

Can you crack the codes  
and win a family pass to W5?  
See page 16

# the Ulster-Scot

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2024



## Scail tha Wurd – Ulster-Scotch Leid Week is here!

◆ Members of the Schomberg Society, along with Ulster-Scots historian Nelson McCausland, launch Ulster-Scotch Leid Week in Kilkeel. See pages 4&5 for details of events happening across the province



◆ Belfast prepares for its first Ulster-Scots 'Tartan Day' celebration



◆ Ulster-Scots Agency takes part in inaugural International Day at Dundonald Primary School



◆ Ulster-Scots culinary expert, Paula McIntyre, provides us with a recipe to keep us warm this winter



# Presidential election reminder of America's deep Ulster-Scots roots



The Seal of The President of the United States of America

Following the recent US Presidential Election, several media outlets asked the Ulster-Scots Agency to comment on the outcome, and particularly the election of JD Vance, someone who actively embraces a Scotch-Irish identity, to the office of Vice President.

A spokesperson for the Agency said: "The American people have made their democratic choice and we wish President elect Trump and Vice President elect Vance well for a successful term in office and hope that they will do a good job for the American people."

"We are delighted that Vice President elect Vance is proud of his cultural identity and we hope that this will provide a shared point of reference and an inspiration to people on both sides of the Atlantic to embrace their heritage and build connections between Ulster and America as we make plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, which owes much to our community and diaspora, in 2026.

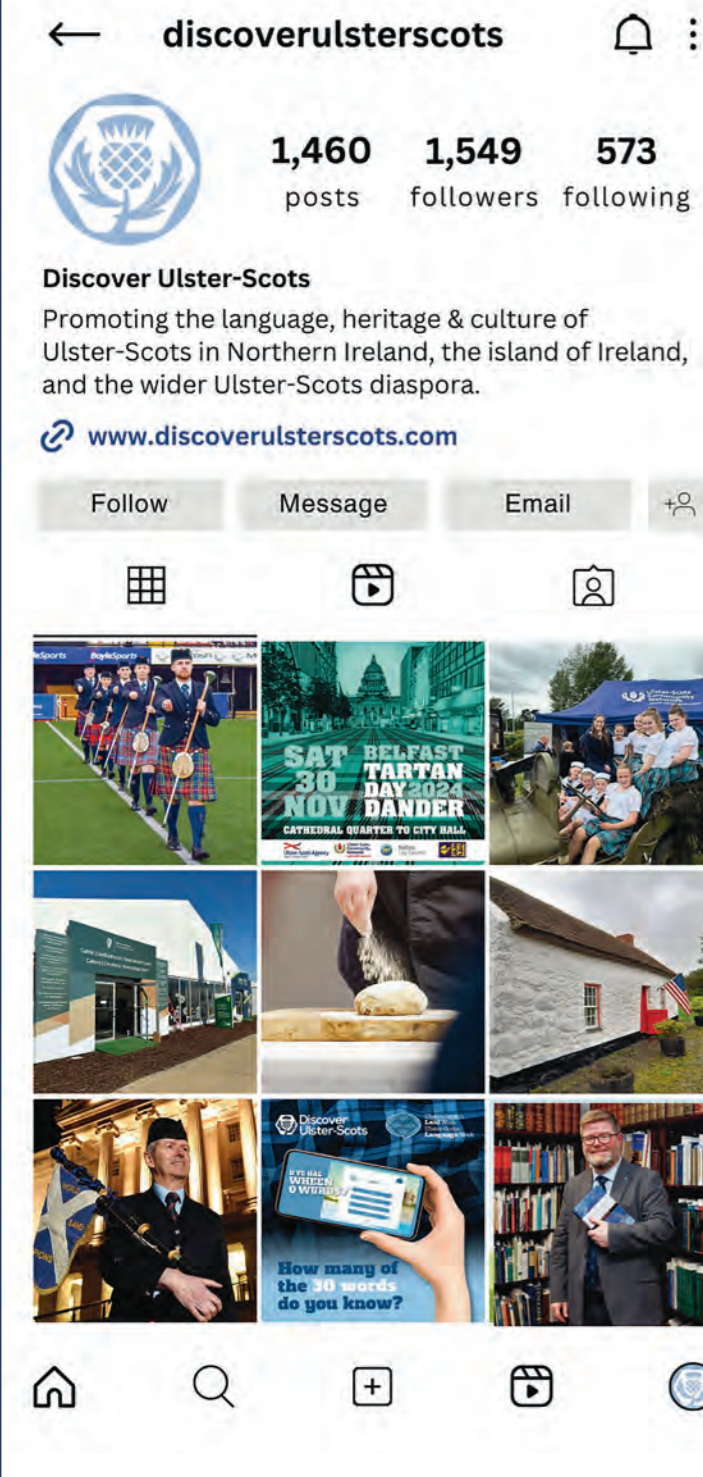
Many American politicians of both parties and leading citizens from a whole range of fields have Ulster-Scots / Scotch-Irish roots and we are keen to connect with all of them to promote our shared cultural heritage."

## Word of the Issue

**Scrieve**  
Meaning: To write (especially easily and copiously)

### Scrieve

"To write, easily and copiously"



The Ulster-Scots language is for everyone to engage with and enjoy, and many people, like those pictured here, do so through our popular 'When o Wurd's' quiz (see page 12)



Like industry and nature, the Ulster-Scots language is at the very centre of life here, surrounding us in our conversations every day

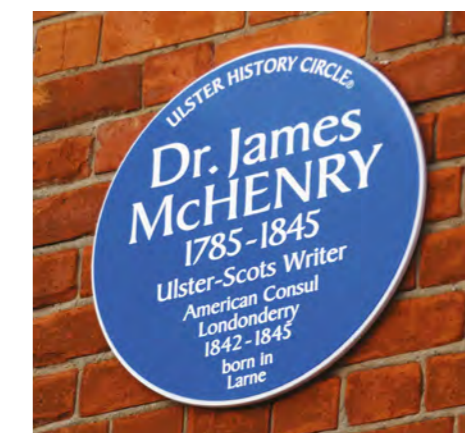
# Language Week 2024 - It's 'tha taak o tha toon'

In a world overflowing with various means of communication, there is still nothing that can compete with a simple conversation, and in Northern Ireland and across Ulster, that means that you will undoubtedly hear Ulster-Scots floating through the air.

Rich in meaning and full of colourful expression, Ulster-Scots has helped people add depth to their discussions for centuries. Words such as 'aye', 'ejjit' and 'oxter' are spoken across the land day-and-daily, expressing a meaning

whilst also containing a wonderful warmth. Ours is a language that is known far and wide, but regrettably, in some quarters, familiarity has led to contempt, and many people today do not appreciate the beauty of Ulster-Scots and its importance and prominence in life here.

Unwilling to surrender a huge part of our heritage to a lack of knowledge, Language Week (Leid Week) is a wonderful opportunity for people across the province to engage with a



Ulster-Scots writers have been producing yarns, poems, stories and other literature for hundreds of years

language that surrounds them, growing in their understanding and taking ownership of it.

As you will see on pages 4 and 5, there are events taking place all over Ulster, suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds. From the keenest Ulster-Scots language enthusiast to the individual who simply wants to know a bit more about the language that permeates through so much of their daily life and exchanges, there are opportunities for learning, fun and putting new knowledge into practice.

The Ulster-Scots language has travelled the world through pioneers, missionaries, merchants and more, but it is here - in our small corner of the globe - that it has its beating heart, the language of the rhythm of life. That is something we should be proud of, celebrate and shout about, and Leid Week gives us the perfect opportunity to do just that.

# British - Irish Council Officials to visit Discover Ulster-Scots Centre during Leid Week

The Ulster-Scots Agency are delighted to be hosting a visit of officials from the British - Irish Council who are meeting in Belfast during Ulster-Scots Leid Week. The group are in Belfast as part of their remit to look at cultural matters and it coincides nicely with events being held to celebrate and promote Ulster-Scots language across Ulster.

As part of their visit, they'll be meeting a range of people involved in the Ulster-Scots sector to discuss the issues they face.

It's an opportunity for some writers, broadcasters and educationalists to talk about the work they're undertaking to promote Ulster-Scots, as well as giving them a chance to talk to others within the sector who want to highlight the reality that groups within the sector face, including under-resourcing and lack of resolute action from statutory bodies to meet their obligations to assist the development of Ulster-Scots.

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre has played host to many important visitors and been the setting for many significant conversations. We look forward to this once again being the case when the British - Irish Council officials are with us.



### Contact the Ulster-Scots Agency:

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BT1 2LG

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The Ulster-Scots Agency  
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Or find us on social media:  
Facebook - @UlsterScotsAgency  
Instagram - @discoverulsterscots  
X (formerly Twitter) - @UlsterScotsAgen

www.ulsterscotsagency.com



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: @ULSTERSCOTSAGENCY

Join more than 20,000 people and follow our Facebook Page to keep up to date with the latest Ulster-Scots:

- News
- Events
- 'Word of the Day'
- On this day
- ...and much more!







Ulster-Scotch  
Leid Week  
Ulster-Scots  
Language Week

# Leid Week 2024

November 25-30:  
There's something  
for everyone!

Monday, November 25

Antrim Walking Tour with local historian, Donal Kelly  
Time: 10.00am-12.30pm  
Venue: Meet at The Old Courthouse, Antrim  
Booking Required – Email: [goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

Mid & East Antrim Bus trip – Exploring James Orr  
Time: 10am-4pm  
Venue: Visiting sites in Carrickfergus, Ballycarry and Larne  
\*Fully Booked\*

'Mountain Talk': Searching for Appalachian roots in Ulster Scots', with Meagan Jennett  
Time: 1pm  
Venue: Tower Museum, Londonderry  
Booking Required – Email [ulsterscots@derrystabane.com](mailto:ulsterscots@derrystabane.com) or call (028) 71376 579

An evening of poems, verses and stories from Ivor Wallace, Ian Millar, Charlie Gillen and Tommy Loudon  
Time: 7pm  
Venue: FUSE Centre, Ballymoney (for those who are unable to attend in-person events in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Fuse FM radio station will have live coverage during Leid Week)

Ulster-Scots Language Road and Street Signage Workshop  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Reivers House, Kilkeel  
Booking Required – Email [schombergsociety@gmail.com](mailto:schombergsociety@gmail.com) or call 077 5322 2553

Ulster-Scots 'Mountains an' Toonlans o' Mourne' Exhibition  
Time: During Library Opening Hours, Monday to Saturday  
Venue: Newcastle Library

Lisnagelvin Primary School – showcase of recent work by pupils with Ulster-Scots writer, Robert Campbell  
\*Closed Event\*

Digital Event – Release of three short films by Aileen McCahon, Anne McMaster and Alan Millar  
Available to view at [www.derrystabane.com/ulsterscots](http://www.derrystabane.com/ulsterscots)

Digital Event – Launch of the Northern Ireland Boys' Brigade Ulster-Scots Badge. Search 'The Northern Ireland Boys' Brigade – BBNI' on social media platforms to find out more

British and Irish Council visit Discover Ulster-Scots Centre  
\*Closed Event\*

Tuesday, November 26

Whitehouse Walking Tour with local historian, Donal Kelly  
Time: 10.00am-12.30pm  
Venue: Meet at the White House, Whitehouse Park, Newtownabbey  
Booking Required – Email: [goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

'Language through Industry' – Presentations by natives of East Donegal  
Time: 11am-1pm  
Venue: Monreagh Heritage Centre, Co. Donegal

'Footerin About Wi Words' – Explore the beauty and wit of Ulster-Scots words with Angeline King  
Time: 11.00am-12.00pm  
Venue: Rathcoole Library  
Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm  
Venue: Ballyclare Library  
Booking Required – Email: [goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

'Weemen's Wurds: Poames, Yairns an Mair in Ulster-Scots', with Anne McMaster and Aileen McCahon and music from Dick Glasgow  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Kilrea Orange Hall

'A flavour of Ulster-Scots', with Paula McIntyre  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre, Dungannon  
\*Fully Booked\*

Linen Hall Ulster-Scots Writing Competition – Awards Presentation  
Time: 1pm-2pm  
Venue: The Linen Hall Library, Belfast  
Booking Required – Visit <https://linenhall.com/event/ulster-scots-writing-competition-award-ceremony-2/>

Raphoe Central Primary School – Workshop with the Ulster-Scots Agency Education and Language Department  
\*Closed Event\*

'Dander through Narnia' at Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir with Ulster-Scots writer, Robert Campbell  
\*Closed Event\*

Wednesday, November 27

Silk Painting Family Art Workshop  
Time: 10am and again at 2pm  
Venue: Island Arts Centre, Lisburn

'Ulster-Scots, The Living Language' by Laura Spence  
Time: 11am  
Venue: Altnaveigh House, Newry

Ulster-Scots Language Learning Workshop with Dr Dayna Jost  
Time: 12.30pm  
Venue: Guildhall, Londonderry  
Booking Required – Email [ulsterscots@derrystabane.com](mailto:ulsterscots@derrystabane.com) or call (028) 71376 579



An Afternoon of Ulster-Scots Cookery, Music and Yarns  
Time: 2pm  
Venue: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart  
Booking Required – Call Elaine on 0790 4019 483

Presentation of Certificates to people who completed OCN Level 1 in Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture  
Time: 3.15pm  
Venue: Guildhall, Londonderry  
\*Closed Event\*

Ulster-Scots Music and Song Concert with Charlie Gillen, Matthew Warwick, Natalie Bodle and Stonewall Ulster-Scots Group  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: The Studio Theatre in the Braid  
Booking Required – Visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/meaevents/t-avgopzo>

Ulster-Scots Language and Culture Talk  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: SEFF Office, Lisnaska

Kells & Connor Primary School – Workshop with the Ulster-Scots Agency Education and Language Department  
\*Closed Event\*

'CS Lewis and his Ulster Links', with Lolly Spence  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre, Dungannon  
Booking Required – Call 028 8772 8600

Schools Choral Speaking Competition, organised by West Tyrone Ulster-Scots – Derry & Raphoe Action  
\*Closed Event\*

'Crackin' Yarns: Tales Frae East Donegal', with Frank Galligan  
Time: 2pm-4pm  
Venue: Monreagh Heritage Centre, Co. Donegal

Ulster-Scots Leid Week Poetry, Arts & Crafts Workshop for Weans  
Time: 4pm-5pm  
Venue: The Hairtlan Hub, Kilkeel  
\*Fully Booked\*

A night of Ulster-Scots Music with the Alistair Scott Ceilidh Band and stories of Ulster-Scots  
Time: 6.45pm-9.30pm  
Venue: Andrew Jackson Centre, Carrickfergus

An Evening of Dancing, Piping and Drumming Tunes  
Time: 7pm  
Venue: Ballynarrig Orange Hall

An evening of poetry, music and stories with Anne McMaster and Aileen McCahon  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Ballynarrig Orange Hall

'CS Lewis and his Ulster Links', with Lolly Spence  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre, Dungannon  
Booking Required – Call 028 8772 8600

Schools Choral Speaking Competition, organised by West Tyrone Ulster-Scots – Derry & Raphoe Action  
\*Closed Event\*

Coleraine Schools – 'Dander through Narnia' with Ulster-Scots writer, Robert Campbell  
\*Closed Event\*

Ballywalter Primary School, Portavogie Primary School, Kircubbin Integrated Primary School and St Mary's Primary School, Kircubbin – Workshops with the Ulster-Scots Agency Education and Language Department  
\*Closed Events\*

Friday, November 29

Forum for Research on the Languages of Scotland and Ulster (FRLSU) Conference – Day One  
Time: 9am  
Venue: The Duncairn Centre, Belfast  
Booking Required – Visit <https://www.ulsterscotscollectors.com/languages-scotland-ulster/>

Ulster-Scots Language Workshop with Angeline King  
Time: 3pm-4pm  
Venue: Crumlin Library

'Footerin About Wi Words' – Explore the beauty and wit of Ulster-Scots words with celebrated novelist and poet Angeline King  
Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm  
Venue: Crumlin Library  
Booking Required – Email: [goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

Ceilidh for all ages with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Hill of The O'Neill Event Space, Dungannon  
Booking Required – Call 028 8772 8600

Ulster-Scots Music with the 'Cup o Joe Duo'  
Time: 8pm  
Venue: Island Arts Centre, Lisburn

Ballymoney/Arroy Schools – 'Dander through Narnia' with Ulster-Scots writer, Robert Campbell  
\*Closed Event\*

Unveiling of a plaque by the Ulster History Circle in honour of Ulster Scot poet, actor and folklorist, John Clifford, followed by Scots and Ulster-Scots songs from soloist Lisa Dawson  
Venue: Larne Museum and Arts Centre  
\*Closed Event\*

Unveiling of Nativity Banners  
Venue: Monreagh Heritage Centre, Co. Donegal

Saturday, November 30

Forum for Research on the Languages of Scotland and Ulster (FRLSU) Conference – Day Two  
Time: 9am  
Venue: Ulster University, Belfast  
Booking Required – Visit <https://www.ulsterscotscollectors.com/languages-scotland-ulster/>



'Once Upon a Tartan' – Tartan Art Workshop  
Time: 9.30am-11am  
Venue: Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown

Ulster-Scots Weans Ceilidh and Ulster-Scots Storytelling, part of Dickens Day celebrations in Kilkeel  
Time: 10.30am-12.30pm  
Venue: Reivers House, Kilkeel  
Booking Required – Email [schombergsociety@gmail.com](mailto:schombergsociety@gmail.com) or call 077 5322 2553

Belfast 'Tartan Day' (including the 'Tartan Day Dander' and 'Tartan Tea')  
Time: 11am-2pm  
Venue: Meeting at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre before proceeding to Belfast City Hall  
\*Fully Booked\*

Ulster-Scots Poetry Reading and Writing Workshop at Sentry Hill  
Time: 10.30am-12.30pm  
Venue: Sentry Hill, Newtownabbey  
Booking Required – Email: [goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

25 - 30 NOVEMBER 2024

#USLW2024

ULSTER-SCOTCH LEID WEEK  
ULSTER-SCOTS LANGUAGE WEEK

aye!

THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE PARTICIPATING IN ULSTER-SCOTCH LEID WEEK 20AN24 / ULSTER-SCOTS LANGUAGE WEEK 2024, INCLUDING:

Discover Ulster-Scots  
Ulster-Scots Agency



# Tartan-tastic! Belfast prepares for first Ulster-Scots 'Tartan Day' on November 30

When people think of Scotland, many things spring to mind – the thistle, haggis, Edinburgh Castle, and Highland cows (to name just a few). However, another famous export from the land of 'kirks, burns and braes' is tartan, which, like so many of our Scottish ancestors, has travelled the globe and made an outsized impact.

Instantly recognisable, from the catwalks of the world's famous fashion houses to the placemats in your granny's kitchen, it's a 'wee bit of home'; a visible, tangible link to a proud ancestry and heritage. With this in mind, you can see why it's the perfect symbol for an exciting first for Belfast, as the city prepares for the Ulster-Scots 'Tartan Day' on Saturday, November 30.

The highlight of the day will be the 'Tartan Day Dander', which will depart from the



Ian Crozier, CEO of the Ulster-Scots Agency

Discover Ulster-Scots Centre at midday and wind its way through the streets to Belfast City Hall. Dressed in their tartan finery, participants will be led through the city by a massed pipe band and drummers, along with drum majors and highland dancers, filling the air with the colour and sounds of a people proud to celebrate their Ulster-Scots heritage and culture.

The massed band will play the well-known tunes Scotland the Brave, Rowan Tree, Green Hills of Tyrol, The Battle's O'er, My Land and Balmoral. It's also anticipated that Heilan Laddie will be played as a salute to the Chieftain, with this honorary role for the occasion being undertaken by the Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Dame Fionnula Jay-O'Boyle.

Children and young people in schools across Ulster are creating their own tartan designs, which will be used on banners for the dander, adding to the pageantry and spectacle of this special occasion.

Following the dander, participants will enjoy a special 'Tartan Tea' in the beautiful surroundings of Belfast City Hall, a building steeped in rich Ulster-Scots history, where they will enjoy some well-earned refreshment and musical entertainment.

Speaking ahead of what promises to be a wonderful event, Ian Crozier, CEO of the Ulster-Scots Agency, said: "The very first Tartan Day is a tremendous opportunity for Ulster-Scots in Belfast and beyond to come together and proudly display our deep love for our history, culture and musical tradition. To hear the sound of the pipes flooding the air, as hundreds of people make their way through the streets dressed in an array of tartans brimming with colour and style, will be something to behold, as will the flair and skill of the drum majors and highland dancers who



Dancers from the Kathryn Stewart Highland Dance Display Team will be part of the colour and pageantry on Tartan Day



Campbell College Pipe Band will be amongst the participants in the massed pipe band on Tartan Day

have registered to take part. And that's even before we get to the grand setting of the City Hall and the Tartan Tea, which promises to be a very fitting end to a memorable occasion.

"In a real 'turn up for the books', the City of Edinburgh has announced plans for its first ever Tartan Parade in May 2025. Since we are having our Tartan Day on 30th November, that means that Belfast, the capital city of the

Ulster-Scots, will have a tartan procession before capital city of Scotland! It's even possible that our Tartan Day Dander will be the first tartan procession in any major city in the British Isles, making it truly special indeed.

"Our sincere thanks go to Belfast City Council for supporting Tartan Day as part of Belfast 24 Year of Culture. We hope everyone in the city, be they participants or Christmas shoppers, will enjoy the sights and sounds of Tartan Day."

**Tartan Day is fully booked but anyone in Belfast City Centre on Saturday, November 30, is welcome to watch the dander as it makes its way to City Hall at around 12.30pm**

## Celebrating Dill's role in UK/US 'Special Relationship'

An Early Day Motion tabled in the House of Commons by Carla Lockhart MP (Upper Bann) has highlighted the central role played by Field Marshal Sir John Greer Dill in the formation of what has become known as the 'Special Relationship' between the UK and the United States of America.

An Ulster-Scot born in Lurgan on Christmas Day, 1881, Dill had a distinguished military career, serving in the South African War and World War I, before becoming Director of military operations and intelligence at the War Office in 1934. Knighted in 1937, he went on to serve as British Chief of Staff during the early part of World War II, and as head of the British Joint Staff Mission to the US from 1941-1944. His friendship with US Chief of Staff, George C. Marshall, was a key element to the international relationship which developed between the two nations.

The text of the Early Day Motion reads: "That this House recognises the United Kingdom's Special Relationship with the United States as a foundation of Western democracy and global security since the Second World War; recalls the deep, historic ties and shared values between the two nations, including those contributed by the Ulster-Scots community; notes how this alliance was cemented during World War II as both nations fought together against tyranny; acknowledges the significant role of Field Marshal Sir John Greer Dill, an Ulster-Scot from Lurgan, who represented the UK in Washington, DC, from 1941 until his death in 1944; further notes that he was posthumously honoured by the United States with a Distinguished Service Medal and a graveside statue at Arlington National Cemetery, unveiled by President Harry S. Truman; recognises Dill's efforts



The statue of Field Marshal Sir John Greer Dill at his grave in Arlington National Cemetery. He is the highest-ranking foreign military officer buried at what is regarded as America's 'most hallowed ground'

with General George Marshall to advance the shared strategic priorities of both countries, even during times of political disagreement; believes the UK's relationship with the United States remains essential to security and prosperity; and calls on the Prime Minister and Government to strengthen relations with the incoming US administration, particularly in the lead-up to the 80th anniversary of VE Day in 2025 and the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence in 2026, which offer valuable opportunities to reinforce this vital alliance."

Dill passed away in Washington DC on November 4, 1944, but not before he had helped to solidify the bonds between the US and UK as we fought side-by-side against the threat of tyranny posed by Nazi Germany, and helped to lay the foundation for an alliance which continues to prosper to this day.

**SAT 30 NOV DANDER**  
**BELFAST TARTAN DAY 2024**  
**CATHEDRAL QUARTER TO CITY HALL**

Ulster-Scots Agency | Ulster-Scots Community Network | Belfast City Council

# Ulster-Scots proud to take part in Dundonald Primary School's first International Day Event

The Ulster-Scots Agency was delighted to be present at the first International Day Event held by Dundonald Primary School on Tuesday, November 19.

With more than 20 nationalities represented in the school, the event was a feast for all the senses, full of colour, culture, music and delicious food. A large hall, which was full to overflowing at times, provided a snapshot of the world around us, and included tables representing overseas nations such as China, Botswana, Sudan, Nigeria, Philippines, as well as tables representing the UK, including Ulster-Scots, Scotland, Wales, and of course, Northern Ireland.

Hundreds of pupils, parents and grandparents came to the event, with many stopping at the Agency's stand to discuss their ancestors and learn more about the language - our pens with a banner pullout, promoting 30 Ulster-Scots words, flew out!

Terrific entertainment was provided by pupils, with several very talented weans singing and dancing all afternoon, including two Highland Dancers trained by Michelle Johnston. It took tremendous courage for them to get up and dance in front of the huge crowd, but they did incredibly well, showcasing Highland Dancing in a truly wonderful way and filling the hearts of the many onlooking Ulster-Scots with pride.

Following the event, there will undoubtedly be lots more of 'the hamely tongue' being spoken across Dundonald and beyond, and hopefully that interest will only continue to grow as the children continue to learn more about Ulster-Scots language, culture and history in the years ahead.



## 'Speak for Yersel'

New resources will create a digital snapshot of how language is used here

When you're talking to a group of people, would you say *you, youse, or ye?* Would you ever say *'I'm pure ragin'?* And do you pronounce *meat* the same as *mate?*

These are the kinds of questions asked in *Speak for Yersel: Northern Ireland* and *Speak for Yersel: Republic of Ireland*, two brand-new resources which will create a digital snapshot of how English on the island of Ireland and Scots in Ulster are used in the 21st century. They will map the diverse varieties heard from Ballycastle in the north to Ballycotton in the south. City-dwellers in Belfast and Dublin in the east can have their say alongside the rural populations of tiny villages like Belleek and Brandon in the west.

In three crowdsourced surveys, participants will be able to tell the researchers about the words, sounds and sentences they use. Do they prefer *aye* or *ye?* Do they have an extra vowel in *film* that makes it sound like they are saying

*filim?* Would they ever use *I'm after telling him* or do they prefer *I have (just) told him?* After each question, their answer is instantly added to maps of Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. They will be able to see at a glance how their usage differs from that of other respondents across the entire island of Ireland.

Karen Corrigan, Professor of Linguistics and English Language and Research Associate Dr Mary Robinson, of the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University, are leading the Northern Irish survey. They are collaborating with Dr Louis Strange from the University of Glasgow who is leading the Republic of Ireland one.

The online surveys are available here:  
**Speak For Yersel: Northern Ireland:** <https://speakforyersel.ac.uk/ni/>  
**Speak For Yersel: Republic of Ireland:** <https://speakforyersel.ac.uk/roi/>



'Speak For Yersel' will chart the usage of English and Scots across the island of Ireland



# Celebrating Ulster-Scots at Monreagh Heritage Centre: A Week of Language, Culture and Community

Monreagh Heritage Centre in East Donegal is set to host a week of cultural celebrations as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week, running from Sunday to Friday, November 24–29. This event will highlight the historical significance of the Ulster-Scots language and its connection to the local community, while promoting greater awareness and appreciation of the region's cultural heritage.

church service will be held at Monreagh Presbyterian Church from 10am to 11am on Sunday, November 24, conducted by Rev Colin Jones. Church member and elder, Ian McCracken, will be reading in Ulster-Scots and organist, Winnie McCracken, will be playing a selection of Scottish tunes. Attendees will also receive a booklet, *Love the Brotherhood*, featuring selected scripture passages in the Ulster-Scots language.



Nativity banners will share 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' in Ulster-Scots

shift to the local economy and heritage with a 'Language Through Industry' event. This afternoon session will include presentations by natives of East Donegal who will discuss the impact of language on local industries, focusing particularly on the impact on agriculture. Attendees will also be able to view historical artefacts and participate in live agricultural demonstrations, highlighting how the Ulster-Scots language has shaped rural life in the region.

On Thursday, November 28, a lively storytelling session called 'Crackin' Yarns: Tales Frae East Donegal' will take place with Frank Galligan, a broadcaster, journalist and author well-known for his engaging yarns and knowledge of local traditions. Frank will share fascinating stories, offering a window into the area's oral history, much of which is deeply rooted in the Ulster-Scots language.

The week will conclude on Friday, November 29, with the unveiling of the Ulster-Scots Nativity Story banners at the Monreagh Heritage Centre. These banners, depicting familiar scenes from the infancy narratives in Ulster-Scots, will be displayed on the centre's exterior walls, adding a striking visual element to the cultural celebration.

In addition to these events, the centre will also launch a social media campaign throughout the week, including daily posts, videos, and challenges to engage a wider audience. The digital initiative will showcase



Frank Galligan, broadcaster, journalist and author, will be 'Crackin' Yarns n Tellin' Tales' at Monreagh during Leid Week

the Ulster-Scots language, encouraging online participation and generating interest in the region's rich linguistic traditions. Please visit [facebook.com/monreaghheritagecentre](https://facebook.com/monreaghheritagecentre) for more information.

Ulster-Scots Language Week promises to be a vibrant and educational celebration, offering a chance for locals and visitors to engage with the history, culture, and language of East Donegal.

## The Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival

18th–30th November 2024

**NEWTOWNSTEWART SOMME MEMORIAL HALL**

Ulster-Scots Agency | DERRY & RAPHOE ACTION

FRI 22nd @ 8pm	An evening with Tullylagan Pipe Band
WED 27th @ 2pm	Ulster-Scots Afternoon of Cookery, Music and Yarns
THU 28th @ 10am	Schools Choral Speaking Competition
THU 28th @ 8pm	Step In Style: Parading Music in Ulster From the 18 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> Centuries by Gordon Ramsey
FRI 29th @ 8pm	An Evening with Dunloy Accordion Band
SAT 30th @ 10-12pm	Ulster-Scots Youth Crafts with Carol
SAT 30th @ 7.30pm	St Andrews Day Celebration and Finale!

Contact Elaine on 0790 4019 483 to make bookings

The following events will take place in the Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart

PLEASE NOTE - some events require prebooking. To make your bookings, please contact Elaine on 0790 4019 483

FRI 22 <sup>ND</sup> 8PM	AN EVENING WITH TULLYLAGAN PIPE BAND
FRI 29 <sup>TH</sup> 8PM	AN EVENING WITH DUNLOY ACCORDION BAND
WED 27 <sup>TH</sup> 2PM	ULSTER-SCOTS AFTERNOON OF COOKERY, MUSIC AND YARNS
THU 28 <sup>TH</sup> 10AM	SCHOOLS CHORAL SPEAKING COMPETITION
SAT 30 <sup>TH</sup> 10AM-12PM	ULSTER-SCOTS YOUTH CRAFTS WITH CAROL
SAT 30 <sup>TH</sup> 7.30PM	ST ANDREWS DAY CELEBRATION AND FINALE!

**THU 28<sup>TH</sup> 8PM STEP IN STYLE: PARADING MUSIC IN ULSTER FROM THE 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES BY DR GORDON RAMSEY**

A musical showcase from the local 'Blood and Thunder Flute Band' Red Hand Defenders Flute Band Newtownstewart and from a local 'Melody Flute Band' Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band.

**FRI 29<sup>TH</sup> 8PM AN EVENING WITH DUNLOY ACCORDION BAND**

Join us for an evening of spectacular marching band entertainment from one of Ulster's finest and accomplished accordion bands. Dunloy Accordion Band has performed at prestigious events throughout Ulster, Great Britain, France and Belgium, as well as appearing on television and radio – showcasing their musical talents with pride and passion.

Host, Willie Hill, will facilitate a question-and-answer session with band members and will also recite Ulster-Scots Poetry.

**Book your place - contact Elaine on 0790 4019 483**

**SAT 30<sup>TH</sup> 10AM-12PM ULSTER-SCOTS YOUTH CRAFTS WITH CAROL**

Come along and enjoy some Ulster-Scots themed Youth crafts in the Somme Memorial Hall with Carol Robinson. (Ages 7 to 12 years)

**Book your place - contact Elaine on 0790 4019 483**

**SAT 30<sup>TH</sup> 7.30PM ST ANDREWS DAY CELEBRATION AND FINALE!**

Participants Include:

- Compere-Joe Graham
- Ulster-Scots traditional folk band-Stonewall
- Kirlish Ulster-Scots Group
- Lisnair Highland Dancers
- Kyle Duddy & Somme Hall student pipers

**Book your place - contact Elaine on 0790 4019 483**

## Something for everyone at the Bessy Bell and Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival

West Tyrone will be awash with Ulster-Scots revelry during Leid Week 2024, as the Bessy Bell and Mary Gray Festival brings top class Ulster-Scots language, music, cookery, crafts and storytelling to the masses.

As you can see from the event listing, there is literally something for everyone, from the very young to the elegant elders, but with several events ticketed, you need to get in touch ASAP or risk missing out!

For more information, contact Elaine at West Tyrone Ulster-Scots – Derry & Raphoe Action on 0790 4019 483.



Members of the Schomberg Fife and Lambe Drumming Club perform at the Schomberg Society's Guy Fawkes Night Celebrations

Thousands of people thronged the streets of Killeel at the beginning of November, as the town hosted its annual Guy Fawkes Night.

A now regular feature in the calendar of Ulster-Scots events provided by the Schomberg Society, this year the organisers developed this hugely popular event by making it part of a larger five-day festival, culminating in a major outdoor celebration in the town centre.

Other events hosted by the Schomberg Society during the festival included a talk and presentation on The Gunpowder Plot by local historian Dr Andrew Charles; a 'Bonfire Toffee' baking demonstration, and an Ulster-Scots Weans Arts and Crafts workshop.

A major highlight of the festival was a children's lantern parade, which made its way through Killeel led by the Scots King James VI of Scotland and 1st of England on horseback; the Schomberg Fife and Drum Band, and 17th Century Living History Re-Enactors carrying fire torches.

Hundreds of children and their families took part in the parade, which finished off with the crowds gathering around for the lighting of a beacon, live musket firing, a fireworks display, children's entertainment, and an Ulster-Scots music and dance showcase in the Lower Square.

King James was a pivotal figure in the story of the Ulster-Scots, overseeing the Plantation of Ulster, and the Schomberg Society's Guy Fawkes celebrations aim to create a better awareness of King James and the story of the Plantation of Ulster.



Crowds gather around to enjoy performances by the Kirknarra School of Dance in Killeel town centre

## Crowds come out to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night in Killeel

The tradition of Ulster-Scots celebrating Guy Fawkes Night in Killeel stretches back well over a century, when there were performances by marching bands, fifes and lambe drums took to the streets, and bonfires were lit.

The Schomberg Society is thrilled to have successfully revived this tradition, which now welcomes visitors from right across Northern Ireland, and extended their thanks to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Newry Mourne and Down PCSP, and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for supporting this important event.



Huge crowds gather in Killeel for the Schomberg Society's Guy Fawkes Night Celebrations



The Northern Ireland Drum Major Display Team entertain the crowds during the Guy Fawkes event in Killeel



Weans enjoying the new Ulster-Scots After School Club in the Hairtlan Hub, Killeel

## New Ulster-Scots After School Club established in Killeel

Following the recent opening of the Schomberg Society's new Ulster-Scots Hairtlan Hub in Killeel, exciting opportunities have emerged to expand Ulster-Scots in the Mournes and introduce new programmes, events and activities to further promote Ulster-Scots culture, history and language.

One new initiative which has recently been established is a weekly Ulster-Scots After School Club, which takes place every Friday in the Hairtlan Hub, which is located close to both Killeel Primary School and Killeel High School.

The club brings 25 weans together each week to enjoy a range of fun Ulster-Scots activities, including arts and crafts, sports, and music and dance, all helping give them a better awareness of the Ulster-Scots culture and traditions in the Mournes.

In the coming months, the Schomberg Society are looking forward to building upon the success of this new venture and are seeking to offer an ever-expanding range of educational programmes for children and young people to get involved in all aspects of Ulster-Scots!

Make sure to follow the work of the Society online (Schomberg Mourne UlsterScots on Facebook) to keep up-to-date with future news and developments.



# Pitch Perfect provides platform for Ulster's musical traditions

Seaview Football Ground in North Belfast was a hive of activity on Saturday, September 28, as it played host to Pitch Perfect, a spectacular event organised by Belfast Orangefest and the Ulster-Scots Agency with support from Belfast City Council.

Rather than football, it was bands and dancers who took centre stage in a celebration of Belfast's rich musical traditions.

The event featured a range of performances from flute, pipe and accordion bands, many from Belfast, along with a strong contingent of invited guests who had travelled from across the province to take part. And of course, there was the sound of fife and drum!

North Belfast bands on parade included the City of Belfast Fifes and Drums, Fairhill Flute Band, Pride of the Shore Flute Band and the Whitewell Tartan Flute Band. They were joined by Sydenham Blues and Royals from the east of the city and Dunmurry Protestant Boys, Shankill Star and Shankill Old Boys from West Belfast. The Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band, founded in Belfast but long based in Ballyclare, brought the sound of the pipes to the Shore Road venue.

The Belfast flute bands were joined by Johnston Star from Whiteabbey, Ballyclare Memorial, Benvardeen Flute Band from North Antrim and Star of Down from Maghera near Newcastle.

The accordion band tradition was superbly represented by Baillie's Mills Accordion from Lisburn, George Dummigan Accordion Band



BBC Radio Ulster presenter Helen Mark compered the event

from Larne and Corbet Accordion Band from Banbridge.

Ulster-Scots folk music traditions were brilliantly showcased by the Market Hill-based group Stonewall, who got feet tapping with Scottish, Ulster and bluegrass numbers.

A touch of tartan was provided by the Kathryn Stewart Highland Dance Display Team, who performed a selection of traditional dances, as well as a piece choreographed for performance at this year's Belfast International Tattoo, to the music of the Lambeg drum and fife, which was performed live by musicians from the Mounthill Drumming Club near Larne.

The audience was also wowed by a display from the five-member Northern Ireland Drum Major Presentation Team under the leadership of Emma Barr, Drum Major of the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, who can boast ten world championships and many other titles between them.

The event was well attended with around 1,800 visitors coming throughout the afternoon.

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier said: "The Ulster-Scots Agency and Belfast Orangefest both received funding from Belfast City Council to support cultural activity



Sydenham Blues and Royals



City of Belfast Fifes and Drums



Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band

as part of the Belfast 24 year of culture.

"Given the importance of music and musicians within Ulster-Scots culture and Orange traditions, there was an obvious

opportunity for us to come together and showcase the talent that exists within our communities. We also wanted to take the opportunity to bring back some of the broader Ulster-Scots culture, including pipe bands, drum majors and Lambeg drumming, that was strong in Belfast in the past but hasn't been seen as much in recent years.

"All the partners involved in the delivery of Pitch Perfect are extremely pleased with how things went and the audience feedback we received on the day. We believe that there is a huge amount of potential for this event to grow and be a catalyst for the development of Ulster-Scots culture in Belfast.

"The city has recently been recognised as a UNESCO City of Music and the strength of our musical traditions was a big part of securing that. We have to take the opportunity to put our Ulster-Scots culture centre stage in the city that we built."



Mounthill Drumming Club



NI Drum Major Presentation Team



Kathryn Stewart Highland Dance Display Team

# Discover Ulster-Scots

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# D'YE HAE A WHEEN O WURDS?

Northern  
 aye reland  
 Everybody kens a wee bit of Ulster-Scots

The Census told us over 190,000 people in Northern Ireland have some Ulster-Scots. That's over 50,000 more than ten years ago, but it's still just scratching the surface.

Many more have Ulster-Scots and don't realise it. To find out if you're one of them, go online and take the When o Wurds quiz!

#wheenowurds

How many of the 30 words do you know?



USE THIS QR CODE OR GO ONLINE:

www.discoverulsterscots.com

## Taakin Braid Spice up your life!

In our previous article, we introduced the history and origins of the Scots language and examined how this speech was carried to Ulster largely during the Plantation (but not exclusively so).

**How was it 'carried'?**  
 When any of us learn a language, we first hear it as distinctive sounds. Over time, we pick up the meaning of these sounds from clues around us, before finally producing the sounds ourselves. Just consider how many parents have had this experience. Mum and Dad point at a dog and repeat the sounds to their baby, hoping that eventually their wean will say 'dog' for themselves.



It is not until we reach school and formal education that we really link these sounds to the written form. Anyone learning to write English knows how hard the spelling can be, as English has so many irregularities and difficult homophones.

Try reading the following: "Though it was tough, she thought she could get through the thorough training programme." For hundreds of years our unique language has been transmitted orally within speech communities throughout Ulster. When I learned from my parents and friends that a 4-legged animal that barked was called a 'dog', I also picked up that it is also called a 'doag' in the Ulster-Scots community around me. These two articulations are stored in our brains for subsequent retrieval!

That being said, I never saw 'doag' spelt out or written down. This is because standard English was (and still is) the only language of education.

Furthermore, 'taakin broad' (speaking Ulster-Scots) was actively discouraged in the classroom and other formal settings, as it was not considered to be 'correct' English. It was once we were with friends, family and neighbours (in the 'right' context) we would feel more relaxed about using our own vernacular.

Don't be mistaken! For most of us Ulster-Scots speakers it is not a binary choice between standard English or Ulster-Scots. Most of the time Ulster-Scots speakers will switch from one to the other, and often in the same sentence! This phenomenon happens in many language communities throughout the world. It is called code switching. Code switching has many benefits - there are things we can express better in Ulster-Scots than English:

it is easier to make connections with fellow speakers that can help express our cultural identity. Let me give you three examples. Read out what you see.



A HAE TAE GIE HAME NOO AN DAE MAE HAMEWORK AFORE MAE MA COMES BAAK. SHE'S AYE GOWLIN AT MAE TAE DAE IT.

How much did you understand? It's almost all pure Ulster-Scots. If Ulster-Scots was a spice this would be a red-hot chilli pepper! How about this second sentence?



I HAVE TAE GIE HAME NOW AND DAE MAE HAMEWORK BEFORE MY MAA COMES BACK. SHE'S ALWAYS GOWLIN AT ME TO DO IT.

This one is less 'spicy', more like a jalapeno with fewer Ulster-Scots words used.



I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW AND DO MY HOMEWORK BEFORE MY MOTHER COMES BACK. SHE IS ALWAYS SHOUTING AT ME TO DO IT.

This is standard English with no kick off it at all! The level of Ulster Scots 'spiciness' of a sentence will depend on many factors such as age, audience and social setting. Ultimately, it's for each speaker to mix and match how much Ulster-Scots they use.

**Writing 'braad'**

Although Ulster-Scots has not seen much in formal education, throughout the centuries writers have written in the language using English spelling as way to capture the local vernacular. In the last 20 years or so, we have seen a revived interest in writing in Ulster-Scots and some magnificent work has been done to create word glossaries, grammar books and curate new literature. (We will go into this in more detail in the next edition.)

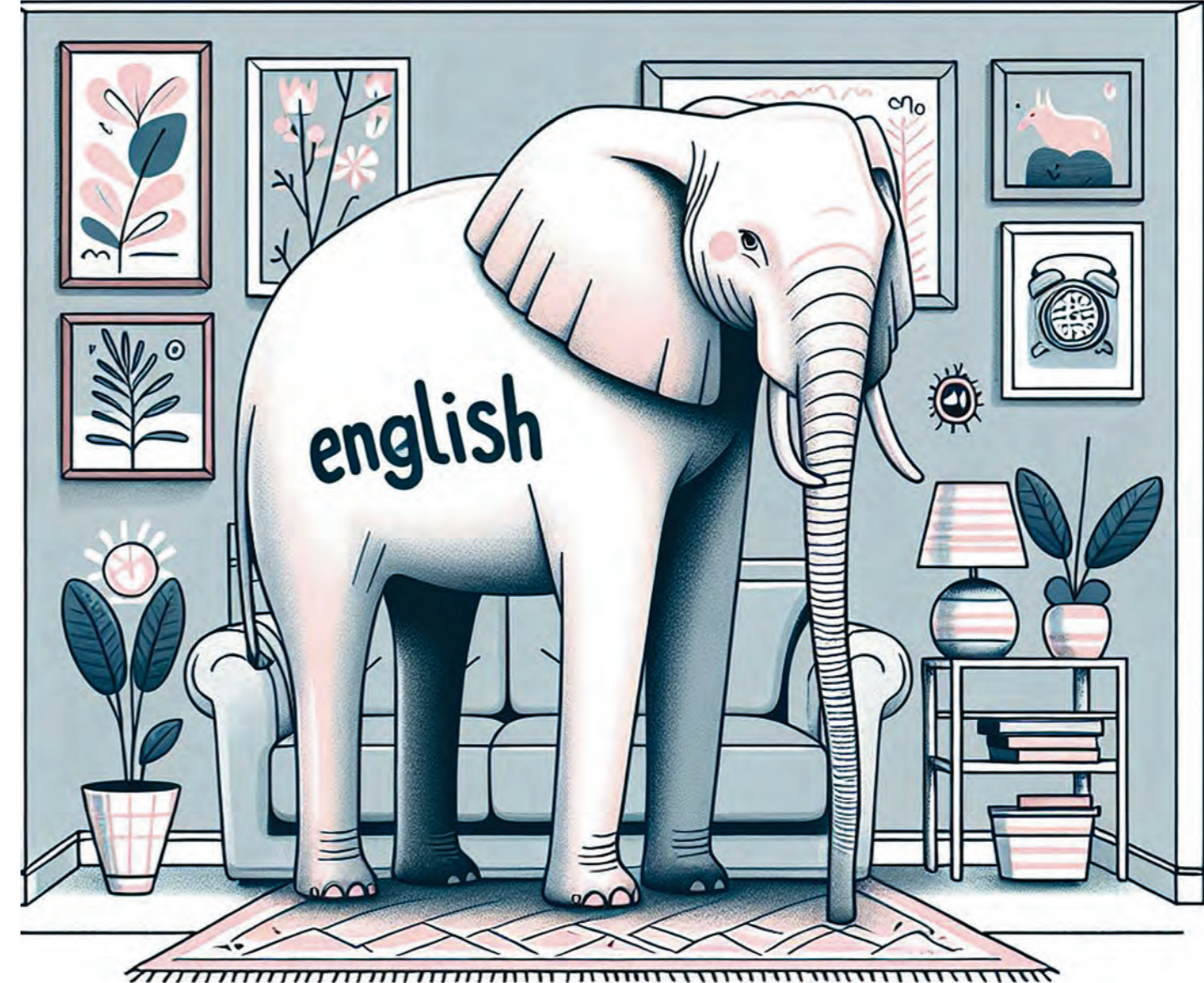
For our uniquely 'spicy' way of speaking to have a strong future, we all need to work together to strengthen the transmission of the language from one generation to the next. We need to continue to encourage people to use Ulster-Scots more in public life and to tackle the social stigma still attached to it.

At the Agency, we are working hard to develop new engaging schools' materials which will help children and young people to comprehend and understand the richness of the language around them. Using this approach, we want to have Ulster-Scots taught in formal learning as well as caught by hearing it in the community.

**The elephant in the room**

We are not encouraging Ulster-Scots because we need it for communication, per se. We all know how to speak and write in English and that is not going away. Rather, the value of our tongue lies in how it links us to our past, our history and our heritage. It can provide us with a sense of belonging. It promotes a richness that makes us more understanding of others.

To horrendously mix metaphors, if standard English is the bread and butter, then Ulster-Scots is the jam! So, let's get out there and spice up our speech with a 'wheen o wurds'!







## Paula's hamely winter warmers

When it comes to keeping warm during the cold, dark winter months, it's very hard to beat a delicious home cooked meal. The difficult bit can be knowing how to create the recipe, so here to help us chase away the winter blues is renowned Ulster-Scots culinary expert, Paula McIntyre, with her 'winter warmers' to get us all through Christmas and beyond:

### Neep and Cider Soup, Smoky Bacon Sodas

4 rashers smoked bacon, chopped  
1 tablespoon olive oil or local rapeseed oil  
25g butter  
1 onion, finely chopped  
100g diced celery  
300g turnip scoopings, cut into 1cm dice  
150ml dry cider or apple juice  
750ml ham or chicken stock  
125g diced potato  
25ml double cream

#### Method

Cook bacon in oil until crisp and golden. Remove from pan and add the butter, onion and celery. Cook gently until golden and soft. Add the cider and cook for a minute. Add the turnip, stock and potato. Cook until soft. Add cream blend to a smooth puree and check seasoning.

### Sage oil garnish

12 sage leaves  
50ml olive oil or local rapeseed oil

#### Method

Heat the oil in a pan and add the sage leaves. When they crisp up place on kitchen paper. Mix the fried sage leaves with the oil and drizzle over the soup.

### Mini Smoky Bacon Soda Farls

300g plain flour  
1 heaped teaspoon baking soda  
½ teaspoon salt  
250ml buttermilk  
Cooked bacon from soup, chopped finely

#### Method

Mix the flour, baking soda and salt in a bowl. Mix in the bacon. Make a well in the centre

and add the buttermilk. Mix to dough and turn onto a floured surface. Knead gently to bring together (do not over work as you'll knock the air out) then roll out to about 1cm thick. Cut into 3cm rounds. Leave for 10 minutes then cook on a heavy based frying pan or griddle over medium hot heat for about 3 minutes each side. Cool on a wire rack.

### Self Saucing Apple Pudding

750g mixture eating and cooking apples  
50g castor sugar  
50g butter  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

#### Method

Quarter, peel and remove core from apples and slice each quarter in half.  
Heat the butter and sugar in a pan and add the apples. Cook for about 5 minutes to caramelize then add the cinnamon. Stir into



the mixture and cook for a minute. Place apple mixture in the bottom of a buttered baking dish. Set oven to 180°C

#### For the sponge

190g self raising flour  
60g soft brown sugar  
125ml buttermilk  
1 egg  
2 tablespoons (30ml) golden syrup  
100g melted butter

#### Method

Place the flour in a bowl and whisk in the sugar. Make a well in the centre and add the buttermilk, egg, syrup and butter. Whisk to a smooth dough and spread over the apples.

#### For the sauce

250ml boiling water  
50ml maple syrup  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
1 tablespoon cornflour  
50g soft brown sugar

#### Method

Whisk the syrups into the boiling water. Mix the cornflour and soft brown sugar and sprinkle over the top of the sponge.  
Take a large spoon and gently pour the hot liquid onto it and over the apple sponge. Don't panic if it looks a mess at this stage!  
Cook for about 40 minutes or until an inserted skewer comes out clean.  
Serve warm with cream or ice-cream.

**Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen USA**

**EPISODE SIX**

FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2024 | 19:30 | BBC ONE NI

All six episodes available on BBC iPlayer

BBC NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund

CleanSlate

Hamely Kitchen USA  
Don't forget to check out Paula's recent show, 'Hamely Kitchen USA', for more exciting recipes, tips and culinary adventures! All episodes are now available on the BBC iPlayer

# Belfast's Bonnie BURNS

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# WEANS' WURLD

## CODE MAKERS & BREAKERS

### INGENIOUS ULSTER SAMUEL MORSE



Born in Charleston, Massachusetts, USA on 27th April 1791, Samuel Morse's Ulster-Scots ancestors hailed from Mullabrack, Co. Armagh. He died in 1872, aged 80.



As a young man, he travelled to England to study art. When he returned to America, people did not like his artistic style, so he started painting portraits to earn money.



He came up with the idea for an electric telegraph in 1832, after hearing about electrical impulses and how they could travel long distances.



Along with his partner, Alfred Vail, he developed a system of dots and dashes, known today as *Morse Code*, to help send messages along telegraph lines.



Morse sent his first long distance message on 24th May 1844. By 1866, there were telegraph lines all over North America, and even one crossing the Atlantic Ocean!

### INGENIOUS ULSTER



### J O H N HERIVEL



Born in Belfast on 29th August 1918, John Herivel attended Methodist College. He won a scholarship to study Maths at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He died in 2011, aged 92.



At just 21 years old, he was recruited to work at Bletchley Park during World War 2. He started in Hut 6 as a code breaker in January 1940.



He worked out a really clever way of beginning to decode the messages sent by the Germans on the famous Enigma machine. His technique was key in breaking the code.



His way of decoding the ciphers became known as the 'Herivel Tip' or Herivelismus. He even wrote a book about his famous technique.



After the war, John returned to Belfast and taught at Campbell College for a year. He then became a lecturer, first at Queen's University, and then All Souls College in Oxford.

There are many great Ulster-Scots inventors and innovators who have made an important, long-lasting impact on our world. This month, we are going to focus on code makers and breakers! Read on to find out more about these famous Ulster-Scots and then try your hand at cracking the codes for a chance to win a family pass to the brilliant W5 Interactive Discovery Centre in Belfast.

Each code conceals a different message. When you've cracked them, send your decoded messages, along with your name and a contact number, to [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk), or post your answers to *The Education Team, The Ulster-Scots Agency, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG*

### CRACK THE CODE

**Code One:** Use Morse Code to help you to decipher the message to the right (this was the first telegraph message sent by Samuel Morse):

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

W...../.../...../...../...../  
...../...../...../...../?

W\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_?

**Code Two:** Use the cipher to decode the message below. Look for the letters in the red rows, then replace it with the letter above to reveal the message:

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

RZ/RDGG/MZHZHWM/OCZH.

W\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_.