



WIN A GIFT CARD & AN
ULSTER-SCOTS GOODY
BAG! – SEE PAGE 16

All Set for Leid Week Twa



Cllr Jim Montgomery, Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Cllr Noreen McClelland, Deputy Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey announce Leid Week Twa with Ian Crozier, Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency



COVID-19 FUNDING BOOST FOR ULSTER-SCOTS
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ULSTER-SCOTS IN THE PANDEMIC
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HOW ANDREW BECAME SCOTLAND'S SAINT
SEE PAGE 15

Fair faa ye



Welcome to the latest edition of The Ulster-Scot!

It's been a while since our last edition, as we decided not to go to print while there was a high level of Covid restrictions in place.

Back in March/April, we were all hoping that the Pandemic would have passed by the time the kids went back to school in September, but sadly it was not to be.

In this edition, you will find lots of news about how the Ulster-Scots Agency and other organisations in our sector have adapted to continue promoting our Ulster-Scots identity during this very challenging period.

Check out the updates from around the country and take a look at the new resources that the Agency has produced for schools during the long closure period. There's also a great platform piece by veteran Ulster-Scots writer Billy Kennedy who is looking back on 25 years researching and writing on our links to the USA.

As well as looking back, we are also looking forward, most imminently to the second Ulster-Scots Language Week, which will be taking place next week. Due to Covid-19 most of the programme will be online, but it's already shaping up to be a good week of activity, with a new When O Wurds Quiz and Discover Ulster-Scots App to be launched.

We are also looking forward even further, to next year, encouraging the whole Ulster-Scots community to get organised to celebrate the Centenary of Northern Ireland: and also to start thinking about the 2021 Census, which will take place in March. For the first time, you will be able to complete your census form online in Ulster-Scots, but you will also be able to officially record your Ulster-Scots identity for the first time and it is vital that we all do that.

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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events visit www.ulsterscotsagency.com

£850k Covid-19 resilience fund for Ulster-Scots

A new fund to help community organisations and bands in the Ulster-Scots sector deal with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has been launched by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The fund has been made possible by an allocation of £850,000 from the Department for Communities.

Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier explained: "Covid-19 has had a significant impact on Ulster-Scots groups across Northern Ireland, severely restricting activity and curtailing fundraising opportunities. This funding will provide vital assistance to groups large and small, to help them address the financial and cultural consequences of the pandemic and equip them to move forward as safely as possible."

Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín said: "I am delighted to announce this vital financial support for the Ulster-Scots community which will deliver much needed funding to local groups and organisations to help with running costs and to replace lost income, and to deliver a very welcome range of Ulster-Scots cultural, musical and linguistic projects during these most challenging of times."

The Ulster-Scots Covid-19 Resilience Fund will provide small grants (up to £3k) to help groups with over-head costs and Covid-19 safety; language grants for innovative projects promoting the Ulster-Scots language (up to £10k); and large organisation grants (up to £30k) to help larger groups replace income lost due to the pandemic.

Most of the fund (£660k) has been allocated for small grants, which will be assessed in date order. The fund will close on December 2, 2020.



Communities Minister
Carál Ní Chuilín

Information on how to apply can be found at www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding/

LATEST UPDATE

As of November 16, the Small Grants stream has been fully allocated, with more than 250 applications received. The Ulster-Scots Agency will continue to receive and assess applications and these will be placed on a reserve list. The Agency will make the case for additional resources and if we are successful, then groups will be funded from the reserve list in the order that their applications were received.

Commenting on the development, Agency CEO Ian Crozier said: "We are delighted with the unprecedented response that we have received. The Agency put a lot of thought into making the funding as helpful and

accessible as possible for groups and simplified the process to make it as painless as we could for people applying. At the same time, we introduced a new online application portal, the first time we have accepted online applications, so that people wouldn't have to worry about being out and about putting things into the post. The response tells us that our approach has worked, in fact we have received applications from many groups that we haven't funded before, but we also know there are still a lot of groups out there that haven't applied yet. It is important that groups keep getting their applications in right up to the deadline on December 2. If we can show the unmet need in the Ulster-Scots community, we can make the case for extra money, but we need to get the applications."

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

Stave

Meaning:

To injure the joints of
a finger or thumb by
stubbing.

Book review: Stuart shows his versatility

A Squatter o Bairnrhymes
by **Stuart A. Paterson** (Perth:
Tippermuir Books Ltd., 2020)

By **Dr Carol Baraniuk**

This new and sparkling collection of verse is from the pen of Stuart Paterson, a fine poet, a native Scots speaker, and a respected writer and activist. Originally an Ayrshireman, now based in Galloway, Stuart is no stranger to Northern Ireland. In the autumn of 2019 he successfully enabled aspiring Ulster-Scots writers at a series of Masterclasses during Ulster-Scots Language Week, and he was recently interviewed about his writing on Radio Ulster's **A Kist o' Wurds**.

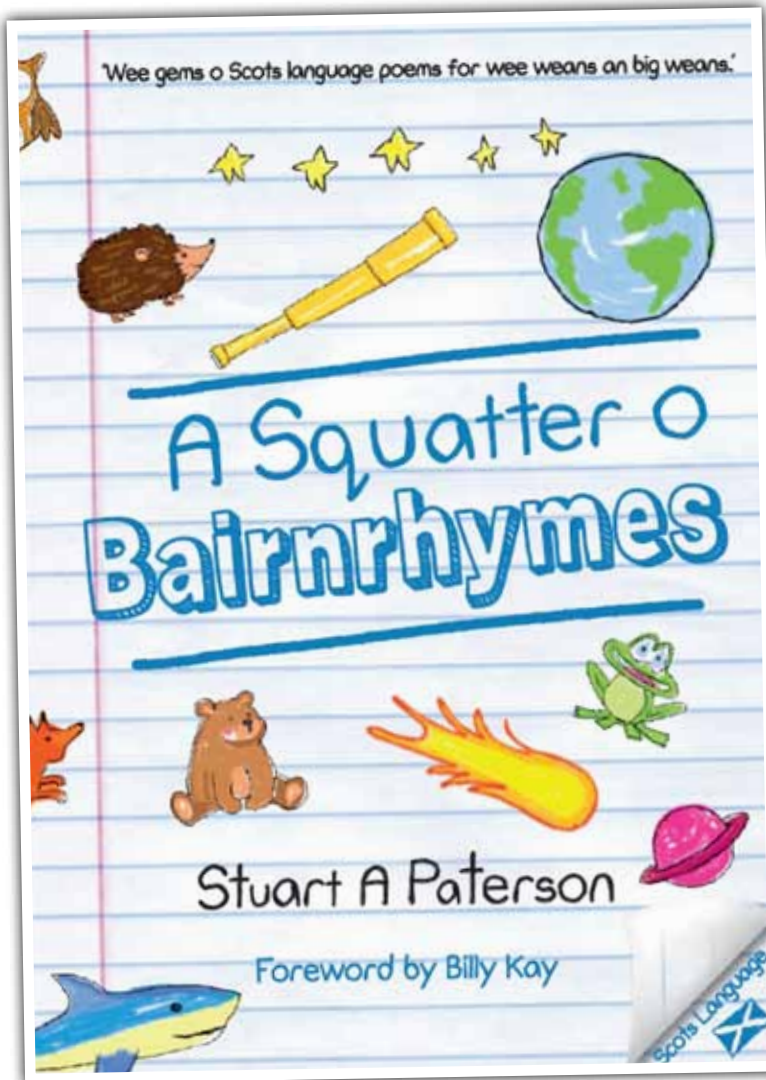
In this new collection Stuart gives us twenty-five poems on a great range of subjects, from 'Craturs' and 'Fowk', to outer space, body parts and the weather. What's striking is the variety of voices at his command – humorous, quirky, whimsical and thoughtful by turns. The poems showcase the versatility of the Scots language, and the author's own expertise and creativity in it. With such a rich collection it's difficult to pick a favourite, but a few examples will give something of the flavour of the whole.

Anyone with a horror of creepy-crawlies will shudder at 'Ettercap'

(Spider), and particularly at 'Slater', a vivid account of a tussle with the ugly beast, wiggin and shooglin on the bathroom floor. 'Tod' plays wittily with the two meanings of the title: 'tod' for 'fox', but also 'alone' – as in 'oan his tod'. 'Space' and 'Space-Stane' (meteorite) entertain but set the reader thinking about the vastness of the universe. Particularly compelling is 'Snaw-breaker', about a sheep who clears a path through the snow drifts for the herd to follow. It brings out how formidable, even eerie, the animal seems: 'The snaw-ghaist made o' flesh', and lets the reader feel the harshness of a northern winter through the many weather words it employs.

This book of 'Bairnrhymes' will make a great read for Ulster-Scots speakers and enthusiasts whatever their age. It is full of words and expressions with which we are familiar in this part of the world and will maybe teach us a few new ones. It will inspire those beginning to take an interest in the language, or anyone thinking of taking up writing poetry in Ulster-Scots.

Stuart Paterson is an External Verifier to schools delivering the Scots Language Award. Without doubt the book would be exceptionally useful to classroom teachers, and in teacher education. I can imagine pupils learning the names in 'Pairs o' the Body',



or giving a choral speaking performance of 'Bears', which references all the well-known favourites, like Winnie the Pooh, Rupert, Paddington and Pudsey. And what better way to prepare youngsters to appreciate, when they are older, the fine Ulster-Scots poetry tradition of James Orr, Samuel Thomson and Samuel Ferguson than to introduce them at an early age to these lively Scots poems?

With a foreword by well-known writer and broadcaster Billy Kay, a helpful glossary, and attractive illustrations by Zack Fumme, this witty, thought-provoking collection from Stuart Paterson cannot be recommended too highly.

Very reasonably priced at £7.99, it can be ordered direct from the publisher's website at: <https://tippermuirbooks.co.uk/?product=a-squatter-o-bairnrhymes>

Take chance to show your true colours in 2021 Census

The Census is the most important single source of information about the size and condition of the country's most valuable resource – its population.

Every 10 years the Census collects information which is used by central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to plan and provide future services.

In Northern Ireland, the next full Census will be taken on 21st March 2021.

For the first time ever the Census will largely be completed online and this presents an opportunity for the Ulster-Scots community to be properly represented.

The online system has been designed to allow for completion in Ulster-Scots.

Don't be put off completing the Census in Ulster-Scots if you're uncertain about some of the terminology used in the form; users will be able to toggle between the Ulster-Scots and English versions of the form to ensure understanding.

As well as being able to complete our forms in Ulster-Scots we will also be able to formally record Ulster-Scots as part of our National Identity under question 11, "How would you describe your national identity?"

The question is designed in such a way that you can tick all that apply so for example, you can tick both British and Northern Irish but also insert in Ulster-Scots.

Finally, be sure to use question 18 to record that you have some ability to understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots.

Remember, we all use a When o Wurds every day.

If you want to familiarise yourself with the Census 2021 form in advance you can find it at www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2020/116/schedule/2/made.

● As we look forward to the Centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 one of our most valuable resources is the Census data from 1921 onwards.

Make sure that future generations are able to look back and recognise the Ulster-Scots community of 2021.

Show wit wurds ye ken wi When O Wurds nummer twa

For language week 2019 the Ulster-Scots Agency developed 'A When o Wurds' – an online quiz of 30 Ulster-Scots words commonly used in everyday speech across Ulster.

Successful completion of the quiz with more than 20 correct answers qualified the user for a certificate and a 'When o Wurds' lapel badge.

The quiz went viral, with more than 17,000 taking it in the first weekend after launch.

Since then the quiz has been taken by almost 40,000 people in 60 countries across the globe.

Following the success of the first quiz the Ulster-Scots Agency has developed a



second edition to be launched in Language Week 2020 which starts on Monday.

This second edition features another 30 words and seeks to build on the first, introducing

new words, some of which might be less well known outside areas of Ulster where the language is spoken every day.

The quiz is designed to be engaging and fun but with the intention of raising awareness and building knowledge of Ulster-Scots words and how they are used in context.

The second edition features audio files which allow the user to hear the words being pronounced both on their own and used in a sentence.

● The Ulster-Scots Agency will launch the quiz during Language Week in November – watch out for the launch on the Agency website and social media channels.

Muckle Online Collogue fer Leid Week

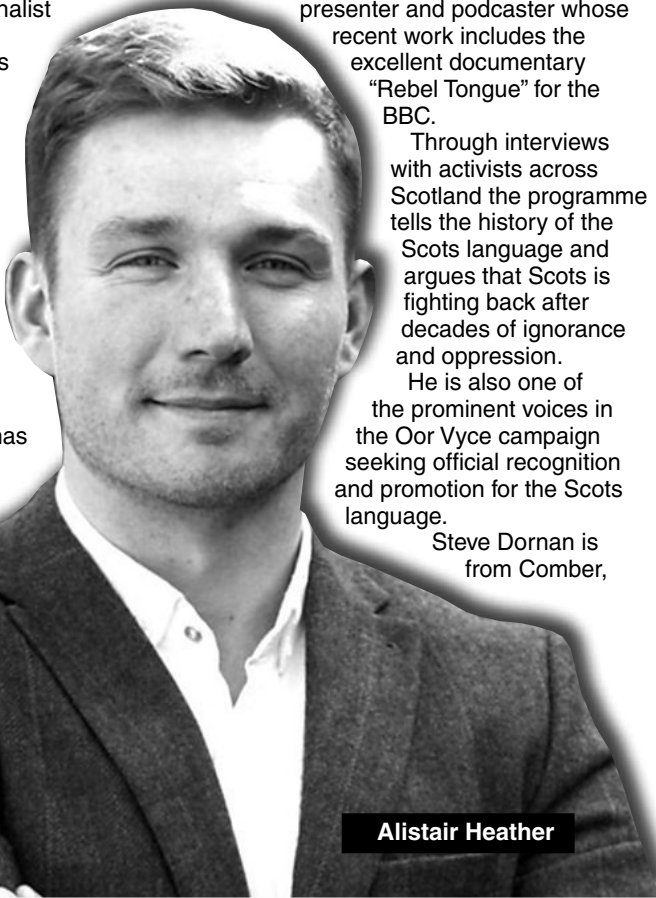


Prof Wesley Hutchinson

To kick off Leid Week we're hosting an online panel discussion on the Ulster-Scots language on Monday 23 November at 7:30 pm. The panel will consist of leading voices from both Ulster and Scotland. Panellists will consider the state of the language currently, including how the language is viewed and how we can promote and encourage the use and development of Ulster-Scots.

The panel will be chaired by broadcaster and journalist Susie Millar. She spent almost 25 years as a television news journalist, working for both the BBC and UTV, before launching Titanic Tours Belfast in 2008.

Now working as a tour operator, specialising in Belfast's maritime history, Susie is President of Belfast Titanic Society. She has travelled the globe promoting Belfast's Titanic heritage



Alistair Heather

and the Millar family link with the ship. As the great-granddaughter of Thomas Millar, who worked in Harland & Wolff on the construction of Titanic & then sailed onboard her as an engineer she uses the story of the two pennies Tommy gave to her grandfather Ruddick just before Titanic set sail as the heart of the story.

In her role as a tour guide Susie regularly brings tour groups to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast.

Alistair Heather is a Scottish writer, presenter and podcaster whose recent work includes the excellent documentary "Rebel Tongue" for the BBC.

Through interviews with activists across Scotland the programme tells the history of the Scots language and argues that Scots is fighting back after decades of ignorance and oppression.

He is also one of the prominent voices in the Oor Vyce campaign seeking official recognition and promotion for the Scots language.

Steve Dornan is from Comber,

Newtownards and lives in Aberdeenshire working as a secondary school teacher. He has written several academic essays on Ulster-Scots writers such as James Orr, James McHenry and John Gamble.

He has also published a number of poems in Ulster-Scots and is working on a collection.

Wesley Hutchinson is Professor Emeritus of Irish Studies (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3) and a former President of the Société Française d'Etudes Irlandaises (SOFÉIR). His research interests include unionist identity issues and cultural policy, especially as regards minority languages. His most recent book, "Tracing the Ulster-Scots Imagination", published by Ulster University with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Reconciliation Fund, was published in December 2018.

It is the first major study to present a wide ranging analysis of Ulster-Scots culture. Through his analysis he challenges many of the criticisms and adverse stereotypes often directed towards the Ulster-Scots community.

When asked to take part in the panel Ally responded "braw, this'll be fun, am aw about biggin briggs atween different Scots communities".

Although the event will be online we're keen to ensure that people have the chance to participate by submitting questions in advance for consideration by the panel.

Questions should be submitted to info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk before noon on Monday 23 November.

● Full details on how to watch the discussion will be available on the Agency's website www.ulsterscotsagency.com/ and our social media channels.



Steve Dornan



Suzie Millar



Billy Kay speaking
at Leid Week 2019

New app tae kick aff in Leid Week

Last year saw the Ulster-Scots Agency launch the first ever Ulster-Scotch Leid Week.

Along with a range of partners the Agency delivered a diverse programme of events which helped people not only to re-engage with the language but also to recognise its intrinsic value in terms of enhancing their sense of self and place.

This year's Leid Week will run from November 23 – 27. While the global health crisis prevents us from gathering together as we would like, it's helping us to become more creative with regards to how we deliver activity.

For example, in recognition of the fact that we are restricted to online events this year we're delighted to announce the launch of a significant new resource – the Discover Ulster-Scots App. While the app will develop over time we hope to populate it initially with content in support of Leid Week. The app will also allow us to inform users when new content is made available. The

app can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play.

One of the key aims of Leid Week is to demonstrate Ulster-Scots as a contemporary living language. The Schomberg Society have embraced this theme and along with local actor Andrew Tinney produced three comedy sketches entitled: "Zoom Meetings – A Disaster!", "Romance on Zoom" and "Gaming Online". The sketches will be available from Monday, November 23 on the Schomberg Society's YouTube Channel and the Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots Facebook page.

Our friends in Derry and Raphoe Action are also working to develop new resources. In particular, two new monologues accompanied by a summary and an Ulster-Scots glossary have been developed for children aged 8 – 12. The local Ulster Scots Development Officer, Irene Spratt, has also arranged for the recital and recording of two of her own pieces "Her, At Age" and "Quare Aul Time".

Across the week there will be a diverse range of events taking place which hopefully should include something for everyone. Alongside live events such as panel discussions and talks a significant amount of pre-recorded material including poetry recitals, children's stories and online workshops will be available.

The Manx language is considered one of the Isle of Man's most important cultural assets and the island is now looked to by many as an example of best practice internationally in terms of preserving and developing minority language. We are delighted that Ruth Keggan Gell of Culture Vannin will share some of her experience in developing community based initiatives with us. Matthew Fitt, co-founder of Itchy Coo imprint, has offered his time to make a video of a reading from one of his translations for children.

Subject to Government restrictions other activity will include live

streaming of music performances, guided walks and a creative writing workshop.

Once again a number of local Councils, including Antrim and Newtownabbey, Derry and Strabane, Fermanagh and Omagh and Lisburn and Castlereagh and Mid and East Antrim have come on board and we welcome their continued support. For the first time we're also pleased to partner with the Queen's University Belfast Students' Union.

The full programme of events will be available on the Agency's website www.ulsterscotsagency.com/ and our social media channels.

The Ulster-Scots language is part of who we are. Everyone in Northern Ireland has some Ulster-Scots, the only problem is that they don't always recognise it when they see it. We want you to recognise your ability in Ulster-Scots and embrace it. Get involved and hopefully you'll hear something other than "bide 6 ft awa frae ithers" or "gie yer hauns a wile guid dicht!"



25 years on the trail of the Scots-Irish

Ulster-Scots author **BILLY KENNEDY** looks back on a quarter of a century researching and telling the stories of the Scots-Irish in America

Almost exactly 25 years ago, I launched the first of my 12 books on Ulster-Scots influences in America and how, from the earliest migration years of the 17th/18th century, our hardy and resolute diaspora shaped and influenced broader society and culture in what became the United States of America. That first book - *The Scots-Irish in the Hills of Tennessee* - was launched in both Belfast and Nashville and its success led to publication of a series of ten that became known as the 'Scots-Irish Chronicles'.

Looking back, I find it fascinating to recount the many air journeys I made across the Atlantic and long road treks I ventured on in small town inner-America, to research and complete what for me turned out to be a labour of love in relating in detail a broad miscellany of real-life stories from the American frontier and the highly picturesque Appalachian backcountry where many Ulster-Scots settled.

My journey on the trail of the Scots-Irish (Ulster-Scots) to bustling modern-day American cities and towns often first forged as outback settlements on the American frontier, instilled in me and many of my readers an immense pride at the enormous contribution of Ulstermen and women to the development of what today is the greatest nation on earth.

As a journalist for nearly half a century with the Belfast News Letter, the world's oldest English language newspaper, my task in compiling stories has always been

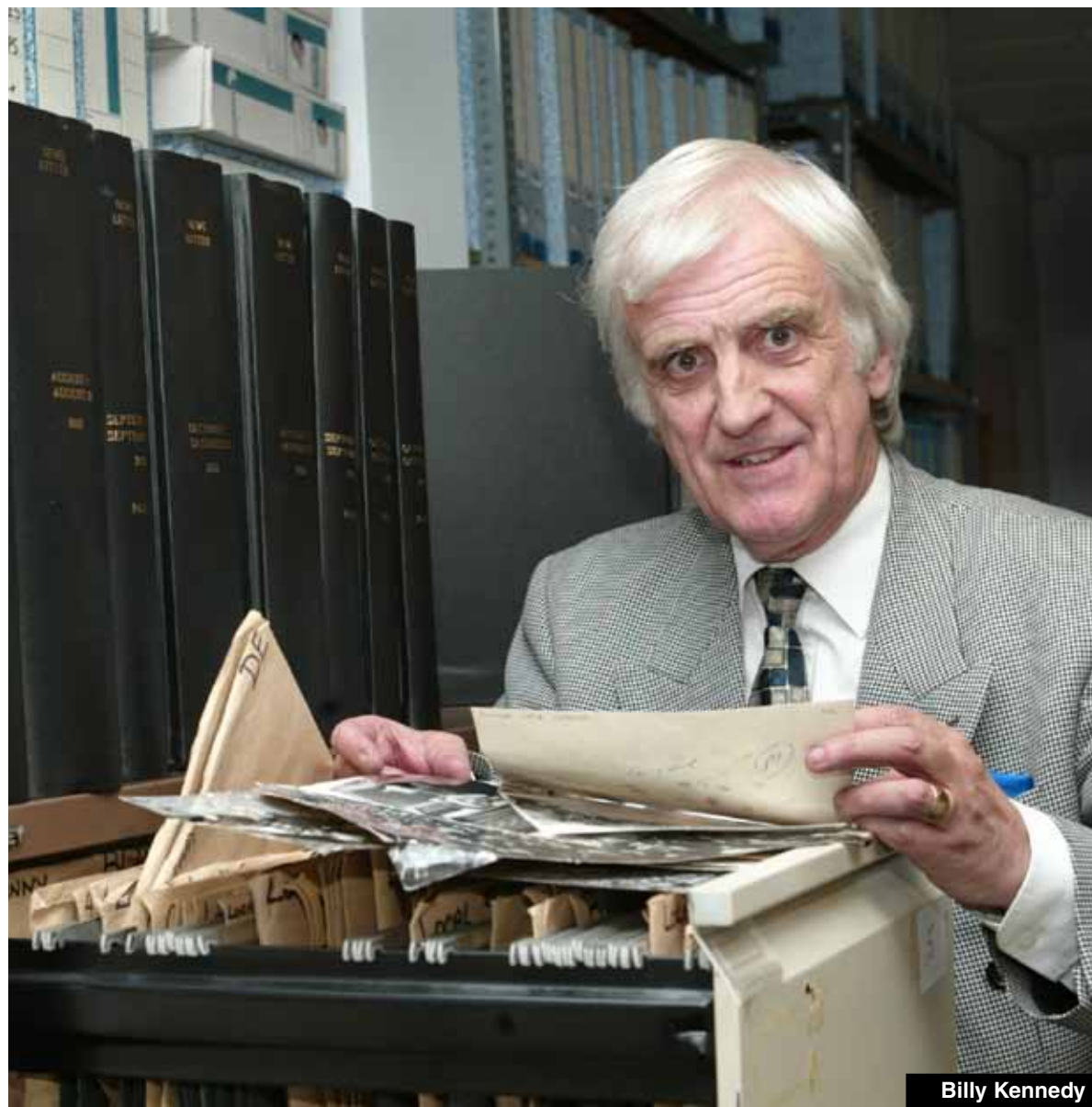
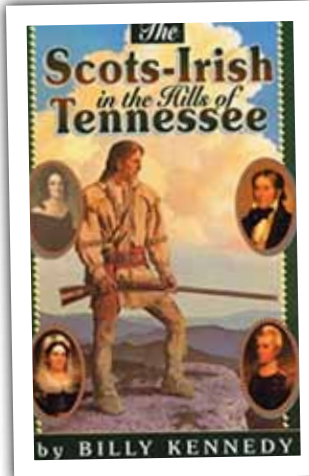
to inform, educate and entertain. As a writer, I have never been into fiction books - the Scots-Irish Chronicles are about real people who conquered adversity in their journey of life and after moving from their Ulster homeland to the 'New World', toiled to build civilisation in the midst of wilderness.

The popularity of my books here in the UK and significantly in the United States, vindicated my approach. Twenty five years on, it's nice to look back and savour some of the highlights of my American journey.

That first book had its seeds in a two-week assignment for the News Letter in the summer of 1993, when Geoff Martin, then News Letter editor, despatched me to Tennessee to explore the significant links between Ulster and Appalachia. My journey extended from the country music capital, Nashville, to the Great Smoky Mountains and on to the Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia borders. Everywhere I went, I got the same message from folks

who told me their people, mainly Presbyterians, came from the north of Ireland in the 18th and early 19th centuries - "We're Scots-Irish and proud of it."

The assignment, which resulted in the publication of a special 24-page News Letter supplement on 4th July 1993, was an exhilarating experience for me, whether in Nashville at the heart of the country music scene, or in the hills and hollers of the Smokies, meeting folks imbued with an obvious Ulster-Scots character. I also managed to fit in



Billy Kennedy

an exclusive interview with then upcoming country star Garth Brooks and made my first visit to Dollywood, Dolly Parton's theme park in the Great Smoky Mountains where I met Dolly's family.

Later, I was approached by publishers Sam Lowry and Gregory Campbell about the potential of writing a book on the Ulster connection in the Southern states of America. We agreed on the need for such a work and, for the next 18 months, I set about in-depth research work on both sides of the Atlantic, making several journeys to Tennessee, meeting reliable civic, cultural and history contacts there. The result was publication, in hardback and softback, of the 228-page *Scots-Irish in the Hills of Tennessee*, with forewords from the then Lord Mayor of Belfast the late Councillor Ian Adamson and Dr John Rice Irwin, director and founder of the Museum of Appalachia in East Tennessee. John Rice, an acclaimed Tennessee historian, was a mentor for me on Scots-Irish history and culture and he wrote a foreword for 11 of my books.

The book was launched at the News Letter premises in South Belfast and at the East Tennessee Historical Society premises in Knoxville. In connection with the Tennessee launch, my Causeway Press publishers and I were invited to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville by country legend George Hamilton IV and accorded a very warm welcome on the Opry stage by a packed audience. So successful was the book

over the next two years that with sales at home and in the States, it moved into four prints. Indeed, in November, 1995, I was back in Tennessee with BBC Northern Ireland producer Louis Edmundson to record a six part radio series on the Scots-Irish. The series, *Patriots and Presidents*, was presented on Radio Ulster by Wendy Austin.

In a half hour TV interview with acclaimed journalist and human rights advocate John Siegenthaler, I was asked to name my favourite Scots-Irish personality. My instant reply was Sam Houston, a man of strong East Antrim roots and Governor of both Tennessee and Texas. In my opinion, Houston, an iconic American politician and soldier, was the greatest American never to become President. A close ally of President Andrew Jackson and frontiersman David Crockett - both also Scots-Irish, Houston was a witty, articulate individual who just failed to make the Presidential nomination in the 1850s.

After the success of the Tennessee book, my thoughts turned in 1996 to another publication *The Scots-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley* and my research work moved to Virginia, in the idyllic Blue Ridge Mountains. Large numbers of Scots-Irish moved along the Great Wagon Road into Virginia and settled alongside German and Dutch families.

By 1997, my I was focused on North and South Carolina, two states heavily populated by the Scots-Irish, and, by 1998, I moved on to Pennsylvania and Kentucky to

research the Ulster connection in two very contrasting states. With full support from my Ambassador International publisher Dr Sam Lowry, I was for seven years putting out a book a year. The others in that period were - *Faith and Freedom: Scots-Irish in America* (1999), *Heroes of the Scots-Irish* (2000) and *The Making of America: How the Scots-Irish Shaped a Nation* (2001).

My later books were *Women of the Frontier* (2004), a tribute volume to the wonderful women, who stood by their menfolk and maintained the family home on the bleak frontier; *Our Most Priceless Heritage: The Lasting Legacy of the Scots-Irish* (2005); *Three Men of Destiny* (2008), a biography of Scots-Irish icons President Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston and David Crockett, and *They Sailed from Londonderry* (2014), which chronicled the movement of Ulster Presbyterian families from Londonderry and Co Donegal. My most recent publication, produced in 2018, was *Andrew Jackson, the First Scotch-Irish President*.

As the number of books increased, my lecture work gained impetus in the regions, speaking at universities; civic gatherings, to history and genealogical societies, churches and at various events in Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. These gatherings could attract an audience of up to 150 people and especially in the early years of my work, much information was gleaned from folk intensely proud to share their Ulster-Scots ancestry.

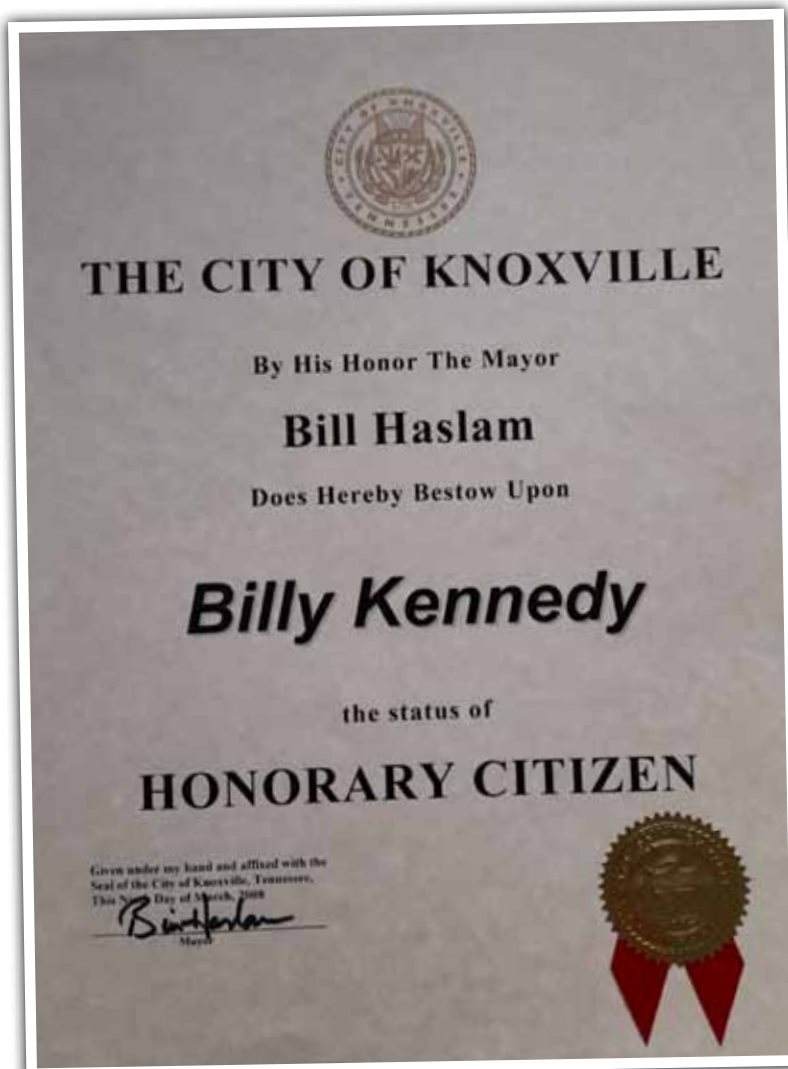
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Over the years I've made more than 50 flights to the United States and covered maybe 50,000 miles by road, often with a hectic schedule, with publisher representatives and drivers Andy Culson and Tim Lowry; and my trusted friend, associate and driver, Glen Pratt, from Amarillo, Texas. Glen is President of the Ulster-Scots Association of America. A 'Good Ole Boy' and Ulster-Scots enthusiast, he is well-versed in the historical ties that closely bind Northern Ireland with the United States.

A big highlight of my travels was appearing in 2007 on the American History Channel documentary 'Hillbilly - The Real Story', which was produced and filmed in Rugby, Massachusetts.

I have been privileged to visit the ancestral homes of Presidents Andrew Jackson in Nashville; James Knox Polk in Maury County, Tennessee; Andrew Johnson, in Greenville, Tennessee; Woodrow Wilson in Staunton, Virginia; and James Buchanan, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. I also made frequent visits to the wooden cabin homes of Davy Crockett at Limestone and Morristown, in Tennessee.

Some of my most poignant memories came from walking the War of Independence battlefields at Cowpens and Kings Mountain in



the Carolinas; visiting The Alamo in Texas; and visiting the battlefield at San Jacinto, where, on April 21, 1836, General Sam Houston and a group of 783 Texians and Tennesseans avenged the massacre at the Alamo by routing 1800 Mexicans under General Santa Anna, with the battle-cry "Remember the Alamo!" After San Jacinto, the Mexicans lost Texas and Houston became the first President of the independent Texas state, which in 1845 became one of the United States.

The San Jacinto battlefield is on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico near the city of Houston. Knowing Sam Houston's deep Ulster roots, the hairs were standing on the back of my neck as I pondered the events of 1836. Stirring times, indeed!!

I have met people from all walks of American society - US Senators and Congressmen, mayors, state governors; top legal attorneys, preachers, hillbillies and moonshiners. On a visit to the Carolinas, I was met by a lady carrying a bunch of papers, detailing her family roots back to Ulster. She had come along for one of my lectures and she asserted: "I'm a hillbilly and proud of it, but don't you dare call me a hillbilly!" Her papers confirmed she was of stout Ulster lineage as well as character. Once I was even offered a bottle of moonshine (illicit whiskey) by a highly respected doctor who attended one of my lectures in Western North Carolina. I appreciated his generosity,

but politely refused the offer, knowing customs would collar me heading home at the airport!

Full sets of my books have reached three American Presidents - Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, as well as country music megastar Dolly Parton. In May 1997, I received a personal letter from President Carter acknowledging his Co Antrim eight generation back ancestor Andrew Cowan, who settled in Abbeville county, South Carolina in 1742.

One man who contributed much to the success of my books was David Wright, the highly acclaimed American frontier artist. David, based in Nashville, allowed me to use his vivid highly colourful frontier paintings for the book covers and these were an undoubted selling point. I am greatly indebted to David for his kindness and generosity.

At a personal level, I was privileged to be recognised for my work with the granting of honorary citizenships of the cities of Knoxville (Tennessee), Louisville (Kentucky), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), and Newnan (Georgia).

A Scots-Irish President, James Buchanan once memorably said, "My Ulster blood is my most priceless heritage." Personally, it has been my immense pleasure and privilege to chronicle the story of how formidable men and women of Ulster blood laid the foundations of the American nation.

Ulster-Scots Community Network – keeping in touch, whilst keeping safe



2020 has been a different year from what most of us expected.

We had hoped to build on our work and playing a part in telling more people about their Ulster-Scots heritage as well as welcoming lots of visitors, instead, we, like the rest of the world have been facing up to the challenges that accompany COVID-19.

We continued to work away on projects, engage with our members as much as we could and helped support groups as they stepped up their community response to Coronavirus. Here at USCN we were delighted to pull together goody bags to be distributed by groups across Ulster. Over 20,000 items were given away in a short period of time and we hope that people enjoyed learning about their culture.

Our staff are continuing to support the Ulster-Scots sector and are still reachable on phone and email.

We had taken all the necessary steps to re-open the doors of the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre but unfortunately had to close again due to increased restrictions. Please keep an eye on our Facebook for our re-opening as we would be delighted to see you in the centre again.

Over the next year we'll be running the John Kelly Memorial Photography competition – to mark the contribution made by John to the sector. Based on Ulster-Scots language it features a new theme each month with prizes for winning entries. Full details on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/USCN1.



New Ulster-Scots 'Play in a Box' is launched for schools

New resource includes all the ingredients for a school production on Ulster-Scots pioneers

As part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's work to provide opportunities for teachers to embed the teaching of Ulster-Scots in the primary school curriculum it has developed a range of teaching and learning resources. These are designed to help teachers deliver aspects of the school curriculum through a range of Ulster-Scots based activities.

A key aspect of the Northern Ireland curriculum is 'connected learning'. This means that learning across a range of curriculum areas is connected with children studying aspects of science, literacy, geography and history using a thematic approach. In this way learning is in context and connections are made in ways that develop children's knowledge, understanding and skills.

The teaching and learning

resources developed by the Ulster-Scots Agency have engaging content for children as well as lesson plans and guidance for teachers.

As part of this work the Agency has commissioned a drama and music production which can be staged by schools. This includes a script, production notes for teachers and original music and lyrics which can be performed by children. These are published in a book which includes sheet music.

In addition, a CD has been produced with the music and sound effects professionally recorded to be used as backing music. This gives flexibility for the music to be played by teachers and/or children or the backing CD can be used.

Performing drama and music in front of an audience can be a very important activity for building

children's self-confidence. Staging a music and drama production also gives schools the opportunity to showcase and share children's learning with parents and the broader school community.

The production has been written in such a way that the cast numbers are flexible, with small and large speaking parts. This means that schools of all sizes can adapt the production to ensure as many children as possible have the opportunity to take part.

The production is engaging and fun but it also tells the story of the determined and tenacious Ulster-Scots families that left Ulster to settle in the 'New World' and build new lives and communities there.

It also carries a serious message (and challenge) to the audience, encouraging them to look at their own Ulster-Scots history and heritage.

The Maine Event: Learning in lockdown

Live video link between primary school children in Northern Ireland and an Ulster-Scots archaeological site in Maine.

Four Northern Ireland primary schools have been involved in teaching and learning about early Ulster-Scots migration to America in the 18th century as part of a pilot project.

Children have studied the migration using the 'Land of Promise' resource produced by the Ulster-Scots Agency <https://ceea.org.uk/learning-resources/land-promise>.

The primary schools involved are Culcove and Hezlett Memorial in County Londonderry, Derryboy in County Down and the Buick Memorial in County Antrim.

The resource tells the story of one of those families – the

McFaddens from County Londonderry.

Study in class was impacted when schools closed in Spring this year but this didn't deter the Agency and schools looking for other ways to support Ulster-Scots 'learning in lockdown'.

Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language in the Ulster-Scots Agency commented 'We wanted to provide meaningful learning opportunities during a very challenging time for schools'.

In June the Ulster-Scots Agency set up a live link between children in Northern Ireland studying the story and the site of the ancestral homestead of the McFadden family in Maine which is currently being excavated by archaeologists.

Children and teachers linked

up live with Brad McFadden, descendent of the family in the story, and Pam Crane, archaeologist on the dig site.

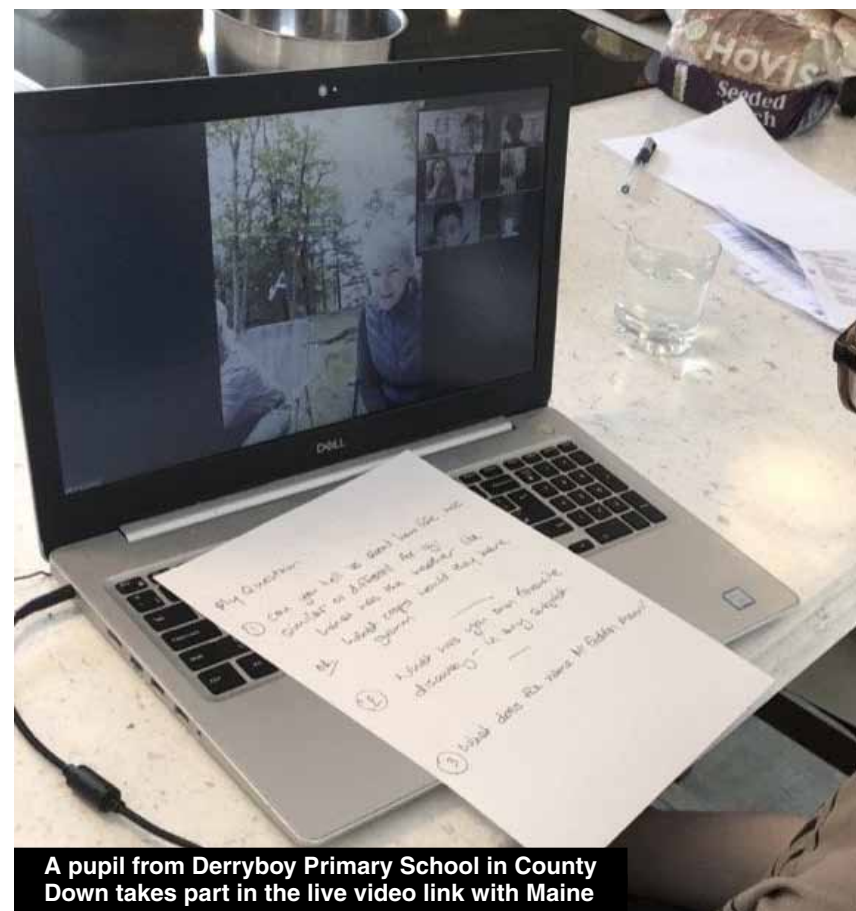
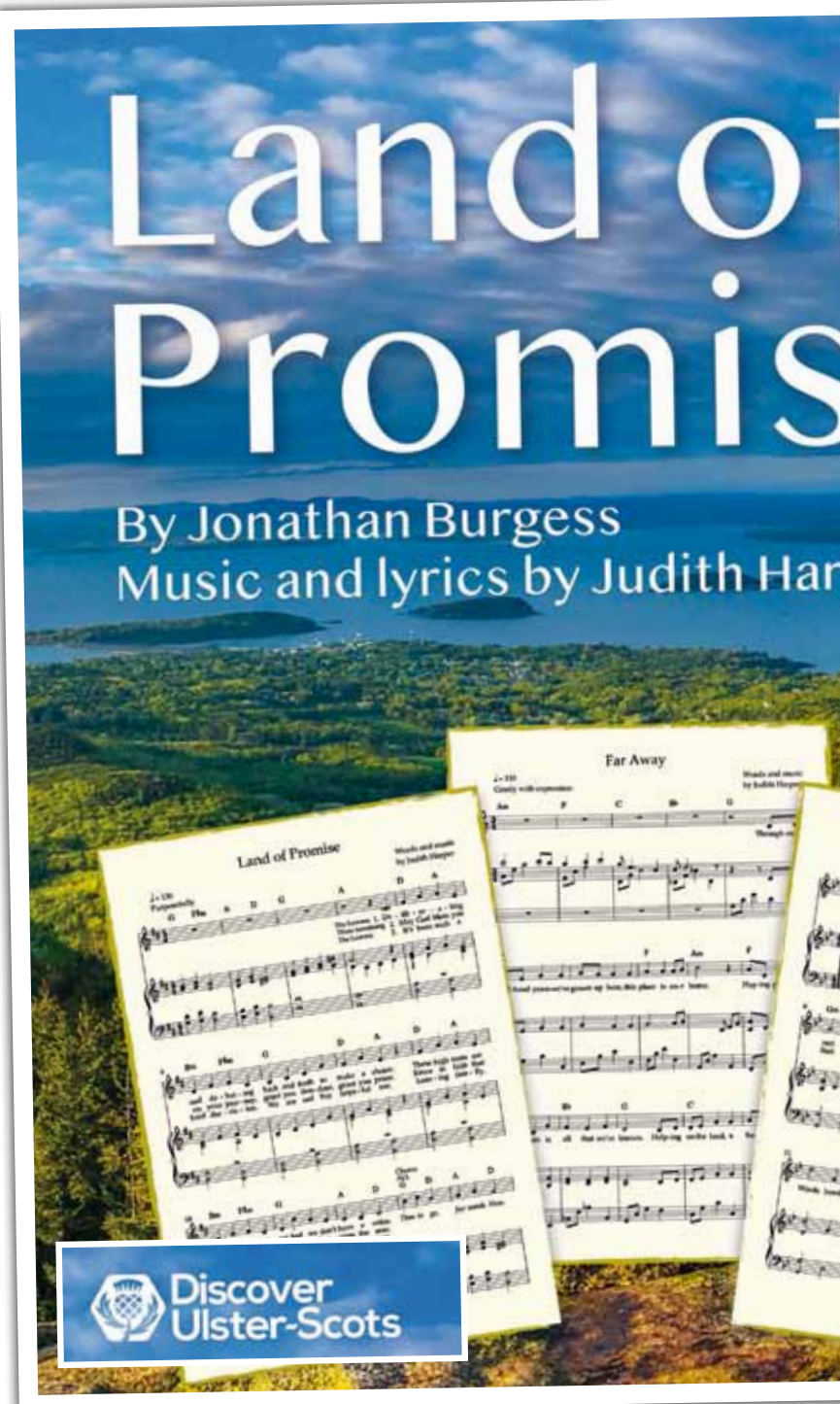
Brad and Pam gave the children a live tour of the site and showed some of the artefacts found.

The children were able to ask questions of Brad and Pam and develop their learning about life for early settlers in America.

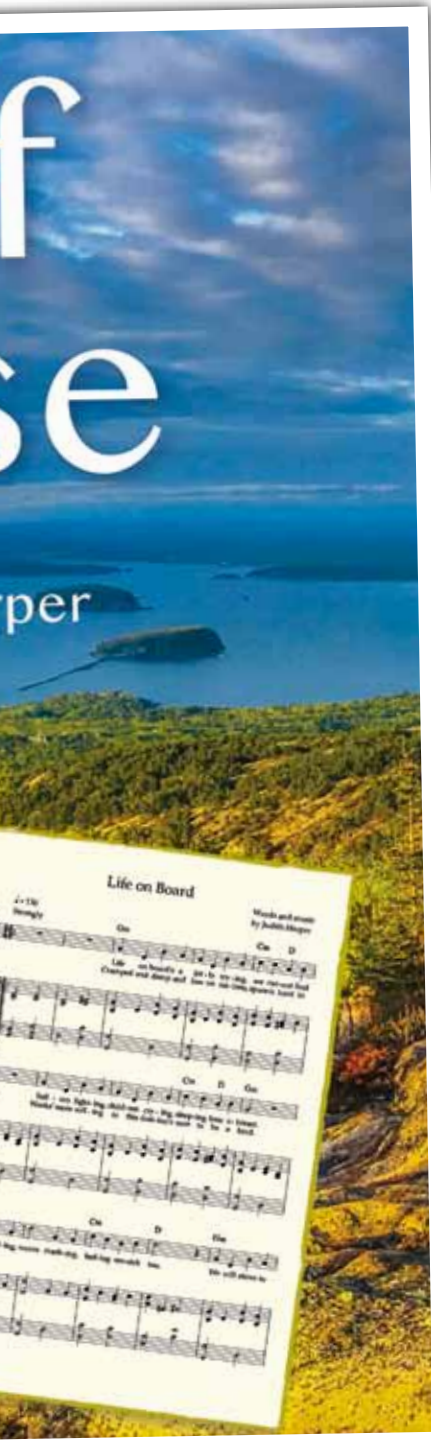
Teacher's comment 'This was a great opportunity for the children to ask questions about what had been discovered and what life was like for the new settlers.'

It was a unique learning opportunity for the pupils and will be something they will not forget.'

The story of the live video link can be found here <https://ceea.org.uk/learning-resources/land-promise/case-study>



A pupil from Derryboy Primary School in County Down takes part in the live video link with Maine



A wee taste of Ulster-Scots: traditional recipes by Paula McIntyre out now on iBooks



The Ulster-Scots Agency has published its first iBook on the iBook store.

'A Wee Taste of Ulster-Scots' volume 1 is an iBook of 12 Ulster-Scots inspired recipes prepared by celebrity chef Paula McIntyre MBE.

Each of the 12 recipes includes ingredients (in both metric and imperial for our American friends), method and a video of Paula preparing the dishes.

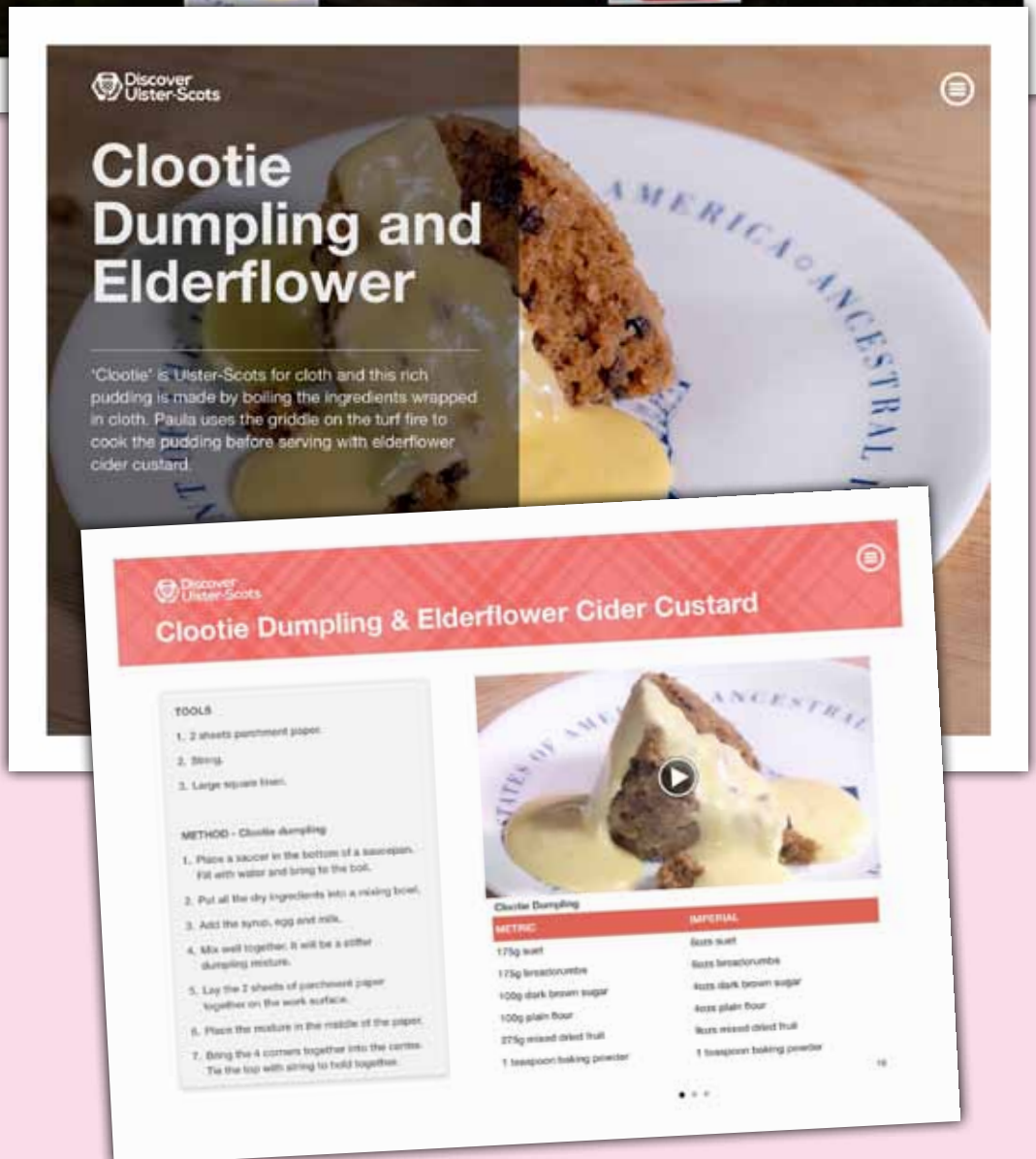
The videos were filmed in Arthur Cottage in the townland of Dreen, Cullybackey, County Antrim, ancestral home of Chester Alan Arthur, 21st President of the United States of America.

In preparing a number of the dishes Paula uses the traditional cooking method of an open turf fire in the cottage.

A second volume of a further 12 recipes is currently in production and will be published soon.

The iBook store is available in 50 countries around the world.

Recipes and videos are also published on the Ulster-Scots Agency's website <http://discoverulsterscots.com/a-wee-taste>.



New OCN Fifeing and Drumming courses launched

The Education Team at the Ulster-Scots Agency has been busy over the summer improving the courses we can offer in Lambeg drumming.

Previously, we were in a position to offer an Open College Network (OCN) Entry Level course in Lambeg Drumming, Theory & Practice to Key Stage Two children but now we are able to offer an additional course.

The success of our Entry Level module was reflected annually in the number of pupils who enrolled and completed the ten-week course.

We held an annual awards event at Brownlow House and then Parliament Buildings, Stormont when children from across Northern Ireland came to receive their OCN certificates. Those who did not qualify received Certificates of Merit for completing the course.

After a series of meetings with OCN representatives, it was agreed that the course should be reviewed and the review was initiated in May this year. As the work was being completed, we saw an opportunity to expand the opportunities for learners. We then commissioned the development of a second course, targeting adult learners and submitted both syllabuses for approval. OCN recently accepted

and approved our submissions so, as from September past, both courses are available to juveniles and adults.

We then looked at a similar qualification for the Fife. In some areas, the fife is played accompanied by snare drums (i.e. Schomberg Fife & Drum, Coleraine Fife & Drum), similar to bands that play B Flat Flutes with snare drums. However, in the drumming world, the traditional fife is also played alongside the Lambeg.

The Agency subsequently commissioned Craig Sloan to write up a syllabus and an accompanying workbook that will serve as a portfolio for learners. This work has also been completed and approved by OCN.

The restrictions currently in place to combat the Coronavirus pandemic has curbed the opportunities previously available to enrol in these courses but they are and will be available to all as soon as it is safe to begin the modules.

A number of schools had begun the new Lambeg (Juvenile) Course before the recent extended mid-term break and the feedback has been very favourable. Pupils in East Tyrone and County Antrim have fully embraced the courses and have



Lambeg drummer Craig Sloan

been progressing well and we know they will continue to do so when the schools reopen after this break.

The three courses available are part of a series of books / modules being produced by the Ulster Scots Agency. If you are interested in participating in any of the courses, it is only a matter of contacting the Agency by telephone or email and we will do our best to point you in the right direction. One of our Education Team will meet with you to explain the course more fully once you have registered an interest.

The courses last ten weeks and all participants are required to complete the relevant sections of the workbook. Classes will be randomly inspected by the Agency's Internal Verifiers and the workbooks will be submitted to the Open College Network as proof that each learner has completed the course. The Agency will then liaise with OCN to have your certificate issued.

Speaking about the new courses, long time drummer, Craig Sloan said; It has been my privilege to work alongside the Agency in this venture as we seek to expand the

opportunities available to those learning Lambeg Drumming and Fifeing. The previous course was designed with the sole focus being on tutoring children in a school setting.

The new courses are designed to give an in-depth historical presentation of each instrument, alongside the practical aspect of playing and performing. It is crucial that this part of our culture and heritage is never lost; and through these courses, both old and young can now participate and receive formal recognition upon completion.

In the past four years an average of 120 learners per annum have

qualified and we are confident that the new courses will see an increase in the number of participants / qualifiers. We would encourage schools and community based groups to engage with us in creating more opportunities for new learners to enrol in the courses.

We have had feedback that suggests a revival in Lambeg Drumming and, in some areas, Fifeing. The creation of these courses are geared towards supplying the demand and we trust that our investment in these modules will be fully justified as soon as it is possible to introduce them fully in schools and in the community.

School in focus: Music is thriving at Omagh Academy

By Mrs Bingham, Omagh Academy

The sounds of all genres and instruments float around the corridors as pupils and staff busily prepare for recitals and public performances.

Highlights of the year include the annual Christmas Carol Services and the Spring Concert in our local theatre – much talked about events in Omagh's Arts calendar – where pupils share their talents and we raise much needed funds for local charities at the same time.

Yet, behind the scenes of these big events is the diligent work of tutors and pupils who attend weekly lessons or break time/lunch time rehearsals and maybe squeeze in extra sectional practices so that performances can be well prepared. Ask any student and they will tell you

that the crack and banter is great – never mind the music!

So, where does the Ulster-Scots Agency fit into all of this?

We are delighted to welcome piping tutor, Mark Carmichael, and drumming tutor, Brendan Megoran, to Omagh Academy each week.

They teach intermediate and advanced lessons to our pupils and are also willing to tutor beginners, those pupils who've always just wanted to 'have a go' and get involved.

We now have a flourishing culture of Pipes and Drums where love of music is nurtured and our pupils are encouraged to achieve their best.

Music-making in the Covid-19 era is definitely far from the norm but we are making it work! Already, drum corps fanfares are being rehearsed and piping tunes are being prepared.



Omagh Academy students, Carolyn and Anne performing at the Strule Arts Centre

Christmas is around the corner and we are making plans for a virtual performance. Why not join us and tune in? For there you will hear the skirl of the pipes & drums as we celebrate Christmas, community and good music!

A Lambeg Drum for the USA

The Ulster-Scots Agency has a well-established relationship with the Maine Ulster-Scots Project based in Maine USA. We have worked together on a number of collaborative projects in recent years including the publication of the book '1718 – 2018' Reflections on 300 years of the Scots-Irish in Maine'

Since the early 18th century Ulster-Scots families have migrated to America and settled in Maine. These people took with them skills that helped establish industries that flourish there to this day such as shipbuilding and lumber. Their values and principles helped shape the principles of government at local, state and national levels. Some of the early settlers went on to become important figures in the fight for American independence and several became signatories of the Declaration of Independence.

Ulster-Scots names are commonplace in Maine to this day and there is a vibrant interest for people there to find out about and celebrate their Ulster-Scots heritage.

The current Governor of the state is a direct descendant of the families that left the Bann valley in Ulster in 1718 and settled on the east coast of America in what

is now the state of Maine. The state was established in 1820 and celebrates its bicentenary this year.

In recognition of the partnership between the Maine Ulster-Scots Project and the Ulster-Scots Agency and of the cultural and historic link between our two places, the Ulster-Scots Agency has commissioned the making and painting of a lambeg drum as a commemoration.

The lambeg drum is unique to Ulster and the images used in the painting of the drum will celebrate the links between Maine and Ulster.

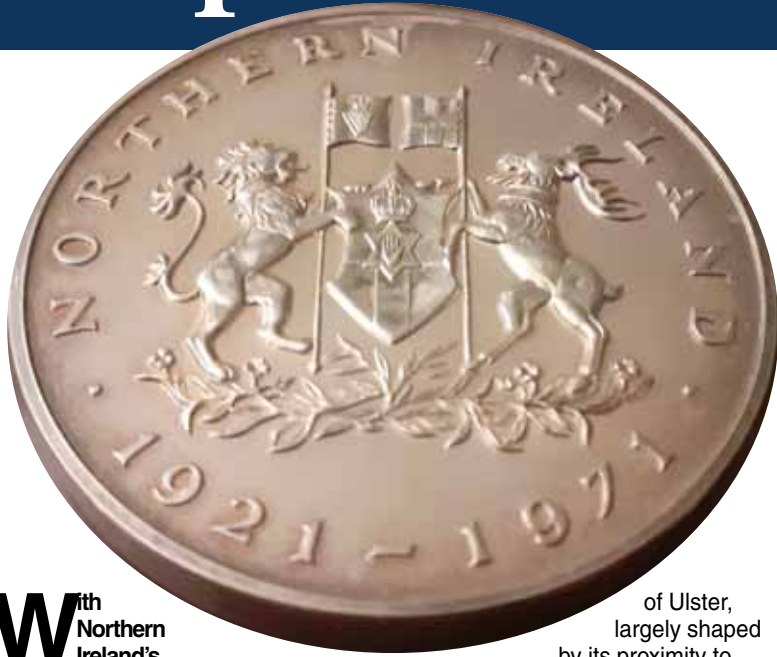
It is hoped that the drum will be a unique and tangible symbol of the links between Ulster and Maine when it goes on display (and is played) in Maine.

The making and painting of the drum is being recorded as part of a collaborative project between NI Screen (the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund) and the Ulster-Scots Agency. This project will use films to look at the broader context of the lambeg drum, its history and links with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage.

The project will be completed later this year and the films will be available in early 2021.

Details of how to access these will be published early in 2021.

Ulster-Scots Agency gears up ahead of NI Centennial



With Northern Ireland's Centennial just around the corner, preparations are being stepped up a gear at the Ulster-Scots Agency.

According to Agency CEO Ian Crozier, 2021 is an excellent opportunity to promote Ulster-Scots. "Next year there will be a huge amount of awareness and general interest about the history of Northern Ireland. We intend to capitalise on this by helping people to understand exactly how important the Ulster-Scots community and Ulster-Scots identity was in the events which led to the birth of the country. Simply put, without the Ulster-Scots, Northern Ireland wouldn't be here," he said.

The Ulster-Scots Agency has identified six broad themes around which interventions in relation to the Centenary will be built. These are: the role of the Ulster-Scots in the foundation of Northern Ireland; the identification of Ulster-Scots with Northern Ireland; the role of the Ulster-Scots in establishing Northern Ireland's place in the world; the role of the Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland's greatest achievement, helping to defeat fascism in the Second World War; the role of the Ulster-Scots in shaping Northern Ireland and the world we live in; and the situation of Ulster-Scots identity over the last 100 years.

Ian Crozier said, "We will be exploring the key people, places, events and ideas which created the context for Northern Ireland in the short, medium and long term. Yes, we will look at the specific events of 1921 including the Opening of Parliament and the Ulster Month (when the Northern Ireland Parliament voted to stay in the UK); but we will also look at the other key events from 1912 onwards including the Ulster Covenant, Ulster Volunteers, Operation Lion, First World War, development of thinking around Self Determination in the aftermath of the war and the Government of Ireland Act. We will also look more widely at the social, economic and cultural distinctiveness

of Ulster, largely shaped by its proximity to Scotland, which paved the way for a two state solution to emerge."

"While context is important, events are often shaped by the people in the room; and in the period approaching the foundation of Northern Ireland, many of them were Ulster-Scots with an acute awareness of their own identity and heritage.

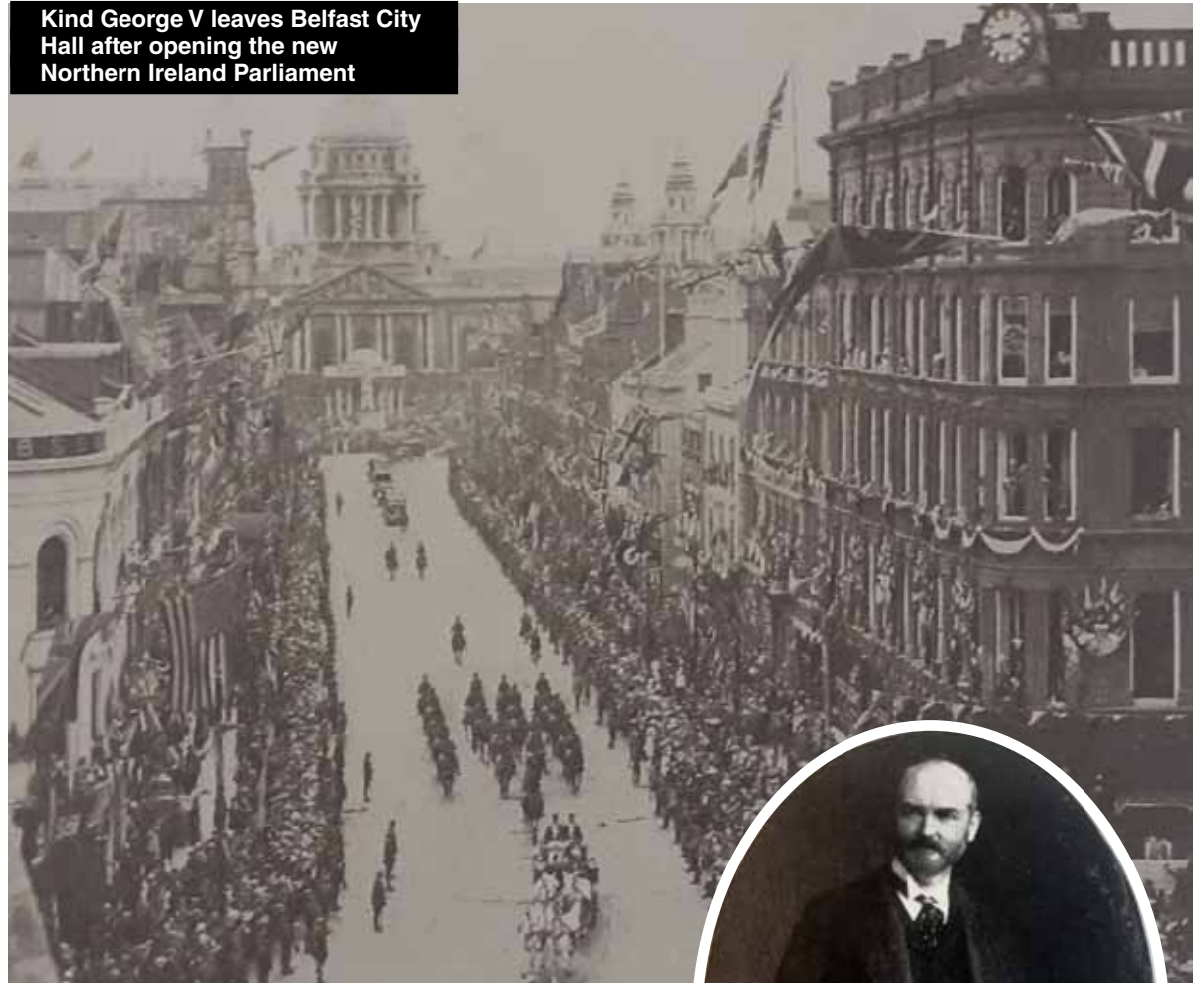
Key figures including James Craig, the great organiser; Edward Carson, the great orator; Thomas Sinclair, the author of the Ulster Covenant; Fred Crawford, the mastermind of the gunrunning; Andrew Bonar Law, the Tory leader and future Prime Minister; Lady Londonderry, the great socialite and leader of Women's Unionism; and the Duke of Abercorn, the first Governor of Northern Ireland, were all strongly identified with Ulster-Scots."

The importance of the Ulster-Scots community in Northern Ireland would in due course be recognised in the Arms which King George V granted to the Northern Ireland Parliament.

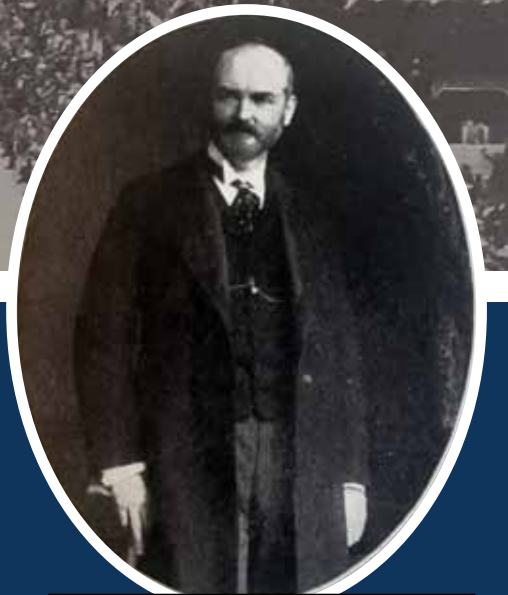
The supporters (animals) in the crest are an elk, representing the Irish community and a red lion rampant representing the Ulster-Scots community. Ian Crozier added, "A lot of people don't realise that the Ulster Banner that they see displayed at all sorts of sporting and other occasions is derived from the Arms of the Northern Ireland Parliament, to which the Ulster-Scots community are central. We want people to understand just how central Ulster-Scots was and how well that was recognised in those days."

Mr Crozier explained that the Ulster-Scots Agency is also keen to explore the importance of the Ulster-Scots diaspora to Northern Ireland. "In the early days of Northern Ireland, the government set about making links to all corners of the globe and Government ministers always made it their business to speak to diaspora groups when they were visiting other countries. They also established the Ulster-Scot Historical Foundation

Kind George V leaves Belfast City Hall after opening the new Northern Ireland Parliament



"2021 will bring a huge amount of awareness and interest about the history of NI. We intend to capitalise on this by helping people understand the Ulster-Scots."



The Right Hon Thomas Sinclair, P.C

(now UHF) to help make links to the diaspora. These moves were designed to capitalise on the global reach of the Ulster-Scots community and we should be looking to follow the example today."

On the Ulster-Scots contribution to NI's war effort, Ian Crozier said, "Due to Covid-19, the anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day didn't receive anything like the celebration that they deserved. We will be using the opportunity of the Northern Ireland Centennial to highlight our community's part in the defeat of fascism, which is something we can all be proud of. Whether on the front line or the home front, the battlefield or the farmer's field, Northern Ireland had a huge impact and the Ulster-Scots community were the backbone of that."

The role of Ulster-Scots in shaping Northern Ireland and the world we

live in will be explored through a work stream on Great Ulster-Scots. This will involve identifying those Ulster-Scots who have lived since 1921 and made a notable contribution, for example as scientists, artists, sportsmen, soldiers, diplomats, academics, writers or philanthropists. CS Lewis, Harry Ferguson, Ruby Murray, George Best and Joey Dunlop are just a few examples.

During 2021, the Ulster-Scots Agency will also look to explore developments in the Ulster-Scots sector, eg formation of Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Ulster-Scots Language Society, Ulster-Scots Heritage Council/USCN, as well as how the position of Ulster-Scots has changed over the course of 100 years in terms of awareness, public policy and legal protections. This will include attacks

on Ulster-Scots by elements of the media and the cultivation of negative stereotypes, which will be challenged.

On current progress, the Agency's CEO reported, "Most things are at planning stage at present, but several projects are already under way. We are working with the Nerve Centre on an exciting new learning project called Making Northern Ireland, which has secured £50k from the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund; we have commissioned a suite of 7 Lambeg drums on the Centennial theme; and our three Community Impact Projects are working on exemplar projects to inspire local communities to mark the Centennial in their own neighbourhoods, which will be launched early in 2021. We have 12 months to mark this important milestone and we would encourage the Ulster-Scots community to use every day."

Schomberg Society are keeping busy during the pandemic



Schomberg visiting Residential Homes

Although the Covid-19 pandemic effected many of the Schomberg Society's 'annual' summer activities and events, the Society was kept busy planning and organising various outreach initiatives locally.

The Society distributed hundreds of Ulster-Scots activity packs and literature into many homes across the Kingdom of Mourne and local Nursing and Residential Homes. Kirknarra School of Dance also enjoyed performing at Garden Parties in local Residential Homes. Dozens of the Schomberg Society's members showed their support to the NHS each Thursday night by performing Lambeg Drums and Highland Dance routines in their local housing estates and across the countryside, which

went down a treat with the local community. The Schomberg Society and their Ulster-Scots Women's Group, 'The Highland Heathers' were also busy distributing hampers with Ulster-Scots literature and materials to many of their members who were shielding during the lockdown.

Recently the Schomberg Society facilitated a series of educational workshops online to mark European Heritage Day and Good Relations Week, creating an opportunity for people to learn more about the historical significance of Bonfires in Ulster and their Ulster-Scots connections.

The Society's Ulster-Scots music and dance tuition programmes have recommenced with over 100 people, young and old taking part in various

weekly tuition classes: including drum major; lambeg; fiddle; flute; and drum. These classes are online or in Reivers House as allowed. A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society commented: "We are delighted to be able to once again offer a wide variety of Ulster-Scots Music and Dance tuition and would encourage everyone to get involved and help us build a strong and dynamic future for our Ulster-Scots heritage and identity!"

Please get in contact with Reivers House on 07753222553. You can also contact the Schomberg Society directly via Facebook: Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots.

The Schomberg Society would like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued support.



Schomberg activity packs

Small Steps to 'new normal' in north Belfast

After a period of considerable disruption due to Covid-19, the Ulster-Scots cultural community in North Belfast is working hard to adapt to the 'new normal'.

Jennifer Crockard, Ulster-Scots Community Impact Worker for Small Steps told us, "During the restrictions, we have tried to support isolated folk, organising socially distanced Ulster-Scots entertainment for four care settings to mark VE Day in May, with support from the Ulster-Scots Agency; and supporting one of our groups, Jennymount Community Association, to secure funding from Belfast City Council to do the same for five homes to mark VJ Day in August. It has been really important for us to provide some support to our care homes, when they have been struggling under huge pressure."

Given the very obvious pressure that Covid-19 was having on people and communities in their area, Small Steps delivered a Mental Health First Aid training course for volunteers,



Piper Graham Harris performed to mark VE day

which saw 20 people complete two days of intensive training, certified by the Public Health Agency and the Department of Health. Project Worker Jennifer, who has worked from home while shielding, has also been engaged on a Transformative Leadership Course through the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Since community groups have begun to start operating again, albeit remotely, Small Steps has been helping them to plan new projects operating at social distance and has

helped several groups to secure funding for their ideas from Belfast City Council. Jennifer explained, "In the coming months, Duncairn Ulster-Scots Society will deliver socially distanced Ulster Covenant Walking Tours of Belfast city centre: and Glencairn Residents Group will be organising an Open Day with Ulster-Scots activities.

Small Steps will also be delivering a socially distanced Ulster-Scots late Summer School programme with a grant from Belfast City Council's Covid-19 Recovery Fund."

DARA working hard to keep communities connected

Derry and Raphoe Action continue to work hard providing assistance and support to the Ulster-Scots community, particularly as they face the many challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As restrictions continue, our office remains closed for now, but we are continuing to work hard to ensure the views of our membership and the needs of our groups are being addressed. Coronavirus has caused massive disruption to rural communities with many schools, bands and community groups having to move their tuition programmes online. This was rather daunting for many at first, however it also opened up a new world of possibilities allowing tutors to continue to provide the best classes they can to their online members. Unfortunately many rural areas of West Tyrone have very poor broadband connection so some of our Ulster-Scots groups and bands are finding it difficult to reconnect with their members, with the fear of losing membership. We are working with the local councils to improve connectivity as we emerge from this crisis, with the expectation that, post Covid-19, groups will rely heavily on broadband access and I.T. equipment more than ever.



Derry and Raphoe Action, Irene Spratt with Joe Mahon, UTV

We were really privileged to have been asked to take part in Joe Mahon's series 'Lough Foyle', which aired recently on UTV. The programme was fantastic coverage of our traditional 'Robert Burns Supper' at the Somme Memorial Hall Newtownstewart, it was fabulous to show our local Ulster-Scots culture; our young people cooking, highland dancers, pipers, drummers, and of course our own Robert Burns. The programme was very well received and great opportunity to demonstrate our Ulster-Scots culture using our very own talented people.

Derry & Raphoe Action would like to encourage others to check out our Facebook page to connect with the Ulster-Scots community in West Tyrone, to be kept up to date with all activities and get an insight into what all Derry and Raphoe Action can offer.

Huge success: FuseFM Mourne

Radio station proves extremely popular with thousands of listeners

The Schomberg Society's Ulster-Scots Community Radio Station, FuseFM Mourne, once again proved to be extremely popular amongst many thousands of listeners in the Mournes and much further afield!

FuseFM Mourne hosted its summer broadcast from 30th June for two weeks finishing on 13th July and had its busiest and most engaging broadcast to date since the radio station was founded in 2014!

A spokesperson from FuseFM Mourne Ulster-Scots Radio commented: "We are absolutely delighted with the positive response we have received from the local community and are delighted to have been able to bring some Ulster-Scots entertainment and crack to folk during what has been a very difficult time, particularly for those who are still isolating.

"FuseFM Mourne provided an excellent opportunity for the Schomberg Society to promote our local Ulster-Scots music, culture, history, language and heritage to the wider community and we're really pleased that so many people enjoyed tuning into our various shows during the fortnight."

Over 75 volunteers from the local community were directly involved in the broadcast with much

Schomberg FuseFM's Alan and Victoria



engagement with Ulster-Scots groups.

A wide variety of Ulster-Scots themed shows were broadcast during the fortnight, including shows on the Scotch-Irish, marching bands, Ulster-Scots Gospel and poetry to name just a few!

Some of the highlights from the summer broadcast included the 'Virtual 11th July' shows and also the 'Virtual 12th July' shows. These both created an opportunity for FuseFM Mourne to bring the traditional sounds of the 11th and 12th July to many listeners to enjoy safely from their homes.

The Schomberg Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their much appreciated support with our summer broadcast. FuseFM Mourne would also like to thank all its presenters, DJs, technicians and volunteers who contributed greatly during the two weeks and also to all our listeners who tuned in and kept all of our presenters busy in the studio!

FuseFM Mourne is already looking forward to returning to the airwaves once again for our Christmas Broadcast this December and would encourage everyone to tune in via 106.2fm, online at www.fusefmmourne.co.uk or via the FuseFM App!

Community activity hit by Covid-19

By Derek Reaney, Ulster-Scots Agency Community Development Officer

Since early March the world has been turned upside down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Every aspect of our society has been affected by the impact of the pandemic, including the Ulster-Scots community and the work of the Agency.

In March as the impact of the pandemic became apparent the Government placed us all on a national lockdown which resulted in the suspension of all our community programmes. The Music and Dance tuition programme was well under way but like all other activities it came to a shuddering halt. The pandemic also resulted in our Community Festivals and Summer School programmes being cancelled, as it was impossible under the regulations to deliver these programmes.

Adapt and overcome, I believe is the motto of the US Marines, and it is a motto which many business and community groups, including Ulster-Scots groups, have adopted since mid-March. I have to be honest and say that before this pandemic, I had



Community tuition when allowed with Covid restrictions

never heard of Zoom or some of the other online platforms. But, with the arrival of Covid-19 we all have had to adapt and seek ways of keeping in contact with our family, friends and community.

By early April a number of Ulster-Scots groups involved in Highland Dance made contact with the Agency to explore the option of online tuition. At first, I have to say I was sceptical about the effectiveness of the online options. However, the Agency developed a seven point

questionnaire which we requested groups interested in online tuition to complete. Over the late spring and early summer 14 groups availed of the online option, 13 Highland Dance groups and one group delivering piping and drum tuition.

We received a lot of very positive feedback from the groups and parents which eventually gave us confidence to expand the option across the Music and Dance Tuition programme. This is some of the feedback received from Highland

Dance groups and parents.

"It's been really positive from parents as the classes provide a great routine for children and has really helped with mental health allowing for children's interaction with each other, exercise and motivated them to keep practising their dancing."

"Classes have really helped dancers progress and the younger students have been able to consolidate some steps and dances."

"Our tutor has provided a lot of support for individual dancers, challenging and correcting as appropriate. Intermediate Dancers have committed to classes and are really benefitting from the weekly discipline."

"Zoom classes have been amazing for my daughter, at a time when all her wee activities and social life was removed from her and she was struggling to understand what was happening, she has been able to go on and learn new steps/dances and see all her wee dance friends. This has been a wee lifeline emotionally for her as I see a real spring in her step on Saturdays and see her practising throughout the week."

Over the summer the Agency

explored how best to resume tuition; this was always going to be a challenge as the health and safety of our community must come first in all our decision making. In early September our Board approved a way forward and over the last number of weeks we have put this in place. Permitting socially distanced tuition to occur for a number of activities where groups have in place good social distancing procedures and adopting online tuition primarily for pipe, flute and fife tuition.

Many groups within the Ulster-Scots community are concerned for the future, especially their ability to retain interest within their membership and supporters, their ability to attract new members, to fundraise and offer some sort of cultural activity to the wider community.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a massive impact upon how we promote Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, it has a negative and challenging impact upon many bands and groups, and regretfully that challenge is not at an end. We must and will find ways of adapting to survive this massive challenge to our cultural and social activities.

All set for new Ulster-Scots heritage walk at the Gobbins

Work is under way to develop a new Ulster-Scots heritage walk at the Gobbins visitor attraction in Islandmagee.

The project is being undertaken by the Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with Mid and East Antrim Council, which owns and operates the attraction, which has attracted tens of thousands of visitors each year since it opened in 2017.

The heritage walk will run along the cliff top path which stretches across the top of the Gobbins cliffs, up to 200 feet above the iconic stone and steel bridges and tunnels of the main Gobbins path, which lie at and below sea level.

Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier said, "The Gobbins and the whole of Islandmagee is an area that has been shaped by its proximity to Scotland for more than a thousand years, from the time of

King Fergus, the King of Dalriada who gave his name to Carrickfergus; to King Robert the Bruce who sent his brother Edward to Larne Lough with an army in 1315; and the first Ulster-Scots settlers who arrived in the early 1600s and have been there ever since. This new heritage walk will give visitors from all over the world the opportunity to find out about the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture of the area as well as enjoying its spectacular scenery, geology and wildlife.

"Larne Borough Council and subsequently Mid and East Antrim Council have done a tremendous job in developing a world class twenty-first century visitor attraction, resurrecting the famous Gobbins path, which in its Edwardian heyday was said to be busier than Royal Avenue in Belfast and attracted more visitors than the Giant's Causeway. The Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted

to be working with the Council to deliver a culture-rich experience for visitors which complements everything else that the Gobbins has to offer," he added.

In another exciting development, Mid and East Antrim Council have recently announced plans for a major expansion at the Gobbins, which will be made possible through the investment of £13million secured through the Belfast Region City Deal. Gobbins Phase II will see the development of a new visitor reception hub at the Gobbins, including a state of the art structure connecting the cliff top path to the path at sea level; and the extension of the cliff top path, which will double in length, with the addition of a rope bridge three times longer than Carrick-a-Rede. The Phase II investment also includes the

establishment of a new 360° Virtual Reality (VR) tour of the two Gobbins paths, which will be made available at the existing Visitor Centre at Ballystrudder and will cater for groups of up to 10 people in a shared immersive space.

According to Ian Crozier, the Phase II scheme is a major opportunity for Ulster-Scots. "Up until now, the cliff top path has been a secondary attraction at the Gobbins, with most people focusing on the path down at sea level. The development of the Ulster-Scots heritage walk will give visitors a new experience and within a relatively short time, the Ulster-Scots story will be at the heart of things, with every visitor to the site entering via the cliff top, where our story is told. Given the Council's ambition to make the Gobbins one of Northern Ireland's top ten paid visitor

attractions by 2033, the number of people learning about Ulster-Scots at the site will only increase."

On a clear day, visitors walking the Ulster-Scots heritage walk will be able to enjoy spectacular coastal views from the Copeland Islands and County Down coast all the way to the Rhinns of Galloway, the Ailsa Craig and the Mull of Kintyre. They can also enjoy the rich birdlife for which the Gobbins is renowned, including the famous Puffins, known in Ulster-Scots as Couter-Nebes. The new heritage walk, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2020, will also help visitors to learn about the local Ulster-Scots names for plants, animals and places in the area; and find out about major historical events witnessed at the Gobbins, like the first victory in the history of the US Navy and the 1798 Rebellion.



The Gobbins Path at sea level
(Credit: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council)

2020 vision at Monreagh Ulster-Scots Centre

By Kieran Fegan, Monreagh Ulster-Scots Centre

Monreagh Heritage Centre, Co. Donegal, educates visitors about some of the most important chapters in Ulster-Scots – Scots Irish History from the Plantation of Ulster to the present day.

Visitors to the centre can explore and learn more about the history of the 17th century Scottish settlers and their voyages to 'New World' America. The centre has quite a collection of original photographs, paintings, and other memorabilia including local historical records which helps visitors to trace their family history. The Centre contains four themed exhibition rooms, each dedicated to a particular period of history. The Living History Garden contains exhibits that remind us of the architecture, and agricultural industries, of the past, and visitors can view a Round House, Plantation Cottage, Forge and Flax patch. Monreagh Heritage Centre itself is housed within a beautifully restored Victorian manse, sitting opposite one of the oldest Presbyterian Churches in Ireland.

2020 Vision at Monreagh Ulster-Scots Centre

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change."



Monreagh Ulster-Scots Centre

These words, written by Wayne Dyer, inspired us at Monreagh Heritage Centre to challenge our 2020 vision in the year that should have been our busiest to date. No one expected this wee, sleeket, less than tim'rous beastie of a Coronavirus to arrive with such mighty force as to dismantle everything in sight.

Like most tourist attractions throughout the country, Monreagh Heritage Centre adapted to new challenges with the help of

modern technology. Zoom video conferencing software allowed us to host an international 'Ancestry & DNA' conference with over 50 participants, all eager to trace their Ulster-Scots roots with the help of renowned genealogy expert, Mr Dan Hull from Salt Lake City in Utah.

Accommodating larger groups meeting in person posed more significant headaches. However, with the help of some local crafts experts, lashings of outdoor space in our history garden and the blessings

of some fine, sunny weather, we managed to host an outdoor Land and Craft Exhibition in August.

With more focus on the cybersphere, the Monreagh YouTube channel benefitted from a recent facelift with new content and graphic updates.

Thankfully, our subscribers welcomed the changes by voting with their mouse buttons, significantly increasing the number of subscribers, comments and likes on our channel. The 'Flax man of East Donegal', Mr Clarke of Monreagh, has proved to be somewhat of a YouTube sensation, clocking up over 1.2 million views so far on our channel. His video, processing flax to linen, featured on two US television networks, including the popular television series 'Rebecca at the Well'.

Additionally, some new YouTube content continues in production to celebrate Leid Week in November. Local Ulster-Scots speaker, Ian McCracken, teamed up with fellow speaker Sam Fletcher to recite some of their favourite Ulster-Scots poems and yarns. The selection includes: 'Whun a' the Kye had Names', 'The Wadding Party', 'The Bee and the Stane' and 'Long Tam McClay'.

A recent spell of good weather inspired us to record an episode

of 'Life in East Donegal', a video production exploring the sites, language and traditions of the local area. Check out our channel at youtube.com/monreaghcentre and, of course, don't forget to subscribe for all our latest updates.

Joe Mahon, the presenter of the popular UTV series 'Lough Foyle', visited Monreagh recently to record an episode about the flax industry in the Laggan of East Donegal. 'Dream Song' a joint USA / Irish film production company will also be featuring Monreagh in a series of documentaries about life on the border. Recording begins in the spring of 2021, hopefully.

Despite the lockdown, we still manage to assist our international community via social media channels, emails, and, of course, Zoom meetings. Correspondence continues to come in from all parts of the globe as people use this time to trace their ancestors and discover more about their Ulster-Scots roots.

We miss all our local and overseas visitors but we will continue to develop ideas and respond to their queries until we can fully reopen. In the meantime, we encourage you to get in touch and follow our Facebook and YouTube channels to see how we can inspire you to learn more about your Ulster-Scots history.

Our Ulster Day mystery solved!

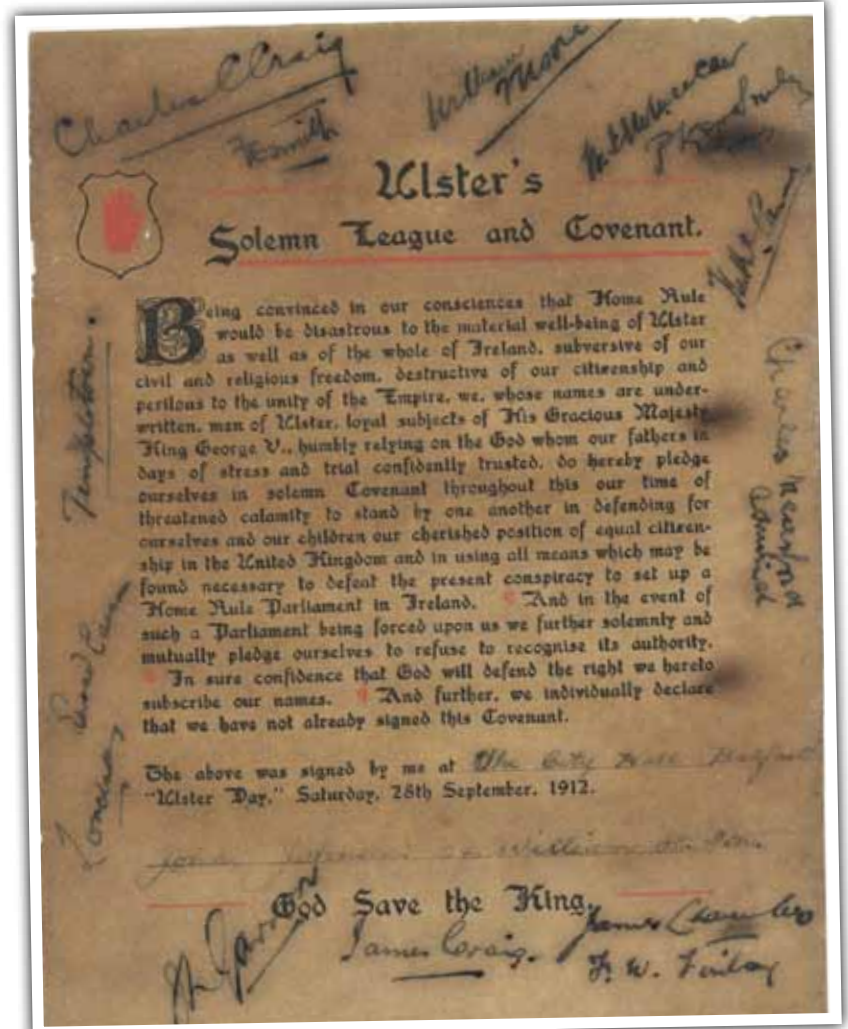
On Ulster Day, 28th September 1912, nearly half a million Ulster men and women followed in the footsteps of their Covenanting ancestors and signed the Ulster Covenant and Women's Declaration to oppose the imposition of Irish Home Rule on the people of Ulster against their will. Among them was John Johnston of 24 William St South, who secured an extra special memento of the day by getting the Unionist leaders who were present at Belfast City Hall to sign his commemorative copy.

This unique artefact is now in the collection of the Ulster-Scots Agency. While most of the signatures on the parchment were straightforward to identify, one name, which was particularly difficult to decipher because of the way it was signed on top of the word God, remained a mystery. Or at least it did until recently.

On 28th September this year, we shared the riddle on the Ulster-Scots Agency Facebook page and appealed to our more than 10,000 followers for help to identify the unknown signer. Within two days, the puzzle was solved when Karin Nelson suggested the name of JL Garvin. Comparison with an original signature online confirmed that it was indeed the signature of Garvin, the Editor of the Observer newspaper, who had been in Belfast to cover the events of Ulster Day.

The other autographs on our priceless Covenant (clockwise from top left) belong to: Charles C. Craig, MP for South Antrim and younger brother of James Craig; F.E. Smith, MP for Walton and future Lord Chancellor; William Moore, MP for North Armagh and future Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland; WJ McGeagh MacCaw, businessman and MP

for West Down; Peter Kerr Kerr-Smiley, MP for North Antrim and chairman of the Northern Whig newspaper; TVP McCammon, stockbroker, soldier and member of the Ulster Day committee, who died of wounds in France, 1917; Admiral Charles Beresford, Royal Naval hero and MP for Portsmouth; James Chambers, MP for South Belfast and later Solicitor General for Ireland; FW Finlay, MD of Wolfhill Spinning Company and Alderman for Shankill; James Craig, MP for East Down and future Prime Minister of Northern Ireland; Lord Londonderry, President of the Ulster Unionist Council and future Northern Ireland Education Minister; the Unionist Leader, Sir Edward Carson, later appointed a Law Lord as Baron Carson of Duncairn; and Lord Templetown of Castle Upton, Templepatrick, founder of the Unionist Clubs of Ireland.



How Saint Andrew became Scotland's Patron Saint

St Andrew's Day on 30th November has been marked by Ulster-Scots since we first arrived in Ulster.

In the early 1600s, Sir James Hamilton instituted a two day Fair celebrating the occasion at Killyleagh, where he had his seat; the Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew has been providing philanthropic help to those in need for over 150 years; and next year, St Andrew's Parish Church in Glencairn, the historic seat of the Cunningham family in Belfast, will celebrate 50 years from its opening on St Andrew's Day 1971.

The historical Andrew was one of Jesus' Apostles and was the brother of St Peter. They were fishermen in Galilee and when Jesus approached them on the shore he said, "Come with me and I will make you fishers of men."

After the Crucifixion of Jesus, Andrew continued to spread the Gospel message, but eventually he too was crucified, in the Greek city of Patras, around AD60. St Andrew is traditionally held to have been martyred on an X-shaped cross because he felt he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus.

So how did it come about that one of the Apostles, who lived and died in the near East and

never travelled anywhere near Britain, became the Patron Saint of Scotland?

According to Scottish tradition, the answer lies in a battle fought close by the East Lothian village of Athelstaneford in the dark ages.

An Army of Picts under King Angus, with support from a contingent of Scots from Dalriada (the kingdom encompassing north east Ulster and western Scotland), was invading Lothian (at that time still Northumbrian territory) and found itself surrounded by a large force of Saxons led by Athelstane.

Fearing imminent defeat, Angus led prayers for deliverance and was rewarded by seeing a cloud formation of a white saltire (the diagonal cross on which St Andrew was martyred) against the blue sky.

The King vowed that if, with the saint's help, he gained victory, then Andrew would thereafter be the patron saint of Scotland. The Scots won and Andrew became Scotland's saint, while his cross, white on a sky blue background, became Scotland's flag.

The Saltire, as it is known, is believed to be the oldest flag in Europe and the Commonwealth.

The story of the Battle of Athelstaneford and its legendary link to St Andrew and Scotland's flag is told at the Parish Kirk in the



Athelstaneford Parish Kirk

East Lothian village. A monument telling the story of the Saltire was erected in 1965.

It includes a battle scene, carved in granite, showing the two armies facing each other between the

St Andrew's Cross in the sky. A Saltire is permanently flown from the flagstaff beside the monument.

In 1996, a doocot (Scots for dove-cote) behind the kirk, first built in 1583, was restored and

converted into the Flag Heritage Centre, where visitors can enjoy a short audio visual presentation of the traditional origins of Scotland's flag. An adjacent viewpoint affords views over the reputed battlefield.

WEANS' WURLD



Bake your own St Andrew's Day Cake

It's been a year where we have been busier than ever in the kitchen.

Pop along to our YouTube channel 'Ulster-Scots' where we have lots of traditional food for you to make. But for now, why don't you give this recipe a whirl? You can decorate with fruit such as blueberries and strawberries to make your flag! Yummy!

Simple Sponge Cake recipe:
Prep 20 min, cook 25 min

Ingredients (serves 8)

225g (8 oz) self-raising flour
225g (8 oz) butter, at room temperature
225g (8 oz) caster sugar
4 eggs
1 teaspoon baking powder

Method

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees C / gas mark 4. Measure all the ingredients into a large bowl and then mix all of the ingredients using an electric whisk.

Pour the mixture into 2 non-stick 7 inch (18cm) tins and place them in the oven till golden brown 15-25 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack before serving.

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION

Win 1 of 3 £20 Amazon gift cards and an Ulster-Scots goody bag!

To be in with a chance of winning this great wee prize, take a photo of your St Andrew's Day flag cake and send a photo to us.

Send your entries by email to competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.

Do remember to include your name and contact details. We also accept postal entries. Contact the Ulster-Scots Agency by post:

Corn Exchange
31 Gordon Street
Belfast
BT1 2LG

Closing date:
9th December 2020.

Competition winner's names and winning entries will be shared in a following issue.

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION WINNER

The winners of our last competition were:

**Darcy Russell (7), Strabane
Finlay Donnan (2), Ballywalter**

**And this poem by Joe Canning
entitled:**

'The Lassie and the Hallion'

A wis haein a wee blether,
Wi a lassie fae thon hoose,
About gettin me fer Hogmanay,
A wee hen or a goose.

So A tuk her for a danner,
Up tha brae, an by tha tent,
But whaur tae get a goose or hen,
She said she niver kent.

She said she'd ask her faither,
If he cud get a wheen,
But says A, 'He disnae like me,
For he knows oan you A'm keen.

He saw us oot tha windae,
Whun we coortit doon tha loanen,

An A thocht that he wid scatter
me,
As he chased me in tha gloamin.

He wis gulderin an roarin, "Whun
A catch you, McCallion!
A'll bate ye owre tha brig an burn,
Ye womanisin hallion!

"Ye'll no get ma wee Ethel,
Nor walk her doon nae aisle,
Sae A think ye neednae bother,"
Said he, wi wan quare smile.

'Och! Tak nae heed o him, my
lad,
He's haed a wheen o drams.
A hae tae jeuk him noo an then,
Whun he's drinkin he gets thran.'

"Forget tha goose," says A tae
her,
"He's sleekit an he's crabbit,
Forget tha Hogmanay hen too,
A'll settle fer a rabbit! "