



Win panto tickets - Page 16

Ulster-Scots Agency (Boord o' Ulstér-Scotch) official publication

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 2013

Youth groups honoured



The outstanding achievements of 11 groups were formally recognised as part of the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards held recently in Londonderry's Waterside Theatre. The event was a true celebration of dedication, talent and song for all who attended.

Pages 12 & 13



Page 5

Celebrate St Andrew's Day today at Carrickfergus Castle



Pages 8&9

Fascinating Castleton Lanterns community project aims to identify Great War servicemen



Page 10

The Donegal Gathering Peace Proms in Letterkenny prove a massive success

Fair faa ye



Welcome to the final edition of the Ulster-Scot in 2013. It's been an exciting and busy couple of months since the September paper came out! On Saturday October 26 the Ulster-Scots Agency in association with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland presented the Donegal Gathering Peace Proms in Letterkenny. Two concerts were held – both were truly spectacular, more information and photographs from this wonderful event on **Page 10**. On Saturday November 16 the Agency hosted the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards in Derry-Londonderry – congratulations to all of our winners, more about this on **Pages 12 and 13**.

Today is St Andrew's Day and to celebrate we are hosting a day of Ulster-Scots festivities, food and family fun at Carrickfergus Castle. Join us between 11.00 and 15.00 for re-enactments, falconry, sword fighting, archery, storytelling, craft workshops and much more. See you there!

As we head into December we start thinking about Christmas festivities. Come along and join us on Friday December 6 at our Ulster-Scots Carol Service at Bangor Abbey, County Down (18.00) See **Page 3**. Then on Saturday December 7 the Agency is hosting an Ulster-Scots showcase as part of the Raphoe Heritage Christmas Craft Fair in Raphoe, County Donegal (11.00 – 17.00) Read more on **Page 7**.

As we begin to look forward to the New Year our thoughts turn to Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. On Saturday January 25 the Ulster Orchestra and Ulster-Scots Agency will host a Burns concert featuring Eddi Reader at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast (19.45) More information on **Page 6**. For details of other events taking place in the run up to and following the 255th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns visit www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events.

We hope everyone finds something of interest in this edition. Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency

Donaghadee Ulster-Scots Thanksgiving Festival

The Ulster-Scots Agency, in partnership with Ards Borough Council, held the first Ulster-Scots themed festival in Donaghadee during November.

The festival included Ulster-Scots cooking with Paul Rankin, a re-enactment of Robert Burns by Christopher Tait, who has been performing Burns live for 15 years, and the launch of Diane Hoy's children's book *Maidie & Cal*. The festival had a historical theme reflective of its surroundings with an exhibition by Donaghadee Historical Society and North Down and Ards Family History Society which explored the links between the Ulster-Scots heritage and Donaghadee since 1606 and 'An Ulster-Scots Dander round the Dee' with local historian Harry Allen.

On Saturday night the festival saw the Cottown Pipe Band, Craic in Kilts, the Low Country Boys and Willie Drennan and his Ulster-Scots band take to the stage at Donaghadee Parish Church Hall.

However the highlight of the event for many of the children present was the landing of the Ulster-Scots into Donaghadee Harbour and the lantern parade to Lemon's Wharf for a fireworks display and Ulster-Scots celebration. The Agency would like to thank all who took part in making this event such a success!



General Ross remembered at capacity conference

Newry & Mourne Council hosted a conference in October dedicated to General Robert Ross, who burned down the White House and captured Washington in August 1814.

The fully-booked event saw some of the world's leading conference speakers descend on the city, including British journalist Peter Snow, who has recently penned a new history of the War of 1812 episode.

"The capture of Washington is one of the most extraordinary stories in British or American history," he told attendees.

The conference – which was entitled *Personalities and Pivotal Moments in the Napoleonic Wars and War of 1812* – was supported by the Ulster-Scots Agency, Peace III Southern Partnership under the Future Foundations priority funded through the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body and Newry and Mourne District Council.

General Ross served with distinction under the Duke of Wellington in the Napoleonic Wars and was then sent to North America with 4,000 troops to help end the war, which at the time was in its third year. General Ross landed his troops and made for the US Capital.

On August 1814, just outside Washington, Ross defeated the American troops that outnumbered his own at Bladensburg.

Over the next 24 hours, the British destroyed every trace of American power, including the White House and the Capitol which was burned. General Ross became a national hero when news finally reached London of his exploits, but he had already been killed by American militia fire during the failed British attack on Baltimore three weeks after his 24-hours occupation of Washington, a victory for America that would inspire the writing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key.

The Ulster-Scot

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

Main office:

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

International callers dialling the Ulster-Scots Agency:

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

Regional office in Raphoe:

The Ulster-Scots Agency
The Moffatt Building, The Diamond
Raphoe, Co Donegal
Telephone: +353 7 4917 3876
Fax: +353 7 4917 3985
Email: freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

Editor: Gary McDonald

Associate Editor: Gillian Pearson

Production: The Irish News

Printing: Interpress NI Limited

The Ulster-Scot next edition: Saturday 18th January 2014

Deadline for copy: Friday 3rd January 2014

Contributors should note that publication of any submitted article is at the Editor's discretion

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/language

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

"Thonner"

Meaning:
Over there

Special launch of *Rathlin* by Thomas Beggs

The Ulster-Scots Agency has launched a reprint of Thomas Beggs' poem *Rathlin* – appropriately on Rathlin Island.

The event in the Manor House was attended by Rathlin Islanders as well as by MPs Ian Paisley Jnr and Kate Hoey, Ballycastle mayor Cara McShane, and the Gage family, whose ancestors built the Manor House in the 1870s.

Jim Millar, the Agency's director of language and education gave a talk on the history of the island, Thomas Beggs and a reading from the publication. Attendees were treated to a rendition of *Rathlin* by Alan Glenholmes on the pipes and a talk from Mr Gage on his family connections to Rathlin Island.

The Gage family bought the island in 1746 from Lord Antrim and their family has remained a presence on the island since that time.

The main house as it stood then also incorporated work-rooms for weavers built in the 1760s and some former cottages. The Gages also built the island's walled garden (it is said that the soil for it was shipped from



At the launch on Rathlin Island are (from left) MPs Ian Paisley Jnr and Kate Hoey with Ulster-Scots Agency chief executive Ian Crozier

Scotland), corn mill, a boat-house and keep store.

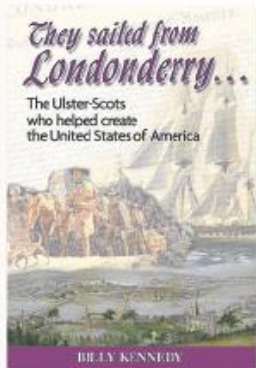
The significance of the contribution of the Gage family to Rathlin Island over the centuries formed the perfect backdrop for the launch of the book.

The last member of the family to live at the Manor House was Brigadier Rex Gage, CBE, MC, who died in 1973.

The property lay derelict for a period before it was taken over by the National Trust and then re-opened in 1998 as a 12-room hotel.

Book this for Christmas

The 180-page book, published to mark the 2013 Londonderry-Derry UK City of Culture year, traces the 18th century movement of thousands of Ulster-Scots Presbyterians from Londonderry city and county Donegal, north Tyrone and north Antrim the port of Londonderry.



Stuck for a Christmas stocking filler? A book is always an excellent option. Why not go for 'They Sailed from Londonderry - The Ulster-Scots Who Helped Create the United States of America' by Billy Kennedy, which can be purchased from the Ulster-Scots Agency offices in Belfast for £12?

The 180-page book, published to mark the 2013 Londonderry-Derry UK City of Culture year, traces the 18th century movement of thousands of Ulster-Scots Presbyterians from Londonderry city and county Donegal, north Tyrone and north Antrim the port of Londonderry.

Many American luminaries, including four US Presidents - James Buchanan, Woodrow Wilson, Ulysses S. Simpson and James Knox Polk - are descended from families who moved in this historic exodus through the port of Londonderry.

Contact the Ulster-Scots Agency on (028) 9023 1113 or email info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk for more information.

Gala Burns dinner at the Linen Hall Library

Imagine watching Robert Burns perform his greatest works in Belfast. Well, now you can! For more than 15 years, Christopher Tait has been performing as the poet, and his theatre show Robert Burns Live has played to rave reviews throughout the USA, Europe and SE Asia. He has appeared on television in the UK, China, France and America. And now he's bringing the show to Belfast, when he will take to the stage at the Linen Hall Library, 17 Donegal Square

North, on Wednesday January 22 at 6pm.

The library's popular annual celebrations include a piper, haggis and whisky and an appearance by the bard himself!

Tickets are £35 and available from the Linen Hall Library.

The price includes a drinks reception, three-course meal with a wee dram and entertainment.

For more information call (028) 9032 1707 or visit www.linenhall.com



News & Events

Ulster-Scots Christmas carol service at Bangor Abbey

The Ulster-Scots Agency is hosting a Christmas Carol Service at Bangor Abbey on Friday December 6 at 7pm.

The service will be led by Rev Ronnie Nesbitt and will entail traditional Christmas carols, readings in Ulster-Scots and some carols with an Ulster-Scots background. Ulster-Scots band Kask will be providing musical entertainment for the evening with the support of the Starsingers choir.

Carolers will be able to avail of a hot cup of Scotch broth or vegetable soup with shortbread and hot blackcurrant outside the venue to warm up before the event takes place.

The event is free to attend and is open to everyone, although booking is essential as it will be ticketed. Should you wish to attend please contact Carolina@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk or telephone 028 9023 1113.

Series of library talks

The Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with LibrariesNI is hosting a series of free talks in libraries across the province on various Ulster-Scots related topics.

The first of these took place in the Linen Hall Library in Belfast on November 12 with the launch of *Alister McReynolds new book Kith and Kin: Continuing Legacy of the Scotch-Irish in America*.

Author Billy Kennedy also delivered a lecture in Tandragee Library on Tuesday November 26 on Ulster-Scots influences in the United States.

The senior News Letter journalist has written 11 books on 18th century Ulster-Scots Presbyterian emigration to America and, he has lectured on the Scotch-Irish diaspora at universities and colleges across America.

On November 28 Frank Ferguson gave a talk in Comber Library on John Hewitt and his links with the Weaver poets.

Remaining talks in the free-to-attend series are:

- Sandy Smith (C.S Lewis) Portadown Library - Wednesday December 4 at 7pm
- Alister McReynolds, Killyleagh Library - Friday January 31 at 1.15pm
- Sandy Smith, Killyleagh Library - Friday April 25 at 1.15pm

Christmas in Castlederg with an Ulster-Scots theme

On Saturday December 7, the Agency will be promoting the cultural traditions of Ulster-Scots at a well established Christmas event in the Diamond, Castlederg in County Tyrone.

Three Saturday events are hosted by Mourneview Farmhouse - the first on December 7 will have an Ulster-Scots theme, on Saturday December 14 the theme is Rock and the final Saturday (December 21) will have a Pop theme. Free entry and everyone is welcome!

Marking the 400th anniversary of the TOWN CHARTERS

The Ulster-Scots Agency launched a new Town Charters exhibition at Belfast City Hall in October to mark the 400th anniversary since King James VI first granted the town charters around the island.

The exhibition, which has been completed in partnership with the Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster-Scots Academy and the Ulster Historical Foundation, is part of a larger research project and includes a dedicated map, brochure, a community outreach programme and a travelling exhibition. This programme will provide the public with an opportunity to delve into the informative and insightful world of our town's histories. Members of the public will be encouraged to visit the exhibition as it tours around various venues, including museums, libraries and small businesses in Northern Ireland over the next six months.

Ian Crozier, chief executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency, said: "The interaction of English, Scots and Irish in Ulster is what gives Ulster its uniqueness within the British Isles. "The Town Charters exhibition provides valuable context to help understand the arrival of the Ulster-Scots and the role that they played in the development of this part of the world."



(L-R) Fintan Mullan, Ulster Historical Foundation, Ian Crozier, Ulster-Scots Agency, Brian McGeggart, Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster-Scots Academy, Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Máirín Ó Muilleoir and Dr. Bill Smith, Chair of Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster-Scots Academy

You can view the Town Charters exhibition at the following venues:

- » November 18-30 - Derry Library (full exhibition)
- » November 18-December 7 - Newry & Mourne Arts Centre (part exhibition)
- » December 12-January 16 - Coleraine Library (full exhibition)
- » December 12-January 16 - Umayy Library (part exhibition)
- » January 16-February 13 - Armagh Library (full exhibition)
- » February 13-March 13 - Dungannon Library (full exhibition)
- » February 13-March 13 - Old Station House coffee shop, Augher (part exhibition)
- » March 13-April 30 - Bangor Museum (full exhibition)
- » May 1-31 - Newry & Mourne Arts Centre (full exhibition)
- » June 1-30 - Lisburn City Library (full exhibition)
- » July 1-31 - Roe Valley Arts Centre, Limavady (full exhibition)
- » August 1-31 - Enniskillen Library (full exhibition)

Ulster-Scots Flagship Award presented to Castle Gardens PS

The Ulster-Scots Agency has presented the Flagship Award to Castle Gardens Primary School in Newtownards - the second school to be awarded the status this year after Balmore Primary School in Ballymoney.

Flagship is a cultural and educational programme devised and managed by the Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with primary schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The purpose of the programme is to support primary schools in the development of high quality educational and curricular opportunities for children and young people to learn more about Ulster-Scots heritage and culture.

The Ulster-Scots Flagship School Programme was officially launched by Culture Minister Carol NI Chulain at a conference in Titanic Belfast in November 2012.

The launch event was a huge success with almost 100 schools represented on the day. And work has continued with many of these schools aiming to integrate Ulster-Scots heritage and culture into the school curriculum and working towards achieving Ulster-Scots Flagship.

Jim Millar, the Ulster-Scots Agency's director of language and education, presented the Flagship Award to George Mawhinney, principal of Castle Gardens Primary School at a special event that was held to mark their achievement.

Mr Mawhinney said: "The pupils and staff of



Castle Gardens Primary School are delighted to have been presented with the Ulster-Scots Flagship Award. It is an excellent endorsement of the positive partnership that has evolved between the Agency and school over a number of years. "We have been actively involved in promoting Ulster-Scots through culture, local heritage, language and people, which has

complemented the work already being done in school.

"Our music & drama have particularly developed through our Ulster-Scots work with the able assistance of the tutors.

"We were also deeply indebted to a former pupil and governor, the late Wilbert Magill whose love of the language and culture was infectious and whose love for Castle Gardens



Above, Jim Millar, Ulster-Scots Agency's director of language and education presents the Flagship Award to principal George Mawhinney. Left, Mayor of Newtownards, Stephen McIlveen is pictured with director of language and education, Jim Millar; school principal, George Mawhinney; Michelle McIlveen MLA and pupils

was clearly evident.

"Our school looks forward to a continuing fruitful relationship with the Agency." If you would like to discuss the Ulster-Scots Flagship Schools Programme with a member of staff at the Ulster-Scots Agency, contact education officer Jane Wallace on (028) 9089 1786 or email: education@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.

Ulster-Scots history and heritage flourishes in Atlanta

Ulster-Scots Agency board member **Hilary Singleton** reports from a successful trip to Atlanta to attend the 41st annual Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

Last month I travelled to Atlanta in Georgia with Agency colleagues Jim Millar and Jane Wallace for the 41st running of the Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

Held against the magnificent backdrop of Stone Mountain Park, the festival represents a vast international gathering attended by Scottish clan chiefs from around the world and by thousands of people from the American-Scottish and Ulster-Scots diaspora. There are many different aspects to the festival. Each of the Scottish clans set up its own base at the event and welcomes members, old and new. A variety of competitions are held, including solo piping and drumming, Scottish country dancing and highland dancing and Scottish harp competitions. Huge crowds marvel at the sheer feats of strength involved in the Scottish athletic competitive events - the caber toss, Clachnart stone (known as the stone of strength), the weight throw, hammer throw and the sheaf toss - with the winners of individual categories vying for the overall title of Master Amateur Athlete of the Games. Traditional Scottish music also played a key part in the festival. As well as the massed pipe band performance at the closing Gathering of the Clans ceremony, Scottish musicians from across the world performed on specially erected stages dotted across the park. Scottish fiddlers and harpists rubbed shoulders with folk groups such as Rathkeale, Gael Warming from North Carolina and our own hugely talented Stonewall from County Armagh, a group named after Stonewall Jackson, whose family were of Scots Irish stock from the Birches, near Portadown. On last year's trip to Georgia we had the opportunity to meet with the British and Irish



Attending the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta, Georgia, on behalf of Tourism Ireland are Virginia Goff (seated second right) and Orlaith Meenan (seated right) both Tourism Ireland New York, along with Stonewall musicians Andrew Cornett, Colin Slaine, Kenny Qua (standing), Hilary Singleton, Ulster-Scots Agency (standing fourth left), Ellen McNulty, Lynott Tours (standing fourth right); Jim Millar (standing third right) and Jane Wallace (standing second right), Ulster-Scots Agency; John Livermore, president of the Stone Mountain Games (standing right); Warren Attwell, Stonewall (seated left); and Gillian Hunt, Ulster Historical Foundation (seated second left)

Consulate Generals, Annabelle Malins and Paul Gleeson, with a Professor from Emory University in Atlanta who had a strong interest in the Bluegrass music tradition and with representatives from the St Andrews and Burns Clubs of Atlanta. We had also travelled to La Grange, a town twinned with Craigavon in Co Armagh, and had spent some time with mayor Jeff Lukken, the Provost of La Grange College David

Garrison, and with representatives from the West Georgia Technical College. This year, the purpose of our visit was different. We not only built on the success of last year's trip and renewed some of the valuable contacts we had made then, but we also sought to identify new opportunities for the development of cultural tourism and for Ulster-Scots educational exchange projects. Our time in Atlanta provided us with a unique

opportunity to gauge levels of engagement with, and understanding of, Ulster-Scots culture among those who had come to Stone Mountain and let us find out, at first hand, what their Ulster-Scots culture and heritage means to them and what practical steps they are taking to embrace it. Above all, the visit strongly reinforced a belief in our rich and vibrant Ulster-Scots culture and heritage which continues to flourish globally.



St Andrew's Day fun at Carrickfergus Castle

Come and join us today for a day of festivities, food and family fun at Carrickfergus Castle to celebrate St Andrews Day!

The event runs from 11.00 to 15.00 (November 30) and will include re-enactments, falconry, sword fighting, archery and traditional crafts with traditional food served in the Castle's Vault. There will be plenty to keep the children entertained with storytelling, face painting, sword and crown making workshops taking place through the day! This is a free event and everyone is welcome. Come and join us today as Carrickfergus Castle is brought back to life, 1600s style!

Ulster-Scots talks in visitor centre

A series of Ulster-Scots talks have been held in the Ulster-Scots Visitor Information Centre at Belfast's Great Victoria Street. Matthew Warwick, education officer for the Ulster-Scots Community Network, and its community development officer Alan McCormick, guided attendees through the history of Ulster-Scots, with demonstrations of traditional music both on pipes and guitar.

The audience was also treated to a display of highland dance steps by Michelle Johnston, who explained the historical and cultural importance of the steps. The talks provided the community groups

with information on the history and heritage of Ulster-Scots including the history of the Ulster-Scots ship-builders in Belfast and the important contribution that they made to the city we know today. Groups from Shankill Day Centre, Clifton Nursing Home, Glencairn, The Forever Young group and Grove Day Centre have all participated in the recent events.

If your community group would like to visit the Ulster-Scots Visitor Information Centre contact Catriona Holmes on (028) 9023 1113 or Catriona@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.

Ulster-Scots culture at Crumlin Road Gaol

The Ulster-Scots Agency hosted a country ceilidh as part of Culture Night on September 20 at the Crumlin Road Gaol. Dancer teachers from Scottish dancing and the Alistair Scott Ceilidh Band led culture aficionados through their paces with an array of dances including the Gay Gordons, Strip the Willow and Dashing White Sergeant.

The event was attended by young and old alike with many of the younger attendees never having taken part in a ceilidh before. "We would encourage everyone and anyone to take up Scottish ceilidh dancing, there

are no steps in social dancing just easy formations which are simple to do and it is a great way to meet new people and keep fit," said Linda Barnes of Scottish Ceilidh and Country Dancing.

"Having Scottish ceilidh dancing as part of Culture Night has shown that any couple or group of friends of any age can take part in the dances without any previous experience."

If you would like to learn Scottish ceilidh dancing or Scottish country dancing you can contact Colin Barnes at 078 54 109277 or visit www.scottishdancing.org.

Ulster Orchestra Burns Concert featuring Eddi Reader



The Ulster-Scots Agency and Ulster Orchestra are working in partnership to host a spectacular Burns' Night Celebration in Belfast's Waterfront Hall on Saturday January 25.

The traditional evening of music and spectacle - one of the most anticipated dates in the Ulster Orchestra's festive calendar - will feature acclaimed Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader, well known for her work with Fairground Attraction and her interpretations of the songs of Scotland's national poet. It will be the third consecutive year of this

particular Burns concert collaboration and follows the 2012 event in Belfast and the two concerts held in January this year in Belfast and in Derry-Londonderry as part of the city's UK City of Culture year.

The Agency says it welcomes the opportunity to take the concert to the high profile Waterfront Hall venue and hopes hundreds more people will join in a truly spectacular night.

The concert begins at 7.45pm and tickets range in price from £8 - £25. For tickets and further information contact the Ulster Orchestra Box Office on 028 9024 6609 or visit www.ulsterorchestra.com.

BURNS' NIGHT CONCERT

RING IN THE
NEW YEAR AND
CELEBRATE
BURNS' NIGHT
WITH THE ULSTER
ORCHESTRA'S
FABULOUS
BURNS' NIGHT
CELEBRATION
FEATURING
EDDI READER

DATE:
SAT 25 JAN 2014
VENUE:
WATERFRONT HALL, BELFAST
TIME:
7.45 PM
TICKETS:
£8 - £25
BOX OFFICE:
028 90 24 6609

Following the success of Burns' Night celebrations in the past, we are delighted to partner with the Ulster-Scots Agency to bring you a traditional evening of music and spectacle featuring acclaimed Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader,

our very own Dan Gordon and a host of special guests.

Join us in celebrating the spirit of Burns, his beloved homeland and our shared Ulster-Scots heritage.

BOX OFFICE 028 90 24 6609

ULSTERORCHESTRA.COM



Ulster-Scots Place to Visit Milford, Co Armagh - Birthplace of an Ulster-Scot legacy

By Frank Cox

Outside Armagh lies the village of Milford. You can get a glimpse of it as you pass, heading south-west from the ancient city, along the A3 towards Monaghan. A couple of rows of red-bricked houses are visible, briefly, from the main road.

However, that short snapshot does not do justice to the McCrums, part of whose legacy is Milford itself.

One of the most remarkable, forward-thinking and inventive Ulster-Scot families, the McCrums seem to have had their origins on the Isle of Islay, and were a part of the Clan MacDonald.

They came over before the Battle of the Boyne, first to Antrim probably, and then made their way to Armagh (there is a William McCrum recorded living in the Tynan/Middletown area as early as 1670).

Two of his great grandsons, William and John, arrived into the townland of Kennedys, just outside Armagh, around 1808. They were farmers, but with that vision of the future, that was part of the DNA of the family, they saw the potential of the burgeoning linen trade.

Flax was grown widely in the area and William (1785-1879) is credited with introducing spinning by the dry process into Ireland. He also built the first row of houses, Hill Street, for his workers, which would eventually grow to become the village of Milford.

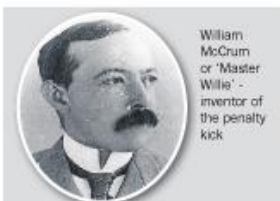
As Presbyterians, the McCrums were instilled with that strong work ethos their faith encapsulates. William's son, Robert Garmany McCrum (1827-1915), followed in his father's footsteps, establishing a mill to manufacture the linen. He, too, showed that inventive and forward-thinking flair the family had.

His home, Milford House, was the first house in Ireland to have hydro-electricity. He invented a number of household items that were compatible with this new technology, including the first electric kettle. He also had the best interests of his employees at heart and treated them with respect and consideration.

RG McCrum continued the building programme, adding more houses and streets as the numbers employed in the mill increased. These houses were well constructed and are still standing as a monument to the McCrum family's philanthropy and Christian values. My own son and his family live in one of them, built around 1836. There was careful planning and structure to the development of this new 'model' village. A school was included for the education of the young. Recreation was mainly on the village green where the sports of cricket and football were encouraged. Amateur drama was a popular pastime and source of winter entertainment in the village. The McCrums were not 'stuck up' or aloof from their community, and they played a very active role in organising and participating in such activities.

RG McCrum's son William (1865-1932) - or 'Master Willie' as he was known - was to prove himself to be probably the most famous inventor from this fascinating family, bequeathing to the world a sporting initiative that has brought tears of joy and sadness to millions - the penalty kick. 'Master Willie', as he was known, had little interest in the family business, preferring to spend much of his time playing the tables in Monte Carlo. But, when he was home, he was heavily involved with his local football team, Milford FC, as a player - mostly their goalkeeper - and sometimes referee of the matches which were played on the village green.

By 1890 the fledgling association football



William McCrum or 'Master Willie' - inventor of the penalty kick

It was in an effort to penalise such ungentlemanly and unsporting behaviour that he devised his penalty kick.

was still only finding its feet and the rules of the game were fairly loose. A forward, breaking through in front of goal, could be fouled and brought down unceremoniously, with no sanction against the offenders. It was in an effort to penalise such ungentlemanly and unsporting behaviour that he devised his penalty kick.

That year, the Co Armagh village had the honour of witnessing the first ever penalty being taken. He proposed that the Football Association should adopt the penalty and incorporate it into the game. Initially they laughed at him and his ridiculous idea. But the seed was planted and the following year William McCrum's brainchild was written into the rulebook by the International Football Association Board - Rule No 13 - unlikely for some!

Meanwhile Willie's younger sister Harriette

(1867-1951) had no intention of being overshadowed by the merfolk of the McCrum family. Her father arranged for her to be privately educated at home. Her resulting qualifications included fluency in Russian, Japanese and German. These were remarkable choices of languages, when you consider the role those nations played in shaping the world throughout the 20th century!

Reflecting her family's caring attitude to their workers, she famously wrote to Josef Stalin, advising him on the importance of welfare and education of his people. The dictator was so impressed, he answered her personally. Harriette's vision of the future also included equal say for women in the affairs of state. She founded the Irish Suffrage Movement and campaigned tirelessly for the rights of women.

The McCrum family have left an indelible footprint behind. They used their wealth to help their neighbours, friends and workers. After the Wall Street crash of 1927, the family fortune was hugely eroded. Harriette, however, continued to look out for the welfare of her family's employees.

In 1947, the Northern Bank decided to sell off the Milford houses to the highest bidder. This would have resulted in many of the tenants being evicted. Harriette, then in her 80s, stormed into the bank manager's office. Although the ensuing conversation was not recorded or written down for posterity, the old lady came out on top, having forced the bank to change its mind. The sitting tenants were to be given first option to buy their own homes. Many of them did.

Today the village of Milford stands as a proud testament to a truly great Ulster-Scot family. A family that was always ahead of its time. A family that recognised and practised the important values of compassion and consideration for their fellow man.

Information

Milford House Museum and William McCrum Park at No 57 William Street are two popular visitor attractions in Co Armagh.

Milford House was the wonder of its age, the most technologically advanced in 19th century Ireland. It was the seat of the McCrum family, one of Ireland's premier linen manufacturing dynasties and later home to the Manor House School.

Visitors to the museum can discover the fascinating world of this extraordinary family. The collections include wonderful family possessions, 17th century old master paintings, fine Georgian and Victorian furniture and Manor House School collections. The house also holds resources to aid family history research. The William McCrum Park, situated across the street from the Milford House Museum, is what makes Milford world famous as the home of the penalty kick.

In 1890 this is where William McCrum (1865-1932) invented the penalty kick rule and in doing so revolutionised the world of sport. There are information panels and a bust of Mr McCrum by DP Pettigrew.

Website: www.milfordhouse.org.uk

Address: Milford Buildings Preservation Trust,
48 Hill Street Milford, Co. Armagh BT60 3PB

Telephone: 028 3752 5467

Christmas fair for Raphoe...

The Raphoe Heritage Project is running its annual family-orientated Christmas fair in the Diamond in Raphoe on Saturday December 7.

The free event, which runs from 12 to 5pm, will include a visit from Santa, a living crib and choir singing.

The Ulster-Scots Agency will have a marquee at this well attended event to incorporate a selection of Ulster-Scots activities into the overall programme for the one-day Christmas event.

Activities will include workshops of highland dancing, piping, drumming and language, storytelling, sampling of traditional foods including fudge and oatcake and Ulster-Scots music.

Visitors can pop along to the marquee from noon to try an Ulster-Scots musical instrument, learn some highland dancing steps and speak or listen to Ulster-Scots language.

From 2.30pm the Alistair Scott Ceilidh Band will perform and people of all ages will be invited to join in and enjoy the music and dance.



With crafts + bake sales all day plus family events from 12+ including Santa, Living Crib, Storytelling, Choir Singing and Music and Dance from the Ulster-Scots Agency





(Left) Unidentified soldier, (Right) Sergeant Francis Ernest McCann, 107th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (identified by David Morrow)

The launch of the Castleton Lanterns exhibition in Red Barn Gallery took place on Thursday October 3 2013. The exhibition included lantern slide images of men of Castleton Church, York Road, Belfast who served in the Great War, and ran across Remembrance Day until Friday November 15 2013.

In April, a box of old lantern slides was found in the organ loft of Alexandra Presbyterian Church, Belfast. The images were of soldiers and sailors in First World War uniforms and were taken by the famous Belfast photographer Alex. R. Hogg.

The committee minutes of Castleton Church state that in 1918 Mr Hogg was asked to put together a lantern slide exhibition 'of our men at the front' which was to be shown on December 16 1918. Tickets for the lantern slide show were sent to the families of serving men.

Unfortunately the slides were not named, and Alexandra Presbyterian Church have been attempting to identify the men in the slides. To date, more than 20 men have been identified but there are many more faces to put names to.

And Red Barn Gallery has stepped in to help the project attract a wider audience, to enable the families to see their ancestors' images and to ask the people of Belfast to visit to aid in the identification of the men.

The importance of finding the families of the men is demonstrated by some of the stories being told.

One such story is that of Francis Ernest McCann and James McCann. Francis served in the Royal Army Medical Corps while James served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. On July 1 1916 (The Somme), Lance Corporal James McCann was killed. James is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial and his photo was listed in the *Belfast Telegraph* when he died. This enabled

the identification of James as slide number 58. David Morrow, a reader of the Castleton Lanterns blog, got in touch to tell us that these men were his relatives and was able to identify Francis Ernest McCann as slide number 5 and provide a photo to confirm.

Francis was married in 1916 to Sarah Baird Crossan, survived the war and went on to have children. He died in 1937 of cardiac failure having suffered from bronchial problems as a result of being gassed in the trenches.

During the Belfast Blitz of April 1941, Francis' wife Sarah and two of their daughters were sadly killed in Glasgow Street. One daughter survives today. David was also able to confirm that slide number 58 was James McCann as suggested, evidenced by his treasured family photos.

David supplied a letter written by James' friend James Magill who wrote to his mother Mary to tell her how her son had died and how he had received a proper burial.

Another Royal Inniskilling Fusilier, the letter writer James Magill had been wounded in France, and the *Belfast Telegraph* had printed his photograph. We were then able to identify the man who wrote the letter James Magill, as slide number 73. James Magill survived the war.

Karen O'Rawe, project manager of Castleton Lanterns, said: "The example of James Magill, Francis Ernest McCann and James McCann demonstrate just how closely connected all the Castleton Lanterns men were. They were brothers, best friends, pals and colleagues."

"But it's important to find their stories and tell them; to understand their lives and remember them, coming up to the anniversary of the start of the Great War. It is sad to hear the stories of those who were lost or wounded beside those who lived and flourished and I'm sure the families who gathered to watch the lantern slide show in 1918 must have felt something similar."

"It is easy to forget how much these families gave up, how a whole generation of young men was lost and how much the community needs to remember not only the sacrifice of those who died, but also the sacrifice of those who lived."

Castleton Lanterns aims to identify C



An as of yet unidentified soldier

Can you help identify these unknown heroes?



Slide No. 22. Rifleman Henry McKnight, 15th (North Belfast) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, also Machine Gun Corps. Awarded the Military Medal



Slide 58: Lance-Corporal James McCann, 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (identified by David Morrow)

(Left) Lan
Royal Inn

"It's important to find their stories and tell them; to understand their lives and remember them, coming up to the anniversary of the start of the Great War"

- Karen O'Rawe, project manager of Castleton Lanterns

ns community project Great War servicemen



(Left) Lance Corporal John Houston, Royal Highlanders (Black Watch), completed Officer training as part of Belfast University Contingent then Royal Irish Rifles.
(Middle) Possible Second Lieutenant William Fraser, Royal Highlanders (Black Watch).
(Right) Unidentified Soldier



(Left) Unknown Soldier. (Right) Sapper Thomas Robinson, 150th Field Company, Royal Engineers. (Identified by Faye Rose)



Lance-Corporal James Magill, 2nd Battalion, Skelling Fusiliers. (Right) Unidentified soldier



Above: Unidentified



David Morrow, Carolyn Fullerton and Karen O'Rawe at the Castleton Lanterns exhibition

If you can identify any of the men in the Lantern images please contact Karen O'Rawe on 078 6315 8595, email karen@castletonlanterns.co.uk or visit the website at www.castletonlanterns.co.uk. Meanwhile if you have a story about your family and the Great War please send it to info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.

A celebration of our youth and our rich cultural heritage

The Donegal Gathering Peace Proms in Letterkenny, hosted by the Ulster-Scots Agency in association with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland (CBOI), proved an absolutely superb event in every respect - an evening brimming with entertainment, emotion and unexpected treats.

Two shows took place at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology, when the capacity audiences were enthralled by the rousing music that evoked a journey through a rich cultural heritage in a resounding celebration of youth and talent.

And the standing ovations, cheers and tumultuous applause at the end of both performances were richly deserved. The hugely successful collaboration, which was instigated at the suggestion of Agency chairman Tom Scott, was a monumental choral and orchestral production.

At times you wanted to dance, you wanted to sing, you were filled with pride. At times you felt almost moved to tears by the power of the music. It was simply impossible to leave the Donegal Gathering Peace Proms without feeling uplifted, renewed and full of hope for a brighter future."

It featured choirs made up of 800 primary school children from Donegal and 35 pipers and drummers from the RSPBNI and Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, as well as instrumental soloists, dancers and the 100 members who make up the CBOI. Work on the project had begun at the start of this year when organisers began choosing a repertoire which would celebrate Ulster-Scots culture and heritage. Once chosen, the music had to be specially arranged for symphony orchestra, choirs, soloists and pipe corps. Several internationally-acclaimed composers were chosen for the task, including Los Angeles-based Brian Byrne who is an IFTA winner and Golden Globe nominee. The musical arrangements which were the culmination of months of work

were inspirational and powerfully evocative of a rich and vibrant cultural heritage. The members of the RSPBNI and Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band gave majestic and moving performances of *Airs de Pontevreda*, *Amazing Grace*, *Mairi's Wedding* and *Highland Cathedral* among others. Violin soloist Patricia Treacy gave stunning performances of slow airs including *I'm A-Down for Jack o' Johnnie* and *Ashken Farewell*, while Patrick Martin gave hauntingly brilliant performances on Uilleann pipes. Ulster-Scots and Irish dancers Sinead Cook, Chloe McIlhinney and Kineshia McGittigan sparked on the night, while Emmanuel Lawler wowed the audience with beautiful

renditions of *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose* and *Will Ye Go Lassie Go*. The Donegal Peace Choir completed the celebration with uplifting, energetic renditions of showstoppers including *Anything is Possible* and *Don't Stop the Music*. These multiple elements were magically held together by the legendary conductor Gearóid Grant. Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, who was among the concert-goers, said: "At times you wanted to dance, you wanted to sing, you were filled with pride. At times you felt almost moved to tears by the power of the music. It was simply impossible to leave the Donegal Gathering Peace Proms without feeling

uplifted, renewed and full of hope for a brighter future." Special thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency who sponsored the Donegal Gathering Peace Proms, and to the CBOI's many individual and corporate sponsors especially Hilco UK and the Goodman Foundation. Thanks to government sponsors especially the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and to everyone else who helped to make the event such a success, especially Donegal Gathering chairman Paddy Harte; principals, teachers and choir directors from all the participating schools; and staff and volunteers at the Ulster-Scots Agency, CBOI, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and an Anán Theatre.



'Pat and Plain'

By Dan Gordon

Talkin', listenin', singin' and dancin' ... that's what Ulster folk were born to do and have always done.

So when I got the chance to write some plays that's what I filled them with – sounds and stories, songs and skipping. Past times that were tough and past times that were good, memories long and stories great. Some things we need to talk about and some things we must never forget.

Our grannies and grandads and their grannies and grandads have tales to tell and excitement to share. Hundreds of youngsters and teachers – thousands of families and friends have sung and danced and yarned together since we started our journey. Mighty ships and deadly wars – spinning and weaving – playing and building – working and learning and making our way in the world.

Leading the way quietly, steadily, calmly and carefully, celebrating and teaching, learning and growing. Our stories don't stop and neither does our need to hear them and tell them. So that's what we did and we shouted from the roof tops – from Dungannon to Down and Enniskillen to Antrim and everywhere in between.

'Pat & Plain' – means straight to the point – honest and open – fair and forthright and we were.

So thank you to those who played their parts and to those who have yet to take theirs I say come on in and sit by the hearth and we'll share a tale that'll gladden your hearts.



'Pat & Plain' art competition winners revealed



Philip Crawford (left), creative learning co-ordinator at the Linc Theatre, with Molly, Ellie, principal Maureen Smyth and director of their school production Nanette Eakin during their visit to Nicholson Bass

In 2009 the Ulster-Scots Agency commissioned a series of six plays, 'Pat & Plain' to be written by Dan Gordon.

The project was developed in partnership with the Linc Theatre and ran in 36 schools across Ulster. All six plays have now been completed.

The titles of the plays are *The Boat Factory* (Belfast Shipyard), *Kissing the Shuttle* (the Linen Industry), *A Lemonade Bottle for Clabberin' Hitler* (The Blitz), *Sit There For The Present* (Education), *Scahdies Up The Chimney* (World War II Evacuees) and *She Was Alright When She Left Us* (The Titanic).

As part of the Pat & Plain project, participating schools entered an art competition to design the front cover for the Director's Copy of the script.

Winner of the competition for the final script, *She Was Alright When She Left Us*, was Molly McCorkell from Cumber Claudy Primary School in Claudy, Co Londonderry. On November 7 Molly and friend Ellie, accompanied by principal Maureen Smyth and the director of their production, Nanette Eakin, visited Mullusk-based printers Nicholson Bass (who celebrated their 75th anniversary in November) to see her design coming off the press. Congratulations Molly!

Congratulations also to Rachel Hunter from Spa Primary School, who was selected as runner up, and her artwork will be used on the downloadable Actor's Copy of the script of *She Was Alright When She Left Us*.

To see Rachel's artwork, for more information or to download the six scripts, click on www.ulsterscotsagency.com/education/pat-and-plain-drama-series. Hand copies of all six scripts (which include a CD sound track) are also available to schools and community groups in Northern Ireland and the Republic – contact the Ulster-Scots Agency by emailing info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk for more information.

Presentation of Fiddle Certificates to County Monaghan School



The Central School in Castleblayney welcomed Mrs Hilary Singleton to present certificates to the children who were successful in the fiddle examinations in June 2013.

Through weekly tuition with Keith Lytle the children achieved certificates for Steps, grade two and grade four.

The partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency has flourished over recent years as the children have also

participated in history workshops promoting their heritage, highland dancing and drama workshops, which have helped the children celebrate and understand their rich heritage and culture.

he support and involvement of the Agency has been greatly appreciated and is essential in the border counties.

The Central School is now looking forward to continued support from the Ulster-Scots Agency through participation with the Ulster-Scots Flagship Programme.

Back row: David Hill, Leah Harrison, Mrs I Kirkland (principal), Mrs H Singleton, Mr K Lytle, Jane Hill. Front row: James Wilson, Jason Nicholl, Kyle Dickson, Annabel Armstrong and Sophie Kinghan

Eight-year-old Miah makes highland dancing history



Eight-year-old dancer Miah Ng has made her own little piece of history this year.

Miah is the youngest highland dancer in Northern Ireland to have reached Premier standard, and she auditioned successfully to dance at the Walled City Tattoo in Londonderry in August.

In addition to highland dancing, Miah also dances ballet, where she can be seen in forthcoming Christmas production of 'The Music Box' at the Waterfront Hall on December 20 and 21 (for more information contact Tillie Hay on 90581053). Miah acknowledges the Ulster-Scots Agency for its funding support for the recent highland dance project for the dance group Bright Lights from east Belfast.

The achievements of 11 different groups have been recognised at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards held in Londonderry's Waterside Theatre.

The evening began with a reception followed by the presentation of Awards and a musical concert. Awards were presented to:

- Clooney Estate Residents Association
- Newbuildings Youth Club
- Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association
- Mourne Valley Cultural Association
- Caw Nelson Drive Action Group
- Small Steps Adult Education Group
- Ardaraiff Historical & Cultural Society
- South East Fermanagh Foundation
- Kilcronaghan Community Association
- Cookstown North Community Group
- Raphoe Pipe Band

In addition, two special awards were presented - one for Teenage Involvement was presented to South East Fermanagh Foundation while a special award for language was presented to Raphoe Pipe Band.

The event also recognised the success of the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, which is made up of children aged between 9 and 15. The band competed for the first time in August at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow and at the North West Pipe Band Championships in Portlough.

During October they also performed as part of the Donegal Gathering Peace Proms - all in all a excellent achievement for a group created by the Ulster-Scots Agency in August 2012.

The Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band performed following the presentation of the awards and received a standing ovation. The evening was brought to a close with a fantastic performance by Ulster-Scots traditional group 'Kask'.

• Applications for Summer Schools in 2014 will open early in the new year. Groups interested in obtaining further information should contact Derek Reaney on (00 353) 74 917 3876 or email reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education; Dáire McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht; Val O'Kelly, Board Member and Trevor Wilson, Board Member present Joy Wilson; Trevor Watson and Kirsty Kennell, South East Fermanagh Foundation with a Summer School Achievement Award at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education; Dáire McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht; Val O'Kelly, Board Member and Trevor Wilson, Board Member present Rose White, Caw Nelson Drive Action Group with a Summer School Achievement Award at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education; Dáire McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht; Val O'Kelly, Board Member and Trevor Wilson, Board Member present Yvonne Magee and Cynthia Parke, Raphoe Pipe Band with a Special Award for Language and Achievement Award at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education; Dáire McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht; Val O'Kelly, Board Member and Trevor Wilson, Board Member present Karen Taylor from Clooney with a Summer School Achievement Award at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards

Youth groups honoured at awards night



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education; Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht; Val O'Kelly, Board Member and Trevor Wilson; Board Member present Cynthia Parke Raphoe Pipe Band with a Special Award for Language at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education; Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht; Val O'Kelly, Board Member and Trevor Wilson, Board Member with Andy McGregor, Band Leader at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards

The Ulster-Scots Youth Awards were held on Saturday November 16 in the Waterside Theatre, Londonderry.



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education, Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, Val O'Kelly, Board member and Trevor Wilson, Board member present Joy Wilson, Trevor Watson and James Harte from South East Fermanagh Foundation with their Special Award for Working with Teenagers at the Ulster-Scots Youth Awards



Jim Millar, Director of Language and Education, Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, Val O'Kelly, Board member and Trevor Wilson, Board member present Carol Robinson from Mourne Valley Cultural Association with a Summer School Achievement Award

RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLOUGHLIN



Pumpkin and Lentil Soup with cinnamon croutons and crème fraîche

The story:

Pumpkins were one of those American icons that amazed us during our first few autumns in the United States. The pumpkin patches with their bright orange gourds were a delight to the eyes amongst the turning leaves and completely unusual to us. At Halloween in County Armagh, we as children had to scoop the insides of turnips out to make lanterns, which was very hard work indeed. We only wished we had these wonderful soft pumpkins instead!

This classic American autumnal vegetable soup encompasses New World flavours of pumpkin yet conjures up many memories with my Ulster taste buds and reminds me of a combination of warm gingerbread and puréed root vegetables. The sweet and earthy flavors in this soup will warm your heart and soul as the cooler weather sets in.

Many families in America also use a recipe like this at their annual Thanksgiving feast, which takes place toward the end of November, and my hope is that perhaps you may enjoy this also as comfort food on a cold night!



Pumpkin & lentil soup ingredients (serves 6):

- 1 medium onion (finely chopped)
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. fresh root ginger (peeled and grated)
- 7 oz. (1 cup) red lentils (rinsed and soaked)
- 2 ½ pints (5 cups) vegetable stock
- 1 lb. peeled pumpkin or a 16-oz. can of pumpkin purée
- 4 oz. (½ cup) soft brown sugar
- 1 tsp. fine sea salt
- dash of freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream

Cinnamon croutons ingredients:

- six ¼" slices of rustic baguette
- 3 Tbsp. butter (room temperature)
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
- ¼ tsp. cinnamon

Garnish ingredients:

- 3-4 Tbsp. crème fraîche (to garnish)
- pinch of kosher salt
- squeeze of lemon juice

How to make it:

1. Soak the lentils for a few hours beforehand to remove any foreign materials.
2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan on medium heat and sauté the onions until fragrant and translucent.
3. Add the fresh root ginger and sauté for a few more minutes with the onions.
4. Add the stock, lentils, pumpkin, brown sugar, salt, pepper, cinnamon, and nutmeg, stirring well.
5. Bring to a boil and then reduce the heat. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally until the lentils are soft.
6. Purée the soup with a food mill or liquefy in a blender.
7. Transfer the soup to a saucepan and slowly heat through. Stir in the cream and taste to adjust seasoning.
8. To make the cinnamon croutons, preheat the oven to 350°. Blend the butter, cinnamon, and brown sugar together then spread over the bread slices.
9. Bake for 5-7 minutes until crispy then chop into nuggets with a knife.
10. Prepare the garnish by blending a little kosher salt with lemon juice, mixing them into the crème fraîche.
11. Serve the soup in warmed bowls with a dollop of the crème fraîche mixture and a small handful of croutons.

Frank Ferguson: The Bishop's Wife, The Ballads and the Firelighters

For those who saw the recent BBC Northern Ireland programme *Stumpie's Brae*, a marvellously gruesome tale of horror and revenge, they might be surprised to know that it owes its origins to two Church of Ireland bishops.

The first was William Alexander (1824-1911), bishop of Derry and Raphoe, who was husband of Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), author of the original poem *The Legend of Stumpie's Brae*. Alexander was an avid collector of local stories and tales, and used them to great effect in her own writing. *Stumpie's Brae* near Lifford in Co Donegal provided the beginnings of a tale:

Heard ye no tell o' 'Stumpie's Brae'?
Sit doon, sit doon, young fereen,
I'll mak yer flesh creep the day,
An' yer hair stan' on enn.
Young man it's hard to strive wi' sin
An' the hardest strife o' a'
Is where the greed o' gain creeps in,
An' drives God's grace awa'.

It is very strange to think that this poem with its ghoulish tale about two cottage dwellers who murder a traveller for his pack, is the same person who wrote the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *There is a Green Hill*



Far Away. Though born in Dublin, her ear for the local Ulster-Scots idiom is very keen and her familiarity with the traditional ballad style very adept. Indeed, it is Alexander's knowledge of the literary tradition of the ballad, as much as her awareness of local folklore and legends that highlights an often undervalued connection between Ulster and Scotland - the role of collectors of ballad and song in shaping literary traditions. It is arguable that without an awareness of the ballad tradition of the British Isles that this poem would never have been written.

Alexander is a very clever poet, not merely telling her story deftly, but framing it within the traditional ballad style - exactly the same as Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Both poems might owe their origin, not only to the folk traditions of Great Britain, but to an event that occurred in a country house in England sometime in the 1750s. There, a young clergyman, who was destined to become Anglican Bishop of Dromore in 1782, Thomas Percy (1729-1811), noticed the maids were using a manuscript book to light the fire. Intrigued by this, he asked for the book,

and discovered that it was a handwritten collection of poems and songs penned sometime in the 1600s. His curiosity grew and this made him research the book's contents more deeply, and eventually publish a much more extensive collection of English and Scottish ballads in *The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* in 1765.

The book was celebrated by poets like William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge as an inspirational collection of national poetry. Robert Burns claimed that his favourite song was Percy's own *O Nancy Wilt thou Gang with Me*.

In Ulster, Percy was praised, in a similar way to Robert Burns, as a champion of the literature of the common people. Although titled a collection of English poems, the anthology has a large representation of Scots language poetry in it. After moving to Co Down, he gathered around him a network of poets and writers, undoubtedly the most significant northern coterie at that time, many of whom were steeped in the Ulster-Scots tradition such as William Hamilton Drummond, Thomas Stott and Hugh Porter. This leaves Ulster-Scots aficionados with a difficult question. If one were to ask who was the most influential Ulster-Scots writer of the 18th century in Ireland? The answer might be a strange one: Thomas Percy, an English bishop who changed the literary landscape of Britain with a few old scraps of paper!

More successes for Johnston School of Highland Dancing

The Johnston School of Highland Dancing enjoyed a successful Ulster Championships in the Everglades Hotel in Londonderry, where Michelle herself retained the Ulster Adult title for the seventh consecutive year.

The Johnston School has continued at the fore, with eight-year-old Leah McIlwrath from Comber - who only started competitive dancing in March - securing 10 overall trophies and countless medals in the beginners' category. Of those 10 trophies, three were won against tough Scottish competitors at Scottish competitions. Leah practices with the Johnston School of Highland Dancing twice a week in Moneyrea. Even before she embarked on her competitive quest she was highlighted and crowned as the most promising dancer of the school at their 2012 annual display. Teacher Michelle Johnston says she is very fortunate to teach such talents as Leah, adding: "The aim of highland dancing is not necessarily to win competitions, but to enjoy the dances, to build confidence and to make friends."

"Some of the steps can be challenging at times, so having a positive approach to practising and improving is essential. Leah clearly shows in every class that she loves highland dancing and is therefore a joy to teach. Having such a supportive family also encourages her."

Leah is due to move up to the next competitive category of novice, and hopefully this will lead to more success in the future.

Meanwhile plans are well advanced for the next annual highland dance competition at Glenburn Methodist Church Hall in



THE JOHNSTON SCHOOL GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: Pictured back row (from left) following their recent success at The Ulster Championships are - Michelle Johnston (Ulster Adult champion and teacher of the Johnston School), and 13-15 years section prize-winners Sarah Graham (third), Ellie Andrews (runner-up) and Nina Robinson (sixth). Front (from left) - 12 years and under prize-winners Rebekah Keery (runner-up), Sarah McCreery (Ulster champion) and Helen Parker (sixth).

Castlereagh next March.

The competition was hosted by the Johnston School of Highland Dancing for the first time last March at the St John the Evangelist Church of Ireland, when more than 80

dancers travelled from dancing schools across the province.

That event was a huge success, and organiser and dance teacher Michelle Johnston is inviting groups to get in touch to



Ulster Champion Sarah McCreery



Leah McIlwrath from Comber picked up an astonishing 10 trophies on the day

register their interest in attending the 2014 event.

She can be contacted on **07809 695 205** or by emailing johnston_dance@hotmail.co.uk.

A fascinating portrayal of our Scotch Irish in America

The Ulster-Scots Agency and Colourpoint books hosted a spectacular event at the Linen Hall Library in Belfast to officially launch *Kith and Kin, The Continuing Legacy of the Scotch Irish in America* by Alister McReynolds.

The Down and Out Bluegrass Band performed as guests arrived and the evening began with a wine and cheese reception giving guests of Alister, Colourpoint and the Agency an opportunity to mingle.

Malcolm Johnston, director at Colourpoint, welcomed guests to the launch and introduced Jonathan Bardon, historian and author best known for his critically acclaimed text, *A History of Ulster*.

Jonathan introduced Alister and congratulated him on his most recent publication, a

fantastic piece of work with great references for the reader who wishes to learn more.

Jonathan also congratulated Colourpoint on their input into the publication with special thanks to Malcolm Johnston, who sourced all of the imagery for the publication.

Author Alister McReynolds thanked Colourpoint, the Agency, his wife Eileen and sons Michael and Alex. He was also delighted to welcome his former English and History teachers to the launch and thanked them for giving him an interest in history and indeed writing.

Alister spoke briefly about how the lives of various individuals are portrayed in *Kith and Kin*; everything from frontier scouts who were poets to scientists who discovered nylon and helped Charles Darwin, to musicians like the King - Elvis himself.



Author Alister McReynolds, Malcolm Johnston, Tom Scott (chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency) and Jonathan Bardon (historian and author)

Tom Scott, chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency, thanked Alister and Colourpoint for producing such a splendid publication and encouraged guests to buy a copy (*Alister*, of course, was available to sign their copies). He also thanked the Linen Hall Library staff for enabling the Agency to host the special event for Alister, and he brought the

formalities to a close by inviting guests to enjoy more fantastic music by Down and Out. *Kith and Kin* constitutes a genuinely fresh and original contribution to the Ulster-Scots story. The book is a handsomely produced, well illustrated and highly informative publication. It is available from all good bookstores at £9.99.

WEANS' WURLD

Ingredients:

- 4oz butter
- 2lb sugar
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 large tin condensed milk

METHOD

- Place all ingredients in a large saucepan and heat gently until melted
- When mixture starts to froth up sides of saucepan, remove from heat
- Pour into shallow square greased tin
- Cool
- Cut into squares

Recipe
Tasty
Fudge!



PUZZLE CORNER

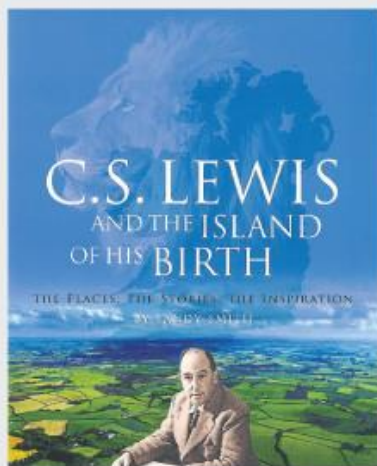
Ulster-Scots Word Search

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

Find these Ulster Scots Words:

1. Fadge (Potato Bread)
2. Dreech (Wearisome)
3. Hoose (House)
4. Een (Eyes)
5. Wheen (Several)
6. Fernest (Opposite)
7. Licht (Light)
8. Flaff (Flap)

COMPETITION RESULTS...



Congratulations to Olive Sloane in Magherafelt, Mr. J. C. Irons in Ballymena and Ruth Waddell in Banbridge - your copy of C. S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth is in the post!

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION

It's Christmas panto season....

The Ulster-Scots Agency has two family passes to ***Sleeping Beauty*** at the Grand Opera House in Belfast to give away!

The pantomime starts today, Saturday November 30 and runs until Sunday January 19 2014. The family passes we are offering as prizes are for the performance on Wednesday December 18 at 19.00 (Each family pass will admit two adults and two children). More information is available at www.goh.co.uk/sleeping-beauty.

For your chance to win: Simply email competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with 'Christmas Panto' in the subject line, providing your name and address. **Closing date: Noon on Monday December 9 2013.**

Note: Family passes will be posted to each winner first class and the Grand Opera House will be advised of the two winner's surnames for the booking memorandum.

