



WIN...A FAMILY PASS TO  
TITANIC BELFAST

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 2017

## Stone Mountain Highland Games provide tourism boost



ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY TRAVEL  
TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA IN JOINT  
VENTURE TO HIGHLIGHT  
NORTHERN IRISH TOURISM  
POTENTIAL  
**SEE PAGE 3**



**MORE ALL-IRELAND GLORY FOR FIELD  
MARSHAL MONTGOMERY**

PAGE 4



**SCHOMBERG SOCIETY IN MAIDEN  
BOOK LAUNCH**

PAGE 7



**ULSTER-SCOTS IN TUNE DURING  
CULTURE NIGHT**

PAGE 11



## Fair faa ye



Welcome to the November 2017 edition of the Ulster-Scot.

Winter is now well and truly upon us and thoughts are beginning to turn to St Andrew's Day and further on to Burns Night for 2018. The annual St Andrew's Day Festival will be taking place at Carrickfergus Castle on Saturday December 2 from 11am – 3pm. More about this on Page 9.

The Ulster-Scots Agency would like to congratulate Schomberg Society on the publication of their first publication *Tha Kingdom O' Mourne, An Ulster-Scots Hairtland* which was launched by Arlene Foster earlier this month. Find out more about this on Page 7.

The Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band have had a very successful year during 2017, read our latest spotlight profile on Page 13.

Also in this edition, you can read more about the recent unveiling of a blue plaque for VC recipient Robert Hill Hanna in Kilkeel. You can read more about the launch on Page 12.

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



## Belfast's Lord Mayor visits the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre

**The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Nuala McAllister visited the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre recently.**

The visit featured a tour of the current exhibition which includes panels covering ten major Ulster-Scots stories, starting with the arrival of Edward Bruce in 1315, a timeline showing how events in Ulster link with Scotland and the rest of the world, a language and free literature area, Interactive Touchscreens, display cases featuring rare artefacts and publications and a gift shop offering books, CDs and tartan wares.

The Mayor was visiting a number of cultural and tourist locations in the city throughout the day and a video was being recorded in light of the bid submission for European Capital of Culture 2023. Discover Ulster-Scots centre operations manager David Gilliland said: "We were delighted to welcome the Mayor to the Centre and to support the filming for the Bid. Even though Ulster and Scotland



are just 13 miles apart, the story of the close connections can be hard to find in most museums. Here 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 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. Why not drop in next time you're in Cathedral Quarter? Our friendly and expert staff will answer any questions you have and will give you advice on other places to visit. The Centre also hosts a range of events during the year, so keep an eye on our events programme to see what's on next.

## 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](mailto: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  
Fax: +353 7 4917 3985  
Email: [freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)

Editor: Gary McDonald  
Associate Editor: Catriona Holmes  
Production: The Irish News  
Printing: Interpress NI Limited

The Ulster-Scot next edition: Saturday January 20, 2018  
Deadline for copy: Wednesday January 3, 2018  
Contributors should note that publication of any submitted article is at the Editor's discretion

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

## Extra funding secured for border counties' groups

**Additional funding secured by the Ulster-Scots Agency from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Dublin has been awarded to 19 community and voluntary groups and schools in counties Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan.**

The Ulster-Scots Agency delivered the funding under a non-capital small grant which was awarded to six groups and a musical equipment grant in which 13 groups were successful.

The non-capital small grant will fund a range of projects including a brochure on the history of Raphoe Cathedral and town, a Thanksgiving event at the Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre and a drama on the 1st World War in Newtowncunning



ham. The equipment grants were awarded to five National Schools and to eight bands and a cultural group for a wide range of instruments. These include Manorcunningham Pipe Band, The Thiepval Memorial Pipe Band, and Doohat Accordion Band. Some of the items funded to the National Schools include basic

musical items such as drum pads, sticks and practice chanter, but this financial support can make such a difference to a small local school, and offer them the ability to promote Ulster-Scots musical traditions within their school. The Ulster-Scots Agency are delighted to assist these groups to develop their Ulster-Scots outreach throughout the border counties. The small grant programme is a new venture for the Agency and it allows the community to come to us with innovative projects which can have a very positive impact in their local community. The musical equipment grants will make a massive impact to those groups and schools who have been successful in receiving this funding.

### CLICK ON THIS...

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

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

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

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



## WORD OF THE ISSUE

# Unther

Meaning:  
Under



# Spotlight on Northern Ireland in Atlanta, Georgia

## Tourism Ireland promotes Northern Ireland at 2017 Stone Mountain Highland Games

**R**epresentatives of the **Ulster-Scots Agency, Dalriada Kingdom Tours, Visit Armagh, Mid and East Antrim Council and Brack Tours** travelled to Georgia in the United States, to join **Tourism Ireland** for this year's **Stone Mountain Highland Games**. **Tourism Ireland** also invited **Stonewall Folk Group, from Co Armagh, to entertain visitors to the Games**.

Now in its 45th year, the Stone Mountain Highland Games is an annual event which takes place in Stone Mountain Park, north-east of Atlanta in Georgia. Attracting almost 30,000 visitors of Scots-Irish and Scots descent during the two-day festival, the games are an ideal opportunity for Tourism Ireland to highlight Northern Ireland as a wonderful holiday destination. In advance of this year's Games, influential journalists, travel trade and airline contacts from Atlanta were invited to a lunch event by Tourism Ireland - where they met with the various companies from Northern Ireland to hear about what Northern Ireland has to offer American holidaymakers.

Alison Metcalfe, Tourism Ireland's Head



of North America, said: "Tourism Ireland was delighted to participate in the Stone Mountain Highland Games once again this year. Our presence at the Games is a key element of our ongoing activity to showcase Northern Ireland as a compelling holiday destination in the United States, helping us to keep Northern Ireland high on the vacation 'wish-list' of Americans for 2018. Tourism Ireland recognises the potential of the Ulster Scots segment for tourism to Northern Ireland and specifically promotes to this audience, focusing on the strong ancestral links between this part of the US and Northern Ireland."

Tourism Ireland has been targeting people of Ulster-Scots descent in the US for a number of years now. Promotions have included extensive publicity campaigns, advertising in newspapers in the southern states of the US, communications with "best prospects" who have Northern Ireland surnames, as well as participation in promotions like the Stone Mountain Highland Games.



## Ballywalter plays host to concert

**A**n Ulster-Scots concert was held in Ballywalter Presbyterian Church Hall recently.

The evening of great entertainment, one of several events in the Ballywalter Ulster-Scots

Festival 2017, was compered by Willie Cromie and featured Kirkistown Pipe Band, Ballywalter Flute Band, Donaghadee Fyfe & Drum, Thompson Brothers and the Michelle Johnston Highland Dancers.



**TOP:** Acting pipe major Richard McKee (left) and Kirkistown Pipe Band during their performance at an Ulster-Scots Concert in Ballywalter  
**LEFT:** Rebekah Keery of Moneyreagh (Michelle Johnston School of Highland Dance)  
**ABOVE:** Young tenor drummers Andrew Nixon and Zara McKee (Kirkistown Pipe Band)

Discover  
Ulster-Scots

GET A WHOLE  
DIFFERENT  
STORY

VISIT THE DISCOVER  
ULSTER-SCOTS CENTRE

VICTORIA STREET, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10AM-4PM

www.DiscoverUlsterScots.com Tel: 028 9043 6710

FREE  
ADMISSION



EXHIBITION • LITERATURE • GIFTS



# Dominant Field Marshal Montgomery make it three All-Ireland titles in a row



Pipe Major Richard Parkes MBE (left in front row) and Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band entering the competition arena at the All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships at Lurgan Park

## **F**IELD Marshal Montgomery made a clean sweep of the top awards at the 72nd All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships at Lurgan Park.

Under the control of pipe major Richard Parkes MBE, the 10-times world champions were clinching the national title for a remarkable 24th time in 20 years, their first victory coming back in 1989 in Newcastle against the backdrop of the Mourne Mountains.

Organised by the Joint Association Council

of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI) and the Irish Pipe Band Association (IPBA) in partnership with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, just shy of 50 pipe bands and 45 drum majors from all over Ireland took part in the All-Ireland. They were joined by the current Victorian and Australian champion school pipe band, Scotch College Pipes and Drums, who travelled from Australia to compete,

showcasing their melodic talents with a wonderful spectrum of music. In the top grade FM Montgomery saw off Dubliners St Laurence O'Toole to clinch the main prize.

Other main winners were: Grade 2 - Manorcunningham (Donegal), Grade 3A - Marlacoo & District, Grade 3B - Quinn Memorial, Grade 4A - McDonald Memorial, Grade 4B - Kildoag.

Drum major winners were: novice grade - Louis Anderson (Crozier Memorial), junior

- Jamie Cupples (Aughintober), juvenile - Kathryn McKeown (Battlehill), adult - Jason Price (Ravara).

Chieftain of the Day was Alderman Gareth Wilson, lord mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. There was also plenty of entertainment on offer with a wide range of delicious food at the cuisine court, a staged area with cultural music, highland dancing, face painting, balloon modelling and a kids' fairground zone.

## Here is a run-down of the previous All-Ireland champions in the top grade (and the contest venue):

1946 .....Fintan Lalor – Iveagh Gardens, Dublin  
1947 .....Fintan Lalor – Balmoral, Belfast  
1948 .....Fintan Lalor – Iveagh Gardens, Dublin  
1949 .....Dromara – Balmoral, Belfast  
1950 .....Fintan Lalor – Landsdowne Road  
1951 .....Ballycoan – Balmoral, Belfast  
1952 .....Ballycoan – Iveagh Gardens, Dublin  
1953 .....Ballycoan – Portadown  
1954 .....Fintan Lalor – Harold's Cross, Dublin  
1955 .....Ballycoan – Balmoral, Belfast  
1956 .....Ballycoan – Harold's Cross, Dublin  
1957 .....Ballycoan – Mourneview Park, Lurgan  
1958 .....St Laurence O'Toole – Harold's Cross, Dublin  
1959 .....Ballycoan – Windsor Park, Belfast  
1960 .....Fintan Lalor – Santry Stadium, Dublin  
1961 .....29th Old Boys, Belfast – Balmoral, Belfast  
1962 .....Fintan Lalor – Harold's Cross, Dublin  
1963 .....Fintan Lalor – Showgrounds, Newry  
1964 .....Fintan Lalor – Harold's Cross, Dublin  
1965 .....Quinn Memorial – Showgrounds, Banbridge  
1966 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial –  
Musgrave Park, Cork  
1967 .....Ballynahinch – Lisburn  
1968 .....St Patrick's, Donaghmore – Oriel Park, Dundalk  
1969 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial – Banbridge  
1970 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial –  
Trinity College, Dublin  
1971 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial – Newcastle  
1972 .....St Patrick's, Donaghmore – Newcastle  
1973 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial – Newcastle  
1974 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial – Tralee  
1975 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial – Banbridge  
1976 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial –  
Rathcoole, Co Dublin



Pipe Major Richard Parkes MBE (Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band) receiving the Grade 1 first place trophy from Lord Mayor, Alderman Gareth Wilson (Chieftain of the Day)

1977 .....Robert Armstrong Memorial – Newcastle  
1978 .....Cullybackey – Wexford  
1979 .....Cullybackey – Craigavon  
1980 .....Cullybackey – Cork  
1981 .....Cullybackey – Lurgan  
1982 .....McNeillstown – Blackrock College  
1983 .....Cullybackey – Lurgan Rugby Club  
1984 .....McNeillstown – Dublin Airport Sports Grounds

1985 .....Royal Ulster Constabulary – Newcastle  
1986 .....McNeillstown – Raphoe  
1987 .....McNeillstown – Newcastle  
1988 .....Graham Memorial – Dalkey  
1989 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Newcastle  
1990 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Kildare  
1991 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Lisburn  
1992 .....Field Marshal Montgomery –  
ALSAA Club Dublin  
1993 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Newcastle  
1994 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Kikenny Castle  
1995 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Newcastle  
1996 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Kikenny Castle  
1997 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Kilbroney Park  
1998 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Kikenny Castle  
1999 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Newcastle  
2000 .....Scottish Power – Kikenny Castle  
2001 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Omagh  
2002 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Kikenny Castle  
2003 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Newcastle  
2004 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Letterkenny  
2005 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Newcastle  
2006 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Letterkenny  
2007 .....St Laurence O'Toole – Newcastle  
2008 .....St Laurence O'Toole – Ennis  
2009 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Lisburn  
2010 .....St Laurence O'Toole – Ballina  
2011 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Lisburn  
2012 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Ballina  
2013 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Londonderry  
2014 .....St Laurence O'Toole – Wexford  
2015 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Omagh  
2016 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Malahide  
2017 .....Field Marshal Montgomery – Lurgan



# Belfast Tattoo to be renamed to reflect worldwide status

**F**ollowing the immense success of the 2017 Belfast Tattoo, the organisers have decided to change things for next year to reflect the ever-growing international status throughout Europe, America and even into South Africa and Australia by renaming the event "The Belfast International Tattoo."

In 2018, the Tattoo is also running a new format, featuring a Saturday matinee to reach out to the older members who support the show but also the family and young people from schools and youth groups.

Tickets are already on sale for the event in the SSE Arena on Friday September 7 (7.30pm) and Saturday September 8 (2pm and 7.30pm).

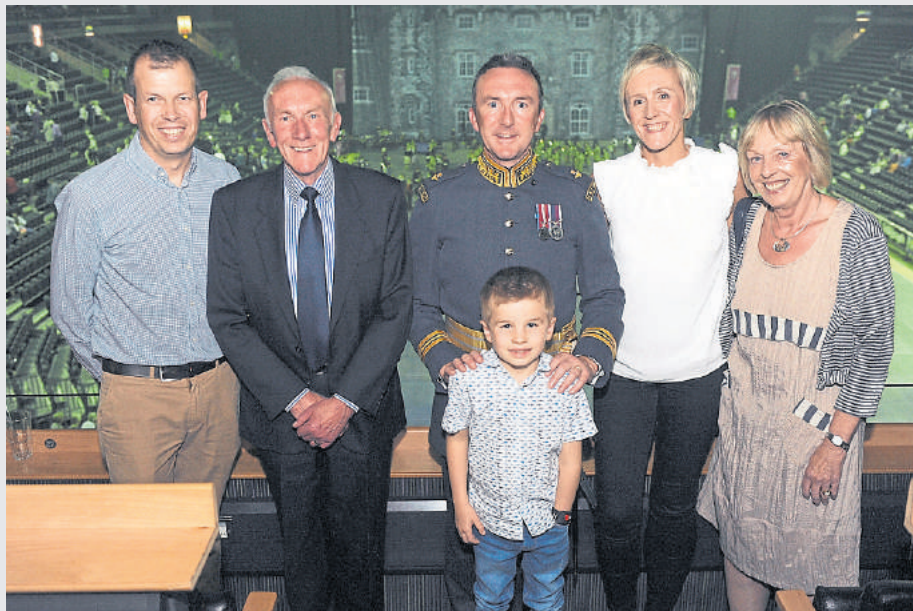
As usual the focus of the show is around the Belfast International Tattoo massed pipe band, which for next year will include among others the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the South African Irish Regiment Pipes and Drums and the Belfast International Tattoo Pipe Band.

But among the many other artistes confirmed at this stage are:

:: Millar Memorial Flute Band (Belfast) - Formed in 1911 and one of Northern Ireland's top melody flute bands, they are best known for leading the County Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland at its annual Orange demonstration in Belfast.

:: Imperial Corps of Drums (Liverpool) - Founded in 1992, it is a one of the best known melody flute marching bands in England, regularly heading parades involving local ex-service organisations in Liverpool and surrounding areas and also taking part in parades in Northern Ireland.

:: Amigo Leiden (the Netherlands) - Based in the town of Leiden and under the leadership of Ruben Kruit, the band appeared at the first Glasgow Tattoo in 2017 and put on a display and performance which left the Scottish audience giving them a



standing ovation. The band were immediately booked for Belfast in the sure knowledge the local audience will take them to their hearts.

:: Lucerne marching band (Lucerne, Switzerland) - Founded in 2006, it is one of the most colourful and best known marching bands on the European Tattoo circuit at the minute. Making their first visit to Northern Ireland, their innovation and the colour of the costumes and performance is something the audience will not have seen before.

:: The Flying Grandpas (Germany) - Founded in 1964, the group is made up of 13 police officers from the Hamburg Police Department who travel the world in their spare time performing for audiences who have an appreciation of their humour and their gymnastic trampoline show. Their show is spectacular, using a combination of gymnastic apparatus, which includes two trampolines to perform daring flips and tricks.

:: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) pipe band, highland dancers and flag drill team - They will play a central role in Belfast, next year, and dressed in the traditional uniform of the Mounties, they are sure to receive a rapturous welcome from the local audience.

:: Belfast International Tattoo highland dance team - Once again choreographed by Belfast woman Laura Tweedie, the team will feature dancers from home and abroad, including the RCMP dancers from Canada, in a modern and entertaining series of dances.

Brian Wilson will once again be in charge of all aspects of planning and rehearsal in his role as assistant producer.

:: For tickets information contact the Belfast International Tattoo office on 028 90319319 or [www.belfastinternationaltattoo.com](http://www.belfastinternationaltattoo.com), SSE Arena box office on 028 90739074 or [www.ssearenabelfast.com](http://www.ssearenabelfast.com), or Ticketmaster at 0844 2774455 or [www.ticketmaster.ie](http://www.ticketmaster.ie)

# Record-breaking crowds flock to three-night event

**T**HE three-night Belfast Tattoo in late August/early September saw record-breaking audiences at the SSE Arena and continues to live up to its reputation as one of Northern Ireland's top annual cultural showpieces.

Among this year's performers were the Band of the Royal Air Force College, Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force - 63 Squadron, Crescendo Bicycle Band (the Netherlands), Fascinating Drums (Germany), Lume De Biqueira (Spain) and Fanfara Magenta (Italy).

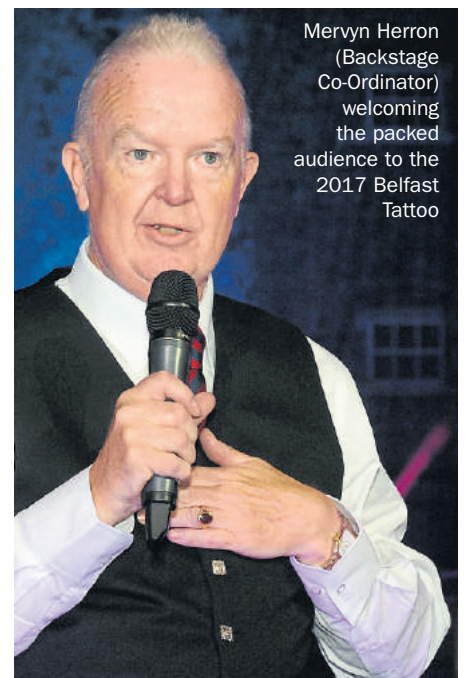
They were joined by the Imps motorcycle display team (UK), Winnipeg Police pipe band (Canada), Raffrey pipe band, Manorcunningham pipe band, Cahard flute band, Kellswater flute band, Coleraine fife & drum band, Belfast Tattoo highland dance troupe and the choir of Belfast High School. Tattoo director/producer Colin Wasson said: "It was another hugely successful event, and already we are looking forward to presenting

Brian Wilson (Assistant Producer), John Kelly, Colin Wasson (Director/Producer) and Stephen Chapman (Senior Drum Major)



the Glasgow Tattoo 2018 to be held once again in the SSE Hydro Arena in Glasgow, featuring the band of the RAF College and the Band Bugles and Pipes of the Royal Irish Regiment (TA). "For the first time we will also be presenting the City of Liverpool Tattoo in the Echo Arena, Liverpool on

September 14 and 15 next year featuring Her Majesty Royal Marines and the Regimental band of the Kings Division. "But Belfast remains our jewel in our crown, and in 2018 it will feature among others the regimental band of the Irish Guards and the Gurkha Rifles."



Mervyn Herron (Backstage Co-Ordinator) welcoming the packed audience to the 2017 Belfast Tattoo



# Balnamore PS join forces with Alloway

**P7 pupils and teachers from Balnamore Primary School recently travelled to Scotland to take part in the Ulster-Scots Agency's School Twinning Programme and linked with their counterparts at Alloway Primary.**

Ulster-Scots Agency Education Officer Gary Blair said: "The Twinning Programme is a great opportunity for schools to come together to share the heritage, culture and language of both Ulster and Scotland. I would like to commend the teachers from both schools on their excellent work and for making this collaboration both educational and enjoyable."

Balnamore Primary School Principal Jackie Morrison said: "This proved to be an extremely worthwhile visit providing children with opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of language and culture. "In addition, the pupils from both schools worked collaboratively on activities which promoted thinking skills and problem solving, managing information and self-management. The opportunity to put their knowledge to use in appropriate contexts meant that learning was of greater relevance for all the



pupils and both staff and children returned to Balnamore with a wealth of new information and understanding."

Gillian Bell, Principal of Alloway Primary School, said: "We were delighted to welcome pupils from Balnamore Primary to visit us at Alloway. This gave us an opportunity to share and compare school life, our culture and most importantly our

language. Teachers and pupils spent an afternoon enjoying poetry in both Scots and Ulster-Scots and took time to compare words used to see if they were the same. Some of the pupils joined Balnamore at the Burns Birthplace Museum the following day and learned quite a bit about Robbie Burns and his life.

"I would like to thank Balnamore staff

and pupils for making the trip over and for helping to make our two days together enjoyable and informative. Both pupils and staff feel they have made new friends and that this is the start of a successful twinning across the Irish Sea." The visit ended with a presentation of Certificates of Achievement to each pupil and School.

## Ulster-Scots Flagship Award for Kesh Primary School

**Eighteen months of hard work by pupils and teachers at Kesh Primary School was rewarded recently with a presentation of an Ulster-Scots Flagship School Award from the Ulster-Scots Agency.**

The award was presented at a special assembly by Ulster-Scots Agency Education Officer Gary Blair, who praised the school for its excellent work and commended the teachers for their work in incorporating the Ulster-Scots, heritage, culture and language within the school.

Following the presentation, Mr Blair said:

"Everyone at Kesh Primary School has worked very hard to learn more about their Ulster-Scots identity and the Ulster-Scots heritage of their area and we are delighted that they have achieved Ulster-Scots Flagship status. They are the third Ulster-Scots Flagship School in County Fermanagh, joining Brookeborough and Newtownbutler primaries; and Lack Primary School is currently working towards the award but we hope to see plenty more engagement in the County over the next few years."

School Principal Jill Parkinson expressed her delight at receiving the award as recognition of all the hard work that underpinned teaching and learning about Ulster-Scots within her school.

"I would like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for providing the range of activities that we would not have been able to access otherwise, for adding value to the curriculum and for inspiring our pupils to learn more about their Ulster-Scots heritage. I would also like to give special mention to Highland Dancing Tutor Catherine Stewart whose classes were very much enjoyed by girls and boys alike."

Joining the Ulster Scots Flagship Programme is completely free.

By registering to participate schools commit



**Ulster-Scots Agency Education Officer Gary Blair presenting the flagship award to pupils from Kesh Primary School**

themselves to an eighteen month programme of work which, on completion, will lead to the award of Ulster-Scots Flagship School status.

During this process participating schools will be supported by staff from the Ulster-Scots Agency and other specialist tutors.

**Themes in the Flagship Programme include:**

Music  
Dance  
Language & Literature  
History & Geography  
Art & Science  
Drama  
Citizenship

Schools can express their interest in the Flagship Scheme through the Agency's website [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com)



## Brookeborough pupils make the grade

Pupils from Brookeborough Primary School who were awarded distinctions in the London College of Music Scottish Traditional Whistle Grade 2.

Lucy Carrothers, Faith Gould, Abbi Coalter, Ben Foster and Louise Tasker are pictured with their fiddle tutor Mr Keith Lyttle.

## Learn about your culture

The Ulster-Scots Community Network has developed courses (accredited and recreational) as an enjoyable way for you to learn about your culture, about your origins and your heritage. The course runs in the regional office in Raphoe until December 8. This Level 2 course is

designed to provide a deeper, more detailed view of Ulster-Scots history and culture. An important element of the course is interactivity, with debates on cultural perceptions, a quiz and even a music/poetry section. Visit [www.ulster-scots.com](http://www.ulster-scots.com).



# Schomberg launch first major publication

**T**he Schomberg Society had another memorable occasion as former First Minister Arlene Foster officially launched the Society's first ever major publication.

Reivers House was packed to capacity for the book launch of *'Tha Kingdom O' Mourne, An Ulster-Scots Hairtland'*.

The Schomberg Society has been working hard behind the scenes, particularly during the summer months to produce what is a fantastic educational resource and will be of huge advantage to promote and preserve the rich Ulster-Scots history and heritage of the Kingdom of Mourne for generations to come.

It has always been a long term objective of the Schomberg Society to produce a substantial book which would detail the story and narrative of the Ulster-Scots of Mourne. Through this very colourful and attractive book, the Schomberg Society has detailed the story of the Ulster-Scots from when they first arrived in Mourne in the early 1600s right through the centuries to the present day.

The book tells the story of who the Ulster-Scots are, where they came from, why so many of them came here to Mourne, the impact they made in the area through their built heritage, language, music and dance traditions, as well as their strong

Presbyterian faith, the new methods of work they introduced, the rich and lasting legacy they have left behind them here in Mourne and much much more.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society commented: "We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the support we have received from the local community regarding the official launch of what is our first major publication.

"We believe this will be a very memorable event for years to come and we are very excited to be distributing the books and the exhibition into many local schools, libraries and museums in the coming weeks, as well as to the general public." The Chairperson of the Schomberg Society, Gareth Crozier welcomed the huge crowd to the very auspicious event and Roberta Heaney gave a brief overview of the project, which included the publishing of the book, as well as an accompanying Ulster-Scots O' Mourne educational exhibition, leaflets and workbooks for both young children and older folk.

The audience were delighted to be entertained by the award winning Kirknarra School of dance troupe who performed special choreographed dances as well as a lovely performance from the Schomberg's recently formed Ulster-Scots Youth Choir, the Beekin Bairns.

The Schomberg Society have been working with well known historian Quincey Dougan to design the publication and during the launch, everyone enjoyed a short presentation from Quincey regarding the importance of the project and the huge impact it will have, not only in Mourne, but right across the province.

Quincey Dougan commented: "I have been involved in many projects across the length and breadth of Ulster, but I have to say this has been one of the most rewarding.

"This book illustrates very clearly that



Ulster-Scots is a vibrant culture in Mourne today; but even more, that Ulster-Scots in itself is a vibrant culture worthy of exploration, celebration and support."

In order to gather as much information as possible for the book the Schomberg Society worked with a lot of organisations, historians and groups who contributed to the book, including the students of the History Department of Kilkeel High School who gathered a lot of research and information for the project.

The Schomberg Society were delighted that the pupils and staff from Kilkeel High School were able to attend this very memorable occasion and it was fantastic to involve some of the High School students in the launch who spoke about the major benefits of being involved in this unique Ulster-Scots project and also why their Ulster-Scots culture and identity was important to them.

A student from Kilkeel High School proudly told the audience: "The Ulster-Scots language is important to us because it is part of our cultural heritage and identity. The language

allows us

to connect with our history and to better understand previous generations and where we come from."

Ian Crozier, CEO of the Ulster-Scots Agency was invited to give a short presentation during the launch of the book and spoke about the value of the project and the importance of engaging our local young people, including the High School in this very much needed Ulster-Scots project. Only a few months after her first visit to Reivers House, the Schomberg Society were delighted to welcome back the former First Minister Arlene Foster to then officially launch this exciting new book. The Schomberg Society were delighted that Mrs Foster had thoroughly enjoyed her visit to Reivers House and got an opportunity to meet and speak to many young people about why their Ulster-Scots culture and traditions were important to them, whilst also gaining a better insight into the important role the Society plays in continuing the promote our Ulster-Scots identity as one which is vibrant, modern

and welcoming to all.

The Schomberg Society would like to thank Mrs Foster for taking the time out of her very busy schedule to play a role in launching the Society's first ever major in-depth publication and Ulster-Scots educational timeline on display in Reivers House. Two of the youngest members of the Schomberg Society, sisters Alana and Ella Houston made a special presentation to Mrs Foster and thanked her for once again for visiting Reivers House. A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society commented: "Our Ulster-Scots identity, its culture, traditions and heritage are the common threads that bind and tie out community together. We firmly believe this new book will preserve, promote and protect our identity for future generations, something that we in the Schomberg Society are particularly proud to play a role within."

The Schomberg Society would like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund, who funded the project and also thank all of those who contributed towards the publication of the book in any way, including research, materials and photographs, with a special mention to Mrs Heather Annett and the History Department of Kilkeel High School who gathered a lot of material to contribute to the book and also to Quincey Dougan, who has done a fantastic job working with us to design the exact type of publication the Society envisaged. Thanks were extended to all of those who helped out in preparation for and during the official launch and we really would encourage as many folk as possible to get in contact with Reivers House through their Facebook Page, Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots or contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 to get a copy of this exciting new book, which will be available to everyone from Reivers House.



# Belfast Benevolent Society of St A

**This year marks the 150th anniversary the Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew, which was founded in 1867 to promote Scottish culture in Ulster. Here, the Society's president Hugh D Wilson sets out some of the work its members currently undertake.**

**A**s we enter our sesquicentennial year since the founding of the Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew, it is with awe and admiration that I look back at what many would see as our humble beginnings.

From the idea of two Scotsmen who had built businesses in Belfast, David Taylor and John Arnott, along with input from William Charles Mitchell, we now find, 150 years on, like minded Scots and descendants of Scots continuing the good works and upholding the original concepts that these men laid down as the foundation of the Benevolent Society in Belfast.

The social structure in 1867 was a world away from what we have now. In those days if you were sick, unemployed or incapacitated in any way then your income was nil and reliance was put on the shoulders of family and friends to help out or enter one of the workhouses, which were not an ideal alternative.

The Society provided clothing, boots, fuel, food, graves, housing and moral support to Scots or families of Scots who found they were struggling in these situations.

Nowadays, with the advent of the NHS, social welfare benefits and numerous charities the specific requirements of needy Scots and other nationalities are covered, and the roll of the Society has become almost extinct in its original concept. Nevertheless, the members of the Society have not forgotten the wider principals which the Society covers. That of friendship and a charitable overview of our kindred man covering all races, creeds, religions and across the political spectrum.

We, as a Society, still raise funds to support the needs of local Northern Ireland charities and a new cause is chosen each year.

We have not lost the other aspects of the society, such as kinship for our fellow man and to this end we organise various social events throughout the year. Among those which we have had are, ten pin bowling, quiz nights, ceilidh, golf day, film night and of course our annual St Andrews Day charity dinner.

This gives us an opportunity to socialise with members in an informal manner and allows us the opportunity to let "outsiders" see what we are about in the hope that anyone wishing to join has the opportunity to "try before you buy".

It is now not uncommon to hear of charities, benevolent societies, special interest clubs and indeed rotary clubs saying that their

membership is not what it used to be. Is this mainly due to the advent and increase in modern technology stealing a lot of our spare time and holding us to ransom indoors? I wonder.

Being a member of the Society, as regards time used, can be tailored by the individual to be as much or as little as they want or feel they can afford to give. Some members may only attend the annual charity dinner with some friends and along with their £20 annual membership is their total commitment.

Others may attend every social event and be instrumental in the planning and organising of one or more events, this obviously suits their free time and anything in between these two extremes is also very acceptable. The rules regarding who can be a member have changed over the years, mainly to accommodate changes in the social structure we now live in. Women are now able to be members along with anyone who has an interest in all things Scottish but always bearing in mind the initial reasons why the Society was created.

We have developed, over recent years, a friendship with The Scottish Country Dance association and the Burns Association of Belfast who, strangely enough, have about the same numbers of members as we do and the kinship we have started with them is intended to be as a support for each other in attending each other's events.

This can be difficult at times but we have all enjoyed each other's support at a variety of events.

As we are all of Scottish heritage we do intend to clash with dates such as Burns night and St Andrews day so our mutual support at these times isn't always possible.

With the right support and the correct leadership I am confident that we will still be around to see our 200th anniversary and beyond.

Our Society's history in Northern Ireland has managed to withstand 150 years of dynamic and drastic changes and if it has managed to survive those then the next 150 years should be achievable so that the members of the future can look back at what we have done, hopefully with pride, and also have the drive and impetus to carry on the Scottish legacy which was created in 1867 by a couple of like-minded Scots who had compassion and charity in their hearts and a love and pride for the country, from where they had come.

**More coverage on page 10**



## The origins of the Society that made a genuine difference to many Scots

**THE Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew was founded on September 14 1867 at a meeting in the Belfast Athenaeum in Castle Place.**

The founders included Belfast businessmen who were born in Scotland, such as John Arnott from Auchtermuchty and David Taylor from Perth.

Arnott and Taylor had founded Arnott's Store, drapers and outfitters in Bridge Street, Belfast. William Charles Mitchell, who was born in Glasgow and who owned a distillery in Tomb Street, was also instrumental in founding the Society.

A rule book was produced and the first annual general meeting was held on November 30 1867. According to the 1880 Belfast & Ulster Street Directory, it said "Its members are Scotchmen or the sons of Scotchmen, but those who cannot be so defined are also received as honorary members".

The object of the Society is "to alleviate distress, to further such charities as may be deemed worthy of support, and to afford opportunities for the promotion of friendly feelings amongst its members."

Its motto is "Our ain ills aye hae strength to bear, Another's aye hae heart to feel". In the early days the Society provided practical assistance to people of Scottish birth, including coal allowances, spectacles and boots and tools for workmen. The Society also purchased a burial plot in Belfast City Cemetery and the first burial took place on July 24 1898. The plot is marked by a rough-hewn stone with the Cross of St Andrew. More recently, in 1974 it built ten bungalows for older people. The Society has always promoted Scottish culture in Ulster and on September 19 1893 a bronze statue of Robert Burns and other items relating to the poet were presented to the Belfast Museum by 'the poet's countrymen and admirers in Belfast'. The originator of this presentation was James Dewar, secretary of the Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew. As time moves on, so does the function and roll of the St Andrews Society. The number of needy Scots have now all virtually disappeared and the roll of the Society now looks further to hold out the hand of kindness and help.



# St Andrew marks 150th anniversary



“Our society’s history in Northern Ireland has managed to withstand 150 years of dynamic and drastic changes and if it has managed to survive those then the next 150 years should be achievable.”

## St Andrew’s Day festivities in Carrickfergus



**C**ome and celebrate the Ulster-Scots cultural heritage of Carrickfergus on St Andrew’s Day, for a fun packed day out for all the family.

Experience life at Carrickfergus Castle in the 1600’s with re-enactments from Ulster-Scots characters. Come and join us for a day of festivities, food and family fun at Carrickfergus Castle

to celebrate St Andrew’s Day on Saturday December 2. This one-day event will run from 11.00am to 3.00pm and will include a full programme of family orientated activities including Ulster-Scots re-enactments, Piping, traditional music and dance, traditional Ulster-Scots food, a falconry display, sword fighting, archery, face-painting, sword and crown making workshops and storytelling. Event Programme (all activities run from 11.00am – 3.00pm unless otherwise

stated)

- Hog roast and other traditional Scottish food
- Falconry display
- Archery
- Ulster-Scots music and dancing
- Arts and crafts
- Historical Re-enactments
- Storytelling

Please note there will be an entrance fee in 2017 for this event of £3 per person; £13 for a family pass (Up to 5 people

including up to 3 adults). Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and the Ulster-Scots Agency look forward to seeing you at our St Andrew’s Day Celebration on Saturday, December 2. For further information contact Mid and East Antrim Visitor Information on (028) 9335 8049. Under 16’s must be accompanied by an adult. **Please note: this programme is subject to change.**



# Society's support echoes through the ages

Kyle Hughes (University of Northumbria) reflects on the history of the Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew (1867–1917).

**E**STABLISHED in 1867 as a philanthropic organisation committed to assisting needy Scottish migrants, the Belfast Benevolent Society of St Andrew played a key role for Scots at both ends of the social spectrum in 19th and early 20th-century Belfast.

The Society provided weekly relief payments to Scots-born widows and pensioners, distributed casual relief in the form of food vouchers and clothing, and, most discernible during periods of economic downturn, paid the steamship passage to return unemployed Scottish migrant workers to Glasgow.

The assistance provided by the St Andrew's Society spared many of the least fortunate members of Belfast's Scottish community the indignity of the workhouse.

In undertaking such work among the underprivileged the Society also served another important function: as a network of contact for higher-status Scots.

The Society was particularly well-patronised, and its membership included many of the most successful members of the Scottish community. It also proved popular among the native-born civic elite.

The extent of its popularity became apparent each year on November 30 when its St Andrew's Day dinner annually attracted an elite clientele of expatriate Scots and assorted non-Scottish dignitaries.

The regular attendance of members of parliament, lord mayors and, on occasion, members of the aristocracy lent prestige to the Society and attracted the favourable attentions of the local press. An obvious contrast existed between the private world of its charitable provision and the high-profile nature of its public associationalism; yet the St Andrew's Society successfully combined the two functions.

This article charts the activities of the Society between its formation in 1867 and its jubilee year of 1917, examining four key themes.

First, it considers how the St Andrew's Society fits into our existing understanding of clubs and societies formed by the Scottish diaspora, and of immigrant associationalism more generally.

Second, it introduces the Society and examines its origins, its organisation and the structure and character of its membership.

Third, it details the Society's charitable provision, demonstrating its importance to the overall Scottish community, and shows how careful self-regulation and prudent financial management placed it on a sound financial footing.

Fourthly, its ongoing attraction for Belfast's civic leaders is examined. The Society was one of late 19th and early 20th-century Belfast's most popular and admired voluntary associations and the factors discussed here combined to ensure its success and longevity.

The St Andrew's Society had its origins in a meeting of prominent Scots-born businessmen held in the Athenaeum, Castle Place, on November 14 1867. Local linen merchant Alexander Gibb occupied the chair. Merchant Robert Jameson, stockbroker William B. Lowson and whiskey distiller William C. Mitchell were among those appointed to an eight-strong interim committee.

James McGregor, senior partner in McGregor Brothers Merchant Steamship Company, moved the initial proposal: 'That the Society be established on same principles and managed by similar rules and bye-laws as adopted by the Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St Andrew.'

Inspired by their cousins in the south, the Belfast Scots drafted a comprehensive list of rules for the governance of the new society. Rule II outlined its primary objectives: The objects of this Society shall be to alleviate distress, to further such charities as may be deemed worthy of support, and to afford opportunities for the promotion of friendly feeling amongst its members.

Rule III laid down the ethnic boundaries of membership: 'That all members of the Society be Scotchmen or the sons of Scotchmen.' This requirement seems to have been adhered to in the Society's formative years. However, the rules were relaxed in 1873 when an additional by-law was adopted extending the membership to include 'gentlemen not otherwise eligible

for membership under the title of Honorary Member'

A further alteration of the ethnic make-up was incorporated in 1886 when rule III was altered to read: 'The Society shall consist of Members, Life Members, and Non-Resident Life Members, all of whom shall be sons of a parent or grand-parent born in Scotland; also of Honorary Members and Life Members who may be of any nationality, but shall have no vote nor hold any office'.

The structure of the Society closely accords with RJ Morris's description of the subscriber democracy. A subscription fee of one guinea was collected from members and an elected committee distributed the funds to deserving cases.

The office-bearers were usually the Society's higher-status members, with the president often a well known industrialist, professional or business leader. To add to the hierarchical arrangement there were a number of vice-presidents and trustees, who again often hailed from the 'upper' regions of the middle class.

The patron occupied the apex of the structure, and this non-active ceremonial role was usually held by a local lord or member of the aristocracy.

The day-to-day running of the Society fell to a select number of committed members, and it is notable that a core group of individuals, often relatively small in number, took the keenest interest in the Society's affairs. For Morris this hierarchical configuration within 19th-century voluntary associations reflected the 'massive inequalities of wealth and power, even within the middle classes'.

The inaugural public meeting took place in the Ulster Hall on November 30 1867. Perthshire native and sitting Mayor of Belfast David Taylor was appointed president. Linen merchants James Aitken and John Moore Calder were among those elected as vice-presidents. Former Belfast resident and Fife-born Sir John Arnott, three times Lord Mayor of Cork, MP for Kinsale, proprietor of the *Irish Times* and Northern Whig and founder of Arnott's department stores, was the Society's first patron. Despite a Scots-born population somewhere in the region of 4,000 at the time, the Society maintained a relatively rarefied social status, with an

initial membership of just 79. Membership was open to men only. Whilst philanthropy was not confined solely to the middle classes during the Victorian era, the St Andrew's Society's subscription fee ensured that in this case it was.

The Society's elite structure was ensured by the sizeable one guinea a year membership fee. If the prohibitive annual contribution ensured the middle-class composition of the Society, it also shaped the potential of its charitable provision, for the annual income was healthy throughout.

Many of Belfast's leading Scottish capitalists were members of the St Andrew's Society. Members came overwhelmingly from the Scots-born residents of Belfast, and the Society attracted the higher-status members of the city's Scottish community. Forty-one people filled the president's role during the first 50 years, and several also fulfilled positions of importance within wider Belfast society.

For example, Sir David Taylor, Sir Robert Boag and Sir James Henderson all served as Mayor of Belfast. George S. Clark was MP for North Belfast between 1907 and 1910. J. M. Calder, Robert Carswell and William Weir were town councillors. George S. Clark, James Crawford and David C. Kemp were Harbour Commissioners.

Scots from the textile industry featured heavily in the early years, reflecting the primacy of that industry during the 1860s and 1870s. Shipbuilders featured in later years, most notably George S. Clark of Workman Clark & Co (1891 and 1892) and two of his senior managers, William Campbell (1897) and John Connel (1915 and 1916).

The printing and stationery industry was also important to the economy of Belfast. It, perhaps more than any other, had a disproportionate Scottish presence. A total of five Scottish printers and stationers fulfilled the role of president. The majority of presidents were born in Scotland or were the sons of Scottish parents, but occasionally a Scottish grandparent qualified the incumbent for the position, as with Sir James Henderson in 1903. The role was a prestigious one, and some of 19th-century Belfast's most identifiable names held the identifiable names held the position.

## Kirknarra host successful competition



Kirknarra dancers, Kasey Nicholson and Emma Spiers, who were trophy winners in the Beginners and Intermediate Categories

**Kirknarra School of Highland Dance hosted their annual competition in Kilkeel.**

Attracting almost 90 dancers from Highland Dance schools all across Northern Ireland, the event proved to be a huge success.

Kirknarra were honoured to have top Highland Dance judges fly in from Aberdeen for the competition and the excitement and atmosphere was electric with the buzz of the dancers getting ready to compete on the day.

The hall was packed to

capacity for the Competition with a varied age of dancers with the youngest being only four years old.

There were a fabulous array of dance abilities and Kirknarra School of Dance had several dancers competing for their very first time who certainly did not let their Dance School down.

First time competitors in the Primary category were Kirknarra dancers Heidi McCarthy and Lucy Cunningham and in Beginners category were Kirknarra dancers Morgan

Griffin and Leah Newell.

The Beginners category was won by Kirknarra Dancer Kasey Nicholson, who won the overall trophy for Highland and National Sections and also won the overall Kirknarra Cup for best Kirknarra dancer. An amazing job and a fantastic way to leave the beginner category as Kasey now moves up to the novice group in the New Year. The Intermediate category Highland trophy was also won by Kirknarra Dancer Emma Spiers. Now that Kirknarra's Annual

Competition is over, a busy winter lies ahead for the Dance School as they prepare to perform at many exciting upcoming events and concerts, so make sure to keep an eye out for our Dance Troupe.

Kirknarra School of Dance practices every Thursday from 4.30pm in Reivers House, Kilkeel and new faces, regardless of age or experience are always more than welcome.

For more information, please contact Kirknarra School of Dance on 07753 222 553 or via Facebook.



# Ulster-Scots deliver on Culture Night

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter hosted a programme of entertainment as part of Culture Night which saw over 80,000 people come to the city to experience new cultures. The centre in Victoria Street was open on Friday, September 22 from 6pm till 9pm for a varied programme featuring McDonald Memorial Pipe Band, Bright Lights Dance Group and Bluegrass music.



Samuel Rooney (McDonald Memorial Pipe Band) entertaining the crowds



Bright Lights Dance Group prior to performing at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter on Culture Night



Billie Rooney (McDonald Memorial Pipe Band) demonstrates her skills



Stephen and Hannah Collier (from Jordanstown) and their children Micah, Joel and Josie listening to McDonald Memorial Pipe Band performing at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre



George Rogan and Andy Mattison (Living History Ireland) welcoming people to the Discover Ulster Scots Centre on Culture



Bass drummer Robert Coady (McDonald Memorial Pipe Band) prior to playing with the band at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre at Culture Night - Robert was crowned All-Ireland Open Bass Drum Champion at the All-Ireland Solo Piping and Drumming Championships at Trinity Comprehensive School, Ballymun, Dublin in September

## Robbie Burns Weekend on Donegal's stunning Wild Atlantic Way

**C**elebrate the shared culture and the birthday of Scotland's most famous bard, Robbie Burns, with a weekend of lively entertainment, traditional cuisine and some of the finest pipers, dancers and poets in Ulster.

Check in on Friday January 26-28 and enjoy a traditional Shamrock & Thistle Ceilidh Night with poetry readings, ceilidh dancing, Scottish airs and folk songs. A complimentary light supper is also served. On Saturday evening they will host the Burns Celebration Dinner



with a pre-dinner whiskey and canape reception followed by traditional four course dinner interspersed with musical performances. After dinner the fun and celebration continues with traditional entertainment and dancing until the wee hours.

A weekend package costs €159 per person sharing.

The Traditional Burns Night Dinner and Entertainment is ticket only at €35 per person.

To book call Arnolds Hotel on +353 (0) 749136208 or visit [www.arnoldshotel.com](http://www.arnoldshotel.com).



# Amy Carmichael birth remembered 150 years on

**A**my Carmichael, one of the famous Christian missionaries of the late nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries, was born on 16 December 1867 into an affluent family of Presbyterian flour-mill owners in Millisle, County Down.

She was the eldest of David Carmichael and Catherine Filson's seven children. Amy was a cousin of Filson Young, a distinguished journalist, who secured one of his niches in history as the author of the first book about the sinking of the Titanic. As a child, she deplored the fact that her eyes were brown rather than blue. She often prayed that Jesus would change her eye colour and was disappointed when this did not happen. However, as an adult she realized that, because most Indian people have brown eyes, she found readier acceptance in the Indian subcontinent because her eyes were brown.

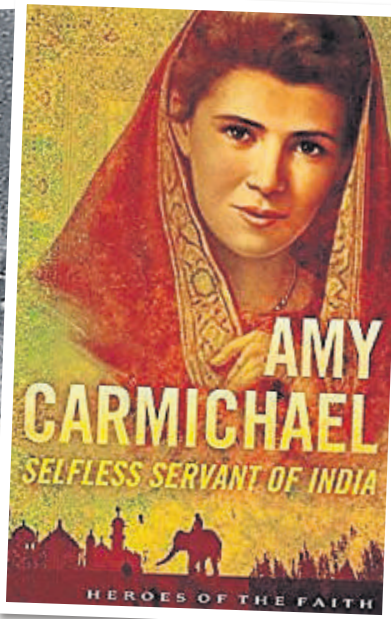
Amy's father died in 1885 when she was 18 and the family found themselves in greatly reduced circumstances because the family business was in crisis. The family moved to Belfast.

One Sunday morning in Ormeau Avenue, Amy was in the company of well-dressed churchgoers when she saw an elderly beggar woman being systematically ignored. Amy became distressed at the plight of Belfast's urban poor and the way in which they were systematically ignored by respectable church goers. In the mid 1880s she and her friend Kate Mitchell founded the Welcome Hall on Cambrai Street (off the Shankill Road) as an outreach ministry to the 'Shawlies' (the mill girls who wore shawls instead of hats) who worked in the linen mills in north Belfast, then the greatest centre of the linen industry in



the world. Her invitation to the 'Shawlies' was, 'Come one, come all to the Welcome Hall – and come in your working clothes!'

At the Keswick Convention of 1887 she heard the famous Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China Inland Mission (CIM), speak about missionary life. She became convinced that she had a vocation for missionary endeavour. She applied to CIM and lived in London at the training house for women. She was about to sail for China when it was decided that her health rendered her unfit for the work. She suffered neuralgia, a disease of the nervous system which made her whole body weak and ache and which would often confine her to bed for weeks. She postponed her missionary career with



fifty-five years of her life to the people of the subcontinent. In her autobiographical writings she was to observe: 'One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving'. Her life was to provide eloquent testimony to the truth of that assertion. In 1900 she settled in Dohnavur, thirty miles from the southern tip of India, where she began rescuing children from the Hindu practice of temple prostitution. Dohnavur Fellowship, the name of her organization, was soon actively involved in the rescue, care, feeding, and education of hundreds of children. Sensitive to Indian culture, members of the Dohnavur Fellowship wore Indian dress and the children were given Indian names.

the CIM and became involved instead with the Church Missionary Society, an evangelical Anglican society. Although Amy's initial missionary endeavours were in Japan and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), she moved to India and the Tinnevely District of India in the mid-1890s where she became an itinerant missionary. She was to dedicate

the remaining

She herself dressed in Indian clothes, dyed her skin with dark coffee, and often travelled long distances on India's hot and dusty roads to rescue a single child from a life of suffering. Her unstinting efforts won the admiration of Queen Mary, the wife of George V, the King-Emperor. In 1916 Amy founded the 'Sisters of the Common Life', a spiritual support group. In 1918 she was awarded Kaiser-i-Hinds Medal for service to India. In 1925 she broke ties with all missionary societies after a takeover attempt. In 1929 she opened a hospital.

In 1931 she was injured by a fall.

In 1935 her health worsened and she became bed-ridden.

A further fall in 1948 immobilized her. She died, aged 83, on 18 January 1951 and is buried at Dohnavur. At her request no stone was put over her grave. Instead, the children she had cared for put a bird bath over it with the single inscription: 'Amma', the Tamil word for mother.

A prolific and gifted author, Amy penned almost forty books, thirteen of which were written during the twenty year period when she was largely bed ridden. Many of these books are still in print today and continue to be a source of blessing and encouragement to Christians throughout the world. Uniquely, the Ulster History Circle has erected two plaques to commemorate the life of Amy Carmichael: one at the Baptist Church in Millisle and the other on the Welcome Evangelical Church in Cambrai Street, Belfast.

However, Amy Carmichael's most impressive memorial is the continuing work of Dohnavur Fellowship, more than sixty years after her death.

# Robert Hill Hanna VC commemorated

**T**he Ulster History Circle commemorated Robert Hill Hanna VC with the unveiling of a Blue Plaque at Kilkeel Presbyterian Church.

The plaque was unveiled by the VC's nephew, Robert Hill Hanna.

A man from Mourne, Robert Hill Hanna VC was born on August 6, 1887 in the townland of Aughnahoor, Kilkeel, to parents Robert H. Hanna and his wife Sarah.

In 1905 he emigrated to Canada, settling in British Columbia, and worked in a lumber camp.

At the age of 27, he enlisted on November 7, 1914 in the Canadian Infantry, and was posted as a private to the 29th (Vancouver) Batt. His Service No. was 75361.

On August 21, 1917, at Hill 70 Lens, France, Company Sergeant-Major Hanna's company met with most severe enemy resistance at a heavily protected strong point, which had beaten off three assaults and all the officers of the company had become casualties. Under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, Robert Hill Hanna coolly collected and led a party against the strong point, rushed through the wire and personally killed four of the enemy, capturing the position and silencing the machine gun. This courageous action was responsible for the capture of a most important tactical



Rev Stephen Johnston with members of the Hanna family, Rev Stephen Johnston, Mr Maynard Hanna, Catriona Holmes from the Ulster-Scots Agency and Ulster History Circle chairman Mr Chris Spurr at the unveiling of the blue plaque for Robert Hill Hanna

point. The notice of Robert Hill Hanna's bravery was cited in the London Gazette on November 8, 1917, and he was awarded the Victoria Cross at the investiture at Buckingham Palace on December 5, 1917. Also at the Palace on that day were five other Canadian soldiers who had won Victoria Crosses at the Battle at Lens, August 1917.

Robert Hill Hanna visited Kilkeel immediately after the investiture and received a rapturous reception at a public meeting in the Square attended by upward of 3,000 people. At the end of the war he returned to Vancouver where he was manager of a

logging camp until 1938.

In 1957, he was one of the six holders of Victoria Crosses in Canada to act as pall-bearers at the funeral of Lt.-General Byng, who himself won his VC in the fighting for Hill 70, August 1917.

Sadly at the age of 80, Robert died in 1967 and is buried in British Columbia, Canada. Relations of Robert Hill Hanna still live in the area of Mourne, where he was born and also in the surrounding area.

Chris Spurr, Chairman of the Ulster History Circle, said: "Robert Hill Hanna left Mourne for Canada to seek a new life, but it was in France, as a company sergeant major, that his valour brought him lasting honour."

"One hundred years after CSM Hanna won the Victoria Cross, the Ulster History Circle is delighted to commemorate this heroic soldier with a blue plaque in Kilkeel. The Circle would like to thank

the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque, and Kilkeel Presbyterian Church for their assistance."

**A biography on Robert Hill Hanna VC can be accessed on [newulsterbiography.co.uk](http://newulsterbiography.co.uk).**





# Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band Profile

## In the spotlight this issue is Lucy Somerville (by Victoria Catterson)

**L**ucy has only been piping for around eight years but there's no doubt she has much to achieve in the future.

She previously played the tenor drum in Fivemiletown Pipe Band and also was a member of the National Army Cadet Force Pipes and Drums whereby she travelled to Scotland for a weekend every month and also for 10 days, three times a year, for band practice. She performed several Beating Retreats at Edinburgh Castle and in 2014 played at Balmoral Castle for HM the Queen, whom she got to meet. She has also travelled to Festival Interceltique de Lorient with the Juvenile Pipe Band, and to Spasskaya Tower, Moscow with the Music Service For Pipes and Drums.

**Age:** 18

**School:** Fivemiletown College

**Band:** Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, Clogher & District Pipe Band and Lisbeg Pipe Band.

**Hobbies outside of piping:** I currently play rugby at U18 level for Armagh Rugby Club and was recently a member of the Army Cadet Force.

**How long have you been piping?**

I first started learning the Tenor Drum when I was 9 then took up piping when I was about 10 or 11 so I have been piping for roughly 7/8 years.

**How/Where did you learn to pipe?**

I first started learning the bagpipes with Lisbeg as I was already tenor drumming with them before becoming involved with the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band and the Music Service for Pipes and Drums teaching programme back in 2012/2013.

**What attracted you to piping and/or pipe bands?**

As my dad, uncle and grandad and other members of the Somerville family were members of Lisbeg, this encouraged me to join too.

**What do you enjoy most about piping and performing with the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band?**

I enjoy the opportunities and experiences I get through the band such as playing with the Cross Border Orchestra all over Ireland, playing in big venues such as the Waterfront Hall and the SSE Arena and also playing in countries such as France, Russia and Dubai. Playing with the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band has also provided me with the chance to meet new friends and experience some of the best tuition in Northern Ireland.

**How often do you practice?**

Between school and work, I aim to practice either the practice chanter or pipes at least once a day whether it's at home or band



practice.

**Is there anything you aspire to achieve in piping?**

One of my biggest ambitions is to hopefully win the World Championships at some point within my piping career as well as possibly reaching grade one standard and playing in a top band.

I would also like to continue working through my SCQF levels.

**What advice would you give to someone who would like to start piping?**

I would advise anyone to take up piping or at least give it a go as it provides you with some of the best experiences, opportunities and the chance to meet new friends.

The Ulster Scots Agency and MSPD teaching programme is very beneficial and provided me with the chance to develop and improve my piping so I would advise anyone to join this programme and become a member of the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band.

To follow the young pipers and drummers visit [www.facebook.com/ulsterscotsjuvenilepipeband](https://www.facebook.com/ulsterscotsjuvenilepipeband).

To find out more about the teaching programme visit [www.mspd.co.uk](http://www.mspd.co.uk)

## From Russia with love for Bright Lights Dancers

**H**ighland dancers Jasmine Ng and Emma McCluskey (pictured), both members of Bright Lights Dance Group, recently returned from a memorable trip to Moscow.

Jasmine, 19, and Emma, 20, are the first two dancers from Northern Ireland to perform as part of the International Scottish Highland Dance Team on The Red Square as part of the tenth anniversary of The Spasskaya Tower Festival 2017.

They danced in the international team of fifty, alongside highland dancers from all over the world, including competitors from Russia, Canada, Australia, America, the Netherlands, South Africa and of course Scotland. The Spasskaya Festival is staged on the background of the walls of the Kremlin with military bands and cultural performances from all over the globe, ending each night with spectacular fireworks.

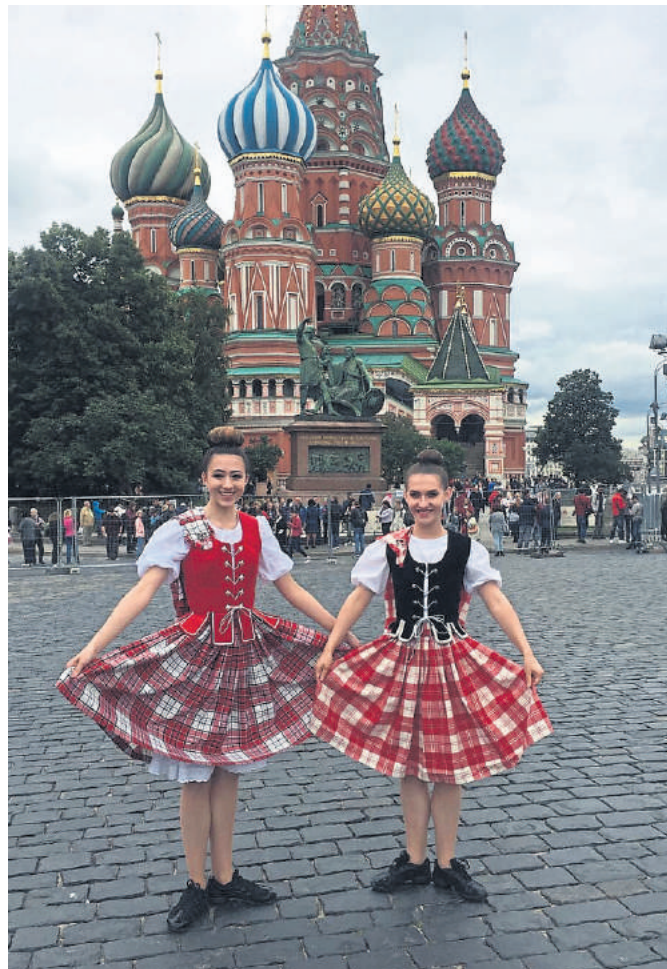
Each year the festival is reported to attract 75 thousand spectators alongside a TV audience allowing the spectators to reach 500 million. This year there were 2100 artists who took part in the Festival.

The girls performed in the show for nine evening performances (25th August- 3rd September).

They also followed a busy schedule taking part in parades and performances in the daytime at various public venues in Moscow. As well as highland dancers, Jasmine and Emma met other performers and musicians from all over the globe, including Egypt, Austria, Armenia, Belarus, India, Kazakhstan, China, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Italy, Chile, Switzerland and Russia.

The girls found it was a really eclectic, friendly, cultural atmosphere, with many performers chatting between practice sessions and after the finales.

Taking part in the festival was such a fantastic cultural experience for them, with really receptive audiences and of course unforgettable memories.



## Sarah secures top five spot at national premiership



The British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD) national premiership was recently held in Paisley, Glasgow - Sarah Graham was the only adult dancer from Northern Ireland who entered in this competition. Sarah did exceptionally well in the competition, finishing fifth overall



# World champions make waves at Ramore Head



Pipe Major John Fittis (left in back row) and Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band, who are celebrating their 60th anniversary, pictured with their array of trophies against the picturesque backdrop of Ramore Head at the North West Pipe Band & Drum Major Championships at Ramore Head, Portrush. Included is Cartie McAllister, Band President (right)



## World champion Drum Majors:

Rachel Lowry (Armaghbreague Pipe Band), World Champion Junior Drum Major, James Kennedy (Closkelt Pipe Band), World Champion Juvenile Grade Drum Major and Jason Price (Ravara Pipe Band), World Champion Adult Grade Drum Major at the picturesque backdrop of Ramore Head

**T**HE domestic pipe band season in Northern Ireland climaxed with the North West Pipe Band Championships at Portrush Recreation Grounds at Ramore Head on Saturday August 19, which also saw the awarding of the seasonal Champion of Champions trophies.

The competition was organised by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch and funded by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in association with Causeway Chamber of Commerce.

An important part of the prize distribution ceremony was the presentation of commemorative plaques to three drum majors from Northern Ireland who were crowned champions at the Worlds in Glasgow the previous Saturday.

The three world champion drum majors are Rachel Lowry (Armaghbreague) in the junior



Sarah Connolly (Ravara Pipe Band), who set off for four years at university in the USA recently is pictured with her twin brother Thomas, younger brother Adam, parents Samuel and Rosemary and grandparents William and Bess Connolly at the North West Pipe Band & Drum Major Championships at Ramore Head, Portrush

grade, James Kennedy (Closkelt) in the juvenile grade and Jason Price (Ravara) in the senior grade.

It marked a double for Jason, who won the world champion juvenile grade drum major title in 2013 when he was drum major with Marlacoo & District, and in Portrush he was also crowned Champions of Champion adult drum major for 2017.

Chieftain of the Day was Murray Bell (vice-president of Causeway Chamber), and following the grand finale and prize giving, the pipe bands and drum majors paraded through the packed streets of the seaside town.

The main band winners on the day were: grade one - Police Service of Northern Ireland Pipe Band; grade two - Closkelt; grade 3A - Marlacoo & District; grade 3B - Quinn Memorial; grade 4A - Tullylagan; grade 4B - Gransha.

## Top class competition serves up Moira magic

**M**oira Demesne provided the perfect setting for the 2017 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Pipe Band Championships recently.

Organised in partnership with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI), the glorious sounds of pipes and drums graced the air in Moira when approximately 48 pipe bands and 47 drum majors battled it out to be crowned 2017 champions.

There was stiff competition in the arena as all the entrants from across Northern Ireland and further afield with the furthest travelling from Auckland, New Zealand delivered first class performances.

The Chieftain of the Day was councillor Hazel Legge, Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

The main winners on the day were: Grade 1 - Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, Grade 2 - Manorcunningham Pipe Band (Donegal), Grade 3A - Marlacoo and District Pipe Band, Grade 3B - Quinn Memorial Pipe Band, Grade 4A - St Mary's, Derrytrasna and Grade 4B - Lisnamulligan Pipe Band. The main drum major winners were: Adult Grade - Andrea Gibson (Battlehill Pipe Band), Juvenile Grade - Emma Barr (Field Marshal Montgomery), Junior Grade - Rebecca Hamilton (Tullylagan Pipe Band) and Novice Grade - Leanne Crooks (Syerla Pipe Band).



Harry Ferguson Memorial Pipe Band - included are Stephen Moorehead, Acting Pipe Major (left) and Lexie Burrows, Pipe Sergeant (right)



Councillor Alexander Redpath, Robin Newton MBE, Chieftain of the Day, Councillor Hazel Legge (Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council) and Alderman Allan Ewart MBE (Chair of Economic Development at Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council)



Sam McKinstry (Harry Ferguson Memorial Pipe Band) pictured with his mother Gillian



Little Jamie Withers hitting the high notes for St Mary's Pipe Band, Derrytrasna



## RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



# Wholesome and winter warming Barn Brack

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups of all purpose flour
- 1tsp ginger
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp of salt
- ½ cup soft brown sugar
- 4 ½ tsp of dry active yeast (2 packets)
- 4 oz unsalted butter
- 1 ¼ cups of warm milk
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 1 cup of golden sultanas (golden raisins)
- 1 cup of dried currants
- ¼ cup of candied orange or lemon peel (finely chopped for the glaze)
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp warm water



### HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Butter a 9" round cake pan and set aside.
2. Measure and combine all the dry ingredients in a large bowl including the flour, spices, salt brown sugar, dry active yeast and the dried fruits and candied peel.
3. Combine all the wet ingredients in electric bread mixer including the warm milk, melted butter and egg. Slowly add the dry ingredients 1 cup at a time and mix to combine.
4. Transfer the sticky dough into the prepared pan and pat the dough in place. Cover with a clean dish towel and set aside in a warm place for about an hour for the dough to rise.
5. Preheat the oven to 190 degrees and then bake for about 30 minutes (to test the bread insert a skewer in the centre and should come away clean).
6. Dissolve the sugar in boiling water to make the glaze and brush over the bread. Return the bread to the oven for a further few minutes until the loaf is glistening.
7. Transfer to a rack to cool and serve with Irish creamery butter.

## ‘The richness of the chimney corner’

By Frank Ferguson

Since its publication in 1913, Alexander Irvine's *My Lady of the Chimney Corner* has rarely been out of print. However, its great popularity has often meant that it is rarely examined critically as a sophisticated work of literature.

Furthermore, its author's reputation has suffered much neglect in the decades since his death in 1941. This is a pity. The book lends itself well to closer inspection as a literary text created by an able writer. This is no twee kailyard account of the past, but a deftly written memoir that channels its righteous anger against the crippling poverty faced by a post-Famine Ireland and transforms it into a tender, lyrical celebration of parental love and the indomitable spirit of a community that despite being placed "at the bottom of the world" refuses to be beaten by circumstances. In the past commentators have claimed that vernacular language used in the novel was not authentic. This seems grossly unfair after a re-reading of the book. As one might expect for 19th-century Antrim there is a profound amount of Ulster-Scots vocabulary, proudly, and unselfconsciously on show. Despite the painful reminiscences there is plenty of fun and crack. Irvine recounts the communal tradition of neighbours sharing their Sunday broth. One particular dish of trotters and nettles pulled through the use

of a faither's boot socks will never again grace an Ulster table, or so we might hope. Shoelaces are "whangs", soup is thickened with "lithings", beautiful things are "sauncy", and fools are "gomerals". Doors are "dunched" not knocked, a lot of things are a "wheen" and breeks are held up with "galluses". Irvine shows himself adept as Burns to include a guid Scotch word when needed. A example that springs nicely from the page is "glunch" (to frown, look sour or sullen). When remembering the power of Irvine's mother to counter hard times his father offered:

"Because whin ye wor here she was here too. In thim days whin throuble came she'd tear it t' pieces an' make fun ov aych piece, begorra. Ye might glour an' glunch, but ye'd haave t' laugh before th' finish - shure ye wud!"

This hearty power to transform situations speaks back to Burns's ability to savour life and his community. In his poem "Scots Drink" he makes the following statement:

Ye Scots, wha wish auld Scotland well!  
Ye chief, to you my tale I tell,  
Poor, plackless devils like mysel'!  
It sets you ill,  
Wi' bitter, dearthfu' wines to mell,  
Or foreign gill.

May gravels round his blather wrench,  
An' gouts torment him, inch by inch,



What twists his grundle wi' a glunch  
O' sour disdain,  
Out owre a glass o' whisky-punch  
Wi' honest men!

Indeed, after a reading of the book, it does beg a number of questions about why

something as cherished in Ulster's book history is so little studied. Irvine was an extremely well connected writer, and had friendships with a diverse group of people in the literary world.

A collaborator with Jack London and inspiration for Upton Sinclair in the States and a strong influence upon John Hewitt in Northern Ireland, Irvine's portrait was painted by no less than one of Ulster's greatest painters, John Luke.

The book was dedicated to Lady Gregory, though this is not to say that Irvine was a mere sycophant. In true Ulster-Scots fashion he spoke his mind to those whom he felt needed an occasional rebuke and his diaries record him taking to task the Belfast playwright St John Irvine and even W.B. Yeats on occasion.

His strengths as a writer are ably demonstrated in his ability to craft a memoir which does more than sentimentalize the past. The text itself illuminates a whole genre of Ulster writing that borrows elements from the Scottish Kailyard tradition but articulates Irish and indeed global issues within the framework of authentic local language. As a text within the Ulster-Scots literary tradition it sits well between the novels of Archibald M'Ilroy and Sam Hanna Bell. It is one of the great pen portraits of an Irish mother and a memorial to a remarkable life that returned hardship with compassion and tenderness.



# WEANS' WURLD

Ulster Scots surnames are very common across Northern Ireland, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan.

How many Ulster Scots names can you find in the wordsearch?



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

NIXON  
GRAHAM  
CROZIER  
BELL  
KERR  
MAXWELL  
TWEEDIE  
STEWART  
KENNEDY  
BOYD  
DUNLOP  
FERGUSON  
RITCHIE  
GRAY  
LITTLE

## the **Ulster-Scot** COMPETITION

**EVERYONE'S A WINNER!** In the last issue of the Ulster-Scot we ran a competition to win Jim Lindsey CDs - everyone who entered will receive the prize.

# WIN A FAMILY PASS TO TITANIC BELFAST

Titanic Belfast was recently named the best visitor attraction in the world and you can be in with a chance to win a family pass. All you have to do is complete and return the survey below and you'll be entered into the draw. (Please include name and contact details)



### 1. Why do you read ULSTER SCOT?

- ☐ For the historical articles / literary pieces
- ☐ For the coverage and reviews of events and festivals
- ☐ For the recipes
- ☐ I use the magazine as a research tool
- ☐ I use the magazine to find out what is happening in Ulster Scots across the province
- ☐ Other (please specify)

### 2. How frequently do you read the ULSTER SCOT?

- ☐ Every issue
- ☐ Most issues
- ☐ Less than half
- ☐ Once in a while
- ☐ Never

### 3. These are the sections that appear regularly in the ULSTER SCOT. Please indicate how often you read or look at them.

Feature Articles:  
☐ Every Issue ☐ Most issues ☐ Some Issues, ☐ Never

Tuition Focus:  
☐ Every Issue ☐ Most issues ☐ Some Issues, ☐ Never

Events/Festivals:  
☐ Every Issue ☐ Most issues ☐ Some Issues, ☐ Never

Recipes:  
☐ Every Issue ☐ Most issues ☐ Some Issues, ☐ Never

Literary/Language:

- ☐ Every Issue ☐ Most issues ☐ Some Issues, ☐ Never

### 4. Are there any issues, topics, or themes that you'd like to see in upcoming issues of the ULSTER SCOT?

### 5. How do you usually read the ULSTER SCOT?

- ☐ Digital edition
- ☐ Print edition
- ☐ Both

### 6. If you are reading the ULSTER SCOT digitally, do you use:

- ☐ iPad
- ☐ Smart phone
- ☐ Tablet
- ☐ Computer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

### 7. Do you visit the Ulster Scots Agency website (ulsterscotsagency.com)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### 8. If yes, how often do you visit the Ulster Scots Agency website?

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ A couple of times a month
- ☐ Every few months

### 9. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

### 10. About You

- ☐ Male?
- ☐ Female?

What is your Postcode?

What is your age?

- ☐ 18 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 or older

Fill in the survey and return to the below address to be included in the draw for a family pass to Titanic Belfast  
Return to: Ulster Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange,  
31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

