bolster the development of New Zealand's military presence and efficiency. It was therefore well placed to lend assistance to Britain upon the latter's declaration of war with Germany on August 4 1914. Massey was determined to ensure that his country provided full assistance to Britain, although he nevertheless continued to propound a view independent to that of the British government. In each of these

he was given firm support by former premier Ward who served as Deputy Prime Minister. August 1915 brought about a National Government under Massey. Along with defense minister James Allen Massey introduced a policy of conscription, further boosting the resources of the already-renowned New Zealand division, which ultimately saw hard service in Gallipoli in addition to France. Following the armistice Massey travelled to Paris to attend the ensuing peace conference and was a signatory of the Versailles Treaty, a notable event in the progression of New Zealand governmental independence. When subsequently New Zealand was invited to join the League of Nations, Massey spoke of how New Zealand had joined as "a self-governing nation within the empire". He died while still in office on 10 May 1925.



# The Boat Factory returns to the Grand Opera House

**Dan Gordon's acclaimed play *The Boat Factory* will take centre stage at Belfast's Grand Opera House for a special performance on Sunday April 28 at 7pm.**

The play evokes life in the Belfast shipyards with passion, humour and authenticity and is based on Dan's close personal knowledge of the subject matter through his family history.

He performs alongside actor Michael Condon and 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.

The Opera House performance marks a welcome return home for *The Boat Factory* which last played to local audiences during the opening of Titanic Belfast, after which it went on to enjoy great popular and critical success at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Dan Gordon said: "At the beginning of the last century

George Gordon a humble shipyard labourer sailed 'the narrow sea' between Scotland and Ireland.

"His ambition was to settle in Belfast to find opportunity in the thriving 'Boat Factory'. With him he brought nothing more than an empty suitcase, a willingness to work and his indefatigable Glasgow grit.

"His six sons followed him into Harland and Wolff's Titanic shipyard – one of them was my father.

"They, like the Boat Factory, are all but gone but that empty suitcase is now full of memories. I'm proud to be an Ulster-Scot from East Belfast and I am delighted to be able to share those memories, and to celebrate the people, history and achievements of the Belfast shipyards through my play *The Boat Factory*."

Tickets (£12.50 - £18.50) can be booked online at [www.goh.co.uk/the-boat-factory](http://www.goh.co.uk/the-boat-factory) or by calling the Grand Opera House Box Office on (028) 9024 1919.



## THE BOAT FACTORY COMPETITION

**Would you like to win a pair of tickets to see *The Boat Factory* at the Grand Opera House?**

Happenstance Theatre Company and the Grand Opera House have a pair of tickets in the Grand Circle for the performance on Sunday April 28 to give away to one lucky reader.

For your chance to win send in your full name and address by email putting BOAT FACTORY in the subject line to [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk). Good luck!

**Closing date Friday April 12.**

# Ulster-Scots Concert in Lisburn

**The Ulster-Scots Agency and Lisburn City Council hosted a highly successful Ulster-Scots concert at Lagan Valley Island in November to mark St Andrew's Day.**

Mayor Alderman William Leatham welcomed guests and members of the public to the free event, which included performances by Magheragall Pipe Band, traditional Ulster-Scots groups Stonewall and Session Beat, piper Ian Burrows and Ulster-Scots dancer Michelle Johnston. The evening was compered by Wilson Burgess.

Mayor Leatham was joined by Ulster-Scots Agency chairman, Tom Scott and more than 300 guests and members of the public.

The mayor said: "We were delighted to host the first-ever St Andrew's concert in Lisburn in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency; the evening was a fantastic success and it was great that the event was so well supported.

"Feedback from all in attendance has been very positive indeed and on behalf of Lisburn City Council and the Ulster-Scots Agency I would like to express thanks to all the performers and to all those who joined us for a wonderful evening of Ulster-Scots music and dance."



**Pictured from left to right are:** Ian Crozier; Tony Crooks, Mayor of Lisburn; William Leatham and Tom Scott



Agency Board members Val O'Kelly, Sharon Treacy-Dunne and Ida Fisher with fellow Board member and Lisburn Lord Mayor, William Leatham



# PATRICK – THE APOSTLE

**While Saint Patrick is widely associated with Ireland, there is a growing awareness that his story is not as straightforward as it is portrayed. Patrick is most strongly linked not with Ireland as a whole, but with Ulster. It was in Ulster that Patrick was converted; it was in Ulster that Patrick preached; it was in Ulster that Patrick died; and it is in Ulster soil that he was buried. Surely then we are entitled to call Patrick the Apostle of Ulster? There is also more than a touch of Ulster-Scots flavour to the story. Read on to find out why...**

## The Legend of Patrick

Over the centuries, the true story of Patrick, his life and his work, have been obscured by the growth of a legend of Patrick. As if the original story wasn't good enough, generation after generation added their own layers to the tale; a wonder here, a miracle there, so that like Chinese whispers, the story moved further and further from the truth.

Often, these retellings and additions to the story were quite deliberate and were the result of church politics. The early British church, of which Patrick was part, was independent. Over the centuries, the Church at Rome sought to bring the British church under its control, with the help of a grouping within the British church who were known as Romani, or Romanisers. In order to strengthen their position, they would produce versions of the story which supported their agenda, hence the emergence of a myth that Patrick had been sent to Ireland by the Pope.

In medieval Ireland, different ecclesiastical centres were also competing for supremacy within the church, so they would promote different versions of Patrick's story, with their area playing a more prominent role. For example, a Cistercian monk called Jocelin was commissioned by John de Courcy to write a *Life of Patrick* which enhanced the standing of County Down, just as an earlier work, entitled *The Tripartite Life*, had been written to boost the ecclesiastical standing of Armagh. However these works and others like them were written many centuries after Patrick's death.

In the 17th Century, Patrick was given a complete makeover, by Catholic authorities who wanted to cast him in their own image. For the first time, images of Patrick were circulated on coins, which became known as St Patrick's Money. These coins depicted Patrick in 17th Century clerical robes, complete with a mitre on his head. He was holding a crosier in one hand and a shamrock in the other. That image of Patrick persists to this day, even though there is no historical basis for it. The bishop's mitre for example, only came into use in the 10th Century, more than 500 years after the death of Patrick.

For a more recent parallel, we can look at the rebranding of another saint, Saint Nicholas. The story of a Godly man from

Eastern Europe who looked out for poor children, made popular in Victorian times, was completely washed away by the marketing men at Coca Cola. The red-suited, white-bearded Santa Claus was born and the real historical person disappeared. This rebranded, legendary Patrick, is the image that predominates around the world; and the fantastical stories continue to be told, even by people who should know better. However, more and more people are becoming interested in finding the historic person who was the Apostle of Ulster and uncovering the real Patrick.

## The Real Patrick

Patrick was born in Britain around 385AD, when Britain (Brittania) was a province of the Roman Empire. He was born into a Christian home and his family had been Christian for at least two generations. His grandfather was called Poitius. His father, Calpornius, was a deacon and minor local official. They were free born Roman citizens and Patrick's original Roman name would have been Patricius.

Patrick's writings say that his father owned a farm or villa near the village of Bannaven Taberniae. Around 400AD, when he was 16, a band of Irish pirates raided the countryside where Patrick lived. They hunted down the terrified people and robbed them of their possessions. Some of the people were slaughtered. Others, like Patrick, were taken away by the raiders in their ships to be sold as slaves in Ireland. Patrick was sold as a slave to a man named Milchu who was a local chief who lived at Skerry in County Antrim. About five miles away from Skerry across the River Braid stands the hill of Slemish. There on the slopes around Slemish, Patrick spent six bleak years as a herdsman of sheep and pigs.

It was during his captivity that Patrick found God. Although he had been raised in a Christian family, his writing tells us that he did not know the true God until then. As the writer Paul Gallico explains, "During this period Patrick found God and God found Patrick and thereafter, to the end of the saint's days, neither ever abandoned the other."

After six years, Patrick had a dream urging him to escape, so he fled from his captors and returned home on a ship, believed to be from Wicklow. After some years in



**Above and below:** There are numerous placenames along the west coast of Scotland that suggest connections to St Patrick. Right: Portpatrick Harbour and Portpatrick Old Parish Kirk, built by Sir Hugh Montgomery in 1626 (the same year he rebuilt Donaghadee Parish Church)



It is now generally accepted that Patrick was carried out to sea. **"Most places that claim to be the birthplace of St Patrick are in the north of Ireland, not Ulster that he was born in."**



**Templepatrick, Ards Peninsula** tradition says this is where St Patrick arrived in Ulster

Britain, he had a second dream, urging him to return to Ireland as an evangelist. In his dream, a man named Victorinus gave him a letter entitled *"The Voice of the Irish"*. The letter invited him to return to the land of his captivity: "We beseech thee, holy youth, that thou come and walk amongst us once more."

Patrick returned to Ireland around 432AD, landing at the mouth of the Slaney River, between Strangford and the River Quoile, on the east coast of County Down. It was the beginning of an evangelistic mission that was to last nearly 30

years, indeed for the rest of his life.

Patrick walked about two miles from where he had landed and came to a low hill that is now known as Saul. He met a local chieftain named Dichu and spoke to him of Christ. Dichu was converted and gave Patrick a barn in which to hold his services. The Gaelic word for barn is sabhall (pronounced saul) and that is the origin of the placename. There has been a Christian church at Saul ever since.

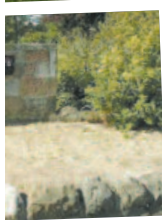
Many churches and monasteries were established in the area where Patrick ministered, including at



# LE OF ULSTER



ally accepted that most of Patrick's missionary work  
t in Ulster. The historian Jonathan Bardon states:  
**traditionally associated with Patrick...**  
**thern half of Ireland and it was probably in**  
**did most of his work."**



Armagh, which was close to the ancient capital of Ulster. It is often said that the Protestant cathedral in Armagh stands on the site of Patrick's church, however this was rejected by Rev WP Carmody, who said, "the site of the present Cathedral is not that of the first church, which was in the lower ground, known as Na Ferta." It is now generally accepted that most of Patrick's missionary work was carried out in Ulster. The historian Jonathan Bardon states: "Most places traditionally associated with Patrick...are in the northern half of Ireland and it was probably in

Ulster that he did most of his work." Patrick was a passionate and persuasive preacher...his knowledge of the Bible was remarkable and formidable. WS Kerr commented, "In almost every paragraph of his writings St. Patrick's devotion to the Holy Scriptures is made plain. His intimate knowledge of the whole Bible is amazing. His mind is so saturated with it that his thoughts naturally, as if unconsciously, clothe themselves in Biblical phraseology." Little is known of those individuals who Patrick converted, save for a few. One man, Donard, is

recalled in the name of Slieve Donard, outside Newcastle. Donard established a church nearby at Maghera. This was placed within an older cashel whose stone walls still encircle the shell of the old church. The remains of a round tower can be found outside. Another man, Tassach, founded a church at Raholp. This church is not far from Saul, on the road to Strangford through Raholp village. The original building may well have been of wood, but it was later replaced by a small stone church. Only the walls now remain of that building, but it is one of the earliest Christian buildings in Ireland. After a long life spent saving souls and extending God's Kingdom, Patrick died in 461AD. *The Book of Armagh*, written four hundred years later, dated his death to 17th March and that date has been marked ever since. The town of Downpatrick grew up near the reputed place of Patrick's burial, with the Church of Ireland Cathedral of Down built next to the spot. Around 1900, a large slab of Mourne granite, inscribed with a cross and bearing the name Patric, was placed on the traditional burial place (the name being gaelicised in a latter day rebranding effort).

## An Ulster-Scots Dimension?

Patrick's story has many connections with Scotland which would resonate with Ulster-Scots folk, but do not feature in the "official" narrative. While the modern location of Patrick's birthplace cannot be certain, there is a long established tradition in Scotland that Patrick was born at Old Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton. Dumbarton, with its great basalt rock rising up from the banks of the Clyde, was the western terminal point of the Antonine Wall, which the Romans built across Scotland from the Clyde to the Firth of Forth. At one time this tradition was rejected because there was no archaeological evidence for the existence of Roman villas in south-west Scotland, but in recent years much evidence has emerged of Roman villas in the Strathclyde region and much academic opinion now favours this as the area where Patrick was born. There are numerous placenames on the west coast of Scotland which suggest connections with Patrick. These include Kirkpatrick Fleming; Kirkpatrick Durham; Kirkpatrick Park and Portpatrick. Most of these placenames link the name of Patrick with the Scots word for church. While this seems an obvious connection, it would seem unlikely that the kind of dynamics which led to the invention of Patrick connections for places in Ireland would have had much point in Scotland, unless there was a real kernel of truth in the story. Portpatrick was established adjacent to the point where Patrick was reputed to have embarked on his mission to Ireland. For centuries there has been maritime traffic between Portpatrick and Donaghadee.

While the modern settlements date to the 17th Century (they were both developed by Hugh Montgomery of the Hamilton and Montgomery settlements), the proximity of the two areas at just 21 miles apart makes it one of the easiest routes to cross from Scotland to Ireland. Close by Donaghadee sits the graveyard at Templepatrick, where an ancient church once stood. It is reputed that Patrick once landed here on his travels to Ulster. In his seminal four volume set *An Historical Account of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Ancient and Modern*, published in 1880, renowned Holywood historian and parish priest Father James O'Lavery referred to the Donaghadee traditions: "... about a mile south of Donaghadee is the ancient cemetery of Templepatrick; but every vestige of the church has disappeared. There has been long prevalent a tradition that St Patrick, on some of his arrivals from Scotland, landed here, and certain marks are shown on a large rock which are said to indicate the spot on which he first placed his hand and his foot. Between the cemetery and the sea "a spring well of limpid water," frequented, according to Harris, "by people afflicted with head-aches," is called St Patrick's Well..." It is worth noting that Fr. O'Lavery refers to Patrick's "arrivals from Scotland", which suggests that rather than living in isolation in Ireland, Patrick may have been travelling back and forward to his homeland, which seems to make sense if we consider the existence of numerous places in Scotland associated with him. He was certainly communicating with his homeland, as one of only two surviving letters by Patrick, known as the Epistle, is an open letter to Coroticus, otherwise known as Ceretic, King of Strathclyde. The letter is a protest at some of Patrick's Christian followers being captured by him and taken back to Britain. Importantly, Patrick addresses Coroticus as "fellow citizen". Both Anglicans and Presbyterians have historically recognised and indeed celebrated the role of Patrick in extending Christianity in Ireland. The historian of early Presbyterianism in Ireland, James Seaton Reid of Glasgow University, writing in 1833, noted the purity of the early Church in Ireland and the many similarities that it shared with the Reformed faith; the settlers clearly identifying closely with Patrick's life and legacy. Even in America, the home of the largest St Patrick's Day parades, the origin of the celebrations is not what might be expected. The first public festivities in Boston took place in 1737 and were organised by Ulster-Scots migrants; while the first ever New York St Patrick's Day parade took place in 1762, when British troops paraded through the streets of what was then a British colony, to the strains of the highland bagpipes!





# Countdown is on to a very special Cowal Gathering

By Gary McDonald

**Pipers and drummers across Northern Ireland are cranking up rehearsals ahead of the start of the competition season, which will be ushered in at Lisburn's Wallace Park on May 11 and continues through until late August.**

But at the tail-end of the campaign there's one contest in particular which will have extra poignancy, because it will see the last-ever Cowal Gathering in its current format.

For it emerged in January that the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon, a long-time favourite with Ulster pipe bands, has been stripped of its elite status as one of the world's five premier championships, thus wiping away more than a century of proud history and tradition. Since 1906 the Cowal Games has included a major pipe band competition, and until 1947 it effectively doubled up as the World Pipe Band Championships as well. But growing complaints from bands over recent years that the conditions for tuning and competing are no longer fit for purpose, and that Dunoon as a location is becoming increasingly difficult and more expensive to reach by coach and ferry, forced the Games committee to request a downgrade. And world-governing body the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) ruled in January to accept the proposal from the Games organisers to make 2013 the last year that Cowal will be offered as

one of the five majors.

In a statement the organisers said: "Cowal Highland Gathering has taken a key decision aimed at making its pipe band competition more fun and better-suited to the overall event.

"While this was not an easy decision to take, the Gathering Board agreed that it was more important to secure the future of Cowal Highland Gathering than to maintain its 'major' status.

"The Board stressed that the move would provide an opportunity to improve facilities, introduce new attractions and promote the Cowal Highland Gathering as a traditional highland games."

Cowal Highland Gathering chairman Ronnie Cairns said: "We recognise that the increasing competitiveness of the event and numbers of bands attending were putting a strain on the space and resources we had available and that this was leading to unhappiness among some of the pipe bands."

He added: "Far from being the end of the Cowal Gathering this is an opportunity for us to not only improve the facilities for the bands that attend but to also introduce new attractions and elements for the public and by doing so to secure the future of Cowal Highland Gathering as a traditional Highland games."

"We will continue to host the Highland Dancing World Championships, heavy athletics, traditional wrestling, solo piping and the popular live ceilidh tent."

Acknowledged as the biggest and most spectacular Highland games in the world, the Cowal Gathering doesn't just take in piping banding but includes the World Highland Dancing Championships, a

significant solo piping competition and, until six years ago, a number of track and athletics competitions. But in 2007, under pressure from the pipe bands to allow spectators to get closer to the action, the committee controversially chose to abandon the track, athletic and shinty competitions and the lay-out of the stadium was significantly altered.

Other subtle changes crept in, like bands refusing to take part in the mile-long march from Dunoon pier, up Argyll Street (the town's main thoroughfare) to the stadium, while the traditional post-contest march down Argyll Street had developed into a rowdy affair.

Cost and access became a major issue too, culminating in 2011 when a car and bus ferry service between Dunoon and Gourock was axed, forcing bands coming north from Stranraer to travel around the Cowal Peninsula, adding hours to their journey. Hotels and service providers also effectively priced themselves out of the market. However, there still remained something uniquely special about the Cowal weekend, with the Games attracting more than 3,500 competitors, with many coming from overseas, including Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and, of course, Ireland and the UK, and Dunoon's population effectively doubled for the three-day festival as the town welcomed upwards of 20,000 visitors. Check out some old Games footage at

[www.britishpathe.com/video/clans-gather-at-cowal-games](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/clans-gather-at-cowal-games) Gary McDonald is piping correspondent with the Irish News. Read his column every Saturday.

## 2013 Piping Calendar

**It's less than 10 weeks until the first outdoor contest of the 2013 pipe band competition season in Northern Ireland.**

Among the new-look contests on this year's calendar is an opener in Lisburn on May 11, tying in with the Lord Mayor's parade, along with the All-Ireland in Londonderry for the first time ever. The full 2013 schedule is as follows:

- May 11 - Wallace Park, Lisburn
- May 18 - Enniskillen
- May 25 - British Championships (Bathgate)
- June 1 - Carrickfergus
- June 8 - Cookstown
- June 15 - Lurgan
- June 22 - Omagh
- June 29 - European Championships (Forres)
- July 6 - All Ireland Championships (Londonderry)
- July 27 - Scottish Championships (Dumbarton)
- August 3 - Bangor
- August 10 - Ulster Championships in Newtownards
- August 17/18 - World Championships (Glasgow)
- August 24 - Portrush
- August 31 - Cowal Championships (Dunoon)

## A musical special for Stormont



**Pictured:** Mark Armstrong, director of Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School (NIPDS); Rosa Solinas, head of Music Arts Council NI and drummer Jamie Lee Leonard celebrate three decades of success of the NIPDS

An audience of MLAs and representatives from Arts Council NI and Arts Council Ireland were treated to a festive feast of music as the Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School (NIPDS) was honoured at a reception Stormont Parliament Buildings. Michelle McIlveen, who chairs the Assembly's committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure, welcomed guests which included highland bagpipe expert and Piobaireachd Society vice-president Andrew Wright who travelled from Scotland to attend the event. "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the NIPDS on their accomplishments down the years," Miss McIlveen said. "Education and arts combined are a powerful force, and the unique approach of the NIPDS shows just how successful these elements can be when dedicated people are in the driving seat. I wish them every success for the future." Rosa Solinas, head of music at Arts Council of Northern Ireland, said: "We have supported the Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School throughout its 30-odd years of nurturing and developing the talent and skills of our local performers. "Their tuition has enabled players

to realise their potential and has been a major factor in the consistent success of Northern Ireland's bands on the national and world stage."

Students and tutors of the school have attained top awards in solo competitions in both piping and drumming at the highest level and others have led bands such as Field Marshal Montgomery to numerous world titles.

NIPDS director Mark Armstrong paid tribute saying, "I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make the school such a success over the years."

"In particular I'd like to thank the Arts Council for the vital funding they have provided since Sam Bailie founded the school over 30 years ago. Without this vital support, the piping and drumming fraternity of Northern Ireland would not be in such a healthy position."

NIPDS currently operates from two permanent centres in Northern Ireland at Laurelhill Community College in Lisburn and Portora Royal School in Enniskillen.

To enrol in a course contact Sharon Noade (for Lisburn) on 07745 169 327 or Cecil Jones (Enniskillen) on 07533 979 404.



## 'Living History' in Carrickfergus



**Pictured:** Guest speakers Ruth Turkington, Patricia Poppy, Maynard Hanna, Ian Eagleson and Roger Emmerson at the Living History conference in Carrickfergus

**By Maynard Hanna,  
Ulster-Scots Agency**

**The Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with Carrickfergus Borough Council hosted a very successful living history conference in Carrickfergus Town Hall which attracted representatives from living history groups based across the province who specialise in staging events with Ulster-Scots historical and heritage themes.**

Alderman Billy Ashe, Mayor of Carrickfergus Borough Council opened the event extending a warm welcome to everyone in attendance. To open the conference, Matthew Warwick from the Ulster-Scots Community Network gave a presentation titled 'An introduction to funding and community group requirements'. Following Matthew's presentation a number of guest speakers were invited to share their

knowledge and experiences with the audience.

Guest speakers included Ruth Turkington from the Living History Department at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, who gave an interesting insight into procuring clothing and other materials for re-enactment work and living history drama. Roger Emmerson then gave an overview of events at which the planners were intending to use either, muskets, weaponry or black powder and Patricia Poppy spoke of the difficulties associated with grant paper work, obtaining equipment and the sourcing of accurate historical data pertaining to any era that designated groups had chosen as their own specifically related living history event. Other guest speakers included Lynda Waring, (arts and events manager at Carrickfergus Borough Council) who provided an expert analysis of all the possible problems that may occur when organising an event, drawing on

her own experiences from recent years and David Abraham (vice president of the SME and Charities Team at MARSH Ltd) who gave an insight into the difficulties that the requirement of insurance cover for events can impose upon those organising living history activities. Final guest speaker, Jim King, Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland outlined a number of considerations event organisers should take onboard when planning an event. A question and answer session was held before the conference was brought to a close. The Agency would like to take this opportunity to thank Carrickfergus Borough Council, for the use of its premises, to Mayor Ashe for both opening the conference and a special thanks to Mr Ian Eagleson, Director of Support Services, Carrickfergus Borough Council for all his help and co-operation in making the living history conference the success that it was.

## 'Who was Saint Patrick? A Short Life of the Saint

**Renowned author and educator Maureen Donnelly, whose previous works have included *The Nine Glens*, *Patrick*, *Brigid and Colmcille* and *Places of Historic Interest around Newcastle* has launched a new booklet about the life of Ireland's patron saint.**

Originally from Belfast with strong Ulster-Scots connections in the Glens of Antrim, but long time resident of the Downpatrick area, Maureen has produced a new work entitled *Who was Saint Patrick? A Short Life of the Saint* just in time for Saint Patrick's Day. As a board member of the Saint Patrick Centre, Maureen was keen to produce a life of Saint Patrick in a simple form for the interested visitor.

What a life it was - one of slavery, piracy, forgiveness, great courage against the odds and eventually the establishment of Christianity in Ireland from which every church in every tradition can trace its origin.

Northern Ireland holds the key to the whole story, Maureen notes, from Slemish to



Author Maureen Donnelly

Armagh, but particularly the Downpatrick area, where Patrick is buried and where the Saint Patrick Centre continues to bring people from all faiths and traditions together to celebrate his legacy.

Copies of *Who was Saint Patrick? A Short Life of the Saint* come with a special map of local sites around Downpatrick, from the first church in Ireland at Saul to Inch Abbey where the legend of the snakes was written.

Copies of the booklet are available from the Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick or may be purchased and posted for £3 by calling 028 4461 9000.

### **St Patrick Centre's Archaeology Road Show**

The Saint Patrick Centre is launching a new workshop programme for 2013 called the Archaeology Road Show.

Enter our competition on **Page 16** for the chance to have our team of archaeologists come out to your school adding a fun and interactive experience to your history lessons!

## CHARLIE 'THA POOCHER' RANNALS



### Tha daith o a true Ulster Scot

Awa baak in tha at ootset o tha year o 1913 tha hale o Irelan wus far frae bein' at peace wae itself. Tha thoarmy queshun o Hame Rule wus tae tha fore in iveryboadies heids an wus tha taak o tha toon. Sir Edward Karsin had jest brocht thagither twarthy anti Hame Rule organisashuns an formed tha Ulster Volunteer Force. Hoooinver am naw gantae gie yese a history lesson accordin tae 'Tha Pooche'r but draa yer attentshun tae somethin that wus very vexin tae a roon aboo tha North Antrim locality. Tha daith o a boady in tha prime o his life in January 1913 wus received wae baith grief an sorra an left tha hale countryside draped in a graet melancholy cloud. Tha daith had bane that o tha heid mester o tha National Schuil in Aramoy for aroon sevinteen year an wus weel kent an laked bae aa an sundry. He wus big in tha Masonic, tha Kirk an wus a graet boady for tha shootin, fishin an belanged tae tha Bellykassle Rifle club. Noo am sure maist o yese ir wunnerin aboot mae bletherin an wha it is am taakin aboot. Weel tha man am spakin aboot wus nane ither nir a John McFall betther kent baak then as 'Tha Aul Han'. 'Tha Aul Han' aff coorse had anither graet interest in his life an that wus tha tongue o his native North Antrim. He wus a boady wha micht hae gein himsel peace an jest contented himsel bae seein that his scholars wur gein a guid knowledge o tha English language. Noo am sure he lakely dane a that an mair, but ye see he wus weel aweer that thaur wus anither language that he an his scholars spake, tha Ulster Scots tongue. This wus tha tongue o tha common man in tha airts an pairs o North Antrim an wus tha tongue that wus spake in tha hame. It wus loked doon on bae tha establishment o tha dey an wus seen as a kine o gutther tongue for tha unclouth an tha lower clesses. Aff coorse 'Tha Aul Han' wus made o sterner stuff an kent weel tha velue o his baeloved native tongue that had bane brocht ower frae Scotlan lang syne. He set aboot usin his influence as a weel respected heid mester tae persuade tha editor o tha Northern Constiution tae aloo him tae tae stert scribevin a wee column ivery week in tha paper, in his ain tongue. Tae maesel as a boady wha haes ower tha last wheen o decades dane a in mae poorer tae scribe in mae ain North Antrim tongue. Am o tha opeenion that if wae ir ivir tae get onywhaur in pittin forrit oor leid wae mann stert tae pit it doon on paper an get it intae wur heids that it is worth o pittin doon. Whiles A feel lake ghen up, for oor wee tongue is mair taaked aboot nir taaked, it is still in mae ain opeenion bane pit on tha baak burner an naw gein its richtfa place at tha tap o tha cless in oor Ulster Scots culture. Aff coorse if tha 'Aul Han' wus ivir tae bae alloood yince agen tae taak a tramp roon haes oul pads in Aramoy he wud still fin yin ir twa wha still taak in haes native tongue, sae am plaased tae tell yese Ulster Scots/Ullans is leevin an weel in monies a hoose at tha fit o Knocklaid, aye an in ither airts forbye. Sae come noo get oot yer quills an get scribevin an boys ye micht even lake it. Tha Poocher February 2013



# FUSE: Bringing everyone together in Ulster-Scots culture

**The Fermanagh Ulster-Scots Empowerment (FUSE) movement, which is aimed at developing and strengthening Ulster-Scots culture among people of all ages across the county, continues to go from strength to strength.**

Since January 2012, part-time worker Wendy Parkinson and a dedicated and committed steering group, chaired by Neil Johnston, have organised a range of highly successful events including a summer school, drama school, castle tour, social and cultural events and an Ulster-Scots poetry recital competition with three local primary schools. Speaking of the Ulster-Scots poetry recital competition, FUSE steering group chair Neil Johnston said: "This was a new and exciting venture and something we were proud to be initiating. With the Fermanagh accent reciting Ulster-Scots, where many people here are unaware that every day words they use originate from Scotland." FUSE would like to thank Anne Morrison-Smyth from the Ullans Speakers' Association who held workshops for the pupils and adjudicated on the day, and other adjudicator and renowned Ulster-Scots poet, Wilson Burgess. Anne presented all the pupils who took part in the poetry recital competition with an Ulster-Scots version of 'Alice and Wonderland' and Wilson presented one of his poetry books to the competition winners. FUSE would also like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for supporting the poetry recital competition, without which the event would not have gone ahead. Fermanagh is unique as regards Ulster-Scots culture and heritage, following a slightly different path to the other counties in Ulster.

"FUSE want to tell our story in all its glory with our descendants coming mainly from the lowlands of Scotland, the Border Reivers. We are at a developmental stage here with much important work to be done," says Wendy Parkinson, who was originally an Armstrong.

Neil Johnston explains: "We promote our unique cultural heritage. We believe in Fermanagh that we have a proud and strong Ulster-Scot tradition. The project includes local communities and makes them aware of Ulster-Scots history and culture."

"We are not stand alone, we support and encourage initiatives that support and spread our culture for the benefit of all. We act as an umbrella group for the county, as a first point of call for Ulster-Scots in Fermanagh."

Hence the varied cultural workshops and Plantation Castle Tour.

"Our Plantation Castle Tour took place in the beautiful autumnal weather and landscape in September," Wendy says.

"A dry, crisp day set the beauty of the Plantation Castles off exquisitely. We had



Above, The Erne Highland Dancers who competed in last year's Fermanagh Dance Competition and below right, Rachel Duncan and Kenzey Downey from Maguiresbridge Dance School who performed for the Queen at Stormont

people travelling to come on the tour including Lord Laird and his wife.

"Seven castles were visited, with an excellent speaker from our local museum, Catherine Scott. Many of the castles are built on Lough Erne's shores and there was great demand for places on the tour, we were over subscribed. We really do take our beautiful county for granted!"

Thanks to the FUSE team, more and more people here have had an interest sparked in their Ulster-Scots culture and heritage and those from an Irish and other heritage are also becoming interested in this other culture. There is a vibrant Ulster-Scots dance scene with two Highland dance schools, where they have great success in the dance competition circuit. There is also an adult Scottish country dancing group who travel all over the country to perform.

Local bands here are availing of support in accessing funds and training with the help of FUSE sometimes writing musical arrangements with Ulster-Scots music to the fore.

FUSE have attracted all age groups with a real interest in Ulster-Scots coming from the young people in the County.

A huge summer school which is organised in conjunction with the South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) is now an annual event, with 60 children availing of the opportunity.

An extremely successful drama summer school was also organised at Kesh Primary School.

'A Kist o Wurd's' the Ulster-Scots radio station, covered the event and was really impressed.

In one week the children performed an

impressive Ulster-Scots play written by Dan Gordon. This was produced by Stephenie Kenny Quinn from Class Act Drama and was afforded much local media attention. Not forgetting its friends across the border in Cavan and Monaghan, FUSE have promoted Crossborder activities and offered support to the hard-working individuals and groups there, who strive to promote, enjoy and keep on the agenda their Ulster-Scots culture and heritage also.

Ulster-Scots is all about immersing and enjoying your culture and FUSE do not undervalue the social side of things to celebrate our culture.

"We had a great Ulster-Scots Night in May," treasurer Stephen Vance says. "Everybody, young and old were up dancing to the Alister Scott Ceilidh Band. It was my first time to try Scottish country dancing and I'm glad we had a caller to tell us the steps! It was a great night's crack."

"Stuart Buchanan told a few stories and played his accordion to entertain us and he did a great job. The Erne Highland Dancers got us all in the mood to dance with a great display of dancing."

Not content with organising all these activities and supporting and empowering others in their endeavours, FUSE also offer a publicity service, through an email database and Facebook. They also lobby and work alongside their local council and government departments to keep Ulster-Scots firmly on the agenda and equal in Fermanagh.

"We organised a youth consultation for



Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure on Ulster-Scots in the County recently and I liaise with organisations and promote Ulster-Scots at any given opportunity possible," says Wendy Parkinson.

"We have worked hard to progress so far in just one year which is encouraging and with such a motivated and determined team, we will keep going from strength to strength."

**For more information contact Wendy at the FUSE office on 028 67722615 or 07935 190509, email: [Wendyp.fuse@gmail.com](mailto:Wendyp.fuse@gmail.com) or write to Unit 3, The Square, Manderwood Park, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh, BT92 0FS.**



## Ulster-Scots Place to Visit

# The Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh

**The Ulster-American Folk Park near Omagh offers visitors the chance to experience a taste of authentic Ulster-Scots and Irish heritage.**

Now one of Northern Ireland's most visited attractions, the park grew from a simple thatched cottage which was the birthplace of Thomas Mellon, an Ulster-Scot, who emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1818 at the age of five and went on to found one of America's most powerful banking dynasties.

The museum, with more than 30 buildings scattered around its site, tells the story of emigration from Ulster to North America during the 18th and 19th centuries and evokes the lives of emigrants to the New World both before and after their voyages.

Unlike the other period buildings that make up the museum which have been reconstructed on site, Mellon's homestead remains on its original plot, and during any visit you are likely to be greeted by the sound of clucking hens and the smells of traditional

Ulster farmhouse cooking on a peat fire.

Mellon was born in this actual cottage in February 1813. It was built by his father Andrew and his brother Archy, chiefly by the labour of their own hands, shortly before Thomas was born.

The cottage and its outbuildings are typical of the farmsteads which so many Ulster-Scots people left behind as they looked for a new life in America.

The farmhouse was originally a two-room house with two detached outhouses. The original bedroom was to the left of the kitchen. This is now a parlour and a small back room. The second bedroom, to the right of the kitchen, was added at a later date. Among the other many attractions at the Ulster-American Folk Park are:

- \* Campbell House, home of the Ulster-Scots Campbell brothers of Aghalane in Plumbridge, Co Tyrone, who emigrated to America in the early 19th century. Robert Campbell became a fur trader in the Rocky Mountains, and later a successful merchant in St Louis, Missouri, where

he was joined by his older brother Hugh.

- \* Tullyallen Mass House was built in 1768 and extended in 1830 after Catholic emancipation. It has been reconstructed in its 1768 form with plain sash windows, whitewashed walls and a thatched roof.

- \* Castletown National School, built in 1845, was moved from its original site nearby and re-erected in the Ulster-American Folk Park. Mountjoy post office was moved to the site from nearby Mountjoy village, where it was used as a post office from 1861 until the early years of the 20th century. It is complete with a Victorian letterbox.

- \* Ulster Street is a reconstruction of nineteenth century shops using restored Victorian storefronts. The street also includes a saddler's and ropeworks.

- \* American Street is an area based on a 19th century US streetscape, representative of ports such as Baltimore and Boston. It features a general store, tinsmith's exhibition, a replica of the First Mellon Bank, and a wheelwright's shop.



## Expert dance tuition...

**The Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society, based in Ballymoney, is one of a number of groups offering Scottish country dance tuition to the community under the Ulster-Scots Agency Music and Dance programme.**

The classes are held in the Evergreen Centre, which is owned by Ballymoney Borough Council, and it is seen as an ideal location due to the size of the hall and an excellent floor for dancing on. It's also the reason why the dance troop is known as the Evergreen Scottish Country Dancers.

Tuition is conducted under the auspices of Elizabeth Brown-Kerr, who has been a qualified tutor for many years and has performed at demonstrations and gala events throughout the country. She makes the journey from her home in Castlerock every Wednesday evening and classes begin with the juniors. Children aged seven and over are welcome to come along and participate in these activities, with

around 20 kids currently enjoying the classes.

A typical class starts with a few warm up exercises which are then followed by step practice and formations of various dances. All students are taught the basics first, so everyone is comfortable with these, before they move to some of the more complex routines. Classes, while educational, have a large fun element and are a great way of learning a new skill.

Following the junior class, an adult class is held and a similar style is taken with warm-up exercises being completed before moving into the various dance formations. Currently

around 18 adults attend, but the group is always looking for new participants.

"It's a great way to meet new people, take you out of the house, and have fun while helping to keep fit and ensure your body remains active," Elizabeth says.

In the summer months, the Evergreen Scottish Country Dancers can be seen at various Ulster-Scots festivals and fun days, Council cultural events along with concerts and gala evenings.

If you are interested in taking part, contact the Ullans Centre, Ballymoney (028) 2766 8897 for more details.



## Information

### Prices:

Adults £7.00  
Children (5 to 18 years) £4.50  
Concession £4.50  
Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) £20.00  
Family (1 adult and up to 3 children) £14.50  
Children under five go free

### Opening times:

\* October to February - Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4pm.  
Saturday and Sunday 11am to 4pm. Monday closed (except for Bank holidays)  
\* March to September - Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm.  
Monday closed (except for Bank holidays)

### Contact details:

Ulster American Folk Park, Castletown, Omagh, Co Tyrone  
BT78 5QU. Website:  
www.nmni.com/uafp.  
Phone (028) 8224 3292



**RECIPES**Cooking with **Judith McLoughlin**

# Paddy's Chocolate Mint Pie with an Orange Twist...

*The story:*

A green pie with an orange twist, now that is a fusion worth talking about for a Northern Irish girl! This was the first dessert I made for my husband when we were dating, so I had to include it in my book. A wonderfully light and not too sweet pie that combines the cool combination of mint and chocolate, always the best way to end a meal, and it looks great on the plate into the bargain. A great talking point for Saint Patrick's Day dinners or as a light dessert to end a summer time backyard cookout, you decide.

**Crust ingredients:**

- 1½ cups (6 oz.) graham cracker crumbs or digestive biscuits
- 1 Tbsp. coco powder
- 2 oz. butter (¼ cup butter)

**Pie ingredients:**

- 32 large marshmallows (8½ oz.)
- ½ cup (4 fl. oz.) whole milk
- 6 Tbsp. crème de menthe
- 2-3 drops of green food coloring

- 1½ cups heavy whipping cream

**Orange chocolate sauce ingredients:**

- 1 8-oz. bar dark chocolate/orange flavor chocolate (broken into pieces)
- 6 fl. oz. (¾ cup) whipping cream

**Garnish:**

- sprigs of mint
- 1 orange (segmented)

*How to make it:*

1. To make the crust, crush the cookies in the food processor and combine with melted butter and coco powder. Press into the bottom of 8" pie plate and bake for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and cool.
2. In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt the marshmallows in milk, stirring with a wooden spoon until they have melted. Allow to cool.
3. Next, stir in the crème de Menthe, then beat the heavy whipping cream until soft peaks appear and slowly fold in green marshmallow mixture.
4. Pour into the pie crust. Refrigerate.
5. To make orange chocolate sauce, melt the chocolate over a double boiler with the cream and stir until smooth.
6. To serve the pie, place the pie in center of the plate and garnish with a slice of segmented orange, a little orange zest, and a sprig of mint. Drizzle the plate with the chocolate orange sauce.

## Educating weans in Ulster-Scots

**This is shaping up to be the most successful year yet for the Ullans Speakers' Association, which was formed by native Ulster-Scots speakers to promote and encourage the everyday use of the language and educate people about the significance and influence of Ulster-Scots on the English language.**

Since setting up in 2008, the Association has continually worked on partnerships with schools in providing Ulster-Scots language classes to help promote and develop the language. This has included schools in our local Ballymoney area and around Ulster. This language development is provided by Anne Morrison-Smyth, the full-time development officer employed by the Association. Anne is responsible for the organisation and delivery of these after school classes with much credit going to her for the success of these classes in previous years, with increasing numbers of schools every year making enquires about them. Her knowledge, enthusiasm and love for the Ulster-Scots language is apparent during the classes, not only managing to hold the children's attention for up to 45 minutes but also leaving them wanting more - something the very best teachers struggle to do.

Last year was hugely successful with many Ulster-Scots after-schools projects having been undertaken including a six-week course at the



**Last year was hugely successful with many Ulster-Scots after-schools projects having been undertaken**

Anne Morrison-Smyth pictured during an Ulster-Scots reading class at Ballymoney Library with weans of Garyduff Primary School

Monreagh Ulster Scots and Heritage centre involving two schools in Donegal.

The Association and Anne work closely with the Ulster Scots Agency on after-schools projects including two recent initiatives in co-operation the FUSE (Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment).

One was a play called *Wae a Heart an a Half*, which saw Anne teach the children how to pronounce the Ulster Scots words in the script. This was so successful that it is now being taken to nine other schools in the three

border counties.

FUSE also organised a poetry competition involving P4 to P7 classes from three primary schools. Again Anne was asked to teach the children how to recite the Ulster-Scots poems and even was invited back to judge the completion.

Mrs Felicity Humphreys from Moat PS in Lisnaskea said: "We were delighted with the children's success in the programme and in the poetry competition. Many thanks and tributes must go to Anne and the local FUSE co-coordinator Wendy Parkinson."

A number of after-school classes have already been organised for the coming months, leading the group to believe that this will be the most successful year yet.

## LET'S DANCE...



Receiving their certificates and medals for Scottish Highland Dancing are (back row from left): Rachel McCann (Bronze Bar), Kathryn Stewart (dance tutor) and Emma McCarrison (Silver). Front (from left) - Zoe Kennedy (Bronze Bar) and Alex McCarrison (Bronze Bar). The girls are students of the Kathryn Stewart School of Highland Dancing, which meets in Banbridge Orange Hall. Photo: Coleen Kennedy.



# Remembering Donegal's 'weaver poetess'

**Jacqui Reed from the 4 BRIGS Literary Group reflects on the life and times of Sarah Leech, a poetess from Co Donegal.**

Celebrated weaver poetess Sarah Leech was the daughter of Thomas Leech, an industrious linen weaver. She was born in 1809 in Ballylennan, a village in County Donegal and Parish of Taughboyne, approximately three miles from Raphoe. At the age of three Sarah's father died of pleurisy and left behind him a widow with six children without any means of subsistence. As a result, Sarah and her siblings were deprived of the ordinary opportunities such as an education. In 1822 Sarah's mother moved her family half a mile to Lettergull and it was here, in her solitary moments, that Sarah first wooed the Muses, for the purpose of passing away the time. However, diffidence prevented her from committing any of her poetical

effusions to paper as she was never able to follow up the subject according to her wishes. In 1825, some person in the neighbourhood happened to incur her resentment and, for the purpose of avenging what she considered an insult, she composed some very satirical stanzas on the individual. But such was her forgiving disposition that she could not be prevailed on to repeat them, unless to two or three persons in whom she placed great confidence. Even her own family were ignorant of what she was writing, when she began to commit her ideas to paper; so that amusement, and not ambition, seems to have been the prevailing motive of her expressing her wild imaginations, in rude rhyme. About this period, she composed her 'Elegy on a Loquacious Old Woman' which, being circulated through the vicinity, came to the ears of a gentleman who was on a visit in that part of the country. He was so struck with the description she

had given of the person alluded to that he immediately set out to pay her a visit, and found her, not in a garret, surrounded by the usual classical associations, but busily plying her spinning wheel in a humble cabin. After some conversation, he prevailed on her to repeat the 'Elegy' that she had written, with which she complied, though with evident reluctance. Before he left the neighbourhood, he transcribed some of her poems, and shortly after she had the mortification to see them in the Londonderry Journal, with some remarks on her humble situation in life. In 1826, she was so severely attacked with sore eyes, that it was thought she would



lose her sight. While labouring under this severe visitation, during which eight blisters were applied in succession to her neck, she one evening pulled the bandage off her eyes and wrote down the verses which the reader will find under that head. It is unnecessary to add, that they breathe forth the genuine spirit of Christian resignation under affliction. A severe and prolonged attack of rheumatism, which confined her to home, and incapacitated her from walking, unless by the assistance of a crutch, returning to her spinning wheel, the only means she has now to depend on for her subsistence. Sarah passed away in 1830 aged just 21.



Ian Crozier and Karen McCarthy with Board members Ida Fisher, Hilary Singleton and Val O'Kelly. Inset Karen's reading is recorded

## Book reading by Karen F McCarthy

In the January edition of *The Ulster-Scot*, Billy Kennedy reviewed Karen F. McCarthy's book, *The Other Irish - The Scots-Irish Rascals who Made America*.

On Thursday February 21 the Ulster-Scots Agency was delighted to host a book reading by Karen as part of her Northern Ireland Book Tour, sponsored by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

The event held in the Ulster-Scots Agency's Visitor and Information Centre in Belfast was well attended, and following the reading Karen signed copies of her book and chatted among all of those who had joined her for the afternoon event.

Other venues on Karen's Northern Ireland Book Tour included the Public Record Office for Northern Ireland.



## The Sarah Leech Summer School 2013

**The Sarah Leech 2013 Summer School takes place in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, on Saturday June 22 from 10am. This is the provisional programme of events:**

- Opening speech by guest speaker
- Visual presentation of Sarah Leech and her poetical works by Dr Pauline Holland
- Guest panel with key note speakers discussing 'The Impact of The Scottish Plantation'
- Open discussion on 'Conversion of Cultures'

### Ongoing throughout the day:

- Exhibition of paintings from 'The Treasure Each Voice Book' 400 years of Anglo-Irish, Irish and Ulster-Scots Literature from Stranorlar.
- Exhibition and sale of rare and antiquarian books
- Inishowen spinners demonstrating at the spinning wheel

### Room 1:

- 10.30am - 12.30pm: short story writing workshop with Patricia Morris
- 1.30pm - 3.30pm: The Magic of Metaphor poetry workshop with Liam Campbell
- 4pm - 6pm: The Songsters song writing

workshop with Patricia Morris

### Room 2:

- 2pm - 4pm: Historical Films 'Linen Museum, Potato gathering, Poteen making'
- 4pm: Prize-giving for the creative writing competitions.
- Launch of the re-print of Sarah Leech's book of poems by Celine McGlynn
- Ulster-Scots music and song
- 6pm - 7pm: Open mic evening for those who wish to share your creative works.

### Ulster-Scots Historical Tour of the Laggan

- Join our guided tour on Sunday June 23 at 9.30am to hear the story of the flax industry and its inspiration for the Weaver Poets. The tour will visit Bellagham Abby, the Stewarts Homesteads, Plantation towns, the Flax Mills in Letterkenny and then on to Glenveagh Castle, ancestral home of the Adair family, where there will be highland dancing, country dancing, Irish dancing and some beautiful music to accompany the scenic views.

For further information on the Sarah Leech Summer School or the Ulster-Scots Tour of the Laggan email Jacqui Reed at [reedjacqui@hotmail.com](mailto:reedjacqui@hotmail.com).

## CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Entries are now invited to the Creative Writing and Poetry Competition, part of the Sarah Leech Summer School. Budding writers and poets should send their poems and short pieces of writing (400 words maximum for short stories) to [reedjacqui@hotmail.com](mailto:reedjacqui@hotmail.com) or [1joelynch@eircom.net](mailto:1joelynch@eircom.net) by Wednesday May 1.

For competition rules visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/event/447/sarah-leech-summer-school](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/event/447/sarah-leech-summer-school)

Winners will be awarded trophies on the evening of Saturday June 22 at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel in Buncrana.



**WEANS' WURLD****PATRICK - fact or fiction?**

Over the centuries, many myths have grown up around Patrick, threatening to obscure his real story. These are just a few...

1) Patrick banished snakes from Ireland....**FICTION**

The story of Patrick banishing snakes from Ireland has been around for nearly 1,000 years, but it is false. There were no snakes around for Patrick to banish in the first place. In the 3rd Century AD, before the time of Patrick, the early writer Gaius Julius Solinus described Ireland thus, "In that land there are no snakes, birds are few, and the people are inhospitable and warlike."

2) Patrick used the shamrock to explain the trinity....**FICTION**

The story of Patrick using a shamrock to explain the trinity is not mentioned in his own writings or even the writings of medieval chroniclers who produced embellished stories of his life. The first known connection of Patrick to the shamrock was on coins produced in 1645 which depicted Patrick with a shamrock and became known as "Saint Patrick's money". The first written reference to the story did not appear until it was related in a botanical reference book in 1727.



3) Patrick wore a bishop's mitre and carried a crosier....**FICTION**

At Saul in County Down, there stands a great stone statue which was erected to mark the 1500th anniversary of Patrick's arrival in Ulster. It portrays him dressed in the clerical dress of a 17th Century Roman Catholic

bishop, wearing a mitre on his head and carrying a crosier. It is by far the most widespread image of Patrick, yet it has no historical basis. Church histories date the earliest use of the bishop's mitre to the tenth century, more than 500 years after the time of Patrick.

4) Patrick was sent to Ireland by the Pope....**FICTION**

The story has long been told that Patrick was despatched to convert Ireland by Pope Celestine I and images of this story are associated with Patrick to this day. However, there is no contemporary evidence to support this claim. During his lifetime, Patrick was criticised for taking too much onto his own shoulders.

He answers this criticism in his own words in his Confessio, yet nowhere does he mention a papal mandate.

Surely if he had been sent by the Pope, this would have been a key element in his defence?

5) Patrick performed many miracles and wonders....**FICTION**

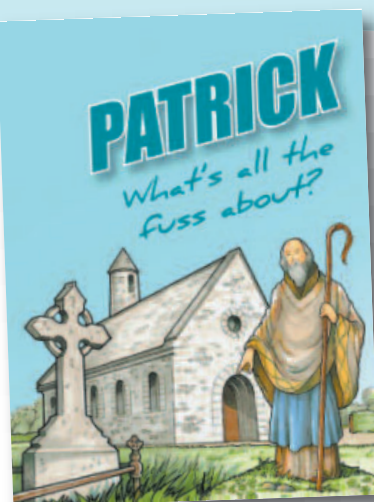
Later written works ascribed many miracles to Patrick. Some of these "wonders" included turning a tribal chief into a fox; lighting up the night by making his hand glow; and heating the river to make it easier for one of his followers to pray in the water. Patrick himself never claimed that he could perform miracles.

His ministry was characterised by hard work rather than spectacular events. He spoke of "the flock of the Lord increasing in Ireland as a result of hard work."

**FUN READING****Patrick: What's all the fuss about?**

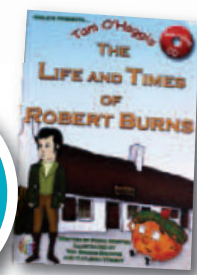
The Ulster-Scots Community Network has published a fold out publication for young people about Saint Patrick.

The publication tells the story of Patrick's life as a young boy through to his death and burial in Downpatrick, County Down. Copies of the free publication are available from the Ulster-Scots Agency's Visitor and Information Centre, or alternatively it can be downloaded from the Ulster-Scots Community Network's website [www.ulster-scots.com/uploads/USCNPatrick.pdf](http://www.ulster-scots.com/uploads/USCNPatrick.pdf).

**Robert Burns Competition Results**

Burns competition winners from the January Ulster-Scot issue were: Seamus McLaughlin, Dungiven; Matthew Kennedy, Donaghadee; Mervyn Maxwell, Claudy and Kenneth Gordon, Newtownstewart. All four winners selected *The Life and Times of Robert Burns* as their prize book.

Well done to all the winners!

**the Ulster-Scot Competition**

**The Saint Patrick Centre is launching a new workshop programme for 2013 called the Archaeology Road Show.**

These unique interactive workshops bring the past to life and provide a real understanding of the world around us changing over time. Would you like to have the Saint Patrick's Centre's team of archaeologists come out to your school and add a fun and interactive experience to your history lessons?

If so, enter our competition below. The winner can choose two of the following workshops:

- The Vikings Are Coming! Unearth the treasures of the Vikings with an archaeological excavation in your classroom.
- Skills of our Ancestors – discover the pottery and weaving skills used 1500 years ago; learn how these objects were made and their function as well as discovering how to make your own.
- Drama – dress up as Celts, monks and slave traders to re-enact the story of Saint Patrick's life.
- Scriptorium – explore the life of early monks and learn how to write and design with inks and quills.

This competition is open to all pupils of primary school age. The date for the Archaeology Road Show visiting the primary school of the winning entry will be arranged by the school Principal and the Saint Patrick Centre.

**Q. How many snakes did Saint Patrick banish from Ireland?**

Send in your answer with your full name, age and primary school name and address by email putting **ST PATRICK'S COMPETITION** into the subject line to: [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) for your chance to win. Good Luck! **Closing date: Monday April 15.**

