

## New tech boosts Ulster-Scots legacy



Award-winning e-learning tool allows new generation to explore impact of local artists  
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ARLENE FOSTER OUTLINES VISION FOR ULSTER-SCOTS

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SCOTTISH LEGENDS SET FOR BELFAST

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HERO ROBERT HANNA VC HONOURED

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## Fair faa ye



Welcome to the September 2017 edition of the **Ulster-Scot**.

Summer is now in its final throes and the annual piping season is coming to a close. The 72nd All-Ireland Pipe Band Championship wowed the crowds at Lurgan Park - full coverage on **Page 15**, while the Antrim championships delivered top quality performances at Glenarm Castle - see report on **Page 14**.

The Ulster-Scots Agency is gearing up for another funding round for our Music and Dance Tuition projects. Information Roadshows are to be held across the country in the coming weeks to aid community groups in making their application. More about this here on **Page 2**.

The Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band have travelled to Lorient, Brittany this summer to take part in the 2nd biggest music festival in Europe. To read more about the band see **Page 8**.

Also in this edition, you can read more about the recent unveiling of commemorative stone for VC recipient Robert Hill Hanna in Killeel. You can read more about the launch and where to visit the stone on **Page 6**.

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**



## Re-discover your Ulster-Scots heritage as Culture Night returns for its ninth year

**Culture Night is Belfast's largest, most exciting and inclusive cultural celebration. Now in its ninth year, Culture Night brings together over 250 free events across 100 locations in Belfast City Centre in a single day. The event attracts over 80,000 visitors to Belfast.**

On Friday September 22, the Ulster Scots Agency and Ulster Scots Community Network will open the Discover Ulster Scots centre to take part in this exciting event.

With a line up to include highland dancing, bluegrass music, historical re-enactments and a chance to dress up as a historical character, this will be an evening not to be missed. 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 exhibition panels cover ten major stories, starting with the arrival of Edward Bruce in 1315
- the timeline room shows how events in Ulster link with Scotland and the rest of the world
- the language and literature area gives examples of Ulster-Scots publishing, as well as words most

people use every day

- a large journey planner map highlights other Ulster-Scots places to visit
- audio-visual terminals allow you to watch films and search databases
- display cases feature rare artefacts and publications
- free literature available, much of which isn't available elsewhere
- gift shop offering books, CDs and tartan wares

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. Culture Night activity will start at around 6pm and continue until 9pm.

So why not drop in and see what you could learn at the Discover Ulster Scots Centre?

## Music and Dance Tuition Programme for 2018

**The Ulster-Scots Agency will open the Music and Dance Tuition Programme for 2018 on September 4.**

To assist groups interested in making an application to this programme the Ulster-Scots Agency, in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Community Network, have organised a series of public information events.

We fully recognise the disappointment experienced by many groups who were unsuccessful in the past due to the programme being significantly oversubscribed.

We expect a similar situation to arise this year and would therefore encourage your group to make every effort to attend the public information events and make yourselves fully aware of all the requirements of the 2018 programme.

The public information events will commence at 7.45pm at the locations shown.

Date	Area	Venue
Mon Sept 11	Belfast	Discover Ulster-Scots Centre
	Ballymoney	Manor Hotel, Ballymoney
Tues Sept 12	Cookstown	Royal Hotel
	Banbridge	Bannville House Hotel
Wed Sept 13	Omagh	Lislimnaghan Parish Hall
	Monaghan/Cavan	Drum Protestant Hall
Thurs Sept 14	Donegal	Ulster-Scots Regional Office, Raphoe
	Enniskillen	Killyhevlin Hotel

The Ulster-Scots Agency has devised new guidance notes and has revised the application form for the 2018 Music and Dance Tuition Programme. Applicants must use the 2018 application form which can be downloaded from the Agency's website [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding). The closing date for Applications is 3pm on Friday October 6 2017.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at the Regional Office, in Raphoe on 0035374 9173876

Groups unable to attend the public information events should contact the Ulster-Scots Community Network on 028 9043 6710 and arrange an appointment to meet one of the community workers in the Belfast office.

## The Ulster-Scot

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

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**Ulster-Scots Agency**  
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## 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 -  
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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

### Spinyorra

#### Meaning:

a fanciful, exotic place (e.g to tell someone discussing unrealistic holiday or travel possibilities; maybe ye'll go tae Spinyorra)



# A rightful place for Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland's new century

DUP leader Arlene Foster MLA explains why the Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and language need to be researched, promoted and embedded in the education system

**O**ver the last number of months, I have visited a range of cultural and language groups in Northern Ireland.

Identity and the way it is expressed and communicated down the generations is an important and sensitive issue. I believed it best for me to go out, meet those involved and listen to them. I thank all those who engaged with me. I met people whose passion for their culture and language was clear, deep and genuine.

Perhaps it was my discussions with Irish language groups that attracted the greatest publicity and thus caught the public attention, but the outreach was beyond that by both myself and other DUP representatives.

I wish others had taken the same time to investigate, reflect and plan for a better future together.

The focus on identity has brought out the worst in too many. In one breath they demand respect and in the next they denigrate and demonise. Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and language has become a prime target for this and that is not acceptable.

My engagement with so many passionate and committed people deepened my appreciation for the cultural wealth of Northern Ireland in all its distinct and diverse forms. It made me appreciate the deeper cultural tapestry of Northern Ireland – the English, Irish and Scottish influences and the new strands the minority ethnic communities are adding as well.

I am a proud daughter of Fermanagh.

The three interdependent strands of Ulster's identity can be seen very clearly in my home. The names of villages like Brookeborough, Maguiresbridge and Irvinestown indicate the English, Irish and Scottish influences in the development of the county, which has been present since the Plantation of Ulster.

The legacy of the Ulster-Scots is literally written in stone around the county, where some of Ulster's best preserved Plantation period castles can be seen at Tully, Monea and Castle Balfour at Lisnaskea. Some of Fermanagh's finest stately homes also owe their origins to Ulster-Scots.

Crom Castle is the seat of the Earls of Erne, who belong to the Crichton family of the Scottish Borders, while Castle Coole is home to the Earls of Belmore, who descend from the Corry family of Dumfries.

The campaign of King James I and VI to pacify the Scottish Borders led to the removal of many members of infamous Border Reiver families to Ulster. Surnames like Armstrong, Elliot, Crozier, Nixon, Maxwell and Hume became common in Ulster, especially in Fermanagh. Members of less infamous Reiver families like Foster and Dodds would have also come over around that time.



Arlene Foster at Reivers House, Kilkeel

County Fermanagh's most famous export, Belleek pottery, owes its origin to the Ulster-Scots.

Belleek was part of the Castle Caldwell estate and it was there in 1857 that John Caldwell Bloomfield established the pottery, which is celebrating its 160th anniversary this year. The Caldwell family came over from Ayrshire in the early 1600s. Although Fermanagh is not an Ulster-Scots speaking area, it has its fair share of Ulster-Scots place names, mostly braes; and these place names, which can be found all over Ulster, can be a valuable starting point for everyone to develop a greater appreciation of the language.

My own children benefited from their primary school being an Ulster-Scots flagship and the learning that flowed from that. They have all continued that interest through drum and flute and one is learning to be a piper.

All of this wealth should be celebrated, developed and promoted. We must all face down those who seek to devalue Ulster-Scots: not by returning jibes in kind, but by making Ulster-Scots all that it can be. So what is my vision for the future? In 2021, Northern Ireland will celebrate its centenary.

Too much of the tale of our first century has been hallmarked by division. Now we stand on the cusp of a new century for Northern Ireland. I want the story of Northern Ireland's next 100 years to be of a place and people that thrive within the United Kingdom. And I believe that cultural security and confidence are vital to this new, more positive chapter in our history. We must celebrate and promote the diversity of cultural wealth of Northern Ireland in all its aspects.

We must affirm the identities people hold

here. We must enable those identities to develop and to be passed down to future generations. We must welcome and integrate the new identities that have made Northern Ireland their home and who are adding to our cultural wealth.

And we must celebrate our pride in our home and the achievements of all of our people. Short-term patches or political expediency is not what is needed.

I believe a new vision and new commitment on identities is needed. We must establish a new cultural deal to provide a comprehensive and long-term approach to the sensitive issue of identity.

In practical terms, Government actions and policy should be built around respect, recognition, representation and resource for the identities here. The focus must be upon practical measures with a legislative underpinning and that monies are spent strategically and deliver on the five goals I have outlined.

Too often, Ulster-Scots has been treated as an after-thought with insufficient attention given to its needs.

**"Ulster Scots must be supported to move up a gear."**

Instead, the things needed by others were foisted on to it.

Ulster-Scots must be supported to move up a gear.

Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and language needs to be researched and promoted, embedded in our education system, it needs a strong presence in the media, it needs to be developing the teachers to pass on its traditions to the next generation and it needs to develop hubs of activity out in the community.

I truly believe that as small as Northern Ireland may be, there is sufficient space for our wealth of cultures to thrive side by side. I want to see Ulster-Scots contribute all it can to that wealth and take its rightful place for Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland's new century.

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# Fusefm Mourne increases in popularity

**T**he summer broadcast of the Schomberg Society's Fusefm Mourne proved to be a huge hit for the Kingdom of Mourne.

The much loved Ulster-Scots community radio station has grown from strength to strength and now has a team of over 60 presenters and DJs.

The radio station was launched on June 28 by UK Strongman Glenn Ross and over two weeks was extremely busy with thousands of texts, requests and dedications coming into the studio, as well as many local folk taking part in interviews, 'thoughts for the day' and a number of live performances.

This summer, the Schomberg's Fusefm Mourne welcomed a host of new presenters, both old and young, which was enjoyed by the local community.

New faces in the studio included Cliff Coulter, President of Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce, Brackenagh West Primary School Principal Michael Peacock, Diane Forsythe, Stephen Agnew, Kingsley Donaldson and many others.

Broadcasting from 7am – midnight each day during the fortnight, the radio station created a fantastic opportunity to first and foremost promote the Ulster-Scots culture and identity in the Kingdom of Mourne, but also promoted local events and businesses and engaged with key representatives from the local community. A local business owner said: "Fusefm Mourne is simply fantastic. As a local trader, the radio station brings a lot of excitement to the area and many businesses play the radio station in their stores and sponsor many prizes for the daily competitions.



Some of the young Fusefm Mourne media students who were busy over the fortnight hosting a variety of shows

"The community loves a local radio station and all involved in the Schomberg Society are to be congratulated on their best radio broadcast I have ever heard.

"With so many different shows and presenters, there is definitely something for everyone to enjoy."

Highlights for many during the radio broadcast included of course the official live launch with UK Strongman Glenn Ross, but also the live Gospel Concert, which welcomed local soloists, choirs, bands and musicians to perform live in Studio Two. However, the busiest day for the Fusefm Mourne Team was July 11. Working alongside The Reivers Festival, Fusefm

Mourne broadcast live from the Eleventh Afternoon Concert in the Lower Square, Kilkeel. Many folk tuned in from right across the Province and the world to enjoy a special guest performance from country star Ritchie Remo.

Just a few hours later the Fusefm Mourne Team, were down in the Demonstration Field on the Manse Road, Kilkeel to broadcast live the Eleventh Night Celebrations.

Again, a huge number of folk tuned in on 106.2fm and also online to enjoy the live broadcast of the concert and celebrations from the field, bringing the summer

UK Strongman Glenn Ross at the launch of Fusefm Mourne



broadcast of the radio station to an end for the summer. A spokesperson from Fusefm Mourne commented: "We are absolutely overwhelmed with the response of our radio station this summer. It just seems to be growing more and more popular and our team of presenters is also ever growing.

"We have listeners of all ages and from all backgrounds and we are very proud to oversee this unique initiative to promote all that is best of our Ulster-Scots culture."

Schomberg's Fusefm Mourne would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued support with this project, to all of the local businesses in supporting the radio station, to all of the presenters, DJs and technicians, and to everyone who helped in any way during what has been the busiest broadcast yet of Fusefm Mourne. However, thanks must also go to the thousands and thousands of listeners who have tuned into all of their shows and kept the presenters and DJs busy in the studio. Fusefm Mourne looks forward to returning to the airwaves in December for their Christmas broadcast of 2017.

## Music rocks Cockle Row

**T**his summer Groomspoint once again came alive to the sounds and dance of Ulster-Scots heritage.

The ever popular feature of the programme of entertainment at Cockle Row cottages, each Sunday in July and August, saw local performers entertain the crowds in the seaside village along with activities for the children each afternoon.

The link between Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Ulster-Scots Agency has grown over the years and together they have worked on initiatives such as this to highlight this part of the local heritage and culture in an area that can claim to be the home of the Ulster-Scots. For it was within the borough that both Sir James Hamilton and Sir Hugh Montgomery established Scots settlers in the early 17th century, settlers that would shape the Ulster we know today. It was also Groomspoint from where on September 9 1636, "The Eagle Wing" ship departed with around 140 Scots settlers looking to establish a new life for themselves near Boston in America.

The programme in Groomspoint included the ever popular Andy McGregor on the bagpipes, dance from Bright Lights and Demi Walker along with music from a number of performers including The Risin Stour and Geordies Music Box (pictured) amongst others, back by popular demand.



## Safeguarding training and exploring good practice standards

**V**olunteer Now Enterprises Ltd is offering free integrated safeguarding training as part of our Department of Communities Safeguarding Children and Adults in the Arts and Culture Sector project.

The training is on offer to the groups supported by Arts Council for Northern Ireland, Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge. The integrated training programme is aimed at those who engage with children, young people and adults at risk. It covers:

- Legal context and policy context of safeguarding children and adults.
- Awareness of vulnerability.
- Awareness of abuse issues.
- Procedures for reporting concerns.
- Code of behaviour for staff/volunteers.

This training is free but places

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are limited to three per organisation and need to be booked in advance. Places can be booked by emailing roisin.timlin@volunteernow.co.uk . Choose one date and venue from the list below when booking.

### Dates and Venues

- 20th September 2017 Antrim Library, 10 Railway Street Antrim. BT41 4AE
- 13th October 2017 Fermanagh House Broadmeadow Place, Enniskillen BT74 7HR
- 16th October Derry Central Library, 35 Foyle St, Derry/Londonderry BT48 6AL. Time: 10.30am-1.30pm



# Scottish legends to perform on Burns Night

**T**he Ulster Orchestra, in association with the Ulster-Scots Agency, are hosting the seventh annual Burns Concert at the Waterfront Hall with two legends of Scottish Traditional music, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain.

A fantastic night of music, dance and song awaits all of those who attend the concert on Saturday 27th January 2018 at Belfast Waterfront Hall.

With plaudits such as Radio 2 Folk Awards Best Duo Award, winners of the 'Great Scot' Lifetime Achievement Awards, honorary doctorates and an MBE apiece, Phil and Aly are a Scottish national institution, with their incomparable mastery of fiddle and accordion. They have been playing together now for over 30 years, the lead act on BBC Scotland's live Hogmanay broadcast since 2013 and have a breath-taking history of live, broadcast and recorded activity. Fresh off yet another tour of their homeland, the fiddle and accordion players have established themselves in the world of traditional music and have been described as "probably the best traditional musicians you are ever likely to hear" so it is a huge honour to have two giants of the Scottish scene join us in Belfast for Burns Night. Singer Robyn Stapleton will join Phil and Aly for the Burns Concert for the first time in 2018, almost a year after the launch of her second album 'Songs of Robert Burns.' In 2014, she became BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician and in the years since has become one of Scotland's most respected folk singers. One of the most respected interpreters of Burns' song, Robyn has been invited to perform his most famous works on BBC television and radio, alongside



Singer Robyn Stapleton will join Phil and Aly for the Burns Concert for the first time in 2018

Oscar-winning actors, and her second album, *Songs of Robert* explores the themes of history, humanity, love and nature, through the poetry of Scotland's national poet. Of course, the work of The Bard will feature throughout the programme, this year in the form of a unique performance by Christopher Tait, who for over 15 years has been performing as Robert Burns. His theatre show 'Robert Burns Live' has played

to rave reviews throughout the USA, Europe and SE Asia, and he has also appeared on television worldwide in his alter ego guise as The Bard. The skirl of the pipes, the whirl of jigs and reels and romance of Robbie Burns' traditional songs are the ultimate Burns Night celebration. Tickets are available at [www.ulsterorchestra.org.uk](http://www.ulsterorchestra.org.uk) or on 028 9033 4455.

Burns Night will take place on Saturday January 27, 2018 at Belfast Waterfront Hall



Scottish Traditional musicians Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain will light up Burns night in January

## 'Our Artists' e-learning tool is the picture of creativity

**A** unique educational platform that focuses on the lives and creations of artists with Ulster-Scots connections has been developed for schools by Holywood-based media and PR company Morrow Communications.

'Our Artists: An Ulster-Scots Legacy' is a free comprehensive learning resource that explores the impact of six local artists, including renowned sculptor Anne Crawford Acheson and artist William Scott. Designed for Key Stage 2 pupils, the e-learning tool - which will be available to use from the new school year from this month - has been developed in association with teachers and so targets key curriculum areas including the arts, language and literature, history and science. The brainchild of the award winning e-learning team at integrated communications agency Morrow, 'Our Artists' is funded by the Northern Ireland Screen Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund (USBF) and supported by CCEA and the Ulster-Scots Agency. The project follows on from the highly successful 'Our Innovators: An Ulster-Scots Legacy' platform which was also designed and created by Morrow Communications last year and is available online now at [www.ourinnovators.com](http://www.ourinnovators.com). As well as shining a light on the lives of local artists, this new resource stars many pupils from schools across Northern



Gary Blair (Ulster-Scots Agency), Richard Hanna (CCEA), Ian Crozier (Ulster-Scots Agency), Moya Neeson and Aisling Gallagher (both Morrow Communications) and Suzanne Harrison (NI Screen) with school children Caoimhe McDonagh, Reuben Thompson and Gabriel Szkaradek at the launch of a new interactive educational resource called 'Our Artists'

Ireland who lent their creative talent to the videos featured on the 'Our Artists' website. Aisling Gallagher, producer at Morrow Communications, said: "The 'Our Artists' resource provides teachers with a unique way to equip our future leaders with skills and knowledge harnessed from successful local figures of our past.

"It acts as a 'one stop shop' providing everything from teacher guides and lesson plans to interactive material, including videos featuring local primary students and online interactive games. Both Our Artists and Our Innovators aim to highlight our Ulster-Scots as a truly inclusive and positive aspect of heritage for all sectors of our community."

Ian Crozier, chief executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency, said: "As well as hosting a wealth of arts material, the content found on 'Our Artists' can be used to facilitate learning in many other essential curriculum areas. Importantly, the tool can also be used by teachers and pupils to learn about and celebrate cultural diversity and the rich heritage of Ulster-Scots in a contemporary and dynamic way." Richard Williams, chief executive of Northern Ireland Screen, added: "Building on the success of last year's 'Our Innovators: An Ulster-Scots Legacy', we are delighted to support the production of additional classroom content that puts diversity and learning at its heart. "The wealth of information contained in 'Our Artists' is impressive and I'm sure many teachers and parents will end up learning just as many interesting facts as their pupils and children." The 'Our Artists: An Ulster-Scots Legacy' will be hosted at [www.our-artists.com/](http://www.our-artists.com/) and will be available for use free of charge from September. It focuses on the lives of sculptor Anne Crawford Acheson, portrait and landscape artist Frank McKelvey, painter John Luke, artist, calligrapher and art teacher Mercy Hunter, 'The Peoples Painter' William Conor and Fermanagh born abstract artist William Scott.



# Special Robert Hanna VC stone unveiled

**V**ictoria Cross recipient Robert Hanna was commemorated on Monday August 21 with a special commemorative stone unveiled in his memory at Hanna's Close, Kilkeel.

This unique and auspicious occasion took place near his birthplace in the townland of Aughnahoory.

Organised by the Schomberg Society, Kilkeel and the Northern Ireland World War One Centenary Committee, the event was certainly one to remember for years to come.

Many people gathered in the Close to be part of this special occasion and enjoy the performances to remember this brave soldier who fought for King and Country. The event was led by Kingsley Donaldson of the N. Ireland World War One Centenary Committee and Rev. William Bingham opened and closed the event with prayer and spoke of the brave actions of those who served during The Great War and of course, of the heroic actions of Robert Hanna VC.

Entertainment on the evening included massed performances from Kilkeel Silver Band and Aughnahoory Pipe Band, the Schomberg Fife and Drum, who were appropriately dressed in First World War traditional costume and played a selection of pieces from the era of The Great War, the Beekin Bairns Choir and what was the highlight of the event for many folk, the Kirknarra School of Dance who performed a fantastic choreographed piece to well known war tunes, *It's a long way to Tipperary* and *Pack up your Troubles*.

Members of Robert Hanna's family were very proud to have unveiled the stone and spoke of their pride in the gallant actions that Robert had carried out one hundred years to that day at the iconic Hill 70 near Lens, where Robert Hanna received his Victoria Cross.

The evening came to a close with an Act of Remembrance from John Fisher of the Royal British Legion and with members of the family and representatives from local organisations laying wreaths at the new memorial stone in memory of Robert Hanna VC. The Queen's Representative for County Down, Mr David Lindsay was also in attend-



ance.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society said: "We are certainly very proud and honoured to have been able to play a role in celebrating this very brave and heroic deed carried out by Robert Hanna and despite it being one hundred years ago, it is still very obvious that he and his actions are still well remembered and an inspiration for everyone here in the Kingdom of Mourne."

"The Schomberg Society would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along and took part in the event and to all of those who helped in any way to make the evening one to remember. We in the Schomberg Society will continue to ensure that this brave soldier's legacy lives on and will indeed, be remembered for years to come."



## First Belfast summer school for traditional music is a success

**A**t Stormont there may be political division over the Irish and Ulster-Scots languages.

But in the world of music, musicians from both traditions are in total harmony. Many spent the last week of July playing together at the first Belfast Summer School for Traditional Music.

They have also been teaching more than 150 budding musicians to play almost 20 different instruments.

According to the school's musical director Donal O'Connor - who is also a top traditional musician - partnerships reflect trad's history and heritage.

"Traditional music here in the north is very influenced by the traditional music of Scotland, so it was key to us that we would



reflect that," he told BBC News NI.

"So we have fifeing, drumming and bagpipes as well as fiddles, flutes, concertinas and Uilleann pipes.

"Music brings people together, and it's one of the ways we think we can push things forward here.

"Tunes from the fifeing world have come into the traditional music world and vice-versa.

"Music doesn't have any boundaries - or



barriers or borders for that matter - and that's something we're keen to reflect."

Tara Breen from the Chieftains is one of the other top musicians at the school, as is Steven McWhirter (pictured).

Originally from Ahoghill in County Antrim, he is a seven-time world drumming champion and plays in one of the world's leading pipe bands.

He has been playing alongside Irish tradi-

tional musicians during the week.

"Pipe band musicians generally like to be very prepared all the time to give their absolute best performance in a competition," he said.

"But these guys get together 20 minutes before a gig and put sets together and just go for it.

"It's been enlightening for me to be involved with them and see what they're all about."

As part of the school, gigs, talks and events took place at venues in the north, south, east and west of the city. However, the hub for all of the classes during the week was the Ulster University's Belfast campus in the city's Cathedral Quarter with performances also taking place at the Discover Ulster Scots centre on Victoria Street, Belfast.



# Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band

## One-to-one with Chelsea Greer by Victoria Catterson

Chelsea was only six years old when she began tenor drumming, and now at 13 she has already experienced a lot due to her hobby. She's not long home from participating in Festival Interceltique de Lorient, the second largest music festival in Europe. With a bright future ahead of her in pipe bands all thanks to the tuition programmes made possible by the Ulster-Scots Agency, Chelsea looks forward to the many more opportunities to come her way as she grows older.

**Age:** 13

**School:** Cookstown High School

**Band:** Tullylagan Pipe Band

**Hobbies outside of tenor drumming:**

Playing and watching sport

**How long have you been tenor drumming?**

Seven years.

**Where did you learn to tenor drum?**

I started to learn tenor drumming in my old primary school, Orritor Primary through the



Music Service for Pipes and Drums teaching programme.

**What attracted you to tenor drumming?**

In my school every Friday there were lessons. The tutors Vicki Kane and Danielle Hamilton came in and did a performance

and since that day I've always wanted to do it.

**What do you enjoy most about tenor drumming and performing with the Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band?**

I just love doing the concerts and all the opportunities you get... I got to go to the Lorient Festival in France this year, which was amazing, and I got to meet a lot of new friends.

Performing in France was a truly memorable experience; the people who went were class craic and all the opportunities you get out there are unforgettable, it really was worth it.

**How often do you practice?**

For Ulster-Scots I practice at the class in Cookstown Primary School on a Wednesday night and for Tullylagan I practice every night, Monday to Friday.

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

**tenor drumming?**

I would love to become a Grade One tenor drummer and become a world champion.

**Are there any tenor drummers or tenor cores in particular that you enjoy watching/aspire to play like?**

The tenor core in Inveraray and District Pipe Band, I just love watching them.

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

Just do your best, it takes time and effort but as soon you get into it you will love it. Then you can move on further and compete.

To follow the young pipers and drummers visit

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ulsterscotsjuvenilepipeband)

[ulsterscotsjuvenilepipeband](https://www.facebook.com/ulsterscotsjuvenilepipeband)

To find out more about the teaching programme visit

[www.mspd.co.uk](http://www.mspd.co.uk)

# Stephen Collins Foster: the father of American music

**S**tephen Collins Foster was born in Lawrenceville (now part of Pittsburgh) in Pennsylvania on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Curiously, Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and author of the Declaration, and John Adams, the second President of the United States and a signatory to the Declaration, both died on July 4, 1826.

The White Cottage, the house in which Stephen was born, was located at 3600 Penn Avenue. Although the original house is no longer standing, there is a historical marker at the site.

Stephen was born into a politically and socially prominent family. His father, William Barclay Foster, was a Pittsburgh merchant and trader and a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature and Mayor of Allegheny. His mother was the former Eliza Clayland Tomlison. Stephen was descended on both sides from Scotch-Irish emigrants.

Alexander Foster settled in Lancaster County in Pennsylvania in the late 1720s. James Foster, Stephen's grandfather, fought on the revolutionary side in the American War of Independence. Stephen's father served as quartermaster and commissary of the United States Army during the War of 1812.

Although formally untutored in music, Stephen had a natural aptitude for music and began to write songs as a young boy. He absorbed musical influences from the popular, sentimental songs sung by his sisters; from black church services he attended with the family's servant Olivia Pise; from popular minstrel show songs; and from songs sung by black labourers at the Pittsburgh warehouse where he worked for a time. His parents were unsympathetic to his musical ambitions.

While working as a bookkeeper in his brother Dunning's business in Cincinnati, he



wrote many songs, some of which he was able to sell to publishers.

July 22, 1850 he returned to Pittsburg to marry Jenny McDowell (who inspired 'Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair'), a doctor's daughter. They had a daughter, Marion, who was born on April 18, 1851. She became a piano teacher in Pittsburgh and died on July 9, 1935.

Although a Northerner, who spent the greater part of his adult life in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and New York, his songs managed to capture the Southern plantation spirit in an authentic manner. In February 1852 he took a month long Mississippi River cruise to New Orleans, his only trip to the Deep South. He never visited the Swanee River that runs through South Georgia south into Florida.

Although his stated ambition was to become 'the best Ethiopian [that is, Negro minstrel] song writer,' he vacillated between composing minstrel songs (for which he is



largely remembered) and songs in the sentimental 'respectable' style then popular. Unfortunately, Foster lacked business acumen commensurate with his musical talent. In 1857 in severe financial difficulties he sold all rights to his future songs to his publishers for about \$1,900. Thus, the profits from his songs went largely to performers and publishers. In 1860 Foster moved to New York. Opinions differ as to what role alcohol played in Foster's life but he may well have been struggling with alcoholism. In 1861 his wife left him. There was a brief reconciliation the following year.

Foster died in Bellevue Hospital in New York City on January 13, 1864. In his biography *My Brother Stephen*, Morrison Foster describes his death as follows:

'In January 1864, while at the American Hotel, he was taken with ague and fever. After two or three days he arose, and while washing himself fainted and fell across the wash basin, which broke and cut a gash in his neck and face. He lay there insensible and bleeding until discovered by the chambermaid. She called for assistance and he was placed in bed again.

On recovering his senses he asked that he be sent to a hospital.

Accordingly he was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

He was so much weakened by fever and loss of blood that he did not rally.'



He had been living in something approximating to abject poverty. In his wallet, there was found a scrap of paper that simply said 'Dear friends and gentle hearts', along with 35 cents in Civil War scrip and three pennies. He was buried in the Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh.

His legacy was about 200 songs, for most of which he wrote the words as well as the music. These include 'Camptown Races', 'Nelly Bly', 'My Old Kentucky Home', 'Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground', 'Old Dog Tray', 'Old Black Joe', 'Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair', and 'Beautiful Dreamer'.

Of Foster, Aaron Copland, the great American composer, observed: "We have our national hero in Stephen Foster. More songwriter than composer, and with a naturalness of feeling that places his melodies with the folk song, his simplicity and honesty are not easy to imitate. But this same simplicity and naturalness inspired a definite type of our own music."

Bob Dylan has said: "Anyone who wants to be a songwriter should listen to as much folk music as they can, study the form and structure of stuff that has been around for 100 years. I go back to Stephen Foster." In 2016 Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for 'having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition' but Stephen Foster was the originator of that great tradition.



By Victoria Catterson

**The Ulster-Scots Agency  
Juvenile Pipe Band returned  
to Brittany this summer to  
participate in the Festival  
Interceltique de Lorient for  
the second consecutive year.**

With over 700,000 spectators throughout the ten days, the members of the band were welcomed with open arms as the bagpipes and drums went down a treat with the festival attendees; especially this year as Scotland was being celebrated at the festival.

The year of 'Ecoscé' involved a lot of tartan, Scottish flags and bagpipes; so the Juvenile Pipe Band turned out to be quite the celebrities while walking the streets of Lorient.

The band met at the famous 'Dupuy Tree,' to practice before heading over to Moustoir Stadium, home of FC Lorient, to rehearse with the other musicians, ahead of performing 'Nuit Interceltique.'

Also during the festival the band conducted a 40-minute performance at the Espace Marine.

This was down by the water and was the venue for the big concerts throughout the festival, with the youngest members of the band Oliver McIlwaine and Jonny and Adam Brimage playing on their own in front of hundreds - much to the crowd's delight.

Many more excellent performances followed throughout the ten days, with the band receiving high praise from their legion of fans while attracting new supporters.

To get involved with the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band you can find them on Facebook. Alternatively if you'd like to know more about the teaching programme provided by the Music Service For Pipes and Drums find us on Facebook or at [www.mspd.co.uk](http://www.mspd.co.uk).

# Juvenile Pipe Band thrill huge



## Raphoe's Ulster-Scots summer scheme a major success



**F**or over 10 years Raphoe Pipe Band have run Ulster-Scots Summer Camps in Raphoe in East Donegal. They have proved to be very successful and have grown in popularity every year. This year to facilitate numbers

Raphoe Pipe Band held two weeks of the standard camp with 120 children in attendance. The summer school also included the first drama camp with 22 teenagers getting involved. The continued interest and support for Ulster-Scots in the

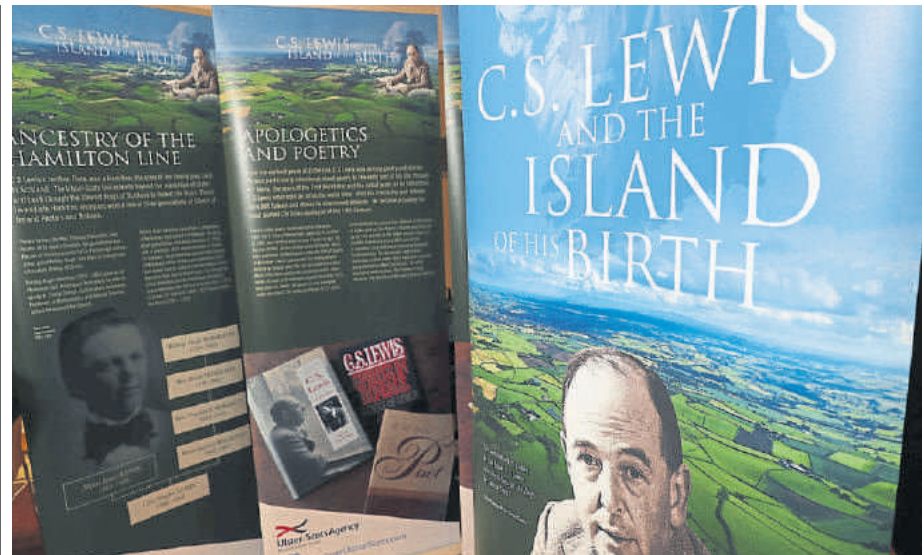
small village of Raphoe is demonstrated with children coming back year after year and participating with the Pipe Band at various events and projects. The theme for their drama camp this year was the story of Finn McCool, screenplay by Andrew Tinney.

The children made the costumes and stage designs with guidance from Robyn Freen, a stage and screen student. Ruth McPhillips helped them perform some lovely traditional Ulster-Scots songs on drum, pipes, tin whistle and guitar.

The end result was a very witty and entertaining show, watched by family and friends and the weans did them proud. **An Ulster-Scots Heritage day will be held in Raphoe, Co Donegal on Saturday September 23 from noon until 5pm.**



# Large crowds in Lorient



## October countdown for C.S Lewis programme

**Born and bred in east Belfast, C. S. Lewis was one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century and arguably the most influential Christian writer of his day.**

His major contributions to literary criticism, children's literature, fantasy literature, and popular theology brought him international renown and acclaim.

The C.S. Lewis Festival celebrates the lega-

cy of Lewis through themes of storytelling, imagination and spirituality with events including talks, lectures and tours, exhibitions, workshops, theatre, poetry and spoken word events and film screenings. This year expect to see some firm favourites, new ideas and some quirky events, across five days of the festival. The programme will be announced in October so watch this space.

## Hans Sloane Chocolate Festival

The Finnebrogue Artisan Hans Sloane Chocolate & Fine Food Festival is just upon us with only a couple of weeks to go until this exciting weekend. Preparations are at near completion, with the festival marquee taking shape on the front lawn

of Killyleagh Castle. All of their chocolatiers and artisan producers are packing up their wonderful arrays of hand made products and goodies to bring along. The festival runs from noon to 6pm, September 24-25.



# Schomberg Society delivers a summer of fun and education



**The Schomberg Society's Reivers Folk Orchestra have been hailed for delivering a very successful Ulster-Scots Summer School.**

The week of fun filled Ulster-Scots activities were enjoyed by a huge crowd of children and included Ulster-Scots cookery, highland dancing, fiddle, drama, lambeg drum, drum-major, living history, arts and crafts, football and much more.

During a busy schedule of exciting activities and workshops, the children enjoyed an educational trip to the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh where they learned about the life of Ulster-Scots during the 18th and 19th centuries. The climax of the week was an amazing Highland Games competition between each of the teams which gave the children an opportunity to try out archery, a haggis throw and caber toss, as well as many other fun Ulster-Scots activities. A parent commented: "We would like to thank the Reivers Folk Orchestra for

organising a fantastic week of Ulster-Scots activities for the children. There is no doubt there has been much excitement during the Summer School and this has created a unique opportunity for local children to learn about and of course, enjoy their Ulster-Scots culture and traditions."

A spokesperson from the Summer School commented: "We are delighted with the number of children involved in our Ulster-Scots Summer School and we would encourage all of the children to continue their involvement in Ulster-Scots culture by coming along and joining many of the various activities taking place in Reivers House."

Tuition classes will be commencing again in Reivers House in September and the Schomberg Society would welcome new faces to come along and get involved in fife, flute, snare and lambeg drum, highland dance and much more.

For more information, please contact Reivers House on 07753 222 553 or find them on Facebook: Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots



# From Dunkirk to victory in the desert

**On November 15, 1942, church bells rang out for the first time in two and a half years to celebrate Montgomery's victory at the second Battle of El Alamein.**

In his Mansion House speech five days prior Winston Churchill observed with remarkable prescience.

"This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

In the first Battle of El Alamein (July 1-27, 1942) the British 8th Army under the Tyrone-born Auchinleck halted Rommel's push to overrun Egypt and seized the Suez Canal. An impatient Churchill rewarded Auchinleck with dismissal. In August 1942, Winston Churchill appointed Montgomery commander of the 8th Army. Montgomery was originally Alan Brooke's choice rather than Churchill's. Churchill's preferred candidate, Lieutenant General W.H.E. Gott, was killed in an air crash so Brooke got his way. Montgomery was the type of commander Churchill normally deplored. Auchinleck had been sacked because he refused to be prodded into a premature offensive.

Montgomery refused to be hurried into mounting his own offensive and proved to be even slower than Auchinleck. Montgomery was a cautious, thorough strategist.

He refused to move until he had all the resources he demanded.

He even proclaimed that he would never undertake an operation unless he was certain that it would succeed.

By mid-October 1942 the 8th Army had 230,000 men and 1,230 gun-armed tanks ready for action, while the German-Italian forces numbered only 80,000 men, with only 210 tanks of comparable quality ready; and in air support the British enjoyed a superiority of 1,500 to 350. Montgomery enjoyed other advantages too.

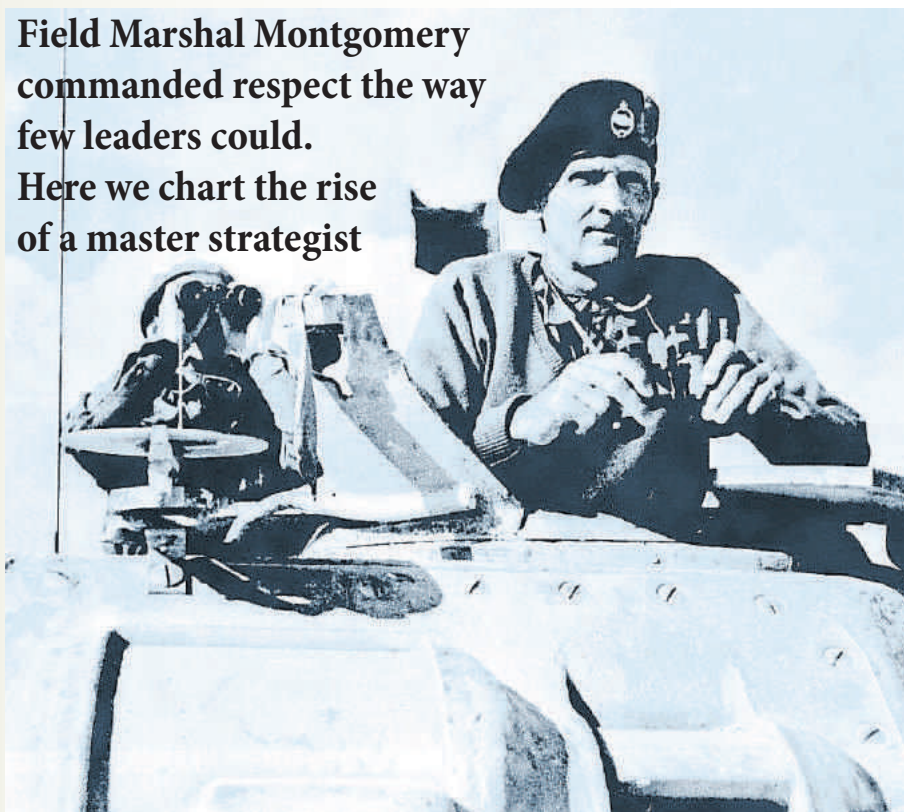
Since 23 September Rommel had been on sick leave in Austria. Although, 'the Desert Fox' returned to North Africa on 25 October at Hitler's request, he was absent from the war zone when battle commenced.

The German-Italian forces were critically short of fuel, largely the result of British submarines and torpedo bombers operating out of Malta.

Finally, Montgomery had insight into what the Germans were thinking, courtesy of ULTRA intelligence.

Montgomery began the second Battle of El Alamein with a giant artillery barrage and a diversionary attack in the south to draw Axis forces into the area so that the main attack in the north could create a gap for the British armoured divisions to pass through German minefields. Progress was slow however and Montgomery changed tactics, constantly switching the main emphasis of his attack to wear down Rommel's front line. The decisive phase of the battle came with an Australian attack along the coastal road on 26 October which diverted Axis forces while Montgomery launched a fresh

**Field Marshal Montgomery commanded respect the way few leaders could. Here we chart the rise of a master strategist**



attack further south which developed into a major tank battle.

By 3 November Rommel had only 30 serviceable tanks in action and on the following day he began organizing his withdrawal. By 6 November Montgomery had driven the Germans from Egypt back into Libya and inflicted a crushing blow to the Axis powers in North Africa.

Although born in London on November 17, 1887, Bernard Law Montgomery was of Ulster stock. The energetic Hugh Montgomery, laird of Braidstane in Ayrshire, who acquired a third of Con O'Neill's Clondeboy estate in 1605, was probably the earliest member of the family to settle in Ulster.

The future Field Marshal's branch of the family settled at Killaghtee, near Dunkineely, Co. Donegal, in 1628. Samuel Montgomery, an 18th-century ancestor, made a fortune in the wine trade in Londonderry and purchased New Park, a large estate near Moville on the Inishowen peninsula.

Montgomery's father, who became Bishop of Tasmania shortly after his birth, inherited the property.

Bishop Montgomery was one of the seven Anglican bishops to sign the Ulster Covenant in September 1912.

While Montgomery was evicting Rommel from North Africa his widowed mother lived in the family home at Moville across the Foyle from Londonderry. When Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of FDR, was visiting U.S. service personnel in Londonderry in November 1942, Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Roosevelt together attended the Civic Armistice Service in the city on November 11. Montgomery was educated at St. Paul's School, London, and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

His choice of a career as a soldier came as a complete surprise to his parents. He distinguished himself during the Great War, winning the DSO and almost dying of his wounds at Meteren, near Ypres, in October



1914.

The slaughter on the Somme and at Passchendaele made a profound impact on his mind.

Montgomery was highly critical of Douglas Haig's lack of imagination, which produced such carnage.

Montgomery served under Plumer, one of the outstanding commanders of the Great War, a meticulous planner, the architect of the victory at Messines in June 1917 and a man determined not to squander the lives of his troops, as his GSO 2 (Training). Plumer's three autumn attacks of 1917 were models of preparation, training and execution. In a letter, dated November 8, 1917, two days before the final assault on Passchendaele, Montgomery wrote to his mother, '... the whole art of war is gain your objective with as little loss of life as possible'.

Between the wars he attended the Staff College, Camberley, became an instructor there within five years, and was appointed chief instructor at the Staff College, Quetta. Though not a stickler for drill, he was a fanatic for efficiency and training.

He wrote a manual of infantry tactics, wholly disregarding the criticisms of his supervising committee.

His mantra was 'Poor planning means the unnecessary deaths of brave men', a lesson taught by his experiences of the Great



War. Early in the Second World War Montgomery commanded the 3rd Division in France and succeeded in impressing Alan Brooke, the future Chief of the Imperial General Staff, with his fighting retreat to Dunkirk, which contributed much to the salvation of the BEF. After Dunkirk Montgomery was given command of S.E. England in anticipation of a German invasion.

He galvanized the forces under his command by rigorous professional training, by realistic rehearsals and by winning the confidence of the men.

As commander of the 8th Army, Montgomery believed Rommel's success in the western desert was due to his rapport with his troops.

Hitherto, for most British troops generals were remote beings whom they would never encounter. Determined to see, hear from, and be seen and heard by ordinary soldiers, he embarked on a gruelling tour of the units under his command.

In August 1942 he acquired an Australian bush hat on which he affixed the badges of all the units he visited.

During the latter stages of El Alamein the bush hat was

displaced by the black beret of the Royal Tank Regiment, which Montgomery wore with his general's insignia alongside the badge of the RTR. This unorthodox headgear became his hallmark.

Montgomery's headgear incurred the wrath of King George VI who was obsessional about the minutiae of military dress.

In a private audience with the King Montgomery pre-empted the Monarch with a lecture on the importance of an army's morale and how his black beret created a bond between him and his troops.

Montgomery told the King that his beret was worth at least an army corps and that it was vital that he should continue to wear it to the end of the war.

Predictably, the subject of Montgomery's iconic beret was never raised again.



# Dungannon born Sister Nivedita 'who gave her all to India'

**T**his year marks both the 70th anniversary of the Indian subcontinent gaining independence and the 150th anniversary of the birth of a fervent Indian nationalist who was born in Dungannon and of Ulster-Scots ancestry.

Although both sides of her family were of Scottish descent and she was born in Dungannon, County Tyrone, Margaret Elizabeth Noble is almost universally described as Anglo-Irish. She usually regarded herself as being English. She was the daughter of Samuel Richmond Noble and Mary Isabel Hamilton. Objectively, she was an Ulster-Scot.

Her father was a Wesleyan Methodist clergyman who died when she was ten but not before convincing her that 'service to mankind is true service to God'. Although this is not an orthodox definition of Christianity, service to one's fellow man ought to be a natural outcome of the Christian life. She was brought up by her Hamilton grandfather who had Irish nationalist leanings. She was educated at a Church boarding school in London, where she acquired a love of learning. A desire to serve mankind, a sympathy for nationalism and a mission to educate may be said to give shape and coherence to her life's work.

She became a teacher and taught in Keswick, north Wales and in Chester. She was greatly influenced by the teaching methods of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827), the Swiss pedagogue, and Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852), the German educationalist and disciple of Pestalozzi. Pestalozzi's motto was 'Learning by head, hand and heart'. Illiteracy was widespread throughout eighteenth-century Switzerland but Pestalozzi has been credited with responsibility for its virtual elimination by 1830. Froebel contended that children have unique needs and capabilities and developed the concept of the 'Kindergarten'. She co-founded a school in Wimbledon which put their educational theories into practice.

A prolific writer, she contributed articles to various newspapers and periodicals



and made a name for herself in intellectual circles. She fell in love and was engaged to be married to a young Welsh man but unfortunately he died shortly afterwards. Having been brought up in a Christian home, she was active in church life but it would seem that Christianity failed to provide with the necessary consolation and peace of mind which she craved, prompting her to turn to the study of comparative religions. She met Swami Vivekananda, an extremely influential Hindu monk who played a major role in introducing Vedanta and Yoga to western society, in London in 1895 and travelled to India. There Swami Vivekananda gave her the name Nivedita (which means one who is dedicated to God) in March 1898. In November 1898 she started a school for girls in Calcutta which is now called Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Sister Nivedita Girls' High School. She

worked to improve the lives of Indian women of all castes.

She also became an exponent of a pan-Indian nationalism, travelled widely and lobbied MPs at Westminster to this end. As a teacher, Nivedita made strenuous efforts to inculcate the nationalist spirit in the minds of her students through all their daily activities.

She viewed India as single entity – 'one, indissoluble, indivisible' – and would have greatly deplored the partition of the subcontinent which accompanied independence in August 1947. Curiously for an Irish nationalist, she drew an interesting parallel between her conception of India

and the then United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In the UK she contended (as a unionist would) that the English, the Scots, the Irish and the Welsh unite in a shared or common identity of Britishness. She expected, possibly not very realistically, Punjabi and Bengali, Sikh, Muslim and Hindu to embrace a similar shared sense of what it might mean to be Indian.

Among her publications were *The Web of Indian Life* (1904) and *The Master as I Saw Him* (1910). The former is still apparently regarded in India as one of the few fair accounts of Hindu society written in English.

She died of dysentery, a fortnight before her 44th birthday. Her body was cremated in Darjeeling, and a memorial erected to her is inscribed: 'Here reposes Sister Nivedita, who gave her all to India'. Her many admirers included Ramsay MacDonald, the

first Labour Prime Minister, and Lady Minto, the wife of the Viceroy of India.

Swami Vivekananda had written 'A benediction to Sister Nivedita' which could be regarded as an elegy.

**'The mother's heart, the hero's will  
The sweetness of the southern breeze,  
The sacred charm and strength that dwell  
On Aryan altars, flaming, free;  
All these be yours and many more  
No ancient soul could dream before-  
Be thou to India's future son**

**The mistress, servant, friend in one.'**

Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengal polymath and first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, said: 'She was, in fact, a mother of the people'.

Gandhi had met her in met her in a Chowringhee mansion in 1902 and was taken aback by the splendour she surrounded herself with, describing her as a 'restless volatile woman used to a luxurious life-style'. Because of her volatility Gandhi felt there could be no point of contact between him and a person like her. Her attitude to violence was at best ambiguous. She was acquainted with Peter Kropotkin, the Russian anarchist, and wrote: 'Kropotkin knows, more than any man, what India needs. What I specially dwell on is the utter needlessness of governments.' What exactly this means is open to interpretation. Allegedly, Kropotkin convinced her of 'the futility of constitutional agitation and the need for armed revolution for gaining the freedom of the motherland.' Although Gandhi admired 'her overflowing love for Hinduism', it is possible to see why there was no meeting of minds between her and Gandhi.

In 1967, the centenary of her birth, India issued a commemorative stamp in her honour. Sister Nivedita continues to be highly esteemed in India. In 2015, a new Government Degree College at Hastings House, Alipur, Kolkata was named after her. The Ulster History Circle has erected a blue plaque on 16 Scotch Street, Dungannon, County Tyrone to commemorate her life.

## Heart of down Highland dancers

Heart of down Highland dancers held a Parents Evening on June 16 2017. The dancers gave a display of Highland dancing and received their awards and certificates for the exams they took earlier in the year.





# RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



## Blackberry and Pecan Bounty Squares (gluten free recipe)

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups gluten free oats (quick cooking oats)
- 1 cup unrefined coconut oil (melted)
- ¾ cups cup brown rice flour (ground pecans)
- ¼ cup pumpkin flour (ground pumpkin seeds)
- ¼ cup coconut flour
- 2 Tbsp flax seed flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp real vanilla extract
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp sea salt
- 1 (10 oz) jar blackberry preserves (or fruit spread)
- ¾ cup unsweetened coconut
- ½ cup pecans (chopped)



### HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
2. Line a 9x13' baking dish with parchment paper to make it easy to slice.
3. Combine the pecan flour, oats, pumpkin flour and rice flour, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Stir in the coconut oil and the vanilla and mix together until fully incorporated.
4. Press the mixture onto bottom of dish. Spread the fruit spread on top. Sprinkle top with coconut and pecans.
5. Bake for 18-20 minutes until the crust is golden brown and the coconut is toasted.
6. Let the squares cool for 1 hour before slicing.



### Jam-packed twelfth for Michelle Johnston School of Highland Dance

The Michelle Johnston School of Highland Dance had an amazing time performing at celebrations across the country over the twelfth season. Meanwhile the 11th of July saw the senior dancers of the group performing at Rathfriland Cultural Evening alongside live musicians, Bernagh.





## Shining a light on the world stage

**Bright Lights dancers have had a very successful summer, enjoying championship success all over the world.**

Dancer James Blackwood represented the group in July at the 11th International Highland Dancing Festival in Gosford, New South Wales, Australia. The only dancer from Northern Ireland to take part, he was third runner-up in the age group 18-20 championship and had the privilege of being the country flag bearer in the opening ceremony.

Closer to home in August dancer Jasmine Ng from Antrim made history at the Ulster Confined Championships in Londonderry. Jasmine won the adult title making her the first dancer to have won all three groups - she won the juvenile title in 2011 and 2012, the junior title in 2013 and now the adult title in 2017.

Jasmine was joined on the podium by James Blackwood who was first runner-up and dancing also runs in her family as her sister Miah was second runner up in the Juvenile group.



## Strong performance from Sarah Graham School



**Sarah Graham School of Highland Dance travelled up to Londonderry for the recent the Ulster confined championships.**

Sarah Graham came third in the adult championship and

came first overall in the Premier Nationals. Nikita Verschuur came second in the Juvenile Championship and came first overall in the pre-Championship.

# Flooding halts Ulster-Scots project in Newtownstewart

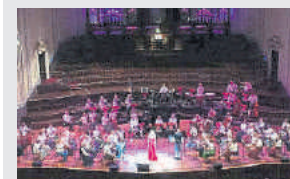
**The recent flooding in the northwest has caused havoc for an Ulster-Scots project in Newtownstewart.**

The Somme Memorial Hall is the base for Derry and Raphoe Action who are funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency under their Community Impact programme. The hall is also a local hub for Ulster-Scots activity including Highland Dance, piping, drumming and fiddle tuition. Regrettably the Mourne River broke its banks and caused serious flooding to the hall. Irene Spratt the Ulster-Scots Project Officer was met by a sea of mud and glar in the hall, destroying the office, kitchen, toilets main hall and storage facilities.

The road outside the building was completely destroyed and impassable. The Derry and Raphoe Action office will temporary move to Ardstraw Parish Hall in Dublin Street, Newtownstewart. The project officer plans to locate the activities in other venues until the Somme Memorial Hall is refurbished.



## Scottish flair to light up Waterfront



Scotland's National Fiddle Orchestra looks forward to welcoming you to another fabulous concert following last year's hugely popular and acclaimed performance. The music will be sometimes fast and sometimes furious, along with haunting slow airs and lilting melodies... in fact all of the magical ingredients which make an SFO performance so unforgettable. Tickets for the show, to be held at the Belfast Waterfront, cost £23,£19, £14 (Ages 16 and under £5). Visit [www.waterfront.co.uk](http://www.waterfront.co.uk) for more information or call 028 9033 4400.



# Antrim championships reach new heights at Glenarm Castle

**T**he County Antrim Pipe Band & Drum Major Championships, organised by the County Antrim Section of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI), were recently held at Glenarm Castle.

The Chieftain of the Gathering was Lord Antrim who also presented the prizes. The contest was part of the Dalriada Festival and was held on the opening day of the Festival's main event - the Highland Games.

#### The main winners on the day were:

Grade 1 & Grade 2 - Mannorcunningham Pipe Band, Grade 3A - Drumlough, Grade 3B and Grade 4A - McNeillstown Pipe Band, Grade 4B - Gransha Pipe Band.

#### The main drum major winners were:

Novice Grade - Leanne Crooks (Syerla Pipe Band), Junior Grade - Jamie Cupples (Aughintober), Juvenile Grade - Emma Barr (Field Marshal Montgomery) and Adult Grade - Alicia Dickson Hamilton BEM (Matt Boyd Memorial Pipe Band).



**RSPBANI (County Antrim Section):** Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland) County Antrim Section Office Bearers, pictured with the four nations strongmen at the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships & Highland Games at Glenarm Castle. From left to right: Winston Pinkerton (RSPBANI President), Alistair McCleery (Secretary), Colin Cupples (Assistant Secretary), Connor McCleery (Trophy Officer) and Gary Wilson (Announcer/Commentator)



Freddie Carlisle, Ben McKeown and Pipe Major John Fittis pictured after receiving the prizes best bass, best drums and M&D at the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships & Highland Games.



Alicia Dickson Hamilton BEM (Matt Boyd Memorial Pipe Band) pictured receiving the Adult Grade Drum Major first place trophy from Lord Antrim (Chieftain of the gathering) at the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships & Highland Games



Pipe Major John Fittis (left in front row) and Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band pictured looking pleased with the band's performance as they leave the competition arena at the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships & Highland Games at Glenarm Castle.



Pipe Major James Knox (left in front row) and Gransha Pipe Band pictured leaving the competition arena at the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships & Highland Games at Glenarm Castle.



# Dalriada Festival raises the bar once again

**S**et in the beautiful surroundings of Glenarm Castle, the annual Dalriada Festival featured what is believed to be Northern Ireland's first ever wife-carrying competition, live music of various genres across eight stages, the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships and a celebrity guest.

Children's television star Peppa Pig flew into Northern Ireland especially for the event to make her way to Glenarm for the annual festival.

Some 18,000 people came each day of the main festival weekend to enjoy some Ulster Scots music, cookery, dancing and special events across this very uniquely Ulster-Scots location.

Staff from the Ulster Scots Agency and Ulster Scots Community Network were on hand to distribute literature and talk with festival goers.

Glenarm Castle is the home of Viscount and Viscountess Dunluce and their family. The present castle has been in the McDonnell family since it was first built in 1636. The McDonnells have been in Glenarm for nearly 600 years and the Estate has been in the family for 400 years.

Before taking up full time residence at Glenarm the family lived most notably at Dunluce Castle.

In the 16th Century when Sorley Boy McDonnell came over from Scotland to consolidate McDonnell territories in both



Ireland and Scotland, his main base became Dunluce Castle. Dunluce Castle is one of the most iconic monuments in Northern Ireland situated as it is rather precariously on the craggy and treacherous Antrim coast and it provides a very important chapter in the history of the McDonnells of Antrim and North East Ulster.

It was Sorley Boy's grandson, the 2nd Earl of Antrim, and his wife who finally decided to abandon Dunluce for Glenarm Castle. In 1639 as they were waiting for dinner one evening the kitchen, along with kitchen staff, fell into the sea. This is thought to have been the final straw.

Although the 1st Earl of Antrim had already built a fine house at Glenarm, this was burnt down in the 1640s by a Scots Covenanter army, so even though they still visited a wing of the house, the Antrim family based itself at a house near Dunluce called Ballymagarry until Glenarm Castle was rebuilt by the 5th Earl in 1756.

## 72nd All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships at Lurgan Park

**L**urgan Park once again came alive with the music of the pipe bands when the prestigious All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships were held in the picturesque park for the first time on Saturday July 1.

The championships rotate each year between a venue in the Republic and Northern Ireland. It is one of the key outings in the pipe band calendar and came hot on the heels of the successful Craigavon & District Pipe Band and Drum Major Championships held in the park just two weeks earlier (Saturday 17 June).

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.

About 49 pipe bands and 45 drum majors from all over Ireland, North and South, competed including Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, St Laurence O'Toole, McDonald Memorial Band (Dro-more) and Battlehill Pipe Band (Portadown). Bands from the Irish Pipe Band Association also attended including New Ross and District Pipe Band (Wexford), Thiepval Memorial Pipe Band (Donegal) and Manorcunningham Pipe Band (Donegal). The current Victorian and Australian Champion School Pipe Band, Scotch College Pipes and Drums travelled from Australia to compete, showcasing their melodic talents with a wonderful spectrum of music. The Chieftain of the Day was Alderman



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



Pipe Sergeant Sonya Rooney (McDonald Memorial Band) and her daughter, Billie and son, Samuel pictured after the band was crowned 'Grade 4A All Ireland Champions'

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, a staged area with cultural music, highland dancing, face painting, balloon modelling and much more.

The main winners on the day were: Grade 1 - Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band and the runner-up was St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band.

Grade 2 - Manorcunningham Pipe Band (Donegal), Grade 3A - Marlacoo and District Pipe Band, Grade 3B - Quinn Memorial Pipe Band, Grade 4A - McDonald Memorial Band and Grade 4B - Kildog Pipe Band. The main drum major winners were: Novice Grade - Louis Anderson (Crozier Memorial), Junior Grade - Jamie Cupples (Aughinto-ber), Juvenile Grade - Kathryn McKeown (Battlehill) and Adult Grade - Jason Price (Ravara).



## WEANS' WURLD

Below are some  
Ulster-Scots words -  
how many can you  
find in the word  
search?

Tonguin (Scolding)

Teasle (Tangle)

Cope (Tip Over)

Brae (Hill)

Champ (Mash, Pound)

Chugh (Tough)

Clabber (Mud)

Fornenst (Opposite)

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

## Killyleagh Castle *Places to visit*

**KILLYLEAGH CASTLE, County Down, is one of the most romantic houses in Northern Ireland, its exotic skyline of turrets and conical roofs dominating the adjacent village and countryside for miles around.**

There are claims that it has Norman late-12th century origins, but the house today is basically 17th century, much altered and enlarged from 1847-51.

The grounds are an essential part of the setting of the picturesque house and its geographical association with Killyleagh. In the early 17th century the house built by Sir James Hamilton, 1st Viscount Claneboye, of which a tower survives, had a large attached deer park, which seems to have fallen into disuse by the 18th century, if not earlier.

There are formal garden features associated with this early house and/or with the improved late 17th century house, as enlarged in 1666 by Henry, 2nd Earl of Clanbrassil. This includes some of the terraces or hanging gardens on the steep slopes of the south and south west side of the house, together with formal canals or fish ponds. These terraces were evidently remodelled and enlarged in the Victorian era. The grounds are not extensive and no garden of note is maintained at the present time, but fine mature trees grace the surroundings. The productive areas are no longer kept. The extensive entrance screen encircles the area of the former bawn. The property was subject to ownership



litigation, and the resulting judgement of Solomon, saw the bawn divided for more than a century; the castle was retained by the Hamilton family and the gatehouse went to the Blackwood family (later Lords Dufferin). The gatehouse was then rebuilt as a tall Georgian block, enlarged ca 1830; while in the early 19th century the main Hamilton castle fell into decay. The feud was ended by the 5th Lord Dufferin, afterwards 1st Marquess of Dufferin and

Ava, after he inherited in 1841. He returned the property to the castle owner, Archibald Rowan-Hamilton, and as a further gesture removed the old Georgian house and built, in 1886, an appropriate baronial gatehouse to the design of Benjamin Ferry, then employed at Claneboye. He married the daughter of Archibald Rowan-Hamilton, who afterwards himself employed, between 1847-51, Charles Lanyon to enlarge and remodel the house, giving it its present appearance.

## the **Ulster-Scot** COMPETITION

### WIN Jim Lindsay CDs

Two CDs by musician Jim Lindsay – 'The Journeys' and 'In my Ulster Home' – could be yours if you answer the following question:



### Q. WHICH FAMOUS ENGLISH ARCHITECT REDESIGNED KILLYLEAGH CASTLE BETWEEN 1847-51?

Email your answer to [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) with "Jim Lindsay" in the subject line, providing your name, address and telephone number.

CLOSING DATE: **October 27**