Young pipers and drummers are on top of the world

The Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, made up of children aged between nine and 15, made its competitive debut at August’s World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, alongside 225 bands from 17 countries. How did they fare? See Page 7
Welcome to the September 2013 edition of the Ulster-Scot.

It’s hard to believe the summer holidays are now behind us and we’re already two weeks into the 2013/14 school term, but what a fantastic summer it was with the lovely weather (especially in July) and the range of Ulster-Scots activities that took place across the country.

We hope you all got out and experience Ulster-Scots at one of the community organised events and festivals. If not, the good news is it’s not too late to join in on the fun! Several community groups will host their Ulster-Scots festivals in late September, October and November (see Page 5 for more information).

Another event that we have to look forward to this month is Belfast Culture Night (Page 12). Last year a phenomenal 30,000 people descended on the streets of Belfast to witness the city literally coming alive with culture and this year, the line up for this free event is even bigger and better! Belfast Culture Night on Friday September 20 - see you there!

This weekend we celebrate the European Heritage Open Days, where more than 410 properties will open their doors for free across Northern Ireland. This is an ideal opportunity to visit some of the Ulster-Scots properties included that you have always wanted to visit - for example Campbell College, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne. Peace III is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

So all in all, there’s just so much to see and do out there – why not like us on Facebook? It’s a great way of keeping up with all that’s happening!

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency
How a truly important part of our heritage is on the ‘path’ to revival

You might be surprised to learn that in its heyday the Gobbins cliff path in Islandmagee attracted more visitors than its mighty rival, the Giant’s Causeway.

Approximately half a mile long the path was built along the base of Gobbins Cliff in 1902 and was linked by a series of spectacular metal bridges which were incredible feats of engineering in themselves.

The branchchild of the visionary Berley Deane Wise for the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company - as a commercial venture to attract passengers to use their rail link between Belfast and Whitehead - the popular attraction fell into disrepair after World War II eventually closing to the public in 1954.

However thanks to a new project costing an estimated £6m - with half of the funding coming through the Special European Union’s Programmes Body’s INTERREG IVA funds, £2 million from Larne Borough Council and £200,000 from Ulster Garden Villages Ltd - work is now set to begin on restoring and the coastal path contract is due to be awarded in the coming weeks. According to studies, a programme of works and timeline will require sensitive and precision planning to take into account the breeding season of the Puffin and other bird populations which inhabit the cliff site (the cliffs are home to the largest seabird colony along the coast of mainland Northern Ireland - only Rathlin Island has a larger one) along with the seasonal challenges of working on a cliff face environment.

It is hoped that when completed, the path will become an internationally recognised visitor attraction and a significant contributor to the success of the Causeway Coastal Route. Meanwhile Larne Borough Council estimate that the Gobbins will attract 50,000 paying visitors on fully guided “experience tours” which will interpret the history and heritage of the site, its flora/fauna and its geological features.

The Ulster-Scots free History and Heritage public lecture series continues into the autumn with another six lectures in the Tower Museum in Londonderry.

The lectures are being hosted by the University of Ulster in conjunction with Derry City Council, funded by the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster-Scots Academy (MAUG) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL). The remaining dates for the series are as follows:

• Saturday September 21 (3pm) - Symposium on Derry/Londonderry, the North-West of Ulster, and the Stewart Civil Wars.
• Friday September 27 (3pm) - Brendan Mac Suhbhrine (Centenary College, New Jersey) speaks on North-West Ulster Presbyterians, from Republicanism to Loyalty, 1798–1823.
• Friday October 25 (7pm) - Don MacRaid (University of Ulster) on The North-West and the Scottish-Irish Diaspora in the 18th and 19th Centuries.
• Friday November 8 (7pm) - Andrew Holmes (Queen’s University Belfast) on The Presbyterians of the North-West: religion, politics, and Magee College, Derry, 1798–1914.
• November (date and time to be confirmed) - Frank Ferguson (University of Ulster)

For further information visit www.ulsterscotslectures.com or www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsLectureSeries

Tower Museum set to host free lectures

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Ballymoney Home Rule Talk

The issue of Home Rule dominated Irish politics at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. In this new series of talks, popular local historian S. Alex Blair looks at its far reaching impact both at home and further afield.

Home Rule - with Protestant support?

(Tuesday September 24, 2013 at 8pm)

It was generally accepted that most of the Roman Catholic population of the country was in favour of Home Rule.

They saw it as establishing a parliament in Dublin which they would dominate. On the other hand, most Protestants were scared that Home Rule would mean “Rome Rule” and their Protestant freedoms would be threatened.

Was there anywhere in Ireland where there were Protestants who would support Home Rule? It would be hard to find such a place but Ballymoney may be a possibility.

The big meeting of Protestants in favour of Home Rule

(Thursday October 24, 2013 at 8pm)

On this evening, exactly a hundred years ago, the big meeting of Protestants in favour of Home Rule took place in Ballymoney Town Hall. It was to be a definitive moment in the Home Rule debate, eagerly anticipated by the British Government.

Venue: Ballymoney Town Hall; Cost: Admission is £2 and includes refreshments.

Forthcoming Presbyterian Historical Society Events

The next Presbyterian Historical Society lecture will be held in Kilfenora Presbyterian Church, Londaonderry, on Wednesday October 16 at 8pm, when Rev Ivor Smith will speak on Rev Dr James Denham.

Rev Dr Denham, born in 1802, was an influential Presbyterian minister who served over a period of 45 years, firstly in the rural congregation of Brigh, near Cookstown, from 1826 to 1837, and then in Great James’ Street in Londonderry from 1837, where he remained until his retirement in 1870.

Although he was not a controversialist by nature, along with others he responded with determination and ability to attacks in the city on Presbyterianism. He was highly respected and deeply involved in Christian witness and the pastoral care of his people.

He was Moderator of the General Synod of Ulster in 1839 and later represented the General Assembly on several very important occasions. Married twice, he had no children and died on December 18 1871.

Meanwhile the November Presbyterian Historical Society lecture will take place on Thursday November 21 at Cooke Centenary Presbyterian Church, Park Road, Belfast (8pm). The lecture will be given by the Rev Prof Laurence Kirkpatrick on the Poor Connaught, Presbyterian mission in Connaught in the 19th century. For further information contact Valerie Adams on (028) 9072 7330 or email phslibrarian@pcinet.org.
Festival fever: celebrations

Cairncastle

The Cairncastle Ulster-Scots Festival in late July attracted large audiences and visitors from all parts of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, England, various parts of Europe, India, Canada and America. The festival included musical bus tours of Ulster-Scots historical sites in Co Down, led by well-known historian Dr Fraser Agnew, who gave patrons a greater understanding of the Plantation history in the area. It was followed by an evening of Scottish dancing in Cairncastle Presbyterian Church, with music provided by John Logue of Strabane.

Thursday saw the well-established Bluegrass day, commencing with an afternoon workshop on the history of Bluegrass music, where Hugh Brownlow of Maghera opened the session by studying the African impact on the genre. This was followed by a musical evening of Bluegrass music provided by well-known international acts The Broken String Band from Co Down, The Down and Out Bluegrass band from Belfast and The Waterly Hill Boys from Drogheda, playing their dynamic and tuneful version of Old Timey and early Bluegrass. The evening was compered by Brian Rankin of Limavady. The festival continued with a traditional Ulster-Scots/Scottish Folk musical evening on Friday with the local Grousebeaters leading the way, followed by the internationally-acclaimed Lyttel family band from Co Armagh and On The Wagon from Crief, who finished the evening with a variety of traditional Scottish folk songs. The evening was compered by Charlie Gillen of Ballymoney.

Schomberg

Saturday’s family fun day opened with the McDonald Memorial Pipe Band parading through the village, where the Mayor of Largo, Councillor Maureen Morrow, opened the event, which comprised many Scottish activities like Highland games and pageantry of the Williamite period. The programme also included African drummers and Polish dancers. The fun day was supported by workshops on fiddle manufacture, history of accordion, flute, Irish history, storytelling, composing song and an open music session. Hugh Brownlow demonstrated various aspects of fiddle manufacture to a very keen group; Stewart Buchanan demonstrated different types of accordions that were used over the years; Dr Gordon Ramsey led the open music session where a group of musicians experienced playing to an audience and gave a lecture on the flute in a marching band.

Saturday continued with a traditional soirée of approximately 40 musicians, including renowned baritone singer and accordionist Stewart Buchanan of Co Donegal, the cross community Faith Folk Group from Dungiven, Keep Er Lit from Co Down, Islanders from Islandmagee, local band Grousebeaters and many more. The evening was compered by Cecil Knox of Whitehead. The festival closed with an Ulster-Scots non-denominational praise service on the Sunday led by The Low Country Boys and others.

Mc动脉

The 13th annual Kingdom of Mourne Schomberg Ulster-Scots Festival, held in scorching weather in July, was excellently supported not just by Kilkeel & Mourne folk, but with sizeable visitor numbers at all venues. At Hanna’s Close Clachan attendees heard Ulster-Scots poets delivered by Anne Morrison Smyth, atmospheric music from the Schomberg fife & drum unit (resplendent in their WWI period uniforms) and highland dancing from the Kirknarra School of Dance, with their own tutor Michelle Johnston performing several solo dances.

During daytime several Ulster-Scots themed workshops took place at Reivers House. These included cookery demonstrations, fife and lambeg drum and highland dance workshops as well as mini concerts in the Lower Square in Kilkeel, featuring silver bandards, accordionists, pipers and flauteists. In Reivers House Gordon Lucy, John Enskine, Matthew Warwick and Maynard Hanna delivered lectures on Sir James Craig, Thomas Sinclair, Major Frederick Crawford and Sir Edward Carson respectively.

The climax of the festival as ever was the 11th night street pageant, led by an old friend in Glen Pratt from Anamallo in Texas. Dressed in the 17th century uniform of a Williamite soldier, Glen duly led the pageant procession through Kilkeel’s packed streets as it made its way to the Marske Road Orangefield. Gun carriage, horse drawn carriages, WW1 lorry floats, horse soldiers, foot soldiers and accompanying musicians all added to the colourful scene on a sun-soaked evening.

On arrival at the Marske Road the traditional 11th night bonfire was lit and the huge crowd were treated to a concert featuring Ulster-Scots group Nightly On, dancers from the Kirknrara and flute band Schomberg. Then, when the embers of a dying bonfire were still glowing red-hot, the Schomberg lambeg drummers formed up to begin their traditional Kilkeel town walk, bringing another highly successful Schomberg Ulster-Scots festival to a close.

Tobermore

The Tobermore Ulster-Scots Festival was held from July 4 to 11 at Tobermore Village Hall. The festival kicked off with an Ulster-Scots concert on July 4 in the Orange Hall - up to 300 people attended and the artists who took park were local Highland Scottish Dancer, Clare McKinney who has performed all over the country. Cherry Pipe band, who have also been coming up the ladder in musical talent as one of the pipe bands in the area also performed and were followed by a performance of a selection of Ulster-Scots Songs by Omagh group, The 1147ers. The event was compered by Rev. Alan Knox from Nirea, who is originally from Scotland and has been an asset to promotion of Ulster-Scots culture.

The organisers of Tobermore Ulster-Scots Festival wish to thank those who attended; festival chairman, Lyle Richardson; local Councillor, Anne Forde for organising and putting such a show of musical talent and the Ulster-Scots Agency for supporting the festival.

Church Street

Church Street Community Association’s Ulster-Scots festival featured fun activities for children, music and entertainment on the stage including Desertmartin Accordion Band with Victor Brownlow on the electronic accordion and Ray Shels and Gary Dempsey on the keyboard and bagpipes, Hannah Evans from Magherafelt, who has performed at Ulster-Scots festivals all over the district, provided an excellent display of highland dancing which was enjoyed by all.

Thanks go to the committee, especially Kevin and Anne Meek, Stephen Richardson and Cllr Anne Forde, for organising such a successful event, which was attended by over 300 people, and to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their support.
A taste of the Ulster-Scots festivals to come

We’re already nearly halfway through September, but the Ulster-Scots festivals still keep on coming.

The Duncarron Society is hosting the Loughshore Ulster-Scots Festival from Saturday September 21 to Friday September 27 in north Belfast, featuring a range of events, exhibitions and musical performances by traditional Ulster-Scots groups as well as a series of talks on various subjects including Titanic tartan, Ulster-Scots roots, Clifton Street graveyard and Ulster-Scots shipbuilders. There will also be a tartan tea dance and an Ulster-Scots exhibition. For more information visit www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/event/494/loughshore-ulster-scots-festival-belfast or contact Muriel Bowyer at mbowyer3@yahoo.co.uk.

Meanwhile the Neawy & Mounye Ulster Scots Festival Committee has announced a wide and diverse programme of events for Friday September 20 and Saturday September 21, which includes an exhibition on the Ulster Covenant and lambeg drumming to announce this year’s festival programme. The events on Friday in Neawy Orange Hall (7.30pm-10.30pm) include Finnard Highland Dancers, Annahinchoge Pipe Band, Threidwenn Ulster Scots Dancers, Laura Spence (Reivers Poet) and Risin’ Stour. On the Saturday (2pm-5pm) in Warrenpoint Orange Hall, visitors can see and hear Gail & Ben Graham on pipes and drums, Finnard Highland Dancers, Hunter Moore Melody Flute Band, Andrew Mattson (Border Riffes) and South Down Defenders Flute Band and Samuel Taylor (Ulster Covenant talk). The programme for Saturday night in Ranton Orange Hall (6.30pm-10.30pm) includes an exhibition on the Ulster Covenant, lambeg drumming, South Down Defenders Flute Band, Samuel Taylor (Ulster Covenant talk), Ballymageough Accordian Band and Donaghmore Accordian Band. For more information contact William Mitchell on 07768 486 977.

The Donaghadee Ulster-Scots Thanksgiving Festival, which takes place from Friday October 25 to Saturday October 26, is a chance to celebrate the Ulster-Scots heritage of this crucial town in Ulster-Scots history. The festival includes a re-enactment of Scottish settlers landing at the harbour, an Ulster-Scots concert and a lantern parade among the entertainment, and it’s free to attend. For more information on the festival contact Ards Borough Council on 028 9182 4000 or visit www.ards-council.gov.uk/what's-on.

The annual Roe Valley Folk Festival, which has become one of the premier music events in the north west, runs this year from Wednesday October 16 to Monday October 21. Ulster-Scots cultural traditions will be promoted at the Roe Valley Folk Festival through music, song, dance and verse. On Saturday 19 there will be a display of outdoor activities in Limavady town centre and over the six days there will be performances by Haggtashd from Lannarkshire, Dave Gibb from Wigtownshire and Rodgie from Lochhall, South Glasgow. They will be joined by Sollas highland dancers, Ardirand marching band, Raphoe County Dance and a number of pipers. For more information contact George Murphy on (028) 7774 0107 or 07841 560 742.

On Friday October 25 & Saturday October 26 Cloughfeigh Presbyterian Church is hosting the Scotch Harvest Festival 2013. The festival will be held at Cloughfeigh Presbyterian Church, Main Road, Cloughfeigh. There will be an exhibition showing Ulster-Scots agriculture and the history of the ‘Scotch Harvest’ and performances by local Ulster-Scots musicians Newtonsgreen of Kirkistown Pipe Band, Junior Lambeg tuition, Piping by Andy McGregor, Brunswick Accordian Band and Newtownards CBL. Dancing displays will be provided by the Kelly Forsythe Highland Dancers and Greayabbey Junior Highland Dancers. In addition to the music and dance there will be Ulster-Scots Storytelling, Junior Ulster-Scots Hymns and Airs and traditional food demonstrations.

On Friday 11 October the Scotch Harvest exhibition opens at 4pm (Entry £2.00) and an Ulster-Scots Concert will run from 7.00pm - 10.00pm (entry £5.00 which includes entry to exhibition).

For further information contact Richard Smith on 07739 004 615 or email cloughfeighscotchharvest@yahoo.co.uk.
Fancy learning Ulster-Scots?

The Ulster-Scots Language Society is partnering Queen’s University Language Centre to offer an evening course in Ulster-Scots as part of the centre’s new timetable for the 2013-14 academic year.

The course is aimed at novices with little to no previous knowledge of the language, and will introduce students to the language, culture and basic grammatical concepts of Ulster-Scots, as well as equipping them with the skills to communicate at an essential level. And by the end of the course, students will have developed a beginner’s vocabulary and be able to formulate simple sentences and understand basic words and phrases.

Subject to sufficient uptake, the course will run on Thursday evenings from 7pm-9pm for 10 weeks, beginning on October 17 at Queen’s University.

It costs £20 for Queen’s students and staff and £80 for members of the public, with a concessionary rate of £40. Queen’s students will be able to use their participation in the course to help them obtain the University’s Degree Plus award for participation in extra-curricular activities.

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about the course, visit www.qub.ac.uk/directions/informationService/s/LanguageCentre/, where you can also enrol online. Alternatively, you can email the Ulster-Scots Language Society at info@ulsterscotslanguage.com or call (028) 9043 6716 for further information.

An exciting new account of the life of William of Orange

William of Orange was a great man and a Protestant hero. His overriding mission in life was to preserve the independence of the Netherlands.

In 1672 when the English Duke of Buckingham asked the young William: “Surely you see that everything is lost?”, his retort was: “My Lord, my country is indeed in danger, but there is one way never to see it lost and that is to die in the last ditch.”

Time and time again, against overwhelming odds, he succeeded in maintaining the freedom, prosperity and independence of his native land.

The territorial ambitions of Louis XIV of France threatened not only Holland but also the whole of Europe. In the 1930s, in his biography of his great ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, Winston Churchill observed: “It seemed that, in William, a being had been created for resisting the domination of France and the Great King”. Just as Churchill in the 1940s was to frustrate Hitler’s ambitions, William succeeded in frustrating those of Louis XIV.

William may not have been a great soldier, a view to which Churchill subscribed. He certainly was not a fortunate soldier but he was a courageous, determined and tenacious one. He kept going when lesser men would have given up. The Prince de Condé, also known as the Great Condé and perhaps William’s most illustrious military opponent, remarked, after the bloody Battle of Seneffe in 1674, that the Prince of Orange had in all things borne himself like an old general, except in exposing himself like a young soldier.

The Great Condé claimed Seneffe as a victory, but it was William’s smaller army, which held its ground, and it was the Great Condé who withdrew. The reckless courage displayed by the 24-year-old William at Seneffe was still very much in evidence in the 39-year-old William at the Boyne.

At Donore part of his boot was shot off and another musket ball shattered one of his pistols. Whereas James II played a passive, almost fatalistic, role at the Boyne, William played an active and energetic part in the battle and his victory owed much to his personal courage and fortitude.

William’s great strength lay in his remarkable political skills. He was a consummate statesman capable of forging and sustaining great alliances.

Although William is often thought of as ‘the Protestant champion’, and he was a devout Protestant, his rare diplomatic skill enabled him to bring the Emperor, Brandenburg, Hanover, Saxony, Bavaria, Savoy and Spain into an alliance against Louis XIV, which transcended confessional and denominational boundaries. William was the alliance’s inceptor. William’s League of Augsburg was the 17th century counterpart of Winston Churchill’s Grand Alliance in the 20th century.

William’s interest in the affairs of the British Isles primarily lay in harnessing the manpower and resources of these islands to preserve the independence of his native land and to frustrate Louis XIV’s ambition for hegemony in Europe.

But William’s reign was most emphatically of great importance for the constitutional and political history of our country, and his own contribution to these developments was far from negligible. During William’s reign religious toleration was established, the independence of the judiciary was achieved, and, because a standing army could not be maintained without annual parliamentary approval, Parliament became a regular and permanent feature of political life. It is no exaggeration to claim that during William’s reign Britain set out on the journey that would lead eventually to parliamentary democracy.

Furthermore, in international terms Britain embarked on a trajectory that would make her a global power. Without William these islands would have succumbed to continental-style absolutism, the work of the Reformation would have been overturned, and Britain, at least in the short term, would have become a satellite of France. William richly deserves to be considered one of greatest men to occupy the throne. Of Glorious Memory is an attractive new account of the life of William of Orange, taking the story from his early life in Holland to his campaign in Ireland.
Field Marshal Montgomery rightly took all the plaudits at an historic World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow in August by claiming a third successive title and a ninth global crown in their illustrious history.

Indeed the 2013 competitive season just ended, the Lisburn band completed a remarkable “grand slam” of the five majors championships - Scottish, British, European, Cowal and World titles - for the third time (they also did it in 1993 and 2011).

Undoubtedly the Field Marshal Montgomery colours are those most young pipers and drummers one day aspire to wear.

Ulster-Scots Agency
Juvenile Pipe Band

Yet at the other end of the competitive spectrum, the newly formed Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band made its own indelible mark on this year’s Worlds. Made up of children aged between nine and 15 drawn from areas including Monaghan, Donegal, Tyrone and Belfast, the band was only created in August 2012 with the idea of taking absolute beginners and novice musicians through the Ulster-Scots Agency’s Peripatetic Music Programme, and ultimately equipping them for competition work.

Under the tutelage of Andy McGregor, an experienced piper from the ranks of the grade one Cullybackey outfit, and drummer Barney Megoran, himself a former grade one leading tip, within the space of just 12 months the youngsters were moulded into a nit worthy of making their debut on the very biggest stage of piping - The Worlds. The Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band made their competitive debut in the 29-strong novice juvenile category, in which they had to play in a tricky qualifying heat alongside the likes of reigning world champions George Watson’s College and the multi-award winning Boghall & Bathgate junior band, as well as visitors from their tricky qualifying section.

Speaking ahead of their debut performance Andy McGregor said: “We’re going to utilise all 21 pipers and 16 drummers, and while the band’s inexperience may dictate that no single member will give of their best and enjoy the experience.”

Adjudicators David Clarke (piping) and Jim Millar, director of education and language at the Ulster-Scots Agency, said: “The band is the product of the Ulster-Scots Agency’s wider education and schools initiative that includes schools across the nine counties of Ulster which has demonstrated how cultural identity can enrich people’s lives.

“We are immensely proud that we continue to engage with increasing numbers of children and schools, exploring the Ulster-Scots contribution to the whole of Ulster. This particular cultural journey had led these young people to the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, where they shared a stage with 225 bands from many nations including Mexico, Zimbabwe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa.”

This year the World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green took a new two-day format, involving approximately 8,000 pipers and drummers, and ultimately it was Field Marshal Montgomery who prevailed in the top grade. Roy Hall, chairman of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI Branch, said: “I’m absolutely delighted with the result from this year’s World Championships and at how all 28 Northern Ireland band performed over the two days.

“Northern Ireland is one of the most competitive regions to participate at the World’s each year, and to achieve such a result from a small region like ours is outstanding.

“I am thrilled for Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, because to win the grade one Worlds title in three consecutive years is a mammoth achievement. I extend heartfelt congratulations to pipe major Richard Parkes, leading drummer Keith Orr and all members of the band.

“Whenever the Northern Ireland bands travel overseas, they look up to Field Marshal Montgomery to fly the Northern Ireland flag with pride.”

Other Northern Ireland successes at the Worlds included Syerla & District from Co Tyrone, winners of the Grade 3B World Champion Drum Corps.

Other Northern Ireland bands in the prize list were Ballybriest (Co Tyrone), Killeen (Co Armagh) and Bleary & District (Co Armagh).

Northern Ireland’s drum majors also featured among the world champions, including:

World Champion junior drum major - Zoe McDowell from Rathfriland. There were four other Northern Ireland competitors named in the top six of this grade.

World Champion juvenile drum major - Jason Price from Marlaco in Co Armagh.

World Champion junior drum major - Jason Price from Marlaco in Co Armagh.

The adult drum major prize went to Jason Pagula from the USA, but the remaining five awards came to Northern Ireland via Alicia Dickson (Co Down), Paula Braiden (Co Londonderry), Samantha Gordon (Co Down), Brian Wilson (Co Armagh) and David Brownlee (Co Fermanagh).

Pipe band releases first CD

Ballyclare-based Major Sinclair Memorial pipe band has been growing over the last few years. And the purchase of £6,000 worth of new instruments, thanks to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, has been put to good use as the band has just released its first CD.

On The Road, which is receiving positive feedback. The income raised will help to fund the band’s continual investment in instruments, people and the community. The music on the CD is representative of the band’s usual repertoire and includes many favourite tunes such as Amazing Grace, Scotland the Brave and Flower of Scotland.

It was recorded in the Ballyclare Linfield Supporters Club, with the help of Keith and Tyler Barry of Silverstream Studios. The purchase price is £5.

Anyone interested in purchasing a CD can contact any member of the band, phone pipe major John Fittis on 07866 129 726 or call in to the Linfield Club on a Tuesday evening between 7.30 and 10pm.

You can also follow the band on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MajorSinclairMemorial
From as far back as the 18th century, Belfast’s maritime story has played testament to the long-standing ties between Scotland and Northern Ireland, and the advantages, both economic and social, of a strong Ulster-Scots influence.

1791: William & Hugh Ritchie: The First Shipyard

Commercial shipbuilding first came to Belfast from Scotland in 1791 courtesy of two brothers - William and Hugh Ritchie. The Ritchie brothers were owners of a successful shipyard in Saltcoats on the Ayrshire coast but, during a visit to Belfast in 1791, William saw a golden opportunity. He realised that all the ships in Belfast were being bought from Scotland and England. And so, on July 3, 1791, William returned to Belfast with his brother Hugh and ten Scottish workers and set up the only shipyard in Belfast, on the banks of the River Lagan.

In 1792, the company launched their first ship, the Albion (said to have been named as a sign of support for the United Irishmen cause of the 1790s). The ship was an American bottom hull design and, on her maiden voyage to New York, she almost capsized. If not for a local boatman, she would have sunk. As a sign of their gratitude, the ship was built for the shipyard's helper, John Roach.

1811: The Ritchies Split - Ritchie & McLaine Founded

Alexander McLaine from Scotland founded a new company with John Ritchie. Hugh Ritchie set up his own yard near today's Prior Street. Ritchie & McLaine was formed in 1811, and together they built ships for global trade. The most famous name in Belfast shipbuilding was launched in 1838, the first ship to bring coal to America. The most famous names in Belfast shipbuilding are of course, Harland & Wolff, the name of the greatest shipyard in the world, and the yard where Titanic was built. Yet 'The Big Yard' grew steadily from humble origins. Walter Henry Wilson and his brother Alexander entered the shipbuilding trade in 1855 when they joined as 'gentlemen apprentices'. Walter and Alexander Wilson join the shipbuilding industry.

1815: Charles Connell & Sons of Belfast and Glasgow

Charles Connell, another Ayrshire shipbuilder, came to Belfast to work for the Ritchies around 1815. He became manager of Ritchie’s yard and when William Ritchie died, Connell took the company over, renaming it Charles Connell & Son. Their first major contract was to remove a stranded ship which was blocking the entrance to Belfast harbour. Connell summoned every soldier from the Belfast garrison to pull the ship with ropes, far enough to re-float. Connell’s first ship was a schooner, Jane, launched in 1825, and soon the company was building ships for global trade. The Fanny was the first ship to bring tea to Belfast from China. The Aurora was launched in 1838, the biggest vessel ever built in Belfast up to that time. She was built for another Scottish firm with Ulster connections - George and John Burns of Glasgow. Aurora broke the record for travel between Belfast and Glasgow and such was the luxury of her craftsmanship she was described as a ‘floating palace’.

Charles Connell was succeeded by his eldest son Alexander, and the family’s connections with Belfast’s maritime industry continue to the present day.

1826: The Belfast-Glasgow Steamship company

1870: From apprentice to chief architect

Alexander Montgomery Carlisle was a first cousin of William Pirrie and also his brother-in-law. On their paternal side, the Carlisles were Presbyterians from Co Down - on their maternal side, like Pirrie, they were descended from the renowned Ulster-Scots Montgomerries of Killead, Co Antrim. Carlisle worked at Harland & Wolff in 1870; he succeeded Pirrie as draughtsman and in 1877 became managing director. He retired early, failed in an political career, and moved to Harland & Wolff, designing the Titanic. Significantly, Carlisle suggested a new design which would enable the ship to float even if half its structure was flooded.
The relationship between Scotland and Northern Ireland, and the advantages, both economic and social, of a strong Ulster-Scottish heritage still connects our coastlines and made a seafaring people who built a truly world-class shipbuilding industry...

1880: ‘The wee yard’ of Workman and Clark

Ulsterman Frank Workman joins forces with Scotsman George Clark...Harland & Wolff was not Belfast’s only successful shipyard. Belfast man Frank Workman - whose roots can be traced to the small port of Saltcoats in Ayrshire, where the famous Ritchie also originated - joined Harland & Wolff in 1874. Five years later he and a colleague, William Campbell, set up their own shipyard; the following year a young Scot called George Smith Clark from Paisley joined them. Clark had been educated at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh around the same time as James Craig, the future Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. In 1880 the Workman Clark Shipbuilding Company was born. One of their earliest ships - the Poly Woodside - was launched in 1885. Today, it is in Melbourne, Australia.

1912: Titanic designer who sank with his masterpiece

The talent and tragedy of Thomas Andrews, the ‘golden boy’ of an old Ulster-Scottish family

Thomas Andrews’ place in history is as the man who designed, and died onboard, the Titanic. The Andrews family can trace its roots back to 1698, although there were Andrews in their small country home of Comber as early as the 1630s, Scotland as tenants of the Co Down estates he held many civic positions.

By 1907 he was managing director and head of the draughting department. He started to work on three vast ships for White Star Line - Olympic, Titanic and Britannia - alongside his uncle, William Pirrie, and second cousin, Alexander Montgomery Carlisle. When Olympic launched, Andrews sailed on her maiden voyage; he did likewise on his second ship, Titanic. The ships were masterpieces of engineering and luxury - breathtaking in scale and quality. However their client, Bruce Ismay of White Star Line, interfered with the design recommendations of Pirrie, Carlisle and Andrews, insisting on just 16 lifeboats rather than the recommended 48.

When disaster struck, Andrews realised the ship was doomed and he helped to organise passengers into the lifeboats. Had there been 48 lifeboats all on board would have been saved. Tragically Andrews, along with 1,511 crew and passengers, drowned in the icy Atlantic.

During the Great War 120 of the firm’s workers were killed in action, including Frank Workman’s only son, Edward. A war memorial was built to commemorate their sacrifice. At its peak in 1919 Workman Clark had 10,000 employees and during the company’s existence they built 535 ships. In the early 1920s the yard was bought by an English firm and Workman and Clark retired. The firm’s fortunes subsequently declined and it closed in 1935.
Shining a new light on Presbyterian history


In the Library of Union Theological College, Belfast, is one of the treasures of Irish Presbyterian Archives - The Minutes of the Antrim Meeting 1654-1658.

It is a small, seemingly unimportant, volume which gives unparalleled insight into the early period of the Irish Presbyterian Church. For many years past this invaluable record has been available only in the original manuscript, or in a typescript held by the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland. Four Courts Press are to be congratulated for bringing this historical gem before a wide readership, and editor Mark S Sweetnam is to be congratulated for his considerable labour in preparing this text for the press.

However, there are a number of issues which impair the usefulness of this book, especially for those who have particular knowledge of the church and the period. The very title The minutes of the Antrim Ministers’ Meeting is incorrect. Yes, it does actually say this on the fly leaf of the manuscript book, but it appears to have been inserted in Classon Porter’s hand.

The introduction gives no awareness of the history of prior ownership of this book, including its time in the hands of Classon Porter. An earlier owner, the Rev Dr William Bruce, refers in an article of 1830 correctly to the book as ‘The minutes of the meeting of Antrim’. The very presence of ruling elders makes it very plain that this not a “ministers’ meeting”, but a Presbyterian.

As is widely known, the institutional history of Irish Presbyterianism dates from June 10 1622 when the first Presbytery in Ireland was constituted in connection with Munro’s army. Its work rapidly expanded and from the mid 1640s on numbers of Licentiates and ministers came in from Scotland and were settled in awaiting congregations. By 1654 it was obvious that there were too many ministers and congregations to be administered by a single Presbytery and so there were not understood as Aghoffill and, of particular import to the present writer, there seems to be no awareness that the Broadisland is Ballycarry. A listing of the congregations mentioned, and of the ministers who served in them in this period, would have been a very considerable additional asset to this book.

There are also a number of strange renderings of names, and other words. Perhaps most notably that of the minister of Ballymena, who in this book is referred to as Mr Bulhell. Other references invariably style him as David Bultte, which was a known surname in the Ulster-Scots community of the period.

On page 89 there appears the phrase ‘but or he entered’, and without having the benefit of the manuscript before me, it seems highly likely that what the clerk meant, and wrote, was ‘but ere he entered’. The present writer found, in first consulting the original of this book, that his best way of comprehending the text was to read it aloud, in a Scots accent. A 17th century hand is not easy to read, but sometimes this printed text seems to confuse rather than elucidate. Perhaps a more extensive use of footnotes could have been helpful on such points.

In his 30-page introduction Mr Sweetnam shows his undoubted and considerable knowledge of the history of the early 17th century and of aspects of it which affected the church. But what does seem to be missing is an inner awareness or appreciation of the Presbyterian Church or of a Presbytery. This I suggest could have been overcome by reference to any one of a number of Presbyterian Church scholars, proficient in the field, to whom the names, places and procedures would have come almost as second nature.

This is a most important book, and deserves to have a place on the shelves of all who are interested in Ulster history of this period. This is especially true of all those interested in Presbyterian Church history, whether denominational or local. We look forward to the publication of the sister volume, which will cover (with some intermissions) the years 1673-1691. It too will be a tremendous asset to historians of 17th century Ireland and Irish Presbyterianism.

Loughshore explores its Ulster-Scots heritage

As part of the Loughshore Ulster-Scots Festival Rev Dr John Nelson will deliver a number of talks.

On Saturday September 21, Exploring Ulster-Scots Heritage will include a trip to Carrickfergus and Ballycarry and feature talks by Dr Philip Robinson and Rev Dr John Nelson (10am - 1:30pm).

To book a place call Muriel on 028 9029 7191 or email mboyer1@hotmail.co.uk

Meanwhile on Tuesday September 24, Eglinton Presbyterian Church Hall, Ballysillan Road will play host to Brice 400: The Arrival of Presbyterianism - a talk by Rev Dr John Nelson at 2:30pm.

To view the full programme visit www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/vent/503/loughshore-ulster-scots-festival
Reflecting on the foundations of Presbyterianism in Ireland

Rev John W Nelson, minister of Ballycarry Old Presbyterian Church and 13th in succession to Edward Brice as minister of the congregation, reflects on the 400th anniversary of Presbyterianism in Ireland

At some point in the Summer of 1613 a minister, together with his wife and family arrived on the coast of Co. Antrim, somewhat near to Whitehead, and made his way to the village of Ballycarry. His name was Edward Brice and he was the former minister of Ballywalter. At that time the area was very under populated, with few houses and no serviceable church. Edmonstone was anxious not only to fill his land with farmers and settlers, but also to create a stable community along the lines of what he had known in Scotland.

To his mind an essential element of that community was to have a local, resident, minister. It seemed logical that in what was essentially an ex-patiate Scots community what was required was a Scots minister who could lead worship and provide a form of ministry which the new settlers in Co Antrim would readily recognise. Under the circumstances Edward Brice must have seemed an obvious candidate. Edmonstone clearly knew him, or knew of him, and extended an invitation, which was accepted. The church law, which applied in Ireland at the time, allowed the owners of many large estates to nominate to the Bishop a suitable candidate for a vacant church in their area. Edmonstone had this right and nominated Brice to the Bishop of Down and Connor. Robert Echlin, who was an Episcopal churchman, was happy to accept this candidate. Brice was accordingly appointed as rector of Templecorran. For several years Brice must have had a very basic existence. The church building in the village was derelict and only re-roofed and restored in 1622, nine years after Brice’s arrival. In the interim he must have taken services in people’s houses, in barns and in the open air. He also must have had the challenges of trying to bind together a disparate and newly arrived community and infuse them with the normal social and moral virtues.

There is little doubt that in doing this Brice followed the pattern which he had known in Scotland, Presbyterian worship and practice, perhaps with the aid of a Session of ruling elders. He would have paid little regard to the customs and canons of the Church of Ireland.

As time went on Brice felt the support of a number of other ex-Church of Scotland ministers like himself. The next to come was Robert Cunningham, who became minister of Holywood in 1615. There followed John Ridge at Antrim in 1619, George Dunbar at Lame in 1625, Josias Welsh at Templepatrick in 1616 and a good number of others, most notably Robert Blair at Bangor from 1623 and John Livingstone at Killicratch from 1630, both of whom left written autobiographies.

What this meant was that Brice was able to share with like-minded colleagues, to swap pulpits with neighbours such as George Dunbar, and to play a role, albeit a fairly minor one, in the surge of church growth and missionary work among the growing Ulster Scots community in 1626, known as the ‘Six Mile Water Revival’. It seems clear that by 1630 there was a significant Scots community in Antrim and Down, led by Scots ministers, of whom Brice was the first, and resembling to all intents and purposes an extension of the Church of Scotland, rather than an integral part of the Church of Ireland.

The significance of the work of Edward Brice lies in the fact that his ministry in Ballycarry laid firm foundations which were not obliterated either by Bishop Leslie or by his death. He bound together the new Ulster-Scots community in that area, and bound them to their church in the Presbyterian tradition. When it became possible to revive the Presbyterian congregations in Ulster in 1642, Ballycarry was one of the first to receive preaching from the ministers of the Army Presbytery, and four years later one of the first to have a new Presbyterian minister.

Brice and those other Scots ministers, who served with him laid the first foundations of Presbyterianism in Ireland. Edward Brice was the first of that number, and upon his endeavours, and those of the others around him was laid the basis of the Irish Presbyterian heritage in all its forms.

It goes without saying that the writer of the present article derives no little pride from the thought that he stands 13th in succession to Edward Brice as minister of Ballycarry.
Five of the Best: Belfast’s fifth Culture Night captures city’s imagination

Upwards of 30,000 people are expected to take to the streets, spaces and places of Belfast on Friday September 20 to be entertained, beguiled and bewitched for one enchanted evening on the city’s fifth Culture Night.

And this year’s event promises to be the best yet following the unveiling of a spanning new programme loaded with events, demonstrations, and all manner of the silly, the serious and the seriously stunning.

With more than 250 free family-friendly events taking place across the city, organisers are promising “even more of everything” in this year’s Culture Night.

From the yogo-tastic big opening to the grande flaming finale featuring Firepoise and the Ulster Youth Orchestra, Culture Night Belfast literally has something for all tastes and dispositions.

Highlights along the streets, thoroughfares and buildings of the city for this year’s Culture Night include, in gloriously ramshackle disorder, the new traditional Drum Circle, attracting some of the loudest people you’ll hear in the city centre on a Friday night!

Then there’s the Rooftop Tours, where the hidden world of Belfast’s first floor comes alive with music including Blue Whale’s Wandering Discord Dance Party.

Pro-Wrestling returns to Rosemary Street with masked vengeance and choreographed mayhem the order of the evening. The Best Carnival present Belfast’s first ever Urban Ballet, featuring Mahoosive Urban street dance and percussion parade, with hundreds of performers taking off from the City Hall at 7pm.

Elsewhere there’s ‘Proms in the Car Park’ with the Fred Bicycle Orchestra, Belfast Roller Derby Demos, the murky alleyway antics of a Street Countdown, where vowels just got serious, Uke Belfast twanging their wares in Tivoli Barbers, a Fruit and Veg Orchestra, a Baresky Exhibition in the Hudson Bar, a host of

Turkington said: “I think Culture Night number five is the one where we all realise that this isn’t simply an amazing evening of fun, it’s a snapshot of what Belfast could so easily be like all year round.

“We hope we’ve capitalised on that collective sentiment this year and built something that’s getting ever closer to everybody’s shared vision for Belfast.”

Join us at our Scottish country ceilidh

The Ulster Scots Agency is taking part in Culture Night 2013 and is inviting you to come down and take part in a Scottish country ceilidh at Crumlin Road Gaol (5pm-9pm) and enjoy Ulster Scots music and dance!

In addition to the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band, the Agency has invited a number of professional Scottish ceilidh dancers along to the event, so don’t worry if you have never taken part in a Scottish country ceilidh - you don’t need to know the steps, just be willing to participate!

This event, like all the events organised as part of Belfast Culture Night 2013 is free and everyone is welcome. Visitors are welcome to call in at any time between 5pm and 9pm and stay for as long as they like.

For more information visit www.culturenightbelfast.com or check out www.facebook.com/CultureNightBelfast

The Bard of Moneyslane - a Weaver poet of real wit, rhyme and understanding

In the second of his series of articles on Ulster Scots writers, Dr Frank Ferguson from the University of Ulster writes about Weaver poet Hugh Porter - ‘The Bard of Moneyslane’.

Pity the man who crosses an Ulster Scots poet, for he is likely to receive a long and lasting punishment. While individuals who have economic or political power may win out in the short term: it is the writer who has the literary power to immortalise in print or song.

One such poet was Hugh Porter, ‘The Bard of Moneyslane’ whose poetry demonstrates how great a friend or enemy he could be in equal measure.

Porter was born in the late 18th century and was a contemporary of Patrick Brontë, father of the famous Brontë sisters.

Perhaps more than any other weaver poet at the time, Porter was a marvellous shape-shifter. From his position as supporter of the United Irishmen in the 1790s, he emerged as a model labouring-class poet in the 1810s - and his work was bought up by the great and the good in Britain and Ireland.

Hugh Porter, like Patrick Bronte, received the patronage of a County Down clergymen, Thomas Tighe. But while Bronte was rewarded with a university education in England and thereby escaped the drudgery of farming life, Hugh Porter remained at home in the townland of Moneyslane, County Down. Tighe’s patronage was a long time coming, and apparently it was only when Porter’s health had broken down, that Tighe gathered his poems together to try and raise some money for his poet.

And Porter was not an easy man to provide for. His poems to Tighe either praise him or condemn him for lack of fellow feeling!

Porter was very aware of how different his circumstances could have been - and his writing conveys anger at a system which prevented the talented in society from achieving what they deserved.

As a poet, Hugh Porter consciously hid himself behind the comic mask of a country poet:

The accent o’ my early years,
Whiich is nor Scotch nor English either;
But part o’ baith mix’id u p thegither:
Yet it the sort my neighbours use,
Wha think shoon prettier far than shoes.

Harsh reality-checks often blighted Porter’s desire for intellectual society and conversation. Social evenings with cultured debate would be followed the next day by the realities of his lowly cottage and the ever-present need to provide for himself and his family. In ‘Written the Next Morning After Having Dried and Supped with the Rev. Messers. T. and B’ his muse is hungover and reflective:

Vestreen, sedate I sit beside
My ***’, my frien’, my country’s pride,
An’ him wha cross’d the ocean wide,
An’ brought us owre fu’ cantie,
Upon a smooth cistalman tée,
Th’ Italic Homer, Danté.

This poem demonstrates Porter’s ready wit - and his canny observation of the disparity between the luxurious Parson’s Hill and the scarcity of Moneyslane. However, he also takes the opportunity to make a more reflective point:

The prodigious yarrow wine
Like any favourite o’ the nine,
And what’s a serious matter,
This morn, the produce o’ the vine
Is turn’d wi’ me, to watter.

Yet, water, for to tell the truth, is famous ay for quenchin’ drouth;
If we dislike it, in the mouth
We needna let it dally;
Whon past the pallet, then forsooth,
It does ab ody bra’lly;
Humbly aware of his lower social status, his canny, common sense view of the world still cuts through his unhappiness and outclasses that of his stuffy patrons.

Hugh Porter never had the opportunity to fulfi his potential – but his work still lives on and demonstrates how the poet and not the powerful can have the last word.
The Mossley Mill complex on the outskirts of North Belfast serves as a vibrant civic and cultural hub. Headquarters of Newtownabbey Borough Council, it boasts an array of cultural facilities, including a museum, art galleries and the state of the art Theatre at the Mill.

After a four year renovation programme, the new civic complex was opened by the Prince of Wales. But prior to 1996, when it was purchased by the council, the mill had an unbroken history of more than 200 years as a significant industrial site in the area, with many interesting Ulster-Scots connections. Most of the site’s industrial past related to the textile trade; and it was as a bleaching establishment that the site was first opened by a man named Thompson, likely of Scots extraction, in the 1760s. Messrs Stanton and Graham converted it to a flax spinning mill shortly after 1800. Ulster industry in this period was extremely versatile and the works was converted to a cotton printing works by the Lancashire born entrepreneur Nicholas Grimshaw in 1818.

By 1834, however, the Grimshaws had converted it to a flax spinning mill, to exploit the rapid growth of the linen industry. The family most associated with Mossley Mill are the Campbells, who were of Ulster-Scots heritage. In 1859 Henry and John Campbell bought the milling complex and the company was renamed Henry Campbell and Co. Henry Campbell (1813-1889) was the son of Henry Campbell senior of Newtownards. John Campbell (1819-1901) was the son of James Campbell, who was a first cousin of Henry.

The Campbells invested heavily in the works, adding a variety of new buildings in the 1870s, but they also invested in the needs of their workforce and of the local community. They made provision for the housing of their workers and also established Mossley School in 1868, which provided a basic education for workers’ children during the day and provided evening classes for mill workers and local farmers. It is worth remembering that not only were the mill-owners Ulster-Scots, so were the people who worked for them. Around 1760, shortly before the mill was established, Lord Chief Baron Wilkes observed: “All the people of this part of the world speaks the broad lowland Scotch and have all the Scotch phrases”.

Little about that would change in one hundred years. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of the 1830s observed of the people of Crammoney that “in their habits and character, the people, that is the natives of the parish, are essentially Scottish... Their idioms and saws are strictly Scottish and many of them are pithy and quaint.” The Campbells were strongly aware of their Scottish heritage. In 1875, Henry Campbell built a house at Craigavad in the Scottish baronial style and called it Lorne, after the seat of the Campbells in Scotland. The clan symbol of a boar’s head, was incorporated into the entrance to the house. Today, Lorne is well known as the residential centre for Girl Guiding in Ulster.

When Henry Campbell died in 1889, he left a huge (by the standards of the time) estate of £240,000. His money was left in trust for the establishment of a hospital or a school: the trustees elected to establish a school, which was named in his honour, Campbell College. The Campbells’ boar’s head emblem was also incorporated into the school badge. The mill remained in the Campbell family well into the 20th century. They continued to invest in new machinery and processes, founded on a solid financial base. They also continued to look out for their workers and the local people. They built a sports pavilion in the village, which was complemented by bowling greens, tennis courts and an outdoor swimming pool.

In a foretaste of the cultural facility that the mill would later become, the Campbells also developed a reading room, canteen and a cinema which was open to both mill workers and the public, with staff receiving a modest discount for admission. It is testament to the extent of Ulster-Scots involvement in the textile trade that when Mossley Mill ceased to be owned by the Campbells, it did not cease to be an Ulster-Scots linked firm. In 1978, Campbell & Co. merged with Barbour Textiles of Hilden, to become Barbour Campbell Textiles Ltd, at which time all thread production was transferred to the Hilden site, while spinning remained at Mossley. Barbour Textiles was established in 1784 by John Barbour of Paisley, Scotland and remained in production for over 200 years.

The mill was bought over again in 1993, this time by Herdman’s of Sion Mills, County Tyrone. The Herdmans had come over from Herdmanston in Ayrshire in 1688, Captain Herdman served under King William III at the Boyne and afterwards settled at Glenavy, County Antrim. His descendents were responsible for numerous business interests in linen and shipbuilding around Ulster and it was three brothers, James, John and George Herdman, who established the concern at Sion Mills.

Unfortunately, by the 1990s, Ulster’s textile manufacturing industry was in terminal decline and the mill closed for the last time in 1995, when Newtownabbey Council stepped into rescue it for the people of the borough.

The Museum at the Mill tells the story of Mossley flax spinning mill. Through artefacts, images and archival film, you can explore the past and present of this unique heritage site.

Opening times:
Monday: 10am – 5 pm
Tuesday: 10am – 5 pm
Wednesday: 10am – 9 pm
Thursday: 10am – 9 pm
Friday: 10am – 4 pm
Saturday: 11am – 4pm
Sunday: Closed

Museum at the Mill is closed on Public Holidays.
Flax Gallery at the Mill is Museum at the Mill’s contemporary display space which plays host to a diverse range of exhibitions throughout the year.

Forthcoming exhibition:
The Project of Plantation – 17th century changes in North East Ulster Saturday September 28 to Saturday October 19
The early 17th century saw a concerted effort to bring Protestant settlers from England, Wales and Lowland Scotland to occupy the lands of the nine counties of Ulster to open up new markets and control trade. This exhibition explores the influential and challenging histories that occurred during this period and aims to encourage new ways of thinking about a period which still shapes our lives today. For more information and exhibition opening times telephone the museum on (028) 9034 0129.

Some forthcoming events include:
• Make Your Own Unique Time Piece (4 week course) Starts: Thursday September 19 (7pm - 9pm)
• Sculpture Culture Workshop (ages 8-14yrs) Saturday September 28 (11am - 3pm)

For further information visit www.newtownabbey.gov.uk/MuseumAtTheMill/events or to book your place, telephone the museum on (028) 9034 0129. Note booking in advance is essential.

Meanwhile on Saturday September 14 (today) as part of European Heritage Open Days, the museum will be offering tours of Mossley Mill free of charge. Tours will run on the hour from 11am until 3pm and can be booked by contacting the museum on (028) 9034 0129.
**Ulster American Apple and Blackberry Tart**

**The story:**

What could be more classically American and also classically Ulster than the apple pie? And as autumn is upon us, this is a classic recipe that everyone will enjoy! Known in Ulster as apple tarts, these pies are a great tradition in the part of Northern Ireland I am from, namely County Armagh, also known as the Apple County. In the autumn I spend an entire Saturday baking these for my freezer so I can enjoy them all winter. If you are like me and plan to make several to freeze, do not slit the top of the crust or bake; wait until you are ready, then prepare.

Years ago I have found memories of a tradition my grandmother had where she used to wrap money in silver foil and hide them in her tarts around Halloween time. Sometimes she used blackberries grown wild in the Irish hedgerows, and the results were just wonderful!

**How to make it:**

1. Using a pastry cutter or food processor combine the flour, salt and the shortening by pulsing together for about 12-15 seconds or until the mixture comes together. Add the ice water until the mixture comes away from the sides of the bowl.

2. Cut the dough in half with a knife and work each piece with the your palms to make two circular balls. Gently press down using the palms of hands to form two circular discs. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to allow the dough to rest.

3. Next, prepare the filling by adding lemon juice to the prepared apples in a suitable bowl. Stir in the sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, salt, and blackberries.

4. When ready, roll out the first pastry ball on a lightly floured surface using a floured rolling pin to form a 12” circle. Gently ease the pastry into a 9” pie plate, folding any excess pastry under and trim.

5. Fill the pastry with the prepared apple and blackberry mixture and then dot the surface with butter.

6. Roll the remaining pastry ball to form another 12” circle and place it on top of the fruit, folding any excess pastry under and trim with a sharp knife. For a fluted edge place your thumb against the inside of the pastry and press the dough around the thumb as if to pinch, using the other thumb and index finger or a fork to seal the edges. Cut a generous slit in the center to release air during baking.

7. Brush with a little beaten egg and milk and sprinkle with sugar.

8. Bake at 350°F on a foil-lined baking sheet (in case of juice spilling) for 50 minutes.

9. Best served warm with fresh whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

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**Basic crust recipe (ingredients):**

- 8 oz. (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- pinch salt
- 6 oz. (¾ cups) shortening
- 7 Tbsp. iced water
- beaten egg and milk (to glaze)
- 1 tsp granulated sugar (to dust)

**Apple pie filling ingredients:**

- 4 large tart apples (5 cups peeled, cored, and thinly sliced)
- 6 oz. (1 cup) blackberries
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- ½ tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg
- good pinch ground cloves
- dash of salt
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter (cut in to small pieces)

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**Summer Schools are a resounding success**

By Derek Reaney

The Ulster-Scots Summer Schools programme - which provides funding to community groups to deliver a five-day packed programme of Ulster-Scots activities for children aged seven to 16 - has been delivered at various community venues over the last two months.

In addition to a range of Ulster-Scots activities, the programme provides funding for educational trips which have included Andrew Jackson’s cottage and Carrickfergus Castle, The Giants Causeway and Dunluce Castle, the ever popular Ulster American Folk Park at Omagh and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra.

The programme kicked off on the first week in July with a number of well attended summer schools in Newtownstewart, Newbuildings, Bready and Clooney estate in Londonderry.

After schools in Caw and Nelson Drive in Londonderry and the Small Steps group in North Belfast, Ardlariff (situated between Limavady and Dungiven) and Raphoe Pipe Band in Co Donegal both ran very successful summer schools.

The Raphoe school embraced the Ulster-Scots language with an alphabet wall hanging while also focusing on Finn McCool to produce a massive paper mache giant.

The South East Fermanagh Foundation in Lisnaskea delivered three summer schools. The first in Lisnaskea High School was a massive success with 60 children attending. A further 30 attended a five-day drama summer school in Brookborough Primary School, while Fermanagh Summer School was a residential summer school for teenagers at Lough Melvin.

At the end of July it was the turn of Kiloranagh Community Association located a couple of miles outside Tobermore to host a hugely successful summer school, while Cookstown North Community Association hosted the final school of 2013.

“The Summer Schools provide an excellent opportunity for young people to find out more about the Ulster-Scots culture, language and traditions,” says Derek Reaney, Ulster-Scots development officer in charge of the programme.

“If you are in a community group or youth club and interested in the summer school programme, don’t wait until next summer because you can register your interest now for 2014,” Derek can be contacted at the Ulster-Scots regional office in Raphoe on (00353) 74 9173876.
Walled City Tattoo is a resounding success

The first-ever full-scale tattoo held as part of the Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture proved an emotional excursion charting the city’s fascinating history through the centuries, from the siege to the shirt factories - all to a combination of drummers, pipers, music, dance, visual light display and an underlying narrative.

And the 15,000 people who flocked to Ebrington Square over four nights to take in the sights and sounds of the inaugural Walled City Tattoo can’t fail to have been moved by the stunning spectacle in what was one of the highlights of the 2013 cultural programme. The Tattoo, which had a strong Ulster-Scots thread, brought together the cream of local and international talent, and incorporated hundreds of highland and Irish dancers, bringing together the best of both traditions. The 500-strong cast also included the world famous Top Secret Drum Corps from Switzerland, the African Warriors from Tanzania, and pipe and flute bands from Northern Ireland, England and beyond.

Original music was also provided by the 10-strong local band Sotas, formed in February 2012 and which draws on the musical styles and influences of both their Ulster-Scots and Irish backgrounds and filtering them through a bedrock of contemporary playing styles and arrangements. Walled City Tattoo producer James Kee said: “We knew that Northern Ireland was ready for its own Tattoo and that thrill of us staging the event became a reality with four breath-taking nights of performance. “And myself and the team at Solls Cultural Promotions are already putting our heads together to plan next year’s event and hope to top the 2013 Tattoo with another vibrant and entertaining production full of music, dance and theatre.”

Culture Company chief executive Shona McCarthy said the Tattoo had more than lived up to expectations, adding: “It’s always a joy to see people come together and you could feel that real sense of occasion when the audience began arriving at Ebrington for the show. “The Tattoo promised to be one of the standout occasions of 2013 and it certainly delivered on that front. “But it was more than just about providing a good night’s entertainment; it was a demonstration to the rest of the world that we can celebrate our joint tradition in a meaningful, but also in a wonderfully positive and joyous way. “I’d like to pay special tribute to James Kee, who had the vision and commitment to bring the Tattoo to life, and to artistic director Jonathan Burgess for his significant contribution to its success.”

Some 350 dancers from across Northern Ireland, ranging in age from five to 28, were among those taking part in the production. A total of 33 Highland and Irish dance schools were represented, and bringing together these two distinct styles of dancing contributed to creating a vivid reflection of the rich history and culture of the city. Among the choreographers was highland dance teacher and European choreography champion Georgina Kee. She has performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo five times, performing in front of a 220,000 audience over 28 shows, and in 2011 she co-ordinated the first ever dance troupe from Northern Ireland and the Republic to perform there. Joining Georgina in choreographing the show was Irish dance teacher and world dancing champion Arlene McLauchlin. She has performed professionally in the UK and Ireland as well as internationally, performing for the Irish Ambassador in New Delhi in India and at the Festivals de Martigues in France. She has also trained with the renowned ‘Riverdance’ company and is dance director of the Siamsa Gael troupe in Derry.

Briona Jackson, the third member of the choreography team who also holds a BA Hons in Dance, has performed at many major events including being one of only two dancers from Northern Ireland to perform at the Cultural Olympiad in London as part of the 2012 Olympic celebrations. Georgina said: “Bringing together so much wonderful talent from across the country for a Tattoo of this magnitude in my home city has been a dream come true. “What was unusual and exciting about the dancing at the Tattoo is the two disciplines and two cultures coming together to complement each other, because although there are similarities, there are also major differences in style, traditional costume, music and the instruments we dance to.”

The organisers’ painstaking attention to detail and their success in creating such a colourful fusion of cultures is to be commended, and the Walled City Tattoo will live long in the memory.

Monument restored to life

The James Orr Monument in Templecorran cemetery has been restored to its former glory by Ballycarry Community Association. The monument, which was erected by the Freemasons in 1831, is decorated with Classical and Masonic motifs and is one of the most important monuments of its kind in Ulster.

James Orr was born in Ballycarry in 1770 and began his trade as a journeyman weaver. His talent for writing poetry meant he earned the title the Bard of Ballycarry and established himself as the foremost of the Ulster Weaver Poets.

When the Northern Star was established in Belfast he became one of its poetical contributors and later went on to join the United Irishmen, taking part in the battle of Antrim in 1798. The defeat of the United Irishmen meant for a time he went into hiding, before surrendering and being sent to prison. As no act of treason could be proved against him, Orr was released on the condition that he transport himself to America, inspiring him to write his lament Song of an Exile.

Over the following years he worked at a newspaper, and when matters at home had greatly improved under an amnesty, Orr returned to the village of Ballycarry, once again taking up his loom and his poetry writing. He died on April 24 1816 in the village of Ballycarry.

Celebrating our European Heritage

More than 410 properties will be opening for free on Saturday and Sunday September 14 and 15 for this year’s European Heritage Open Days.

Some of the Ulster-Scots properties included in the programme are Camncrogh Castle, Dunluce Castle, Parliament Buildings/Stormont Estate, Sinclair Seamen’s Presbyterian Church, Belfast City Hall, Young and Mackenzie Buildings, 1st Presbyterian Church, St Mark’s Church Dundela, Campbell College, Belfast Orange Hall, Clifton House, May Street Presbyterian Church, the Ulster Hall, Crescent Church and St Nicholas Parish Church.

This year, EHOH has been inspired by the City of Culture 2013 and has a programme of special cultural events. See and hear about our built heritage as our sites and buildings come alive with living history, film screenings, literary events, theatre performances, visual arts, art exhibitions and much more! For full details visit www.discovernorthernireland.com/eho/index.asp.
Thank you to everyone who entered our Ulster-Scots photography competition in the July edition of The Ulster-Scot.

Our overall winner is Jonnie Crawford. Jonnie’s photograph was taken at the Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society & Gaelicside Community Association Games and Fun day on Saturday August 17 in Ballymoney. Congratulations!

Two copies of the winning photograph will be framed – the first will be presented to Jonnie over the coming weeks and the other will be put on permanent display in the Ulster-Scots Agency’s office.

Thank you to all those who entered – all entries will be displayed in the Ulster-Scots Visitor and Information Centre in Belfast.

Congratulations to Roseann Saunderson (Ballymena) and Eilish Steen (Coleraine). Your parking passes are in the post and will enable you to park for free at Carnfunnock Country Park until the end of November 2013. Well done!

Ingredients:
• 250g plain flour, some extra for kneading
• ½ teaspoon salt
• ¾ teaspoon of Bicarbonate of soda
• 250ml buttermilk

Top tip!
Remember to be careful when turning your sodas in the pan so that they don’t tear! In fact why not ask someone to give you a hand - it’s much more fun with a friend anyway!

How to make it:
• Preheat heavy based flat griddle or frying pan to low heat.
• Place flour & salt into a large baking bowl and sift in bicarbonate of soda. Make a well in the centre and pour in the buttermilk.
• Work quickly to mix into a dough and knead very lightly on a well floured flat surface. Form into a flattened circle, about 1cm thick and cut into quarters with a floured knife.
• Sprinkle a little flour over the base of the hot pan and place each quarter into the hot pan, one at a time until the four quarters create a complete circle.
• Cook the farls for 6-8 minutes on each side or until golden brown and cooked through. (You may need to cut through the centre cross to turn over).
• Take the pan off the heat and allow the farls to cool in the pan for 10 to 15 minutes.

Enjoy!

A simple yet delicious recipe that the whole family will love!

WIN your very own copy of C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth

We have three copies of C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth by Sandy Smith to give away. The book looks at the author’s early life in Belfast and reveals his strong Ulster-Scots links, allowing the reader to walk in Lewis’s footsteps, on a journey that covers Belfast and beyond, encapsulating the places, the stories and the inspiration for many of his greatest works.

For your chance to win: Simply email competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with ‘C.S. Lewis’ in the subject line, providing your name and address. Closing date: Wednesday November 6 2013.

Ulster-Scots Word search

See if you can find the following Ulster-Scots words in the word search:

Family (family)  Almost (almost)
After (after)     Windas (windows)
Sope (sip)        Gye (very)
Brichty (brightly) Hame (home)

Carnfunnock

Congratulations to Roseann Saunderson (Ballymena) and Eilish Steen (Coleraine). Your parking passes are in the post and will enable you to park for free at Carnfunnock Country Park until the end of November 2013. Well done!