



**WIN A FAMILY PASS TO
THE ST PATRICK CENTRE**
PAGE 16

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

SATURDAY MARCH 14 2015

Applications are now open for 2015 Festival Funding



Applications have now opened for groups seeking funding for 2015 under the Ulster-Scots Agency's Festival Funding Programme. For details of how groups can apply see inside.

SEE PAGE 7

**BURNS
HONOURED
AT SERIES OF
EVENTS AROUND
THE PROVINCE**
PAGES 4&5



**FOCUS ON ST PATRICK'S LINKS WITH
ULSTER**

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**DRUM MAJORS GROUP PREPARE FOR
TRIP TO AMERICA**

PAGE 12

Fair faa ye



Welcome to the March 2015 edition of the Ulster-Scot. Since we published the January edition of The Ulster-Scot the Ulster Scots Agency has been very busy! We hosted a spectacular Burns Concert at the Waterfront Hall featuring Scottish Folk Singer of the Year 2014 Emily Smith. The concert was a near sell out and was recorded and broadcast by the BBC in February - thanks to the Ulster Orchestra, Barking Films, Conductor John Logan, narrator Dan Gordon and everyone who made this event such an outstanding success! Congratulations must also go to the Markethill Ulster-Scots Dancers and Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band who performed flawlessly on the night. More about this and the other performers on Page 4. The Ulster Scots Agency festival funding 2015 is now open for applications. There will be a series of informational road shows taking place over the next few weeks to assist groups with the application procedure - find out more on Page 7.

The Agency has also assessed the School Music and Dance Tuition applications which has seen record numbers of schools applying for funding and a wide geographical spread to include Monaghan and Donegal - find out more on Page 6.

Also in this edition we have a wonderful recipe from Judith McLaughlin for Winter Roasted Vegetables and Kale Salad with Feta and Hazelnuts - you can find this on Page 14. As always we welcome your feedback and hope that everyone finds something of interest in this edition.

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency

The Ulster-Scot

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Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

Introducing young people to their cultural heritage



By Terry McMaster

Drumahoe Primary School began providing highland dance tuition three years ago, with Georgina Kee-McCarter tutoring a junior and senior schools highland dance club.

Since then Bready Ulster-Scots have continued to manage this project, through funding provided by the Ulster Scots Agency. The Ulster Scots culture and heritage has a close affinity with the Drumahoe PS and the local community and in particular through both music and dance. We as educators have a duty of care to introduce our pupils to their cultural heritage and promote a greater awareness of how their ancestors expressed their culture through the medium of dance and music. There is no better way of doing this in our view but through the teaching of Highland Dance.

Over several years we have promoted Ulster Scots through many different initiatives:

- Fair Faa Ye Play has visited the school on several occasions;
- A five-day Ulster Scots workshop;
- Highland dancing - two weekly classes and an evening "Advanced Class";
- Fiddle, pipes & drumming classes;
- 'Not So Serious Burns' project funded by Derry City Council (a showcase of Rabbin Burns through, dance, music, poetry & haggis tasting).

We also promote Ulster Scots through our monthly newsletter and website, and our Highland Dance Club put on a magnificent performance for pupils, friends and families of the school for an audience of 350 people.

We also make a conscious effort to include Ulster Scots in our primary curriculum through the teaching of personal development and mutual understanding.

Heritage is of paramount

importance for our young people to understand themselves and the high quality experience they get through dance is critical to this understanding. Participants continually develop new techniques, steps and dances all based around the highland dance syllabus.

This coincides with them learning the stories and background to each dance. Each class uses traditional music, ensuring that the pupils become fully aware and competent with many aspects of Ulster Scots Culture, Dance and music brings to life an awareness of our Ulster Scots culture and heritage. Evidence of this inspiration is not only apparent in the huge numbers attending our dance classes but also the large numbers of pupils who attended last year's Walled City Tattoo. Our pupils have gained an outstanding knowledge and understanding of highland dance and its associated music.

Terry McMaster is principal of Drumahoe Primary School

CLICK ON THIS...



For details of what's on check out our events calendar -
www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events

For Ulster-Scots news -
www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news

To sign up for the Ulster-Scots E-Newsletter - visit 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 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.



WORD OF THE ISSUE

Creesh

Meaning:
Grease

Expo looks at contribution of industrialists

As part of a project funded by the Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster-Scots Academy, the Spectrum Centre has been running a project aimed at celebrating the contribution of Ulster Scots industrialists to the development of Belfast and the province.

Although industrialists were focused on the economic growth and development of the period, the project has sought to record and reflect how they also contributed to the province's social development through the built environment, philanthropy and politics.

The project has engaged community groups and community workshops in identifying and discussing prominent Ulster Scots industrialists with a particular focus on those with a connection to the Greater Shankill area.

The project will conclude with an

exhibition which will run from March 27-31 at the Spectrum Centre, 331-333 Shankill Road, Belfast.

The exhibition will feature informative display boards on the Ulster Scots tradition; the era of industrial development; a feature on prominent industrialists John Boyd Dunlop, James Mackie and William Ritchie; and a summary of other key industrialists of the time. There will be materials to take away as well.

The exhibition has been timed to link in with two other events: public performances of the play 'Singin' I'm no a Billy He's a Tim' by Goldfish Theatre, and an evening of Shankill History and Heritage.

More information is available from the Spectrum Centre at info@spectrumcentre.com or 028 90504555 and will be promoted via www.facebook.com/SpectrumCentre and twitter @SpectrumBelfast

Mid Armagh raising the bar in tuition

Mid Armagh Community Network (MACN), the Ulster Scots cultural community group based in Markethill, held an event in the town's courthouse to present certificates to students who had passed their London College of Music-accredited exams in Scottish traditional fiddle.

Certificates from grade one to diploma level were handed over by Ulster Scots Agency chairman Tom Scott, who commended students on their achievements for promoting Ulster Scots music and dance within the Markethill community. The student orchestra then played several of their exam pieces for guests.

So far this year MACN has 66 fiddlers enrolled and demand is growing each year from the community for this service. Conrad Clarke said: "I would like to

"They (the students) are a credit to themselves, their parents and community"

- Conrad Clarke

congratulate those students on their hard work and dedication in passing their exams. They are a credit to themselves, their parents and community and MACN is proud to be in a position to facilitate this local talent and encourage future generations in this style of music." He added: "The tuition programme this year is funded by the Ulster Scots Agency and MACN and is a vital rural community resource which for a small amount of funding provides excellent value for money both for funders and the community.

'Holding the Line' exhibition in Armagh

As World War One raged through into 1915, the regular army was close to decimation.

They were holding the line in anticipation of Kitchener's volunteers and the relief they would bring.

One man's fate would inspire his Commander to write: "Under fire, he was one of those who did not know what fear was."

Many of those poignant moments have been captured in a new exhibition which portrays the part played by the Royal Irish Fusiliers in the campaigns of Gallipoli, Salonika & the Western Front.

The exhibition - entitled 'Holding the Line' - has just opened at Sovereigns House, The Mall, Armagh, and runs until December. Entry is free.

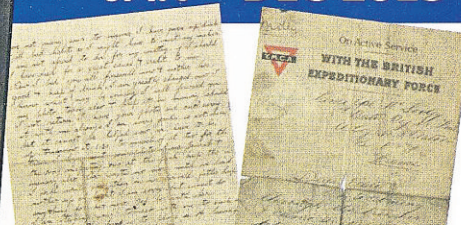
For more information contact 028 3752 2911 or email fusiliersmuseum@yahoo.co.uk



THE ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS MUSEUM

Holding the Line

JAN - DEC 2015



As World War One raged through 1915, the Regular Army was close to decimation! They were holding the line in anticipation of Kitchener's volunteers and the relief they would bring!

This new exhibition portrays the part played by the Royal Irish Fusiliers in the campaigns of Gallipoli, Salonika & the Western Front.

One man's fate would inspire his Commander to write: "under fire he was one of those who did not know what fear was"

FREE ADMISSION

Opening Hours: Mon to Fri 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm



@RlIrishFMuseum



royalirishfusiliersmuseum

Sovereigns House, The Mall, Armagh. 028 3752 2911

Waterfront Hall showpiece is another sell-out

The Ulster Scots Agency's annual Burns Night concert in the Waterfront Hall with the Ulster Orchestra, and which this year featured Scottish Singer of the Year Emily Smith, was another near sell-out.

The concert comprised a fantastic night of music, dance and song with performances by the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, Markethill Dancers, singer songwriter Eilidh Patterson, folk band Bernagh, drummers Mathew and Marcus Wenlock and, of course, the Ulster Orchestra.

Emily Smith has risen to become one of Scotland's leading folk singers in the course of the last decade and took to the stage with her husband, guitarist Jamie McClennan, to perform Burns favourites such as The Silver Tassie, as well as solo selections such as My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose.

Emily said: "Burns Night is such a wonderful occasion, the connection between Northern Ireland and Scotland is a strong one, so it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate it together."

Agency chief executive Ian Crozier said: "It's a testament to his legacy that so many people in Ulster, Scotland and across the world hold celebrations on Burn's birthday, and that 220 years after his death his memory lives on." The Ulster Orchestra was conducted by John Logan, who led the performers in a programme of music that mixed traditional favourites with more up to date work such as Dougie MacLean's The Gael, taken from the soundtrack of the film Last of the Mohicans and Logan's own composition, Tíree. For the first time, the concert was recorded by Barking Films was subsequently broadcast on BBC Northern Ireland.



Schomberg Society hosts Burns supper and awards night

The Schomberg Society in Kilkeel hosted its Ulster-Scots Burns supper and awards night in the town's Royal British Legion hall.

This annual event pays tribute to the life, works and poetry of the renowned Scottish bard Robbie Burns, whose many well known poems written in his native Scots language including the familiar Auld Lang Syne, Tam O' Shanter and To A Mouse.

Ronald McConnell, chairman of the Schomberg Society, welcomed guests, and the supper commenced with the piping in of the haggis by Colin Moffett, accompanied by dancers from the Kirknarra School of Dance.

Gareth Crozier, secretary of the Society recited the time honoured Burns' address to the haggis which was followed by the Selkirk Grace from Jim Donaldson, Society president.

Before the entertainment began, Jim Donaldson presented Evelyn Cowan, chair of the Schomberg Thistle Club, with a bouquet of flowers as a token of



Some of the radio presenters who received certificates of achievement for their commitment to Fusefm Mourne which broadcast in December 2014

appreciation for her commitment and dedication to the club over the past number of years. Compere Willie-John Heaney kept the large crowd amused with his hilarious comedy routine and introduced the highland dance showcase. Local councillor Henry Reilly then made presentation on behalf of the Schomberg

Society to the five girls from Kirknarra School of Dance to celebrate their achievement of participation in the Belfast Tattoo 2014.

The audience was then treated to a solo performance from Kilkeel High School student Jared Green before Councillor Glynn Hanna awarded the Fusefm Mourne Radio presenters certificates of

achievement to mark the success of the first broadcast of the Schomberg Society's Fusefm Mourne from Reivers House in December.

Charles Neville of the Ulster-Scots Community Network then invited 11 students to receive their certificates for completing a Level 2 OCN in Ulster-Scots Heritage and Identity course in Reivers House.

Highlight of the night for many folk was local group New Harmony who kept the crowd enthralled with a medley of well known aires, jigs and reels. Scottish-born soloist Natalie Stevenson continued the Robbie Burns theme with a selection of songs which included a fantastic rendition of one of Burns' favourites; My Love is like a Red Red Rose.

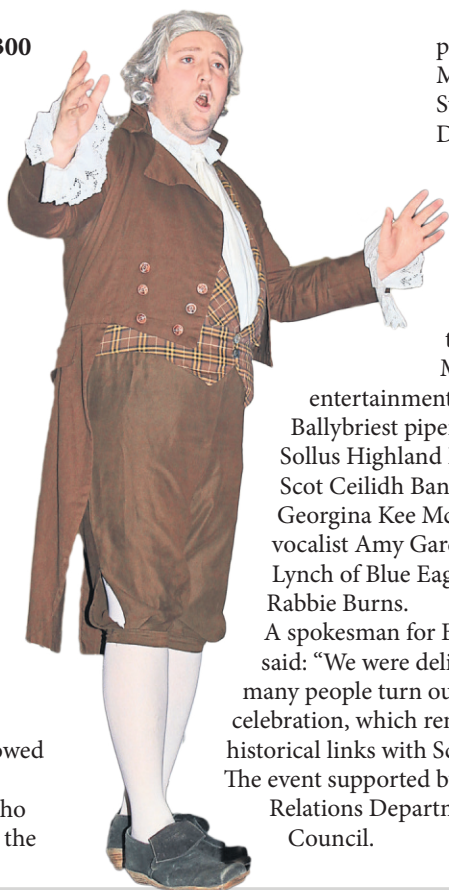
The night ended with DJ Gareth Crozier and the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The Schomberg Society extends its thanks to everyone who helped to make the night such a huge success, especially the staff of the Royal British Legion, Top Nosh caterers, photographer Amy Stevenson and all those who provided entertainment.

Neeps and tatties with song and dance

More than 300 people attended the Bready & District Ulster-Scots Burns Night celebration at the Everglades Hotel in Londonderry.

Guests - some of whom travelled from Enniskillen, Cookstown, Larne, Newtownards and Stoneyford - were treated not only to the traditional meal of haggis neeps & tatties, but also to an array of talent that included music, song, dance and poetry. James Keegives gave the address to the haggis followed by a toast. Other guests and locals who attended and took part in the



proceedings included Mayor Brenda Stevenson and Deputy Mayor Gary Middleton.

Audrey Watson who delivered a toast to the laddies while Jonathan Burgess toasted the lassies. Music and

entertainment was provided by Ballybriest piper Naomi Mitchell, Sollus Highland Dancers, Alastair Scot Ceilidh Band with caller Georgina Kee McCarter, Sontas Lite, vocalist Amy Gardiner and Keith Lynch of Blue Eagle Productions as Rabbie Burns. A spokesman for Bready Ulster Scots said: "We were delighted to see so many people turn out for this cultural celebration, which reminds us of our historical links with Scotland" The event supported by the Good Relations Department of Derry City Council.



Bleary steps out in style for Burns

Bleary Farmers Hall Management held their Burns Night celebration dinner in The Farmers Hall - and the event was a sell-out, with around 100 persons attending and celebrating all things Ulster-Scots.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Risin Stour, a Co Down-based folk group, accompanied by soloist Lauren Nannery and compere Samuel Walker. The traditional address to a haggis was performed by John Harrison and was accompanied by the Selkirk Grace which was performed by Heather Wilson and James Blane. Bleary & District pipe band piper Meaghan Lyons provided musical accompaniment to the ceremonial procession. A fantastic night of music, poetry and song was enjoyed by all. The Management wish to convey their thanks to Ardlee Catering and to all those who attended and supported the event. The event was also kindly supported by Craigavon Borough Council Community Festival Fund.



Spring Gatherin an innovative addition to piping season

The pipe band season starts in earnest in Northern Ireland next month with a couple of solo events, with the competition season proper beginning with the North Down & Ards Championships on May 16.

But an innovative addition to the cultural scene will come in the final weekend of April with the inaugural Spring Gatherin', the UK and Ireland's first multi-day event for piping and drumming exhibition, competition and education, and an event for all the family.

Promoted by Dalriada Events Ltd, the two-day event takes place in Belfast's Ramada Plaza Hotel on Friday and Saturday April 24 and 25. The Spring Gatherin' will provide a new and fresh platform piping and drumming talent to develop and perform, in a relaxed, classy and comfortable setting,

and the organisers aim to make it a fun and interesting undertaking for both the performers and the audience, cementing the event into a permanent annual event. Part competition, part Masterclass, part exhibition, the event will give the piping and drumming community the opportunity to see some of the best pipers and drummers compete in luxurious surroundings.

As well as seeing some of the top pipers and drummers taking part in solo events, a mini band competition is also being introduced, and organisers are reaching out to those bands in the community which don't normally compete but are interested in getting some feedback from well respected judges.

A full list of events, exhibitors and daily programme, along with ticketing information, is available and constantly updated on the event's website at www.springgatherin.co.uk

One of the big acts appearing will be world champion Fred Morrison, a dazzling live performer and one of the best in the business. Born and raised near Glasgow, it's the celebrated Gaelic piping tradition of his father's native South Uist, in the outer Hebrides, that forms the bedrock of his intensely expressive, uniquely adventurous style. His outstanding technical prowess saw him winning many top competition prizes while still at school, meanwhile being inspired by pioneering acts like the Bothy Band and the Tannahill Weavers. Although his first-love instrument remains the great Highland bagpipes, over the years his mastery has expanded to encompass whistles, Scottish smallpipes, or reelpipes – Morrison being a pivotal populariser of this once-rare variety – and Irish uilleann pipes. "I've always heard a really strong affinity between my own South Uist background

and the Irish travelling pipers' style played by people like Paddy Keenan," he says, "and when I started playing the Irish pipes myself, I also found this deep-down rhythmic connection with bluegrass music – to me it's as if they're all one and the same."

Fred was also one of the first Scottish artists to forge dynamic links with his Celtic cousins in Brittany and north-west Spain, adding further to his repertoire of influences and tunes, and has long been renowned as an outstanding tune composer. Colin Wasson, director of The Spring Gatherin' said: "We are very happy with the positive feedback we are receiving and the fantastic sense of anticipation we are creating among the various bands' communities with the launch of The Spring Gatherin'. The addition of Fred Morrison ensures that our inaugural event will be a great success."

Solo piper Scott Barr (right) from Ballygowan (Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band) pictured during his performance at the Northern Ireland Drum Major Group Variety Concert in Marlacoo Orange Hall on Friday 13th February.

MAIN PIPING DATES FOR 2015

April 11 - Cullybackey Solos (Cullybackey High School)

April 18 - Ulster Solos (Monkstown)

April 24/25 - The Spring Gatherin (Ramada Plaza, Belfast)

May 16 - North Down & Ards Championships (venue TBC)

May 23 - Co Fermanagh Championships (Enniskillen)

May 30 - British Championships (Bathgate)

June 6 - Mid-Ulster Championships (Cookstown)

June 13 - UK Championships (Belfast)

June 20 - Craigavon & District Championships (Lurgan)

June 27 - European Championships (Forres)

July 4 - All Ireland Championships (Omagh)

July 18 - Co Antrim Championships (Glenarm)

July 25 - Scottish Championships (Dumbarton)

August 1 - City of Lisburn Championships

August 8 - Ulster Championships (Rostrevor)

August 14/15 - World Championships (Glasgow)

August 22 - North West Championships (Portrush)



Highland dancer Caitlin Graham (right) from Ballynahinch (a drum major with Upper Crossgar Pipe Band) pictured following her performance at the Northern Ireland Drum Major Group Variety Concert in Marlacoo Orange Hall on Friday 13th February.



SNIPPETS

RSPBANI School students Ryan Cupples-Mendes, Dion Boyle, John McElmurry and Sean and Rachel Maloney all featured strongly at the Irish Piobaireachd Society's annual solo piping competition in Michelstown, Co Cork, recently.

Ryan claimed second place in the Open, first in Intermediate and first in the under-18, while Dion Boyle finished runner-up to him in the Intermediate and under -18. The supporting cast was completed by John, Sean and Rachel, all of whom made the winners' platform.

The standard of light music playing at the School continues to reach high levels and is now joined by piobaireachd, the classical music of the bagpipe, due firstly to the interest and aptitude of the young pipers themselves but also to the quality of support given by RSPBANI instructors.

Attention ice-cream men, burger sellers and tea-stall owners. Expressions of interest are being sought from interested caterers to provide units at a number of pipe band competitions in the north this season. The Branch is tendering for caterers at events in Bangor (May 16), Omagh (July 4), Lisburn (August 1) and Rostrevor (August 8) and is offering the opportunity for established outdoor catering companies to apply for the concessions.

Any experienced provider wishing to be considered for the contract is invited to request a tender document from RSPBANI Project Officer Ian Burrows at Unit 34, Crescent Business Park, Ballinderry Road, Lisburn, BT28 2GN.

Providers are expected to have a sound financial standing and be able to demonstrate a successful delivery of similar contracts. Completed tenders and supporting documentation must be returned by 2pm on Monday March 16.

Entry form and the syllabus are now available for the 28th annual Cullybackey solos competition, which take place in Cullybackey High School on April 11.

Always keenly contested, there are piping and drumming grades from beginners through to senior level, and the event will expect to attract upwards of 100 competitors. Entries close on Friday March 27.

Cullybackey will be a precursor to the Ulster Festival of solo piping and drumming a week later at Monkstown Community School, which also included the Ulster solo tenor drumming championships.

Entries for this close on Tuesday March 28. Forms and fees should go to Mervyn Herron, 9 Ballydown Meadows, Banbridge, BT32 4 QX, before this date.

Summer schools grant programme opens

The Ulster-Scots Agency opens its 2015 summer schools grant programme on Monday March 23, with the closing date for completed hard copy application forms being noon on Friday May 1.

Those groups interested in organising a summer school may register their intention in advance by completing the Summer Schools Registration Form and forwarding it to the

Ulster-Scots Agency, Regional Office, William Street, Raphoe, Co Donegal or by emailing freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk by Friday March 20.

This form can be accessed via the Ulster-Scots Agency's web site at www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding/

As in previous years summer schools will be in three formats - standard, drama and residential.

The Bush that Burned is reissued

'THE BUSH THAT BURNED' by the late Lydia Mary Foster from Newmills, near Coalisland, has been reissued and is expected to introduce a new generation of readers to the work of this undeservedly largely forgotten Tyrone author.

In 1930 she realised a life-long ambition to write about Presbyterianism and church life in that part of east Tyrone with the publication of 'The Bush that Burned', which was an immediate best-seller. Lydia published several other books which also enjoyed great popular success, including Tyrone among the Bushes (1933), Manse Larks (1936) and Elders' Daughters (1942).

The Bush that Burned is now available from Amazon and is available either as a paperback or for Kindle.

Lydia Mary Foster (1867-1943)

Lydia Mary Foster's novels and short stories depicting the inhabitants of her native County Tyrone were very successful and popular in Ulster in 1930s and 1940s and even attracted approval in both London and Dublin.

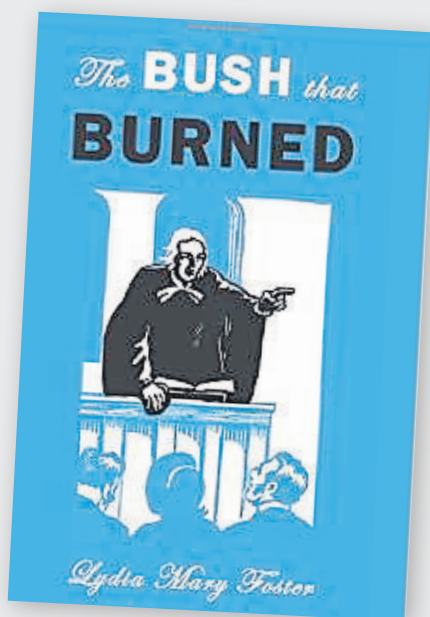
A daughter of the manse, she grew up at Newmills, near Coalisland, where her father was the local Presbyterian minister. As there were few career opportunities for well-educated girls in a country village like Newmills, she and her two sisters established a private school, the Ladies' Collegiate School, Balmoral, in Belfast.

The school began life in Myrtlefield Park, then moved to 434 Lisburn Road and finally to 16 Maryville Park. The school was mostly attended by local girls but it had also attracted some boarders who, with their teachers, attended Malone Presbyterian Church on Sundays and sat in Pew No. 21 in the gallery. A number of younger boys also attended the school.

The school flourished for 20 years until the death of Lydia's two sisters in the 1917 and 1918. Lydia became increasingly deaf and turned to writing, publishing short stories, plays, verse and poetry in magazines such as Ulster Parade, a light-hearted collection of local writing, enough to provide her with a modest income to support her frugal lifestyle.

Lydia published several books: The Bush that Burned (1930), Tyrone Among the Bushes (1933), Manse Larks (1936) and Elders' Daughters (1942).

She had long aspired to write about Newmills Presbyterian Church and life in that part of east Tyrone, and The Bush



that Burned was the realisation of that dream.

A best seller, one reviewer enthusiastically observed: "We have been awaiting a novelist who knew Ulster life intimately and who could depict it with understanding and sympathy. The author of this novel is the author we have been eagerly expecting."

The Bush that Burned even merited favourable mention in London journals, an accolade rarely

accorded to local writing in that era. The Dublin-based Irish Independent perfectly accurately described it as a 'brilliant portrayal of Presbyterian life'. Dr John T. Carson, the Presbyterian historian, has noted that the book 'saw the funny side of things connected with the Presbyterian meeting house, such as the precentor's tuning fork, the long-handled collecting ladles, the old smokey coke stoves, the boots that squeaked down the aisles on Sunday mornings and the romances that affected the heads of the daughters of the manse'.

While Tyrone among the Bushes is a collection of poetry and shorter pieces

of prose, Manse Larks depicts the life in Newmills manse.

If Manse Larks focused on the lives of the daughters of the manse, Elders' Daughters, her second substantial volume, endeavoured to perform the same the same service for 'elders' daughters, young women whom she understood perfectly and about whom she was equally well informed.

She remained in Belfast, living at 16 Maryville Park until the early 1940s, latterly along with another single lady who was traumatised by the Belfast Blitz in the spring of 1941.

Foster herself, almost totally deaf and living several miles away from the raids' epicentre, took the raids completely in her stride.

Dr Carson informs us: 'When the bombs began to fall the visitor's calm was shattered and she came near to panic. Lydia's deafness was an advantage and she took command of the situation. They took refuge under the dining-room table and in order to restore the shattered nerves of her companion Lydia read to her from the 46th Psalm'.

By the time Lydia was completing Elders' Daughters she was unwell and could scarcely hold her pen, so she dictated the concluding chapters to her niece at 'Hollowbridge', her niece's home near Hillsborough.

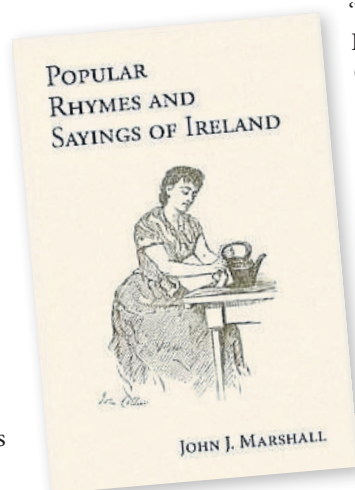
Lydia died there on December 13 1943 but she lived long enough to see two editions of Elders' Daughters sell out before her death.

Popular Rhymes and Sayings of Ireland by John Johnson Marshall

John Johnson Marshall (1862-1944) was born and grew up near the Dyan in County Tyrone. He was a draper by trade and spent the greater part of his working life at the Robinson & Cleaver department store in Donegall Square, Belfast.

He was also a passionate amateur historian who published a number of books and pamphlets on Irish local history.

In 'Popular Rhymes and Sayings of Ireland' he examines the origin of a variety of rhymes and sayings that were at one time in vogue around different parts of the country, including those which he recalled from his own childhood in Tyrone. Numerous riddles, games and charms are recounted, as well as the traditions of the



'Wren Boys' and Christmas Rhymers.

Other chapters describe the war cries of prominent Irish septs and the names by which Ireland has been personified in literature over the centuries. Marshall kept a record of material that was 'classed as rubbish by his wiser seniors' and the world is indebted to him for leaving an invaluable resource for those interested in Irish social history.

This new edition, with reset text, includes explanatory endnotes on vocabulary used and other points of interest.

:: Popular Rhymes and Sayings of Ireland is available from Amazon both as a paperback and as a Kindle.



Applications open for 2015 Festival Funding

Applications opened on Monday February 23 for groups seeking funding under the Ulster-Scots Agency's 2015 Festival Funding Programme.

The funding programme covers festivals taking place between May 1 this year and February 27 2016, and applications must be received by 3pm on Friday April 10 (applications received after this deadline

will be automatically rejected).

To download an application form and guidance notes visit www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding. And groups requiring help in completing their application can contact The Ulster-Scots Community Network on (028) 90436710.

St Patrick - The Apostle of Ulster?

The Ulster-Scots flavour to the story of St Patrick

In this issue of The Ulster-Scot we explore Saint Patrick's links to Ulster rather than Ireland as a whole. Here he was converted; here he preached; here he died; and it is in Ulster soil that he was buried. There is also more than a touch of Ulster-Scots flavour to the story as we count down to March 17. Read on to find out why...

Patrick – Apostle of Ulster

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

Tradition dictates that St Patrick arrived in Ulster at Templepatrick



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 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

St Patrick - The Apostle of Ulster?

Portpatrick Harbour and Portpatrick Old Parish Kirk (inset) was built by Sir Hugh Montgomery in 1626 - the same year he rebuilt Donaghadee Parish Church



ABOVE AND LEFT: There are numerous placenames along the west coast of Scotland that suggest connections to St Patrick

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 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 is a long established tradition in Scotland that Patrick was born at Old Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton.

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 Holyrood historian and parish priest Father James O'Laverty 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'Laverty 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!

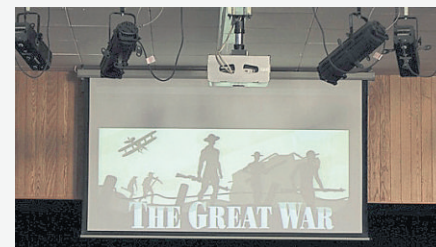
ULSTER-SCOTS AND THE PERFORMING ARTS

Ulster-Scots drama at Dunluce School, Bushmills

By Lynsey Moore

Dunluce School has been involved with the Ulster-Scots Agency for a number of years and has worked on three projects.

In the last year the Year 12 BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts pupils were involved in our third Ulster-Scots project to commemorate The Great War and 100 years since the Battle of the Somme. In October the pupils went on a trip to The Somme Heritage Centre in Newtownards with myself and our head of history as part of the research into the project. The pupils showed great interest in how the war came about and how it affected the lives of people especially young people of their own age. The pupils got to work on a script written by Philip Orr entitled 'Wae a heart an a half' through workshops delivered by an outside drama and dance company funded by the Ulster Scots Agency. Pupils worked hard on the project and delivered a brilliant performance to a packed assembly in November, where the principal Philip Smyth spoke about the sometimes forgotten hero Robert Quigg who was awarded the Victoria Cross. The principal and myself even made the radio while two of our Year 12 male pupils spoke movingly about the project. They spoke about the fact that they have hopes, ambitions and dreams and that the young lads heading out to war had too, but went anyway and that their sacrifice should never be forgotten. The project was immensely worthwhile, so much so that the pupils didn't want the experience to end.



I then decided to use the project as a stimulus for the pupils to work on the second assignment of unit 2 on their course which requires pupils to devise their own plays. After weeks of developing plot, characters, dramatic tension, set, lights etc 'The Great War' was performed in February to the Royal British Legion's Bushmills Branch.

The performance from the Year 12s was an extremely emotive, and audience members approached the cast at the end saying that they had been moved to tears.

Gary Blair, education officer at the Ulster Scots Agency, said: "The students have

worked hard on this project and conducted themselves with enthusiasm and dedication which has served to create a genuinely moving performance.

"They have made the play their own and can be proud of their efforts both behind the scenes and during the performance itself."

The school received a letter of thanks from the secretary of the Bushmills branch Glenda Rodgers-McCormick who said that it was an honour to be asked to the Great War play that the pupils not only acted in but were very much involved in the production and direction of.

The letter said: "We all felt that it did not come across as a few teenagers taking part in something that the teacher made them do. You could feel the emotion that they were trying to put forward to us".

Andy McGugan, the chairman, spoke movingly at the end of the evening and said: "The feelings put across from birth to death, families torn apart by war, was very genuinely felt by the audience".

Glenda went on to say in her letter that they hoped we could work on a future project with them.

I am exceptionally proud of the very hard work my Year 12s put into not only into their BTEC Assignment work but into the original project offered to us by the Ulster-Scots Agency. We have built up a great rapport with Gary Blair and his support for us is appreciated very much. There is a strong, positive and hard-working ethos within the drama department at Dunluce School, where drama and performing arts are taken seriously and the pupils themselves and has attracted great support from parents over the years and long may this continue. The projects run by the Ulster-Scots Agency give the pupils something of great interest to explore, keep them in tune with their heritage and that of their community.

:: Mrs Lynsey Moore is head of drama at Dunluce School in Bushmills

Kilkeel pupils complete special tuition classes in flute, drum and highland dancing...

P7 pupils from Kilkeel Primary School have completed flute, drum and highland dance tuition classes which were organised by the Schomberg Society and funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

A special note should be made of the boys of the P7 flute and drum band which put on an excellent performance at their school's Christmas party.

The Schomberg Society looks forward to working with other primary schools in the area in the coming months through the facilitation of flute, drum and highland dance tuition classes and Ulster-Scots history and language workshops.



Above: Pictured with the P7 highland dancers is tutor Michelle Johnston and James Donaldson (Schomberg Society).

Right: P7 boys who completed the flute and drum tuition



Search is on for the best hamely tongue writers

The search has begun to find the best new writers using the Ulster Scots hamely tongue.

Entries have opened for this year's Ulster-Scots Education Project's creative writing competition, funded by DCAL on the recommendation of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Ulster-Scots (MAGUS)

Entrants are asked to take inspiration from the theme of 'New Beginnings', and entries, which should have a maximum of 1,000 words for prose/drama and 30 lines for poetry, can be submitted in English or Ulster Scots.

Competition organisers Dr Frank Ferguson and Dr Kathryn White (Ulster University) said: "We're delighted to launch this competition that takes its inspiration from the concept of New Beginnings."

"The Ulster-Scots Education Project has been committed to mainstreaming Ulster Scots language, literature, heritage and culture in Northern Ireland and we believe that the theme of New Beginnings will facilitate many innovative and creative responses to our rich cultural heritage."

As part of the launch, prizes were also distributed to the 2014 Writing Competition winners. The theme of the previous competition was inspired by John Hewitt's writing on the concepts of home, place and landscape.



Also launched that day was The Coleraine College Anthology, a collection of creative work composed by pupils at the school in collaboration with Ulster University's Ulster-Scots Education Project and the John Hewitt Home Words Project. Garrett O'Doherty, head of English at Coleraine College, said: "The experience has been an extremely rewarding and enriching one for students. I'm very proud of them and think their poems speak more powerfully about the success of this project than my words ever could."

The project organisers added: "We've been delighted by the standard of work from the pupils and their enthusiasm to engage creatively with Ulster-Scots literary culture. It is marvellous to see and hear so much exciting new work develop out of our workshops."

The 2015 Writing Competition is now open for entries. For further details go to www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news/article/195/ulster-scots-writing-competition-now-open/

LAST YEAR'S WINNERS....

The three winning entries in 2014 were by Sarah Smyth, Ben Moore and Samuel Anderson.

"I am leaing hame.
Al tha memories I hae.
They're the last thing left."
Sarah Smyth (first prize)

"Watching tha fire
Wi ma brother and sister –
Very special times!"
Ben Moore (second prize)

"Whan Christmas is here,
Tha turkey dinner is wairm.
It is gye tasty!"
Samuel Anderson (third prize)

Some examples from the anthology:
Bird Aff Prey
Whit clood passes black clood tae wash
awa dirty grun.
Thrashing thunder is makd tae strike,
As I sit on tap aff the temple, unafraid of
whuts coming.
I feel thaw wun rinning thew ma
feathers,
As I soar in tae the muinlicht.
Ither annymals skitter awa tae hide.
But...
I will naw run.
I will naw hide.
I'm an bird aff prey
And full aff pride.
Chloe Campbell

Pamphlet launch in Holywood

Hollywood embraces its Ulster-Scots heritage at leaflet launch in the town's library in January.

The event - hosted by North Down Borough Council and the Ulster-Scots Agency and supported by local councillors - saw a mix of music, dance and history take those in attendance through the culture and influences of the Ulster-Scots on shaping the local area. Music was supplied by Iain Carlisle and Matthew Warwick from the popular traditional group Risin Stour, while piper Alan McCormick accompanied dancer Michelle Johnston through some energetic Scots dance. Spectators included MLAs, the mayor of North Down, councillors, members of local residents and community groups, businesses and schools. They were given a potted history by Ulster-Scots

historian Mark Thompson of the role of the Ulster-Scots in the development of the area and where these influences are still seen today such as in architecture and place names. MLA Nelson McCausland then carried out an address to a haggis to conclude a hugely successful event which saw the launch of an historical pamphlet detailing the Ulster-Scots history of Holywood. North Down DUP councillor Stephen Dunne said: "I was delighted to play a part in the publication and production of this 'Ulster-Scots in Holywood' pamphlet and I would like to commend the input from both North Down Borough Council and the Ulster Scots Agency in supporting this production. "Holywood has a rich and proud Ulster-Scots history and heritage and I believe this publication will help to tell that story for many years to come, many of whom have not yet heard this colourful story.



Gordon Dunne MLA, Nelson McCausland MLA, Mayor of North Down - Cllr Peter Martin and Cllr Stephen Dunne

"I believe we should be proud of the historical links of the Ulster-Scots in Holywood and the influence which it continues to have. "I trust this pamphlet will be widely distributed locally in the near future. I would encourage local people to avail of this leaflet and enjoy reading about

Hollywood and the Ulster-Scots influence." The free pamphlet can be picked up from local information points across North Down including Holywood library and Bangor visitor information centre or downloaded from www.northdowntourism.com.



Piper Alan McCormick and dancer Michelle Johnson delight the crowd in Holywood Library



The Ulster Scots Fiddle Orchestra pictured following their performance at the Northern Ireland Drum Major Group Variety Concert in Marlacoo Orange Hall on Friday February 13

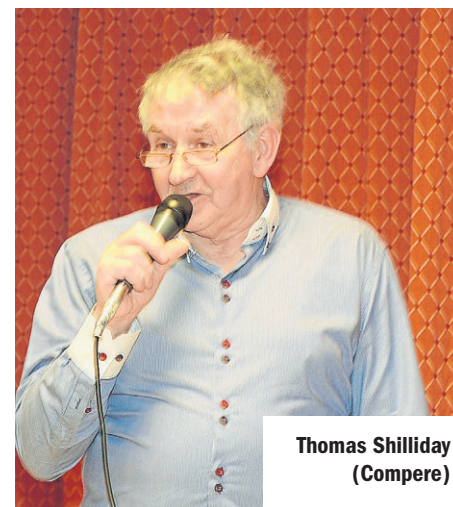
Drum majors are all set to compete in America

Fourteen pipe band drum majors from Northern Ireland will take part in the Sacramento Valley Highland Games in America next month.

Led by former world champion drum major Brian Wilson MBE of the Lomond & Clyde Pipe Band, the team will fly to San Francisco on Sunday April 19, where they will stay for three days before heading to Woodland, the venue for the games, and also enjoy some sightseeing in California. The Sacramento Valley Highland Games, which attract 40,000 to 50,000 people over the two-day event, also features Scottish and Irish heritage on show along with clans and historical re-enactment.

The games in Sacramento attract up to 50,000 people

As part of the group's fund-raising efforts, they hosted a variety concert in Marlacoo Orange Hall compered by Thomas Shilliday. The concert featured the Ulster Scots Fiddle Orchestra, solo piper Scott Barr (FM Montgomery pipe band), highland dancer Caitlin Graham (Upper Crossgar pipe band), Rebecca Hamilton (Tullylagan pipe band), Ellie Kilpatrick from Markethill, Newtownhamilton Young Farmers Club, a quartet from Corbet Accordion Band, Men in Black with accompanist Carla Sinnamon, and a display by the drum majors themselves.



Thomas Shilliday
(Compere)



At the Northern Ireland Drum Major Group Variety Concert in Marlacoo Orange Hall are the drum majors who are going to the Sacramento Valley Highland Games in America next April. L to R: (back row) Brian Wilson MBE (group leader, Lomond & Clyde), Alicia Dickson Hamilton (Matt Boyd), Gemma McDowell (Tullylagan), Lauren Hanna (Drumlough), Vikki Singer (McDonald Memorial), Caitlin Graham (Upper Crossgar), Emma Barr (PSNI), Darcy McLroy (Raffrey) and James Kennedy (Whitewater). (front row) Rebecca Hamilton (Tullylagan), Lee Nicholl (Tullylagan) and Jason Nicholl (Tullylagan). Included (inset photo) are Andrea Gibson and her daughter Kathryn, both members of Battlehill Pipe Band, who were unable to attend the concert

Historic day at Movilla as War veterans are remembered...

Movilla High School held an exhibition of WW1 and WW2 militaria to mark the 100th birthday of Lt Col Robert (Paddy) Blair Mayne, co-founder of the wartime Special Air Service.

'War Years Remembered' supplied weapons from both wars, while former school student Roy Magowan and Pat Harley provided a 1943 SAS Desert Jeep and a motorcycle/sidecar combination. During the evening Movilla High School held a night of Ulster Scots music and reflection, before unveiling the school's Lambeg drum (it is one of only three schools in the province with its own drum). It was kindly donated by the Ulster Scots Agency as part of a music and heritage project within the school.

The Movilla Lambeg drum has the images of three Ards men painted on it:

:: Blair Mayne – WW2 Co-founder

of the wartime SAS, British Lions Rugby player and most decorated soldier of the Second World War; :: Billy Hull – WW2 member of the SAS; and

:: Thomas Trueman – WW1 winner of the DCM

The drum was expertly painted by ex-pupil Brian Jamison. All the exhibits on show connected with the three men were supplied by family relatives and are intended to celebrate their lives.

The phrase 'Sons' Love' depicted on the drum comes from the Alfred Lord Tennyson poem written about Helen's Tower in Clandeboyne, and replicated in the Ulster Tower at Theipval ('Son's love built her and she holds', but Movilla changed the position of the apostrophe as it had three sons).

The drum-name 'the Schoolmaster' comes from head of science Mr Anderson, who comes from a long and proud line of schoolmasters, and uses this word to fill in

the 'occupation' section of any pupils' passport form he has to authenticate.

Pupils performed fife and lambeag drum music at the event. All of these young musicians had been taught within the schools Ulster-Scots Agency programme by tutors, Paul Consiglia and Mark Anderson (both ex-pupils of the school). Fifth former and piper extraordinaire Allie Hamilton (Cleland Memorial pipe band, who also currently avail of music grant aid from the Ulster-Scots Agency) played the bagpipes at the start and end of the event.

Movilla High School teacher Peter Forbes said: "We felt, as a school, that in this the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and 70th anniversary of D Day in the Second World War, we were privileged to be able to hold this celebration and exhibition that recalled the lives of three brave local men."



How *first impressions* have made a real impact on Ulster-Scots literature

By Frank Ferguson

When Jane Austen was drafting her novel *Pride and Prejudice*, she gave it a working title of 'First Impressions', as this seemed the best way to describe the story of the book—a romance between two young people who take an instant dislike to each other, and yet, almost miraculously fall in love and get married at the end.

The Ulster-Scots literary world has similar instances of first impressions getting the better of observers.

One of the tradition's great poets, Robert Huddleston, is treated somewhat unfairly by a self-important townie, who paid a visit to him in 1868:

Our host met us at Ballygowan station with a rale owl shanrydan - a covered cart without a top -: musical for want of oil and preserved from ruin and the cleaving influence of the sun by the clabber which its wheels had mercifully bedaubed it. "That's the wy A pents my carriage. A

jist let the new wash aff the owl," said the country bard as he bade us get in, and mounted the dicky himself to steer us to his home. I could not give a much better description of our host than to say he was very like his own carriage.

What Robert Huddleston made of his guests we cannot be sure, but he never was one for being mindful of making his own pithy observations on those in his own locale or indeed Belfast. In his marvellous poem, *The Lammis Fair*, he turns the tables by capturing the bustle, energy and spectacle of the country coming to the town to sell their wares and enjoy the carnivalesque revelries of late summer:

**There some are guan for stirks tae buy,
And some are gaun for sellin';
Here some are drivin' pigs an' kye—
Some powneys from the Hi'lan,
Yon's uncle Billy fleein' hard,
Wi' his twa bra' big horses;
He thinks he'll get a fine reward,
An' haes prepared twa purses,
Fu' lang that day.**

Few writers come close to Huddleston for his wit and sharp tongue, and anyone who received the bitter side of his tongue

certainly knew all about it. Never one to be daunted by other's opinions, he hated being pigeonholed, and indeed, particularly disliked being seen as a Robert Burns imitator. His splendid poem *Doddery Willowaim* in which he takes on both Burns and Alexander Pope in an attempt to write the great Irish mock heroic poem see him leaving his readers in no doubt of his verbal dexterity and literary vitriol. In this poem Tam O Shanter is transplanted to the Castlereagh hills, and comes off no better than his Caledonian cousin.

**Ilk rantin' lad that nightly roam,
Wha read this ver'ly won'rous poem,
Tak' rede, an' dinna headstrong rin
On stormy nights tae seek for fun—**

**An' cast yeir min' on Doddery's care,
And ponder ower his sad despair;
An' think that ye may rue yeir rant,
The same's poor Doddery did his jaunt.**

The Scotch-Irish poet, Robert Dinsmoor of New Hampshire, was also somewhat shabbily treated by his biographer, the poet and hymn-writer John Greenleaf Whittier. Though a great friend of Dinsmoor, he was not terribly flattering in the preface which

he wrote for Dinsmoor's first collection of poems:

The last time I saw him, he was chaffering in the market-place of my native village, swapping potatoes and onions and pumpkins for tea, coffee, molasses, and, if the truth be told, New England rum. Threescore years and ten, to use his own words,

**"Hung o'er his back,
And bent him like a muckle pack,"
yet he still stood stoutly and sturdily
in his thick shoes of cowhide, like one
accustomed to tread independently the
soil of his own acres - his broad, honest
face seamed by care and darkened by
exposure to "all the airts that blow," and
his white hair flowing in patriarchal
glory beneath his felt hat.**

Like Huddleston he strides through the scene as the countryman come to market, all homespun and hamely. Yet, like Huddleston, there was nae clabber on his pen and wit, and like all three poets his works remain in print. The superficial trappings of surface and appearance disappear—the words endure.

RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



WINTER ROASTED VEGETABLES AND KALE SALAD WITH FETA AND HAZELNUTS

The story:

Kale is not only delicious cooked but delicious as a leafy salad green with winter vegetable. Raw Kale is considered a super food and with a nutty flavour and chewy texture this hearty salad is great for you. During the winter when fresh produce is more limited leafy kale greens and roasted root vegetables are in season and plentiful so I hope you enjoy this tasty nutritious salad.

INGREDIENTS Recipe serves 4-6

(for the Roasted Vegetables)

- 2 golden beats (peeled and cut in to ½ inch size pieces)
- 2 red beats (peeled and cut in to ½ inch size pieces)
- 2 medium sweet potatoes (peeled and cut in to ½ inch pieces)
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- Splash of balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp flaky sea salt and freshly ground black peppers

For the salad

- 1 ½ bunches (18oz) Organic Kale (stems removed and cut in to strips)
- 3-4 Tbsp of quality olive oil and balsamic vinegar
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 4 oz crumbled goats cheese
- 1/3 cup hazelnuts (1 ½ oz) toasted and chopped



How to make it:

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
- Toss the prepared roasted vegetables in olive oil, sea salt and pepper and transfer on to a rimmed baking dish for roasting. Roast for about 25 to 30 minutes stirring half way and stirring occasionally to ensure all the vegetables are tender and a little caramelized on the outside. Set them aside and allow cool.
- To serve arrange the kale on plates. Top with the roasted beets and sweet potato. Sprinkle over the goat's cheese and toasted hazelnuts.
- Drizzle with olive oil and vinegar and season with salt and pepper just before serving.

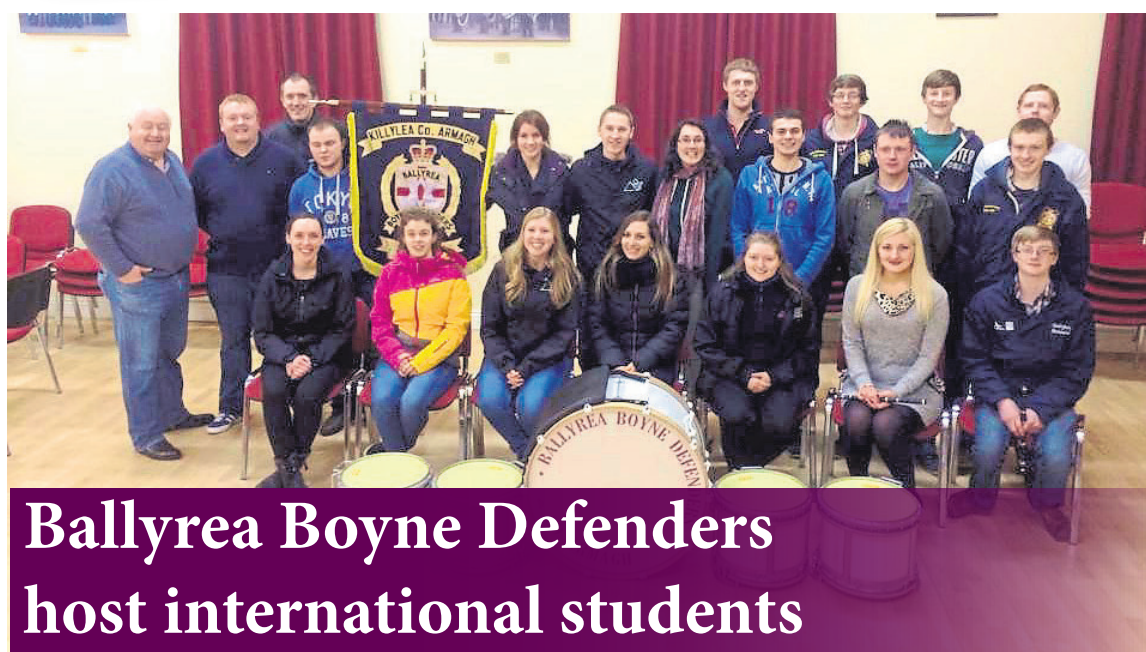
New Ballyrea Cultural Society is formed

Following on from a previous student group visit, members of Ballyrea flute band held a meeting recently to discuss future band activity.

Maynard Hanna, development officer with the Ulster-Scots Agency, who had met previously with band officers, gave a short but concise talk on the work of the Agency. Stuart Crozier and Roberta Heaney each expressed their desire to see the band embrace their Ulster-Scots identity and culture and as a result it was unanimously decided by all present to form Ballyrea Cultural Society. Maynard would thank those young folk at Ballyrea who helped to put such a successful evening together, particularly Stuart Crozier, Robert Williamson, Andrew Fletcher

and Roberta Heaney.

Over the coming weeks and months Maynard and the newly formed Ballyrea Cultural Society intend to pull together a series of new Ulster-Scots activities on the local Ballyrea scene. This has already commenced with Ballyrea Boyne Defenders Flute Band assisting with flute tuition classes in Killylea Primary School and also at Armagh High School in conjunction with the Agency's tuition in schools program. Things kicked off on Wednesday March 11 in Ballyrea Orange Hall when the Ulster-Scots Agency presented a showcase event featuring Ballyrea Boyne Defenders Flute Band, Bessbrook Victoria Flute Band, Lambeg Drums, dancer Michelle Johnston and Folk group Stonewall.



Ballyrea Boyne Defenders host international students

Ballyrea Boyne Defenders Flute Band played host to a group of international student visitors to Ballyrea Orange Hall near Killylea during February.

The student travelling party included youngsters from France, Germany, Canada and the United States, who were in the capable hands of Kenny Baxter of the Greenhills YMCA centre at Newcastle.

The visit had been arranged by Maynard Hanna of the Ulster-Scots

Agency following a request from Kenny Baxter in order that his student group could acquire a taste and a better understanding of all things Ulster-Scots. Maynard was on site to welcome the group and to deliver a short talk on the history and the musical heritage of Ulster-Scots families within the greater Killylea area. He then invited Ballyrea band master Stuart Crozier to give a short history of the band and their annual activities, and then the band gave several renditions of various

Ulster-Scots tunes familiar to the area. Kenny Baxter then spoke on behalf of the students and conducted a lively question and answer session. After tea a further musical session took place during which many of the visitors participated. Mr Baxter extended his thanks and appreciation to Maynard, Stuart and Roberta Heaney for arranging the a highly successful evening, and to the flutes and drums of Ballyrea Boyne Defenders for their kindness, warmth and friendship.

Ulster-Scots Place to Visit - The St Patrick Centre, Downpatrick

The Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick is the starting point for any visitor who wishes to know more about Ireland's patron saint. The centre is the only exhibition in the world about St. Patrick and a great stop on the way from Dublin to Belfast.

'Ego Patricius' – The Story of Saint Patrick

The exhibition explores the legacy of Patrick, ancient and modern, and recalls the saint's own story – in his own words. A series of interactive displays allow visitors to explore how Patrick's legacy developed in early Christian times and reveals the fabulous artwork and metalwork which was produced during this Golden Age. The exhibition also examines the major impact of Christian missionaries in Europe between the fifth and ninth centuries, a legacy which remains to this day. The centre also provides a cross-community education programme all year round for school groups of all ages, and adult community groups based on the life of Patrick.

The centre is a registered charity promoting tourism to Northern Ireland, encouraging reconciliation through education programmes and have supporting chapters who endorse the work of the St Patrick's Centre throughout North America. Visit our Imax and Exhibition, Gift Shop, Art Gallery, Restaurant, and conference facilities.

January - December

Monday – Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: Closed except July - August (see below)

St. Patrick's Day: 9am - 7pm

July - August

Monday – Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

Admission Prices

Adults: £5.75
Children: £3.50
Concession: £4.00
Family: £14.00
(2 Adults & 2 Children)
Adult Groups: £4.50
(25 or more)
Education Group: £3.50
Auditorium only £3.00



Minister welcomes study into Ulster-Scots Music

Stormont Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín has welcomed the publication of a study examining Ulster-Scots Music Traditions.

'Research Scoping Study: Ulster-Scots Music Traditions' was commissioned by the DCAL Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster Scots Academy and was compiled by academics from the University of Edinburgh.

The Minister said: "This report looks at the development of Ulster-Scots music, examines the position it is in today, and makes recommendations for the future. "Ulster-Scots music is a key part of our rich cultural landscape. We can be proud of the world-class marching bands in our midst. In particular, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band is a local outfit who set the global standard.

"We can also point to the thousands of people who regularly take part in music practice, events and competition.

"The report makes recommendations to

support the development of the Ulster-Scots music sector including the creation of a Music Archive, the development of an Ulster-Scots Traditional Music Forum, the promotion of a distinct Ulster-Scots musical identity and additional music teaching provision. It also recognises the potential for Ulster-Scots music to contribute to cultural tourism." The Minister added: "This is a vibrant, creative sector and it has ambitious plans. This report gives voice to those aspirations. It also lays down a challenge for everyone involved with the sector – bands, musicians, community organisations, funders and statutory bodies. Everyone has their part to play if the sector is to grow and evolve."

A copy of Research Scoping Study: Ulster-Scots Music Traditions can be obtained from the DCAL website through the following link - www.dcalni.gov.uk/ulster-scots_music_traditions_-_final_report_-_2_4_14.pdf



Reflections on political thought symposium

A successful Queen's University symposium provided the forum for world-leading academics and a large audience to debate the diverse political thought of the Ulster-Scots tradition.

The symposium was the result of an ongoing partnership between Queen's and the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster-Scots Academy.

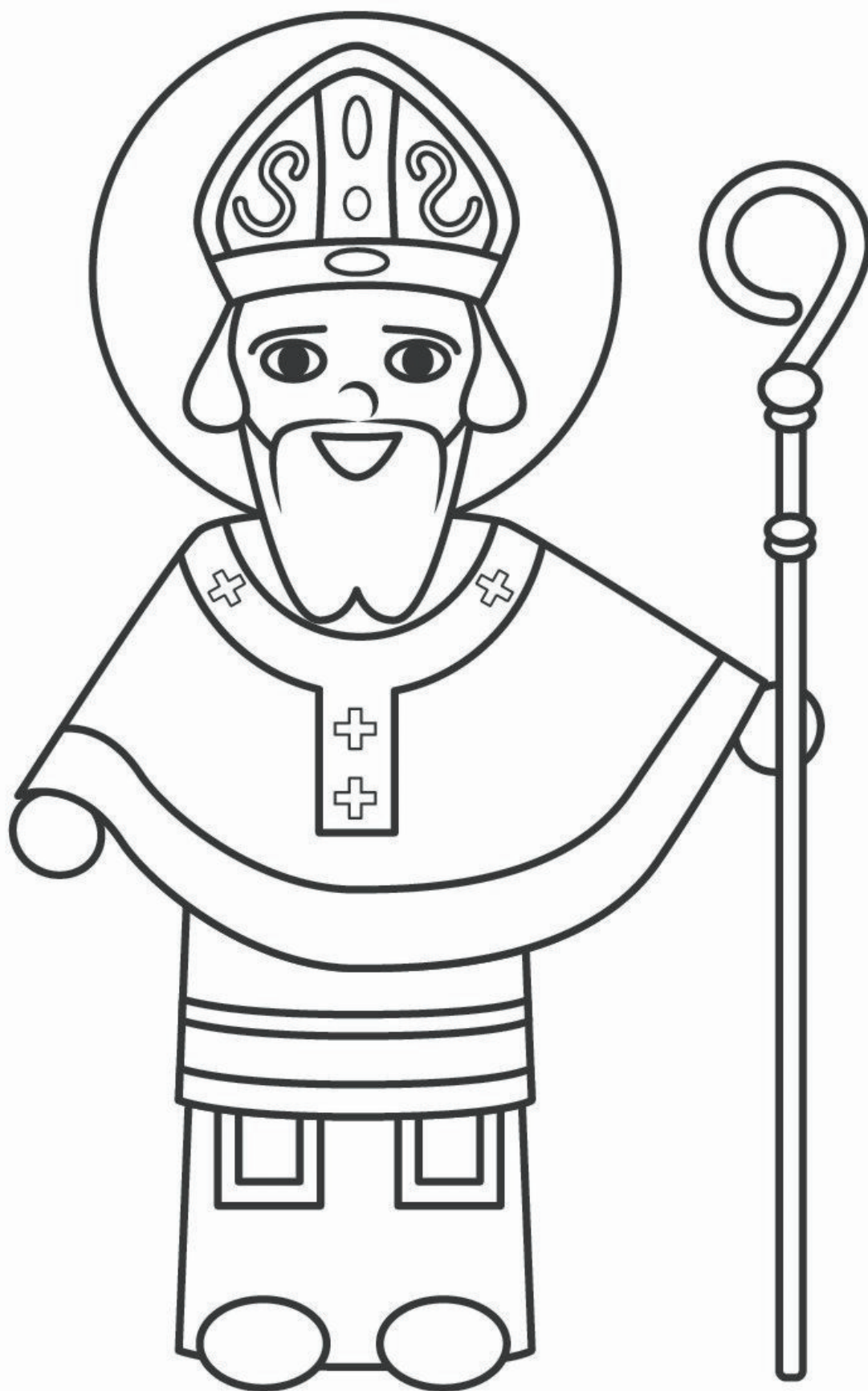
Symposium organiser Dr James Greer, a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's, was delighted with the attendance through-out the day and with the high quality of the contributions. In addition to over 50 attendees and participants, the conference also attracted positive coverage from BBC Radio Ulster, Northern Visions Television and other media outlets.

An eclectic audience, ranging from noted writers and historians to members of the public new to the subject, contributed greatly to an open, friendly and accessible debate.

The interest shown in the symposium highlights the widespread desire within both the general public and academia to develop a more thorough and nuanced historical understanding of the culture and politics of Ulster-Scots.

The highlight of the day was the keynote address given by Professor Ian McBride, of King's College London, on the subject of the 18th-century philosopher, and father of the Scottish Enlightenment, Francis Hutcheson.

Among the many acclaimed papers given, Dr Carol Baraniuk examined the life of weaver poet and 1798 Rebel James Orr; Dr Daniel Ritchie detailed Isaac Nelson's anti-slavery analysis of the American civil war; Eddie Molloy examined Young Irelander John Mitchel; Professor Wesley Hutchinson, of the Sorbonne, explored the interplay between the cultural imagination and political geography of the Ulster-Scots; Philip Orr focused on the theologian Samuel Rutherford; and Dr Myrtle Hill discussed the influence of Ulster-Scots women in the politics of modern Belfast. Dr Greer's own paper detailed the politics and public lives of two contrasting twentieth-century ministers: WF Marshall and AL Agnew. The symposium is part of a broader project conducted by Dr Greer and Professor Graham Walker, in partnership with the Ministerial Advisory Group. A pamphlet introducing the political thought of the Ulster-Scots will be published later this year.

WEANS' WURLDthe **Ulster-Scot****St Patrick's Day - PAINTING AND PUZZLES****Saint Patrick****COLOURING COMPETITION****WIN****ONE OF TWO FAMILY
PASSES TO THE
ST PATRICK'S
CENTRE IN
DOWNPATRICK**

To be in with a chance just colour in Saint Patrick and post your entry to The Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

CLOSING DATE: MAY 4**STENA LINE WINNER**

Congratulations to Eric McClelland from Tandragee, Co Armagh who won last issue's competition. We hope you enjoy your family trip to the birthplace of Robert Burns in Ayr.