

# the Ulster-Scot

SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2024



Win a Family Pass to the Ulster-American Folk Park in Omagh  
See page 16 for details!



◆ A new Ulster-Scots centre – Tha Hairtlan Hub – has officially opened on Harbour Road, Kilkeel. Representatives from the Schomberg Society with Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities, and Ian Crozier, CEO of the Ulster-Scots Agency, presided over the cutting of the ribbon, together with VIP guests and representatives from the Ulster-Scots community. The cultural hub is the newest addition to the Society’s main Ulster-Scots centre, Reivers House, and will be the home of several newly established Ulster-Scots groups and projects. See page 9 for details.



◆ Jessica Moore brings All-Ireland Highland Dancing success back to Moneyrea

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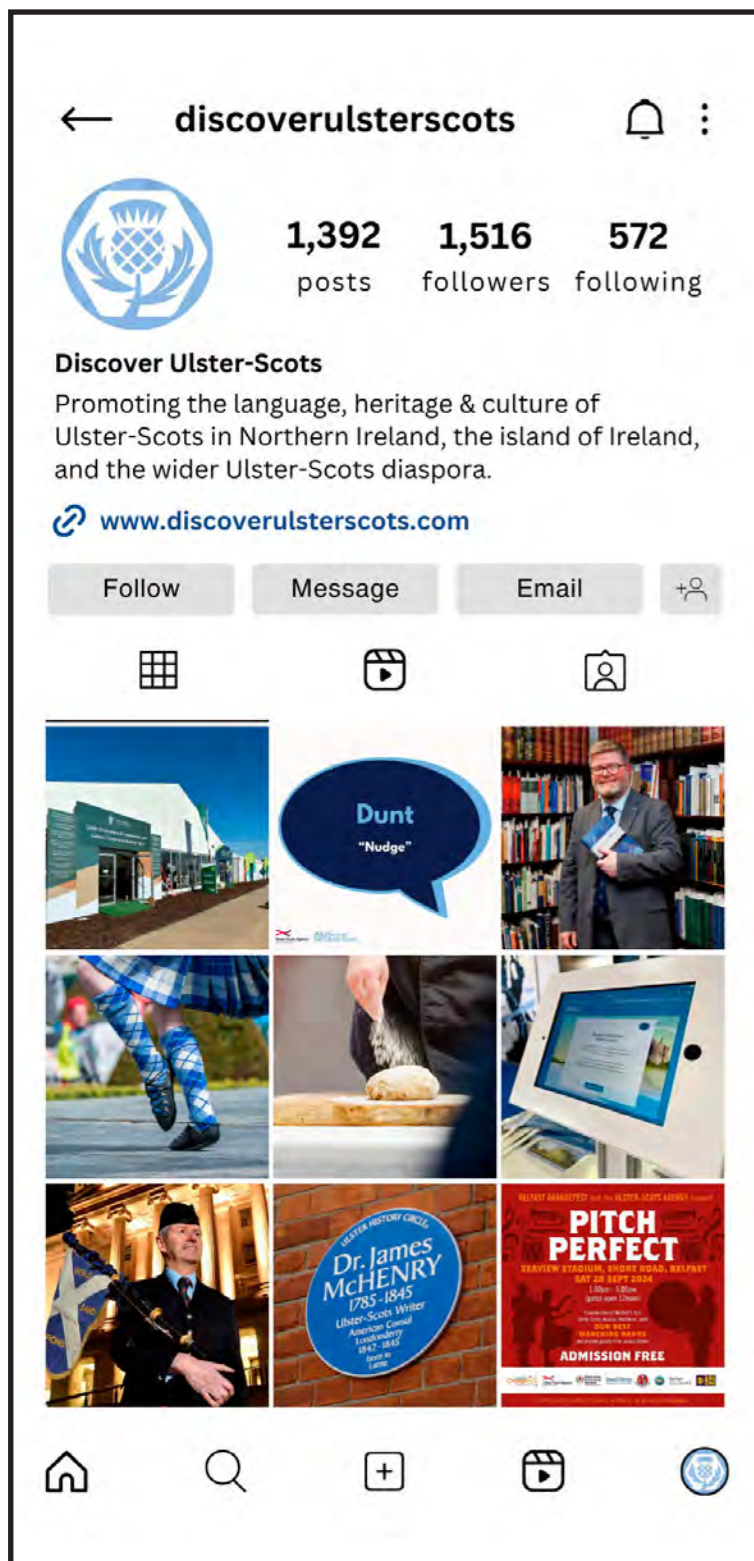
◆ Carnall Primary School completed the Flagship Schools Programme in 2024

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◆ ROI Instrument and Uniform Grant allows bands to step out in style

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Jessica with her dance teacher, Michelle Johnston

## Jessica crowned All-Ireland Champion

Jessica Moore, 15, from Moneyrea is celebrating after being named the All-Ireland Highland Dance Champion in 2024.

Jessica initially trained in lyrical and disco styles of dancing but has since changed her focus to solely concentrate on her dreams of being a champion Highland Dancer. Since the age of seven, she has been dancing under the tuition of Michelle Johnston.

Following many small wins throughout the UK, Jessica's dedication, talent and skill to merge traditional Highland Dancing with more modern lyrical moves was recognised as she won the All-Ireland Highland Dance Championships earlier this year.

Congratulations to Jessica on her hard work and for being a great ambassador for Highland Dancing.

## Word of the Month

Wheeker  
Meaning: Great, excellent



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Instagram – @discoverulsterscots  
X (formerly Twitter) – @UlsterScotsAgen

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## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: @ULSTERSCOTSAGENCY

Join almost 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!



## Veteran activists join Agency's top team

The Ulster-Scots Agency has been boosted by the appointment of two long-time community development professionals to key roles on the organisation's senior management team. William Olphert joins the Agency as its new Director of Education and Language and David Gilliland becomes Director of Development.

Born in the townland of Ballogglagh in rural north Antrim, from an early age William was aware of the rich cultural and linguistic heritage around him. However, it wasn't until his late teens, when at university, that his passion for language, and Ulster-Scots, really started.

William's interest in language saw him travel to England where he completed an undergraduate degree in Chinese and Linguistics. Part of his studies included a dissertation on "some common linguistic features of an Ulster-Scots community", and involved William (in his own words), "gallivanting all over the countryside

with my trusty tape recorder and holding interviews with a wide selection of people with varying degrees of fluency".

### From Ulster to China

Nevertheless, it has been the Chinese element of William's studies which has dominated most of his working life. Inspired to learn Chinese after seeing some characters in a Primary 6 maths lesson in Ballymoney, he later relocated to China for a while before eventually returning home to Northern Ireland and working as a Mandarin interpreter.

This allowed William to enter the Chinese community and, after a while as a health advocate, he stepped up to lead the Chinese Welfare Association NI.

### New Direction

Commenting on his career and his new role, William said: "It really has been a joy to have lived and worked in this multilingual, multicultural



William Olphert, Director of Language & Education



David Gilliland, Director of Development

environment for over 10 years. Northern Ireland is changing and just like our Ulster-Scots forebears whom, for a variety of reasons, came to settle here 400 years ago, so that situation is repeated even today.

"I'm excited to take up this role within the Agency. Our future lies with the young and it is imperative that we embed Ulster-Scots language, culture and heritage at every stage in a child's development so that they have a much richer cultural experience in the school environment than many of us had – when Ulster-Scots was devalued and stigmatised."

As a proud Ulster-Scots speaker, William's passion is to support the evolution of our living language into new places and communities. Minority languages may be small by definition, but they are vital to link people and place together and thus enrich our community life. He is also an advocate for life-long community learning, believing that we are never too old to learn something new.

### Vast Experience

The Agency's new Director of Development, David Gilliland, has worked with the Ulster-Scots Community Network for the last seven years, and is acutely aware of the many issues faced by our community.

Born and bred in Belfast, a city shaped by its Scotch and Ulster-Scots roots and in which Ulster-Scots language plays a bigger part than many people realise, David has been working within the community,

voluntary and cultural sector now slightly longer than – in his own words – "even I want to admit!" Over the years he has worked within cultural awareness projects, community education, good relations and capacity building organisations, as well as working for a range of funding bodies in Northern Ireland.

### First Foray into Ulster-Scots

David's first involvement with Ulster-Scots was in the late 1990s when he was involved with organising a conference for the Ulster-Scots community in the border counties of the Republic of Ireland. A key point of that work was to give a community a voice in the decisions made about them, and this is a key focus of much of the work that he has been engaged in since.

"One of the key tasks that I'm going to be working on in the coming months and years will be to raise the profile of Ulster-Scots further and helping to improve the capacity and skills of groups within our sector so that they can play their proper part in wider civic society across all nine counties of Ulster," David explained.

"I'm looking forward to working with various stakeholders to develop a greater awareness of Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and language and to building stronger links between the Ulster-Scots Agency, the community and local councils."

William and David join Karen Stewart, Director of Corporate Services, at the Ulster-Scots Agency.

# Educational Projects – What we hae to gie schools

Education is a key part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's work. Each year, we provide a range of services within the educational sector, including after-schools clubs, drama workshops, music and dance workshops, and summer schools.

**Educational Workshops**  
Educational workshops are one-off classes available to schools seeking to ascertain interest in subjects associated with Ulster-Scots. These workshops may be held at times that suit the school timetable, while some schools elect to hold several in one day (known as Cultural Days), where a number of different tutors visit a school and bring different lessons to all the pupils. Subjects may include Ulster-Scots Language, Bagpipes, Highland and Scottish Country Dance, Snare Drum, Lambeg, Drama, Fife and/or Storytelling.

**After-School Clubs**  
After-School Clubs are a seven-week block of classes held immediately after school on a day that fits with a school's timetable. Each week, tutors will visit the school to deliver classes that may include Ulster-Scots Language, Bagpipes, Highland and Scottish Country Dance, Snare Drum, Lambeg, Drama, Fife and/or Storytelling. These classes last one hour and serve as 'taster sessions' in the different disciplines.

**Flagship School Programme**  
When a school has completed the After-School Club, they may enrol in the Ulster-Scots Flagship Schools Programme. This programme requires the participating school to select any three of the subjects they were introduced to through the After-School Club. The Agency will then offer the school 30 weeks' tuition in the three chosen subjects. This is not an after-school activity, and the classes are an hour-long

and held once a week for the full 30 weeks. Within this programme there is room for accreditation in some subjects. At the conclusion of this period, the school is presented with a physical award celebrating and recognising their commitment, passion, and hard work.

**Ulster-Scots School Twinning Programme**  
**North-South Twinning**  
This programme involves the 'twinning' of two schools, one in Northern Ireland and one in the border counties of the Irish Republic (counties Cavan, Donegal and/or Monaghan). For a school year, the pupils of the participating schools will maintain contact with each other and work towards the production of a publication about the place they live and the school they attend. At the conclusion of this programme, the pupils will meet at an agreed location and spend the day together, where they will exchange the publication they have produced.

**East-West Twinning**  
This programme is the same in principle as the North-South Twinning except that the two participating schools will be based in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The contact will be maintained by way of letters, emails or whatever medium is acceptable to both schools. The Northern Ireland pupils will conclude the project by travelling to Scotland to meet their counterparts and spend one or two days together.

**Lambeg OCN Accreditation**  
The Ulster-Scots Agency can also offer schools two Lambeg Drumming courses which can lead to OCN accreditation. The Entry Level 3 course requires 10 hours of guided learning, and the Level 2 course consists of 16 hours' guided learning. At the conclusion of the courses, the participating pupils



Pupils at Castledawson Primary School took part in an Ulster-Scots After-School Club

will have theory and practical tests and, if successful, the pupils will be presented with their OCN certificate at a special event where all those who have participated from the different schools will attend.

**Music and Dance Tuition**  
The Agency supports a wide range of music and dance tuition options in schools. This is delivered by six community partners; each one is accredited a specific geographical area. The community partners are allocated a budget for their specific area, and they are responsible for offering tuition in both primary and post-primary schools. Tuition includes Highland and Scottish Country dance, piping, drumming, Lambeg, fife, accordion, fiddle, and flute tuition. Our community partners are:

**Bready & District Ulster-Scots**  
Co Londonderry

**Derry & Raphoe Action**  
Co Tyrone

**South-East Fermanagh Foundation**  
Co Fermanagh

**Ulster-Scots Community Network**  
Co Armagh

**Schomberg Society**  
Co Down

**Small Steps**  
Belfast

**Ulster-Scots Community Network**  
Co Antrim

Tuition is delivered to schools in the border counties of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan via the Agency's office in Raphoe.

For further details, contact our Education team at [education@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:education@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)



Schools can work towards achieving Flagship Award status



Monaghan Model School pupils learned to play the fiddle through the Agency's music tuition

# An interview with... Carntall P.S.

Carntall Primary School recently completed the Agency's Flagship Schools Programme. Here, they share their story of how the work of the Agency and services we can provide benefitted their pupils

**Q: Can you tell us more about yourself?**  
My name is Kathryn Mulligan and I'm a P5 and P6 teacher in Carntall Primary School, which is a small, rural school in the Clogher Valley. I have been teaching in this school for the past seven years where I feel very at home since it is the primary school I attended myself. I have a keen interest in Ulster-Scots culture and traditions and am a piper in Fardross Pipe Band. I enjoy teaching the younger members of the band and have now introduced the chanter as a musical instrument in our school.

**Q: How did you first come across Ulster-Scots?**  
I first discovered Ulster-Scots educational support when I considered introducing chanters into school instead of using recorders. I approached the Agency with my idea, and they were very supportive, providing me with guidance and information on the Flagship Programme. This started my communication with Gary [one of the Agency's Education Officers], who is on the end of the phone any time I have a question, and no problem is ever too big.

**Q: What does the Ulster-Scots Agency do to support you, your school, and your community?**  
Over the past few years, the Ulster-Scots Agency have supported our school in a wide variety of ways.

They provided taster sessions for the pupils on piping, Highland and Scottish Dance, snare and Lambeg drumming, Ulster-Scots language, storytelling, and drama.

They supported us with running a number of After-Schools Clubs, including drama and highland dance.

They enabled us to introduce chanters as part of our musical curriculum. They encouraged us to take part in Ulster-Scots Language (Leid) Week, when the children enjoyed taking the word quizzes and receiving certificates and badges.

Our P7 class got the opportunity to take part in the school twinning project. They got to meet and carry out activities with a school from County Cavan and go on a joint school trip.

**Q: How does this enrich the lives of the children and community you work for?**

The Ulster-Scots Agency enriches the lives of children and the community by promoting cultural heritage, fostering social inclusion, enhancing personal development, and contributing to educational growth. It helps ensure that the traditions and stories of the Ulster-Scots are passed down to future generations while promoting a vibrant and cohesive community. In particular, some of the



Carntall Primary's Flagship Award



Pupils from Carntall with their '30 Wee Wurd's' language flags

ways we feel our school and community have been enriched include:

**Cultural Education and Awareness**  
Elements of the Ulster-Scots programmes are integrated into the school curriculum, enriching educational content and providing a more comprehensive education that includes local history and culture.

The programme teaches children about the history, language, music, dance, and traditions of the Ulster-Scots. This helps them develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage and identity. Ulster-Scots is a distinct dialect of Scots, and its promotion helps in preserving and revitalising the language. Learning the language can also enhance children's understanding of linguistics and foster multilingualism.

**Skill Development**  
Traditional Ulster-Scots music and dance, such as Highland dancing, as well as other elements, provide children with opportunities to learn new skills, participate in active learning, express creativity, and engage in physical activity.

**Community Engagement: Intergenerational Connections & Events**  
By involving both the young and older generations in cultural activities, this fosters a sense of community and belonging. Older community members can share their knowledge and experiences, while younger members bring new energy and perspectives. Festivals, parades, and other events celebrating Ulster-Scots culture encourage community participation.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity**  
**Promoting Inclusivity:** The Ulster-Scots programme promotes an inclusive environment where all members of the community can learn about and appreciate a significant cultural tradition in Northern Ireland. This inclusivity helps bridge cultural divides and encourages mutual respect.  
**Celebrating Diversity:** By highlighting the Ulster-Scots culture, the programme contributes to the broader understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity within Northern Ireland, promoting multiculturalism.

**Personal and Social Development**  
Building Confidence: Participating in public performances, such as recitals, plays, or dances, helps build children's confidence and public speaking skills.

Teamwork and Collaboration: Group activities, like twinning with other schools, teach children the importance of teamwork and collaboration.

**Q: Do you see yourself/and your classroom still interacting with Ulster-Scots in the future?**  
I most definitely would like our school to continue working with Ulster-Scots. We will

continue to offer Highland dance lessons with the possibility of pupils receiving accreditation. We look forward to taking part in any new initiatives the Ulster-Scots Agency is able to offer our students.

**Q: What was the most surprising thing you learnt about Ulster-Scots which you didn't previously know?**

From our involvement with the Ulster-Scots Agency, probably the most surprising thing I have learnt is how many of the words we all use on a daily basis are actually from the Ulster-Scots language.



Carntall Primary School completed the Flagship Schools Programme in 2024



# Discover Ulster-Scots

## GET A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY

VISIT THE DISCOVER  
ULSTER-SCOTS CENTRE  
VICTORIA STREET, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

FREE  
ADMISSION



EXHIBITION • LITERATURE • GIFTS



Moyné Ulster-Scots are one organisation to receive funding. Pictured: Moyné Pipe Band joined the Agency at the recent National Ploughing Championships

## Agency Awards Over £250k for Music & Dance Tuition

A total of 131 music and dance projects across Ulster are set to share a £250,000 funding boost from the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The funding will support tuition in Ulster-Scots music including bagpipes, flute, snare drum, accordion, fife and Lambeg, as well as Highland and Scottish Country dancing, delivered by bands and community groups.

The projects, which will run between September 2024 and May 2025, will support over 2,500 participants to develop their music and dance skills. Over 1,000 of these learners will be undertaking tuition for the first time.

The Ulster-Scots Agency sends congratulations to all those who have been successful and welcome aboard to all those who are starting out on their Ulster-Scots cultural journey.

### Funding Recipients Music

Annalong Pipe Band  
Arranmore Pipe Band  
Augharan Development Pipe Band  
Ballinrees Pipe Band  
Ballyboley Pipe Band  
Ballygowan Concert Flute Band  
Ballymageough Accordion Band  
Ballynarrig Pride Of Orange Limavady  
Ballywalter Flute Band  
Bannside Fife and Lambeg Drumming Club  
Battlehill Pipe Band  
Bendooragh and District Community Association  
Blossomhill Pipe Band  
Bready Ulster-Scots Pipe Band  
Breaghy Silver Band  
Brookeborough Flute Band  
Bruces' True Blues Accordion Band  
Brunswick Accordion Band  
Carrickfergus Drumming Club  
Castleberg Young Loyalist Flute Band  
Centenary Drumming Club  
Cloughfin Pipe Band  
Cottown Pipe Band  
County Armagh Drum Majors Tandragee  
Cranfield Accordion Band  
Crown Defenders Flute Band, Cloughmills  
Dalriada Training Services C.I.C.  
Derganagh Training and Development Association (DTDA)  
Derry & Raphoe Action Limited  
Derryogue Part Flute Band  
Desertmartin Accordion Band  
Doorin Flute Band  
Down Academy Pipes and Drums  
Down Pipes and Drums  
Drumderg Flute Band Keady  
Drumquin Pipe Band  
Dunaghy Flute Band  
Dunamoney Flute Band  
Dunaney Accordion Band  
Dunloy Accordion Band  
East Belfast Protestant Boys  
Fardross Pipe Band  
Flute Band Church  
Friends of Campbell College Pipe Band  
Garvagh Pipe Band  
Grallagh Unionist Flute Band  
Hollymount Pipe Band  
John Hunter Accordion Band  
Letterkenny & District Pipe Band  
Lindsay Mooney Memorial Flute Band

### Lisburn PSP

Lislaird Pipe Band  
Loughkillygreen Accordion Band  
Maghera Sons of William Flute Band  
Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band  
Market House Culture Group  
McDonald Academy Pipe Band  
Moneydig Lily Flute Band  
Monkstown YCV  
Mosside Rising Sons of Ulster Accordion Band  
Mountfield Pipe Band  
Mourne Memorial Flute Band  
Moyné Ulster Scots Association  
Ochill Cultural Group  
Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band  
Orangefield Cultural Society  
Pride of the Island Flute Band  
Pride of the Shore Flute Band  
Queen Elizabeth Pipe Band  
Quilly True Blues Flute Band  
Randalstown Sons Of Ulster  
Raphoe Ulster-Scots Pipe Band  
Rathfriland Traditions and Arts Society  
Red Hand Defenders Newtownstewart Flute Band  
Roughan Silver Band  
Schomberg Society Kilkeel Ltd  
Seven Towers Fifes & Drums  
Shankill Road Defenders Flute Band  
Shankill Star Flute Band  
Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band  
Sister Susan Graham Memorial Accordion Band  
Steeple Veterans Flute Band  
Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI)  
Tubrid Pipe Band Kesh  
Tullylagan Pipe Band  
Ulster Grenadiers Flute Band  
Ulster Protestant Boys Flute Band  
West Tyrone Drumming Club

### Funding Recipients Dance

Aughur CPS PTFA  
Blue Thistle Highland Dancers  
Burnfoot Community Development Association  
Drumahoe Community Association  
Dundrum Ulster-Scots Cultural Society  
Erne Highland Dancers  
Finnard Rural Development Association  
Heart of Down Highland Dancing  
Hilltop Highland Dancers Dergina  
Irish Street Youth and Community Association  
Kirknarra School of Dance  
Larne School of Highland Dancing  
Limavady Highland Dancers  
Lislaird Highland Dancers  
McClintock Parents Support Group  
Moyné Ulster Scots Association  
Newtownstewart Highland Dancers  
North West Cultural Partnership  
Northern Ireland Highland Dance Association  
Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society – Belfast Branch  
Schomberg Society Kilkeel Ltd  
Sollus School of Highland Dance – Cookstown  
Sollus School of Highland Dance  
The Reeling Rascals Dance Academy  
Tubrid Pipe Band Kesh

## Discovering Ulster-Scots in Belfast 2024-5

The Ulster-Scots Agency recently secured additional funding to deliver a programme for all ages to engage with the traditional Ulster-Scots culture of Belfast in all its diversity. The funding will enable five projects to take place over the coming weeks and months.

### Pitch Perfect (September 28, 2024)

This event is an afternoon celebration, showcasing our rich Ulster-Scots marching band tradition with the city's best bands, combined with a variety of guests from outside the city to deliver the full breadth of Ulster-Scots culture to a Belfast audience.

Entertainment will include music, a champion Drum Major display, award-winning Highland dancers, traditional Lambeg drummers, and Ulster-Scots trad group, Stonewall.

The event takes place at Seaview Stadium from 1-6pm. Admission is free but this is a ticketed event. Tickets must be purchased in advance: [crusadersfootballclub.com/events/tickets](https://crusadersfootballclub.com/events/tickets)

### Leid Week Sang Week (November 25-29, 2024)

Enriching the offering of our popular Ulster-Scots Language Week, now in its sixth year, we will introduce singing and songwriting workshops in the Ulster-Scots language, as well as opportunities to hear established and emerging Ulster-Scots singers in concert.



The Agency has held successful Big Burns Day programmes within Belfast City Hall

### Belfast Tartan Day (November 30, 2024)

The Agency will introduce a celebration of St Andrew's Day to the city centre with a procession of pipes and drums, Highland and country dancers and representatives of Ulster-Scots organisations, and a St Andrew's Night Scottish Ceilidh.

### Big Burns Night (January 25, 2025)

This event will build on our existing successful Big Burns Day programme, delivered at Belfast City Hall, by adding an evening of poems, songs and tradition commemorating Robert Burns, which have long roots in Belfast.

### Ulster-Scots Heritage Week (Dates TBC)

Enjoy walking tours, visits and events animating the city's rich Ulster-Scots built heritage, along with an Ulster-Scots Songs of Praise event in a historic church, highlighting our rich hymn writing and singing tradition.

Each of the above elements will pilot a new event to enrich Belfast's Ulster-Scots offering and cultural calendar, with all welcome to attend and participate. Further details will be unveiled nearer the time. Follow us on Facebook (@ulsterscotsagency) for more.

BELFAST ORANGEFEST and the ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY present

# PITCH PERFECT

## SEAVIEW STADIUM SHORE ROAD, BELFAST

### SAT 28 SEPT 2024

1.00pm - 6.00pm  
(gates open 12noon)

A celebration of  
Belfast's rich  
Ulster-Scots musical  
traditions, with  
**OUR BEST  
MARCHING  
BANDS**  
and invited guests  
from across Ulster.



Use this QR code and click  
on the Buy Tickets button to  
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ADMISSION FREE



SUPPORTED BY BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AS PART OF THE BELFAST 24 PROGRAMME



Down Academy Pipes and Drums



Killinchy After School Club visited the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast

While the weather might have been a letdown this summer, the opportunity enjoyed by lots of young people to take part in Ulster-Scots Summer Schools across the province helped to ensure there was still plenty to smile about.

In Portadown, the Ulster-Scots Summer School at Carleton Street Orange Hall, organised by Portadown Heritage Tours, continued to go from strength-to-strength, as they enjoyed their greatest number of participants to date. Throughout the week, young people were treated to a variety of workshops, including Drum Major tutelage, a snare drumming demonstration, a lambeg drum and fife demonstration, and a storytelling workshop. They also enjoyed a trip to Stormont and the Museum of Orange Heritage in Belfast.

**Killinchy After School Club**

The story was similar in Killinchy, where young people at Killinchy After School Club spent the first week in August learning all about their Ulster-Scots language and heritage. They delved into some Ulster-Scots traditional cookery, enjoying both the preparation and eating of shortbread, soda bread, stew and potato bread, and enjoyed a visit to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast, where they got to 'have a rattle' on a lambeg drum and enjoyed some bagpipe music as well.

**Down Academy Pipes and Drums**

Also in August, Down Academy Pipes and Drums ran their annual week-long Ulster-Scots Summer School in Spa Primary School, Ballynahinch. Whilst piping and drumming were high on the agenda, the young people were also treated to a living history demonstration, an Ulster-Scots language workshop, a flute and fife demonstration, and an accordion demonstration, in what was an action-packed few days.

**First Steps Out of Schools**

First Steps Out of Schools celebrated another successful year running the Ulster-Scots Summer School with full attendance. The children engaged in a range of Ulster-Scots activities celebrating language, storytelling, clay modelling, traditional arts/crafts, cooking, creative writing, poetry and drama. The cooking and food tasting was a particular treat as the children made "fadge" and treacle



Sir Hans Sloane Centre



Omagh Cultural Hub visiting The Siege Museum

# Ulster-Scots Summer Schools spread education and fun across the country

pancakes, and also tasted homemade scotch eggs and soda farls.

Poetry and Drama was a newly explored addition with the "Wheeshy Beasties", who brought suspense and delight when they appeared for the "qua et girls and boys"! Here's a wee poem all about them...

**Wheeshy Beasties**

"Sshh! Be quae! Noe a soon!  
Wheeshy Beasties are aroon!  
Timid creatures, they dinna like noise,  
Bit they'll come oot for quae! girls and boys  
Bit vwoe betide ye malt a din!  
Toe hide awa, they will a rin!"

**Sir Hans Sloane Centre**

In Killyleagh, the Sir Hans Sloane Centre also brought together a very full programme for their Ulster-Scots Summer School, which included Highland Dancing, a trip to The Livingston Centre at Killinchy, and a science related workshop based on Sir Hans Sloane. Notably, while Robert Burns is always a regular feature during the week, this year the children went home with a part-prepared Burns Supper! The organisers subsequently discovered that many parents hadn't tasted a Burns Supper before, so this ended up being a wonderful way for all the family to benefit from the event.

**Omagh Cultural Hub**

In County Tyrone, Omagh Cultural Hub organised their first ever Ulster-Scots Summer School and it was a tremendous success, as 46 children from a variety of backgrounds came together each morning to enjoy a week of activities and learning. This included Highland Dancing and Drum Major demonstrations, but

a trip to the Siege Museum in Londonderry topped the week, as the children marched in pairs through the streets of the Maiden City making memories for life together.

**Tubrid Pipe Band**

Meanwhile, down the road in neighbouring County Fermanagh, Tubrid Pipe Band in Kesh enjoyed a terrific boost to their Ulster-Scots Summer School as the number of children in attendance doubled from 24 last year to 48 this year! Running from July 8-13, a packed programme included a snare drumming workshop, Ulster-Scots cookery demonstrations, and flute, bagpipe and accordion workshops. Drum Major tutelage and bass drumming with Scottish dance by Chloe McElhinney from Moyne in County Donegal, and football sessions at NFC Kesh, also proved to be extremely popular. A trip to



The Ulster-Scots Summer School in Portadown



The Ulster-Scots Summer School in the Mourne Valley



The Ulster-Scots Summer School in the Mourne Valley



Omagh Cultural Hub

The Siege Museum where staff provided a great educational experience and the weather 'held up' for a wee walk of the walls meant a quare day was enjoyed by all, one standout moment of many during a super week.

**Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival**

Ulster-Scots Summer Schools also took place in the Mourne Valley, Lisburn and in Derry and Raphoe, with the latter now planning for the third Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival, which is taking place this year from November 18-30. Artists and bands who will be taking part include Tullylagan Pipe Band, Dunloy Accordion Band, Ulster-Scots Group Stonewall, Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band, Strule River String Band, Houll Yer Weesh, Red Hand Defenders Flute Band, Gordon Ramsay and more – watch this space for further information!



An Ulster-Scots singing masterclass with tutor Lauren Nannery was one of the first events in the new centre



Kirknarra School of Dance's first Ulster Champion, Bethany Shields

## Kirknarra School of Dance produces Ulster Champion

There has been much celebrating for the Schomberg Society's Kirknarra School of Dance after producing its first Ulster Champion.

Dancer Bethany Shields won the title of Ulster Champion in the Premier 15 Years category at the recent Ulster Championships. Bethany has been with Kirknarra School of Dance for over 10 years and attended Highland Dance classes in both Killeel and Annalong, supported through the Ulster-Scots Agency's Dance Tuition programmes.

Through these classes, Bethany has been able to compete at the highest levels across Northern Ireland and in Scotland, successfully completing Highland Dance examinations and performing at high-profile events, including the recent Belfast International Tattoo.

In addition to Bethany's success, Kirknarra School of Dance had five dancers competing at the Ulster Championships, all of whom secured top six placings.

## New Ulster-Scots Hub for Killeel

A new Ulster-Scots centre – Tha Hairtlan Hub – has officially opened on Harbour Road, Killeel.

The Schomberg Society were joined by Gordon Lyons, Minister for Communities, to officially cut the ribbon of the new hub, along with Ian Crozier, CEO, Ulster-Scots Agency. The official opening day events welcomed VIP guests, along with large numbers of representatives from the Ulster-Scots community.

The cultural hub is the newest addition to the Society's main Ulster-Scots centre, Reivers House, and will be the home of several newly established Ulster-Scots groups and projects.

This includes the Schomberg Academy Pipe Band, the new Schomberg Boxing and Fitness Club, a new Ulster-Scots After-School Club, and the recently established Hairtlan Ulster-Scots Men's Shed.

The hub will also act as an alternative location for Ulster-Scots activities, which normally take place in Reivers House, during the twice-yearly broadcast of fUSEfm Mourne Radio.

It is an exciting chapter for Ulster-Scots in the greater Mournes area and will provide more space to deliver a range of programmes including music and dance tuition, capacity building initiatives, and educational projects.

The new Hairtlan Hub will also play a key role in supporting the Schomberg Society to further expand the range of Ulster-Scots activities, programmes and events on offer to the local Ulster-Scots community.

Located close to both Killeel Primary School and Killeel High School, as well as local leisure facilities and Mourne Esplanade, the centre is ideally situated to support particularly children and young people who will have easy access to participate in Ulster-Scots youth programmes.

The Society looks forward to welcoming many people, both young and old, through the doors of Tha Hairtlan Hub to experience all facets of Ulster-Scots.

## fUSEfm Mourne celebrates 10th anniversary

fUSEfm Mourne is an Ulster-Scots community radio station which broadcasts throughout the Kingdom of Mourne and beyond, with fUSE meaning 'For Ulster-Scots Enthusiasts'.

It is on air twice a year – in July and December – and broadcasts daily during these times. The recent summer broadcast took place during the Society's Hairtlan Festival and was a great way to promote to a wide audience all the Ulster-Scots activities, events and outreach which was taking place during a busy two-week period in July.

fUSEfm Mourne Radio provides a unique opportunity for folk to tune in and learn about Ulster-Scots, with a particular focus on the language, music and local cultural and historical traditions in the Kingdom of Mourne. This year marks the 10th anniversary of fUSEfm Mourne Radio, and the project has continued to go from strength to strength, with a team of over 80 volunteers now involved to make the radio productions possible.

Young students are always made very welcome at fUSEfm Mourne, and the station provides opportunities for gaining experience, not just in Ulster-Scots, but in areas of media

and communications, with many students volunteering to help out behind the scenes in the fields of technical support, live broadcasting and programming.

fUSEfm Mourne has helped open doors for young people to a promising career in media, including local girl Laura McConnell, who now works in the field of Ulster-Scots media, and Rachel Hutchinson, who is a regular presenter on the BBC Ulster-Scots Radio programme, Kintra. Both Laura and Rachel are still involved in the fUSEfm Mourne team today.

The radio station has also helped spark an interest in many folk, encouraging them to further explore their Ulster-Scots culture, language and traditions.

As a result of fUSEfm Mourne, many new people have become involved with Ulster-Scots, including new volunteers regularly assisting with a range of activities and programmes throughout the Mourne region.

The fUSEfm Mourne team has special plans in place to mark the 10th anniversary of the radio station during its Christmas broadcast, which will take place from December 9-22 this year.

Make sure to tune in to find out more!



Radio Presenters David and Sharon Hutchinson initially became involved with the Schomberg Society as volunteer presenters on fUSEfm Mourne

# RoI Instrument & Uniform Grant 2023

In 2023, the Ulster-Scots Agency announced it had secured additional funding to open a pilot funding programme for Ulster-Scots marching bands based in the border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

The RoI Instrument & Uniform Grant programme funded Ulster-Scots marching bands in Donegal, Cavan, and Monaghan, allowing them to purchase instruments or uniforms to help make their band more sustainable.

The grant was intended to increase the confidence and capacity of the Ulster-Scots community in these counties by improving the appearance and musicality of Ulster-Scots marching bands in the area and awarding funding to support the purchase of musical instruments, accessories, consumables, or items of uniform.

The fund provided support of up to 90% of eligible costs – up to a maximum grant of €10,000. Several bands have since benefitted from the additional funding, including the below.

## Doohat Accordion Band

Based in County Monaghan, Doohat Accordion Band meet under the auspices of Doohat Loyal Orange Lodge 264. Established in 1963, the band's uniform consisted of black trousers, white shirt, red tie and cap. In addition to the uniform, the band were playing with high tensioned side drums which were not complementing the accordions and were extremely cumbersome and heavy to carry.

When the RoI Instruments & Uniform Scheme was announced, Doohat Accordion Band were successful with their application and were able to use the fund to "freshen up" their appearance and sound. The grant enabled the members to make a change to their uniform, adding a new jacket, so they would not be hampered by inclement weather conditions; while lighter, modern low-tension drums were also purchased to better complement the accordions.

Earlier this year, at their annual community picnic, Doohat Accordion Band unveiled

the new uniform shirts, jackets and drums, with the band receiving compliments from neighbouring bands, visitors and friends as to their new look and sound. Parents of younger band members have also shared positive feedback.

Commenting on the grant, a representative from the band said: "We are confident that our new look and sound will encourage younger folk to join, ensuring our band will continue to grow for many years to come."

"As a small lodge and band based in the Republic of Ireland, we must acknowledge that we would not have been in a position to upgrade our uniform or purchase new drums without this funding stream, administered by the Ulster-Scots Agency."



NEW UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT HAVE GIVEN US RENEWED DETERMINATION AND COURAGE TO PLAY AT MORE PARADES, AND EVENTS AND PROMOTE OUR CULTURE AND IDENTITY.



Doohat were able to purchase new drums through the grant

## Doorin Flute Band

Doorin Flute Band, based in County Donegal, was established in August 2022 and is currently the only flute band in Donegal, boasting an impressive 28 members.

As a new band, Doorin faced significant initial setup costs including new uniforms, drums and drumming equipment. Members initially improvised with their own white shirts, black ties and trousers for uniform, but this resulted in a mismatched outfit, while hats were donated by another band as a temporary measure. Moreover, the band did not have sufficient drums or drumming equipment for its members.

Following a successful application to the Republic of Ireland Instrument and Uniform Grant, the band were able to purchase a complete set of uniforms, and the necessary drums and equipment required. The arrival of the equipment also meant Doorin were able to host flute and drumming tuition lessons in 2023/24, which were a great success.

Doorin Flute Band said: "By having a proper uniform, the band can now be recognised at parades/public events. It has inspired and encouraged the current members and has encouraged others to learn more about the band and the culture heritage and traditions associated with it."

"Members have benefited from the new instruments and equipment. They have developed their skills and musical abilities whilst in turn encouraging and motivating others to engage with and learn about our Ulster-Scots culture and heritage. In addition to performing at events, Killaghtee prides itself in ensuring a fun and social aspect is attached, including barbeques and hosting its popular Ulster Fry Fundraiser, which is held in September each year.

The band applied for funding as its previous uniform – of a white shirt, black trousers, black tie and second-hand hats – had remained unchanged for more than 30 years.

"The hats were old and tattered looking," Killaghtee explained. "Our rain-proof capes were beyond repair and did not do their job of



Throughout the year band members enjoy many outings including church events, festivals and band parades. In addition to performing at events, Killaghtee prides itself in ensuring a fun and social aspect is attached, including barbeques and hosting its popular Ulster Fry Fundraiser, which is held in September each year.

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"The hats were old and tattered looking," Killaghtee explained. "Our rain-proof capes were beyond repair and did not do their job of

keeping rain of the players and accordions/drums. We didn't have any junior drums for our younger members who were interested in playing. We applied for the grant with the hope of being able to get new uniforms, capes, drums and other equipment to solve these ongoing issues.

"Thankfully we were successful. The new uniforms make us look much smarter and give us the confidence to promote our culture in the local and wider community. The grant also aided in three new members joining the band in 2023. New uniforms and equipment have given us renewed determination and courage to play at more parades, and events

and promote our culture and identity as best we can."

## Drum Accordion Band

Through the Agency's RoI Instrument & Uniform Grant, Drum Accordion Band in County Monaghan received funding to purchase new uniforms for its members.

Describing it as "breathing fresh enthusiasm into the group", the band has been a staple of the local community for many years.

"The new uniforms are more than just attire – they represent a renewed sense of pride and unity within the band," a member said. "These uniforms will allow us to perform with greater

Killaghtee Accordion Band



Knocknanin Accordion Band is celebrating its 50th anniversary

confidence and showcase our band with the dignity it deserves.

"With this new look, the band is also hoping to attract new members. We're excited to welcome anyone who wants to be part of something special. The fresh energy surrounding the band hopes to draw in young talent, ensuring the continuation of Drum Accordion Band."

## Knocknanin Accordion Band

Knocknanin Accordion Band are based in Castleblayney, County Monaghan, along the border with County Armagh. The band is attached to Knocknanin LOL 1158 and is in the Newtownhamilton District of County Armagh. The associated lodge has over 60 members drawn from both sides of the border.

Previously operating as a pipe band, this year Knocknanin celebrates its 50th anniversary as an accordion band.

In their own words: "We applied for the

RoI Uniforms and Instruments Grant, as we were approaching our 50th anniversary and wanted to enhance our band image and musicianship. We have also been attending more events and have more young people coming through our ranks. The grant provided an important opportunity to enhance our band image and give more people the opportunity to participate."

Knocknanin added that the grant has made a "significant impact" in relation to its activities. The additional funding has allowed them to buy new side drums and a bass drum, as well as upgrade members' uniform.

"The enhancements have made a noticeable difference to the quality of our playing and the enthusiasm of our members. This year, for the first time, we attended Rosstownlough Orange Parade and we are planning to host an anniversary Dinner Dance in October to celebrate our achievements over the last 50 years."



Doohat Accordion Band



Doorin Flute Band



Drum Accordion Band



Schomberg Fife and Drum, accompanied by the Kathryn Stewart Highland Dance Display Team



A large finale brought the event to an end for another year.  
Credit: Belfast International Tattoo / Colin Turtle

## Spectacular displays abound at Belfast International Tattoo

A showcase of world-class talent, music, dance and tradition took centre stage earlier this month as the Belfast International Tattoo returned for three extraordinary shows.

Held at the SSE Arena in the city, the event promised to be the most vibrant yet with performers from across the globe participating, as well as local Ulster-Scots talent.

Over 7,000 people enjoyed acts which



A Drum Major demonstrates their skill.  
Credit: Belfast International Tattoo / Colin Turtle

included the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band and Glengarry Pipe Band (Canada), Dunfermline District (RBL Scot) Pipes and Drums, Spielmannszug Marienloh Fife and Drum (Germany), The Band of Liberation (Netherlands), OzScot Highland Dancers (Australia), and King's Cadence (USA).

### Local bands shine

Closer to home, Northern Ireland was well represented by several of our excellent local marching bands, including Pride of the Birches Accordion Band, Edgarstown Accordion Band, Pride of the Raven Flute Band and Moneyslane Flute Band. As part of their performance, the two flute bands formed into a single mass-melody band, creating a wonderful sight and sound not unlike the large bands often seen at important ceremonial occasions in cities such as London.

Another performer across the two-day event, and making their Belfast Tattoo debut, were the Schomberg Fife and Lambe Drumming Club. Dressed in period costume, members from the club were accompanied by choreographed highland dance performances courtesy of the Kathryn Stewart Highland Dance Display Team. In addition to the shows inside the arena, the club were invited to perform outside the SSE as guests arrived for the Saturday afternoon show, building anticipation as time approached for curtain-up.

### Visitors informed and entertained

There was also an opportunity for visitors to find out more about the Ulster-Scots music



The Accordion Bands take centre stage. Credit: Belfast International Tattoo / Colin Turtle



Moneyslane Flute Band enter the arena. Credit: Belfast International Tattoo / Colin Turtle



Highland Dancers entertain the crowd. Credit: Belfast International Tattoo / Colin Turtle

tradition with Lambe Drums on display inside the main entrance.

The event was compered by Helen Mark, whose warmth and charm, loved by so many who listen to the Ulster-Scots show 'Kintra' on Radio Ulster, ensured that the large crowds were kept informed about the acts they were watching, including details about the dedication, time and professionalism required to produce the phenomenal performances unfolding in the arena.



Edgarstown Accordion Band performed at Belfast International Tattoo. Credit: Belfast International Tattoo / Colin Turtle

The Belfast Tattoo has its roots firmly based in the history, music and dance traditions of the Ulster-Scots people who have spread their wings around the world and have gone on to have such a major influence and direction on those countries and people they have encountered around the world.

**The Belfast International Tattoo will return in 2025, from September 5-6. Details of ticket sales will be announced soon.**



Unionist leaders signing the Ulster Covenant in Belfast City Hall. Credit: PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo

## Ulster Day in Belfast

This edition of *The Ulster Scot* is being published 112 years to the day since the signing of Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant. We recall the events in Ulster's capital city and the strong influence of Ulster-Scots identity and people on that momentous day.

### Background to the Ulster Covenant

The strong social, economic, religious and cultural ties that existed between Ulster and Scotland led to an increasing consciousness of an Ulster-Scots identity in the course of the 19th century. This was reinforced through the publication of histories of Presbyterianism and books such as John Harrison's *The Scot in Ulster* (1888) and J.B. Woodburn's *The Ulster Scot* (1914).

In 1912 the US Ambassador, Whitelaw Reid, whose ancestors had come from County Tyrone, delivered a lecture in both Belfast (at the Presbyterian Assembly Buildings) and Edinburgh entitled 'The Scot in America and the Ulster-Scot', which was later published as a book. The Unionist leaders drew on the distinctiveness of Ulster-Scots identity in justifying their opposition to Home Rule. For example, Thomas Sinclair argued that 'there is no homogenous Irish nation', pointing out that 'Ireland today consists of two nations'.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that episodes in Scottish history should have provided the inspiration for the Ulster Covenant.

### Origin of the Ulster Covenant

The strength of the popular opposition to Home Rule led some to put forward the idea of a solemn oath or pledge that would be taken by all Unionists. James Craig was given the task of producing this and while working at it in his London club, he fell into conversation with another Ulster-Scot, BWD Montgomery. "You couldn't do better," Montgomery told him, "than take the old Scotch Covenant. It is a fine old document... and thoroughly characteristic

of the Ulster tone of mind at this day."

The initial idea was simply to adapt the wording of this covenant, but it was soon realised that its language and length made it unsuitable for the present situation. Nonetheless, the idea for a covenant persisted and the task of preparing the text was taken up by Thomas Sinclair. After widespread consultation and input from the Protestant churches, the final wording was agreed and on September 19, 1912, Carson read the text of the Covenant from the steps of Craigavon House.

By this time, it had been agreed that September 28 would be 'Ulster Day' and preparations for marking it were well

underway. Throughout Ulster (and beyond) venues for signing the Covenant (and the accompanying Women's Declaration) were identified. In Belfast the Covenant would be signed in the magnificent surroundings of City Hall.

### Ulster Day in Belfast

The inhabitants of Belfast awoke on September 28 to find a crisp, bright autumn morning. J.L. Garvin, the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, reported: "It was like another Sabbath. All shops were shut. All work was stopped. From early morning the streets began to fill, and through the surrounding crowds the Orange



The Ulster Covenant on display in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre



The Edward Carson Signature Tile in Belfast City Hall

and other Unionist clubs marched with measured tramping; Belfast democracy had sacrificed its day's pay as a beginning."

Throughout Belfast religious services were held in the morning. The moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr Montgomery, delivered an address at the Assembly Hall, in which he spoke of the roots of most of his listeners: "The large majority of us here today look back to a Scottish ancestry; we cherish the same faith and hold the same doctrines."

Carson and Craig attended the service in the Ulster Hall and afterwards made their way to City Hall. Here a circular table draped with a Union flag had been set up in the main entrance foyer.

Shortly after noon, flanked by leading Unionists, many of them prominent Belfast citizens, Carson was the first to sign the Covenant, an image that has become one of the most iconic of the day. He was followed by Lord Londonderry and his son Lord Castlereagh and by the leaders of the Protestant churches. Modestly, Craig let others go before him and his is not one of the signatures on the first page.

### 35,000 signatories on first day

Some 35,000 men signed the Covenant in City Hall that day. Positioned along the corridors in the building were enough desks, pens, ink and forms for 540 men to have signed simultaneously. Photographs of the day show huge crowds massed around City Hall in Donegall Square and in the streets leading off it. City Hall remained open until 11pm and afterwards the signed forms were taken to the Old Town Hall, the headquarters of the Unionist campaign.

While the men of Belfast made their way to the City Hall, the women signed the Declaration at a number of venues around the city. During the service at Westbourne Presbyterian Church, 'an earnest appeal was made to the women present to sign the Women's Declaration, with the result that at the close of the service, over 1,300 women appended their signatures to the document'.

In the two weeks after Ulster Day there were further opportunities to sign the Covenant and Declaration at almost 100 locations across Belfast. Among the venues where men, unable to take part in Ulster Day, were able to sign the Covenant was the Old Town Hall which was open from 9am to 8pm daily until October 14 (except Sunday). On October 4 it was reckoned that another 1,300 men had signed on that day alone. By the end of that fortnight around 130,000 men and women had signed the Covenant and Declaration in Belfast.

Those who signed represented the full spectrum of Unionist society from aristocrats and business magnates to mill workers and shipyard labourers. Even the Belfast rabbi's daughter, Jennie Rosenzweig, signed the Declaration. Some signed in beautiful handwriting, while others simply made their mark. Every signatory was offered a souvenir parchment containing the words of the Covenant or Declaration. Many of the descendants of these men and women still proudly display these mementos.

In Ulster as a whole, the Covenant was signed by 218,206 men and the Declaration by 228,991 women. In addition, another 19,162 men and 5,055 women, born in Ulster but living elsewhere, signed at various locations throughout Ireland and Great Britain and also in the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

# Taakin Broad

Understanding more about the Ulster-Scots Language by William Olphert, Director of Education & Language, Ulster-Scots Agency

One of the most amazing things about human beings is that we have language. Today, it is thought that there are over 7,000 languages spoken in the world.

Sadly, however, it is estimated around 40% of these languages are now in decline due to the dominance of other major world languages, globalisation and cultural assimilation.

Growing up as I did in a rural area of north Antrim, it was not long before I became aware of the distinct way of talking that surrounded me. We called it "taakin broad" when we were not talking "polite". In reality, what we were conversing in, is Ulster Scots.

The Ulster-Scots language was established in Ulster in the early 1600s with the arrival of Lowland Scottish settlers and endures to this day. It is spoken every day by



Derry Girls introduced the Ulster-Scots language to a global audience

many people in parts of Ulster, and Ulster-Scots vocabulary has been adopted in spoken English in the region. Ulster-Scots language has featured in printed prose and poetry for around 300 years.

**'Country speak'**  
Many people, even within the Ulster-Scots community, think

that Ulster-Scots is only used in rural communities. This couldn't be further from the truth. A lot of Ulster-Scots is used in urban settings, but it is often dismissed as slang or bad English. Words like 'youse' or 'yousens'; 'windaes'; and 'shap' (shop) are all good Ulster-Scots words. Channel 4 actually issued a guide to help people understand the speech on the hit TV series, Derry Girls, in which most of the words were Ulster-Scots.

### English spelt badly

Ulster-Scots is often dismissed as bad English. The close proximity of some Ulster-Scots words to English words, like 'coul'/'cold'; 'houl'/'hold'; 'toul'/'told'; or 'boul'/'bold' is often used to justify this, but it is wrong.

Scots is a sister language to English and many words have a shared origin. It is just like French and Spanish. For example, the French word for country is 'pays', which in Spanish is 'pais'. No-one would ever claim that Spanish is just bad French, even though 75% of their words are very similar because of their shared roots in Latin.

Today, there is new hope for the future of the Ulster-Scots language. The Belfast Agreement of 1998 emphasised the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to languages in Northern Ireland, and recognised Ulster-Scots as "part of the cultural



The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in the heart of Belfast

wealth of the island of Ireland".

Ulster-Scots has been designated by the UK for protection under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in common with Scots, Welsh, Manx, Cornish and Irish. At the last census in 2021, 190,000 people declared ability in Ulster-Scots in NI.

### The Future

There are still many challenges ahead of us. Some of the questions we are asking is how can we link more school students with the rich linguistic traditions that are found in many of their communities? How can we type and text more using Ulster-Scots? What is the best way to develop a teach-yourself-Ulster-Scots resource?

However, these are also very

exciting times for Ulster-Scots, with the potential that the preponderance of AI-based language models presents us. With that in mind, surely the time for a community-based, linguistically driven spelling standard is now more important than ever?

In our vanilla world where are all watching the same movies from the streaming giants, consuming digital content from a handful of tech providers, people are more aware of the important link between people and place.

I am confident that the Ulster-Scots language, culture and heritage will play an important role in enriching our lives with colour, creativity and charm for many more centuries.

### Where do I start if I want to learn more?

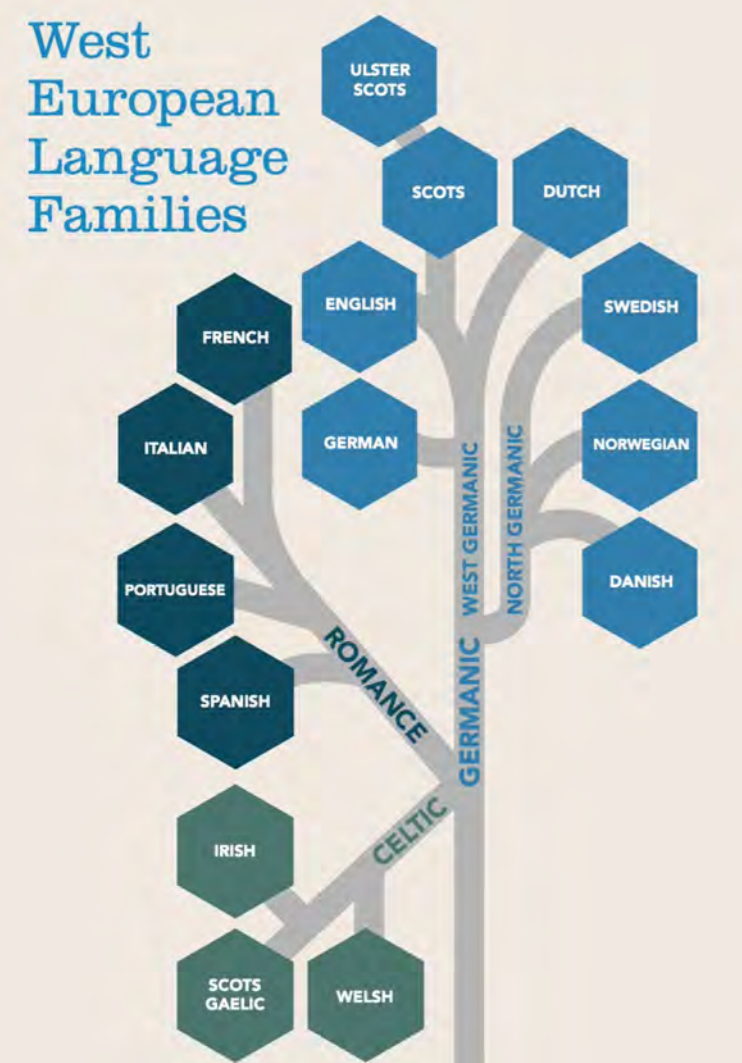
Follow us on Facebook (@ulsterscotsagency) for our popular 'Word of the Day' posts and other Ulster-Scots content.

The Discover Ulster-Scots website is also a great place to start with a wide range of resources freely available. If you would like to read some Ulster-Scots writing, check out 'Yarns' on the Ulster-Scots Community Network website.

In the next edition of 'Taakin Broad' we will be taking a deeper dive into the language.



The Ulster-Scots Agency's Education team



The Scots tongue came to Ulster with waves of migration in the 17th Century



25 - 30  
November  
2024

Ulster-Scots  
Leid Week  
Ulster-Scots  
Language Week

# D'YE HAE A WHEEN O WURDS?

Northern  
ayreland

Everybody kens a  
Ulster-Scots

William Olphert, Director of Language & Education

## How many of the 30 words do you know?

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 Wurdz quiz!

#whenowurdz



USE THIS QR CODE  
OR GO ONLINE:

[www.discoverulsterscots.com](http://www.discoverulsterscots.com)



**WEANS' WURLD**

# Ulster-Scots Surname Wordsearch

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

Find the names below in the wordsearch. We've also hidden a name which is not on the list. Use the clue below to figure out the missing name.

**CLUE:** the sound a crow makes; where a road crosses through the river.

- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ARMSTRONG | GRANT     | MCGREGOR |
| BURNS     | HILL      | MILLAR   |
| CAMPBELL  | KERR      | PARK     |
| COOPER    | LAIRD     | TAYLOR   |
| DAVIDSON  | LITTLE    | WOODS    |
| DODDS     | MASON     | WRIGHT   |
| DUNLOP    | MCCARTNEY |          |

What is the missing name? .....



The Ulster-Scots language is all around us. Some words are commonly used every day, such as 'foundered' (very cold), 'quare' (considerable), and 'wheest' (be quiet); while the first Scottish migrations to Ulster in the 1600s included the Aicken, Hamilton and Thompson families. Even our roads and street names feature Ulster-Scots influence.

If you have other examples why not take a picture and share them with us? Follow our Facebook page for further details next week!

**the Ulster-Scot  
COMPETITION**

To be in with a chance of winning 1 of 2 family passes (2 adults and up to 3 children) to the Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh, find the missing surname in the wordsearch above. Then email your answer, name and contact details to

competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with 'Surnames' as the subject line. You can also post your entry to: Competition, Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG. **Closing date:** Friday 25th October 2024