



WIN...A FAMILY PASS TO THE BOYNE VALLEY VISITORS CENTRE, P16

## Young pipers and drummers are honoured at Stormont reception



Children from across Ulster received OCN certificates in Lambeg Drumming, Highland Bagpiping and Snare Drum at two special Stormont presentations hosted by Michelle McIlveen MLA

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DYNAMIC US ENSEMBLE APOLLO'S FIRE TO MAKE THEIR IRELAND DEBUT

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PIPE BAND SEASON OPENS WITH BANGOR SHOWPIECE

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US COVENANTERS ON THE TRAIL OF THEIR ULSTER-SCOTS HERITAGE

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## Fair faa ye



Summer is now upon us and with July and August comes a busy period for the Ulster-Scots Community. Once again the Ulster-Scots Agency is providing funding for a variety of programmes, events and festivals across the province. From the Park Life concerts July 1 - September 2 in Wallace Park, Lisburn to the Ireland debut of the award winning Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra performing their acclaimed Sugarloaf Mountain (An Appalachian Gathering) repertoire August 14-19, there is a variety of cultural showpieces to suit all age brackets. Just make sure you all get out and enjoy it!

On June 7 and 21 children throughout the province arrived at Parliament Buildings, Stormont for the presentation of Open College Network (OCN) certificates in Lambeg Drumming, Highland Piping and Snare Drumming. The presentations were a great success with children and parents attending the events which were hosted by Michelle McIlveen MLA who presented the certificates to graduates, read more on **Pages 8, 9 and 10**.

The 2018 pipe band season is back in full flow, with a number of competitions already having taken place in venues including Ards and North Down. Details and pictures - and details of winners - are included on **Page 5**. Speaking of bands, the Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band player in focus this issue is 17-year-old Amy Tinney, who tells us she was originally a tenor drummer but after some encouragement from a friend who told her that piping can involve travel all over the world, she decided to learn with Andy McGregor and hasn't looked back since.

This edition also includes our regular features such as Judith McLaughlin's popular recipes (you can find this on **Page 10**), Weans Wurd & Place to Visit. I'm sure readers will find plenty of interest in this issue. Enjoy your summer . . . and hopefully you'll make a point of attending one or more of the many Ulster Scots-inspired activities.

**Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency.**

## Bright Lights take to the stage at Richard Wallace bicentenary event



**ABOVE:** Bright Lights - pictured with Alderman Paul Porter Chair of Leisure and Community development - presented an Ulster Scots dance display at Richard Wallace Bicentenary Event in Wallace Park on Saturday June 23

**RIGHT:** Bright Lights junior dancers Hope and Katy-Lee with the Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Councillor Uel Mackin



## The Ulster-Scot

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Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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

## Tributes paid to former chairman

**Independent unionist peer Lord Laird passed away this week at the age of 74.**

John Laird was chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency in the early days of the organisation, when people were working to get things established. Ever the PR man, John set about making a splash wherever he went, in his own unique style. John was an extremely intelligent man, someone of great personal charm and kindness. He was excellent company and time spent with him was never dull. His conversation was often sprinkled with anecdotes about his time in

politics, but above all it reflected his infectious enthusiasm for his own Ulster-Scots heritage and the culture which flowed from that in all its many guises. Anyone who ever had the pleasure of meeting John and being in his company for just a short while was never in any doubt of his passion for Ulster-Scots and the very obvious pride he took in being able to promote it, especially while chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency. John's many friends and fellow enthusiasts within the Ulster-Scots community send their heartfelt condolences to Lady Laird; their children and the wider family circle.



### CLICK ON THIS...



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

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## WORD OF THE ISSUE

# Gunk

Meaning:  
Shock, jolt to one's pride

# Apollo's Fire set to make their Ireland debut

**ONE of the USA's most dynamic period-instrument ensembles, Apollo's Fire, will make their Ireland debut this summer in a tour sponsored by the Ulster-Scots Agency.**

Led by founding artistic director and harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell, the ensemble will present its popular crossover programme entitled "Sugarloaf Mountain: An Appalachian Gathering" which explores the Scotch-Irish roots of American music from the Appalachian Mountains, a region in the Eastern US that was settled primarily by Scotch-Irish immigrants.

Sugarloaf Mountain takes its title from the mountain of that name that exists on both sides of the Atlantic – in Scotland, Ireland, and in Maryland near the Appalachian trail. Creator/director Jeannette Sorrell and her colleagues traverse the joys and sorrows of daily life among the early settlers in Appalachia, following the journeys of the impoverished Irish and Scottish immigrants who crossed the Atlantic and settled in the mountains to build new lives. At the same time, the programme explores the evolution of Appalachian music, from its Scotch-Irish roots to its later Southern American and African-American influences. Passing through love and loss, dancing and prayer, the music overflows in celebration as the people of the mountains raise their voices.



Taking their name from the ancient Greek god of music and healing, Apollo's Fire is based in Cleveland, Ohio, and is the USA's busiest touring baroque orchestra. The ensemble has performed sold-out concerts at the BBC Proms in London (2015), the Royal Theatre of Madrid (2011), the Grand Theatre de l'Opéra of Bordeaux, FR (2011), London's Wigmore Hall (2010), and leading venues in North America such as Carnegie Hall, the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Early Music Festival,

and venues from Washington to San Francisco. The ensemble's Carnegie Hall debut sold out seven months in advance, on the day that tickets went on sale. Jeannette Sorrell said: "The rich repertoire of renaissance English and Scottish ballads took on its own life in Appalachia during the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. As the old songs came across the water, they evolved into different versions reflecting the Appalachian psyche and experience. "Likewise, the lively fiddle tunes of the British Isles appear in Appalachian sources in differing versions. And then, these people

encountered the African slaves and their spirituals. I think at that point, when the British Isles music met the influence of the spirituals, that's when Appalachian music came fully into its own as a unique and distinctive repertoire."

Apollo's Fire has 26 commercial CD albums, of which seven have been top-10 best-sellers on the Billboard Classical Chart. This includes their album *Sugarloaf Mountain*, which debuted in 2015 at number five on the Billboard Classical charts.

Irish tour dates (for information on concert times and booking please contact venues directly) are:

Tuesday August 14 : National Concert Hall, Dublin [www.nch.ie/Online/Whats-On](http://www.nch.ie/Online/Whats-On) (phone 00353 1 417 0077)

Wednesday August 15: Belfast Castle (invitation only)

Friday August 17: Millennium Forum, Londonderry [www.millenniumforum.co.uk](http://www.millenniumforum.co.uk) (phone 028 7126 4455)

Saturday August 18: Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena [www.thebraid.com/whats-on](http://www.thebraid.com/whats-on) (phone 028 2563 5077)

Sunday August 19: National Opera House, Wexford [www.nationaloperahouse.ie](http://www.nationaloperahouse.ie) (phone 00353 53 912 2144)

Ulster-Scots Agency Tel: 028 9023 1113 or email: [j Smyth@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:j Smyth@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)

## Battlehill Pipe Band's mother and daughter duo are British Champions

Well done to Battlehill Pipe Band's mother and daughter drum major duo Andrea Gibson and Kathryn who each were crowned 'British Champion Drum Majors' at the British Championships at Paisley, Scotland on Saturday May 19. Andrea won the 'Adult Grade' and Kathryn won the 'Juvenile Grade'. In a posted on Facebook Andrea Gibson wrote: "What can I say I can't believe Kathryn and I won the British together today. We are over the moon."



"The USA's hottest baroque band" – CLASSICAL MUSIC MAGAZINE (UK)

**APOLLO'S FIRE**  
Jeannette Sorrell, Artistic Director/harpsichord



Chosen for the "Best 5 Classical Concerts of 2014" in London (DAILY TELEGRAPH), America's most vibrant period-instrument troupe now returns to the UK! — this time bringing their hit program...

**SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN**  
An Appalachian Gathering

2018 INTERNATIONAL TOUR - Ireland & UK

Tuesday, 14 August  
Friday, 17 August  
Saturday, 18 August  
Sunday, 19 August

National Concert Hall, DUBLIN  
Millennium Forum, DERRY  
Braid Arts Centre, BALLYMENA  
National Opera House, WEXFORD

Tour generously sponsored by



# A mountain of fun to be had at Reivers House

**T**he Schomberg Society are excited to announce a new season of Ulster-Scots music and dance tuition classes and fun-filled activities, which kicked off recently in Reivers House, Kilkeel.

Following the huge success of last year's Ulster-Scots tuition classes and numerous educational outreach programmes in local schools, Reivers House will once again be the venue for this exciting music and dance programme.

Reivers House will be the venue for Drum Majoring Classes with The S.H.A.R.E. Group on Tuesday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm, which has proven to be very popular in recent years.

The Beekin Bairns Choir will be hosting their Choir and Music Classes every Wednesday evening from 6-7.30pm.

On the same evening, the Schomberg Fife and Drum will once again be delivering Fife and Lambeg Drum classes every Wednesday from 7.30-9.30pm and are looking forward to welcoming a new tutor to learn a range of lambeg drum rhythms and times.

Under the tuition of Abigail Hanna, the Reivers Folk Orchestra will be organising fiddle/violin classes which will be taking place on Thursday evenings from 3.30-5.30pm.

The Schomberg's Highland Dance School, Kirknarra School of Dance will be facilitating Highland Dance tuition classes on both Thursdays and Friday evenings from 3.30pm with tutors Kelly Graham and Laura Tweedie.

The Rising Sons of the Valley Flute Band will also be using Reivers House as their venue to host their flute and drum tuition classes every Monday night from 7.30-9.30pm.

All of these tuition classes are facilitated by professional and experienced tutors and everyone is welcome to come along and join in on the classes regardless of their age or experience.

A spokesperson said: "We are delighted to be able to once again offer a wide variety of Ulster-Scots music and dance tuition classes in Reivers House and we would



Young Drum Majors



Some members of The Reivers Folk Orchestra



Emma Spiers of the Schomberg Society

encourage everyone to come along and get involved in what is a very important part of our Ulster-Scots cultural traditions and help us build a strong and dynamic future for our Ulster-Scots heritage and identity."

Of course, as well as a busy week of music and dance tuition classes, Reivers House is also the centre for a range of other fun filled activities for everyone of all ages to enjoy.

The Schomberg Thistle Club is a senior citizens group for over 60s to join together and enjoy a lunch and a range of fun activities, day trips away and an opportunity to meet and socialise with others.

The club meets every other Thursday in Reivers house from 11am-1pm and everyone over the age of 60 is welcome to come along and join in with the fun.

A new Ladies group has recently been

formed in Reivers House, 'The Highland Heathers'.

This group is aimed at local women of all ages to come along and join in again on a great range of activities and classes.

The Highland Heathers meet every Friday evening from 7.30pm to enjoy a mix of fitness, health, wellness, exercise and country dancing, and gives the ladies an opportunity to get together and socialise. The recently formed Ladies group also organises a different fun activity on the last Wednesday of every month from 7.30pm in Reivers House and in the coming months the ladies have already planned a fantastic selection of activities, including flower arranging, pamper nights, arts and crafts, cookery, baking, jewellery, hair and beauty, trips away and much more.

New members to the Highland Heathers are more than welcome to come along to either the Wednesday or the Friday evenings.

For more information on upcoming events and activities or training courses for local Ulster-Scots Groups and Marching Bands, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Schomberg Society.

For more information about the tuition classes or any of the other groups, please get in contact with Reivers House on 028 4176 9678 or 07753 222 553.

You can also contact us on Facebook: Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots.

## Kingdom of Mourne book proving to be a roaring success

**The Schomberg Society's new publication 'The Kingdom of Mourne, An Ulster-Scots Hairtland' has been in demand following the launch by the Right Honourable Arlene Foster in September of last year.**

This book is the first major publication for the Schomberg Society and details the narrative of the Ulster-Scots of Mourne from when they first arrived in Mourne in the early 1600s right through the centuries to the present day.

This very colourful and attractive book tells the story of who the Ulster-Scots are, where they came from, why did so many of them come here to Mourne, the impact they made in the area through their built heritage, their language and much more. Already, the book has proven to be a fantastic educational resource and one that will be of huge advantage to both promote and preserve the rich Ulster-Scots history and heritage of the Kingdom of Mourne for generations to come.



Since its official launch, the Schomberg Society has organised the Book's accompanying exhibition to be on display at the Schomberg's special 'Evening of Ulster-Scots Celebration' concert and also in Kilkeel Library, where talks were given to numerous local schools and groups on the history of the Ulster-Scots of Mourne and the books and additional Ulster-Scots

literature distributed.

The books have proven very popular and have already been distributed to twelve local primary and secondary schools, ten libraries as well as numerous youth, community, cultural and church groups, tourist information centres, museums and tourist destinations.

A spokesperson from the Schomberg

Society said: "We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the support we have received from the local community regarding our first major publication and we are delighted that many of the local schools are now using the books as educational materials for their daily classes."

The Schomberg Society would like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund, who funded the project and also thank all of those who contributed towards the publication of the book in any way, including research, materials and photographs, with a special mention to Mrs. Heather Annett and the History Department of Kilkeel High School who gathered a lot of material to contribute to the book and also to Quincey Dougan, who has done a fantastic job working with us to design the exact type of publication the Society envisaged.

Call into Reivers House or contact the Schomberg Society on 07753 222 553 for more details.

# Stunning Castle Grounds in Bangor hosts the first pipe band contest of the 2018 season



Raphoe Ulster-Scots Pipe Band pictured with Pipe Major Rodney Goudie and the Chieftain of the Day - Councillor Robert Adair, Mayor of Ards and North Down Council (left) and Winston Pinkerton, RSPBANI President and Pipe Sergeant Mark Spence (right)

**T**he Ards and North Down Pipe Band Championships, the first pipe band contest of the 2018 season, was held in wall to wall sunshine at Castle Grounds, Bangor on Saturday May 12.

Hosted by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI) in conjunction with Ards and North Down Borough Council the event saw 40 bands and 46 drum majors take part. The chieftain of the Day was Councillor Robert Adair (Mayor of Ards and North Down Council) who took the salute and presented the prizes. A Highland Dancing Competition held in First Bangor Presbyterian Church Hall added to the Scottish flavour of the day in Bangor.

**Results: (short version by John Kelly)**

The Grade 1 winner was Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band and the Grade 1 runner-up was St Laurence O'Toole.

The other winners were: Grade 2 - Closkelt; Grade 3a - Thiepval Memorial; Grade 3b - Battlehill; Grade 4a - McNeillstown and Grade 4b - Bessbrook Crimson Arrow.

The drum major winners were: Adult Grade - Lauren Hanna (Lomond & Clyde Pipe Band); Juvenile Grade - Jamie Cupples (Mackenzie Caledonian); Junior Grade - Kathy Hunter (Manorcunningham) and Novice Grade - Carys Graham (Upper Crossgare).



Lucy Parke, Aaron Magee and Leah Magee (Raphoe Ulster-Scots Pipe Band)



Councillor Robert Adair (Mayor of Ards and North Down Council) pictured with Winston Pinkerton, RSPBANI President (left) and George Ussher, RSPBA President (right)



**Left:** Councillor Robert Adair pictured taking the salute from Emma Barr (Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band)

**Below:** Nicole and Katie Burrows (Sgt Walker Memorial Pipe Band)



**Left:** Novice Grade - Carys Graham (Upper Crossgare), Junior Grade - Kathy Hunter (Manorcunningham), Juvenile Grade - Jamie Cupples (Mackenzie Caledonian) and Adult Grade - Lauren Hanna (Lomond & Clyde Pipe Band)

Ryan Cupples-Mendez (Field Marshal Montgomery) pictured receiving the 'Grade 1 winner's trophy' from the Chieftain of the Day - Councillor Robert Adair



## Kirknarra dancers take Scotland by storm

The Highland Dance Competition season got off to a flying start for the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance as some of their premier dancers travelled to the West Edinburgh Annual Highland Competition.

Keen to get started competing this year, Kirknarra's Premier dancers Lucy Johnston and Emma Spiers took upon the journey to join the high standard of dancers, competing against the Scottish competitors in Edinburgh.

Both girls did their dance school and the Kingdom of Mourne proud, achieving great success against stiff competition, coming home with medals and being placed in a total of four dances.

Kirknarra School of Dance is growing from strength to strength and the new Beginner dancers are also getting ready to compete in the upcoming competitions throughout Northern Ireland this year.

Kirknarra are hosting their Highland Dance Tuition Classes every Thursday and Friday after school from 4.30pm in Reivers House and everyone is welcome to come along, regardless of age or experience.

Thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency for



supporting the tuition classes. For further information about joining the Dance School, please contact Reivers House on 07753222553 or find them on Facebook at Kirknarra School of Dance. Pictured, Kirknarra dancers Lucy Johnston and Emma Spiers keep the Kirknarra flag flying high as they compete across the water at the West Edinburgh Highland Dance Competition

## The Johnston School of Highland Dancing host the first competition of 2018



The event was held in Comber at the end of February and featured the talents of almost 80 Highland Dancers. Competitors travelled from across Northern Ireland, with many also hailing from Scotland.

Top: Dancers that competed in the Primary Section (4-6yrs)

Left: Johnston School Trophy Winners from Moneyrea

## Twin Ulster and New England conferences

In 1718 the Rev. James McGregor, a Presbyterian cleric from Aghadowey, set sail from the port of Coleraine at the head of a small flotilla of ships.

On board these vessels was a community of like-minded Ulster Scots. After an arduous sea-journey this band of sturdy independent souls landed and settled in New England. Three hundred years after the exodus of those five ships it seems fitting that the event should be commemorated on both sides of the Atlantic. A number of events have taken place or are planned by local communities in Garvagh, Articlave, Monreagh in Donegal and by The Ulster Historical Foundation and by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. A 1718 Facebook-page has been revived by Dr Linde Lunney and much visited.

A major event in the Province's celebration is the staging of a brace of 'sister academic conferences', organised in parallel, by Ulster University and The Maine Ulster Scots Project, based in Brunswick Maine in New England.

The local conference took place on the Coleraine campus of Ulster University on Thursday June 28 and Friday June 29 and was run by The Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies within the University and organised by Centre Director, Dr Frank Ferguson.

Dr Ferguson has long been interested in the

Ulster Scots Diaspora in New England and in 2012 he and Lisburn academic Alister McReynolds jointly produced a new edition of, *Robert Dinsmoor's Scotch Irish Poems*, published by Ulster Historical Foundation. This highly regarded poet who was known as the "rustic poet of New England". His ancestors were part of the early 18th Century migration to New England and came from Ballywattick near Coleraine. Alister and Frank will both be core speakers at the June Coleraine Conference and also at the Conference held at Bowdoin College campus in Brunswick Maine, which runs from Tuesday August 14 until Saturday August 18. The Convenor of the Maine Conference is Rebecca Graham, who is Chair of The Maine Ulster

Scots Project and who is herself a 2017 Masters graduate of Ulster University. During her studies Rebecca lived for over a year in Bangor Co. Down and formed a deep affection for the Province during that time. Alister McReynolds will speak about issues from a couple of his other publications, *Kith and Kin* and *The Ulster Scots in New England*. The latter publication written in 2010 for The Ulster Scots Community Network will be available as a free publication at the conferences.

For further details contact: Dr Frank Ferguson [f.ferguson@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:f.ferguson@ulster.ac.uk)

## Unlock your family story with help from our professional researchers

Have you hit a brick wall in your family history research? Have you exhausted the different online avenues and need expert genealogical advice and assistance?

The Ulster Historical Foundation's research team can help. The Foundation has built up an international reputation as a market leader in historical research services, serving clients around the world for more than 60 years.

### KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

The Foundation's research team have the knowledge and expertise to assist you in your family history research. Collectively they have over 100 years' experience working in Irish and Scots-Irish family history. The team is led by Dr William Roulston, Research Director and author of the peerless guide book, *Researching-Scots Irish Ancestors*, and Gillian Hunt, our Research Officer with 20 years of experience using local archives and a lecturer on the international genealogy circuit.

### LET US DO THE HARD WORK FOR YOU

If you are unable to visit the archives in person (or indeed if you have become frustrated with brick walls in your own research) we will carry out the research and examine original documents, which are only available in the archives, on your behalf.

As an organisation that grew out of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), our team know the archives and how to mine the information for your family

tree. The Foundation and PRONI enjoy a close working relationship and co-operate regularly to offer our collective expertise to family historians.

### WHAT THE FOUNDATION OFFERS

We offer expert genealogical advice through our comprehensive range of professional research services which include:

- Personal face-to-face consultations - a consultation with a member of our experienced research team could save you a considerable amount of time and increase your chances of research success.
  - Initial research assessments - An initial assessment explores the feasibility of archival research by identifying sources of potential relevance for your family history.
  - In-depth archival research - Whether you are at the start of your family history journey or have been researching for years; utilising original sources in the archives we can provide a detailed report of your ancestral history.
  - Specific archival research - If you have specific research that you would like to have carried out, for example a particular Church register, we can do this research for you.
  - Document retrieval - If you need a specific record from our local archives, which you cannot access remotely yourself, we will find and copy it for you.
- More information can be found at: [www.ancestryireland.com](http://www.ancestryireland.com)  
Or email [enquiry@uhf.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@uhf.org.uk) for advice on the best options for your research needs.

# Celebrating a year of commitment in schools

**Richard Hanna is Director of Education and Language at The Ulster-Scots Agency**



**It has been a busy period for the Agency in its work with education and learning.**

As part of the annual school twinning programme the Agency organised visits between schools in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. Visits have a planned programme of activities

aimed at developing learners' knowledge and understanding of Ulster-Scots as well as establishing and building lasting relationships between pupils, teachers and schools. A total of 15 pupils and two teachers from Derryboy Primary School, Crossgar travelled to Dunlop in Ayrshire, Scotland. The two day visit included a visit to the Clandeboye crypt in the local village. Twinning visits took place between Balnamore Primary School County Antrim/Drumnacrutin National School County Monaghan and Moneymore Primary School County Tyrone/Drumcorrin National School County Monaghan. During visits pupils share learning experiences and exchange scrapbooks/presenta-

tions about each other's communities. The programme links schools before the visits and relationships endure after the visits are over.

Two Celebrating Excellence events were staged at Parliament Buildings that recognised the achievements of young musicians that had taken part in Agency funded music tuition programmes.

The events were kindly sponsored by Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA making it possible for young musicians and their families to experience an evening at this prestigious venue. Almost 350 young musicians received certificates validated by the Open College Network and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. Both events enjoyed warm sunny evenings

and visitors were entertained by Pipes and Drums and Lambeg drumming on the steps of Parliament Buildings.

Events were the culmination of a year's commitment by the young musicians and their tutors and all involved deserve great credit.

Blue Eagle Productions was commissioned by the Ulster-Scots Agency to perform *Old Glory* in primary schools. This is a drama about aspects of Ulster-Scots history, language and culture. Schools in nine counties of Ulster were included and more than 2,500 young people saw the production. Feedback has been very positive which is consistent with my personal experience of one of the performances to children in Carnaghts Primary School County Antrim.

## Schools in Focus: Culcrow Primary School

By school principal, Olive Collins

As principal of Culcrow Primary School in Aghadowey near Coleraine, I have had the pleasure of a close working relationship with the Ulster-Scots Agency in recent years. We have availed of a range of tuition which has included Scottish Country Dancing, fiddle and tin whistle playing. The pupils have really enjoyed their experiences and formed great relationships with their tutors as well as being equipped with a range of skills linked to performance, musical skill and entertainment for all.

Ulster-Scots has also enriched their sense of personal history and links with Scotland. Our pupils had a memorable trip to Ayrshire with pupils from Ballytober Primary and performed in a vast concert to celebrate Robbie Burns' work as both author and poet. We have enjoyed plays performed in school by travelling companies, "Fair Fae Ye" being one notable example, and our pupils have performed their own "Kissing The Shuttle" (a celebration of the linen industry) under Dan Gordon's writing and with professional tuition from a drama specialist.



Last year we completed a local history project in conjunction with Ballybay Primary, Monaghan and studied the 1718 emigration led by Rev. McGregor from our own townland of Aghadowey. This project concluded with a most enjoyable day at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh where both schools' pupils met, formed friendships and had a wonderful day soaked in history and good company. Please see some photographs from this day of both schools' pupils and staff.

Ulster Scots as an organisation, has really enriched and enhanced our pupils' primary school experiences – the agency provides steady support and excellent staff who work tirelessly to promote our culture. As a school we are most grateful for the programmes they have provided; we are now officially an Ulster Scots "flagship" school and our award takes pride of place in our school entrance foyer/long corridor. I wish Ulster Scots every success as they continue their work in primary schools and encourage other principals to avail of their resources, excellent tutors and curriculum enhancing programmes.

## Young flautists in Ballyclare hit all the right notes

**B**allyclare High School has a long and rich tradition of music-making in the local community and beyond. Past pupils have progressed to careers in music across the world and many have continued their passion for music in local groups such as Ballyclare Male Voice Choir, The Clare Chorale and Ballyclare Victoria Flute Band.

To meet the enthusiasm of pupils interested in playing flute, an established flute ensemble has been developed into a larger group. With support from Ballyclare Victoria Flute Band, Ballymena Young Conquerors and Kellswater Flute Band this has grown to a group of 20 young musicians. The Ulster-Scots Agency is pleased to support the school through the loan of some instruments to augment those already available. Music played reflects Ulster-Scots heritage such as Carrickfergus, The Isle of Innisfree, The Green Glens of Antrim, etc. Marches



such as Moore Street and The Pacer are also part of the repertoire and are also associated with the marching band tradition in Northern Ireland.

Ballyclare High School is believed to be the only school in Northern Ireland currently involved in this type of initiative and recently won Section 4 of the Flute Band Association's Own Choice competition. Forthcoming events are a concert in partnership with Ballyclare Victoria Flute Band in autumn 2018. The planned addition of percussion will be a welcome addition. The ensemble recently performed at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre at Corn Exchange, Belfast.

# Excellence in bagpiping and drum

**C**hildren from across Ulster with a keen interest and talent for Highland Bagpiping, Snare Drumming and Lambeg Drumming have been honoured with Open College Network (OCN) certificates at two special Stormont presentations.

On June 7, children from Antrim, Tyrone and Down received their certificates in Lambeg Drumming. The Ulster-Scots Agency has a keen interest in promoting Ulster-Scots musical traditions, particularly amongst children. The Lambeg drum, an instrument indigenous to Ulster, has proved popular amongst students in the primary and post-primary sectors.

The pupils worked very hard throughout the course which blended theory and practice and, as a result, a significant number of children from five different primary schools, Carr's Glen, Kingsmill, Creavery, Greystone and Churchill passed and qualified for the OCN in Lambeg Drumming (Entry Level). The event was enthusiastically supported by the Lambeg Drumming community with drummers attending from Carrickfergus and Bannside Drumming Clubs. Visitors were treated to demonstrations in Lambeg drumming before and after the presentation.

Meanwhile on June 21 children from Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Donegal were invited to Parliament Buildings to receive their certificates in Highland Bagpiping and Snare Drumming. Again the bagpipe and snare drum are instrument very much associated with Ulster-Scots heritage and culture and prove very popular with students in the primary and post-primary sectors.

A significant number of children passed and qualified for the OCN in Piping and Drumming (Foundation). These included children from the following schools: Ballynahinch High, Drumlins IPS, Portadown IPS, Spa PS, Scarva PS, Dromore HS, Fairhill PS, Moyle National School, Omagh High School, Raphoe Central, Aughnacloy Primary, Devenish Collage, Fivemiletown Primary, McClintock PS, Seskinore Ballytrea PS, Cookstown (Juv Band), Stewartstown PS, Magherfelt PS, Omagh PS, Portadown IPS, Convoy Joint NS, Gillygooley PS, Dromore High, Cooley PS, Omagh Academy, Orritor PS, Campbell College, Newmills Primary, Ballynahinch PS, RSPBANI Banbridge, Newtown Stewart PS, Cookstown Primary, Deele College, RSPBANI Enniskillen, Royal School Dungannon, Saintfield High School, Money more PS, Coagh PS, Newmills PS, Magherfelt PS, Orritor Primary, Cookstown High, Newmills PS, Stewartstown PS and Moyle National School.

The event was supported by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPANI). Visitors were treated to demonstrations in Highland Bagpiping and Snare drumming before and after the presentation.

Both presentations were hosted by Michelle McIlveen MLA who presented the certificates to the graduates.

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. Schools can express their interest in the Flagship Scheme through the Agency's web-

site [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com). For further information, contact Gary Blair at the Ulster-Scots Agency on 028 9023 1113 or email [gblair@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:gblair@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)



# Drumming is honoured at Stormont



For Lambeg  
Drumming, see  
overleaf

## Celebrating achievements in Lambeg Drumming...



Schools (from clockwise) are: Carrs Glen, Churchhill, Greystone, Kingsmill and Creavery Primary School. Inset, some Lambeg Drummers set the scene on the night

# Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band Profile

In the spotlight this issue is Amy Tinney (By Victoria Catterson)

**A**my Tinney may be almost an adult, but she's enjoying her time taking full advantage of what the Juvenile Pipe Band can provide. She's been to France, Germany and even on stage at the SSE Arena in Belfast; and she's loving every moment of her progression as a piper. Amy started off as a tenor drummer in her Dad's drumcore after getting lessons from Kerry Doherty in the Ulster-Scots class in Raphoe when she was only 8. Fast forward 10 years later and she's since moved on to the bagpipes and is going from strength to strength.

**Age:** 17

**Education:** Royal and Prior, Raphoe

**Band:** Killoag Pipe Band

**Hobbies outside of piping:** Guitar and travelling



**How long have you been drumming?**  
A year and a half

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

I started learning to pipe in the Ulster Scots office in Raphoe

**What attracted you to piping?**

Pipe bands was always a big thing in my family. I was originally a tenor drummer and after some encouragement from a friend who told me that piping can take me all over the world, I decided to learn with Andy McGregor and I haven't looked back since

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

I enjoy it because I have made so many friends and have got to play at different events and it's a great opportunity

**How often do you practice?**

I aim to practice every night

**Is there anything you aspire to achieve in piping - for example winning the worlds,**

**playing in Grade One, winning solo competitions etc?**

Right now I aspire to play in competitions and hopefully work my way up through the grades

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

The Red Hot Chillii Pipers - in particular Dougie McCance

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

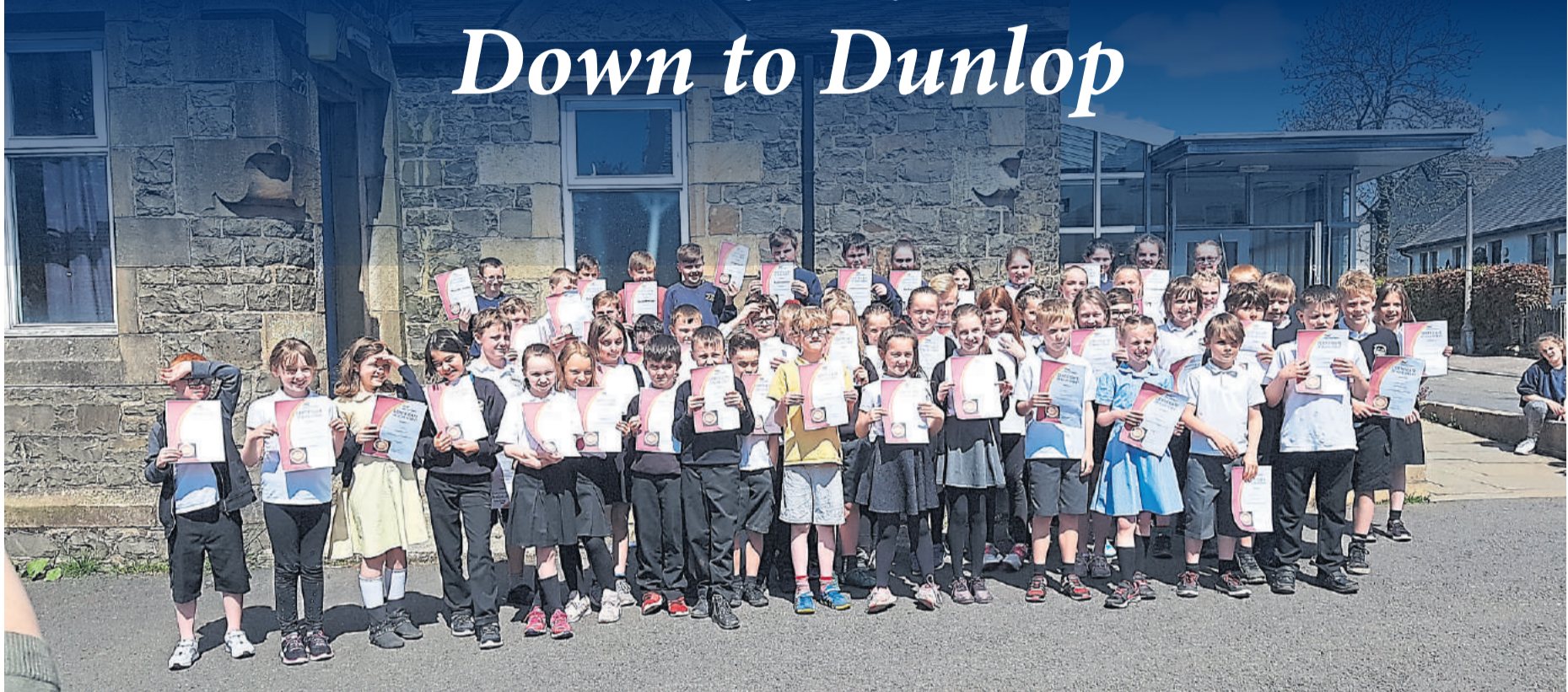
Go for it! You never know where it could take you

To follow the young pipers and drummers visit

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

Meanwhile for more on the teaching programme visit [www.mspd.co.uk](http://www.mspd.co.uk).

# It's a case of 'arms across the sea' as pupils from Derryboy PS travel from *Down to Dunlop*



By Judith Harper, principal of Derryboy Primary School

**T**he focus of this visit was the shared history between the two areas resulting from the Montgomery family's move to County Down in the 17th century from Dunlop in Kilmarnock.

Pupils from both schools engaged in project work prior to the visit. For the pupils of Derryboy Primary, this was educationally valuable for a number of reasons. Primarily, it allowed the children to find out more about their own culture in terms of the history of the Plantation of Ulster. They explored their family names to discover their Ulster-Scots heritage. They researched the Plantation of Ulster and the parallel history of the Montgomery/Clandeboyne and Hamilton families. Through this, their geographical knowledge of both Scotland and Ulster was increased. Furthermore, it gave the pupils an insight into the local histories of Killyleagh Castle (situated three miles from Derryboy) and the Clandeboyne Estate (also in County Down).

In addition, the project involved creating PowerPoint presentations to be delivered to the children of Dunlop Primary School, which was an effective means of addressing aspects of our ICT curriculum as well as encouraging teamwork and developing Thinking Skills. Communication skills were also developed as pupils had to evaluate on-line information, summarise that which was deemed relevant, re-write information to make it audience friendly for the pupils of Dunlop Primary School, organise the presentations to ensure that they made sense, and give and take feedback, making changes as appropriate.



We used the details of the travel arrangements as part of our Real Maths work- pupils had to cost all aspects of the trip, which helped to develop their mathematical skills. The project content and format also facilitated many aspects of our Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) programme. The Centre at Dean Castle was a terrific venue and most suitable for the group. The activities in



which we took part were superbly well organised and led. It was lovely of the staff and pupils of Dunlop to give up their evening to spend it meeting the Derryboy contingent, and friendships between the two groups were forged from the very start- those friendships are still continuing through "WhatsApp" groups.

From a school leadership point of view, I also gained a great deal working with Mrs Wilson, the Principal of

Dunlop Primary School, in terms of learning about the challenges and opportunities in the Scottish education system and comparing them to our own system in Northern Ireland.

The actual visit to Dunlop Primary School was a delight. The children from both schools were outstanding when giving their presentations and they were proud of themselves and each other- having to stand up and make a presentation in front of a group of comparative strangers was a real character-building exercise!

The tour of Dunlop town was fascinating for both children and adults and we were particularly pleased that the local Minister gave up her time to join us and meet the children and that she had gained special permission for us to go into the Hamilton crypt at the church.

In summary, I cannot thank the Agency enough for the learning opportunities this twinning has afforded the pupils of Derryboy on so many levels. The organisation of the trip was flawless, from transport and accommodation arrangements through to the individual certificates everyone received at the final presentation. This has been an adventure which will stay in the minds of our children for many years and we treasure the scrapbook which was made for us by the children of Dunlop Primary School.

As a footnote, the St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick is having a group of Young Ambassadors from America over in June and we have been asked to host one of them following his visit to Down GAA. The Primary 7 pupils will be using the knowledge and experience gained from our twinning with Dunlop to make a presentation to him about our Ulster-Scots heritage and culture, and so the positive legacy of the venture will continue.

ABF  
THE SOLDIERS'  
CHARITY

# WW2 Commemoration Concert: Ulster at War

**ABF The Soldiers' Charity recently hosted a WW2 Commemoration Concert 'Ulster at War' at the Waterfront Hall with all proceeds from the fundraising event going to soldiers, veterans and army families in times of need.**

Taking part were The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Band, Bugles, Pipes & Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment, well-known local entertainer Gary Wilson, Willie Donald, Clara Wilson, Cathryn Lynch, The Leading Ladies and UTV's Paul Clark MBE. The great evening of entertainment which included a singalong of songs of yesteryear took the audience back in time to wartime Ulster.

Paul Clark (who recently spent time in Afghanistan looking at the role of soldiers, sailors, airmen and women from all over Ireland

during the Second World War) took on the role of a Wartime BBC radio announcer as during the concert he announced typical breaking news as heard by many people during air raids in Belfast during WW2.

Gary Wilson played the role of a Chief Air Raid Warden assisted by his two Air Raid Wardens Willie Donald and Clara Wilson (his guest soloists) in a show which he wrote in conjunction with David Forsey (Regional Director Fundraising - ABF The Soldiers' Charity).

During the finale Paul Clark thanked everyone who took part and all who supported the event. When Paul noticed WW2 veterans Bill Eames and Teddy Dixon in the front row he concluded by thanking people like them for the freedom that we take for granted today.



Alan Barr, David Barringer MBE and Richard Douglas MBE



WW2 veterans Bill Eames and Teddy Dixon pictured with David Forsey, Martin Rutledge, Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE (Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast), Colin Tadier, Clara Wilson and Gary Wilson



Paul Scott Lange, Simon Fuo, Vincs Yap and Ryan Er



Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE (Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast) and cadets Megan Muik, Rebekah Waddell, Christine Spalding and Amy Johnston



Colin Ward, Emma Stevenson and Brian Hagan

# The 150th anniversary of William Johnston's election as MP for Belfast

BY GORDON LUCY

**W**illiam Johnston of Ballykilbeg was a minor and usually impecunious Co. Down landlord as he never exhibited any great aptitude for either farming or managing his finances. Ballykilbeg was the name of his small estate near Downpatrick.

Born on February 22, 1829, Johnston's Orangeism was almost hereditary. His great-grandfather, William Johnston of Killylough, is credited with being the founder in 1733 of the first Orange Society in Ireland, the Loyal Society of Blue and Orange. Johnston joined the Orange Order in May 1848, the same year in which he entered Trinity College, Dublin. From Trinity he was to graduate with a BA in 1852 and an MA in 1856. He was subsequently called to the Bar but never practised.

By the mid-1850s Johnston was a Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, had founded the Down Protestant Association and was the publisher of the Downshire Protestant newspaper. The publication of this paper between July 1855 and September 1862 placed his personal finances under serious strain.

In 1857 he sought to enter Parliament as the Member for Downpatrick but was obliged to bow to the superior resources of Richard Ker, brother of a major local landowner. Despite this setback, in the 1860s Johnston emerged as the leading campaigner against the unpopular Party Processions Act of 1850. The Act had been passed by Lord John Russell's Liberal administration in response to the events at Dolly's Brae on July 12 the previous year. The intention of the legislation was to ban Orange parades. While scarcely welcoming the legislation, the aristocratic and cautious leadership of the Orange Order was anxious to remain within the law and was not disposed to challenge it. Rank and file Orangemen grew increasingly dissatisfied with their leadership's timidity. Johnston shared their frustration and offered alternative leadership. In July 1866, he held a great jamboree on his estate to celebrate the Twelfth. Similar jamborees were held that year at Lisburn, Killylough, Waringstown, Lurgan, Portadown and Dungannon.

In 1867 Johnston decided to challenge the legislation directly by organising and leading a large – 14,000 Orangemen from 117 lodges participated – but peaceful and orderly Twelfth parade from Newtownards to Bangor in clear defiance of the Act. On his arrival in Bangor he made a speech boldly stating he and his followers would tolerate no longer legislation which deemed a Twelfth demonstration illegal but allowed Irish nationalists to march through the Dublin with complete impunity. Orangemen, he asserted, were 'tired of hole and corner meetings' and calls



from genteel Orange leaders, 'assembled at small tea parties', to 'for God's sake keep quiet on the 12th of July'.

Contrary to the shrewd advice of the Earl of Mayo, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Conservative Government insisted on prosecuting Johnston for defying the law. Determined on martyrdom and refusing to be bound over to keep the peace, Johnston was sentenced to two months imprisonment in Downpatrick Gaol at the Spring Assizes in February 1868.

While he was still in prison, on March 4, 1868 at a meeting in the Ulster Hall Johnston's supporters adopted him as the candidate of the United Protestant Working Men's Association of Ulster for the Belfast constituency in the forthcoming General Election. Actually Johnston had indicated his intention to run in Belfast as early as September 1867 and to major on the Party Processions Acts, to which he contended local Conservative MPs had not sufficiently objected.

On July 12, 1868 with the election in prospect, Johnston engaged in some early electioneering: 'We will have an Orange Party please God, after a while in the House of Commons ... for all the good some of the Ulster members do the Orange cause, they

might as well have been selected from the Deaf and Dumb Institute'.

The Representation of the People (Ireland) Act of 1868 had little impact in Ireland as a whole but it enfranchised large numbers of skilled artisans and workingmen in the boroughs. In Belfast the Act created a greatly expanded electorate. Throughout the United Kingdom the impact of the expanded electorate was viewed with some trepidation. Lord Derby, the Conservative leader, confessed to his fellow peers in the House of Lords that the English legislation of 1867 was akin to 'taking a leap in the dark'. Politicians understandably wondered how Belfast's newly enfranchised skilled artisans and working men would vote. Had they chosen to listen, Thomas MacKnight, an English liberal appointed editor of the Northern Whig in 1866, could have told them. He had already shrewdly noted that 'the most enthusiastic admirers of the imprisoned violator of the Party Processions Act were among the Orange artisans of Belfast.'

With a vigorous campaign and a populist programme drafted by the Revd Hugh ('Roaring') Hanna directed at new voters, Johnston humiliated the Conservative Party, which normally dominated Belfast politics

"On his arrival in Bangor he made a speech boldly stating he and his followers would tolerate no longer legislation which deemed a Twelfth demonstration illegal but allowed Irish nationalists to march through the Dublin with complete impunity."

at both parliamentary and local level, by heading the poll in the double-member constituency with an impressive 5,975 votes when the election took place in November. The two official Conservative candidates, Sir Charles Lanyon, the celebrated architect, and John Mulholland, head of a major linen firm and future Lord Dunleath, managed to poll only 3,540 and 1,580 respectively and were pushed into third and fourth place by Johnston's Liberal running mate, Thomas McClure, a wealthy Presbyterian merchant whose portrait hangs in the Reform Club, who polled 4,202 votes. The newly enfranchised electorate had decisively endorsed Johnston and his opposition to the Party Processions Act.

Wasting little time, the new Independent Conservative member for Belfast introduced a bill for the repeal of the act in 1869 but was unsuccessful. However, in 1872 Gladstone's administration quietly repealed the offending legislation. Thus within four years Johnston had achieved the extraordinarily rare feat of realising the object for which he had sought election within the lifetime of a single Parliament.

Re-elected in February 1874, this time as an official Conservative candidate, Johnston resigned his seat in March 1878, on his appointment by Disraeli's administration as inspector of Irish fisheries. After several warnings, prompted by his political speeches against the Land League and Home Rule, he was dismissed from office by Earl Spencer, the Lord-Lieutenant in Gladstone's second administration, because of an uncompromising speech at the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in Dublin in 1885. Johnston's dismissal was timely in that it facilitated a return to parliamentary politics. In the General Election of 1885 he was elected MP for the newly-created seat of South Belfast, winning handsomely against Liberal and Independent Conservative opponents. He retained the seat until his death on July 17, 1902.

# RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



## Grilled oysters on the half shell with Guinness herb butter

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 dozen large fresh oysters on the half shell
- ½ cup of Parmesan cheese (finely grated) (for the Guinness butter)
- 8 oz (1 cup) of salted Irish butter
- 1 cup of Guinness stout (reduced to 4 Tbsp)
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp shallots (finely chopped)
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 tsp thyme (finely)
- 2 Tbsp parsley (finely chopped)
- 1 tsp of kosher salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper



### HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Prepare oysters using an oyster knife and shucking severing the muscle that is attaching the oyster to the shell. Leave the oyster in the shell that is more cupped shaped.
2. In a small sauce pan simmer the Guinness, sugar and thyme until it has reduced by 75 per cent (leaving 4 Tbsp of liquid) and cool.
3. To make the Guinness butter sauté the shallot in 1 Tbsp of vegetable oil for a few minutes to soften and then add the garlic at the end and cook for one minute.
4. Whip the room temperature butter by hand or with electric whisk and add the cooled reduced Guinness, parsley, shallots and garlic, salt and pepper.
5. Preheat the fire or grill to 400-475 degrees.
6. Arrange the oysters in a single layer on a grill and spoon 2 tsp of the butter mixture into each oyster shell and then top with finely grated Dubliner Irish Cheese. Grill uncovered for six to seven minutes until the butter is sizzling and the oyster is puffed up.
7. Remove from the grill and serve immediately.

## US Covenanters pay a visit to learn more about their Ulster-Scots heritage

**A** group of 45 Presbyterian Covenanters from South Carolina were in Northern Ireland for two days in June, part of a two-week UK tour tracing their Scottish and Ulster religious ancestry and heritage.

They travelled under the name of 'Friends' of Erskine theological seminary Laurens, a training college of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States, founded in 1837.

Leading the group was Dr Dale Johnson, professor of church history at Erskine Seminary, and Belfast-born Rev Dr Leslie Holmes, who grew up in Ulster Presbyterianism and was minister of First Pittsburgh Presbyterian Church, Pennsylvania, before joining the Associated Reformed Church.

The tour began in London with visits to St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey (where the Westminster Confession of Faith was drawn up), and Wesley Chapel-Bunhill Fields (burial site of Susanna Wesley and John Bunyan). They also took in King's College, Cambridge; ancient churches in Nottingham, and Durham Cathedral.

They moved to Edinburgh, visiting St Giles Cathedral, where John Knox celebrated 16th century founder of Scottish Presbyterianism, preached. At St Andrew's, Perth they visited Martyrs Memorial, erected to Patrick Hamilton and George Wishart, two noted Scottish Covenanting martyrs. They moved to Dunfermline, Gairneybridge and Kinross, historic home region of the Erskine



brothers, for whom their seminary is named, and stopped at the monument marking the founding of Scotland's Secession Church, whose founders made a distinct mark on American Presbyterianism.

In Belfast the group visited Presbyterian Church House, where they were given a guided tour by Clerk of the General Assembly the Rev Trevor Gribben. They then travelled to Londonderry city, where the 1688-89

siege took place, and where celebrated hymn writer Mrs Cecil Francis Alexander resided. They walked on Londonderry Walls and toured St Columba's Cathedral, moving to Donegal and Ramelton, tracing the steps of the Rev Francis Makemie, founder of Presbyterianism in America.

At a dinner in Belfast Castle on Sunday June 17, the group was welcomed by Ian Crozier, Chief Executive Ulster-Scots Agency, who presented Dr Holmes with a momentum picture of the Eagle momentous Eagle Wing sailing from Groomsport to America in 1636.

Scots-Irish author Billy Kennedy, who has lectured at Erskine College in South Carolina, provided the visitors with an update on their genealogical roots, in Scotland, Ulster and the Carolinas.

Also present was retired Church of Ireland rector the Rev John Batchelor, a relative of Dr Leslie Holmes.

"The majority of folk in the group are of Ulster-Scots diaspora, Covenanting Presbyterians with a passionate desire to trace the Reformed traditions of forebearers who moved from Scotland to Ulster, and to the Carolinas. This was the trip of a lifetime for them," said Dr Holmes.

Ian Crozier, chief executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency, presents the Eagle Wing sailing momentum picture to Dr Leslie Holmes, who is joined by Ulster-Scots author Billy Kennedy

# Ulster influences and witness in First Pittsburgh

BY Billy Kennedy

Ulster influences were prominent in the 18th century early years of First Pittsburgh Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh church was established as a congregation under the authority of the Donegal presbytery in April 1773, with two New England ministers the Rev David McClure and the Rev Levi Frisbie tasked with the initial pastorate. Both had ridden 700 miles on horseback to assume their new charge, which had included a mission to the native American Indians on the Muskingum River in Ohio. Church influences in Pittsburgh began in 1761 when the location was known as Fort Pitt. Quaker merchant James Kenny set up a church school in an area that was constantly besieged by hostile Indian tribes and, for a time, Londonderry-born army chaplain the Rev Charles Beatty was a regular preacher to the settlers.

With another Ulsterman of Huguenot stock, the Rev George Duffield, the Beatty mission was instrumental in the calls for a permanent church in this far-flung frontier outpost. Beatty left the north of Ireland in 1729 as a 14-year-old with his widowed mother and he earned a living as a peddler, tramping from log cabin to log cabin with his wares on his back. It was through the influence of Scots-Irish preacher the Rev William Tennent that he turned to religion and, after his ordination as a Presbyterian minister, he enlisted as a British army chaplain during their successful 1750s assault on Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) and routing of the French forces. During the 1760s, this part of western Pennsylvania became a bloodied land, as a result of an Indian rising led by a chief Pontiac. There were massacres, burnings, lootings and kidnappings, which resulted years later in the discovery of white children in Indian villages, grown to manhood and womanhood. While the region was being torn apart by the ravages of the Pontiac rising, Charles Beatty acted as agent for the relief of the poor and distressed and he went on a fund-raising tour of Scotland, England and Wales, returning with the then princely sum of £4,000. The McClure-Frisbie missionary partnership in Pittsburgh lasted for most of a year, and from right through the period of the Revolutionary War, First Pittsburgh church and the adjoining Long Run congregation were served by young ministerial licentiates of the Donegal presbytery.

The war meant a large section of the adult population was away from home on the battlefield and it was the women of the Scots-Irish settlements who kept worship going, through prayer meetings for their revolutionary soldier menfolk and, most significantly, for victory over the British. By 1782, the Redstone presbytery was formed to embrace the Pittsburgh area and the first clerical members were the Revs John McMillan, James Power and Thaddens Dodd. The Scots-Irish Presbyterians of Pittsburgh were among the most gallant on the revolutionary side during the war. The militias led by Aenas Mackey and John Gibson played an important role in the struggle and a young local boy Ebenezer Denny was one of the first chosen to plant the American flag of independence on the height of the Yorktown battlements.

Forty eight officers in the colonial and revolu-



Rev Charles Beatty



Rev Francis Herron



Rev Robert Steele



Rev Samuel Barr

tionary armies were linked to First Pittsburgh Presbyterian Church, with nearly all of them buried in the church cemetery. They included Irish-born and French-educated General James O'Hara, who had served in the Coldstream Guards and later became a close associate of George Washington, first as an Indian trader and supplier to the army and, eventually, as the first quarter-master of the United States. O'Hara, who married Presbyterian Mary (Polly) Carson, became a trustee and was a very generous contributor to First Pittsburgh Church. He also donated land for the first Roman Catholic Church in the region. The Roman Catholic church did not receive its first resident priest in Pittsburgh until 1808 and, until the beginning of the 19th century, First Pittsburgh church had a monopoly of religion in the city. German Lutherans and the Episcopal (Anglican) Church did not have an organised presence until the turn of the century. First Pittsburgh's first minister after the Revolutionary war was the Rev Samuel Barr, described as "a tough little red-haired Ulster-Scot from Londonderry". Educated at Glasgow, Barr was a Calvinist of the old school, who pandered neither to the dictates of political masters or to the religious revivalism that was increasingly prevalent at that time. Barr, backed by army chaplain Hugh Brackinridge, founded Pittsburgh Academy, which later became

the Western University of Pittsburgh and, eventually the University of Pittsburgh. Another Ulsterman the Rev Robert Steele, from Ballykelly in Co. Londonderry arrived in 1800 with his wife Isabelle Hazlett to occupy the First Pittsburgh pulpit. Steel, also educated at Glasgow University, and ordained at Scriggan near Dungiven by the Derry presbytery in 1790, had been involved in the aborted 1798 United Irishmen rebellion in Ulster with a number of other Presbyterian ministers and was tried for treason at a court martial. However, before sentence could be pronounced, he escaped with his wife and baby to America and very probably he was never to know that after leaving Ireland his name was removed from the lists of the Irish synods and presbyteries on the grounds of treason. Indeed, the presbytery of Redstone in Pennsylvania may not have been aware of Steele's turbulent past, having only received a testimonial of his good standing as a gospel minister from his previous congregation in Londonderry and some letters of recommendation about his character. Steele's removal from the roll of the Irish Presbyterian Church is contained in the minutes of the General Synod of Ulster, which met in Lurgan on August 28, 1798: "Derry presbytery report that Rev Robert Steele, having pleaded guilty to a charge of treason before a court martial, his name

"While the region was being torn apart by the ravages of the Pontiac rising, Charles Beatty acted as agent for the relief of the poor and distressed and he went on a fund-raising tour of Scotland, England and Wales, returning with the then princely sum of £4,000."

was erased from the List of Presbytery." Described as a very complex man, James Steele developed a moralistic way of preaching, laying emphasis on a correct behaviour and piety. He was a student of the literary works of English bard William Shakespeare. By this time, a second Presbyterian congregation existed in Pittsburgh, with First in James Steele's 10-year ministry generally recognised as a society church and Second, the evangelical body, drawn mainly from the small Scots-Irish farmers and the lower order tradesmen. In the pews of First Pittsburgh were the military hierarchy, and the merchant class and the congregation moved from its log cabin building to an impressive brick structure.

Another Ulsterman to minister at First Pittsburgh was the Rev Dr. Francis Herron, the Pennsylvania-born son of a Covenanting family from Rathfriland in the Mourne region of Co Down. During his 39-year ministry in First Pittsburgh, Dr Herron made a huge impact, enhancing the spiritual vitality of the congregation and in the general social environs of the Western Pennsylvania city. He led several significant religious revivals in the region and the results of these were manifest in the growth of Sunday schools; By 1833, First Pittsburgh had 12 affiliated Sunday schools, with 1,212 scholars and 121 teachers.

Billy Kennedy is author of 11 books on 18th century Ulster-Scots movement to America.



First Pittsburgh Presbyterian Church, 1853

## WEANS' WURLD

### COLOURING IN CORNER

Can you colour in this bagpiper wearing traditional uniform?



#### ULSTER-SCOTS PLACE TO VISIT

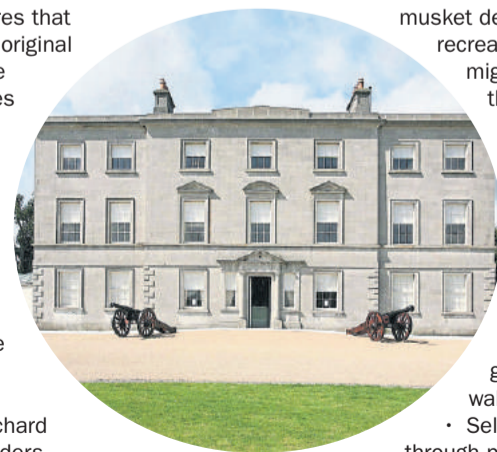
## Explore the history and heritage of the Battle of the Boyne

**Situated on the banks of the River Boyne, just five kilometres west of the town of Drogheda, Co. Louth, lies Oldbridge House.** The house is believed to have been designed by the architect George Darley and was built in the mid-eighteenth century for the Coddington family. Following a careful programme of restoration and development, the house, its stables and adjoining gardens opened to the public in 2008 as a new visitor centre exploring the history and heritage of the Battle of the Boyne. This famous battle is one of the defining moments in Irish history. On July 1, 1690 (old Julian calendar) standing in opposition, King William III commanded 36,000 troops against King James II and his 24,000. This was the largest number of troops ever deployed on an Irish battle field.

At stake were the British throne, French dominance in Europe, and power in Ireland.



Situated on 500 acres that take in much of the original battlefield, Oldbridge House today provides an interpretive centre for those who wish to learn more about the battle or to explore the battlefield itself. The extensive gardens have been restored and feature an unusual sunken octagonal garden, a peach house, an orchard and herbaceous borders, while a tearoom has been created adjacent to the old stable block. Throughout the year, outdoor theatre, workshops and events such as cavalry displays and



musket demonstrations help to recreate a sense of what it might have been like on that fateful day in July 1690.

#### FACILITIES:

- Visitor Centre, Audio Visual Show, original and replica 17th Century weaponry displays, laser battlefield model, tea pavilion, gift shop, toilets and walled garden.

• Self guiding walks through parkland and battle site.

• Partial access for people with disabilities. For more information check out [www.battleoftheboyne.ie](http://www.battleoftheboyne.ie)

## the **Ulster-Scot** COMPETITION

### WIN

### A FAMILY PASS TO THE BOYNE VALLEY VISITORS CENTRE, DROGHEDA

To win a family pass to the Boyne Valley Visitor Centre just send your answer to this question:

**Q. 'What instrument accompanies Bagpipes in a Pipe band?'**

Email your answer to [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) with 'Boyne Valley' in the subject line. Please remember to include your name and contact details.

**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY AUGUST 31**

Alternatively post your answer to:

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

#### LAST ISSUE'S WINNER

Family pass to

**The Ulster-American Folk Park**

Congratulations to Louise and Colin Johnston from Co Antrim. We hope you enjoy your visit.

