



**A FAMILY PASS TO THE
ST PATRICK'S CENTRE - PAGE 16**

Burns Night celebration is a rousing success



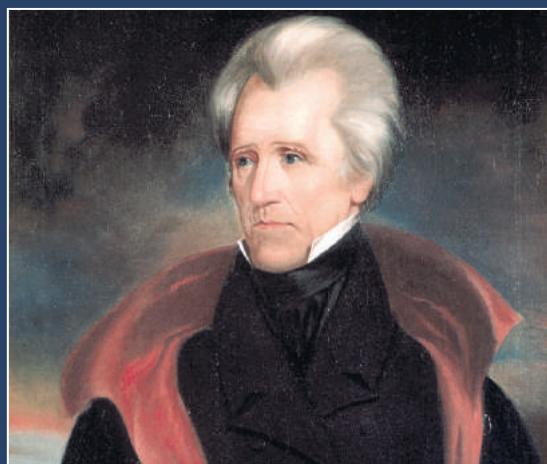
► **SPECIAL BURNS NIGHT COVERAGE:**
Sixth annual concert at Waterfront
Hall crowns a memorable night as
community events also shine

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JACKSON, THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF AMERICA**

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► **2016 WAS JAM-PACKED WITH SUCCESS FOR
KIRKNARRA DANCER EMMA SPIERS**

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Fair faa ye



Welcome to the March 2017 edition of the Ulster-Scot. It has been a busy few months since the January edition of The Ulster-Scot was published!

The Ulster-Scots Agency hosted the annual Burns Night concert with the Ulster Orchestra on Saturday January 21 in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

The concert was a huge success with performances by singer Emily Smith, musician Jamie McClellan, pipers from Field Marshal Montgomery pipe band, the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band and the Markethill Ulster-Scots dancers.

You can find out more about the concert and the other events which took place as part of Belfast Burns Week on Pages 7, 8 and 9. The Ulster Scot Agency will be launching a new booklet to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Andrew Jackson later in March. The booklet is free to obtain and you can read more about it on Page 11.

Also in this edition we have a wonderful recipe from Judith McLaughlin for a Burns Night inspired recipe for Neep's and Tattie's Patties – you can find this on Page 15.

As always we welcome your feedback and hope that everyone finds something of interest in this edition.

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency



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The Ulster-Scot

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

Main office:

The Ulster-Scots Agency
The Corn Exchange
31 Gordon Street
Belfast BT1 2LG
Telephone: (028) 9023 1113
Fax: (028) 9023 1898
Email: info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

International callers dialling the Ulster-Scots Agency:

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

Regional office in Raphoe:

The Ulster-Scots Agency
William Street, Raphoe
Co Donegal
Telephone: +353 7 4917 3876
Email: freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

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Associate Editor: Catriona Holmes
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Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

Ulster-Scots Agency hosts reception for 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band



The Ulster-Scots Agency hosted a reception for the Toronto based 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast on Friday February 24.

The reception provided the opportunity for RSPBANI officials

to thank the band (including many of the original performers) who will be taking part in the "30th Anniversary Live 'back' in Ireland 87" concert at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. The band members were joined at the reception by some of the all-star cast of guest players from the UK and Ireland who will also take part in

the concert. During the evening, Winston Pinkerton (RSPBANI President) presented souvenir plaques to two original performers Pipe Major Bill Livingstone and Michael Grey as a memento of the historic concert which George Ussher (RSPBA President) described as, "One of the defining events in pipe band history".



► **ABOVE:** Some of 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band's original pipers and drummers who took part in the now legendary 'Live in Ireland' concert in Ballymena in 1987. Including is the then Pipe Major Bill Livingstone (third from left)

► **LEFT:** Andy McGregor, Jonathan Whyte and Frank Cassidy pictured entertaining guests as they arrive at a reception for the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band



► Meaghan Lyons (event co-ordinator), Ainsley Richmond and Susy Fraser



► Winston Pinkerton (RSPBANI president) pictured presenting a souvenir plaque to Michael Grey (78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band)

CLICK ON THIS...



For details of what's on check out our events calendar -
www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events

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www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news

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WORD OF THE ISSUE

Proddle

Meaning:
Poke about, prod repeatedly, probe



‘Live back in Ireland 87’ concert

The 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band (including many of the original performers) were joined by some all-star cast of guest players from the UK and Ireland for the ‘Live back in Ireland 87’ concert at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on Saturday February 25 compered by Bob Worrall.

The concert provided the opportunity for many to roll back the years to 1987 as they recalled when the then soon to be World Champion Pipe Band performed and recorded the now legendary ‘Live in Ireland’ concert in Ballymena. The special guest at the Waterfront concert was Cllr Audrey Wales MBE (Mayor of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) who as Mayor was delighted to host a reception for the band at the Braid

(Ballymena Town Hall) on Thursday February 23. The Mayor was accompanied by her husband, Chris Wales (Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry). During the evening, Bob Worrall presented souvenir pennants to Winston Pinkerton (RSPBANI President), Len Browne & Ken Stewart (Graham Memorial Pipe Band) and Meaghan Lyons (Event Co-ordinator). Meanwhile speaking ahead of the concert, Pipe Major Richard Parkes MBE said: “I was among the lucky ones who attended the great Ballymena concert in 1987; this music in many ways stayed with me and certainly had an influence on my own pipe band thinking. I’m genuinely excited to be a part of this project.”



Some members of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band pictured taking part in the ‘Live back in Ireland 87’ concert at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on Saturday February 25

Blackthorn Pipers society meeting

Ryan Cupples-Menendez, a member of Grade 1 PSNI Pipe Band, was the Blackthorn Piper at the Blackthorn Pipers Society Meeting at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast on Wednesday February 22.

Also taking part were Ryan’s father Glenn Cupples (PSNI Pipe Band), Ashley McMichael (Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band), Mark Hasson (Pipe Major of Colmcille Pipe Band), Samantha Coburn (Thiepval Memorial Pipe Band), Nathan Coburn (Portavogie Pipe Band) and of course the Society’s Secretary Grahame Harris (Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band) who introduced the guest pipers and compered a great evening of entertainment and craic. Refreshments were available during the performances including ‘piping’ hot soup served by some ladies from Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band.

Special guests

During the early part of the evening, the Toronto based 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band had been practicing for their “Live back in Ireland 87” show (read all about it above) in an upper floor room of the building. After the band had finished their practice, the Blackthorn Piper Society members were delighted when the band members dropped in and joined with them for the latter part of the evening. The Society were particularly pleased when Michael Grey (one of the band’s original pipers who had performed at the concert in 1987) concluding a great evening of entertainment as he played a selection of tunes.



Blackthorn Piper Ryan Cupples - Menendez (PSNI Pipe Band) pictured with his sister Tamara and his parents Glenn and Laura at the Blackthorn Pipers society meeting



ABOVE: Michael Grey (78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band, Toronto) pictured playing at the Blackthorn Pipers society meeting

LEFT: Harry Stevenson, Grahame Harris (Secretary of the Blackthorn Pipers Society), Pipe Major Bill Livingstone (78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band, Toronto) and Hans Whan



A vibrant group playing a vital role in the revival of the Ulster-Scots movement in Ulster

Less than six miles from the sandy beach at Rosstown, in County Donegal stands Cully Orange Hall, the home base of Moyne Ulster-Scots Association. Founded in 2004 to promote Ulster-Scots in south Donegal, Moyne Ulster-Scots have been one of the most active and successful Ulster-Scots groups in Ulster.

The group has established itself around Moyne Pipe Band but has extended far beyond Donegal and its windswept beaches. Scott McElhinney, a local farmer, is the driving force behind Moyne Ulster-Scots, and the group have a committed band of volunteers who are real ambassadors for Ulster-Scots in South Donegal. In addition to the Pipe Band, the group have excelled at Highland Dance, successfully participating at Highland Dance Competitions throughout Ulster. The Moyne Ulster-Scots Dancers have performed at the Edinburgh Tattoo, the Walled City Tattoo, and a variety of local events in Donegal and throughout Ulster. Moyne Ulster Scots have received funding for over 10 years from the Ulster-Scots Agency through the Music and Dance Tuition programme. This has funded the Highland Dance tuition delivered by tutors from the Sollus School of Highland Dance and Piping and Drumming classes delivered by local tutors. According to Scott McElhinney, the project manager for Moyne Ulster-Scots "it would be impossible to keep our Ulster-Scots heritage alive without the support of the parents and the commitment of the young people taking part in both the Highland Dance and the Piping and Drumming



"Moyne Ulster-Scots have re-energised the Ulster-Scots identity in this part of Donegal and have got young people interested and involved in the culture and heritage."

tuition and the financial support of the Ulster-Scots Agency."

Scott added: "Our young people are really committed to their Ulster-Scots identity, we have a number of Highland Dancers who also play the bagpipes and attend both tuition classes. We also have some of our young folk performing with the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band and attend additional classes in Raphoe."

The group also organised the annual Donegal Highland Dance Competition, which will be held this year on the Saturday June 24 in the Bosco Centre in Donegal town. This annual competition is the only Highland Dance competition in the Republic of Ireland and is very well supported by Highland Dance groups with competitors travelling from across

Northern Ireland to compete for an array of silverware.

Scott McElhinney and his band of volunteers have over the last 13 years brought to life the rich Ulster-Scots heritage which has existed in this part of Donegal for generations. Just down the road from Cully Orange Hall is Rathneely Presbyterian Church which dates back to the 1670s. Moyne Ulster-Scots have re-energised the Ulster-Scots identity in this part of Donegal and have got young people interested and involved in the culture and heritage.

This part of Donegal may be geographically far way from the Ulster-Scots heartlands of Antrim, Down and even East Donegal but in Moyne, there is a vibrant Ulster-Scots group who are playing a vital role in the

revival of the Ulster-Scots movement in Ulster.

Highland Dance Classes are held in Cully Orange Hall every Wednesday commencing at 6pm. Piping and Drumming tuition are held in Cully Orange Hall on every Tuesday commencing at 8pm.

This year, the festival welcomed the musical talent of Mark McMullan, who became an internet star after more than 300,000 people watched the moving video of him performing the classic Les Miserables hit 'Bring Him Home' to his older brother Declan, who suffers from locked-in syndrome.

George added: "It was wonderful to welcome Mark, who added a truly stunning element to the 2016 Festival of Remembrance. The evening can be very emotional and Mark's outstanding talent brought us all together to experience, as we journeyed through time, a magical and reflective experience."

In addition to Mark, the audience enjoyed the musical talent Stellar, the award winning Open Arts Community Choir and the heart-warming dance group, Bright Lights, along with the iconic pipes and drums and band of The Royal Irish Regiment.

The evening concluded with a moving Service of Remembrance with the usual poignant display and a special two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fell from the ceiling in memory of the lives lost at war.

"Each poppy petal reminded us that each one represented the selflessness and courage of those who responded to duty in the most extraordinary of ways," Mr Black added.

"This year's Northern Ireland Festival of Remembrance was certainly once again, an evening to remember."

Ulster-Scot Juvenile Pipe Band: one-to-one with Luke Magee

In future issues of the paper, **Victoria Catterson** will profile a member of the Ulster-Scot Juvenile Pipe Band. This issue we focus on drummer Luke Magee from Raphoe.

Luke admits to being “drumming-mad” and loves the opportunities that arise from being in the band. When the competitive teenager isn’t playing sport, he can be found practising his flams and paradiddles on his kitchen table.

Luke began drumming through the teaching programme provided within his primary school and has progressed with the tuition he has received both in school and at his local Ulster-Scots teaching classes in Raphoe. He hasn’t been drumming for long, but he already regularly participates in events with the Juvenile Pipe Band, including their recent trip to Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany.

Age: 13

School: Royal and Prior Comprehensive School



Current band: Raphoe Pipe Band

Hobbies outside of drumming:
Playing badminton, cricket and football

How long have you been drumming? -
Two years.

How/Where did you learn to drum? -
I started to drum when the Ulster-Scots agency had lessons in Raphoe Central National School.

What attracted you to drumming and/or pipe bands? -
I found it interesting, to play a new instrument and to get out of class too!

What do you enjoy most about piping and performing with the Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band?
- Going to all the different venues and countries, and making new friends.

How often do you practice?
- Every day; I have my drumming pad on the kitchen table. My mum goes mad

sometimes when she is trying to do things but I keep on practising. I think she loves it, though!

Is there anything you aspire to achieve in drumming such as winning the worlds, playing in grade one or winning solo competitions? - I would love to drum in grade one and start my own drumming school someday.

Are there any drummers in particular that you enjoy listening to/aspire to play like?
- Jim Kilpatrick.

What advice would you give to someone who would like to start drumming?
- Go to one of the Ulster-Scots agency classes. You don’t have to join a band just to learn and you can play bagpipes, bass drum, tenor drum or snare.

To follow the young pipers and drummers visit www.facebook.com/ulsterscotsjuvenilepipeband. To find out more about the teaching programme visit www.mspsd.co.uk

Scottish concert for Enniskillen

An Evening of Scottish Music and Dancing Concert in aid of the Forth Bridges Accordion Band will be held at Enniskillen Unionist Hall, Enniskillen on March 17, 2017 at 8pm.

The Forth Bridges Accordion Band is a cross community marching band based in Bo’ness, Scotland. The band takes part in a wide variety of engagements such as gala days, concerts and performances in nursing homes.

Acts include:

Forth Bridges Accordion Band (Scotland)
Cavanaleck Pipe Band (County Fermanagh)
Erne Highland Dancers (Enniskillen)
Compere - Gary Wilson

More acts to be added as soon as they are confirmed.

The band will be travelling over from Scotland to Northern Ireland to take part in the annual St Patrick’s Day parade in Enniskillen.

That evening the band will be linking up with other local groups to put on an evening of Scottish music, singing and dancing. Come along for a great evening of entertainment.

Tickets cost £5 if bought in advance and £7 on the night at the door.
Email accordionband@hotmail.com or telephone 07834903858 for details.

John Hewitt’s Ulster-Scots tradition – every townland earned its name in song

John Hewitt’s Ulster-Scots Tradition – Every Townland Earned its Name in Song a touring exhibition on the influences that have shaped Ulster-Scots poetry has been launched by Ulster University.

Consisting of a state-of-the-art series of panels that tell the story of John Hewitt’s fascination for the poetry of the Rhyming Weavers, this exhibition traces the history of the Scots language in Ulster and how it became

an integral part of the poetry of local poets. The narrative also follows the history of printing and the linen industry in the north of Ireland and how it had an impact on Ulster literature. There is a map showing where Ulster-Scots poets lived and worked. The project is co-ordinated by Dr Frank Ferguson and Dr Kathryn White from the School of English and History and is designed by Professor John McMillan,

Professor Emeritus of the School of Art and Design. The exhibition has been made possible by a project partnership agreement with the Ulster-Scots Agency and by grant funding from the University’s Arts and Humanities Research Institute. Free admission. The exhibition will run until April 1 at The Burnavon, Burn Rd, Cookstown BT80 8DN. Please contact The Burnavon Box Office on 028 8676 9949.

Are you a **MacAulay, McAulay, McAuley, McCauley, McCawley etc.** or have a **MacAulay family connection?** if so...



The countdown has begun to the Clan MacAulay International Gathering - Carrickfergus August 2017!

For three days the historic Co Antrim town in Northern Ireland shall be besieged by MacAulay’s from round the world, coming together at this special event in the promotion and spirit of kinship!

Already bookings have surpassed all expectations with clans folk coming from the US, Canada, Australia, NZ, Scotland, England, Rep Ireland and N. Ireland!

Events to include Clan Welcome Night/Clan Banquet Night with Piping of the Chief/Clan Ceilidh Night with Special Guests/Antrim Coast Coach Tour visiting Bushmills Distillery and McAuley places of interest/Clan MacAulay DNA Project Presentation/Historic Carrickfergus Tour...

All MacAulay/McAuley’s etc and interested parties welcome!
...will you be there?

The Loughshore Hotel, Carrickfergus - Thurs 10th - Sun 13th August 2017 (3 nights)...bookings for individual events welcome.

Spring 2017 events: from Scottish cooking to ceilidh

Wednesday March 8 at 7.30pm: An evening of Scottish Country Dancing and traditional Scottish ceilidh dancing. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Belfast Branch) will be on hand to demonstrate some traditional dances, and also provide instruction to anyone willing to have a go! Bring your dancing shoes, with live accordion and fiddle music by local Ulster-Scots dance band Risin'Stour.

Tuesday March 14 at 7.30pm: Ulster-Scots Cookery demonstration by renowned culinary broadcaster Jenny Bristow. Jenny brings her kitchen to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, cooking up a range of delicious dishes using local ingredients.

Wednesday March 15 at 7.30pm: Musical event: The Skirl of the Pipes: In conjunction with the Blackthorn Pipers' Society, come along and listen to the music of the Great Highland bagpipes, Scottish smallpipes and whistles. Featuring traditional Ulster-Scots folk group Kask.

Monday March 20 at 1pm: Traditional bread making demonstration with Fred Strickland. Soda, fadge and wheaten are all on the menu!

Wednesday March 22 at 1pm: Presentation: C.S. Lewis and his Ulster-Scots connections. Local C.S. Lewis expert Sandy Smith presents an illustrated lecture and accompanying short films about the celebrated *Chronicles of Narnia* author.

Wednesday March 22 at 7.30pm: Flute Band Association of N.I. Musical Showcase. Come along and enjoy an evening of folk, classical and contemporary music performed by members of Northern Ireland's part-music flute ensembles.

Thursday March 23 10am-1pm: Guided tour of C.S. Lewis's Belfast by Sandy Smith. Leaving the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre at 10am. (Limited to 30 people. Contact DUSC staff on 02890 436710 to reserve a place)

Wednesday March 29 at 1pm: Belfast's Hidden Ulster-Scots History. Local historian and tour guide Laura Spence presents an illustrated lecture on some fascinating nuggets of local history to be found just off the beaten track.

Wednesday March 29 at 7.30pm: Footerin and fisslin in prose. Author Angeline King explores her use of Ulster-Scots in prose. Angeline wrote her first published novel, *Snugville Street*, in standard English, but began to experiment with the Ulster-Scots language of her childhood in *A Belfast Tale*. Angeline's latest book, *Children of Latharna* is a collection of children's stories set in Larne. It's a feast of Ulster-Scots for both big and wee weans!

Admission is free to all events. For further info visit www.ulster-scots.com or phone 02890 436 710

'Utterly compelling' lecture on Gibson collection

The Linen Hall Library recently held its annual Andrew Gibson Memorial Lecture, entitled 'Utterly Compelling: the Gibson Collection and Robert Burns'.



The lecture was given by Dr Carol Baraniuk of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, University of Glasgow. Dr Baraniuk is also a Visiting Research Fellow at Queen's University Belfast. In an informative and entertaining lecture Dr Baraniuk focused on items, papers and episodes from Andrew Gibson's archive which gave an insight into his importance as a collector and bibliographer of Burns. She also shared some insights from her own recent researches into what made, and still makes, Burns such a compelling subject for study.

Dr Baraniuk gave an overview of Burns's letters and poems and discussed how she is trying to get to know Burns, and the many things to be learned about him, from his own words and from his many biographers. She came to the conclusion that the essential character of Burns remains enigmatic and hidden, and is one of the reasons for his enduring popularity and interest.

From the runaway success of his first volume of verse, published in 1786 at Kilmarnock, to Burns passing away in debt and poverty at the age of 37, Dr Baraniuk took her audience on the journey of Burn's life through his writing. Her detailed, meticulously researched and beautifully illustrated lecture brought the Gibson Collection at the Linen Hall Library to life, amply demonstrating why the Collection is an utterly compelling, multi-faceted treasure.

COME ON IN AND Discover Ulster-Scots

arts council of Northern Ireland

MARCH 2017

SPRING EVENTS

EVERYONE WELCOME FREE ADMISSION

LUNCHTIMES 1PM - 2PM		EVENINGS: 7.30PM - 9.30PM	
Monday 20th March	TRADITIONAL BREAD MAKING	Wednesday 8th March	AN EVENING OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
Wednesday 22nd March	C.S. LEWIS: THE ULSTER-SCOTS INFLUENCE	Tuesday 14th March	ULSTER-SCOTS COOKERY WITH JENNY BRISTOW
Thursday 23rd March	TOUR OF C.S. LEWIS'S BELFAST (starts 10AM)	Wednesday 15th March	THE SKIRL OF THE PIPES: LIVE MUSIC
Wednesday 29th March	BELFAST'S HIDDEN ULSTER-SCOTS HISTORY	Wednesday 22nd March	FLUTE BAND ASSOCIATION N.I. MUSICAL SHOWCASE
Friday 31st March	SCOTTISH BURIAL PRACTICES IN ULSTER	Wednesday 29th March	FOOTERIN & FISSLIN IN PROSE

ALL AT CATHEDRAL QUARTER'S DISCOVER ULSTER-SCOTS CENTRE

CORN EXCHANGE, 1-9 VICTORIA STREET, BELFAST BT1 3CA
www.discoverulsterscots.com
Tel: 028 9043 6710

Ulster-Scots Community Network
Ulster-Scots Agency
Inspired by Communities

Discover Ulster-Scots Centre 13 miles of water, centuries of connections



Get a whole different story at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter. A spacious exhibition gallery, open Monday to Friday from 10 am until 4 pm and entry is free of charge.

Ulster and Scotland are just 13 miles apart and at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre you can discover thousands of years of history, from the formation of the Giant's Causeway (which links County Antrim with the Western Isles of Scotland) right up to the present day.

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre features:

- Exhibition panels covering ten major stories, starting with the arrival of Edward Bruce in 1315
- Timeline room showing how events in Ulster link with Scotland and the rest of the world
- Language and literature area providing examples of Ulster-Scots publishing, as well as

words many people use every day

- Large journey planner map highlighting other Ulster-Scots places to visit
 - Audio-visual terminals to watch films and conduct research
 - Display cases featuring rare artefacts and publications
 - Free Ulster-Scots literature
 - Gift shop offering books, CDs and tartanwares
- The Centre is located within the historic Belfast Corn Exchange building which dates from 1852. In 1859 the Corn Exchange hosted a major Robert Burns centenary event which was attended by Burns' descendants who lived in the city.

For further information visit www.discoverulsterscots.com or telephone (028) 9043 6710 to speak to a member of staff at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre.



MACN enjoy a spectacular Burns Night in Markethill Courthouse

THE Mid-Armagh Community Network (MACN) held their annual Burns Night in Markethill Courthouse, when a number of members and friends gathered to remember the famous Scottish poet's life and works.

The master of ceremonies was Dr Charles Neville, development officer for South Ulster with the Ulster-Scots Community Network. The evening followed the traditional format including the address to the haggis by Charles Neville, the toast to the lassies by

Conrad Clarke (chairman of MACN) and following dinner, traditional Burns Night entertainment was performed by the Markethill Scottish Highland Dancers fresh from their performance at the Waterfront hall the previous week, and poetry from members of the MACN Fiddle Orchestra. The evening was rounded off by a musical item from the Mid-Armagh Community Network's Folk Group, drawn from various aspects of the tuition classes at Markethill. Joining the locals was guests who

travelled from Co Down and as far away as Co Monaghan.

They were treated to the normal Burns Night fayre of - cock-a-leekie soup and haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by the traditional Scottish raspberry dessert of Cranachan (whipped cream, whisky, honey and fresh raspberries, with toasted oatmeal).

The evening was again concluded in the expected Burns Night fashion with the signing of Auld Lang Sang.

Mid-Armagh Community Network - an Ulster-Scots cultural community group established in June 1998 to preserve and promote this heritage in Markethill town and the surrounding area - will showcase all aspects of their work at the annual Flowers of Edinburgh concert in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh, on Friday April 21. The MACN group also runs very successful Ulster-Scots fiddle classes and have both a 50 strong fiddle orchestra and folk group all under the guidance of Keith Lyttle.

Schomberg marks birthday of Robert Burns

The Kilmorey Arms Hotel was packed to capacity for the Schomberg Society's 18th annual Ulster-Scots Burns Dinner.

This annual event celebrates and pays tribute to the life, works and poetry of the renowned Scottish bard Robert Burns, 1759-1796, and is held every year at this time to mark Burns' birthday, January 25. Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire and many of his well known poems were written in his native Scots language, including the familiar *Auld Lang Syne*, *Tam O' Shanter* and *To A Mouse*. It was once said that in every home in Ulster, there were two books, the Bible and Robert Burns' poems.

The entertainment kicked off with The Reivers Folk Orchestra performing a great selection of Scottish traditional jigs and reels before Roberta Heaney of the Schomberg Society welcomed everyone to the Society's annual Burns Dinner. James Stevenson of Aughnahoor Pipe Band piped in the haggis accompanied by four girls from the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance who were dressed in traditional highland costumes and Gareth Crozier, chairman of the Schomberg Society recited the time honoured *Address to the Haggis* which was followed by the traditional Selkirk Grace. Special speaker on the night Charles Neville of the Ulster-Scots Community Network, gave a short talk about the life of Robert Burns followed by reciting some of his finest



► Schomberg Fife and Drum who performed a medley of Ulster-Scots jigs and reels

poetry. The MC on the night was Harry Baxter who was kept busy amusing and entertaining what has been one of the biggest crowds at the Schomberg Society's Burns Celebrations to date. He soon got the night's entertainment kicked off by introducing the first act, Aughnahoor Pipe Band with Drum Major Jane Newell who entertained the crowd with a medley of traditional Scottish tunes. Local Soloists Stephen Agnew, Jane Newell and well known country singer Sam J. Cunningham treated everyone to a variety of traditional Scottish, gospel, country songs and airs. The Schomberg's own Kirknarra School of Dance took to the floor to perform a very

entertaining variety of highland dance routines and were followed by the Schomberg Fife and Drum who soon had the crowd tapping their toes to a number of Scottish jigs and reels.

To finish off the night in style, renowned folk group Stonewall treated everyone to a selection of traditional Ulster-Scots music, country, Scottish ceilidh and modern pop and had everyone up on their feet to end the night in traditional fashion with the singing of one of Burns' best known songs, *Auld Lang Syne*.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society commented: "We are delighted and overwhelmed by the success and huge

support we have received for our annual Burns Night celebrations, which is a very important date in the Ulster-Scots calendar and a great opportunity to showcase our local Ulster-Scots culture and talent."

The Schomberg Society would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make our annual Burns Night celebrations such a huge success, with a special mention to all of the acts and performers, to our MC Harry Baxter, to everyone who helped out on the night and to the management and staff of the Kilmorey Arms Hotel for hosting our traditional Burns Night and providing a splendid dinner.

Burns Night not only met exp

The Ulster-Scots Agency and Ulster Orchestra held their sixth annual Burns Night concert on Saturday, January 21, 2017 in Belfast's Waterfront Hall to a rapturous reception.

Scottish singer Emily Smith and her husband Jamie McClellan took to the stage to celebrate the Scottish bard's birthday.

The Ulster Orchestra, conducted by John Logan, led performers including Emily herself, her husband Jamie McClellan, the Ulster-Scots Agency's Juvenile Pipe Band, the Markethill Ulster-Scots Dancers, pipers from Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band and singers Alan McBride and Sylvia Burnside in a programme of music that mixed traditional favourites with more up to date work. The evening proceedings were hosted by former *Blue Peter* presenter Zoe Salmon.

The concert was recorded for the BBC by Barking Films and was televised on Wednesday January 25 and repeated on Sunday, January 29

Having celebrated a decade as one of Scottish music's most distinctively sublime voices, Emily Smith has returned to her first love of traditional song and her gift for finding a personal connection in these passed-down, anonymously authored

words is still at the heart of her craft.

Emily was named BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year back in 2002 and the accolades have continued to flow as she won the USA Songwriting Competition in 2005, Scots Singer of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards in 2008 and she received two nominations in the 2012 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Emily first joined the Ulster Orchestra for Burns Night with her musician husband Jamie McClellan in 2015 and the Ulster Scot Agency and Ulster Orchestra were delighted to welcome her back in 2017. The work of the Bard featured throughout the programme and amongst the special guests, was Christopher Tait, Scotland's finest Robbie Burns reenactor, to bring the verse of the Bard to life and the 11 times World Champion Pipers from Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band.

The concert kicked off a week-long celebration for the birthday of Scottish poet Robert Burns with events taking place across Belfast in celebration of the first Belfast Burns Week!



Ulster-Scots agency plays host to Stonewall classics



► Ian Crozier (Chief Executive Officer, Ulster-Scots Agency) pictured at a Burns Night in the Linen Hall Library on Wednesday January, 25 prior to laying a wreath at a statue in memory of Robert Burns. Included are Gregor Volk and Bernard Gilliland



► Catroina Holmes (Ulster-Scots Agency) pictured with Christopher Tait after he performed his one man show 'Robert Burns Live' at the MAC Theatre, Belfast on Monday January 23. Photo by Neil Harrison (Neil Harrison Photography)



► Guests enjoy a Burns Night event in the Linen Hall Library, Belfast. The event was very well received

The Ulster Scots Agency held the first Belfast Burns Week Festival from January 21 – January 28.

The Festival saw a range of events taking place across the city during the week long celebrations starting with the Burns Concert at the Waterfront Hall on January 21. Robert Burns Live actor Christopher Tait took to the stage on Monday 23 at the MAC in Belfast to give audiences a stunning performance of some best loved Burns pieces.

Laura Spence and John Erskine provided historical talks across libraries in the Greater Belfast area all themed towards Robert Burns, his works and his great loves. On Burns Day itself, Cregagh Road Library held an event to celebrate the birthday of the Scottish Bard. With music by Kask and a talk by language officer Gary Blair, the event was booked out well in advance of the day and guests were provided with 'a wee dram' courtesy

of Tesco.

The Ulster Scots Agency held a Burns Night at the Linen Hall library on Wednesday January 25 with a wreath laying at the Burns statue in the Linen Hall library. Guests at the event were treated to Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, a performance by Stonewall Folk band and speaker Gary Blair. The event was very well received and amongst the highlights of the week.

A further wreath laying ceremony took place at the Burns monument in Dundalk on Thursday 26 January. The event was attended by members of the Belfast Burns club and Minister Heather Humphreys who laid the wreath at the monument.

There is a strong link between Scotland's National Poet Robert Burns and County Louth. His eldest sister Agnes came to live there with her husband and is buried in

Dundalk while her home forms part of a nature park near Knockbridge. An open music session illustrating the works and collections of Robert Burns was held in the Discover Ulster Scots centre on Thursday January 26. The session provided those who attended with some new songs and traditional pieces that had been collected by Burns throughout his life and gave an opportunity to perform.

Expectations - it surpassed them



Burns week round-up 2017

LINEN HALL LIBRARY



► Trevor and Marianela Campbell and Hannah Lucia Mulholland

LINEN HALL LIBRARY, BELFAST WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

This event celebrated the birthday of Robert Burns and highlighted the many links between Burns, his family and Ulster from the late 1700s. Piper Dylan Coyle performed for guests as they were welcomed by Ian Crozier (Chief Executive Officer, Ulster-Scots Agency) who laid a wreath at the statue in the library erected in memory of Robert Burns and his remarkable contribution to literature. Ian said that it was most appropriate that the Burns Night was held in the Linen Hall Library, home to the largest collection of Burns material in the world outside of Scotland.

HOSFORD HOUSE

SKAINOS AUDITORIUM, BELFAST FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Hosford, a homeless project of East Belfast Mission together with the Ulster-Scots Agency held a Burns Night at Skainos Auditorium, Newtownards Road, Belfast on Friday, January 20.

The celebrations included Ulster-Scots music by traditional folk group, 'Stonewall', songs by the Turas Choir, dancing performances by Bright Lights Highland Dancers, highland bagpiping by Cameron Beggs and storytelling and 'yarns' of Rabbie Burns by local poet Jim McClean.



► Cameron Beggs (piper), Trevor Robinson (chef) and Arlene Megan (event co-ordinator) pictured getting ready to pipe in the haggis. Bright Lights Highland Dancers Jasmine Ng (left) and Sarah Graham (right)

BLACK BOX



► Brendan and Margaret Jamison, pictured with Dorothy Mulgrew

RABBIE BURNS LUNCH AT THE BLACK BOX, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

A Burns lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties was held in the Black Box in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter on Wednesday, January 25. The piper was Andy McGregor (Pipe Major, Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band). Aaron Hickland read a selection of Robert Burns poetry and singer songwriter Hugh Jordan sang some famous Burns songs. The event was one of several 'Belfast Burns Week Festival' events organised by the Ulster-Scots Agency to celebrate the January 25 birthday of Robert Burns.

DISCOVER ULSTER-SCOTS CENTRE

DISCOVER ULSTER SCOTS CENTRE, BELFAST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

Musicians and non-musicians (of any level of ability) were invited to join with the Ulster-Scots Agency professional musicians for an 'open music session' on Thursday January 26 playing the music of Burns and his collections amongst other traditional pieces. Hosted by the Ulster-Scots Agency, the event was held at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast.



► Mike Gaston on the bodhran

Ceilidh Band one of top NI wedding entertainers

Hosted by Creative Oceanic the Northern Ireland Wedding Awards 2017 recognise and reward the talent and expertise of those in the wedding industry that make the big day the best it can be.

The Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band were delighted to have been shortlisted as a finalist in the Wedding Entertainer of the Year category and recently attended the glitzy awards ceremony held in the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

This was a tough category with ten of Northern Ireland's top wedding entertainers including DJs and bands. Unfortunately the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band did not win this year, but they are delighted to have been voted one of the top ten wedding entertainers for 2017. The band would like to thank everyone who nominated them for this award and are looking forward to a busy year of events and weddings.

To find out more about the band, check out their website www.alastairscott.com and Facebook page.



Looking ahead to Burns Weekend 2018

Arnolds Hotel in Dunfanaghy, Donegal held their annual Burns Weekend starting with the Shamrock and Thistle Ceilidh Night on Friday, January 20 followed by the Burns Celebration Dinner Saturday January 21.

The event was well attended by those guests who thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the weekend and dates have already been booked for 2018.

The Arnold's Hotel, Burns Weekend will take place on January 26 - 28, 2018.

The weekend package price will be €159.00 per person sharing which will include 2 Nights Bed/Full Irish Breakfast/Shamrock and Thistle Ceilidh Night Friday Night and Burns Dinner Saturday night.



Keep fit Ulster-Scots style

Ceilidh Fit is an exciting new concept developed by Amanda Robinson and Ruth Clarke of the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band. The pair love a good Scottish ceilidh but being in a busy band doing ceilidhs and concerts throughout the province, they never get the opportunity to dance and so Ceilidh Fit was born. The first Ceilidh Fit sessions began in Dungannon Leisure Centre in October 2016 and was a great success.

The next session will start on Wednesday March 8, 2017 in Burnside Orange Hall, Antrim and will run for six weeks finishing with a special treat on the final night with live music by the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band.

If you are interested in running a class in your area or would like more details on Ceilidh Fit contact Amanda or Ruth via Facebook – Ceilidhfitni, email: ceilidhfit@outlook.com or visit www.alastairscott.com

Kirknarra Dancers pass exams with flying colours



► (L-R) Kirknarra Dancers Lucy Johnston, Ellie Newell, Jasmin Cullen and Rebecca Cowan in Reivers House after completing their Highland Dance examinations!

Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance in Reivers House was busy lately with 34 dancers undertaking Highland Dance examinations.

Under the tutorage of Ulster Champion Michelle Johnston, all of the dancers have been practicing very hard in Reivers House and all of their hard work and dedication has certainly paid off with all of the dancers passing their Scottish Highland and National Exams with many merits, distinctions and honours achieved on the day under Dance Examiner Betty Southerland, Past President of the Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance! Within the Kirknarra School of Dance, a number of the girls passed their theory exams and everyone in Reivers House is delighted that in the not too distant future, some of these girls will become the future of Highland Dance as tutors passing on their skills and knowledge to the next generation of enthusiasts.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance said: "This is a great start to the year for our Dance School and we are very proud of all of our dancers and their commitment and achievements. Highland Dancing is a very important part of our Ulster-Scots culture and heritage and it is indeed very heartening to see so many young folk here in the Kingdom of Mourne developing new skills and indeed enjoying participating in the culture!" Highland Dance classes are tutored every Wednesday by Michelle in Reivers House and everyone from the age of 4+ is more than welcome to come along and get involved! Kirknarra School of Dance would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their support. For more details contact Reivers House on 028 4176 9678/ 07753222553. Find them on Facebook: Kirknarra School of Dance.



► Some of Kirknarra's youngest dancers: (L-R) Lucy Cunningham, Ella Houston, Lynne Johnston and Rhiannon Nicholson

Special brochure marks the birth of one of America's most iconic Presidents

March 15 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States.

To mark the occasion, the Ulster-Scots Agency is publishing a special brochure which will detail the career of a distinguished American soldier and the first United States President to come from Ulster-Scots family roots.

Jackson, whose parents Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson emigrated to America from Carrickfergus in Co Antrim in the summer of 1765, was born in the Presbyterian Scots-Irish Waxhaw community of the Carolinas 21 months later on March 15, 1767.

This rugged, self-assured straight-talking individual became one of the most iconic of the 45 United States Presidents and his legacy over two terms as President (1829-33 and 1833-37) was far-reaching as the embryonic American nation stretched out from "Sea to Shining Sea" - from the Atlantic to the Pacific shorelines.

The appropriately illustrated Jackson brochure has been written and compiled on behalf of the Ulster-Scots Agency by

Northern Ireland journalist and author Billy Kennedy and will be publicly available in the lead-up to the celebrations in March marking Andrew Jackson's birth.

Billy Kennedy has written 11 books on 18th century emigration to America from Ulster and he has also compiled various brochures for the Ulster-Scots Agency on this historical theme.

Andrew Jackson, who earned the name of 'Old Hickory' for his sterling leadership qualities in battle as Commander of the United States Army in the early part of the 19th century, achieved a signal military triumph over British forces as American general at the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815.

Earlier, Jackson had been a young lawyer both in North Carolina and Tennessee and he became involved in politics as a State and Federal level, serving in the US House of Representatives.

As a politician, Jackson created 'Jacksonian Democracy' a political and social philosophy that was to play a key role in the shaping of government and decision-making over the most of two centuries in the United States.



"The enduring Andrew Jackson story is one of remarkable achievement and a unique display of courage and bold initiative."

The egalitarian aim of 'Jacksonian Democracy' was "government for the people, by the people".

The brochure will also trace the Jackson family roots in both the West of Scotland and in Ulster; his time growing up in the Carolinas during the 1770s/1780s period of the American Revolution, and his spell as US President.

The role of Andrew Jackson - soldier, politician and statesman - is examined in detail, as well as the fond relationship he had with his wife Rachel, whose death came poignantly just days before he was to assume his first term as President in Washington.

The enduring Andrew Jackson story is one of remarkable achievement and a unique display of courage and bold initiative in a country that has since become the greatest and most powerful nation on earth.

Copies of the 52-page full colour brochure, which is free, can be obtained from the Ulster-Scots Agency, the Corn Exchange, 31, Gordon Street, Belfast BT1 2LG.

Michelle Johnston announces her retirement

Michelle Johnston, 27, has announced her retirement from competitive Highland dancing. Having been a regular competitor at competitions and championships, Michelle has won every Highland dancing competition in Ireland. She has also gained top six prizes at many international events, including the All England, UK, European and North American Championships.

Michelle is delighted to have gained a lot of "firsts" in her career; In 2006, Michelle became the first Highland dancer from Northern Ireland to qualify for the finals of The World Highland Dancing Championships in Dunoon and still remains the only dancer from Ireland to do so. In the same year, Michelle was awarded an Associate Diploma with the BATD (British Association of Teachers of Dancing) which sparked the beginning of her teaching career. She was crowned the first Ulster Adult Highland Dancing Champion the following year and held the title for eight consecutive years. In 2016, Michelle passed more examinations with the S.D.T.A (Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance) to become a fellow, which is the highest ranking membership status within any examining body. The latest "first" was achieved when Michelle was appointed as an SOBHD (Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing) Adjudicator, having passed the gruelling Judges Test on



the first attempt and being the first Highland Dancing Adjudicator in Ireland.

Alongside championship and exam successes, Michelle has performed internationally at high calibre events such as Dubai National Day Celebrations, Basel International Tattoo, Berlin International Tattoo, Switzerland's Christmas Tattoo and Virginia Military Tattoo.

In the past 10 years, alongside competing and performing herself, Michelle has focused any extra energy into moving Highland dancing forward within Northern Ireland. Starting with private classes in Moneyrea, the Johnston School of Highland Dancing has grown from just four pupils in 2006 to now host over 40 pupils. In addition to the

Moneyrea classes, Michelle has in recent years helped to fuel the growing interest in Highland dancing at several other groups. Kirknarra School of Dance has grown their numbers from 15 to almost 50 under Michelle's direction, plus many Primary Schools now benefit from her expert tuition thanks to Ulster Scots Agency Funded Projects. This year, a total of 120 pupils will be encouraged by Michelle to participate in examinations with the S.D.T.A (Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance). Michelle's dancers are already following in her footsteps, with the girls and boys winning trophies at every Competition in Ireland. The pupils' Championship successes include; four Ulster Champions, six trophy winners

at the Northern Ireland Championships and one trophy winner at the European Championships.

As well as competitive success, the school has produced a high standard of choreography and performance teams. With most of the dancers having performed in TV series *The Gatherin* and *Santer*, plus stage productions such as the Belfast Tattoo and the Cross Border Orchestra's Peace Proms. Last year also seen four of the junior dancers receive nominations for the S.D.T.A. Scholarships plus four senior dancers were invited to perform with the Edinburgh Tattoo Dance Company in Scotland.

In 2017, Michelle is looking forward to travelling with her dancers to many venues to watch them compete and perform, with the World Championships in sight for the team in August. Michelle is now focusing more attention on teaching and adjudicating, but she will also be performing as part of the Edinburgh Tattoo Dance Company later this year.

Michelle's skills as an organiser are being put to good use as she now helps to promote Highland Dancing Competitions in conjunction with The North West Pipe Band Championship, Portrush and The Ards and North Down Pipe Band Championship, Bangor in addition to organising the Johnston and Kirknarra School Competitions. Michelle has recently been allocated as head delegate of the Northern Ireland Highland Dance Association and represents the association on the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing.

Like and follow **"Johnston Highland Dancers"** on Facebook.

Inaugural Glasgow Tattoo is hailed as a tremendous success

The first **Glasgow Tattoo** took place at The SEC Hydro, Glasgow on January 19, 20 and 21, to rapturous reviews and comments from both audience and participants alike.

The inaugural Glasgow Tattoo featured more than 600 performers from across Northern Ireland, Republic Of Ireland, The Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

Some of the audience members had also travelled a distance to see the event and included people from Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Russia, USA, Canada and Australia.

The Glasgow Tattoo will now be an annual event for the City of Glasgow, and the team at Belfast Tattoo are delighted that they are drawing an audience from outside the City to attend the spectacle of this amazing production, and that this appeal is also extended to overseas visitors. Colin Wasson, producer - The Glasgow Tattoo said: "The 2017 Glasgow Tattoo was, without doubt, a most memorable show, which we are proud to have produced for the City Of Glasgow, and which will now become an annual event. We look forward now to The 2018 Glasgow Tattoo which will be bigger and better than 2017."

VisitScotland regional partnerships director Liz Buchanan MBE said: "I am delighted that Glasgow's first-ever Tattoo was such a resounding success. This vibrant, wonderfully entertaining spectacle was enjoyed by over 12,000 people, including visitors who had travelled to attend from England, Ireland and further afield, making it an exciting addition to our annual events programme. The three shows also provided a superb way of celebrating the start of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, shining the spotlight on our strong sense of tradition and rich cultural offering. I look forward to seeing the Glasgow Tattoo building on the triumph of its inaugural event to developing in future years and bring many more visitors to the city."

The show opened with the Massed Pipes and Drums of The 2017 Glasgow Tattoo to get the show off to a rousing start, led by Senior Drum Major, Brian Wilson MBE. The Artane Band from Dublin followed, making history in their first appearance in Scotland, following their recent appearance at The 2016 Belfast Tattoo, and were greeted enthusiastically by the audience, finishing their set with music from Riverdance. The Highland Dance Troupe, choreographed by David Wilton, were the first dance display of the evening, to display their skills. The Pride Of Ballinran Flute Band were accompanied by The Blackskull Band



► Top: Pride of Ballinran Flute Band and Black Skull Fife and Drum Band pictured at the Glasgow Tattoo at the SSE Hydro

► Bottom: The massed pipe bands headed up by drum major Brian Wilson MBE

► Bass-baritone David Robertson (Murley Silver Band) pictured singing, *If you're Irish come into the parlor, The Irish Rover and Bonnie Banks O' Loch Lomond* at the Glasgow Tattoo at the SSE Hydro

from Glasgow to lead into the final set of Part One.

The first international band to perform on the night was Amigo Leiden from the Netherlands and their set had the crowds swinging in their seats with a rousing selection of popular music from the 60's, 70's and 80's and was a fitting end to Part One.

HM Band Of The Royal Marines (Scotland), under the baton of Captain Matt Weites, started Part Two with an enthusiastic set of tunes.

Ever popular accordion music was played by The Dunloy and Vow Accordion Bands. The second international band for the Glasgow Tattoo were Fascinating Drums, making their debut Tattoo appearance in the UK. They literally dazzled the audience with their illuminated drumstick display, performed in total darkness!

In contrast to the Highland Dance Troupe, the Irish Dancing was performed by 40 dancers from The Innova Dance Company, who rose to fame after their appearance on Britain's Got Talent.

The Finale featuring the Massed Pipes & Drums played a very special rendition of Five Hundred Miles, together with some other

popular singalong songs, with singing led by Bass-baritone David Robertson (Murley Silver Band) pictured singing, 'If you're Irish come into the parlor', 'The Irish Rover' and 'Bonnie Banks O' Loch Lomond'. The evening closed with solo piper, David Ogilvie.

The Glasgow Tattoo would also like to thank all the performers, and those working behind the scenes, for their hard work and dedication to put on an outstanding event this year.

... and those who were in attendance to take the Salute, Deputy Lord Provost Gerry Leonard, Col Stephanie Jackman TD Deputy Commander (Reserves) 51 Infantry Brigade and Army Headquarters Scotland, Captain Andrew Cowan Royal Naval Reserve ... the Glasgow Tattoo are most grateful for all the support for the Glasgow Tattoo and look forward to working together with all the organisations in future years.

The 2018 Glasgow Tattoo will take place on Friday 9 and Saturday February 10 2018

Tickets available from SEC Hydro Box Office www.sec.co.uk or telephone 0844 3954000

Schomberg Society makes special presentation at Kilkeel Primary School

The Schomberg Society presented the P7 Pupils of Kilkeel Primary School with two of the Ulster-Scots Agency's commemorative pictures depicting the 36th Ulster Division at the Battle of the Somme and also of the 19 World War One Victoria Cross Winners from Ulster.

This was a small token of the Schomberg Society's appreciation for the pupil's hard work and participation in the Schomberg's special Festival of Remembrance Concert, which was held in Kilkeel Primary School on Wednesday November 9 2016 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The pupils also presented a cheque for the sum of £1,000 on behalf of the Schomberg Society to Denis McKee of the Kilkeel Royal British Legion for the Poppy Appeal, which was raised from the Concert. The Schomberg Society would like to thank everyone who helped raise this magnificent sum of money, especially the staff and pupils of Kilkeel Primary School and the general public who supported us on the night.



Why 2016 was a huge success for Kirknarra dancer Emma



The love of Highland Dance began in primary school for Annalong girl, Emma Spiers. In September 2015, at the age of 11, her passion for Highland Dance guided her to join the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance in Reivers House, Kilkeel.

Under the tuition of Michelle Johnston, Emma has excelled in Highland Dance fulfilling her passion and realising her full potential. Practicing on a weekly basis in Reivers House, Kilkeel, Emma gained many new friends and enjoys performing as part of the Kirknarra Dance troop at many local events and Ulster-Scots showcases. Emma worked hard at the Beginners level and entered as many competitions as she

could to gain more experience and skills. She reached the Novice Level in 2016 and took upon entering all the Northern Ireland competitions over the course of that dance season. The competition venues ranged locally from Kilkeel to as far as Portrush and Donegal and also competing across the water in Scotland.

Being an enthusiastic Highland Dancer and willing to take direction from her dance teacher showed in her success where she won the overall category in her age group on 10 occasions over the Highland Dance season. This success enabled Emma to be selected as a member of the 2016 Belfast Tattoo Highland Dancers. Now in Intermediate level for the 2017 season, Emma is looking forward to learning more steps and dances while improving her skills, at the same time indulging her love of

Highland Dance and making more lifelong friends along her journey.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance commented: "We are very proud of all of our Highland Dancers here in Reivers House and Emma is an excellent example and inspiration for everyone who is keen to get involved in this very important part of our Ulster-Scots culture. The Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance provide weekly tuition classes in Highland Dance in Reivers House on Wednesday afternoons and evenings under the tutorage of Ulster Champion Michelle Johnston and we would encourage everyone to follow in Emma's footsteps and come along and enjoy learning the skills of Highland Dancing." These tuition classes are supported by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Blue plaque unveiled for VC recipient who 'gave his life for his comrades'

On November 11 2016 the Ulster History Circle unveiled a blue plaque at the former home of William McFadzean, 'Rubicon', Cregagh Road, Belfast.

Guests included Nigel McFadzean, great nephew of William McFadzean, Col. Robin Charley, Leonard Quigg, great nephew of Robert Quigg VC. Ian Crozier, CEO Ulster-Scots Agency, and author and historian, Alister McReynolds who during the ceremony read John MacCrae's iconic poem, *In Flanders Field*.

William Frederick McFadzean was born on October 9 1895 in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. He was the eldest son of William and Annie Pedlow McFadzean and moved with his family to the Cregagh Road area of Belfast. He attended Mountpottinger School in 1904 and when he left on August 12 1908, he moved to the Trade Preparatory School and then commenced his apprenticeship at Spence, Bryson & Co. Ltd. He was a junior member of Collegians Rugby Club.

When the call for recruits was made, like so many of his friends he enlisted in the 14th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles (Young Citizen Volunteers). After training he was posted to France with his battalion during October 1915. Standing six feet tall, McFadzean became a 'grenadier' or a 'bomber' in the battalion because of his height. On the morning of July 1 1916 before 'zero hour' William was busily equipping himself to undertake the role as a 'bomber'. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star and for his brave actions on that morning of July 1, he received the highest military award – the Victoria Cross. The award of Private McFadzean's VC was gazetted on September



26 1916. The citation succinctly explains why he received the VC, and reads: "For the most conspicuous bravery near Thiepval Wood. While in a concentration trench, and opening a box of bombs for distribution prior to an attack, the box slipped down into the trench which was crowded with men, and two of the safety pins fell out. Private McFadzean, instantly

realising the danger to his comrades, with heroic courage threw himself on top of the bombs. The bombs exploded, killing him instantly, but only one other man was injured. He knew the danger being a bomber himself, but without a moment's hesitation he gave his life for his comrades." William's comrades laid his body carefully aside, hoping that he would receive a burial



later. However William's body was never recovered and his name was commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

The Victoria Cross was presented to Private McFadzean's father by King George V at Buckingham Palace on February 22 1917. The King, commenting on McFadzean, said: "Nothing finer has been done in this war for which I have yet given the Victoria Cross." Chris Spurr, chairman of the Ulster History Circle, said: "On the day that we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in war, the Ulster History Circle is delighted to honour this hero of the Somme with a blue plaque on his former home, 'Rubicon.' The Circle would particularly like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque."

Thomas Hughes plaque unveiled in Monaghan

The Ulster History Circle unveiled a blue plaque in honour of Thomas Hughes VC (1885-1942) who fought at Guillemont, the Somme on September 3 1916.

The plaque was unveiled on Friday, February 17 2017 at the entrance to the Hope Castle Estate, Muckno Street, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan with Minister Heather Humphreys in attendance. A framed picture of Thomas Hughes was presented to the family at the event.

Thomas Hughes was born in Coravoo, near Castleblayney in County Monaghan, and was a private in the 6th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers when he received the VC at Guillemont on the Somme on September 3 1916.

Having been wounded in an attack, Hughes returned to the firing line after having his wounds dressed. Seeing a hostile machine gun, he dashed out in front of his company, shot the gunner and captured the gun as well as bringing back four German prisoners. Hughes received his VC from the King at an investiture in Hyde Park, London, on June 2 1917. He also received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal. Hughes later achieved the rank of corporal. He died in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, and is buried in the cemetery attached to St Patrick's Roman Catholic church in Broomfield, near Castleblayney. His VC is on display at the National Army Museum, Chelsea.



RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



Neep's and Tattie's Patties

(Vegetable burgers with Oats, Turnips and Sweet Potatoes)

INGREDIENTS

- ¾ Lbs sweet potatoes (cut in half lengthwise)
- ¾ lbs small turnips (cut in half lengthwise)
- 1 cup quick oats (1 minute oats)
- 2 oz (1 cup cooked quinoa)
- 2 cups of cooked black beans
- 1 large shallot (finely diced)
- ½ cup mixed fresh herbs (parsley, coriander, chives)
- 1 tsp natural sea salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- dash of hot sauce
- semolina flour (about ¼ cup to roll Patties)
- coconut oil (about 3 tbsp to sauté)



HOW TO MAKE THEM:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line a baking tray with foil and place cut sweet potatoes and Rutabaga's flesh side down. Roast for about 35-40 minutes or until soft. Set aside to cool and then remove the skin from flesh.
2. To make the patties in a large bowl combine the sweet potatoes, rutabaga, cooked black beans, shallots, mixed herbs, salt, pepper, paprika, hot sauce and cumin. Use a potato masher to evenly incorporate all the ingredients together.
3. Process the large oats slightly in the food process and then add to the mixture stirring to combine and thicken the patties.
4. Divide the mixture in to 8 round balls and then flatten to create a disc shape. Dip each patty in to semolina flour.
5. Add coconut oil to the pan and begin to cook the burgers in batches 3-4 minutes each side adding more oil as needed. The patties should have a brown crust.
6. Serve warm and enjoy!

The Ballad King of Dromore *By Frank Ferguson*

The death of Thomas Percy, the Anglican bishop of Dromore, County Down, on September 30 1811, was the occasion of much sadness in his locale.

Revered as much for his literary career as his ecclesiastical calling, his passing witnessed elegies from many quarters. Local Ulster-Scots writers also praised him, for as well as attending to the spiritual needs of his community, the Bishop's house, on the outskirts of the town had played host to a cross section of writers from the area and from further afield. Never one to miss an opportunity of upbraiding his fellow mortals especially when disguised as a poem of praise, Hugh Porter, the Bard of Moneyslane, launched into his own requiem, which was to be later published in his collection *Poetical Attempts* in 1813.

*Attend ye worthies- do, ah! do
Produce the funeral song;
I'll chant my little requiem too-
But behind the throng:
Yes, far-alas! far, far behind
The wailing crowd I'll crawl,*

*And bid ambitious worldlings mind,
That great men weep, when good
men fall! (To the Memory of the Late Right
Reverend Thomas, Lord Bishop of Dromore).*

Porter had the great knack of being able to acclaim and condemn in the same verse, always hiding behind his lowly status as a weaver from Moneyslane, but never averse to remind his audience of the failings of his supposed upper class betters. Though an Englishman from Bridgnorth in Shropshire, Thomas Percy had made his reputation in the *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* in 1765, a tour de force collection of English and Scottish Ballads, which fired the public imagination for heroic songs and murder ballads such as *Edward, Edward*:

*Why does your brand sae drap wi' bluid,
Edward, Edward?
Why does your brand sae drap wi' bluid?
And why sae sad gang ye, O?
O, I hae killed my hauke sae guid, Mither,
mither,
O, I hae killed my hauke sae guid,
And I had nae mair bot hee, O.
(Reliques, 1765)*

Percy's editorial skills were variable and moved from the meticulous to the creative, but nevertheless his reclaimed ballads helped develop a fascination for traditional, folk poetry in Britain and Europe. Sir Walter Scott was an ardent fan, and saw Percy's collection as being instrumental in awakening his own love of border ballads and Scottish minstrelsy.

By happy coincidence, Scott was also mentioned in Porter's collection. Pretending to be a suitor requesting the company of his beloved, Porter wrote to the Rathfriland Book Society, in effect his local lending library, seeking the loan of Scott's *Lady of the Lake*:

*Tis not for want o' pence, I pine,
Nor want o' pratoes, when I dine—
Worse, far far worse, assails me,
Aye worse, in almost every sense;
But least I keep ye in suspense,
'Tis love, 'tis love that ails me:*

*A Highland lassie, buskit braw,
Wha's face, I'm sure, I never saw,
Tho very fair her fame is;
O, how I languish for her sake!
The lovely Lady of the Lake,
For that I think her name is (To The
President And Other Members*

Of The Rathfriland Book Society).

The society were evidently impressed by this and wrote back:

*The Lady of the Lake, to you
Returns her thanks and service due;
Nor, tho' the bard of Selkirk sung,
In sweeter notes than ever rung
Thro' Scotias vales, her deathless praise-
Does she disdain Tisander's lays.*

'Tisander' was Porter's nom de plume, and one that graced the local papers for many years despite failing health and hard times. In his work we see the communication network of writers which existed in Ulster in the early nineteenth century.

This network saw global and national literary heroes like Scott and Percy corresponding to each other. However it also encompassed Ulster-Scots writers who connected to them in dynamic and vibrant ways. These creative associations were also evidenced in the manner in which Porter displayed his craft as a poet, producing effortless verses in the Lowland Scots tradition and demonstrating through his linguistic canniness his rightful place amongst the bards.

Friends Goodwill Festival

To mark the departure of the Friends Goodwill, the first known emigrant ship which sailed from Larne to America 300 years ago, there will be a three day festival at Larne Promenade, Curran Park and Sandy Bay Playing Fields.

Running from Friday May 19 to Sunday May 21, the festival will feature live music, food stalls, historical re-enactments, American themed sports, maritime activities and much more.

Family friendly, all ages welcome.



Burns open lecture

Mrs Helen Morrison will be speaking on the history of the Scottish Covenanters at the Chimney Corner Hotel, Mallusk, Co. Antrim on Thursday March 16 at 7.30pm. This event has been organised by the Belfast Burns Association, and their President Mr Dennis Currie cordially extends an open invitation to all members of the public.



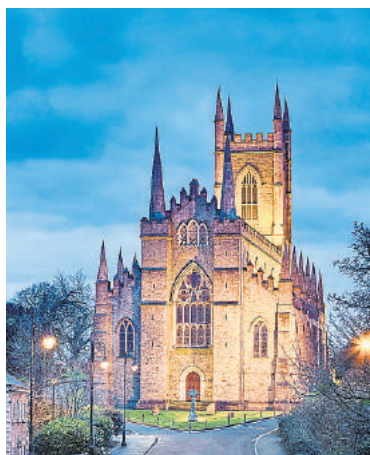
WEANS' WURLD

The Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick is the starting point for any visitor who wishes to know more about Ireland's patron saint. The Saint Patrick Centre is the only exhibition in the world about Ireland's Patron Saint and a great stop on the way from Dublin to Belfast.

'Ego Patricius' -
The Story of Saint Patrick

The exhibition explores the legacy of Patrick, ancient and modern, and recalls the saint's own story – in his own words. A series of interactive displays allow visitors to explore how Patrick's legacy developed in early Christian times and reveals the fabulous artwork and metalwork which was produced during this Golden Age. The exhibition also examines the major impact of Christian missionaries in Europe between the fifth and ninth centuries, a legacy which remains to this day.

The Centre also provides a cross-community Education Programme all year round for school groups of all ages, and adult community groups based on the life of Patrick. The Centre is a registered charity promoting tourism to Northern Ireland, encouraging reconciliation through Education Programmes and have supporting Chapters who endorse the work of the St Patrick's Centre throughout North America. Visit the Imax and Exhibition, Gift Shop, Art Gallery, Restaurant, and conference facilities.



OPENING TIMES

January - December
Monday – Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday
Closed except July - August
(see below)

St. Patrick's Day
9am - 7pm

July - August
Monday – Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 1pm - 5pm

ADMISSION PRICES

Adults £5.75
Children £3.50

Concession £4.00

Family £14.00
(2 Adults & 2 Children)

Adult Groups £4.50
(25 or more)

Education Group £3.50

Auditorium Only £3.00



the **Ulster-Scot** COMPETITION

WIN A family pass to the Saint Patrick Centre

We have a family pass to the Saint Patrick Centre for one lucky reader. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this simple question...

Q. IN WHICH TOWN IS THE SAINT PATRICK CENTRE LOCATED?

Email your answer to competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with "St Patrick" in the subject line, providing also your name, address and telephone number.

CLOSING DATE: **FRIDAY APRIL 28**



WIN

the **Ulster-Scot** COMPETITION WINNERS...

Robert Burns And All That

Congratulations to:

Mrs N Elliott from Ballymoney
Joan Graham from Bushmills
Margaret Montgomery from Dungannon
Annabel Copeland from Loughbrickland
Isobel Smyth from Moygashel

who each won a copy of *Robert Burns And All That* by Allan Burnett and Scoular Anderson in January's competition. We hope you enjoy reading it.