

World beating FM Montgomery lead celebrations at Burns Night concert



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Fair faa ye



Fair Faa Ye

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

May I start by wishing you a Happy New Year with a traditional Ulster-Scots wish – lang may yer lum reek wi ither fowks coal! For those who have not heard this greeting before it means may you live long and happily!

The Ulster-Scots Agency

will be hosting the annual Burns Night concert with the Ulster Orchestra on Saturday January 21 in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Field Marshal Montgomery will be joining singer, Emily Smith and a host of other performers for this fantastic evening celebrating Burns.

Also as part of the Burns celebrations for 2017 the Agency is hosting Burns Week for the first time. The Burns Week festival runs from January 21 to 28 in various venues across Belfast. Find out more on Page 3.

Also in this edition we have a wonderful recipe from Judith McLaughlin for a Burns Night inspired recipe with Slow Cooked Collops of Beef – you can find this on Page 15.

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

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency



Agency in tune with care homes as Lily marks 100th birthday

During December the Ulster-Scots Agency completed a pilot programme providing traditional Ulster-Scots music to a number of care homes in County Tyrone, north Belfast and County Down.

The Ulster-Scots Agency worked in partnership with a number of Care Homes and local Ulster-Scots Community Impact Project Officers based in Newtownstewart, Kilkeel and north Belfast. The programme was aimed at engaging with residents in a number of care home seeking to overcome social exclusion and isolation experienced by many elderly folk in our community. On December 14 2016 a programme of traditional Ulster-Scots music was performed in Bradley Manor Residential Care Home in



Belfast and on this day, one of the residents, Lily Higgins was also celebrating her 100th birthday. To commemorate this special day the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Brian Kingston paid a visit to the care home to deliver a special birthday card from Her Majesty The Queen.

Ulster-Scots Agency's Community Development Officer, Derek Reaney described the project as very worthwhile.

He said: "We have received some very positive feedback from the care homes, the residents, their families and the performers.

"It is important to remember that culture can play a very positive role in improving mental health and quality of life of all ages within our

community. The project has sought to engage through culture with elderly residents in the care homes, as we address a new programme for Government we as an Agency need to explore more innovative ways of working and engaging with all sections of the community.

"I would also like to recognise the support provided by our Community Impact Project Officers, James Donaldson in Kilkeel, Irene Spratt in Newtownstewart and Jennifer Crockard in north Belfast who have been very supportive in assisting the Agency to deliver this pilot project.

A total of 12 care homes participated in the project in Cookstown, Castlederg, Coalisland, New-castle, Kilkeel, and North Belfast.

Music projects to receive £200,000 boost

THE Ulster-Scots Agency will be investing £200,000 in the 2017 music and dance tuition programme, which will provide financial support to 30 dance projects and 91 music projects.

Derek Reaney, who manages the music and dance tuition programme within the Agency, said: "This financial support can make a real difference to community and voluntary groups including bands who are committed to supporting and advancing the Ulster-Scots culture through music and dance." He added: "This year's programme was very competitive, with considerably more applications than funds available, but the Agency is delighted with the significant improvement in the quality of applications submitted. "Rejections on issues of eligibility have been reduced to just 8.5 per



cent, a massive improvement on previous years.

"There will be a number of groups who will be disappointed that they have failed to secure the funding, but the Agency has a limited budget and we have invested a similar amount of funding to this programme as in recent years, which I think is a great achievement for us given the current challenging economic pressures around public spending." In 2017 an increasing number of

music and dance projects have applied under the Stand 2 option, which provides a route for accreditation for participants.

The Music and Dance classes will be held throughout the province of Ulster. The Agency plans to profile a number of the classes in the Ulster-Scot Newspaper during this year. Derek wished to record his thanks to the staff at the Ulster-Scots Community Network who made the presentation at the various public information workshops and also provide a drop in facility and advice to groups.

The Agency also recognises the support offered by the three Ulster-Scots project officers funded by the Agency's Community Impact programme and located in Kilkeel, Newtownstewart and North Belfast, who provided funding clinics and advice to groups.

The Ulster-Scot

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Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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WORD OF THE ISSUE

Shane

Meaning:
Soon

Impressive line-up for Burns Concert

ELEVEN times world champion pipe band Field Marshal Montgomery will be joining the Ulster Orchestra, singer Emily Smith and a host of other performers at the Ulster-Scots Agency's Burns Concert being held in Belfast's Waterfront Hall on Saturday January 21 (7.45pm start).

Under the control of pipe major Richard Parkes MBE and leading drummer Keith Orr, FM Montgomery have won a total of 65 major championships over the last 25 years. As well as those 11 global crowns, the band's haul has included 15 Scottish Championships, 12 British Championships, 12 European Championships, 12 Cowal Championships and all three UK Championships held so far. To that the band can add 22 All-Ireland titles and 23 Ulster Championships as well as literally hundreds of victories at minor championships the length and breath of Ireland.

Widely acknowledged as the greatest pipe band in history, bar none, FM have enjoyed an incredible record of dominance over the past decade in particular, and at the 2016 Worlds in Glasgow they raised that bar even higher. The January concert - the sixth in a row supported by the Ulster-Scots Agency - will again be recorded by the BBC, and as well as the FMM pipers and Ulster Orchestra, singer Emily Smith is returning to join the Burns Night celebrations in what will be a fantastic night of music, dance and song. Having celebrated a decade as one of Scottish music's most distinctively sublime voices, Emily Smith begins a fresh chapter in her illustrious, award-winning career. Her fifth solo album Echoes sees her return to her first love of traditional song and her gift for finding a personal connection in



these passed-down, anonymously authored words is still at the heart of her craft. But this is a bold new phase in Emily's music and with it comes what she describes as 'a new Scottish sound'. Emily was named BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year back in 2002 and the accolades have continued to flow as she won the USA song-writing competition in 2005, Scots Singer of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards in 2008 and she received two nominations in the 2012 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Emily first joined the Ulster Orchestra for Burns Night with her musician husband Jamie McClennan in 2015 and the Agency is delighted to welcome her back in 2017. The Ulster Orchestra, conducted by John Logan, will lead performers including Emily herself, the Ulster-Scots Agency's Juvenile Pipe Band, the Markethill Dancers and some special guests in a programme of music that mixes traditional favourites with more up to date work. Presenter Zoe Salmon (ex-Blue Peter) will be host for the evening in what promises to be an unmissable treat.



Of course, the work of The Bard will feature throughout the programme and amongst other special guests will be Christopher Tait, Scotland's finest Robbie Burns re-enactor, to bring the verse of the Bard to life. The skirl of the pipes, the whirl of jigs and reels and romance of Robbie Burns' traditional songs will be the ultimate Burns Night celebration! **Tickets are priced from £15 to £30 and are available from the Waterfront Hall Box Office on (028) 9033 4455 or online at www.ulsterorchestra.org.uk/events.**

BURNS WEEK EVENTS

Annual celebrations in Dunfanaghy



Arnolds Hotel in Dunfanaghy, Co Donegal, will again be hosting their Robbie Burns weekend celebrations on January 20-22, where the package (for €159 per person sharing) includes two nights' bed & full Irish breakfast, a Shamrock & Thistle ceilidh night and a Robbie Burns celebration dinner. On Friday January 20 the ceilidh night will include poetry readings, Scotch/Gaelic music and song and ceilidh dancing. A light supper will also be served. Then on the Saturday a Robbie Burns celebration dinner will be held with live music during dinner. This will be followed by poetry readings, Highland dancing, Scotch/Gaelic music and song. Reservations for the Robbie Burns Weekend at Arnolds Hotel can be made by contacting the hotel on +353(0)749136208, email enquiries@arnoldshotel.com or visit www.arnoldshotel.com

Society Burns Supper

Naggy Burns Ulster-Scots Society is hosting a Burns Supper at the No 1 Club, Narrow Gauge Road, Larne on Saturday January 21 2017 (7.30pm - 1.00am). Entertainment by the Music Wheelers with piping by Alan McNally, the Address to the Haggis performed by Willie McPhearson and speakers including Gary Blair and Anne Blair. Menu will include vegetable broth, haggis, sausage, neeps and tatties, tea/coffee and shortbread. Tickets are £12.50 each (includes a toast) and are available by telephoning 07592 324 542. Tickets are also available to the dance only (10.30pm) for £3.00.

Burns Night in East Belfast

The Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted to be working with Hosford, a homeless project of East Belfast Mission. Together they would like to invite you to a Burns Night on Friday January 20 2017 from 7pm - 9pm. The celebrations will include Ulster-Scots music by the fantastic traditional folk band, 'Stonewall', a dancing performance by Bright Lights Highland Dancers, highland bagpiping by Cameron Beggs and of course superb storytelling and 'yarns' of Robbie Burns by Jim McClean. This should be a very enjoyable evening and everyone will be made most welcome. Come along to the Skainos Centre, 241 Newtownards Rd, Belfast on Friday January 20 and join the Burns Night celebrations. Entry is free.



Burns Week 2017



The Ulster-Scots Agency is launching a new festival to celebrate the January 25 birthday of Robert Burns.

Belfast Burns week will take place from January 21 to 28, 2017 in various venues across Belfast and will incorporate a programme of drama, poetry, music, concerts and lectures.

The Festival has been launched to highlight the many links between Burns, his family and Ulster from the late 1700s to the present day.

Saturday January 21

- 7.45pm - 11pm - Waterfront Hall, Lanyon Place, Belfast: **Burns Concert with the Ulster Orchestra**

Monday January 23

- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Falls Road Library: **A talk on The Life, Loves and Legacy of Robert Burns** by Laura Spence
- 7pm - 8pm, The Factory @ The MAC, Belfast: **Robert Burns Live** - Christopher Tait performs his one man show 'Robert Burns Live' at the MAC theatre. This event is free however booking is essential - to receive your ticket please email cholmes@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

Tuesday January 24

- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Saintfield Library: **A talk on The Life, Loves and Legacy of Robert Burns** by Laura Spence
- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Ballyhackamore Library: **A talk on Burns and the Ulster Connection**
- 6.30pm - 7.30pm Banbridge Library: **A talk on the history and poetry of Robert Burns** by Matthew Warwick

Wednesday January 25

- 12pm - 12.50pm Discover Ulster-Scots Centre (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM EARLIER ADVERTISING): **A talk on The Life, Loves and Legacy of Robert Burns** by Laura Spence
- 1pm - 2pm, Black Box, Belfast: **Rabbie Burns Lunch** by Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival
- 1pm - 2pm Linen Hall Library: Andrew Gibson Memorial Lecture, **Utterly Compelling: the Gibson Collection and Robert Burns**, with Dr Carol Baraniuk
- 2pm - 4pm - Cregagh Road Library: **Language officer for the Ulster-Scots Agency, Gary Blair will be the speaker for this unique event at Cregagh Road Library and will provide an overview of Robert Burns, his works and read some poetry.** Piper (Andy McGregor) and Ulster-Scots band KasK will also be in

- attendance providing audiences with a chance to sing some Burns songs and play some traditional music. Spaces are limited at this event - please email cregagh.library@librariesni.org.uk or telephone 028 9040 1365 to secure your space.
- 7pm - 9pm Linen Hall Library: **Burns Night at the Linen Hall Library.** This event is free however booking is essential - to receive your ticket please email cholmes@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

Thursday January 26

- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Dundonald Library: A talk on **The Life, Loves and Legacy of Robert Burns** by Laura Spence
- 7pm - 9.30pm Discover Ulster-Scots Centre: **Open music session** playing the music of Burns and his collections amongst other pieces. This event is also open to audience members who do not wish to participate in playing music. Light refreshments will be available.

Friday January 27

- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Glengormley Library: A talk on **The Life, Loves and Legacy of Robert Burns** by Laura Spence
- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Discover Ulster-Scots Centre: A Talk on **Burns and the Ulster Connection**

Thousands gather to remember the fallen

Two thousand people gathered at the Belfast Waterfront Hall on Saturday November 12 to honour fallen heroes at the 2016 Festival of Remembrance.

The crowds took part in an evening of song, reflection and remembrance hosted by the Royal British Legion, commemorating all those who sacrificed their lives in defence of freedom through history.

The annual tradition, which included a moving mixture of concert, spectacle and service, paid special tribute to the men and women who fought in 1916, off Denmark's Jutland peninsula and at the Battle of the Somme.

The Ulster-Scots Agency was in attendance at the event promoting Paul Pollock's War publication and the Castleton Lanterns exhibition, both World War One-related projects which hold a key significance in this important commemoration year.

George Black, chairman of the RBL in Northern Ireland, said: "In the year that marked the centenaries of the Battle of Jutland and the Battle of the Somme, this was a very fitting and beautiful evening of reflection, to remember those who gave so much - and on many occasions their lives - for their country.

"Every year we work incredibly hard to make this event special. The Festival of Remembrance is a way of remembering those who fought for their country, as well as a time to commemorate and give thanks for their service. It offers us a time when we, can stop, reflect and remember those brave men and women who sacrificed so much for us."



Festival of Remembrance Bright Lights dancers lit up the occasion at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast.
TOP: In Flanders Fields
MIDDLE: Sailor's Hornpipe
BOTTOM: The Somme Remembered

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

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

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

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

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

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

V.C. heroes recognised in Monaghan exhibition

The Ulster-Scots Agency's 'Ulster's V.C. Heroes of the Great War' exhibition of paintings was launched in Clones Library in November.

The exhibition going on display in County Monaghan for the first time was launched by Minister for the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD. Also in attendance were Councillor P J O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Eamonn O'Sullivan, chief executive of Monaghan County Council, and Allen McAdam representing the Ulster-Scots Agency. Monaghan County Council are delighted to host this exhibition to recognise the heroic actions of soldiers from Ulster who were awarded the Victoria Cross, two of whom came from County Monaghan - Private Thomas Hughes and Sergeant David Nelson. Following the launch event in Clones, the Ulster's V.C. Heroes of the Great War exhibition remained on display in the library until the beginning of December when it was relocated to Carrickmacross Civic Centre. The exhibition is currently on display in Ballymoney Library and will remain there until February 28, before going on display in Carrickfergus Museum from March 1 to April 30.



USCN illuminates Ulster-Scots depth

Ulster-Scots is for everyone! It's the truth – though sometimes it takes someone looking at our culture with a fresh eye to actually see its worth!

The Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) courses have had participants with origins ranging from the Irish culture to the Ivory Coast, Australia to New York, and there was plenty to whet their appetites. So when the USCN runs courses, it is always glad to welcome those from outside the local culture, because it makes for much more interesting discussions! Yet many people of Ulster-Scots origin, when they hear Ulster-Scots mentioned, nod their heads and mutter "I like pipe bands, I know a when o words, sure what else is there?" If you are one of these people, why not have a look at the Ulster-Scots culture in greater depth yourself – whatever your own culture or your age group, we will have some new information for you!

The Ulster-Scots Community Network has developed workshops and courses (accredited and recreational) as an enjoyable way for you to learn about our culture, about our origins and heritage. Accreditation is through the Open College Network NI and does not involve any exams. USCN can deliver a variety of courses and workshops free at your chosen venue and time; the only cost to you is accreditation through the Open College Network Northern Ireland, which is currently £26 per person. The course may also be delivered as recreational if preferred, at no cost.

Courses may run daytime or evening. Also available are one-off talks on the topics indicated and a cultural identity workshop suitable for single identity or mixed identity groups.

To date the courses and workshops have been delivered, and very well received, by numerous groups throughout Ulster in locations including Londonderry,



Carrickfergus, Belfast, Enniskillen, Markethill and Kilkeel. Here is an overview of the courses:

Introducing U-S (Ulster-Scots) - This Level 1 course is designed to provide a basic - and very interactive - view of Ulster-Scots history and culture. It is suitable for all ages. The course runs for four sessions of two hours each (depending on individual group circumstances, these hours may be distributed over full day sessions). Typical outline of the course reads thus: Compulsory Sessions 1 and 2 cover "What it means to be Ulster-Scot", including quite a few little-known facts followed by "An Overview of the Plantation", which gives a summary of the Plantation throughout Ulster, including a locally-relevant portion introducing some family names.

For Sessions 3 and 4 participants can then choose from a list of other topics with an inbuilt interactive element, whether it is a

quiz, debate or active investigation. The most popular choices have been genealogy and language titles.

The Impact of Ulster-Scots on Ulster - This Level 2 course is designed to provide a deeper, more detailed view of Ulster-Scots history and culture.

The course runs for five sessions of two-and-a-half hours each (depending on individual group circumstances, these hours may be distributed over daytime sessions) plus agreed break time. Again, they are interactive and discussion is always encouraged – thus always energetic! Topics include more detailed view of the 17th Century Plantation of Ulster, how it impacted on the economics and social developments in Ulster down through the centuries and the affect of the Ulster-Scots Diaspora worldwide.

Explore your Ulster-Scots Ancestry - This Level 2 course is again delivered free

of charge and is designed to provide participants with an entry to genealogy, followed by on-going guidance.

It runs over 10 sessions, at once a week or a month and requires wi-fi access. It may include guided visits to PRONI, offices of the Church of the Latter Days Saints, etc, depending on group funds.

If you want to learn more about your Ulster-Scots culture and heritage, want to share it with other cultures, or help your children understand their origins, or if you just want a good night out, these are the courses that will be of help.

For further details contact the Ulster-Scots Community Network course coordinators Deirdre Speer Whyte (north west) at deirdre@ulster-scots.com of phone 07826849767; or Charles Neville (south and east) at charlesn@ulster-scots.com or phone 07824510304

Employment plan boosts prospects of Kilkeel youngsters

A County Down training project has outlined plans to help boost employability and turn around young lives in Kilkeel and surrounding areas.

Launched with £80,550 from the International Fund for Ireland, the 'Fair Fa' Ye To The Future' Media Youth Project – 'Welcome to the Future' in Ulster-Scots – is led by the Schomberg Society in Kilkeel and will support young people aged 16-25 to explore cultural identity, personal development, good relations, skills and employment opportunities.

The 12-month cross-community project will engage 20 young people in a range of training related to culture, media, tourism and arts with the aim of improving employment prospects, connecting them with the wider community and supporting better decision making.

International Fund for Ireland chairman Dr Adrian Johnston, welcoming the project, said: "Fair Fa' Ye To The Future offers positive engagement that can make a real difference and provide positive alternatives for those involved.



"It will open new pathways to learning, training and employment and will help turn young lives around. The project is about helping people to reassess their prospects and take active steps to improve their lives and their community.

"The reality is that there are growing issues

of disaffection among young people in many areas across Northern Ireland and that increases the risk of being drawn into issues like drugs, anti-social behaviour and division. Projects like this are critical and build momentum for change, stability and prosperity."

Roberta Heaney, the Fair Fa' Ye To The Future project coordinator, said: "This project is about identifying the needs of young people in the area and will equip, resource and empower them to make positive life choices. It will establish a range of practical personal development courses, with a focus on cultural identity, media, good relations, health and well-being, community development, life skills, confidence building and teamwork. We will also provide focused training around contentious and non-contentious issues that affect the daily lives of young people. "We want to encourage and challenge people to raise expectations for themselves and their role within the community."

The Schomberg Society has been supported previously by the International Fund for Ireland and in October 2014 it implemented a successful 18-month project that enabled more than 200 young people to explore their cultural identity and improve their personal development and employability skills.

That laid the foundations for the current Fair Fa' Ye To The Future project.

Edward Bruce 700 Heritage Trail unveiled

The Ulster-Scots Agency and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has officially unveiled the 'Edward Bruce 700 Heritage Trail', developed to commemorate Ulster-Scottish history.

The Edward Bruce commemorative boulder, which is made of Mourne granite, was unveiled at Moat Park by Councillor Tim Morrow, chairman of the Council's leisure & community development committee, and Ulster-Scots Agency development officer Catriona Holmes.

Cllr Tim Morrow said: "The Council is delighted to be part of this Heritage Trail that identifies links between the historical locations of battles, sieges and coronations across Scotland, Ulster and Ireland of which Moat Park is one.

"The brief inscription on this commemorative boulder details the significance of this location in Dundonald. A church, fort and moat were constructed in the 12th century by the Anglo-Normans. During an invasion by Edward Bruce of Scotland from 1315-1318 the church and fort were destroyed. The Moat remained after the battle and today can be accessed through routes in Moat Park and along the Enler River. "Through the joint working of local community groups and the Ulster-Scots Agency there are a number of strong links and projects in place between Northern Ireland and Scotland. It is very important that all generations gain knowledge of the local heritage and what better way than through the placement of commemorative boulders in



► Councillor Tim Morrow and Ulster-Scots Agency development officer Catriona Holmes at the unveiling

locations of significant historical importance, regularly visited by residents and visitors alike such as Moat Park.

"It is hoped that tourists from Scotland and further afield will follow the Edward Bruce Heritage Trail to the Lisburn Castlereagh area as part of their trip, during which they may also be tracing their ancestry," Cllr Morrow added.

The other sites of the Edward Bruce 700 Heritage Trail are located at Carrickfergus; Mounthill; Olderfleet; Connor and Kells;

Greencastle, Co Down; Rathlin; Faughart, Co Louth and Northburgh Castle, Greencastle, Co Donegal.

To commemorate the crowning of Edward Bruce as King of Ireland in 1315, the Ulster-Scots Agency has developed a booklet telling the story of Edward Bruce's campaign in Ireland and a heritage trail map outlining a number of the significant sites associated with Edward Bruce and his time in Ireland. Copies are available from the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast.

C.S. Lewis film launch a success

The Ulster-Scots Agency and Heritage Experience launched a series of C.S. Lewis short films as part of last November's C.S. Lewis Festival.

The films were shown at the Strand Arts Centre in east Belfast, not far from the Lewis home at Little Lea.

Leading Lewis expert Sandy Smith hosted the event, providing attendees with a background for each of the individual films. Sandy is a director at Heritage Experience, which is a social enterprise specialising in facilitating other companies involved in cultural tourism by sourcing and marketing related products such as gift-ware, literature, DVDs and CDs.

Heritage Experience is a joint venture between Larne's economic development agency Ledcom and two cultural organisations - the Ulster Historical Foundation, which helps visitors trace their Irish ancestry; and the Ulster-Scots Community Network, which works to promote and preserve Ulster-Scots heritage. The C.S. Lewis films were created to highlight the links between Lewis and the island of Ireland, Lewis and Belfast and Lewis and the Great War. Macmillan Media produced the short films with the aid of Sandy's in-depth knowledge of C.S. Lewis.

You can view the videos online at vimeo.com/authenticulster



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

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

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre features:

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

words many people use every day

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

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



Invited guests John and Ruby Wilkinson with Aileen Patterson, Chairman



Anniversary cake being cut by Moira Fletcher, who has danced in the Branch since it first started in 1946 and the Branch's Hon President, Elizabeth Cameron MBE



Elizabeth Cameron MBE Hon. President Belfast Branch; Helen Russell, Chairman RSCDS; The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston; Aileen Patterson, Chairman, RSCDS Belfast Branch and Joan Madill Hon. Secretary, RSCDS Belfast Branch



Elizabeth Cameron, Helen Russell and Aileen Patterson at the St Andrew's Ball



David Oswald (accordion), Max Ketchin (Drums), Diane McCullough (fiddle), Isobelle Hodgson (keyboard) and Marian Anderson (lead accordion)

RSCDS marks special milestone

A year-long series of events to mark 70 years of Scottish country dancing in the Belfast area culminated with a weekend of celebrations in December marked by a ball in the Queen's Hall in Newtownards and a gala evening in Titanic Belfast the following night.

Throughout the year activities run by the Belfast branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) included a weekend school, dance teacher training and several public events to encourage people to join in and appreciate the health and social benefits of Scottish country dancing.

Dancers attended the ball and gala from as far apart as the USA, Australia, the Netherlands, all parts of the UK from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to the south of England as well as members and friends from dance groups across Ireland to enjoy the fun, fitness and friendship that Scottish dancing brings.

A special message of congratulations to the Belfast branch on reaching its 70th anniversary came from Her Majesty The Queen, patron of the Society, and was read to guests by Mrs Elizabeth Cameron, MBE, president of RSCDS Belfast branch.

The anniversary St Andrew's Ball on Friday December 2 in the recently refurbished Queens Hall was described by one of the Dublin dancers as "absolutely superb - and the new dance from the Belfast 70th Anniversary book, 'Young at Heart' by Lyn Rankin, flows beautifully. Dancing it to Marian Anderson's music was a wonderful experience."

On Saturday December 3 the evening of celebration commenced with guests being piped in to Titanic Belfast. Following a reception in the Britannic lounge, the

traditional Scottish Dancers Grand March was led to the tunes of the pipes, down the grand staircase of the Titanic by Aileen Patterson, chairman of the branch and Belfast Lord Mayor Alderman Brian Kingston.

They were followed by distinguished guests Mrs Helen Russell, chairman of the RSCDS and her husband Ian; John Wilkinson, past RSCDS chairman and his wife Ruby; and Ian Crozier, chief executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency, who was accompanied by his wife Elaine.

Indeed it was quite a memorable occasion to view more than 200 dancers assembled and progressing to their tables via the grand staircase in Titanic Belfast. The Lord Mayor welcomed guests from across the globe to the city and the chairman of the branch was presented with an anniversary certificate from the RSCDS by society chair Helen Russell, who said how much pleasure it gave her to be present at both events.

During the latter part of the meal guests were entertained by a video, highlighting some reminiscences of members and depicting memorable moments and people in the branch's history, including some amusing anecdotes and items from ceilidhs by branch members at RSCDS summer schools at St Andrew's University.

Following dinner the Lord Mayor was presented with the first copy of the Platinum Anniversary Book of Dances specially devised and published by the branch, together with a CD of the music to accompany them, arranged and recorded by Marian Anderson and her world-wide renowned Scottish country dance band, present on both nights to play for the dancing.

This book of 14 dances was selected by an independent panel from a much larger number submitted and will contribute a

lasting legacy to Scottish dance.

The branch was thrilled to have so much local talent to offer to the selection panel. The new dances and music showcase local talent in both devising dances and composing Scottish country dance music, providing the dances with original tunes so beautifully arranged and played by Marian Anderson who with her band has recorded the accompanying CD.

The launch of this new book and CD has been eagerly awaited by many Scottish dancers, following on from the world wide acclaim and recognition by the RSCDS of the Dance 'City of Belfast', first published in the Branch's 60th Anniversary Book and CD, then selected by the Society for its prestigious publication of dances, selected from around the world.

'City of Belfast' dance was devised by Lucy Mulholland of Belfast and its beautiful music composed by Marian Anderson is extremely popular amongst Scottish dancers and musicians and is to be seen regularly on dance programmes and YouTube being enjoyed in all corners of the world. The devisers were also presented with copies of the book and CD, as was David Oswald, another well-known Scottish band leader who specially wrote music for one of the dances to mark the occasion and has played many times for special events in the branch and came with his wife to join in the celebrations.

During the evening guests were entertained by a local soloist John McQuiston, who delighted the visitors with songs from several musicals and a special request rendition of 'Caledonia'. Several dances from the new book were danced for the guests by local groups of dancers and accompanied by Marian Anderson and her band which was specially augmented by a local fiddle player Diane McCullough for the

evening. The dances chosen for the evening were:

Platinum Skies: Reel devised by Ruth Clarke, one of the Branch's youngest most recently trained teachers who teaches in an affiliated group in Co Tyrone. Ruth took up SCD at St Andrews University and for this Belfast Branch is so thankful that she joined Belfast Branch on her return to NI. Music for the lead tune was composed by a young musician friend of Ruth's, James Tween.

Set in Roosendaal: Medley devised by Lucy Mulholland to mark the visit by a group of eight dancers from Belfast who visited Roosendaal when she taught their Day school in 2015. Original music for the dance was composed by Nicky McMichan, another good friend to Belfast Branch.

The Orchards of County Armagh: Strathspey devised by Jinty Anderson, a branch member, who teaches Scottish country dancing in Portadown. The lead tune is *Sailing South* by Judi Nicolson.

The Lonely Honeybee: Reel devised by Dorothy Bell who is a prolific deviser of dances having published very many over a lifetime in SCD. Her dance was danced by some members of Lisburn class.

Humours of California: Strathspey devised by guest master of ceremonies for the evening, John Wilkinson from Edinburgh and Duns & District Branch. John wrote the dance for Marian on the occasion of her wedding to Max Ketchin, and was first performed at their wedding by a team including Lucy Mulholland. There was then an opportunity for dancers to enjoy dancing to the live music in the magnificent surroundings of the Titanic suite and the atmosphere was palpable as it concluded with a wonderful round the entire room 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The Belfast branch is indebted to all those who have supported it over the 70 years and especially through this special year wish to acknowledge the financial support which the Ulster-Scots Agency has made available towards the cost of the year-long anniversary programme.



Official opening of Ulster Hist

The Foundation's new offices on the first floor of the Corn Exchange building were officially opened on Wednesday December 7 2016 at an event to mark the occasion and to acknowledge the contributors and donors who helped to support the relocation.

The programme started that morning with a lecture by Prof. James Stevens Curl, highly respected architectural historian and author, on the subject of The Transformation of the Landscape Garden to the Garden Cemetery: a Masonic Legacy.

The lecture was delivered to a packed house in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre on the ground floor of the Corn Exchange, demonstrating the utility of the building and its public spaces, and the opportunities for collaboration between the tenants.

After the lecture lunch and drinks were served as the guests made their way to the first floor for the official opening ceremony. There was a strong turn out from supporters and guests of the Foundation, including: the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, US Consul General Daniel Lawton, Tom Scott, Chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency, actor and playwright, Dan Gordon, and Martina Campbell, Languages Branch, Department for Communities to name a few.

The Foundation was also joined by a number of special guests including Wilson Nicholl from England and Norman McClelland and

friends from Phoenix AZ. Mr McClelland was in Ireland to receive the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad from Irish President, Michael D. Higgins, the following day in Dublin.

A focus of the opening event was to mark the contribution of a number of individuals who between them have given more than 160 years' service to Ulster Historical Foundation, including, Prof. Richard Clarke, Catherine Blumsom, Annette McKee and Dr Brian Trainor. The official opening was performed by Dr Trainor, former Chief Executive of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, director of Ulster Historical Foundation, and emeritus Research Director of the Foundation. It was a wonderful day, with a hugely positive atmosphere and the perfect opportunity for the Foundation to thank its many supporters at home and overseas.

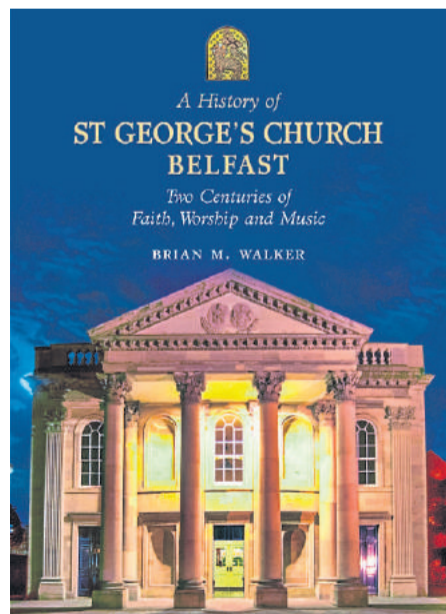
A Musical Miscellany: celebrating the first 60 years of Ulster Historical Foundation, with music and words from the nine counties of Ulster

Ulster Historical Foundation celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year and to mark this achievement a special musical evening will be held on Saturday evening, February 4 2017, in Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church. Featuring music, songs and words representing the nine counties of Ulster this programme will be quite special.



Belfast, 'a very Scottish town' - new books from the *Ulster Historical Foundation*

In the second half of 2016 the Foundation was busy publishing new books and reprinting a number of classic titles, all with the history of Belfast as their theme. The new titles are literally an embarrassment of riches for those interested in the history of this fascinating place. And the energy, diversity and range of the city and its people are brought to life through the pages of these books.



A History of St George's Church Belfast: Two Centuries of Faith, Worship and Music
Situating in a location where Christians are known to have worshipped for many centuries, St George's Church has since

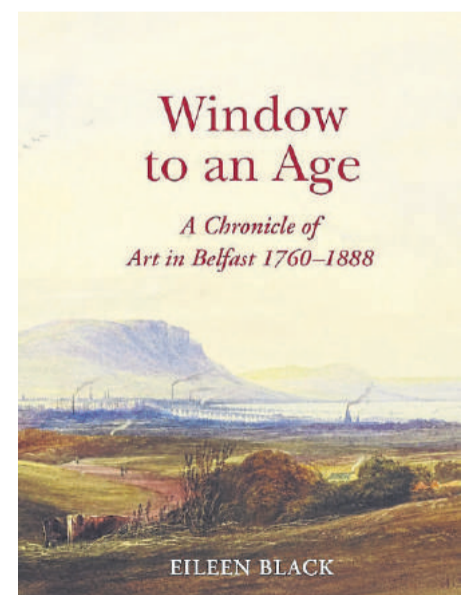
its establishment in 1816 played a highly significant role in the spiritual and cultural development of Belfast, from market town to industrial giant to capital city. This book narrates the great challenges it has faced - and survived - over two centuries, including the very serious threats of physical destruction during the 1941 Belfast Blitz and, more recently, the 30 years of devastation brought on the city during the 'Troubles'. The present day church's services are, as in the past, widely respected for their dignity of worship and fine music. Indeed, the musical tradition long associated with the church may be traced back to the appointment as its organist in 1817 of Edward Bunting, the original collector of Irish airs and music and whose own music, observed Martha McTier, sister of Dr William Drennan, founder of the United Irishmen, "might make Pitt melt for the poor Irish".

In telling the church's absorbing history, the author has been able to avail of a major parochial archive covering most of the last two hundred years. The range of illustrations in this beautifully designed volume includes fine modern photographs of the church building - interior and exterior - as well as

some rarely seen engravings, paintings and early photographs. It is sure to be much appreciated by a wide readership, including not just parishioners but also those interested in church and architectural history and by the many who are intrigued by the story of Belfast. *A History of St George's* was launched on December 8 2016 in the church, where the large crowd gathered to celebrate the launch of the book itself, and the conclusion of the parish's 200th anniversary celebrations which took place during the course of 2016. The event finished with some fine music provided by the Church's exceptional choir. The book is available from bookshops, the parish or directly from the Foundation: www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/history-st-georges-church-belfast-two-centuries-faith-worship-music

Window to an Age - A Chronicle of Art in Belfast 1760-1888

Window to an Age was launched, appropriately, in the Heritage, Belfast, Ulster and Irish Library of Central Library and equally fitting, the book was launched by Kim Mawhinney, Head of Art, National Museums Northern Ireland.



This impressive piece, by Dr Eileen Black, former fine art curator in the Ulster Museum, is a companion to the author's book of 2006 - *Art in Belfast 1760-1888: Art Lovers or Philistines?* - which told the story of art in Belfast from its early beginnings to

Historical Foundation's new offices



the opening in 1888 of the town's first rate-supported art space, a suite of galleries on the top floor of the Free Public Library (now Central Library) in Royal Avenue.

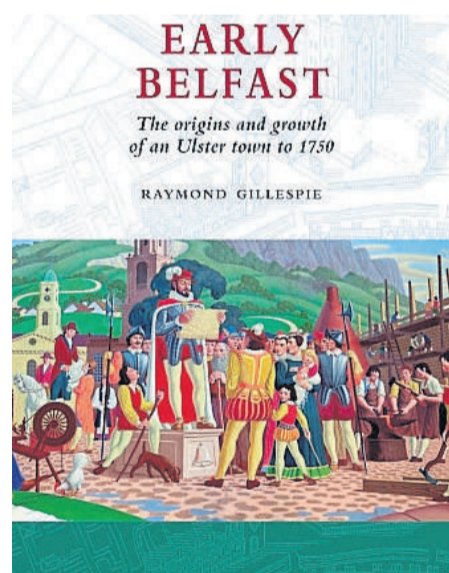
This new publication gives an account of artists' comings and goings in Belfast between 1760 and 1888 and details the contents of the various exhibitions held by exhibiting societies and art dealers, information which has been largely forgotten or lost through time. The book also reveals lesser-known features of the local art world, such as the many panoramas which came to town, providing entertainment and education for the masses; also, the art to be seen at the conversaziones of societies like the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society and the various kinds of artistic training offered to gentlemen by now-forgotten lady artists.

Overall, *Window to an Age* gives a bird's-eye view of the art world of the town during the period covered and provides a unique insight into aspects of Belfast's cultural life in former times.

The book is available from bookshops or directly from the Foundation:
www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/window-to-an-age

Early Belfast: The Origins and Growth of an Ulster Town to 1750

For most people, nineteenth-century Belfast is the very essence of an industrial city, boasting as it did by 1900 the world's largest spinning mill, the most productive shipyard, the biggest ropeworks and tobacco factory. *Early Belfast: The Origins and Growth of an Ulster Town to 1750* looks beyond that world to reveal an earlier Belfast where the foundations for its later industrial prowess



“Early Belfast charts the town's remarkable growth from site to city, from the first mentions of it as long ago as the 7th century.”

were laid. *Early Belfast* charts the town's remarkable growth from site to city, from the first mentions of it as long ago as the 7th century through to the thirteenth century Anglo-Norman settlement and Gaelic revival, to the Plantation town of the eighteenth

and nineteenth centuries. It retraces not only the development of the early streets and their names, but also the lives of those who walked and lived in them. In doing so it recreates something of the thriving commercial settlement and port that came increasingly to dominate the life of the region it served – Ulster.

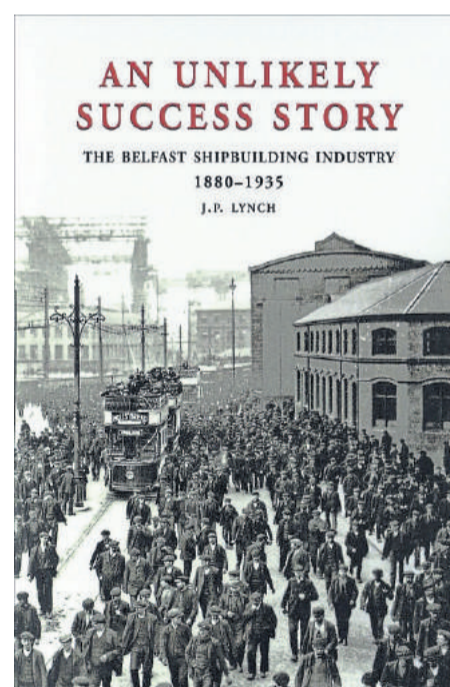
Using a unique series of maps, together with archaeological and documentary evidence that has been expertly pieced together, the book revolutionises our understanding of this, the most Ulster of towns, before the coming of industrialisation. Just as importantly, it reminds us that Belfast has always had, in the poet Derek Mahon's lyrical phrase, a “hill at the top of every street”.

For the first time in over two years *Early Belfast* is available at:
www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/early-belfast-the-origins-and-growth-of-an-ulster-town-to-1750

An Unlikely Success Story: The Belfast Shipbuilding Industry

For readers who are interested in the industrial history of the city, *An Unlikely Success Story: The Belfast Shipbuilding Industry 1880-1935* provides a story of the yards, the ships and the people the industry embraced.

By the start of the twentieth century Belfast had become one of the main centres of the British shipbuilding industry and, in some years before the First World War, the city's yards were producing up to 10 per cent of British merchant shipping output. But how did the town develop into one of the world's great shipbuilding centres?



Shipbuilding was a most unlikely success story in Belfast and its prosperity was created by a strange mixture of entrepreneurial ability, timing, technical expertise and employment patterns. It was the last of the ‘main’ industries to develop in Belfast but in terms of wealth-creation and prestige, it was perhaps the greatest of the city's employers.

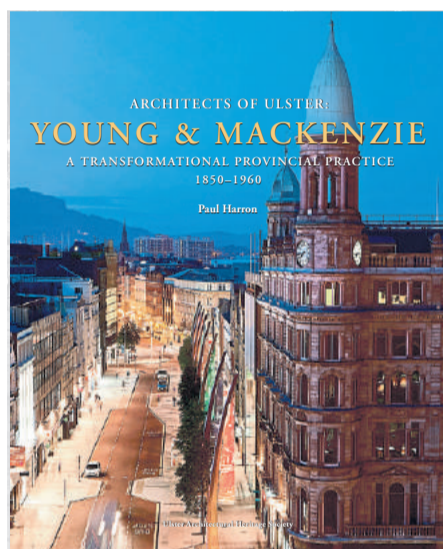
The book can be obtained from the Foundation's website:
www.booksireland.org.uk/store/books/unlikely-success-story-belfast-shipbuilding-industry-1880-1935

Landmark new book on Transformational Ulster Architects

On Thursday November 17 a fascinating and colourful new book on a prolific Ulster architectural practice and family dynasty was launched by the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society in one of the keynote Belfast buildings which the firm designed and worked from for much of the twentieth century.

Architects of Ulster: Young & Mackenzie – A Transformational Provincial Practice, 1850 - 1960 by Belfast-based architectural historian Dr Paul Harron was launched at the terrace of the stately Scottish Provident Buildings in Donegall Square West, Belfast, by BBC broadcaster William Crawley.

Architects of Ulster: Young & Mackenzie documents the work of this vibrant Belfast-based architectural and civil engineering practice which was established in the early 1850s and survived for three family generations, quickly becoming pivotal to the transformation of Ulster's built environment. The people at the heart of this prolific firm were not only of Ulster-Scots ancestry but also frequently found themselves drawing on rich seams of Ulster-Scots cultural and aesthetic influences. This 'powerhouse' of provincial architecture designed large-scale keynote Belfast structures such as the Presbyterian Assembly Buildings (or 'Church House'), the Ocean Buildings and Scottish Provident Buildings, as well as Robinson & Cleaver's and Anderson & McAuley's department stores along with scores of other buildings which make up much of Ulster's architectural fabric. This attractively designed 400-page volume features over 600 colour images including many archival images reproduced for the first time, and is the latest publication by the UAHS which is known for its high-quality publications on the built environment. The author, Paul Harron, says, 'This monograph presents a story about business connections, patronage, survival and exceptional longevity, and a chronicle of the radical physical development of Ulster. It also provides an insight into the life of a firm of architects and notable historical Belfast figures, including Robert Young, the founder (who became an Irish Privy



Councillor) and his historian son, Robert Magill Young. Buildings as well as people have fascinating stories to tell and I hope that this new book on Young & Mackenzie's work will help make these building and the past come alive. It will interest all kinds of readers, from those who are intrigued by buildings as well as those interested in the history of this place especially from the Victorian period through to the twentieth century and indeed visitors to our towns and cities, especially Belfast.' The volume covers commercial, institutional, domestic and ecclesiastical buildings and includes a comprehensive gazetteer of the firm's output.

The publication is priced at £28 and is available from selected bookshops and via the UAHS online at www.uahs.org.uk (ISBN 978-0-900457-80-7)



What's on with the Ulster Historical Foundation

IRISH AND SCOTS-IRISH GENEALOGY ESSENTIALS: A FAMILY HISTORY COURSE, FEBRUARY 06-10 2017

Researching your Irish and Scots Irish ancestors can be both exhilarating and frustrating. This taught course is highly recommended for those who are relatively new to Irish family history and wish to get to grips with research techniques, archives and genealogical sources in Ireland. It is also the ideal opportunity for those with more experience in genealogy to learn about lesser-known sources, many of which are not yet online.

The course will be delivered by the Ulster Historical Foundation's experienced staff and will include a week of intensive learning, with practical demonstrations using relevant websites and other electronic resources, and a day and a half of guided research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Participants will have full access to the Foundation's research and newspaper library, electronic resources, and of course the expertise of our staff. Running from February 06-10 the Genealogy Essentials Course will cover topics such as land divisions; nineteenth and early twentieth century census returns; church records; civil records; Griffith's valuation; tithe applotment books; wills and testamentary papers; and much more. More details of this course, including how to book can be found at: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/>

ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION USA LECTURE TOUR, MARCH 04-19 2017

The Foundation's annual family history lecture tour in the USA will take place from March 04 - 19 2017. The tour is another packed itinerary which will see Foundation staff, Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt, again travel coast to coast to share their knowledge and expertise on how to trace Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. Dates on the tour for 2017 include: Saturday March 4, Phoenix AZ; Sunday March 5, Tacoma (TBC); Tuesday March 7, Nashville TN; Thursday March 9, Michigan City, IN; Saturday March 11, Bentonville AR; Sunday March 12, York PA; Monday March 13, Green Bay WI; Wednesday March 15, Fountaindale IL; Thursday March 16, Fountaindale IL; Friday March 17, Richmond VA

Saturday March 18, Philadelphia PA
Sunday March 19 Pittsburgh PA
Unusually, the tour will feature back to back days in Fountaindale, IL (on the outskirts of Chicago) and there is a possibility of a second day being added to the stop in Phoenix AZ at the start of the tour. Full details, including how to register for these programmes, will be available soon from the Foundation's website, www.ancestryireland.com

TRACING YOUR IRISH AND SCOTS-IRISH ANCESTORS JUNE 14-21 AND SEPTEMBER 06-13 2017

Ulster Historical Foundation will host two family conferences in June and September 2017. Running from June 14 - 21 2017 and September 06 - 13 2017, these conferences offer a new programme which combines a varied and exciting mix of research opportunities in the archives (including the National Library and National Archives in Dublin), talks from acknowledged experts and a choice of tours.

New features for Tracing your Irish Ancestors June 2017

Irish genealogy essentials course – 2.5 days intensive training prior to the start of our conference; tour of both Knowth and Newgrange passage tombs at Bru na Boinne; tour of south Antrim including a trip to Carrickfergus Castle; Ireland's only accessible rope-bridge at Carrick-a-rede; Hill of the O'Neills – the ancient capital of Ulster!

For more information and guidance on how to register for the June event please see <https://www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/summer/>

New features for Tracing your Irish Ancestors September 2017

Irish genealogy essentials course – 2.5 days intensive training prior to the start of our conference; tour of Newgrange passage tombs at Bru na Boinne; tour of Co. Down including a trip to Down Cathedral, said to be the burial place of St Patrick; tour of Armagh, the Ecclesiastical Capital of Ireland; Ireland's only accessible rope-bridge at Carrick-a-rede.

For more information and guidance on how to register for the September event please see <https://www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn/>
If you have any queries, please email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk

Irish Genealogy Essentials: A Family History Course

6-10 February 2017



Ulster Historical
Foundation



The Corn Exchange,
31 Gordon Street,
Belfast,
BT1 2LG

<https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/>

250th anniversary of the birth of seventh US President marked with special booklet

The Ulster-Scots Agency has assigned the publication of a special booklet to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Andrew Jackson, the seventh United States President.

Jackson, whose parents Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson emigrated to America from Carrickfergus in 1765, was born in the Presbyterian Scots-Irish Waxhaw community of the Carolinas 18 months later on March 15 1767.

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

The appropriately illustrated full colour Jackson brochure is being written and compiled on behalf of the Ulster-Scots Agency by Northern Ireland journalist and author Billy Kennedy and will be publicly available in the lead-up to the celebrations in



March marking Andrew Jackson's birth. Billy Kennedy has written 11 books on 18th century emigration to America from Ulster and he has also compiled various brochures for the Ulster-Scots Agency on this theme. Andrew Jackson, who earned the name of 'Old Hickory' for his sterling leadership qualities in battle as Commander of the United States Army in the early part of the 19th century, achieved a much acclaimed military triumph over British forces as American general at the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815.

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

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

The egalitarian aim of 'Jacksonian

Democracy' was "government for the people, by the people". The detailed brochure will also trace the Jackson family roots in both the west of Scotland and in Ulster; his time growing up in the Carolinas during the 1770s/1780s period of the American Revolution, and his spell as US President.

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

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

Copies of the booklet will be available from the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre from March.

Ulster-Scots Cultural Heritage of Carrickfergus celebrated at St Andrew's Day event

St Andrew's Day was celebrated at Carrickfergus Castle on Saturday December 3 2016 with a day of Ulster-Scots festivities, food and family fun at Carrickfergus Castle.

The one-day event included a full programme of family orientated activities including Ulster-Scots re-enactments, a performance on the walls of the Castle by the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, traditional music and dance, traditional Ulster-Scots food, a falconry display, sword fighting, archery, face-painting, sword and crown making workshops and storytelling. With entry to the Castle provided for free by the Department for Communities and a fantastic programme of Ulster-Scots family orientated activities provided for visitors to enjoy, over 700 people took the opportunity to learn more about the cultural heritage of Carrickfergus and to commemorate St Andrew's Day.



Flute Band contest set for Lisburn



► Pictured celebrating Ballygowan's victory last year are band members Harry Douglas and Rebecca Thompson

The Flute Band Association of Northern Ireland will host its annual own choice competition in Lisburn's Island Centre on Saturday February 25.

Part-music flute bands (with instrumentation ranging from piccolo down to sub-contra bass flutes) and melody flute bands (with traditional wooden B-flat flutes) will be playing a range of military marches, selections from musicals and classical pieces to best showcase their abilities and talents.

The music will start from 11.30am, with bands across various grades performing their chosen pieces of music right up until early evening.

Admission is payable at the door on the day, so come along and enjoy some of the finest amateur music Northern Ireland has to offer.

Last year's winners of the Championship section were Ballygowan Concert Flute Band, who have availed of the Ulster-Scots Agency's Music & Dance tuition grant for the last number of years.

William Francis Curtis: A Cavan story

William Curtis was killed in action on July 1 1916, serving with the 9th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles. He was 22 at the time of his death and was the son of James F. H. Curtis of Main Street, Arva, County Cavan. According to the 1911 Census, William Curtis was a 16-year-old postboy.

According to the same source James F. H. Curtis was the church sexton and was 55 in 1911. He had been married to Kate (aged 56 in 1911) for 31 years. The marriage had produced nine children born alive, of whom eight were still living. Of those still living in the parental home, Kate (aged 19 in 1911) was a dressmaker. No employment is given for Mary Anne (aged 17 in 1911) and Lilly (aged 13 in 1911) is described as a scholar (i.e. she was still at school). The entire family was Church of Ireland and they all had been born in County Cavan.

As William has no known grave, he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing at Pier and Face 15 A.

In 2014 Myra Curtis, William's great niece who lives in County Fermanagh, visited the Tower of London and saw the striking display of ceramic poppies there, each poppy representing the death of a British serviceman in the Great War. Myra was very struck by the fact that one of the hand-made poppies represented her great uncle and was determined to obtain one of them to bring back to County Cavan.

When Myra applied for one, she was originally told that all the poppies had all already been allocated but she tried again, explaining that she wanted one for her great uncle William



► Memorial to the missing at Thiepval



► Left, Myra Curtis at The Tower of London in 2014 and above, the plaque at Arvagh Church of Ireland

Francis Curtis and that she wished to present it to Arvagh (Arva often appears with an additional -gh) Church of Ireland, the church to which he belonged. A couple of weeks later, out of the blue she received an email granting her request.

Myra asked woodworker Bruce Switzer, from Kesh, County Fermanagh, to design a display for the poppy. Bruce explained that his design was inspired by Thiepval Wood: 'You have the tree and the ivy growing around the tree will eventually kill it and the most poignant part then was the poppy inserted into the tree, (signifying) the death of Francis Curtis.' The Church of Ireland Rector of Arvagh, the Revd Hazel Hicks, said that she was delighted that the poppy was to be given to the church. She said that it was important that the sacrifice of the men from the parish was not forgotten. In County Cavan, some 10,000 men served in the Great War, of whom about 1,000 lost their lives.

The Rector explained: "Things were so difficult in terms of the trauma they experienced, because of the political situation they couldn't talk about what they had experienced and it was difficult for them to find employment."

She went on to observe: "I think it's wonderful to hear their story 100 years on because their stories weren't told when they came back from war because of the political situation (in Ireland) and because of what they experienced."

Ms Curtis said most of her family had forgotten that one of their relatives had died at the Somme, but is pleased that his sacrifice will now be remembered.

ULSTER-SCOT JUVENILE PIPE BAND: *one-to-one with Adam Brimage*

In future issues of the paper, Victoria Catterson will profile a member of the Ulster-Scot Juvenile Pipe Band. This issue we focus on Adam Brimage

Adam Brimage has made new friends and really enjoys being part of the pipe band family. He has grown in confidence in playing with the time and dedication given by the tutors.

He would never have been involved or interested in piping as he was in a flute band with his dad only the opportunity arose in school. Needless to say he has forsaken his flute for the pipes!

Adam's mother Sharon says: "The Music for Schools project is fantastic and opens up a whole new world to children. It's well worth the tuition fees which are affordable especially for families with more than one child. As it takes place during the school day there is little or no inconvenience to parents."

Age: 11

School: Cookstown High School

Current band: Matt Boyd Memorial

Hobbies outside of piping: Singing with school choir



How long have you been piping? - Four years

How/Where did you learn to pipe? - Orritor PS with Music for Schools

What attracted you to piping and/or pipe bands? - An opportunity to learn a new instrument.

What do you enjoy most about piping and

performing with the Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band? - I'm going to see the world with them! But I also love all the local events like the 21 Gun Salute for the Queen's Birthday.

How often do you practice? - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday
Is there anything you aspire to achieve in piping such as winning the Worlds, playing in grade one or winning solo competitions?

- I want to be a piping teacher and pass on what I have been taught to future generations
Are there any pipers in particular that you enjoy listening to/aspire to play like? - Alan Ferguson, my pipe major at Matt Boyd Memorial

What advice would you give to someone who would like to start piping? - You'll never regret learning to pipe but it takes a lot of time and commitment and practice.

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

Focus on Sir Edward Carson as First Lord of the Admiralty

This special article looks at the legacy left by Sir Edward Carson during his time as First Lord of the Admiralty under Lloyd George during the Great War

More than any single person (in the words of the historian Robert Blake), Sir Edward Carson was responsible for the fall of Asquith's administration and the formation of the Lloyd George coalition government in December 1916.

Lloyd George told Frances Stevenson, his mistress, personal secretary and confidante (who became his second wife in October 1943), that he had no particular desire for the premiership and that he would have been happy to allow Asquith to run his show (ie the Cabinet) but he did want control of the war effort.

Lloyd George wished to achieve this through the creation of a small war committee, a structure which Carson had also advocated, for the more efficient management of the nation's manpower and material resources. Asquith resigned as Prime Minister in early December 1916. Although he may have regarded the move as essentially tactical, it proved permanent and Lloyd George became Prime Minister in his place – as Carson wished.

Lloyd George offered Carson the position of Lord Chancellor, the greatest prize available to a member of the legal profession, but Carson declined and indicated his desire to become a member the war committee (which was to become the War Cabinet) without portfolio.

Lloyd George originally intended appointing Lord Milner, a Liberal Imperialist with radical views which corresponded closely to Lloyd George's own on domestic politics, to the role of First Lord of the Admiralty and appointing Carson to the War Cabinet. But for whatever reason (and he claimed he was pressured into the switch by the Conservative Party), Lloyd George changed his mind and appointed Carson to the Admiralty and Milner to the War Cabinet. Thus Carson held one of the most demanding of wartime offices at a critical juncture of the war.

In his entry on Carson in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, D George Boyce observes Carson proved a surprisingly ineffective minister. Carson's real power lay, as it did in his legal career, in his strength of critical attack and in doing so Boyce is simply reiterating the conventional wisdom on the subject.

Keith Grieves in his book 'Sir Edward Geddes: Business and Government in War and Peace', writes that "He (Geddes) was unimpressed by Sir Edward Carson's somnolent political leadership as First Lord of the Admiralty and felt that an unwillingness to alter existing, largely pre-war procedures had resulted in an extreme form of naval defensiveness, which the scale of merchant loss symbolised."

Are these assessments accurate? Are they not



shaped by taking Lloyd George's extremely self-serving post-war memoirs at face value and Sir Edward Geddes' equally egotistical self-evaluation of his achievements as Carson's successor?

It is highly significant that Winston Churchill, in his history of the First World War – 'The World Crisis' - gave Carson full credit for the measures he took as First Lord of the Admiralty.

As new First Lord of the Admiralty, Carson very quickly forged an excellent working relationship with Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, the new First Sea Lord. Both men formed a high opinion of each other. Of Jellicoe, Carson recalled: "He was in my opinion the best man at his job that I met with in the whole war for knowledge, calmness, straightness and the confidence he inspired in his officers."

Jellicoe, in his memoir entitled 'The Crisis of the Naval War' wrote of Carson: "His devotion to the naval service was obvious to all, and in him the Navy possessed indeed a true and powerful friend."

Their period in office coincided with mounting U-boat attacks on allied shipping. In last four months of 1916 U-boats had doubled the average monthly losses in allied and neutral merchant shipping from 75,000 tons to 158,000 tons. During 1916 the number of U-boats in service rose from 58 to 140. In early 1917 the situation became even more grim because in January that year the German High Command decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare.

By sinking enough merchant shipping, the Germans hoped to bring the United Kingdom

system on the Scandinavian coal and trade routes to see if this was the answer. In mid-April 1917 they introduced a new convoy route to Gibraltar. On April 30 1917 Lloyd George – according to his memoirs which appeared in 1934 – descended on the Admiralty building where he allegedly demanded - and won - changes. Lloyd George also claimed that Jellicoe had always opposed the convoy system.

Asked about this day after the publication of Lloyd George's memoirs, Carson did not mince his words in responding: "It is the biggest lie ever was told!"

The idea that Lloyd George, after a hard struggle, sat in the First Lord's chair and imposed convoys on a hostile board of the Admiralty is a myth of his own creation.

The entry of the US into the war completely transformed the situation. The US was able to supply the necessary escort vessels. The system was rapidly organised with such efficiency that, though the losses in shipping remained heavy until the autumn of 1917, the impact of the U-boat campaign was greatly diminished.

The close working relationship between Carson and Jellicoe is a subject for another occasion.

Lloyd George once said of Winston Churchill: "He would make a drum of out of the skin of his own mother in order to sound his own praises".

The same might be said of Lloyd George with even greater force. In his memoirs Lloyd George seemed to feel the need to denigrate the efforts of others in order to enhance his own reputation. In many respects, it was wholly unnecessary because his achievements did not require embellishment at the expense of others.

His treatment of Douglas Haig – who was dead by the time Lloyd George's memoirs appeared – conforms to this well-established pattern. Carson had few illusions about Lloyd George at any stage in his political career. Comparing Asquith and Lloyd George in September 1916, Carson saw Lloyd George as 'a plain man of the people' who 'shows his hand and although you mayn't trust him, his crookednesses are all plain to see'.

Asquith, on the other hand, was 'clever and polished' and 'knew how to conceal his crookedness'.

In September 1917 Carson appreciated Lloyd George's 'considerable driving powers' but also realised – as many did not – that he had no knowledge of strategy or military operations but was sufficiently deluded to imagine he had.

A year later Carson was willing to acknowledge that Lloyd George's courage, energy and foresight had contributed to the winning of the war but he had the wit to know – as he told Mrs Dugdale (A.J. Balfour's biographer and niece) – that Lloyd George was 'a mass of corruption'.

to her knees and starve the country out of the war. Although unrestricted submarine warfare carried with it a high risk of provoking United States entry into the war, the Germans contended that meaningful US intervention in the conflict would come too late. Unrestricted submarine warfare began on February 1 1917. It was not an unreasonable calculation on the part of the Germans. With the benefit of hindsight we now know that the answer to U-boat peril was the introduction of the convoy system. However, at the time there was genuine concern that a convoy presented a larger and easier target to U-boats, and was more difficult to defend, raising the prospect of increasing rather reducing the submarine threat. It was also felt that the difficulty of coordinating a rendezvous would maximise the vulnerability of merchant ships when they were in the process of assembling. There were reservations too about whether the skippers of merchant vessels could manoeuvre in company, not least because different ships would have various top speeds. And finally, could they be realistically expected to keep station. Nevertheless, in January and February 1917 Carson and Jellicoe introduced the convoy

75th anniversary of the arrival of the GIs in Northern Ireland

January 26 this year marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of 4,000 US infantrymen in Belfast. Sir Archibald Sinclair, Secretary of State for Air, told them: 'Your safe arrival here marks a new stage in the World War. It is a gloomy portent for Mr Hitler, nor will its significance be lost on General Tojo.'

On December 7 1941 - 'a date which will live in infamy' according to Franklin Delano Roosevelt - the Japanese attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbor without warning or a prior declaration of war.

With Germany and Italy's declaration of war on America four days later, the United States quickly found itself at war on two fronts - in Europe and the Pacific. At the Arcadia Conference, held in Washington between December 22 1941 and January 14 1942, Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt reaffirmed their commitment to give the defeat of Germany priority over that of Japan. And less than a fortnight later, on January 26 1942, the first American troops set foot in Ulster.

The first man officially ashore was Private First Class Milburn H Henke of Company B, 133rd Infantry. Henke, as his name suggests, was an American of German heritage, from Hutchinson, Minnesota. He was welcomed by the Duke of Abercorn, the Governor of Northern Ireland; John M. Andrews, the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland; and Sir Archibald Sinclair, the Secretary of State for Air.

The GIs came ashore at Dufferin Dock to the strains of 'The Stars and Stripes', played by the band of the Royal Ulster Rifles. The event was carefully recorded for posterity by William Conor in his role as an official war artist. Ulster was to act as the bridgehead and springboard for the great American and allied assault on occupied Europe, Hitler's Festung Europa, on D-Day, June 6 1944. And it was here that the American troops soldiers trained, paraded and relaxed as they prepared for the liberation of Europe. By the end of 1943 there were 100,000 US troops in Ulster.

There had been an unofficial American presence in Ulster for almost a year, as the United States edged closer to war. Preparations were well under way for the establishment of a US naval base at Londonderry, which was already playing a key role in the Battle of the Atlantic. When the troops started arriving in early 1942, Ulster was ready to receive them.

In June 1941 work started on American bases, with 362 American technicians arriving in Londonderry. By October, the number had risen to nearly 1,000. In Londonderry the headquarters were Talbot House and in addition to the harbour installations there were camps at Holcomb, Lisahally, Beech Hill, Springtown, Clooney Park and Rosstown. There was a hospital at Creevagh and a magazine at Fincairn Glen.

American bases were dotted all over the country. With 120,000 GIs to service it was little wonder that every Ulster town had its quota of American forces. This figure represented approximately 10 per cent of the total local population.



In Fermanagh, where the 8th Infantry were stationed, US forces comprised almost 20 per cent of the sparsely populated county's population. All branches of the American services were represented - the Air Force at Greencastle and Langford Lodge, the Navy in Londonderry and Belfast and the Army's presence was ubiquitous. A wide range of properties were requisitioned for American headquarters. These ranged from castles to terraced houses and included: Knock-na-moe Castle, Omagh (34th DIV HQ); Wilmount House, Dunmurry (NI Base Service

"American bases were dotted all over the country. With 120,000 GIs to service it was little wonder that every Ulster town had its quota of American forces. This figure represented approximately 10 per cent of the total local population."

HQ); Nos. 18-20 Mount Charles, Belfast (US Army Transportation Corp HQ); Brownlow House, Lurgan (V Army Corp); Bright Cottage, Portstewart (168th Anti-Tank Co HQ); and White Hall Chambers, Coleraine (168th Infantry HQ). Empty hotels and guest houses provided excellent quarters for the large number of troops requiring accommodation. For example, K Company of the 168th Infantry took over Coolsyth House in Portrush. Other Camps included: V Army Corps in Brownlow House, Lurgan; HQ 2nd Infantry

Division in Armagh; 2nd Infantry Division in Narrow Water Castle, Armagh and Newry; 5th Infantry Division in Newcastle; Airborne Troops in Castledawson and Cookstown; 8th Infantry Division and HQ in Omagh; and 121st Division in Fintona.

The presence of the US forces attracted a number of significant visitors to Ulster. The Supreme Allied Commander and future President of the United States, Dwight D Eisenhower, called on troops in a number of places in the run up to D-Day in 1944. He was joined in Ulster by a number of his senior subordinates, such as Omar Bradley and George Patton, who were both to play a crucial role in the liberation of Europe. Both Patton and Bradley visited US troops training in the Mourne. Patton also inspected the US 2nd Division in front of the County Museum on the Mall in Armagh.

The highest-ranking US Army officer of all also visited Ulster during the war - Chief of Staff, General George C Marshall. There were also visits by Averall Harriman and Harry Hopkins, two of President Roosevelt's closest advisers. In November 1942 Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, paid a visit to the US forces stationed in Londonderry. The First Lady, along with the mother of General Montgomery, attended the Civic Armistice Service in the city on November 11.

Various American stars visited Ulster to entertain the troops. Bob Hope and Glenn Miller both played at Langford Lodge; Irving Berlin arrived with his all soldier musical 'This Is the Army' on January 11 1944 for a ten-day run at the Grand Opera House; Al Jolson and Merle Oberon appeared in Londonderry and James Cagney appeared at the Hippodrome in Belfast in the spring of 1944.

The GIs introduced various innovations to Ulster, not least bubble gum, candy, baseball and swing music. Baseball was played in Windsor Park in aid of soldiers', sailors' and airmen's families. Swing music proved very popular even if baseball made less impact. Although American servicemen in Ulster were greatly discouraged from contracting wartime marriages, some local girls did marry US service personnel and became known as GI brides.

But it was pointed out that no marriage allowance was paid below the ranks of staff, technical or master sergeants. Wives would not be permitted to accompany husbands returning to America on troop transports. Wives would also have to secure entry to the US and reside there for three years before becoming US citizens. In the event of a soldier's death or disablement, his wife would not be entitled to any pension or gratuity. Yet despite all this discouragement, there were some 1,800 marriages between American servicemen and local girls.

For example, Miss Daphne Ethel Johnston of Belfast married Lieutenant George F. Witman of the USAAF from Grand Rapids, Michigan, in All Saints Church, Belfast on August 31 1944.

RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



Burns Night slow cooked Collops of Beef

INGREDIENTS

(serves four)

- 2 Lbs braising steak such as chuck (cut in to 8 pieces)
- 1 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- 2 Tbsp canola oil
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 onion (diced)
- 1 tsp freshly chopped thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 Tbsp flour (blended with a little cold water)
- 1 pint (2 cups) beef stock
- 1tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1tsp coarse whole grain mustard

This month marks the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns and to celebrate here is a delicious recipe for Slow Cooked Collops of Beef. 'Collop' is an Ulster-Scots word which means 'large, rough piece or torn off'. I hope you enjoy this fantastic recipe!

HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Season the steaks with salt and pepper.
2. Preheat cast iron skillet to medium high heat with a little oil and butter combined.
3. Add the beef to skillet and braise the pieces in small batches for 2-3 minutes on each side to brown. Remove the steak and place in to a Dutch style oven or casserole dish.
4. Cook the onions in the skillet to soften and then add to the Dutch style oven.
5. Combine the stock, flour, Worcestershire sauce, mustard and then pour over the meat. Add the freshly chopped thyme and bay leaf.
6. Cover and cook for 2 ½ hours until the meat is tender and falling apart.
7. Remove the bay leaf prior to serving.
8. Serve with creamed mashed potatoes and turnip and carrot mash (Neeps and Tatties). Enjoy the Burns celebrations!



Changes by Frank Ferguson

A new month and a new year has come around and we might think about what changes have occurred to us since the passing of 2016.

A brief examination of Ulster-Scots writing informs us that dealing with change does not appear to be a phenomenon that is handled easily or well. To some humour provides the buffer against the loss of loved ones. William Bleakley, the Bard of Ballinaskeagh, wrote a series of moral and religious poems in the 1840s, but despite his propensity to a certain level platitude in his verse, couldn't help introducing a lighter tone every now and then. His *To a Widow* is as strange a poem of comfort as you might come across. Rather than seeking to offer solace to the bereaved, he provides a strident rebuke about the alleged weaknesses of women:

Now, mistress, think nae ill o' me,
'Tis but a hint to let you see
That you are blamed for makin' free
Wi' sparks o' virtues law,
Which designates most certainly,

That woman's prone to fa'.

One wonders if he was a friend of poor Tam who has passed away, or a nosy neighbour casting wicked aspersions. At other times, he works in a less acerbic manner. After witnessing the charitable donation of a well proportioned reverend's coat to the local poor, the act received a less than brotherly response.

CHANGES are lightsome, there's some people say,
But I saw a proof o' that case ither day;
'Twas a change frae the back and the pulpit
on Sunday,
To carry a bag upon mair days than Monday.
'Twas a change frae the hearing o' Gospel
salvation,
Frae the Rev. fat frame to the back o'
starvation;
'Twas a change frae the covering o' prayers
and petitions,
To beg at the porch—oh what, wofu' grada-
tions.
And I'm sure you're ashamed, if you could

but speak it,
For you used to be cleanly, baith bonny and
sleeket;
But now, if you saw yoursel', back, sleeves,
and collar,
For the rub o' a brush you'd gie mair than a
dollar ('To An Old Black Coat').

For David Herbison, industrial change was a
dreadful thing, which he felt had brought no
improvement to his home town of Ballymena.
In his epic, heart rending *My Ain Native
Toun* he longs for the ability to restore the
past:

Oh had I the power the past to restore,
The reel wad still crack, and the spin-
ning-wheel snore,
Mill-yarn wad sink down as it never had
been,
Trade flourish as fair as it ever was seen;
Distress and oppression flee far frae our
view,
Our hamlets rejoice and their beauties
renew;
The profligate band that brought want to our

door
Should labour or starve on a far foreign
shore;
A wab in a steamloom should never appear,
Our country to steep in affliction and fear;
Peace, pleasure, and plenty, and happy
hearts roun'
And times wad revive in my ain native toun.

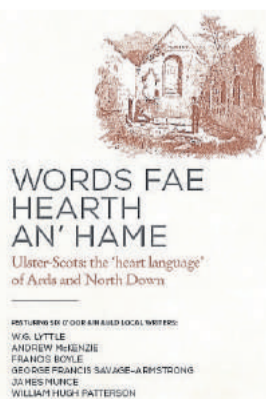
As we face a new year with all its challeng-
es, we too might long for this superpower,
and might want to look back to times which
we suppose were better and fairer. However,
we might take some hope in how James Orr
approached the shift in times and seasons,
with a strong sense of hope and fortitude:

Should ills ensue, may friendship's tie
Be made more close by fortune's frown;
And sorrow-sharing sympathy
Make all the woes of man its own!
May justice hear the widow's moan,
Redress her wrongs, and prove her stay;
And goodness guide the orphan, thrown
On the wide world, in wisdom's way! (*Ode
for the New Year*).

Words Fae Hearth An' Hame

A new booklet is now available featuring six writers local to the Ards and North Down area.

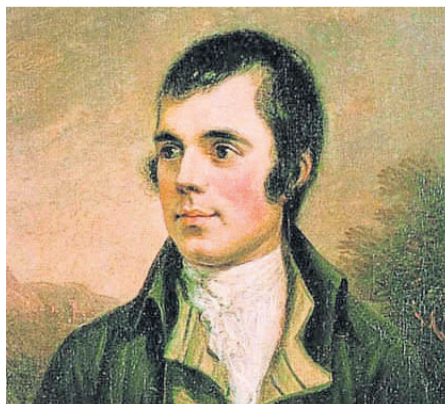
Words Fae Hearth An' Hame is free and available from the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast, North Down Museum in Bangor and in libraries across the Ards and North Down Borough.



The Andrew Gibson Memorial Lecture

On Wednesday January 25 Dr Carol Baraniuk will recount how Andrew Gibson (1841 – 1931), a Governor of the Linen Hall Library for many years, came to have an unrivalled collection of Robert Burns' material.

He sold this collection to the Library in the early 1900s where it has become part of what is the most comprehensive archive of Burns' material outside of Scotland. The lecture starts at 1.00pm and is free to attend.



For more coverage on Burns Week and details on upcoming events, turn to Page 3

WEANS' WURLD**ROBERT BURNS***A few facts...*

- He was born on January 25, 1759 in the 'auld cley biggin', now known as Burns Cottage in Alloway, near Ayr
- Robert was a Scottish poet and was also known as 'Robbie'
- He was also sometimes known as the 'ploughman poet', as the eldest son of a farmer
- Robbie had three brothers - William, John and Gilbert and three sisters - Agnes, Annabella and Isobel
- His first book of poems was published in 1788
- His birthday, on January 25, is celebrated all over the world as Burns Night
- On Burns Night a traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties is served and guests are entertained with Burns poems and songs
- Robbie Burns died on July 21, 1796 at the young age of 37 from a heart condition he had suffered from since childhood
- Some of Robbie Burns' most famous songs include *Auld Lang Syne* (the song people sing on New Year's), *Ye Banks and Braes of Bonnie Doon* and *My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose*.

ROBBIE BURNS WORD SEARCH

Find the following famous words by Robbie Burns within the word search below:

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

AULD**BEASTIE****BICKERING****BRAES****BRATTLE****FRAE****FRIEN****GIE****LANG****SLEEKIT****SYNE****THOLE****TWA****WEE****the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION**Win a copy of **Robert Burns and All That** by Allan Burnett and Scoular Anderson

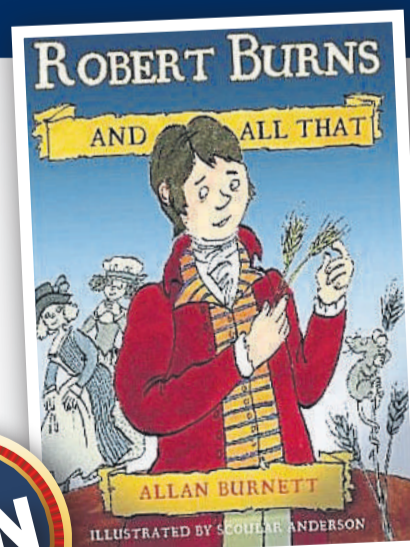
Robert Burns and All That is a real-life adventure packed with historical facts about Scotland's national bard.

Meet the lassies who stole Burns' heart and the creatures that inspired his poetry. Join his quest to rescue a lost musical treasure and get chased by ghouls as he explores the dark side of life. Understand the meaning of *To A Mouse*, *A Man's a Man For A' That* and Burns' other classics, investigate why Burns supported the French Revolution, Discover the origins of Burns Night and find out what's really in a haggis. Bursting with hilarious illustrations, *Robert Burns and All That* is a book that simply must be read for the sake of auld lang syne!

We have five copies of this fantastic Burns Books to give away, to enter simply email your answer to competition@ulsterscot-sagency.org.uk with 'Robert Burns Book' in the subject line, providing also your name, address and telephone number.

WHAT FAMOUS ROBBIE BURNS SONG IS SUNG ON NEW YEAR'S?

Postal entries are also accepted – simply post your answer and contact details to: The Ulster-Scot Competition, The Corn Exchange Building, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG.



CLOSING DATE:
Friday February 17

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION WINNERS**Stena Line Competition Prize winner:**

Congratulations to Amber Martin from Craigavon who won the Stena Line family pass to the Santa at Sea Cruise in December. We hope you had a great day out!

Burns Concert Competition Prize winner:

Congratulations to Margaret Davidson from Larne who won a pair of tickets for the Ulster Orchestra Burns Night Concert on Saturday January 21 2017 at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. We hope you enjoy the Burns Concert!