



Burns Night guaranteed to hit all the right notes



Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain will front this year's Burns Week concert in the Waterfront Hall, with plenty of events set for across the Province. Full coverage on pages 8, 9 and 10



KIRKNARRA SCHOOL OF DANCE
IMPRESS ABERDEEN JUDGES

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STEPHEN CHAPMAN AWARDED BEM

PAGE 3



FROM RAPHOE TO RED SQUARE

PAGE 7

Fair faa ye



Welcome to the January 2018 edition of the Ulster-Scot.

The New Year has been quick to come round and the Ulster Scots Agency are deep in planning for Belfast Burns Week which will launch on January 22, culminating in the Burns Concert with Phil Cunningham, Aly Bain and the Ulster Orchestra on January 27. More about this on pages 8, 9 and 10.

The Ulster-Scots Agency would like to congratulate dancer James Blackwood on his recent UK Alliance Teachers of Dancing – Associates Certificate in Highland Dancing. James is the first male Highland dancer teacher in Northern Ireland – well done James! Find out more about this on page 7.

Schomberg Society had a very productive Christmas with both their 'Evening of Ulster-Scots' celebration and FUSE FM broadcast going down a storm in the local area, read all about it on page 14.

Also in this edition, you can read more about the important work of the Ulster Scots Community Network and what the network can provide to you and your community group. You can read more about it on page 4. 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

The Ulster-Scot

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Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

A busy time for Kirknarra School of Dance

The winter season has been a busy period for the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance. Kirknarra hosted their annual Highland Dance Competition in October, which attracted almost ninety dancers from Highland Dance schools all across Northern Ireland.

The competition proved to be a huge success with top Highland Dance judges flying in from Aberdeen to adjudicate. With stiff competition, Kirknarra did not let themselves down at their own competition with many of their own primary, beginner, novice and senior dancers winning medals and trophies.

One of the highlights on the day for Kirknarra was their own dancer Kasey Nicholson winning the overall trophy for Highland and National sections and also bringing home the overall Kirknarra cup for best dancer. Not to be outdone, Kirknarra Dancer Emma Spiers also won the Intermediate category.

The Kirknarra Troupe finished off their competitions for the year at the Clan Davidson Christmas competition in Belfast where competing for the first time at the age of four, Kirknarra dancer Ella Houston came home with first places in all of her dances and not to be outdone, one of our senior dancers, Lucy Johnston won both Highland and National Overall trophies in her groups. All of the Kirknarra competitors brought home medals, with some even bringing back cups and trophies to add to the collection. As well as competitions, Kirknarra has been in demand over the winter season performing at many local events including the Schomberg Society's Evening of Ulster-Scots Celebration Concert and also at various events during Fusefm Mourne's Christmas broadcast. Looking ahead to 2018, the Dance Team



are excited to be performing at Schomberg's annual Burns Night celebrations in February, as well as other local Burns celebrations and upcoming Ulster-Scots events. A spokesperson from Kirknarra

commented: "We are very proud of how our dance team have continued to progress. From competitions to dance displays, the dance troupe always keep the flag flying high for Ulster-Scots here in the Kingdom of Mourne and are a fantastic asset to promote the best of Highland Dance and Ulster-Scots."

"Kirknarra hosts tuition classes in Reivers House in Kilkeel every Thursday and Friday evening and new faces are more than welcome to come along."

"Kirknarra would also like to record their thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued support with our tuition classes." For more information, please contact Reivers House on 07753 222 553 or find them on Facebook at Kirknarra School of Dance.

CLICK ON THIS...

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

For Ulster-Scots news -
www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news

To sign up for the Ulster-Scots E-Newsletter - visit 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 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

deedle

Meaning:
To proceed slowly on a bicycle or car

Senior drum major among those honoured

The Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh, councillor Tim Morrow, has congratulated all the local people named in the 2018 New Year Honours List.

Five people from the area were awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to their community in a variety of fields, including sport, music and youth work.

They were Jack Beattie, Honorary President of Lisburn City Swimming Club for services to the development of sport in Lisburn; Stephen Chapman (pictured), a senior drum major from Hillsborough for services to music in Northern Ireland; Robert Fisher from Hillsborough, for services to the Northern Ireland Prison Service Pipes and Drums Band; William James Keith Fleming from Lisburn, for services to young people through the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigades and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Margaret McDonald, president and former captain of 40th Dunmurry GB (Dunmurry Presbyterian Church), for serv-

ices to young people through the Dunmurry Girls' Brigade and to the community in Lisburn.

Meanwhile, Margaret Ann Shields from Dromore, an Administrative Assistant, Ministry of Defence, has been awarded the MBE for services to defence.

Congratulating all the recipients, Councillor Morrow said: "I was delighted to learn that a number of locals have been named in the New Year Honours List. "With over 100 people from Northern Ireland being honoured, we are fortunate to have so many great people in our community getting the recognition they deserve. It is encouraging to see their achievements being rewarded with such a prestigious accolade and what a wonderful start to a new year."

He added: "To each of the recipients I would like to say a personal thank you for everything you do for your local community.

"Whether it is for sport, music, the voluntary sector or community groups, your commitment and significant contribution is to be admired and I hope that you take great joy and pride in making the New Year Honours List."



Burns weekend at Harvey's Point

A taste of Scotland will be reeling its way to Lough Eske on Saturday January 27 when Burns Night is celebrated at Harvey's Point, when patrons can enjoy two nights' bed & breakfast which included a Burns supper gala dinner and workshops.

And the word on the street is: "If you haven't made a reservation already, make one now because it's going to be a weekend hooley to remember!"

On Friday, you can join in the fun at a night of ceilidh dancing and a little sing-along. After a hearty breakfast enjoy a lovely Saturday afternoon at dance and poetry workshops. That evening Richard Hurst will welcome guests at the Burns Night Banquet. After feasting on the traditional Scottish meal of haggis, potatoes and turnips, among other tasty tipples (including whisky), guests will have a chance to take part in some Scottish ceilidh dancing which is always great craic.

This special Burns weekend at Harvey's Point (rates start from €249 per person sharing in an executive suite) includes two nights in a palatial suite, fabulous breakfast by the lakeside each morning, Ceilidh dancing and a Burns Supper gala dinner on Saturday evening.

To book contact Harvey's Point, Lough Eske, Donegal (phone +353-74-9722208 or email: stay@harveyspoint.com)

For more on events celebrating Robert Burns, turn to pages 8-9.

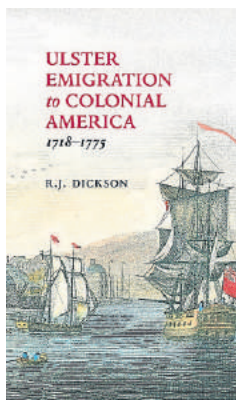
Popular book back in stock

First published in 1966, R. J. Dickson's *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718-1775* remains the acknowledged work of scholarship on the eighteenth-century movement of families and individuals from the north of Ireland to the New World.

This important book provided for the first time a balanced and professional study of the entire emigration phenomenon and carefully examined the economic, social and political context of emigration.

This 50th anniversary edition includes a specially written introduction by Dr Patrick Fitzgerald of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies in which he considers recent developments in the study of emigration from Ulster. In reviewing *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718-1775*, Dr Fitzgerald acknowledges "the enduring debt we owe the author for his professional, careful and often painstaking historical research".

For more information go to: www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/ulster-emigration-to-colonial-america-1718-1775



Tracing your Scots-Irish and Irish Ancestors

Celebrate 300 years and more of migration, and mark the tercentenary of the 1718 migration with visits to sites and places synonymous with the migration of Ulster and Irish families to the New Worlds (North America, Australasia, South Africa etc).

During our seven day conference you will be able to shape your own experiences by choosing to either research in the different archives in Belfast and Dublin or join our staff on daily excursions through Ireland's beautiful landscape to some of its most historic sites.

Trips during our 2018 programme will see you embark on a guided tour through the Bann Valley, the area in Ulster most directly associated with the 1718 migration; walk on the walls and explore the historic port city of Derry~Londonderry, one of the finest examples of a walled city in Europe; uncover the stories of some of the earliest people to travel from Ulster to Australia at the Down Museum; visit the Ulster American Folk Park which is dedicated to the story of emigration from Ulster to North America in the 18th and

19th centuries; as well as delving deeper into the past with visits to the Hill of the O'Neill in Dungannon to learn about the 'Flight of the Earls' in 1607, when two of Ulster's leading lords left the island for Continental Europe, never to return and Barons Court, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Abercorn whose ancestors migrated from Scotland over 400 years ago.

These tours are also enlivened with visits to other renowned historical sites of interest across the island of Ireland as you will journey into pre-history to marvel at the UNESCO World Heritage site at Newgrange and look out onto the North Atlantic Ocean from the stones of the Giant's Causeway.

Avail now of our early bird registration offer of only £899.99 (GBP) giving a saving of £50 on the full price of £949.99 (GBP).

Places can fill up fast so reserve your place now, with a deposit of only £299.99 per person.

Go to: www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn/ for more information

Irish Genealogy Essentials: A Family History Course

Irish Genealogy Essentials: A Family History Course embraces the unique nature of Irish and Scot-Irish genealogical research.

It is the most comprehensive Irish-focused genealogy course offered in the UK and Ireland. Delivered by the Ulster Historical Foundation's experienced and expert staff in Belfast's old city centre - the historic Cathedral Quarter, this course will include a week of engaging genealogy classes complimented with a day and a half of guided research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. It is ideal if you:

- Have no experience with genealogy or family history research
 - Have some experience with genealogical research, but want to develop your skills and knowledge further
 - Consider yourself a more experienced genealogical researcher who wants to learn new techniques and learn about lesser known sources
- Nineteenth and early twentieth century census returns; church

and civil records; Griffith's valuation as well as wills and testamentary papers all represent key resources in any attempt to trace your Irish and Scots-Irish lineage. All of these sources (as well as other topics) will be covered by our staff who combined, have some sixty years' experience dealing with Irish family history research.

In just five days the knowledge you gain will help you get to grips with research techniques, archives and genealogical sources in Ireland; provide you with the information and skills to further explore your family history and help you find your elusive Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. If you are interested in family history research and live on the island of Ireland or if you are planning to visit in the future, Irish Genealogy Essentials is an enjoyable and rewarding programme to include into your future plans.

The next course runs from February 5 to 9.

For more information or to register for this course go to: www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/

How USCN continues to uphold and enhance the Ulster-Scots tradition



Based in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast are the **Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN)**, who were set up in 1995 to promote awareness and understanding of the Ulster-Scots tradition in language, literature, music and dance.

USCN work to highlight the contribution of the Ulster-Scots community to the development of life in Northern Ireland, the border counties of the Republic of Ireland, and the Ulster-Scots diaspora and seek to deliver services which preserve, promote and develop Ulster-Scots heritage and culture in all its forms.

The Ulster-Scots Community Network's vision is of a confident and vibrant Ulster-Scots community which is valued and respected within the wider society. They aim to:

- Promote and safeguard the status of, and respect for, the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture
- Build up the sustainability, capacity and infrastructure of the Ulster-Scots community
- Foster an inclusive, wider understanding of the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture in a way that will contribute towards building a strong and shared community

UMBRELLA GROUP

USCN acts as an umbrella body, with a membership of almost 600 individual groups who, at various levels, take part in and deliver a wide range of Ulster-Scots activity.

Examples of member groups include Ulster-Scots societies, community groups, rural development groups, bands, Loyal Orders, schools and churches.

They are committed to promoting the interests of the groups - supporting them and helping to build their skills and working

to promote their various activities.

Alongside the skills building they also work to raise awareness of the Ulster-Scots community through publications, roadshows, events and presentations to groups across Ulster.

They also staff the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter which provide the opportunity to reinforce the message that the Ulster-Scots story is an integral part of Northern Ireland's rich cultural heritage, as well as allowing people to engage with a range of visitors from across the world including many from the Ulster-Scots/Scotch-Irish diaspora who are searching out their roots.

STRATEGIC ROLE

The Ulster-Scots Community Network's goal is to work in a strategic way for the development of the Ulster-Scots sector. They work directly in supporting and developing a wide variety of groups who in turn deliver grassroots Ulster-Scots activities. They assist these groups by helping to ensure they are building and maintaining sound organisations – USCN can help to develop policies and procedures for good governance as well as offering tailored advice to their group.

USCN also provides and delivers specialist subject advice e.g. master classes in music, schools workshops, training and information events etc. They are committed to further enhancing the infrastructure of the Ulster-Scots community.

Practical examples of this work include:

- Provide guidance and advice regarding governance arrangements including creation of relevant policies – Safeguarding, Constitution, Financial etc.
- Assist member groups to engage/comply with new Charity Commission regulations
- Deliver an Access NI service to USCN member groups at no cost to the groups –

last year saw over 100 Access NI certificates being provided.

EDUCATION ROLE

One of the key roles of USCN is the promotion of Ulster-Scots across the community. To that end they research and produce a range of historical and cultural leaflets and accompanying displays. Topics are targeted to build, reinforce and consolidate awareness, understanding and pride in the Ulster-Scots identity.

These are extensively distributed and used throughout Ulster and provide a valuable resource to member groups.

Staff also provide and deliver a wide range of presentations/lectures on a range of Ulster-Scots topics – last year they delivered over 150 of them.

The USCN Education Officer, as well as other staff, work widely with local schools and community organisations to deliver Ulster-Scots history, culture, language and music to a wide social mix, both within the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre and in community venues across the country. They have also developed a number of Open College Network Northern Ireland Accredited Courses that provide certification and accreditation to those who complete the various elements of the module. These courses are Level 1 & Level 2 in Ulster-Scots Identity and a Level 1 Course in B flat Flute Musicianship.

These talks, presentations or courses are offered to groups free of charge, so if you are interested in any of them, let them know and they can work out the details to suit your group.

DEVELOPMENT ROLE

Across the year USCN also work with groups across Ulster.

Development officers are in contact with groups to see what their issues are, what

they can help them with by providing accurate information and guidance on a range of topics.

USCN look to provide accurate information and advice to groups particularly around funding opportunities and over the years have helped groups within the sector access several million pounds of funding for their activities.

Last year saw the Network help groups to secure over £650,000.

As well as delivering the information sessions to groups about Ulster-Scots Agency funding for music and dance tuition and Arts Council funding for musical instruments for bands, they also provide a checking service to groups to help them have the best chance to secure funding for their projects.

All of these services are provided free to member groups.

LOBBYING ROLE

USCN continues to actively promote Ulster-Scots culture at various levels in political and civic society. Ongoing relations with relevant funders and voluntary and statutory bodies ensure the interests of the Ulster-Scots community are upheld and considered.

The network also responds to a range of relevant consultations for and on behalf of its member groups as they feel it is important that their community take the time to make their views known rather than simply complaining about issues afterwards. If you want to become a member of the network, arrange a talk, or find out more about their publications or events then you can give us a ring on (028) 9043 6710, email us at info@ulster-scots.com, or alternatively go on to their Facebook page or website at www.ulster-scots.com (and all publications are available to download on the website).

A round-up of events at The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre hosted a range of superb dance, music and cultural events throughout 2017, and 2018 looks like it's going to be even better...



PIPING & DRUMMING MASTERCLASS

A Piping and Drumming Masterclass recently lit up the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre (DUSC) and the Corn Exchange. Over 40 participants from a range of ages came along to meet up with a range of skilled tutors aiming to improve their skills in Snare & Tenor drumming, as well as Highland and Small Pipe workshops. The tutors included: Alan MacPherson - highland pipes, Grahame Harris - Highland Pipes, Ian Burrows - smallpipes, Russell Tinny - snare, Andrew Shilliday - snare and Kerry Doherty - tenor. Participants came from across Northern Ireland, Donegal and the border counties and they even had three pipers fly in from the Wirral and Anglesey to improve their skills.



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CEILIDH

The DUSC hosted a Scottish Country Dance Ceilidh recently with music provided by Risin' Stour, with the dancers coming from the Belfast branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. The tunes were played, the calls and moves explained and demonstrated and the dancers all had a great time on the night. Another will follow in late February/ early March.

THE WEAVER POETS & WINTER

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre recently played host to an evening exploring the work of the Weaver Poets and others with the theme of Winter. This event saw a panel comprising Dr Ivan Herbison, Dr Carol Baraniuk, John Erskine, local historian Laura Spence and the USCN's very own Matthew Warwick give recitals from a range of poets who have written on the theme of winter in Ulster-Scots. Highlight of the night was John Erskine's transposition of Horace's Vides Ut Alta from Rome to Slaimish, and the replacement of

Sabine wine with 12-year-old Bushmills.

WINTER EVENTS SERIES

November and December also saw a series of talks about Ulster Beliefs & Customs, Folklore & Superstitions and the Border Reivers with Laura Spence delivering the talks to audiences here in DUSC. They also hosted a bread making demonstration with Fred Strickland discussing a variety of local breads and showing how they were made. They also held two open practice events with Willie Hill delivering a session on the Lambeg and Fife and Ballygowan Concert Flute Band hosting an open rehearsal in the centre.

EARLY 2018 PREVIEW

This year will see a series of events being held in the DUSC. Ulster-Scots Community Network have arranged a

number of open practice sessions with local bands. Drumlough Pipe Band will be in the Centre on February 13 with Ballyduff Silver Band on February 26. Other sessions will be added to that calendar shortly. Week commencing February 19 will be a busy one as they hold their inaugural Craft Week. Across the week they'll have a range of professional and local artists and tutors in the centre delivering workshops and teaching new skills to those interested. Monday, February 19 sees Bob Johnston teaching Basket Weaving, with Needlepoint on the Wednesday, and the Friday will see four craft sessions including pilk painting, decoupage and Polish paper craft amongst others. There will be events on the Tuesday and Thursday too including quilting, with a final Craft Fair & Sale on the Saturday in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre. They'll be offering tables to local crafters

with the fees for the tables donated to a local charity. February into March will also see another evening of Ulster-Scots poetry with a panel and others providing readings from a range of poets and writers in Ulster-Scots. There will also be a couple of sessions looking at the First World War and the War poets, as well as some living history displays with artefacts in the centre. A hosting a cookery demonstration with local celebrity chef Paula McIntyre will be held in early March. They're anticipating that this one will be popular so keep your eyes peeled for further details on the USCN & Ulster-Scots Agency pages. Saturday, March 24 they'll be hosting a Scottish Ceilidh Band Masterclass with tutors from Scotland teaching fiddle and accordion for those looking to hone their skills, and March will also see another Ceilidh event to which everyone will be welcome.



History of Palace Barracks brings out the ties with Scottish Regiments

November saw the launch of a fascinating new book by local historian Robin Masefield entitled *The History of Palace Barracks (to 1969) and Holywood as a Garrison Town*.

This book tells the story of Palace Barracks from their completion in 1897 through to the start of the Troubles. It is vividly told, drawing on many Holywood residents' own recollections, and a range of original sources, together with over 250 images. The research for the book has also involved Regimental Journals, soldiers' own accounts, and contemporary magazine and newspaper articles, to provide the first-ever comprehensive history of Palace Barracks, now the oldest Barracks in use in Northern Ireland.

Three of the Regiments stationed in Palace Barracks in its first 30 years were Scottish. The Royal Scots had hardly arrived in 1899 before all except the boy soldiers were shipped out to fight the Boers in South Africa. In 1912, the King's Own Scottish Borderers were called upon to assist the Police in quelling sectarian disturbances in Harland and Wolff, while the Highland Light Infantry were able to focus on their training, 'luckily unaffected by the General Strike' in 1926. Each Regiment had a significant impact on the town of Holywood, for example swelling attendance at the local Presbyterian churches.

As the author, Robin Masefield, says: "The history is so rich - pathos and humour runs alongside tales of endurance and heart-warming stories. The developmental journey of the Army in this time has been extraordinary. Early in the 20th century it was as much about bayonet-fighting and even donkey polo, as serious training for war."

"It is perhaps no surprise that almost all of the 25 different Regiments who served here in the peace-time years up to 1969, complained about the weather! But they all appreciated Ulster hospitality and the welcome they found in Holywood. A lot of young soldiers found romance on the shores of Belfast Lough and many's the family that resulted."

"Holywood could justly have been described as a garrison town up to the start of the Troubles. Both the records and the reminiscences testify to the huge amount of interaction between the military and civilian settlements - formal, social, commercial and sporting."

The book will appeal both to those with an interest in military history and to those who want to know more about the development of Holywood and the relationship with the Barracks.

Robin adds: "This year is the 120th anniversary of the completion of the Barracks in the grounds of a former Bishop's palatial residence, from which the name comes. And recently we had the



The King's Own Scottish Borderers soldiers keeping the peace at Harland and Wolff in 1912



Scottish soldiers at the Holywood maypole c. 1902/1903



"The history is so rich - pathos and humour runs alongside tales of endurance and heart-warming stories. The developmental journey of the Army in this time has been extraordinary. Early in the 20th century it was as much about bayonet-fighting and even donkey polo, as serious training for war."

- Robin Masefield

rededication of the Holywood war memorial, which has the names of over 100 men who gave their lives in the Great War." As Robert Adair, the Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council noted at the launch of the book on November 16, Holywood and District has a proud record of support for the Armed Services. This book is the latest in Robin Masefield's trilogy of North Down local history - he has previously published *Twixt Bay and Burn*, a *History of Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn* (in 2011) and *Be Careful, Don't Rush, Celebrating 150 Years of Train Travel between Holywood and Bangor* (in 2015). *The History of Palace Barracks (to 1969) and Holywood as a Garrison Town* is now on sale in local bookshops for just £10, or from www.colourpointbooks.co.uk. All profits from sales of the book will go to two military charities - the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), and to Sandes Soldiers and Airmen's Centres.

From Raphoe to Red Square

By Victoria Catterson

After being involved in pipe bands for 16 years, in September 2015 I began lessons with Andy McGregor.

Just one year later, I found myself in Lorient, Brittany participating in Festival Interceltique de Lorient playing my bagpipes. And a year after that, I returned to Lorient before setting off to Moscow to take part in the Spasskaya Tower or 'Kremlin Military Tattoo'.

We were performing as part of the Celtic Massed Pipes and Drums under the direction of David Johnston, founder and pipe major. I was approached by a production company who wanted to film a documentary for BBC NI on our trip to Moscow. He filmed both the private and band lives of myself and Raphoe sisters, Robyn and Chloe Freen. I'd joined Raphoe Pipe Band at the end of 2016, and so we were the trio that were chosen to be featured. However the night we were set to head off, we were stuck in Londonderry for over an hour due to extensive flooding. Sadly by the time we'd got there, we'd missed our flights. Thankfully the airline arranged for alternative flights and we flew in three groups. Luckily, our programme commitment meant that we were on the first plane out of Belfast. We had over six hours to wait in Heathrow, and finally made it to Moscow in time for breakfast in the hotel.

After a shower and some pancakes, we headed to Red Square for a twelve hour rehearsal with no sleep.

This was the band's first rehearsal together. The standard was unexpectedly high, and many were impressed by our performances over the nine shows. Not only had we performed on Red Square in front of St Basil's

Victoria Catterson, Chole Freen and Robyn Freen in Moscow
Picture courtesy of BBC NI



Cathedral but we also got to perform at a Railway Station, Poklonnaya Hill, outside Gorky Park while groups also got to go on live TV and radio. We even got to tour The Kremlin.

As part of the BBC show Robyn, Chloe and I got to sightsee around Moscow while our fellow musicians paraded the streets. We

visited Gorky Park, studying statues and memorials before stopping by the subway station. Thanks to the show, I also got to lay a flower at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier outside the walls of The Kremlin.

Thankfully all our performances went well and after each show we would start the long bus journey back to our hotel - many of

us would socialise into the wee hours with people from all over Europe. Making music, friends and memories, it was certainly a trip I won't be in a hurry to forget. Anyone wishing to learn to pipe or drum, check out Music Service for Pipes and Drums on Facebook or at www.mspd.co.uk. You never know where you might end up.

Bright Lights shine at special prize giving ceremony

Mr Keith Gamble, Chair of the Ulster-Scots Agency was the invited guest at Bright Lights Dance Group prize giving ceremony on December 16.

On this occasion Mr Gamble presented the dancers with their certificates and had the honour of presenting James Blackwood with his United Kingdom Alliance Teachers of Dancing - Associates Certificate in Highland Dancing. James (pictured far right) is the first male highland dancing teacher in Northern Ireland and many thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their support in providing funding for these professional exams.



A feast of entertainment honouring Scotland

The Ulster Scots Agency has launched Belfast Burns Week 2018 to celebrate the January 25 birthday of Robert Burns.

Scotland's favourite son Robert 'Rabbie' Burns was known as the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire or simply The Bard. He was born on January 25 1759 and Burns celebrations have been held in his honour on this date for more than 200 years.

To celebrate the many links between Burns, his family and Ulster from the late 1700s to the present day, the Ulster Scots Agency has programmed a series of events to coincide with the Bard's birthday.

Belfast Burns week will take place from January 22 to 27 in various venues across the city and will incorporate a programme of drama, poetry, music, concerts and lectures.

Blue Badge guide and historian Laura Spence deliver a talk on the Life, Loves and Legacy of Robert Burns.

This one-hour talk will explore the loves and losses of Burns and how this has influenced his works and image to this day. It will be held in the Discover Ulster Scots centre at 1pm on Wednesday January 24.

Various Burns nights will be held across Belfast during the week, with a free community Burns Night at the Spectrum Centre taking centre stage on Monday January 22 at 7pm for those who would like to experience a Burns night for themselves.

Matthew Warwick, education officer for the Ulster Scots Community Network, will compere the evening with entertainment by Risin' Stour ceilidh band. Food will be provided and booking is essential.

The Linen Hall Library is hosting tours of the Gibson collection - the largest collection of Burns material in the world outside Scotland - on Wednesday and Friday January 24 & 26 at 2pm. A tour of the library not only unlocks the secrets of its archives and collections, but also takes the visitor back through the early days of the great city of Belfast. Tours are free and can be booked via the website.

Robert Burns Live performer Christopher Tait take to the stage at the Spectrum Centre on Friday January 26 to perform as the Bard himself. Watch Burns perform his famous poems 'To a Mouse, To a Louse' and 'Holy Willie's Prayer'. Marvel at the power of *Tam O' Shanter* or the beauty of a *Red, Red Rose*. Christopher has enthralled audiences around the world.

The festival will conclude with the annual Burns Concert on January 27 at the Waterfront Hall. Traditional music legends Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain will be leading the audience in a rousing concert of music, stories, dancing and piping alongside singer Robyn Stapleton, conductor John Logan, the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe band and the Markethill Ulster Scots Dancers.

For more details on the annual Burns concert at the Waterfront Hall, turn to Page 10.

The full programme can be viewed and tickets for Belfast Burns Week events can be booked at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ulster-scots-agency



CELEBRATING THE BARD'S BIRTHDAY: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain will front the Burns concert in the Waterfront Hall on Saturday January 27

Burns on the BBC - events on TV and radio to celebrate the Bard

On Thursday January 25 across Northern Ireland people will gather together for events to celebrate the life, poetry and music of Robert Burns.

For many of those, as Ulster-Scots, participating in Burns Night isn't only a celebration of Burns, but also of their ancestral and cultural connections with Scotland.

And this year BBC Northern Ireland TV, radio and online will pay homage to Robbie Burns with a series of programmes celebrating the life and work of the bard. Here is a flavour of what's coming up:

:: A BIRL FOR BURNS (Sunday January 21 at 12.30pm on BBC Radio Ulster, repeated on Thursday January 25 at 7.30pm) - Neil Oliver explores the influence of Robert Burns on the work of Seamus Heaney. It is based on an interview he conducted with the late Seamus Heaney at his home in Dublin in August 2012, a year before his death, for the documentary, *An Ode to Burns and Ulster*.

Produced by DoubleBand Films and originally broadcast on BBCNI in January 2013, *An Ode to Burns and Ulster* explored the influence of Burns on contemporary Ulster poets. Only a small part of the original interview with the late Seamus Heaney was included in the documentary.

This new programme features the extended interview, re-edited and re-imagined for radio, in which Seamus Heaney, in conversation with Neil Oliver, reveals his affection for Burns poetry and how it inspired him to write his poem *A Birl for Burns*.



Heaney also recalls how he first encountered Burns at primary school in County Londonderry, through the poem *To A Mouse*, and discovered its affinity with the vernacular of his own townland and community in words such as "wee" and "sleekit." The programme features Heaney reading from *A Birl for Burns*, and an extract from *To A Mouse*.

Jonathan Golden from DoubleBand Films said: "This is a great opportunity to hear the late Seamus Heaney talking so vividly about his obvious affection and respect for Robert Burns, and how Scots, the language of Burns, influenced the local vernacular in the area in which he grew up." The programme was produced by Stan Ferguson, and supported by the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund. It is a DoubleBand production for BBC Radio Ulster.

:: ON BOARD WITH BURNS (Thursday January 25 on BBC Radio Ulster at 8pm) - Kerry McLean celebrates Burns Night on the ferry from Larne to Cairnryan. Joining her as she crosses the Narrow Water will be a selec-

tion of guests including north west singer songwriter Eilidh Patterson and bluegrass trio Cup O Joe.

There'll be Burns tunes from Ballymon-ey-based community group The Girona Orchestra, some food, piping and a little history to celebrate the big day.

On Board With Burns is a McLean Media production for BBC Radio Ulster supported by the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund.

:: BURNS AN' MAIR (Thursday January 25 on BBC Two Northern Ireland at 9pm) - This one-hour music special was recorded at Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church in Belfast and will be presented by Sylvia Burnside and Mark Wilson.

Though he has long been heralded as Scotland's national poet, Burns was primarily a songwriter with an often-overlooked body of work containing upwards of 400 songs. He was a composer and arranger of consummate skill, a fiddle player and a song collector.

This programme, made by Barking Films, celebrates Burns but not in the traditional sense with an 'Address to a Haggis' and 'Auld Lang Syne', delving instead more deeply into the musical world of Robert Burns, and the writers and performers his work inspired.

Burns had a lifelong passion for music and made a major contribution to 'the Scots Musical Museum'. Published in the early 1800s, this collection of folk songs played a pivotal role in the preservation of Scotland's song tradition. As well as a collector,

Burns was an innovator who re-wrote and reshaped many of the songs and tunes he included in this publication. One of these was the haunting 'Green Grow the Rashers O', performed in the show by the celebrated Scottish singer Siobhan Miller.

Rasharkin-born singer/songwriter Andy Calderwood, who performs a special arrangement of 'A Man's A Man for A' That', found a real affinity between Burns' language and the Ulster-Scots he grew up with in County Antrim.

Robert Burns was an admirer of the most famous Scottish fiddle player of the 18th century, Neil Gow. The internationally acclaimed duo of Scottish Fiddle player Alasdair Fraser and American cello virtuoso Natalie Haas deliver a set inspired by Gow's legacy that combines tradition and innovation.

Echoing Burns' love of the natural world, young Lisburn singer, Ruth Trimble, who has toured with Beth Neilson Chapman, performs the beautiful *Wild Mountainside* written by contemporary Scottish songwriter John Douglas.

Ballyclare High School Choir sing a *cantaire-achd* (a musical tradition which employs chanting) along with Grahame Harris playing a *pibroch* (a form of music for the Scottish pipes) on Highland pipes.

Other local acts taking part in the programme include piper Scott Wallace, a member of the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, who plays two of his own compositions, and Ballymena fiddle players Diane McCullough and Emma Nevin.

d's favourite son



Burns Week round-up

Schomberg Society Burns Night dinner

The Schomberg Society are hosting a special 20th anniversary Burns Night dinner at the Kilmorey Arms Hotel in Kilkeel on Saturday February 3.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the traditional Robbie Burns celebrations, with entertainment from the renowned 'Dancing Digits' ceilidh band, local soloists, dancers, pipers and musicians. The evening will include a full carvery meal accompanied, of course, by a little haggis.

Tickets (£25 for adults, £15 concession, £7.50 for children), which are limited, are available from Reivers House in Kilkeel. To secure a ticket contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222533 or visit the Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots facebook page.

Naggy Burn Ulster Scots Society Burns Night

The Naggy Burns Ulster-Scots Society will be putting on an evening of dance, history, heritage, Ulster-Scots Language and Ulster-Scots music at Larne Rangers Supporters' Club on Saturday January 27 (7.30pm start for dinner), with a menu featuring vegetable broth, haggis, sausage, neeps and tatties, followed by tea/coffee and shortbread.

Supplying the entertainment will be Colin and Phil from This Way Up, with Alan McNally on the bagpipes and Willie McPhearson performing the address to the

haggis. Speakers will be Gary and Anne Blair.

This ticket-only event (with a free drink included for the toast) costs £15 for the full evening or £5 for the dance only. Tickets are available from behind the bar or by phoning 07592324542.

Derry & Raphoe Action to Burns festival

Derry & Raphoe Action are hosting a Festival of Ulster-Scots music & dance celebrating the life of Robert Burns.

The event will be held in the Newtownstewart 2000 Centre on Saturday, February 17 at 7pm, with tickets costing £10 (children £5).

The festival features the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band alongside marching bands Raphoe Pipe Band, Mountjoy Pipe Band and Castlederg Young Loyalists 40th Anniversary Band.

There will also be contributions from Newtownstewart Highland Dancers and Mountfield Scottish Country Dancers as well as a drum majors' display.

To book contact Irene Spratt from Derry & Raphoe Action on 07923365725.

Burns supper at Belfast Castle

Belfast Castle will be hosting a Burns Night supper on Saturday January 27. The event is £35 and includes a three-course meal, a bagpiper and ceilidh. To book contact Belfast Castle or phone 028 9077 6925.

BELFAST BURNS WEEK 22 - 27 JANUARY 2018



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2018

PANEL DISCUSSION	Discover Ulster-Scots Centre	1.00 - 2.00pm
COMMUNITY BURNS NIGHT	Spectrum Centre	7.00 - 10.00pm

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2018

TOUR OF GRAVEYARD	Discover Ulster-Scots Centre	1.00pm
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WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018

BURNS TALK LAURA SPENCE	Discover Ulster-Scots Centre	1.00 - 2.00pm
TOURS OF THE GIBSON	Linen Hall Library	2pm
BURNS TALK LAURA SPENCE	Killyleagh Library	6.45 - 7.45pm

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2018

ANDREW GIBSON MEMORIAL LECTURE FRANK FERGUSON	Linen Hall Library	1.00 - 2.00pm
OUT TO LUNCH PRESENTS RABBIE BURNS LUNCH	Black Box	1.00 - 2.00pm
WREATH LAYING	Linen Hall Library	2.00 - 2.15pm

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2018

TOURS OF THE GIBSON	Linen Hall Library	2.00pm
ROBERT BURNS LIVE	Spectrum Centre	2.00pm
BURNS NIGHT	Skainos Centre	7.00pm

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2018

BURNS CONCERT	Waterfront Hall	7.45 - 11.00pm
COMMUNITY BURNS NIGHT	Social Club, North Belfast Orange Hall	8.00pm

Scotch Blood and American Birth: Robert Burns and the Ulster-Scots Diaspora

BY FRANK FERGUSON

As we start a new year and a new month, perhaps it might be time to ask a silly question. Who owns Robert Burns? Perhaps not as easy as question to answer as we might surmise. To Scotland and Scots worldwide, he is most definitely theirs - their national Bard to whom the month of January seems dedicated, as he sings them into a New Year at Hogmanay and whose own birthday is celebrated on January 25. However, there are many across the globe who claim Burns as especially theirs, with Ulster Scots long vociferous in claiming prime ownership. But there is at least one other group to whom Burns was a perceived as their own particular cultural treasure, and that is the Ulster-Scots diaspora in North America and beyond. Perhaps it is the added distance from the mother country that made the bond stronger, or the fact that Burns was a writer whom was often viewed more as a close friend or family member, rather than a distant literary genius. Walt Whitman claimed that Burns's popularity stemmed from the particular fusion of Burns's charisma and personality: In the first place no poet on record so

fully bequeaths his own personal magnetism, nor illustrates more pointedly how one's verses, by time and reading, can so curiously fuse with the versifier's own life and death, and give light and shade to all. *Robert Burns as Poet and Person The North American Review 1886.*

The sense that Burns was a fixture in the reading lives of individuals is something that found expression in homesteads in everywhere from West to East, from Appalachia to Vladivostok, and multiple places between and beyond. The North Carolina writer, Thomas Wolfe, recalled how important his father's recitation of Burns was to his development of a love of reading and we see later in his own works how Burns's work fused into his own. The contagious sense of pleasure that Burns's writing brought is something that was transmitted quickly from his native Scotland through many Scottish trading links overseas. While Belfast might pride itself on the speed in which it relayed the early publication of Burns's poetry outside of Scotland, this was a phenomenon that was occurred at many places simultaneously. In the United States of America, the Pennsylvania papers were



replicating the actions of the Belfast papers, and indeed were it not for the voyage time needed to cross the Atlantic they might well have beaten Belfast to the dubious accolade of being the first place to produce a pirate copy of Burns's work. What is not disputed is the admiration to which Burns's poetry was greeted. He was not merely a poet to praise and marvel at, but a grand inspirer of local poets in America, just as he had been in Ulster. Like the Ulster weaver poets, Burns was deeply appreciated and the work of the New Hampshire poet, Robert Dinsmoor, shows how profoundly Burns's style and subject matter found resonance in the New World. In his 1812 poem *The Sparrow* we read of how a farmer can show deep emotion at the ruination of a small bird's nest:

*Poor innocent and hapless Sparrow!
Why should my mould-board gie thee sorrow?
This day thou'll chirp, an' mourn the morrow,
Wi' anxious breast
The plough has turn'd the mould'riug furrow
Deep o'er thy nest.*

Dinsmoor's *The Sparrow* is Burns's *To A Mouse* developed in an American setting, and while some might see this as merely imitation, we might argue that this a celebration of homely and natural sentiments that found strong purchase in the young developing nation. Also, such writing keenly shows a sense of having two homes. The American landscape figures prominently in Dinsmoor the place he belongs to, but so too does Scotland with the language and culture of Burns's speaking in many poems. Dinsmoor wrote of his lost love Mary Dinsmoor, who died prematurely, in an imitation of Burns *Highland Mary*. She was his collection states of Scotch blood and American birth. To many in the Ulster-Scottish diaspora this sense of connection to Scotland and its national bard would continue long after Burns's death, as too would their belief in the special relationship they felt had to Rabbie.

Burns celebration at Halfway House

Burns Night is annually celebrated in Scotland on or around January 25. It commemorates the life of the bard (poet) Robert Burns, who was born on January 25, 1759. The day also celebrates Burns's contribution to Scottish culture. Monreagh Heritage Centre will be hosting a Burns Supper to celebrate the life and works of the Bard. From traditional ballads and romantic songs to humorous satires and thought-provoking poems, Robert Burns composed some of the world's most instantly recognisable lines of poetry and song lyrics. His best known work is *Auld Lang Syne*.

SCHEDULE

- Piping of the Haggis 8:00pm
- Lee Duncan & Stewart Buchanan
- Address to the Haggis 8:10pm
- Stewart Buchanan

- Selkirk Grace 8:15pm
- Reverend David Latimer
- Meal Served 8:20pm
- 2 Course Buffet
- Immortal Memory 9:20pm
- Ian McCracken.
- Toast to the Lassies & Reply 8:15pm
- Stewart Buchanan & Belinda Mahaffy
- Burns Poetry Recital 9:45pm
- Belinda Mahaffy
- Music, Dance & Piping 10:00pm
- Stewart, Ken & Linda, Lee Duncan
- Prize Draw 11:00pm
- Auld Lang Syne 11:20pm
- Carriages 11:30pm
- Admission - €15.

Tickets available from
Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage Centre, Carrigans, Co Donegal, Ireland
Telephone: (074) 9140708
Web: www.monreagh.net
Email: office@monreagh.net

Alexandra Social Club

Small Steps Community Group are hosting a community Burns Night at Alexandra Social Club on Saturday, January 27.
Entertainment for the evening will include piping-in of the Haggis, address to the Haggis and Ballysillan Highland dance performance.
Tickets for this event are free.
For further information please contact Jennifer - 028 9029 7191

Out to Lunch show

January 25 is all about celebrating the poet and Scottish hero Robert Burns. And what better way to do so than by reading and sharing some of his most famous works over a plate of steaming haggis. At The Black Box in Belfast, there'll be having a special Burns Lunch complete with a bagpiper, toasts, haggis, neeps and tatties, a bit of poetry and some famous Burns songs led by singer songwriter Hugh Jordan.
Tickets £7.00 (including lunch).

Pipers and Tartans evening

You are warmly invited to a Pipers and Tartans Evening in Clontibret Presbyterian Church Hall (Braddox) with George Conn from the Faith Mission on Friday January 26 at 8pm. There will

be a power point presentation giving a glimpse into the pipe band world and the highland piper. George will also play the bagpipes. Light refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Excitement builds ahead of the seventh annual Burns Concert

The 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 January 27 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.

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.

The Ulster Orchestra, conducted by John Logan, will lead the performers in a

programme of music that mixed traditional favourites with more up to date work.

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. Local talent will have its opportunity to shine too, this year the performers include the Ulster-Scots Agency's Juvenile Pipe Band and the Markethill Dancers. 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!

Patrick Hamilton and the story of religious radicalism in Scotland

The end of October 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the event commonly regarded as signalling the beginning of the Reformation: Dr Luther affixing his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg.

The end of February 2018 will be the 490th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Scottish reformer Patrick Hamilton outside the front entrance to St Salvator's Church in St Andrews.

There was no serious tradition of religious radicalism in Scotland. Lollardy, the proto-Protestant religious movement founded in England in the 14th century by John Wycliffe (c. 1320- 1384), occasioned only a faint echo in Scotland. However these are the sort of overly-confident statements occasionally made by historians which may require closer scrutiny and ultimately serious revision. After all Paul Craw, a Czech Hussite and Lollard, was burned at the market cross in St Andrews in 1433 for promoting Wycliffe's translation of the Bible. In 1525 the Scottish Parliament forbade the importation of Lutheran books, evidence that Lutheranism was beginning to have an impact in the country. Three years later - on 29 February 1528 - Patrick Hamilton was burned at the stake at St Andrews for preaching the Lutheran doctrine of justification by faith.

Patrick Hamilton was born circa 1504 and was the youngest son of Sir Patrick Hamilton of Kincavel in Linlithgowshire and Stanehouse in Lanarkshire. His mother was the granddaughter of James II, making Hamilton a distant cousin of the 15-year-old James V.

As a younger son he was destined for a career in the church and in 1517 he was made titular abbot of Fearn Abbey in Ross-shire. The revenue from this office enabled him to study at the University of Paris, from which he graduated as a Master of Arts in 1520. Although the University of Paris had a well-deserved reputation as a bulwark of orthodoxy and even obscurantism, Lutheranism was met initially and briefly with a favourable response and so it was in Paris that Hamilton first encountered Luther's theology.

On his return to Scotland, in June 1523 Hamilton became a member of St Leonard's College, a constituent part of St Andrews University, where he was admitted to the faculty of arts. There became a student and then a colleague of John Mair, the celebrated Scottish humanist and logician. From 1526 onwards Hamilton was openly sympathetic to Lutheran doctrines. His views attracted the attention of Archbishop David Beaton. Hamilton, who was still only 23, did not yet feel ready to take on the full might of the Church and fled to Germany. There he visited Wittenberg and met both Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon. Although Melancthon exists very much in



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Hamilton's initials are depicted in the cobbles where he met his end

Luther's shadow, he was one of the most erudite and intellectually formidable figures of sixteenth-century Europe.

Hamilton visited Marburg too, the first Protestant university in Europe which had just been founded by Philip of Hesse. It was in Marburg that Hamilton wrote 'Patrick's Places', a publication largely inspired by Melancthon's 'Locī Communes' or 'Locī communes rerum theologicarum seu hypotyposes theologiae' ('Common Places in Theology or Fundamental Doctrinal Themes').

'Patrick's Places' was written in Latin and translated into English by John Frith who gave it the title by which it is universally known. John Foxe included Frith's translation of Hamilton's 'godly and profitable treatise' in the 1570 edition of his 'Book of Martyrs'. It is quite short. Excluding Frith's introduction, his translation runs to just over 4,500 words. The central thrust of the book is that men and women can only be saved through faith in Christ and not through good works.

He returned to Scotland again, this time

determined to devote himself to preaching the new theology and very conscious of the risks he was running. He converted his brother and sister through his preaching and many others.

Archbishop Beaton became aware of his return and his activities. Hamilton was summoned to appear before the Archbishop but was allowed to preach openly in the university for a month, presumably to enable the Church authorities to assemble evidence for use in a heresy trial. Early in 1528 Hamilton was formally charged with heresy by the Archbishop.

Alexander Alesius, an Edinburgh man and a graduate of St Andrews, had previously vigorously defended scholastic theology against the claims of Lutheranism and was selected to refute Hamilton's 'heresy'. However he ended up being privately impressed and convinced by his arguments (and his steadfastness at the stake).

Hamilton was tried on thirteen charges, most of which related to the teachings of Luther and of Melancthon. On examination, Hamilton affirmed the truth of



St Salvator's church in St Andrews

their doctrines and was found guilty on all thirteen charges. He was handed over to the secular power to be burnt at the stake. The sentence was carried out in front of St Salvator's church in St Andrews the same day to preclude any possibility of rescue by his friends.

A strong easterly wind blowing through North Street in the town prevented the fire at his feet taking hold. Hamilton's death was slow and agonising because the gunpowder which had been laid to hasten the blaze merely scorched and burned Hamilton's head and hands. He was at the stake from noon to six in the evening.

As his ordeal drew to a close, a voice in the crowd called for Hamilton to give a sign if he still had faith in the Lutheran doctrines which he had espoused. Hamilton raised three fingers and held them high until he died. His final words were, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

Afterwards a John Lindsay wrote to Archbishop Beaton: "If you burn any more you will utterly destroy yourselves. If you will burn them let them be burnt in deep cellars, for the smoke of Patrick Hamilton has infected as many as it blew upon." In the early 1550s Philip II of Spain would offer his wife Mary Tudor and her advisors virtually identical advice: by all means burn 'Protestant heretics' but not in public view. He recognised, as she did not, that the Marian persecution was alienating her subjects from the Crown and Roman Catholicism. Hamilton's initials are depicted in the cobbles where he met his end while a face purported to be his was said to have melted into a stone on nearby St Salvator's church tower. According to tradition, any student walking over the cobbles will fail their exams unless they run into the North Sea at dawn on Mayday. One can just imagine the contempt with which Patrick Hamilton would view such idle and superstitious nonsense.

RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN

Bacon with crispy cabbage and mustard sauce...



INGREDIENTS

- 3 lbs cured loin of bacon
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp peppercorns
- 1 stick of celery (chopped)
- 1 large onion (cut in quarters)
- 1 carrot (chopped)
- (for the cabbage)
- 1 large green savoy cabbage (hard core removed and thinly sliced)
- 3 Tbsp of butter
- 2 Tbsp water
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- (for the mustard cream sauce)
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 cup reserved cooking liquid
- 1 Tbsp whole grain mustard



HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Put the bacon in a large saucepan and cover with cold water. Add the bay leaves, peppercorns, celery, and carrot. Bring to the boil and then cover with a lid and reduce the heat to a low simmer for 20 minutes per pound plus an additional 30 minutes.
2. Remove the bacon from the pan and set aside. Reserve 1/2 cup of cooking liquid for the sauce.
3. To make the mustard sauce melt the butter and add the flour cooking for a minute and then whisk in the reserved cooking liquid, heavy whipping cream, mustard and salt and pepper.
4. To make the cabbage melt the butter in a large skillet and then add the cabbage tossing with tongs until it's bright and fragrant. Sprinkle two Tbsp of water over the cabbage to wilt slightly but still remaining crispy and bright.
5. To serve slice the bacon and drizzle with a little mustard sauce and top with crispy cabbage.

For more visit www.shamrockandpeachwordpress.com and www.shamrockandpeach.com

Longstone Primary Receives Ulster-Scots Flagship Award

Eighteen months of hard work by pupils and teachers at Longstone Primary School, Ahoghill was rewarded 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 Longstone Primary School has worked very hard to learn more about their Ulster-Scots identity of their area and we are delighted that they have achieved Ulster-Scots Flagship status". School principal Lemund Moody 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. "Our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the scheme. They have been able to experience all aspects of the Ulster-Scots culture including music, dance, language, history and art and have benefitted from many learning experiences from playing



traditional instruments, learning about their ancestry and trying on period costumes and also singing Christmas songs in Ulster-Scots (including 'Jingle Bells').

"They also got to participate in the 'Our Artists' project and were involved in researching the local artist John Luke and got to star in the film made for the online resource. All these experiences would not have been possible if not for the Ulster Scots Agency and this wonderful programme."

Joining the Ulster Scots Flagship Programme is completely free. By registering to participate schools commit 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. For more contact Gary Blair at the Ulster-Scots Agency on 028 9023 1113 or email gblair@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.



Highland success on European stage

Seven dancers from Northern Ireland enjoyed a weekend of dancing in Glasgow where they had been nominated for the S.D.T.A. UK & European Scholarships.

The girls were specially chosen when they were awarded honours in their annual examinations. The weekend consisted of many challenges to help the dancers develop their skills and expertise. All travelled home with medals for their achievements in

a masterclass, theory test, historical dance "A Tribute to J.L. MacKenzie" and a choreography.

Special congratulations goes to Moneyrea dancer Rebecca Welsh, who gained gold in her theory written paper. The dancers train with the Michelle Johnston school of Highland Dance in Moneyrea & Dundrum. Pictured are senior Scholarship nominees Rebecca Welsh, 15, Jessica Chambers, 18, Rebekah Keery, 15.

Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band Profile

In the spotlight this issue is Chloe McElhinney (by Victoria Catterson)

Chloe McElhinney may have no interest in competing but she is keeping busy with her bagpipes.

In 2017, the 17-year-old travelled to Qatar, Brittany and Russia. However, when she's not travelling the world, she can be found studying music at Ulster University. When the three year course is over, Chloe hopes to do a PGCE afterwards to become qualified to teach in schools. "I'm the only piper in the course but thankfully my peers and lecturers enjoy hearing me play my bagpipes," she says. "I find it interesting learning the classical theory alongside piping theory."

Age: 17

Education: Ulster University

Band: Moyne Pipe Band

Hobbies outside of piping: Highland Dancing. I have been dancing for about 13 or 14 years now. I compete in competitions across Ulster and have recently become a qualified dance tutor.

How long have you been piping?
5/6 years.

How/where did you learn to pipe?



My dad taught me some of the basics and then I started learning with Andy through the teaching programme in my school.

What attracted you to piping and/or pipe bands?
Pipe bands have been in my family for generations, so I've always felt connected to it.

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

I enjoy meeting new people from across Ulster who have the same interests as me and I enjoy the opportunities we get, like playing in tattoos in foreign countries.

How often do you practice?

I practice most days but sometimes can't find the time due to assignments and deadlines.

Is there anything you aspire to achieve in piping - for example winning the worlds, playing in Grade One, winning solo competitions etc?

I currently have no interest in competing, but I hope to perform in as many different countries as I possibly can.

Are there any pipers in particular that you enjoy listening to/aspire to play like?

I enjoy listening to Lincoln Hilton. I like his modern take on bagpipes.

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

Definitely start and stick at it even when it's tough, because there are loads of amazing opportunities you can get from the instrument.

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

Visit the birthplace of legends

For many, names like Davy Crockett, President Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston are nothing more than legendary figures in American history.

They were great men who helped shape America, as we know it today. These men and many more like them were of families who left the province of Ulster 200 to 250 years ago in a quest for a better life for themselves on the American continent. Long before the famine ships left Ireland carrying hundreds of thousands of Irish to America, a trail had been blazed across the Atlantic from Ulster.

The first exodus was in fact made by a people who had been enticed from their homes in Scotland with the promise of a better life in Ireland during what we know as the Plantation of Ulster.

The reality for many was very different from the promise and, with a restless pioneering spirit, these hardy and resolute people (an estimated 200,000 through the 18th century) set sail across the Atlantic. Indeed, today in most Southern states of America - Tennessee and parts of North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia and South Carolina, it is calculated that one in four people have Scots-Irish blood in their veins. There is a very close link between the people who settled in Ireland and their family members and friends who boarded those first ships to America, and even today many families have forged ties with their American cousins.



Billy Kennedy, a senior editor with the Belfast News Letter for close to 40 years, has written eleven best-selling books about the Ulster-Scots (Scots-Irish) in America. Through these publications, Billy has become a highly respected and well-known personality in the United States, which he has regularly visited for the past 23 years to research for his books and to speak at universities and colleges and to historical and genealogical societies on Ulster-Scots (Scots-Irish) migration to America.

In pursuit of abiding interest in Ulster links with the United States, Billy has now teamed up with Joe Walsh Tours to organise the holiday of a lifetime for anyone interested in the Ulster-Scots (Scots-Irish) in America, American history in general, or anyone just interested in visiting the United States and enjoying the wonderful scenery in the picturesque Appalachian region and some wonderful cultural and musical events. The tour departs Dublin on Monday 17th September, starting in the home of country



For more details about this trip visit joewalshstours.ie or call 02890 994 854

music, Nashville, Tennessee. Whilst in Nashville they will attend the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium and Studio B as well as visit The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson, whose parents came from Carrickfergus. Then it's on to East Tennessee where the group will travel Tennessee's 'Ulster Way' visiting Davy Crockett's tavern at Morristown and travel through the Cumberland Gap where Daniel Boone and the Scots-Irish settlers passed on the way to Kentucky in the 1750s. On this journey, the group will visit many of the places associated with the Scots-Irish in America, including Crockett's log cabin birthplace at Limestone and the President Andrew Johnson home at Greeneville.

For those who feel so inclined, a visit to Dollywood, the home of living country music legend Dolly Parton will be possible.

Over the ten days, there will be ample time for shopping, sight-seeing and fun on this magical tour. The group will have their own private coach from they arrive at Nashville airport until they depart Charlotte Airport. A representative from Joe Walsh Tours will accompany the group from Dublin airport throughout the tour to ensure that every aspect of their holiday is meticulously taken care of. Billy Kennedy will use his influential contacts in North Carolina and Tennessee to ensure that the group receives a huge and very special welcome at every venue. Places are restricted on this tour and it will be sold strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

Schomberg Society hosts successful 'Evening of Ulster-Scots' celebration

The Schomberg Society hosted a special 'Evening of Ulster-Scots' celebration in November 2017 to a packed audience in Kilkeel Primary School.

The event which was compered by Kingsley Donaldson promoted all aspects of the rich Ulster-Scots culture and traditions of the Kingdom of Mourne and the evening was very much focused on the younger generation of Ulster-Scots enthusiasts.

One of the highlights of the night was the Ulster-Scots drama *Willie-John Visits Reivers House* which involved a large group of local children who are involved with various activities as part of the Schomberg Society. The lineup of acts on the night included the full dance troupe from Kirknarra School of Dance, the Beekin Bairns Youth Choir, The Reivers Folk Orchestra, Schomberg Fife and Drum, Moneyslane Flute Band, renowned folk group Session Beat, as well as numerous musicians and soloists including Alan McBride and Paul Elliott.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society said: "We are thrilled with the support we got from the local community following our 'Evening of Ulster-Scots Celebration' and it was fantastic to see supporters travel to our event from as far away as Rathfriland, Banbridge, Belfast, Carrickfergus and even Cookstown to enjoy the evenings celebrations.



"Our special cultural event provided an opportunity to involve as many young people as possible to promote all facets of our Ulster-Scots identity and we are very proud of all the children and young folk in particular who put a lot of hard work and effort into preparing for the concert."

The Schomberg Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the fantastic acts and performers on the night, especially the groups within Reivers House who spent a lot of time rehearsing and preparing costumes for the event. Thanks also to Kingsley Donaldson for being the MC on the



night, to Kilkeel Primary School for the use of the venue, to everyone who volunteered and helped out on the night and most importantly to everyone who came along and showed their support for the Schomberg Society. We can all safely say that the Ulster-Scots culture and traditions certainly is well and truly thriving and flourishing in the Kingdom of Mourne.

Fusefm Mourne gets into the festive spirit

There is no doubt that the 2017 Christmas broadcast of Fusefm Mourne was the busiest and most successful one yet for the Schomberg Society in Kilkeel.

The popular Ulster-Scots radio station was launched on Saturday December 9 in Studio Two with renowned Cool FM Presenter Curtis McCosh and Former Minister for Communities, Paul Givan visiting the studios.

The live launch event was a most enjoyable way to kick off the Christmas broadcast with performances from a fantastic selection of local Ulster-Scots performers to a packed Studio in Reivers House. Following the launch, everyone joined in with the countdown to switch on the Christmas lights outside of Reivers House to celebrate the



Special guest, Nelson McCausland enjoyed his visit to the station during the Ulster-Scots Carol Service



The Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance enjoyed performing special choreographed Christmas performances at Fusefm Mourne's outdoor concert

start of what was a busy two weeks ahead for everyone in the Schomberg Society. The radio station broadcast over two weeks from 7am to midnight daily and during the period, welcomed a host of fabulous presenters, DJs and Ulster-Scots soloists and musicians into the studios to entertain the station's thousands of loyal listeners. The Schomberg Society was

very proud to have worked along with local primary and secondary schools, churches, Ulster-Scots groups, marching bands and many other different organisations who all contributed to the Christmas broadcast. Fusefm Mourne would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued support with Fusefm Mourne and all of those who contributed in



Fusefm Mourne presenters and musicians, Rebecca McDowell, Aimee Johnston and Gary McKnight



Kilkeel High School students enjoyed hosting their first show

any way towards the success of the Christmas broadcast.

Moneyrea reflect on impressive 12 months



Scottish Highland Dancers, from Moneyrea, reflected on a successful 2017 and are preparing for what they hope will be an even bigger 2018.

As you can see, the dancers of the Michelle Johnston School of Highland Dancing have had a busy twelve months...

Competitive highlights included training two Ulster champions; Rebekah Keery, 15, and Leah McIlwrath, 12, who won their titles in Londonderry in the summer.

Other championship success

saw the group lifting no less than 17 trophies at The Northern Ireland Highland Dancing Championships in Newry.

Beyond these local successes, the school have travelled even further afield to win prizes at various competitions, championships and the Highland Games in Scotland.

Beyond the competitive scene, the group have also been excelling in theory and choreography. In 2017, a group of the dancers were nominated for a scholarship event in Glasgow based on their outstanding

knowledge of Highland Dancing technique.

During the weekend the girls were commended for their participation in a masterclass, their high marks in a theory written paper and their wonderful performances of specially choreographed routines.

In 2018, the boys and girls have already been invited to perform at many prestigious events including Burns Suppers, The Cross Border Orchestra's Peace Proms and even an International Festival.

To follow the group's activities please visit the website www.johnstonhighlanddancers.co.uk or find "Michelle Johnston School of Highland Dancing" on Facebook.

To show your support via sponsorship towards any of the group's upcoming adventures please contact johnston_dance@hotmail.co.uk or 07809695205.

The Johnston School Annual Competition will be taking place on February 24 in Comber and all sponsors will be featured in the programme.

£200,000 boost for community groups

The Ulster-Scots Agency continues to support music and dance tuition in the community.

The Ulster-Scots Agency has offered financial support in excess of £200,000 to 127 community and voluntary groups to support Ulster-Scots music and dance tuition in the community.

The recent round of funding offered by the Agency will assist in the delivery of 30 Highland and Scottish Country dance classes, and 97 music tuition projects. The music tuition projects which have also been supported by the Agency, include piping, drumming, flute, fiddle, accordion, fife and lambeg drumming. This year the agency has seen an increase in the number of application submitted for the music and dance tuition programme and we are delighted to be in a position to support the vast majority of applicant's.

The majority of dance classes will commence in January while the music classes will commence from the 1st February onwards.

All these classes are open to the community and will be advertised by the groups in receipt of the funding.

The Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted to support a wide range of Ulster-Scots music and dance projects throughout the nine counties of Ulster.

Field Marshal Montgomery to be honoured at Waterfront



Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band are to receive the 2018 Special Award as part of TG4's traditional Irish music awards, **Gradam Ceoil**.

The Lisburn-based band will be presented with the award at the Gradam Ceoil concert and awards ceremony at Belfast Waterfront on Sunday, February 4, which will be broadcast live on Irish language channel TG4. Widely regarded as the Oscars of Irish music, the Gradam Ceoil ceremony is making its first visit to Belfast in the awards' 21-year history.

As well as gaining World Champion status 11 times, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band have held more than 20 All-Ireland titles. They have also produced four highly successful albums to date, bringing traditional music to audiences across the world.

The band is led by Killyleagh man Richard Parkes MBE, a multi-award-winning piper who has held the position of Pipe Major since 1981.

Throughout his career, Richard has won seven All-Ireland Senior Solo Championships, eight Northern Ireland Piper of the Year titles, nine Ulster Senior Championships and a number of other senior solo competitions across the UK. He was awarded the MBE by Her Majesty The Queen in 2004.

Under Richard's artistic direction and leadership, the band has expanded their repertoire and innovated in the arrangement of traditional music for pipe bands, and remains committed to the inclusion of new compositions.

On hearing that the band is to receive the Gradam Ceoil award, Richard said: "It's an honour to be recognised by our peers through this award, particularly because

the standard of traditional music is so high. We're overwhelmed.

"We are extremely grateful for the support we have received over the years and remain as driven and motivated as ever for the future."

A total of seven awards will be given out at this year's TG4 Gradam Ceoil concert and awards ceremony, with other winners including: Frankie Gavin, Musician of the Year; Clare Friel, Young Musician of the Year; Patsy Hanly, Lifetime Achievement Award; Máire Ní Chéilleachair, Singer of the Year; Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, Special Contribution Award; CONCERT, Musical Collaboration.

Tickets for the TG4 Gradam Ceoil 2018 Awards, priced £25 (£22 for concessions), are available from www.waterfront.co.uk or by calling 028 9033 4455. The concert will be broadcast live on TG4 from 9:30pm. For more information log on to gradam.ie

Agency spread festive cheer with care home performances

As part of the ongoing outreach into the community, the Ulster-Scots Agency provided a wide range of traditional Ulster-Scots groups who performed in 24 care homes during the month of December.

The Care Home project built upon the successful pilot project delivered in December 2016. Care Homes in counties Tyrone, Down, Donegal and in Belfast benefited from this Agency initiative.

A number of traditional Ulster-Scots music groups participated in the recent programme.

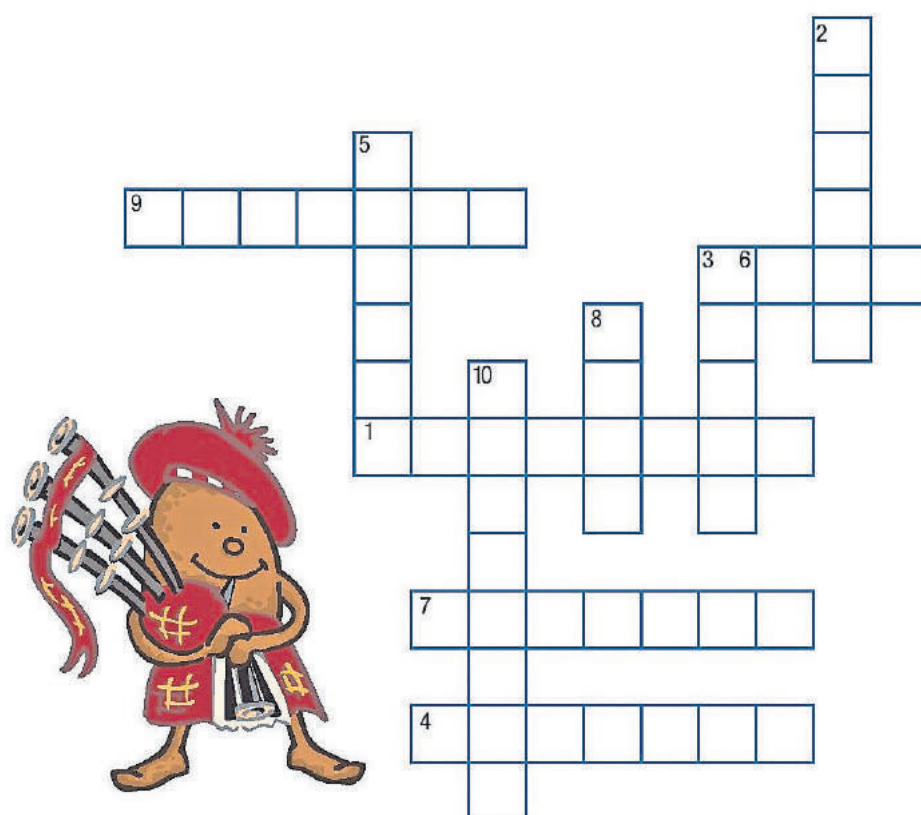
The feedback from Care Home managers has been very positive, with patients, their families and staff appreciating the traditional Ulster-Scots music and song.

The Agency worked with Ulster-Scots Community Impact workers in Co Down, West Tyrone and North Belfast who along with our staff in the Regional Office in Raphoe engaged with the various Care Home managers to make arrangements for the project.

This is a very worthwhile project which brings a lot of joy to those in Care Homes at Christmas and the Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted to assist in supporting the delivery of this project.

WEANS' WURLD**Burns' Night Crossword**

Answer the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle

**Across**

1. The land in which Robert Burns was born and lived.
4. Scotland's national instrument
6. Another word for poet
7. Another name for St. Andrew's Cross
9. The month when we celebrate Burns' Night

Down

2. The first name of Scotland's most famous poet
3. The surname of Scotland's most famous poet
5. A national food of Scotland
8. Scottish form of dress – men wear skirts!
10. The Scottish end of year celebrations

**the Ulster-Scot
COMPETITION****WIN A FAMILY
PASS FOR W5
IN BELFAST**

For a great day out for the whole family, all you have to do is complete our Burns' Night Crossword and post your entry to:

**Ulster Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange,
31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG**

Please remember to include your name and contact details.

CLOSING DATE: MARCH 5

**LAST ISSUE'S WINNER
A pass to Titanic Belfast**

In the last issue of *The Ulster-Scot* we asked you to complete a short survey. The response was fantastic and thank you to everyone who entered. Congratulations though to Miss M Carleton from Cullybackey who is the winner of the family pass to Titanic Belfast.

We hope you have a wonderful day out.

PLACES TO VISIT:

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favourite son

The Ayrshire ploughman, who rose from humble beginnings to become one of the world's best known poets, Robert Burns has become an international icon.

His national pride, fierce egalitarianism, and quick wit have become synonymous with the Scottish character itself. Yet who was the real Robert Burns?

By tracing his footsteps from birth to international superstardom, the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, from the Burns museum itself to Burns Cottage to Brig o'Doon to Burns Monument, offers you the best opportunity to discover the complex and passionate man behind the icon. Set among 10 acres of the poet's cherished Alloway countryside; the

museum comprises the famous Burns Cottage where the poet was born, the historic landmarks where he set his greatest work, the elegant monument and gardens created in his honour and a modern museum housing the world's most important collection of his life and works.

Opening Hours:

3 January - 31 March, daily 10-5
1 April - 30 September, daily 10-5.30
1 October - 31 December, daily 10-5

Contact Details:

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
Murdoch's Lone
Alloway
KA7 4PQ
Telephone 0844 493 2601
Email: burns@nts.org.uk

Admission: NTS member Free, Adult 8.50, Concession £6.50, Family (two adults) £21, Family (one adult) £16.50

