



## Fair Faa Ye play in Culnady proves a 'Class Act'



More than 100 schools  
have enjoyed  
performances of the  
Ulster-Scots play *Fair  
Faa Ye*

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Ulster-Scots sights and sounds during  
Westminster showcase - **Page 5**



Eddi Reader wows a packed audience at the  
Waterfront - **Page 7**



Bright Lights dancers join in Monte Carlo Grand  
Prix winner celebrations - **Page 11**



## Fair faa ye



Welcome to the March 2014 edition of the Ulster-Scot.

It has been a busy few months since we published the January edition of The Ulster-Scot. We hosted a spectacular Burns Concert at the Waterfront Hall featuring Eddi Reader - thanks to the Ulster Orchestra and everyone who made this event such an outstanding success! Congratulations to the Markethill Ulster-Scots Dancers and the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band who performed excellently on the night! More about this on Page 7. In February the Agency hosted an Ulster-Scots Showcase event at Westminster - another highly successful event. For more information and to see photographs from the event in London see Page 5. The Ulster-Scots Agency is currently seeking applications for Ulster-Scots Festivals between May 1 and February 28 2015. To find out more see Page 11. We also have an update on Ulster-Scots Summer Schools in 2014 in this edition - more on Page 16. Hopefully everyone will find something of interest.

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency



## Presentation of the Ulster Covenant Artwork

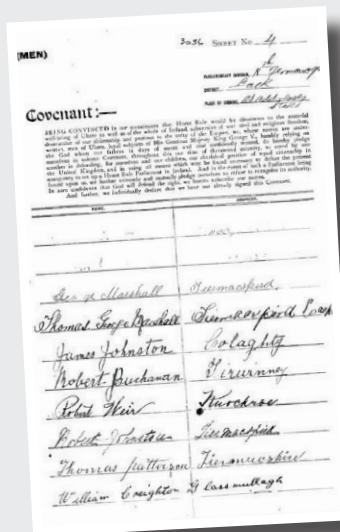
A copy of the Ulster Covenant Artwork has been presented to Rev Alan Irwin, rector of Lack Colaghty Parish Church (right, below), by David Keys from the North Fermanagh Ulster-Scots Association.

The Ulster Covenant was signed at Colaghty Parish Church on September 28 1912.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland ([www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)) holds the archive of the Ulster Unionist Council, which contains just under half a million original signatures and addresses of the men who signed the Ulster Covenant, and of the women who signed the parallel Declaration.

In total, the Covenant was signed by 237,368 men and the Declaration by 234,046 women.

The Ulster-Scots Agency is inviting venues where the Ulster Covenant was signed, and which have not already registered to receive one of the framed pieces of artwork, to contact them at [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk). Alternatively they can complete the following proforma and return it to the marketing team at Ulster-Scots Agency, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG by Friday April 18.



### ULSTER COVENANT ARTWORK PROFORMA

Name of Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of the above named venue, I

[insert name] can confirm that we wish to receive a free Ulster Covenant Centenary artwork from the Ulster-Scots Agency for display in our premises.

(Signature)

(Position)



## The Ulster-Scot

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Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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

## We're on the move...

The Ulster-Scots Agency has relocated from its former home in Great Victoria Street to the Cathedral Quarter, the cultural centre of Belfast.

The Ulster-Scots Community Network and Ulster-Scots Language Society have also moved to The Corn Exchange at 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG.

Plans are already under way for a new Ulster-Scots visitor centre on the ground floor of the Corn Exchange building, creating an area for Ulster-Scots heritage and culture to be showcased and promoted within the cultural heart of Belfast.

The Ulster-Scots visitor centre will also include lecture space for educational talks, internet and research facilities for visitors interested in researching their

ancestry or Ulster-Scots history and exhibition space.

It's hoped that in developing this facility, the overall visitor experience for community groups and tourists will be enhanced.

For updates on the Ulster-Scots visitor centre click on [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/about-us/](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/about-us/) visitors-centre or check future editions of The Ulster-Scot for information.

## CLICK ON THIS...



For details of what's on check out our events calendar -  
[www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events)

For Ulster-Scots news - [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/language](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/language)

To sign up for the Ulster-Scots E-Newsletter - visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/) register your details and receive updates on the areas that you are most interested.

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

## WORD OF THE ISSUE

*Birl*

Meaning:  
To whirl around



# Culture Minister officially launches ground-breaking new education project



Pictured at the launch of the education project in Belfast are (from left) Dr Frank Ferguson, University of Ulster; Dr Kathryn White, University of Ulster; Dr Bill Smith, chairman of MAGUS; Richard Barnett, University of Ulster vice-chancellor; Professor Linda Clarke, University of Ulster; Belfast deputy lord mayor Alderman Christopher Stalford

## Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín has officially launched a ground-breaking Ulster-Scots education project at the MAC in Belfast.

The Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster-Scots (MAGUS) Academy has allocated £370,000 to the project.

It has appointed the University of Ulster to deliver it to schools (the UU will work in partnership with Queen's University in Belfast, the University of Glasgow, the Ulster Historical Foundation, the Sorbonne Nouvelle and several other key consultants in the field). The ambitious project is now well in process of developing a range of Ulster-Scots teaching materials suitable for the post-primary sector and compatible with the Northern Ireland curriculum.

As part of this process, the project team are creating an online Ulster-Scots academic library of at least 100 digitised texts. This will establish one of the most important online collections of free-to-access literary and historical texts in the British Isles, and

demonstrate the significance of Ulster-Scots literature, history, heritage and culture to a global audience.

In addition, the project is conducting a province wide survey of Ulster-Scots archives, hosting conferences and writing competitions and publishing two anthologies of literary and historical texts.

Minister Carál Ní Chuilín said: "This exciting project will provide teaching materials for schools as well as for the wider public. "This and the other projects which I am funding through the Ulster-Scots Academy's Research and Development Grant Scheme will allow those who have an interest in Ulster-Scots to tap into a rich resource of materials which will broaden their interest and knowledge in this aspect of our cultural heritage."

Dr Bill Smith, chair of the Academy

Group said: "We're delighted the Minister is supporting better knowledge and understanding of our Ulster-Scots heritage. Initiatives like this are helping to build a united community, one which celebrates its diverse traditions."

University of Ulster project manager Dr Frank Ferguson said: "The Ulster-Scots dimension is something that everyone in the province can cherish as part of their cultural heritage. "The key aim of this important education project is to develop an innovative model of educational materials for all post primary children here.

"We will achieve this by working with schools and other key stakeholders to deliver Ulster-Scots materials for pupils, teachers, educationalists and the general public through workshops, talks and online projects."

## Get involved

### Project aims for schools' activities:

- Provide a range of online resources for teaching Ulster-Scots literature and history from Key Stage 3 - A level.
- Offer workshops in schools tailored to current specifications within the NI Curriculum under guidance and approval of CCEA.
- Work in partnerships with schools to develop these resources.

### First writing competition:

Participating schools will be able to enter the Ulster Scots education project's writing competition, which will:

- Promote awareness of the production of the Ulster-Scots educational materials;
- Celebrate key Ulster-Scots writers; and
- Showcase new creative writing in a range of media.

The competitions shall encourage a creative response, in whatever form, to the Ulster-Scots Education Project. The writing shall be contemporary in style and may take many forms including poetry, documentary prose, fiction, theatre, film scripts or multi-media work. The theme of the competition shall be 'Home' and will be open to pupils at Key Stage 3.

**The project team would welcome feedback from interested parties and you can contact Frank Ferguson either by emailing him at: f.ferguson@ulster.ac.uk or by writing to him at: Room B004, School of English and History, University of Ulster Coleraine campus, Cromore Road, Coleraine, Co Londonderry BT52 1SA.**

## Unsung heroes honoured in Orange Community Awards

Veteran BBC broadcaster Walter Love along with Gail Graham, who is press officer of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association's Northern Ireland branch, were among the winners at this year's Orange Institution Community Awards.

They joined a significant number of individuals, lodges and musicians who were formally acknowledged by the Loyal Order at a function in Newtownabbey's Theatre at the Mill for their community outreach and achievements over the past 12 months. Mr Love (78), who has commentated on the BBC's Twelfth of July coverage for more than 20 years, claimed the coveted Grand Master's Award, and in doing so becomes the first person to be recognised outside of the Institution in this particular category.

Mother-of-two Mrs Graham, a piper with the grade two Bleary band, was recognised for her work in writing a pipe bands column in the Orange Standard.

Congratulating all the winners and nominees, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, said: "The purpose of the Community Awards is to formally recognise those unassuming Orangemen and women - the 'unsung heroes' - for the sterling work they do in the wider community, often quietly under the radar. "While victors were declared in each of the designated categories, all of the nominees were winners in their own right and are fully deserving of our admiration.

"I would like to personally congratulate each and every one of them for being standard bearers for the Institution as well as in their own communities."



Orange Grand Master Edward Stevenson with Community Award winners Gail Graham and Walter Love MBE



# The Ulster-Scots story takes to the stage for schools across Ulster

**Over the last few months one hundred schools across Ulster have enjoyed performances of the Ulster-Scots Agency's play, *Fair Faa Ye*.**

The play, written by Jonathan Burgess and performed by the 'Class Act Drama Company', charts the Ulster-Scots story from the 17th century to the present day, explaining both the history and the language in a fun and stimulating way. Pupils were introduced to the main characters Adam, Lizzie and Mr Hamilton as well as Robert Burns, Neil Armstrong and Sir Hugh Montgomery amongst others. The interactive performance encouraged participants to learn more about Ulster's history and its linguistic diversity and the Ulster-Scots connection.

With over 5,000 children having had the opportunity to attend these most recent performances, it has increased the total audience figures since it was first presented over 6 years ago to more than 50,000.

The current run was completed in early March in Culnady Primary School, near Maghera that was attended by the playwright Jonathon Burgess as well as Jim Millar, Director of Education at the Ulster-Scots Agency who sponsored the tour. Commenting on the success of the tour, Mr Millar said: "Today marks the last of the current performances for this play and we are delighted to see the continuing enthusiasm from schools and children for a drama that reflects the true story of the Ulster-Scots tradition. It has been as successful this time around as it has been in the past."

The producer of BBC Radio Ulster's 'A Kist o Wurd's', Andrew Mattison was also present and his coverage of the performance will be aired on Sunday March 23 at 4pm.

Stephanie Kelly Quinn from Class Act Drama commented, "This play has allowed us to spread the language and history of the Ulster-Scots to a wide number of audiences including primary schools from both the maintained and controlled sector and also some schools from throughout the European Union who were part of the Comenius Project, it has been well received and we've had a great reaction wherever we've been. We're all quite emotional that this will be our last performance in this run".

Schools wishing to find out more about the play should contact the Education Department by emailing [education@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:education@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) or write to the Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG.



"This play has allowed us to spread the language and history of the Ulster-Scots to a wide number of audiences including primary schools from both the maintained and controlled sector and also some schools from throughout the European Union who were part of the Comenius Project"

-Stephanie Kelly Quinn, Class Act Drama





# Ulster-Scots showcase at Westminster

**A delegation comprising a number of organisations connected to Ulster-Scots have returned from an enjoyable day at Westminster.**

There at the invitation of North Antrim MP Ian Paisley Jnr, the purpose of the visit was to meet with MPs from Northern Ireland and Scotland and identify opportunities to strengthen the east-west dimension of our Ulster-Scots agenda.

The event in the Jubilee Room in Westminster ran from 10am to 4pm and included Ulster-Scots music, highland dance, locally sourced food from Northern Ireland and a selection of Causeway Tartan items.

It provided an opportunity for the Ulster-Scots delegates to mingle with MPs and Lords and showcase its ongoing work and discuss future opportunities.

The group which travelled to London included Ulster-Scots Agency chief executive Ian Crozier; marketing officer Catriona Holmes; Ulster Historical Foundation director Fintan Mullan; Dr Frank Ferguson from the University of Ulster; Linen Hall Library director Julie Andrews; representatives from the Ulster-Scots Community Network including Iain Carlisle, Matthew Warwick and Alan McCormick; and Michelle Johnston School of Dance highland dancers Alison Davis, Amy Gray and tutor Kirsty McAllen.

They were joined by Aubrey Irwin, head of Northern Ireland at Tourism Ireland; Michelle Shirlow at Good Food NI; Bushmills Whiskey Distillery; and representatives from Tweedy Acheson & Co, who launched the new



Causeway Tartan at the showcase.

"We were delighted to add a tourism dimension to the day and see collaboration between so many partners," Aubrey Irwin said.

"Music, dance, food, literature, tours and genealogy all make the visitor experience special, and I commend the Ulster-Scots Agency for involving us all.

"We met parliamentarians from across the UK and found them all interested in the way that Titanic Belfast, G8, UK City of Culture and Giro D'Italia were stimulating interest and changing perceptions," he added.

Martin Balmer, director of Tweedy Acheson, said: "It was a wonderful opportunity to launch of new Giant's Causeway Tartan at the Ulster-Scots reception in Westminster.

"We realised there was interest in a local tartan and it seemed timely to develop a fabric which reflected the stunning beauty of the Causeway area and celebrated the Giant's Causeway as a world heritage site.

"Tartans have always been popular and are now in vogue with many of the fashion houses because of the richness in the fabrics giving a very luxurious product.

"This particular tartan appeals to both the home market and to the diaspora no longer living in Northern Ireland as it represents a link with home and the Giant's Causeway which is of course a world renowned iconic site.

"I'm particularly pleased that some of our products are uniquely Northern Irish. For example, our tartan tie is made by Atkinsons Ties from Newtownabbey, so from design to finish, it is produced right here in Northern Ireland."

The Agency was hugely encouraged by the large number of parliamentarians who joined them for the event. They included Northern Ireland Secretary of State Theresa Villiers; Shadow Secretary Ivan Lewis; MPs Jim Shannon (Strangford), Gregory Campbell (East Londonderry), Sammy Wilson (East Antrim), Cathy Jamieson (Kilmarnock and Loudoun), Jeffrey Donaldson (Lagan Valley) and William McCrea (South Antrim), along with Lord Michael Martin, Baron Martin of Springburn, Lord Hughes of Woodside and Baron Trimble of Lisnagarvey.

Chief executive Ian Crozier said: "We would like to thank Ian Paisley MP for facilitating our visit, and all the MPs and Lords who joined us on the day and showed their support of building an east-west dimension."

## Devoted to dance

**Following the Ulster-Scots Agency's trip to Westminster, Kirsty McAllen, a highland dancer from the Michelle Johnston School of Dance, chats about her experience and tells us how her interest in highland dancing began.**

*How long have you been dancing for Kirsty and how did it all start?*

I attended ballet classes for 12 years and thoroughly enjoyed them and the opportunity to mix with others. My devotion to dance led me to take up highland dancing at the age of 11. It came about after my mum noticed an advert in the newspaper. The first dance group I attended was a local Ulster-Scots funded group; ever since my first class there I have loved highland dancing! Progression to a higher competitive level has led to me travelling further to attend classes, I now attend the Johnston School of Dancing in Moneyreagh. As I live just outside Castledawson this means I travel 80 miles to get to class and back home!



*When did you start training to become a tutor and how long did it take?*

I started preparation to become a tutor as soon as I started classes at the Johnston School in summer 2011. I attended theory classes taught by my dance teacher, Michelle Johnston once a week. I was also given the opportunity to develop in this area as Michelle encouraged me to help out with the younger dancers as much as possible; this was an aspect I thoroughly enjoyed!

*Do you enjoy being a tutor and what types of challenges do you face in that role?*

I find teaching highland dancing a very enjoyable role, it gives me the opportunity

to share and pass on my love of dancing to others. Seeing children not only improve in ability but also in confidence is very rewarding. The aspect I find challenging is ensuring I balance my work for university alongside dancing. I always try to make time to help my dance teacher Michelle out wherever I can. This could be at displays, shows, competitions or classes.

*What are your plans for the future in terms of your dancing and tutoring?*

I am currently studying Primary Education at Stranmillis University College so my plans involve using highland dancing in PE lessons and after schools clubs as much as possible. This is particularly relevant as dance is a predominant feature in the physical education aspect of the Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum. I aim to promote highland dancing in schools and ensure children are introduced to it. I also plan to continue helping out in my own dance school, as I mentioned before, this is something I really enjoy doing!

*Did you enjoy the experience of being part of the Ulster-Scots showcase at Westminster and what was the highlight of the trip for you?*

I found the experience at Westminster thoroughly enjoyable and educational. It was an amazing opportunity to not only perform for, but also talk to the MPs. They were very

friendly and were able to tell us lots about the building and things that take place on a daily basis. One of the highlights of the trip was the tour of Westminster; we learnt even more about the building and history related to each room.

*What would you say to anyone thinking of taking up highland dancing?*

I think highland dancing is a great hobby for boys and girls of any age (I'm not bias, promise!) For younger children it greatly improves their fine and gross motor skills, specific examples would be a significant improvement in coordination and balance. Alongside this it helps develop their social skills as they meet new people, make new friends and learn to work well in a group - all skills that will help them in school and in everyday life! Not surprisingly, highland dancing involves an element of performance, this leads to children becoming more confident individuals as performing to an audience becomes less of a daunting task. Personally I find dancing a fun and enjoyable way to keep fit and healthy and also helps relieve stress from assignments etc. I am also continually amazed at the opportunities it provides, our trip to Westminster being one of them. I have also been fortunate enough to get the chance to dance at the World Police and Fire Games, Olympic Torch Event and the Jubilee Garden Party to name a few.



## Killyleagh library talks



Photographed at Killyleagh Library Talk on January 31 with Alister McReynolds (middle) are two of the attendees, Ruth Patterson and Ian Lappin who joined Alister for his talk on 'Kith and Kin: Continuing Legacy of the Scotch-Irish in America'.

Author Alister McReynolds was delighted, when as part of their programme to connect local people to their Ulster-Scots heritage, library staff Ann Fee and Sarah McShane, invited him to give a lunchtime lecture based on his latest publication, *Kith and Kin*.

A capacity audience of around thirty five people, many of whom were members of the local branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society arrived to hear the talk which was given on a day of very inclement weather and road conditions.

On the day there was some spirited discussion after the talk and slide-show, particularly about the chapter which revealed local

historical hero Hans Sloan as having been much somewhat involved with the business of slavery, which he had otherwise claimed to abhor.

Afterwards Alister signed copies of, *Kith and Kin* and posed for photographs.

Senior Regional Librarian, Joan Magee commented, 'This was an excellent event which was perfect for a place like Killyleagh which just exudes history. I am grateful to the Ulster-Scots Agency for arranging this event for Killyleagh.'

On Friday April 25, Sandy Smith will deliver a talk at Killyleagh Library on C.S. Lewis. This talk is free to attend and starts at 1.15pm.

## Ulster-Scots 'island' at new Visit Belfast

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive, Ian Crozier pictured with Visit Belfast's Director of Visitor Servicing, Mary Jo McCanny and staff member, Carolyn outside Visit Belfast where the Ulster-Scots Agency has its own 'island'. Visit [www.visit-belfast.com](http://www.visit-belfast.com) for further information



## THE GREAT WAR – ADMIRAL BARRY BINGHAM

**The Hon Edward Barry Stewart Bingham (1881-1939), of Bangor Castle, County Down, was the 3rd son of John, 5th Baron Clanmorris JP DL, ADC to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Matilda Catherine, daughter of Robert Edward Ward JP DL, of Bangor Castle.**



The Hon Barry joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman, after school at Arnold House, Llanddulas, Carnarvonshire; and a spell on HMS Britannia, a permanently-moored training ship at Dartmouth, Devon. He was commissioned Lieutenant RN and served a year (1904-5) on HMS Cormorant based at Gibraltar; then was given his own command, of the torpedo boat destroyer HMS Star.

In 1915, Bingham was promoted Commander RN, and given HMS Hornet, a destroyer. In May, 1916, during the Battle of Jutland, Commander Bingham was in command of a destroyer division. He led his division in their attack, first on enemy destroyers and then on the battle cruisers of the German High Seas Fleet. Once the enemy was sighted Bingham ordered his own destroyer, HMS Nestor, and the one remaining destroyer of his division, HMS Nicator, to close to within 3,000 yards of the opposing battle fleet so that he could bring his torpedoes to bear.

While making this attack, Nestor and Nicator were under concentrated fire of the secondary batteries of the German fleet and Nestor was subsequently sunk.

For his actions, Commander Bingham earned the Victoria Cross, one of relatively few awarded for naval bravery during the First World War.

The citation reads:

For the extremely gallant way in which he led his division in their attack, first on enemy destroyers and then on their battlecruisers. He finally sighted the enemy battle-fleet, and, followed by the one remaining destroyer of his division (Nicator), with dauntless courage he closed to within 3,000 yards of the enemy in order to attain a favourable position for firing the torpedoes. While making this attack, Nestor and Nicator were under concentrated fire of the secondary batteries of the High Sea Fleet. Nestor was subsequently sunk. Bingham was picked up by the Germans at Jutland, and remained a prisoner of war (latterly at Holzminden) until the Armistice. After the war, he stayed in the Royal Navy, was promoted several times and retired in 1932 with the rank of Rear-Admiral, having for a year held the position of Senior Officer of the Reserve Fleet, Devonport.

He had several commands, including HMS Resolution, in the Mediterranean.

Admiral Bingham served as Chief of Staff in the Nore Command, 1927-9, and was appointed ADC to GEORGE V.

Outside the Navy, his interests were equestrian; he was a keen jockey and polo player.

In addition to his VC, Bingham was also awarded the OBE and was mentioned in dispatches. He was also awarded the (Tsarist) Russian Order of St Stanislaus.

He published a memoir of his naval career in 1919, notable for his description of the worst part of naval life being, not nearly being blown to pieces in battle, nor the nervous hours and minutes before battle; it was the ordeal, in that pre-diesel age, of coaling.

Bingham had, in 1915, married Vera Temple-Patterson; this was dissolved in 1937 though they had a son and a daughter.

His nephew, the 7th Baron Clanmorris, was a successful novelist, as John Bingham, whose daughter Charlotte in turn would follow in these of her father's footsteps.

Some maintain that his espionage activity during World War Two provided a model for the fictional writings of John le Carré, the successful English writer of spy fiction.

Admiral Bingham, who latterly resided at Evershot, Dorset, died in London.

Article courtesy of Lord Belmont in Northern Ireland  
[www.lordbelmontinnorthernireland.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.lordbelmontinnorthernireland.blogspot.co.uk)



BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

# A musical Burns Night at the Waterfront Hall

On Saturday January 25 the Ulster-Scots Agency and Ulster Orchestra hosted a hugely successful Burns Concert at Belfast's Waterfront Hall

The concert was headlined by acclaimed Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader and also featured outstanding performances by the Markethill Ulster-Scots Dancers and the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band.

Over 1,400 people joined us for the traditional evening of music and spectacle with the Ulster Orchestra and Eddi Reader, who is well known for her work with Fairground Attraction and her interpretations of the songs of Scotland's national poet. Eddi performed *Wild Mountain Side*, *The Winter it is past*, *My love is like a red red rose*, *Ye Jacobites by name*, *Green grow the rushes*, *Leezie Lindsay*, *Willie Stewart* and *Charlie is my darling*.

The Orchestra was conducted by David Brophy and the evening was presented by Dan Gordon. There were performances by Robert Watt (Piper) and Mark Wilson (Drummer) with the Address to the Haggis recited by the Rev. Jack Lamb. The Markethill Ulster-Scots Dancers performed four specially choreographed dances and the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band accompanied the Ulster Orchestra to play *Castle Dangerous*, *Amazing Grace* and *Auld Lang Syne*.

Thank you to everyone involved in making it such a wonderful night, with special thanks to the Ulster Orchestra.



## Ulster-Scots Flagship Award presented to Ballydown Primary School

On January 24 the Agency presented the Ulster-Scots Flagship Award to Ballydown Primary School, Banbridge; the third school to be awarded Flagship School status. Last year Balmore Primary School in Ballymoney and Castle Gardens Primary School, Newtownards became the first schools to be granted the Flagship Award.

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive, Ian Crozier presented the Flagship Award to Trevor Russell, Acting Principal of Ballydown Primary School at a special Burns event that was held to mark their achievement. Olive Mercer, Chairman of Banbridge District Council joined Trevor, Ian and Ballydown Primary School staff and pupils at their Burns event which included a programme of entertainment including Highland dancing, Piping, drumming, Burns poetry recitals, the Address to the Haggis and singing Auld Lang Syne.

The Ulster-Scots Flagship School programme

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 of Ireland. 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 Caral Ni Chuilin at a conference in Titanic Belfast in November 2012. This launch event was a huge success with almost 100 schools represented on the day. 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.





## BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

## ROBERT BURNS' BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED AT RSPBANI BR

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland (RSPBANI) held their January branch meeting in Lisburn on Saturday January 25. The date fell on the birthday of Robert Burns and following the meeting, a fitting tribute was paid to the life and works of the great Scottish bard who was born on January 25 1759 and died aged just 37 on July 21 1796. During a celebratory afternoon of fun, food and fellowship the branch officials and band representatives enjoyed haggis, neeps and tatties followed by tea, coffee and shortbread. They also enjoyed listening to some of Burns' classic tunes played on Scottish smallpipes and low whistle by RSPBANI Project Manager Ian Burrows, Pipe Major of Drumlough Pipe Band.



Daphne Scott and Roisin Casement (Top Catering) pictured with the haggis ready for serving

Ian Burrows (RSPBANI project manager) playing some Burns' classic tunes on a Scottish smallpipe



Making a fitting tribute to Robert Burns are RSPBANI officials left to right: Winston Pinkerton (vice-president), Fred Walker (president), Ian Burrows (project manager) and Ray Hall (chairman)



Left to right: RSPBANI branch officials Harry Badger (Seven Towers Pipe Band), Alistair McCleery (Ballydonagh Pipe Band) and Darren Frew (McNeilstown Pipe Band) tucking into haggis, neeps and tatties



## BURNS NIGHT SUPPER AT THE LINEN HALL LIBRARY

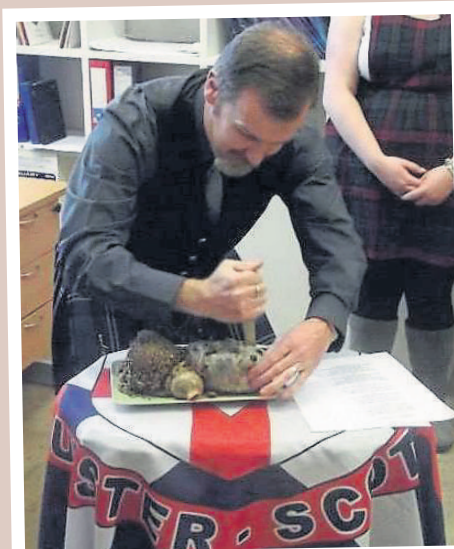
The Linen Hall Library hosted its annual Burns Night Supper on Wednesday January 22 with a traditional feast including 'haggis, neeps and tatties', a few drams of whiskey, and incomparable entertainment in the company of the Bard himself, Scottish actor Christopher Tait. Guests were welcomed on arrival and entertained with spellbinding renditions of *The Address to a Haggis* and *To a Mouse*. The evening was rounded off with a wonderful and rousing performance of *Tam Ó Shanter*. Guests included representatives of the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Ulster-Scots Community Network as well as Library members and supporters. The Library's Burns Collection is one of the largest held outside Scotland. The main body of the collection was amassed by Library Governor Andrew Gibson in the last decades of the 19th century. It was acquired for the Library by public subscription in 1901 for the then enormous sum of £1,000. Subsequently, a number of items were presented to the Library by Burns' great-granddaughter Eliza Everitt. The collection contains 782 distinct Scottish, English, Irish, American and continental editions of the works of the Ayshire Ploughman, representing more than 1,000 volumes. In addition

the collection contains Johnson's Scots Musical Museum, Thomson's Select Scottish Airs, 130 biographies of the poet, 109 miscellaneous publications relating to Burns, 50 song-books, chapbooks containing his poems, and 38 paintings and drawings. The European translations are for the most part in German. The Library continues to add to the collection through generous donation by members and supporters. Belfast artist Kevin Collins recently added a wonderful painting depicting Robert Burns as part of the Library's 225th anniversary celebrations. Burns also features in the Library's series of 12 stained glass portraits of 'men eminent in literature and science', commissioned to mark the transfer of the Library from the White Linen Hall in 1892.



## BURNS LUNCH AT THE ULLANS CENTRE, BALLYMONEY

For the third year now the Ullans Speakers Association have organised and held a lunchtime celebration to the life and works of Robert Burns - this year from the new Ullans Centre premises in Ballymoney. Members of the public were invited to join in the celebration with around 130 guests in attendance. Everyone was treated to the traditional piping in of the Haggis by piper Alan Glenholmes followed by the *Address to the Haggis* delivered by Alan Wright. Afterwards everyone was invited to stay for refreshments while Ulster-Scots group Scad the Beggar played tradition music. Guests were also invited to try the now popular Haggis pies and by the end of the afternoon not a single Haggis pie remained, with many guest commenting as to how they enjoyed the afternoon.



## BURNS WEEKEND AT ARNOLDS HOTEL, DONEGAL

Arnolds Hotel provided a special package for the Robbie Burns Weekend which included two nights bed and full Irish breakfast and celebration dinner with welcome drinks Reception with canapés prior to the dinner. Those who stayed for the weekend really enjoyed the Burns Celebrations with the opportunity to experience the stunning landscapes and miles of walks and sandy beaches around Sheephaven Bay. Arnolds Hotel, Dunfanaghy Co Donegal overlooks the magnificent Horn Head and Killahoe Beach is just a stroll away. The pretty village is a very

popular spot with visitors with lots of craft shops and galleries as well as street cafes to while away an afternoon. Outdoor activities are also readily available including, horse riding, golf, cycling, walking, water sports and fishing. The Burns Weekend was launched on Friday evening January 24 with a Shamrock and Thistle Night which included poetry readings and Scottish folk songs. Music was provided by Seamus and Aoife who entertained the audience with a wide range of Scottish/Gaelic folk songs and tunes performed on the harp,



## BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

# ANCH MEETING



Left to right:  
RSPBANI branch  
officials Brian  
Hasson (Colmcille  
Pipe Band), George  
Ussher (RSPBA  
president) and Brian  
Harvey (RSPBANI  
chief steward)



Linda Crothers, Anne Mack and Sadie Hanna (RSPBANI Ladies Committee)



Daphne Scott  
(Top Catering)  
pictured serving  
up some extra  
tatties to piper  
Ian Burrows  
(RSPBANI  
project  
manager) and  
Malcolm Wilson  
(Ballybriest Pipe  
Band)



Fred Walker (RSPBANI President) cutting open the haggis during a tribute to Robert Burns

violin, tin whistle and guitar. I sang a number of well known Scotch Gaelic Songs including *Bheir Me O, Trasna na dTonnta*, and *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose* which was well received by the audience. My guest Murray Learmont read a number of Burns poems including *Tae a Mouse* and other well known favourites.

On Saturday January 25 the Celebration Dinner was a huge success and we had just under 100 in attendance for the dinner in the Seascapes Restaurant. The evening began with a welcome drinks reception Scotch whisky with canapés (brides) around the open fire which everyone really enjoyed. This was followed by piping in the top table and our chairman Murray Learmont really did us proud in his introductory speech, followed by the Piping in of the Haggis, the address to the Haggis and finally the *Selkirk Grace*. So began the celebrations and we were suitably entertained during the dinner with music by Ailsa Craig who provided some splendid renditions of Scottish folk songs and tunes which the audience really appreciated. *Tae a Mouse* was recited after the starters followed by a Celtic flute recital which also well received. The Moyne Highland Dancers then performed Scottish dances including the Sword Dance and the Highland Fling truly amazing to watch and the audience were really impressed by the quality and standard of these very talented dancers. The main courses followed, then afterwards came the 'Cranachan' a very traditional Scottish dessert. Tea and coffee followed served with our homemade shortbread and cream flavoured with drambuie. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and entertain-



The top table (Arnolds Hotel)

ment throughout. Dinner was followed by the chairman's reflection to the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns, a toast to the lassies and of course, the response toast to the laddies. The night was young and the celebrations continued with more poetry readings, music and Scottish folk songs and then the finale *Auld Lang Syne*.

It was a splendid night enjoyed by everyone who attended and lots of people expressed their appreciation for a really entertaining evening/weekend to celebrate the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns. This was our very first Robbie Burns Weekend and we plan to host the event again next year on Friday 23 and Saturday January 24 2015. Full details of the programme together with the weekend Package will be available from our website [www.arnoldshotel.com](http://www.arnoldshotel.com). We look forward to welcoming you to Arnolds Hotel for the Robbie Burns Weekend Celebrations.

By Gerarda Arnold

## BURNS CELEBRATIONS IN ARMAGH

Burns celebration is a very special night in Tassagh Cultural Rural Neighbourhood Groups calendar of events for the year as it is the first event in the New Year. We had a great crowd at our Burns night in Tassagh Orange Hall. We served a meal of Haggis, traditional trifle and shortbread, recited the Address to the Haggis and were entertained with some of Robbie Burns' poetry. On the night we had pipers, poetry, music, and Tassagh's very own Scottish Country Dance

Group, performing some Scottish reels and jigs. This was followed by a dance. A very enjoyable night was had by all, from as far away as Newtownards, Bangor, Saintfield and of course the locals in the area. Thanks to all who helped, came along and made the night a great success and to the Ulster-Scots Agency for part funding the event.

By Esther Herron, Tassagh Cultural Rural Neighbourhood Group

## SCOTTISH FLAVOUR AT DUNCONNELL BURNS NIGHT

Passengers from Scotland flying into Belfast International Airport only had to look out the right hand cabin window to spot the venue for the Dungonnell Ulster-Scots Society Burns Night Celebration which this year had temporarily shifted venue to Killead Orange Hall while the premises on the Antrim Road undergo renovation. This was probably the earliest Burns celebration this year with the event being held a good week before the Bard's birth date of January 25, 255 years ago.

The Society was fortunate to engage the piping skills of Bobby Cameron, also the author of several books on local history and an authority on the bagpipes stretching back to the days of Rob Roy.

The evening began with Bobby marching round the hall heading the procession of Haggis Bearer and Reciter, played in 'three four' time *The Green Hills of Tyrell* leading into the well known Burns piece, *A Man's a Man for a' that*. The Haggis, specially flown

in from Scotland, and resting on a bed of cabbage leaves was formally addressed by Vera Rodgers, one of the few ladies who quote, "Fair fa' yer honest soncie face..." before 'trenching' the delicacy with a black gulley knife. The ceremony was completed by another circuit of the hall to the strains of *Lord Lovett's Lament*.

Short work was made of the Haggis during the ensuing supper which was enjoyed by a full house of revellers, at least one of whom was spotted eating every last crumb of his portion of Haggis.

The celebration continued with an evening of dancing to the music of Housty whose repertoire kept the 'hoofers' busy for the next three hours.

Dungonnell Ulster-Scots Society wish to thank all who attended, those who provided, prepared and served the food, the Officers of Killead Orange Lodge and last but not least the Ulster-Scots Agency for providing financial assistance for the event.

## BURNS LUNCH AT CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, MONKSTOWN

*Step we gaily on we go, heel and heel and toe for toe,  
Arm and arm and row and row, all for Marie's wedding.*

Well it wasn't Marie's wedding, but on Thursday January 23 the weekly Craft and Fellowship Group of Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown hosted a Burns Lunch and it was a great success. We were joined by people from different denominations and from all over the surrounding community. People really entered into the spirit of the occasion and some even sported tartan kilts, sporrans and tam o shanters or dressed up specially. The President of the Methodist Church, Rev Dr Heather Morris dropped by 'tae share a wheen o wurd's wi our ain folk' and the Mayor of Newtownabbey, Alderman Fraser Agnew, who has an avid interest in all things Ulster-Scots, called in to show his support for what was indeed a new venture in the Borough.

There was a full programme of entertainment and plenty of time for a wee chat but by 1pm everyone was ready for their dinner and our piper Grahame Harris from Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band ably led the way as the haggis was piped in. After the *Selkirk Grace*, and the traditional recitations of Burns' poetry by the MC, everyone enjoyed a full menu of Scotch



broth, stew, haggis, neeps and tatties, Topsy Laird trifle, apple tart with fresh cream and oatcakes and cheese. But to work off all those calories a set of six Scottish country dancers inspired us and even those who swore they had two left feet thoroughly enjoyed learning the steps and birling around the Main Hall with their partners.

Although it was a steep learning curve for us (there hasn't been such a celebration of Ulster-Scots culture in Monkstown before), sickness took its toll and there were a few hiccups in organisation, but overall it was a great success.

Storyteller Liz Weir continued the theme of Scottish lore and Burns traditions at the Craft & Fellowship Club the following week. Some of the church members are still talking about the whole experience even still and the suggestion has already been made, not only to do it again, but even to organise a trip to Ayr to learn more about Scottish traditions and culture and to appreciate Burns and his life in his hame land. As organisers at Church of the Good Shepherd we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support which enabled us to launch out into this new arena; and indeed to thank all who participated in the day.



## EXHIBITION ROUND-UP

**MASTER  
OF THE SEA  
EXHIBITION  
SETS SAIL FOR  
NEW VENUES**

The Ulster-Scots Agency 'Masters of the Sea' exhibition is going on tour to a location near you.

The 10 panel exhibition will be on display at Museum at the Mill, Newtownabbey (March 3 – March 31), The Linen Hall Library (April 1 – May 31) and a permanent exhibition will be on display at the Scottish Maritime Museum, Irvine, Scotland, from March 1. Belfast is a maritime city of global trade and emigration to the four corners of the world. Even in the early 1600s when our city was still just a village, Belfast's merchants were mostly Scottish and traded with North America (tobacco), the West Indies (sugar) and Spain (wine). Among the stories of Belfast's shipbuilding heritage was the Eagle Wing, a ship built in Belfast Lough in 1636, which attempted to cross the Atlantic Ocean and the U.S. Navy who in 1778, won its first victory here in Belfast Lough. Much of the Allied war effort during two World Wars came from our shores and shipyards and the Ulster-Scot link to Titanic have been well documented. Travel along the coastal routes out of Belfast and on a clear day you will easily see Scotland, just 13 miles away at the closest point. The nautical 'highway' of the narrow sea between Scotland and Northern Ireland forged a kinship which still connects our coastlines and made a seafaring people who built a truly world-class shipbuilding industry.

**REDISCOVER ROBERT BURNS IN DUMFRIES**

A new exhibition which highlights Robert Burns' links with Ulster will be on display at the Robert Burns Centre in Dumfries from April 1 2014.

Dumfries and Galloway has had many close links with Ulster over the centuries. Each day the busy road from Cairnryan to Dumfries is filled with thousands of travellers from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Over 700 years ago, when Robert the Bruce fled down Friar's Vennel in Dumfries in 1306, his ultimate destination would be Rathlin Island just off the coast of County Antrim - and when he returned to Scotland in 1307 his first victory would be at Glen Trool in Galloway Forest Park.

In the early 1600s, thousands of families sailed across the water to make Ulster their home. Later in the 1600s, many Covenanters such as Alexander Peden fled across the water for refuge. Many people in Ulster today are of Scottish descent, just as many in Scotland are of Ulster descent. Even though Burns never made the journey himself, many of Burns' friends and descendants did. For example, James Gray was rector of Dumfries grammar school and educated Burns' children. The two men became friends and Gray later moved to Belfast to become Principal of Belfast Academy - Gray's portrait features in the exhibition.

Martha Burns Thomas was Burns' great granddaughter - she had lived in Belfast for around 25 years, and took part in the Burns Centenary events in Dumfries in 1896 along with representatives of many Burns Clubs including the Belfast Burns Club.

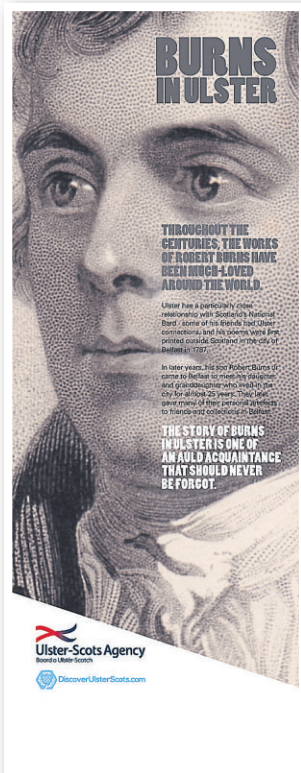
*The connection between Burns and Ulster is an auld acquaintance that should never be forgotten.*



For more information visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/artsandmuseums](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/artsandmuseums), telephone 01387 264808 or email [dumfries.museum@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:dumfries.museum@dumgal.gov.uk)

**If you have a venue and would like to participate in our touring exhibition programme email**

**[Catriona@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:Catriona@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)**

**ROBERT BURNS CENTRE, DUMFRIES**

Mill Road, Dumfries DG2 7BE  
Tel: 01387 264808

Situated in the town's 18th-century watermill on the west bank of the River Nith, the Robert Burns Centre tells the story of Robert Burns' last years spent in the bustling streets and lively atmosphere of Dumfries in the late eighteenth century. The exhibition is illuminated by many original manuscripts and belongings of the poet. There is a fascinating scale model of Dumfries in the 1790s and a haunting audio-visual presentation. Test your powers of observation with a gallery investigation, discover Dumfries and Galloway's Burns connections and browse around the shop. Upstairs at the Robert Burns Centre, the Hullabaloo Café Gallery hosts a lively programme of contemporary works by local artists.

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND:

- April - September: Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 2pm - 5pm.
- October - March: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm.
- Admission free.

(Audio Visual Theatre Presentations, The early life of Burns or Dumfries - Queen of the South, Adults: £2.35, Concession: £1.15)

**TOWN CHARTERS EXHIBITION TOUR CONTINUES**

In October 2013 the Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with the Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster-Scots Academy and the Ulster Historical Foundation launched the Town Charters exhibition at Belfast City Hall.

The exhibition, which has been completed is part of a larger research project includes a dedicated map, brochure, a community outreach programme and a touring exhibition.

The exhibition will tour to the following venues over the coming months:

Bangor Museum, March 13 - April 30  
Lisburn City Library, June 1 - June 30  
Roe Valley Arts Centre, July 1 - July 31  
Enniskillen Library, August 1 - August 31

Don't miss your opportunity to learn more about your town's history as the Town Charters exhibition comes to your area.



## Paddy Hopkirk celebrates 50th Anniversary of Monte Carlo win with the Bright Lights Dancers

The Bright Lights Dancers from east Belfast were invited to dance at the Paddy Hopkirk 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner which was held at Titanic Belfast on February 22.

The evening was organised to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Paddy Hopkirk's victory at the Monte Carlo Grand Prix.

Paddy Hopkirk was born in Belfast; therefore the theme for the evening was 'Made In Belfast'.

The Bright Lights Dancers also performed at Culture Share Festival in Friends School in Lisburn and the Belfast Met during February. This event was organised as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations.



## Annual Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture - 'The Ulster-Scots and the Second American War of Independence, 1812-1815'

On Thursday March 27 2014 the Ulster-Scots Agency will host the third Annual Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture with guest speaker Dr. John McCavitt. The lecture will be held in the Board Room of the Assembly Buildings, 2 - 10 Fisherwick Place, Belfast at 7pm.

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light*

*What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?*

(Opening lines of the US National Anthem penned by Francis Scott Key in September 1814).

One of the lasting legacies of the War of 1812 is the US National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, that will mark its 200th anniversary in September 2014.

That the Battle of Baltimore at that time had profound Ulster-Scots connections on both the British and American sides is symptomatic of the War of 1812 in general. Fort McHenry in Baltimore, that was subjected to a Royal Navy bombardment, was named after Dr James McHenry from Ballymena, whose son fought against the British at that time. And on the British side, the army was led by Major General Robert Ross, an Ulster-Scot, from Rostrevor. In penning his lyrics, Key was profoundly influenced by Ross's victory at the Battle of Bladensburg, followed by his burning of the public buildings in Washington, including the White House and the Capitol. The lecture will also address Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815, supported by large numbers

of Ulster-Scots Tennessee riflemen, a triumph that is arguably the main reason why he later became the first Ulster-Scots president. Other Ulster-Scots characters to feature include Alexander McComb, later to become commander of the US army, as well as Oliver Hazard Perry, victor at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. Perry was a scion one of the most famous families in US history. His Ulster-Scots roots will be highlighted, including his bloodline back to 'Braveheart'!

**If you would like to attend please register for the lecture by emailing [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk), telephone (028) 9023 1113 (ask for Catriona or Gillian) or complete and return the registration form below:**

### Annual Whitelaw Reid Memorial Lecture – Registration Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL / TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Marketing Team  
The Ulster-Scots Agency  
Corn Exchange  
31 Gordon Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2LG

Entry to this event is free and everyone is welcome.

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### An evening service of unaccompanied Psalm singing

Join Edentiloan and District Ulster-Scots Association for an Evening Service of unaccompanied Psalm Singing on Sunday March 23 2014. The event will take place in Edentiloan Orange Hall, Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone at 8pm and will be lead by Rev Dr Andrew Rodgers. A freewill offering will be collected in aid of the Leprosy Mission. Refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcome.

#### Heart of Down Highland Dance Competition

Heart of Down Highland Dancers Annual Competition will be held on Saturday April 5 in Ballynahinch High School, 103 Belfast Road, Ballynahinch, Co Down. The competition will be held under SOBHD Rules, and there will be events in the following classes:

Highland Fling (four steps), Swords (2&1), Seann Truibhas (3&1), Hullachan (four steps), Special Fling (four steps), Flora McDonald (four steps), Scottish Lilt (four steps), Barracks Johnnie (four steps), Sailors Hornpipe (four steps), Pas de Basques and Pas de Basques and Highcuts

Sections - Primary age groups according to entry (classes 10,11,1,2); beginners (classes 1,2,3,4,5,6,7); novice (classes 1,2,3,4,5,6,7); intermediate (classes 1,2,3,4,8,9); premier (classes 1,2,3,4,8,9)

**For further details contact Lynn Pollock 07867 773 371 or Barbara Young 07759 878 576. To download an entry form visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/event/509](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events/event/509).**

#### Festival Funding 2014 Now Open

The Ulster-Scots Agency is currently seeking applications for Ulster-Scots Festivals between May 1 2014 and February 28 2015.

Further details including Application Form and Guidance Notes are available on the Agency's website at [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding).

If you require further information about the Festival funding, prior to submission of documentation, please contact the Ulster-Scots Community Network on (028) 9043 6710.

NOTE: The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday April 11 2014 at 3pm (applications received after this deadline will be automatically rejected).



# IN SEARCH OF THE **BORDER REIVERS** AND

Journalist **Laura Spence** travelled to the Scottish borders hoping to find out more about the Reivers and their place in both Scottish and Ulster-Scots history.

**My grandmother Maimie Irving Muirhead was the eldest daughter of Janet Telfer Johnstone, born in 1875 in Westerkirk, Dumfries. There are clues to our family history in those names, since the Irvings, Telfers and Johnstones were some of the greatest Reiving families in Scottish history – families for whom ‘name’ was everything.**

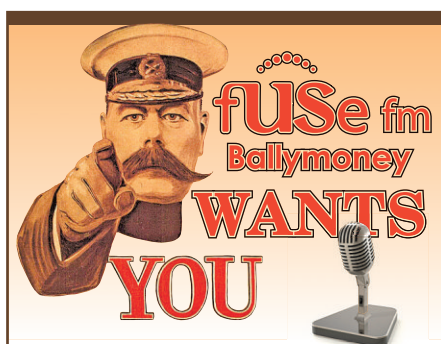
In January I travelled to the Scottish borders hoping to find out more about the Reivers, since so many of them fled from Scotland to Ulster and made their homes in Ireland. Reiver names are commonplace in Ulster today and include Armstrongs, Elliotts, Douglasses, Kerrs and Maxwells. Much has already been written about the Reivers or ‘Steel Bonnets’, and I can highly recommend any of Keith Durham’s books – but I wanted to take my own journey and get more of a physical sense of the lands they knew and ravaged.

The Scottish Borders today are a unique landscape of moorlands and valleys, of wide brackish rivers, stone-built cottages, grazing animals, and crooked, winding roads. Dense woods and sweeping hills suggest that these parts are still largely untamed and it’s not hard to imagine the bleak winters of 500 years ago when Reivers scoured these lands - “an evell desposed people, great theeves inclined to wildness and disorder, a martiall kind of men who will be Scottishe when they will and English at their pleasure”. The Reiving times were an age of ferocity, bloodshed and turbulence when political tensions raged between England and Scotland

“I guess Smailholm must have called to something in my reiver blood. It has an indescribable magic and is a ‘must-visit’ destination for anyone going to the Scottish Borders – in fact, it’s reason in itself to make the trip.”



Smailholm Tower



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and the inhabitants of the border marches waged constant warfare, fighting not so much for king and country as out of fealty to family name and blood ties.

The borders in the 16th century were an inhospitable place to live, and the people lived off a meagre land in a harsh climate. Keith Durham suggests these conditions “nurtured a tough, insular and contentious people; a hardy mixture of landowners, tenants and hill farmers, it took little to offend them” – and when the head of a family called, his people came in their numbers, each with a sword or pike in his hand. What fear must have descended on the borderers when they saw the warning hilltop fires blaze into life - a single fire signalled raiders approaching; four fires, that they rode in great numbers - and caught the first sounds of hundreds of thundering hooves while the hills echoed with the sound of steel.

Keith Durham again: “By the beginning of the 16th century, reiving had become a way of life. In order to survive in what had effectively become a battleground, many Borderers had become skilled and ruthless marauders. Born and raised in a war of attrition, they were

hard men, devoid of pity and accustomed to a life of ambush, skirmish and pursuit”. Legend even has it that when children of Reiver families were christened, their right hands were held separate during the ceremony, so they might grow up to ‘strike unhallowed blows on their enemies’. Cursed by all and sundry including the church, the Reivers rode to keep their wives and bairns alive and, knowing no other way, willingly risked life and limb to do it. Coming from all levels of society, and often riding with the ‘wink’ of approval from the very men appointed to stop them, they plundered across the six Marches and shook loose the Border.

The Reivers exploited their familiarity with the lay of the land and crossed the bleak moorland fells in the pitch-black of Scottish nights, galloping on their sure-footed hobblers through treacherous bogs and mosses. They often reived in the dead of winter when herds would be housed in their paddocks, brought in from the summer grazing. Fording rivers and swift-flowing burns, they navigated the twisting Cheviot passes by moonlight and fell upon their victims swiftly and mercilessly.

The Reivers rounded up what livestock they could and, if they had sufficient force of arms, smashed their way into farmhouse or homestead. Murdering and looting, they burnt what they could not carry, and rode off with their stolen beasts and plunder, back into the darkness.

So heartless were their depredations that a Great Curse was put upon them by the Archbishop of Glasgow. The curse ran to more than 1500 words and was read from every pulpit in the Scottish borderlands: it included these lines:

*I curse thair heid and all the haris of thair heid...  
I curse thaim gangand and I curse thaim rydand...  
I curse thair wiffis, their barnis, their catales, their scheip...  
May the erd mot oppin, riffle and swelly them quyk to hell!*

The Reiving chapter of Scottish history stretched from the 14th to the early 17th century, though it was in Tudor times that the Reivers were at their most powerful. In the days following the death of Queen Elizabeth



# THEIR REAL STORY



Jamie Telfer of the Fair Dodhead

In 1603, a period which became known as 'Ill week', the Borders erupted in a spasm of violence.

The English throne was unoccupied and the Scottish Reivers took advantage of this and launched a massive raid into Cumbria: a formidable band of Grahams, Armstrongs and Elliots rode together and stole nearly 5000 cattle and sheep. Repercussions followed swiftly.

King James I of England united the Crowns and determined to deal once and for all with the Reivers. He issued a proclamation "against all rebels and disorderly persons.... that they be prosecuted with fire and sword". This marked the beginning of the end of the Reiving era as whole families were rounded up: some were hanged; others were sent to fight in Europe; others were transported or fled from Scotland to Ireland, leaving their homes, but taking with them ferocity of spirit, pride and name.

Today the Reivers have become almost legendary and a whole industry has developed with ballads, period re-enactors, TV documentaries and numerous websites and books devoted to their story.

A Reivers Trail has been developed stretching across the Scottish Borders and anyone with an interest in tracing their Reiver ancestry should begin here. The trail takes in various sites, landmarks and museums associated with the Reivers - and the website ([www.thereivertrail.com/](http://www.thereivertrail.com/)) is full of useful facts, colourful legends and relevant weblinks. On my journey however, one place stood out above all - the mystical, atmospheric and haunting Smailholm Tower which stands on a rocky outcrop, not far from Kelso on the Borders, accessed through the old Sandyknowe farmyard where Sir Walter Scott spent his boyhood.

Built in the 15th century, Smailholm has been modified and adapted over the centuries, but its imposing 65 foot high central tower, massive walls and small windows, still present every appearance of a reiver 'pele' (or stronghold) sitting within a stone barmkin wall.

I was shown around by the curator, Paul, whose knowledge and enthusiasm made this a truly unforgettable visit. As we stood outside the tower, high on the battlements in a ferocious downpour, Paul pointed out the sites of distant battlefields before leading me round to the tower's old chimney flue, against which guardsmen of centuries past might have sought some shelter and warmth. Inside, he showed me tapestries and a stunning collection of costumed figures and models relating to Sir Walter Scott's Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders. Ghost riders, demon lovers and fairy queens

glistened in bejewelled outfits, each tableau illustrating some memorable scene from an ancient Scottish ballad.

With the old fireplaces, window seats, breathtaking views in every direction and strangely welcoming atmosphere, I felt a strong yearning to live here, in this ancient tower: I felt at home. I guess Smailholm must have called to something in my reiver blood. It has an indescribable magic and is a 'must-visit' destination for anyone going to the Scottish Borders - in fact, it's reason in itself to make the trip.

An email which Paul sent to me after my visit, says it better than I can: "There's an undeniable 'something' about the wild, remote and romantic old keep that stirs the imagination and moves the soul. Even on a rain-lashed and bleak January day the tower still retains its magic. I've been at Smailholm for about 10 years and it never fails to surprise me with its ever-shifting and evocative moods. Sometimes in the summer evenings in the long shadows and softer light, the tower and surrounding land is enchanting and beautiful beyond compare. No wonder that Sir Walter Scott loved it as he did. Visitors love the monument too and often comment that Smailholm is one of their favourite Historic Scotland sites." Smailholm is tricky enough to access. There's a short, hilly trek from the car park - so I'd recommend you phone ahead in advance of any planned visit - and go to their website to check opening hours. Details are: Smailholm Tower, Smailholm, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 7PH. Phone 01573 460 365 or go to [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk).

My search for the Reivers took me across the Scottish Borders from east to west. They are simply stunning - and I urge you to discover that for yourself. I promise you will fall under the spell of their beauty and be swept up in their enthralling history.

If you have the chance to visit, I'd encourage you to contact Visit Scotland ([www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)) to find out more about everything that's happening at the time you plan to be there.

This is a huge year for our Scottish neighbours and not just politically! They have globally-important events taking place such as the Ryder Cup and the Commonwealth Games - and of course 'Homecoming Scotland' which celebrates the country's rich culture, natural beauty, active adventures and creative heritage.

Scotland's history is very much our history too: a trip across the Irish Sea will throw light on much of Ulster's story, and particularly for those of you with Reiver surnames, it'll connect you to your own past however infamous and bloody.

## DEPICTING APRIL SHOWERS

*The Gowk* by Frank Ferguson  
*For T.S. Eliot, April was the cruellest month, but for the Ulster-Scots poets, April and the season of spring, bring new hope and inspiration, with the occasional satirical jag as well.*  
SWEET APRIL! Wi' lenient smile,  
Proclaims gloomy winter's awa,  
Wha late did the lan'scape despoil,  
An' hid a' it's beauties wi' sna.  
(Andrew M'Kenzie's *April* in the Scottish Dialect)

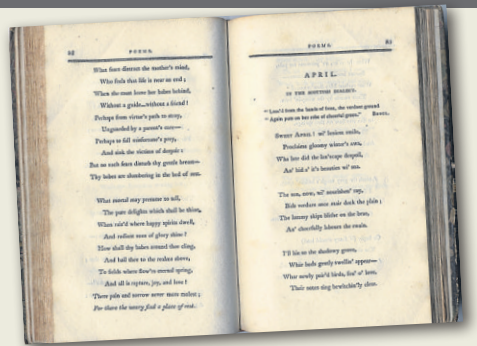
Despite all the watty licht and the dreich days of the Ulster calendar, a sense of joy and anticipation thrills in the verse of the makars at the promise of spring. As evidence of nature turning from winter to spring is all around us, at least in our minds, we might pause and reflect on the Ulster-Scots writers who have been inspired by the change of seasons. For Andrew M'Kenzie, the Bard of Dunover in the Ards, April is personified as smiling upon the earth, offering a glimpse of the landscape long covered by the winter snows. For others, it is a time to celebrate the wildlife of the countryside, making its presence felt in the brightening air.

WELCOME great songster o' the spring!  
Its aye glad news which thou dost bring,  
Whan thou return'st again to sing,  
Thy Maker's praise,  
Then a' out groves an' woodlands ring,  
Wi' thy sweet lays. (*Address to the Cuckoo*)

This poem, by Francis Boyle, or Frank Boal as he was also known, captures the special sense of a County Down April shower in the vitality of his language:

About the middle o' April,  
(For nature then begins to smile),  
Thou'lt aiblins cry for a short while,  
Till gowk's storm come,  
An' make the bushes a' recoil,  
An' ding us dumb.

The Scots and Ulster-Scots term for an April shower is a 'gowk's storm'—gowk being a word for cuckoo, and also a fool or an edit, so take care if someone calls



you this. A gowk storm is one of the great meteorological terms to emerge from the Scots vernacular. Its primary meaning is of course a storm associated with the time that the cuckoo's traditionally began to sing in the springtime. But it also had further meanings, close to what English traditions might term a 'storm in a tea-cup' and Boyle was a great poet for pointing out the failings and foibles of his compatriots. Even in this poem, the cuckoo doesn't escape censure, for he points out that the sweet songster of April will turn to more devious tricks later in the year:

**An' after a' thy rhymin' din,  
Just like the lave o' thy fause kin,  
Thou lea'st a scabby get behin'  
To whinge an' greet,  
Without a feather on its skin,  
To turn the weet.**

Among the poets' best work a world emerges of careful observation of life and nature. Their everyday rustic speech rubs shoulders with the grand literary languages of Scotland and England and is not found wanting. Indeed, this mixing of styles and influences has a vibrancy to it, a freshness and dynamism which seems to find its moment in the realisation of the possibilities of saying something new. As we look hopefully towards new things and developments this spring, it is good to remember the poets from County Down who looked forward with similar optimism. Just watch out for the gowk's storm and the gowk in your nest!



**GIANTS  
CAUSEWAY  
TARTAN**

BY  
TWEEDACHESON



*Dawn breaks and bathes the Causeway in light  
The mystic stones shrug darkness from the night  
Tall, grey and black columns damp with dew  
Are sprayed by the Atlantic, white and blue  
Grassy cliffs surround these columns in line  
And inspired this Irish Tartan design.*

**WWW.GIANTSCAUSEWAYTARTAN.COM**



# RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLOUGHLIN



## SPRING ASPARAGUS AND SWEET PEPPER ARUGULA SALAD WITH CHAMPAGNE-SAFFRON VINAIGRETTE

### The story:

A wonderfully simple and engaging Spring salad to welcome in the new season after a long cold winter! Very colourful on the plate and superb way to spring forward as the leaves appear and we celebrate Easter.

Inspired by the menu from the last dinner served on board the Titanic, this fine salad was part of the first class marathon menu of 11 courses that were served on the ill-fated steamer so long ago. So let's go for some colour and welcome in spring - about time!



### Ingredients: (Serves 4)

- 1 lb slender spring asparagus (tough ends trimmed and roasted)
- ¼ sweet yellow pepper (roasted and finely diced)
- ¼ sweet red pepper (roasted and finely diced)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to season
- Olive oil (to drizzle)
- 4 cups Arugula salad greens
- 1 ½ oz shaved Ivernia Irish cheese (or parmesan)
- 4 Tbsp. champagne vinegar
- 1 shallot (minced)
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- ¼ tsp saffron threads
- 1 Tbsp. honey
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil

### How to make it:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Spread asparagus and peppers in a single layer on roasting pan and drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Roast for 8-10 minutes until crisp tender.
2. To make salad dressing soften the saffron by adding a tsp. of boiling water and let it stand for a few minutes to soften. Whisk in the champagne vinegar, minced shallots, honey, and mustard then finally add the olive oil in a slow steady drizzle. Season with salt and pepper.
3. In a large bowl combine the Arugula with enough vinaigrette to coat the greens.
4. To assemble the salad arrange in the Arugula in the center of each plate. Arrange the asparagus spears and the roasted red peppers. Finish by drizzling a little more vinaigrette over the salad and sprinkle with the Ivernia cheese shavings.

## Special conference will explore links between Ireland, Ulster and Scotland

**Ulster-Scots Academy (MAGUS) and the Ulster Historical Foundation will host a special conference at the Europa Hotel in Belfast on March 25 and 26 which will explore the rich links and myriad connections between Ireland, particularly Ulster, and Scotland.**

There will be contributions from notable and accomplished speakers from many different disciplines, and the conference aims to increase knowledge of Ulster-Scots history and culture and to demonstrate the positive contribution Ulster-Scots can make to a shared inheritance.

What should be a challenging, thought-provoking and entertaining seminar opens on the Tuesday evening with a number of recitals and presentations, including musical entertainment from Sontas, who bring a fusion of Ulster-Scots and traditional Irish music and dance.

Wednesday's session is chaired by Paul Clark, and speakers and topics include Billy Kay - 'as ithers see us'; Mark Thompson - Shared Future? What about our Shared Past?; Martin Dowling - Northern Ireland

in the Fabric of Musical Traditions; Aodán Mac Póilin - Antrim and Argyll: Gaelic traditions of the Sea of Moyle; Moore Sinnerton - What's the Story? Ulster-Scots and the media; William Roulston - Different perspectives on the Ulster-Scots; Roger Blaney - The loom of language; Iain Carlisle - Developing Ulster-Scots in the community; Andrew Holmes - From rebels to loyalists? Presbyterians and politics in the 19th century; Linde Lunney - English Presbyterians; forgotten Scots; and bad 'Scotch eggs' - no wonder Dublin is different!; and Tim McGarry - Tim McGarry's Ulster-Scots Journey.

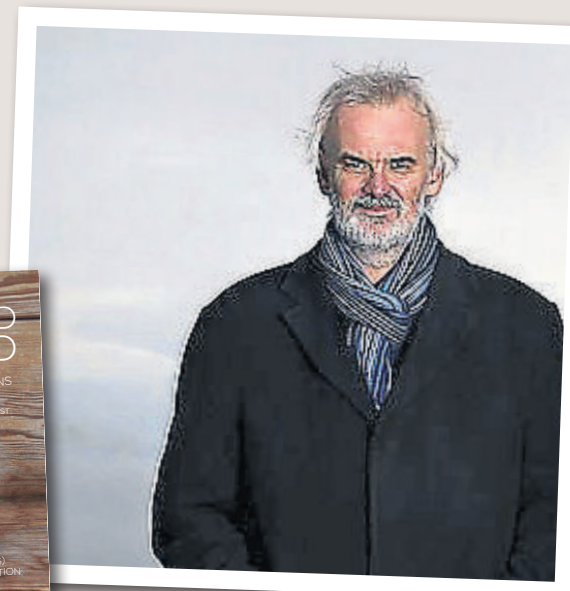
In addition to the lectures and presentations, exhibitors drawn from a

broad range of sectors in Ulster have been invited to participate.

So far the list includes the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Ulster-Scots Agency, Libraries NI, North of Ireland Family History Society, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, An Droichead, Skainos, Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, ULTACH Trust, SENTRY Hill, Arts and Humanities Research Institute, University of Ulster, Gaelic Athletic Association, Orange Order, Ulster Historical Foundation, Foras na Gaeilge, Linen Hall Library, Ulster-Scots Community Network, Community Relations Council, Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Northern Ireland Publications Resource,

Ulster-Scots Language Society, Small Steps, Trinity College Dublin, Spectrum Centre, Apprentice Boys Of Derry, Ulster-Scots Academy (MAGUS), Tweedy Acheson, 174 Trust, North Down Borough Council. The conference is free to attend, and participants may register for one or both days; however preference will be given to those who will attend both the Tuesday evening and the lecture programme on the Wednesday. Refreshments and lunch will be available on the Wednesday.

**To register contact the Ulster Historical Foundation at [enquiry@uhf.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@uhf.org.uk) or phone 028 9066 1988.**





# Ulster-Scots community network releases new publications

The Ulster-Scots Community Network has issued three new publications including Henry Cooke, Ulster and Pennsylvania, and Union Generals.

## Henry Cooke

Henry Cooke was one of the most influential Presbyterian ministers of the nineteenth century and one of the great public figures of Belfast. Hugh McCalmont, the 1st Earl Cairns (1819 – 1885), the Belfast born Conservative politician and Lord Chancellor in Disraeli's two administrations, observed that Cooke's life constituted 'a large portion of the religious and public history of Ireland'. Politically, Henry Cooke has been held responsible for the fusion of conservative evangelicalism and Conservative Unionism and accused of – or credited with – leading the Presbyterian community away from a liberal past to a conservative future. This has prompted him to be called 'the Father of Ulster Unionism'.

## Ulster and Pennsylvania

The earliest Ulster-Scots emigrants to 'the New World' tended to settle in New England. However, they did not get on with the Puritans who controlled government there and whom they came to regard as worse than the Church of Ireland authorities they had left behind in Ulster. Pennsylvania was established by William Penn in 1682 with two objectives: to enrich himself and as a 'holy experiment' in establishing complete religious freedom, primarily for the benefit of his fellow Quakers. George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, had visited the region in 1672 and was mightily impressed. The proposed name of 'Sylvania' which means 'forest land' in Latin was, at the insistence of the King, prefixed with 'Penn' as a tribute to William Penn's father Admiral Penn. Thus Pennsylvania means 'Penn's Woods' or 'Penn's Forests' and the state still accounts for nine percent of the United States' woodland. This region became 'the seed plot and nursery' of Ulster-Scots settlement in North America.

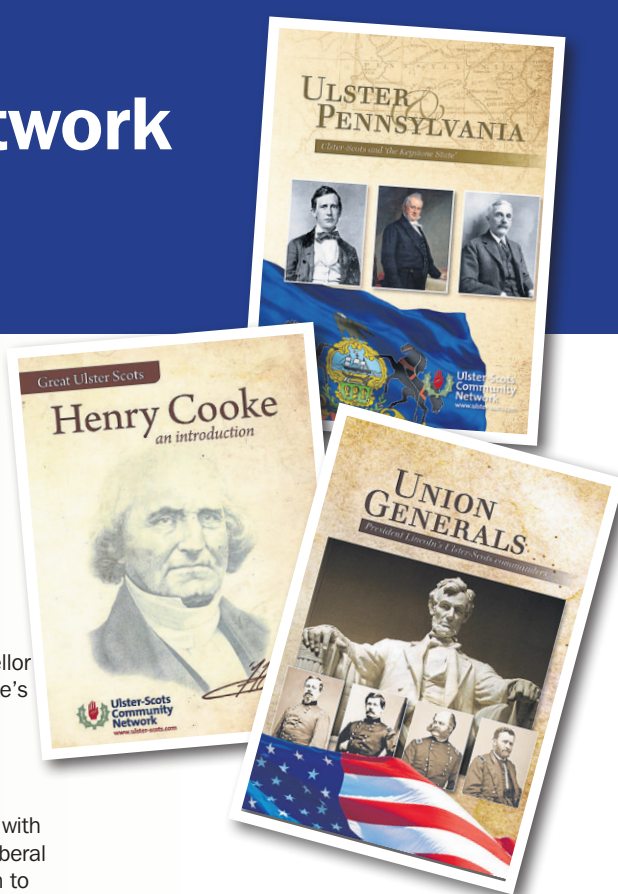
## Union Generals

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, in his bid to preserve the American Union and to

end southern secession, had great difficulty in finding generals who could translate the North's undoubted economic and material advantages into success on the battlefield.

By 1864 Lincoln had put his confidence in Irvin McDowell, George B. McClellan, Ambrose Burnside, Joseph Hooker and George Meade. Finally, Lincoln brought Ulysses S. Grant, fresh from his triumphs at Vicksburg and Chattanooga, back east from the Western theatre. The prolific twentieth-century British military historian, military theorist and strategist J. F. C. Fuller described Grant as 'the greatest general of his age and one of the greatest strategists of any age'. If Abraham Lincoln was the Union's political saviour, Ulysses S. Grant saved the Union militarily. Lincoln's apt riposte to those who objected to Grant's fondness for the bottle was: 'I wish some of you would tell me the brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals'.

Copies of these free publications can be downloaded at <http://www.ulster-scots.com/publications>, or printed copies are available on request by emailing [info@ulster-scots.com](mailto:info@ulster-scots.com) or telephoning (028) 9043 6710.



## Maidie & Cal website launch

On Thursday February 20 2014 Millisle Primary School hosted the launch of [www.laverockbooks.co.uk](http://www.laverockbooks.co.uk), the new Ulster-Scots children's website.

The website is home to the *Maidie & Cal* Ulster-Scots series of children's books for 7 to 10-year-olds, written by Belfast author Diane Hoy and beautifully illustrated throughout by Newtownabbey artist Jonathan Temples. "I wrote the series because I firmly believe that every child has the right to learn about the culture of its own community," explained Diane. "The website has been created by Printline Direct of Newry, and details each of the three stories contained in all four books in the series. I was delighted that Millisle Primary School was keen to get involved and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and talking to its pupils. On the website, *Maidie & Cal* get the

chance to introduce themselves to the children, and I hope everyone enjoys the 'Jokes & Games' page!" *Maidie* and her young brother, *Cal*, live in Donaghadee with their dog, McFluff. Throughout the series, the children are introduced to their Ulster-Scots heritage by family members who take them on adventures over Northern Ireland and the border counties of Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal. The first book, published in August 2013, looks at history *Maidie & Cal and Strangford Lough*, dance *Maidie & Cal and the Square Dance*, and food *Maidie & Cal and the Muckle Swarry*. Diane hopes that the second book will be published later in the year.

Diane Hoy at the launch of the website at Millisle Primary School



*Maidie & Cal and Strangford Lough* - and other Ulster-Scots stories by Diane Hoy. Published by Laverock Books (Belfast: August 2013). ISBN: 978 0 9926153 0 7. Price £7.99 To order a copy please email: [info@laverockbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@laverockbooks.co.uk)

Also available from: Ards Tourist Information Office; Page One Bookshop, Newtownards; National Trust (Northern Ireland); Tesco Superstores (Northern Ireland) and [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com) or to order from any Waterstones store.

# Young Ambassadors set for Northern Ireland

**The Saint Patrick's Centre in Downpatrick has for a number of years been involved in an initiative which brings young graduates from the United States for an internship in Northern Ireland.**

The Young Ambassadors programme enables participants to experience life in Northern Ireland, placing them in a number of different organisations depending on their particular interest.

The Saint Patrick's Centre has established a number of support group cities within the US and Canada.

The Friends of St Patrick are formed into chapters, and each one fundraises to support graduates wishing to participate in the Young Ambassadors programme. The participants are selected by each Chapter

in partnership with the St Patrick Centre in Downpatrick. For a number of years the Ulster-Scots Agency has funded this programme and hosted a number of Young Ambassadors, providing the graduates with an opportunity to explore the Ulster-Scots identity and learn about cultural identity in Northern Ireland. The Young Ambassadors spend some time with Agency staff and are given the opportunity to meet with the Ulster-Scots community in order to learn more about cultural identity in Northern Ireland. Last month Agency development officer Derek Reaney visited three of the chapters in the United States (Milwaukee, Minnesota and Phoenix in Arizona). He also spoke at a public workshop at the Scottish Ramble held in Minneapolis.

"All three Chapters are enthusiastic about supporting this programme and enabling young people the opportunity to learn more about Northern Ireland," he said. "There was huge interest in Ulster-Scots, and members of the Chapters were keen to find out more about Ulster-Scots and its role in the cultural diversity within Northern Ireland and the border counties. "Members of all three Chapters are fully committed in their support of the work of the St Patrick Centre. The model developed by the Centre is an excellent way to develop relations and interest between Northern Ireland and the United States and Canada. "I also had the opportunity to meet some of the previous Young Ambassadors, many of whom have moved into positions of leadership within the various Chapters."

The trip provided the Agency the opportunity to see the potential of the long term impact of the Young Ambassadors programme in the US. Sarah Hines, a former Young Ambassador from Phoenix, who spent her internship with the Ulster-Scots Agency in Belfast, currently works with the Arizona State Senate as a clerk to the Senate Speaker. Other Young Ambassadors are employed in teaching, journalism and in Government, State or County agencies. The various Chapters are currently in the process of recruiting graduates who will be offered places in the 2014 Young Ambassadors programme.

**For more information visit [www.youngambassadorprogram.com](http://www.youngambassadorprogram.com).**



# WEANS' WURLD

## UN WORLD POETRY DAY

March 21 marked UN World Poetry Day and as this year marks the centenary of the start of The Great War, we have selected one of Rev W.F. Marshall's poems *The Lad*. This is an intensely moving poem, inspired by the Great War and its painful legacy.

## ABOUT W.F. MARSHALL

W.F. Marshall, also known as the 'the Bard of Tyrone', composed numerous poems and used a lot of Ulster-Scots words in his writing. Marshall was born in 1888 at Drumragh near Omagh in County Tyrone and was ordained a Presbyterian Minister in 1916 and, after serving as Minister of Aghnacloy Presbyterian Church for twelve years, he moved to Castlerock on the East Londonderry coast where he served as Minister for over 30 years.

## THE LAD BY W.F. MARSHALL

*They were no great aff-set anywhere,  
The scutchers times ago,  
For drink it follyd the most of them,  
That wrought among the tow.  
Plenishment they'd have little or noan  
Except for what they'd stale,  
An' they'd make the childher go out an'  
beg  
Gowpins of oaten male.*

*I knowed a scutcher that wrought in Shane  
He was a drunken scrub,  
But he ratred a son, an I mind the son  
A smart wee lump of a cub.*

*His clo'es were wings, an' his cap was tore,  
An' his fire was the fire at the kill,  
An' he went to school in his wee bare feet,  
An' niver got half his fill.*

*Above the mill was a quare big hill,  
He could see to the graveyard wall,  
To the market-house an' the station gates,  
An' the new Hibernian Hall.  
You'd hear him singin' goan up the hill,  
But the dear knows why he sung,  
For the people thought they would see the day  
When his da would sure be hung.*

*When the Twelfth was near he'd march the road,  
Hid drumsticks in his han',  
Boys, he was prime at the double rowl  
On the lid of an oul' tin can.  
He played his lone, for the other folk  
Were ashamed of him an' his rags,  
So he thrinneld his hoop an' waded the burn  
An' ginneld for sprinklybags.*

*I mind the year he took up with me,  
The ploughin' had just begun,  
I'd watch him leadin' the horses roun',  
The dhrunken scutcher's son!  
Little I thought that afterwards  
More than a son he'd be,  
For his father died in a water-shough  
An' he come to live with me.*

*He was odd in a way; I think he heered  
What nobody else could hear,  
An' he seen what I could never see,  
The more my sight was clear.  
The top of a hill bewitched him still,*

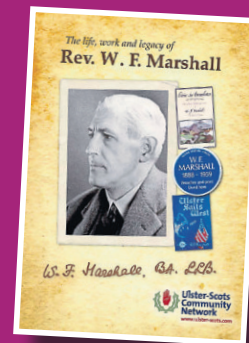
*An' the flame at the mountain's rim,  
But a runnin' burn was the best of all  
For he sayed it sung to him.*

*There were some that went that far as to say  
He was sure to turn out wil',  
But the wee man grew till he grew man big  
An' kep the heart of a chile.  
The longer he lived about the place  
The less I had to fear.  
There was never a word from him to me  
But done me good to hear.*

*I'm feelin' oul' since he went away,  
An' my sight is getting' dim;  
I niver axed for to keep him back  
When they needed men like him.  
He's sleepin' now where the poppies grow,  
In the coat that the bullets tore,  
An' what's a wheen of medals to me  
When my own wee lad's no more?*

## BOOKLET ON W.F. MARSHALL

Interested in learning more about W.F. Marshall and his works? A free booklet is available from the Ulster-Scots Community Network - *The Life, Works and Legacy of Rev. W.F. Marshall*. The booklet is available to download at [www.ulster-scots.com/uploads/USCNWFM Marshall.pdf](http://www.ulster-scots.com/uploads/USCNWFM Marshall.pdf) or alternatively call (028) 9043 6710 to request a hard copy.



## COMPETITION RESULTS...

Congratulations to Jake Cameron (Ballyclare), Malcolm Marshall Bailey (Dromara) and William Kerrigan (Castlederg) - you have won a copy of *Robert Burns And All That*. We hope you enjoy this publication which is packed with historical facts about Scotland's national bard!

## the **Ulster-Scot** COMPETITION

To celebrate UN World Poetry Day 2014 the Ulster-Scots Agency is running a competition for children. There are two categories, as follows:

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS POST PRIMARY (SECONDARY) SCHOOLS

We would like you to write out the poem *The Lad* and draw a picture to illustrate what the words of the poem mean to you. Two winners will be selected from each category and each winner will receive a £10/€10 book voucher.

### FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:

Simply send your entries to:  
**'Competition', Ulster-Scots Agency,  
The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street,  
Belfast, BT1 2LG.**

Remember to provide your name, age and address on the back of your entry.  
**CLOSING DATE: Friday April 25 2014.**

# It's Summer School time again - so register now

**The Agency is currently seeking applications from community and voluntary groups to apply to deliver an Ulster-Scots Summer School in 2014.**

It is offering voluntary and community groups the chance to run a five day Ulster-Scots activity-packed programme, a week-long drama programme or a two-day residential programme for young people aged from seven to 16.

The Agency will host a number of informal workshops throughout Northern Ireland and are seeking those groups who might be interested in applying for a grant to complete the registration slip on the right.

Derek Reaney, who manages the programme within the Ulster-Scots Agency, says groups interested in applying must contact the Agency by Friday March 28 to register their interest.

The Agency will then organise either one-to-one sessions with groups or a cluster of groups.

"We are particularly keen to get new groups to come forward and participate in the programme," he said. "Youth Clubs, church groups, or community groups who have an interest in Ulster-Scots and are working with young people should seriously consider applying to this programme."



The Agency has consulted with a number of groups who have previously delivered Summer Schools and has made a number of changes to the programme as a result of the process.

Eligible costs include venue hire, tutors to deliver the workshops, leaders, arts and crafts material and transport costs for the educational trip.

Before Christmas the Ulster-Scots Agency hosted a Youth Awards night in the Waterside Theatre in Londonderry to recognise the valuable contribution being made by the Summer Schools programme and by the groups who deliver the

programme.

Special awards were presented to Raphoe pipe band for their contribution to Ulster-Scots language, and to the South East Fermanagh Foundation for their engagement with teenagers.

The Ulster-Scots Agency will open the 2014 programme for applications at the end of March and close at the end of April. Application forms and guidelines are available at [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com).

**For further information please contact Derek Reaney on (00353) 74 9173876 or email [reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)**

## REGISTER OF INTEREST FORM – SUMMER SCHOOLS 2014

Name of Group -----

Contact person -----

Contact Address -----

Email -----

Telephone number -----

Please return to:

OR

The Ulster-Scots Agency  
William Street  
Raphoe  
County Donegal

The Ulster-Scots Agency  
Corn Exchange  
31 Gordon Street  
Belfast BT1 2LG

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