



A FAMILY PASS TO THE DALRIADA FESTIVAL - PAGE 16

Pipe-off for the 2017 bands season as Inveraray set to open practice to public



► The new pipe band season begins today (May 13) with the Ards & North Down Championships in Bangor. And on June 10 the UK Championships take place at Stormont, when reigning British and Scottish champions Inveraray & District (pictured) will be among the competitors in grade one. Inveraray will be holding a pre-contest rehearsal at the Ulster-Scots Agency's Corn Exchange headquarters on Friday June 9 and are inviting the public to attend any time from 3pm to 8pm. **See pipe band focus on page 12**



► CULTURE EVENT MARKS LEGACY OF ROBERT BURNS

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► GLENARM GEARING UP FOR JULY'S DALRIADA FESTIVAL

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Fair faa ye



Welcome to the May 2017 edition of the Ulster-Scot. Summer is once again on the doorstep and with it the annual piping season is now underway. The first outdoor competition, the Ards & North Down Championships with take place on May 13 in Bangor at 11am. More about the piping season on Page 12. The Ulster-Scots Agency is gearing up for the presentation of foundation certificates, to the hard working pupils of our tuition programme, at Stormont on June 8 2017, with over 100 children taking part it will be a busy night for all involved. Highland dancers from across Northern Ireland have been taking part in competitions, auditions and displays and coming out on top with invitations to the Moscow Tattoo, successes at the Ulster Championships and multiple pupils passing SDTA examinations. To read more about the dancers see Page 13.

Also in this edition, you read more about the recent launch of the new publication *Ower the Tuppenny* by author Margaret Cameron, a captivating collection of eighteen fictional short stories, based in the rural country setting of the County Antrim villages of Gracehill and Ahoghill. Copies can be obtained from the Ulster-Scots Community Network.

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

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency

The Ulster-Scot

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Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

Ulster-Scots Agency launches new book *Ower the Tuppenny*

The Ulster-Scots Agency is pleased to announce the launch of *Ower the Tuppenny* by Margaret Cameron - A Collection of Short Stories from around Gracehill and Ahoghill.

The book launch took place at the Discover Ulster-Scots centre on Thursday April 27 2017 with members of the Ulster Scots and literary communities in attendance.

Ower The Tuppenny is a captivating collection of eighteen fictional short stories, based in the rural country setting of the County Antrim villages of Gracehill and Ahoghill. *Ower The Tuppenny* is beautifully written incorporating a selection of every-day Ulster-Scots words and phrases. The stories cover a variety of topics and are rooted from the author's childhood growing up in the area around



Gracehill and Ahoghill. Margaret Cameron is an established writer and published author, with two non-fiction books - *The Women in Green* and *Share - their Story*. Margaret also enjoys writing fiction and has appeared in

Ireland's Own Anthology of Winning Irish Short Stories in 2015 and in 2016.

Copies of the book, £6, can be obtained by contacting the Ulster-Scots Community Network on 028 9043 6710.

Bright Lights to shine on the international stage

Bright Lights dancers Jasmine Ng and Emma McCluskey auditioned successfully for the Moscow Tattoo International Highland Dance Team 2017. They will perform at the Red Square August 26 - September 3 2017 as part of the 10th anniversary Spasskaya Tower Tattoo in Moscow.

Jasmine and Emma are the first two dancers from Northern Ireland to represent Highland Dance at this prestigious event. The girls are pictured with their dance teacher, Elizabeth Gollan from Edinburgh.



CLICK ON THIS...

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www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events

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

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



WORD OF THE ISSUE

Flaff

Meaning:

v. flap: flap the wings, n. a quick, brief flapping: (of a flame) a brief flare: a puff of wind or air (A felt the flaff o ye gan b me.)

The future of the Ulster-Scots community

Over the past year, the Schomberg Society has been working hard on the ground to produce a comprehensive Audit and Community Plan for the Ulster-Scots community in the Greater Mourne.

This project has compiled an extensive database of Ulster-Scots groups, marching bands and community groups within the Greater Mourne area which includes areas such as Killeel, Castlewellsan and as far as Rathfriland. The Schomberg Society has made contact with all of these groups through surveys, questionnaires, meetings, workshops and one to one focus groups in order to gather the exact needs of all of these groups for the future.

The results of this has enabled the Schomberg Society to produce an Ulster-Scots Community Plan for the coming three years which details the needs of these Ulster-Scots Groups for their area, their people, their organisation and indeed the wider community.

As part of the project, the Schomberg Society has also produced an informative brochure *Helpful Hints for Funding and A Guide to Good Governance*, which is available to help Ulster-Scots groups,



Marching bands and community groups to ensure they are fit for purpose. These informative brochures have proven very popular and have already been distributed to many Ulster-Scots groups within the area. A spokesperson from the Schomberg Society commented: "We are delighted with the results of the project and it was great to

see such a good turnout at the launch of the booklet in Reivers House. The Community Audit and Plan has already proven very beneficial for us as we make plans for the future and needs our Ulster-Scots community in the coming years." The Schomberg Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the Big

"These informative brochures have proven very popular and have already been distributed to many Ulster-Scots groups within the area."

Lottery Fund for supporting the project, Forsythe Consultancy for their assistance in delivering the project and to all of the Ulster-Scots groups, marching bands and Community Groups who helped us produce this very beneficial Community Audit, Plan and Guidance Brochure. There are still a number of Guidance Brochures available and all groups are more than welcome to call in and collect a copy from Reivers House, Killeel.

For further information of help and support, please contact the Schomberg Society on 028 4176 9678 / 07753222553 or Find us on Facebook: Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots

Discover Ulster-Scots Centre 13 miles of water, centuries of connections



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.



Discover Ulster-Scots

GET A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY

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EXHIBITION • LITERATURE • GIFTS

Plaque honours John Alexander Sinton - a man of 'absolute integrity and tremendous industry'

The Ulster History Circle has commemorated John Alexander Sinton VC, FRS, (1884-1956), soldier, physician and malariologist.

The plaque was unveiled by the Brigadier's grandson, Nial Watson, 61 years to the date of his grandfather's funeral with full military honours, on March 28 1956.

John Alexander Sinton who was born in Canada, and who at an early age was brought by his parents to live in Ireland, was a remarkable man; a far seeing man of many parts and varied experience. He had the unique distinction of being the only holder of a Victoria Cross, who was also a Fellow of the Royal Society and was a legend in his own life time.

Educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and at Queen's University Belfast, where he studied medicine, he joined the Medical Service of the Indian Army. Captain Sinton was awarded the VC. for the most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on January 21 1916 in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) where he attended to the wounded under heavy fire, whilst wounded himself. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital and remained as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under heavy fire. In three previous actions, Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

Apart from his military career, Brigadier Sinton (1943) achieved international pre-eminence as malariologist and published over 200



scientific papers (many of them about malaria).

A member of the Senate of Queen's University, he also served as a JP, High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of County Tyrone. He died at his home at Slaughtered Lodge, Cookstown. In an obituary in the British Medical Journal,

Col. H.W. Mulligan observed that 'Sinton had an exceptionally quick, receptive and retentive brain, and his greatness sprang not so much from his unusual intellectual gifts as from the simple qualities of absolute integrity and tremendous industry'.

Chris Spurr, Chairman of the Ulster History Circle comments: "John Alexander Sinton VC, FRS is the only person ever to have received the highest award for gallantry, the Victoria Cross, and also to be elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

"The Ulster History Circle is delighted to commemorate this distinguished soldier and physician with a Blue Plaque to his unique achievements. The Circle would like to thank Lissan Church of Ireland for their assistance, and we are grateful to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque".

"He (John Alexander Sinton) had the unique distinction of being the only holder of a Victoria Cross, who was also a Fellow of the Royal Society and was a legend in his own life time."

Hawick Border Reivers Festival 2017

Sunshine certainly helped bring out the crowds to this year's Hawick Reivers Festival in Scotland.

Festival goers in their thousands helped make the 2017 event among the most successful yet held by Hawick Reivers' Association.

The Ulster Scots Agency sent a delegation to the Festival this year to build relations with festival organisers. It was the first time the Ulster Scots Agency had attended the event and attendees were warmly welcomed by the hosts.

Now in its 14th year, the festival gave tourists and visitors alike the chance to find out about their reiver ancestry through activities such as re-enactments and historical talks.

Activities were kicked off on Friday with ghost walks and a family ceilidh. More than 3,000 people turned out to take part in activities on the Saturday.

Pupils from Drumranlig St Cuthbert's and Stirches primary schools impressed with drama performances.

Schoolchildren also took part in games, a contest won by Wilton Primary School. Later, a torchlight procession was held from the Common Haugh, and at Wilton Lodge Park there was a firework display, sponsored by the town's Emtelle plant, held in the bandstand area.

The festival came to a close on Sunday with a literary high tea held at the Mansfield Park clubrooms.

Association chairwoman Catherine Elliott said: "I think this is one of our most successful festivals so far.

"We had great weather for the weekend, and Saturday's encampment at the Wee Haugh, which had displays of horsemanship and musket drills, was very successful, receiving a number of visitors throughout the day."



Plan your summer adventure with the Ulster Historical Foundation

Running from June 14-21 2017 and September 6-13 2017, the Ulster Historical Foundation conferences offer a new programme which combines a varied and exciting mix of tours which will take in the spectacular scenery and historical sites of Ireland and research opportunities in the archives (including the National Library and National Archives in Dublin) with talks from acknowledged experts.

New features for Tracing your Irish Ancestors June 2017

- Pre-Conference Irish Genealogy Essentials Course.
- Guided tour of both Knowth and Newgrange (visit confirmed) passage tombs at Bru na Boinne.
- Tour of south Antrim including Carrickfergus Castle, one of the best preserved medieval structures in all of Ireland.
- Extended stay in Derry/Londonderry to take in such sites as: St Augustine's Church, the Tower Museum, the Siege Museum, the Long Tower Church and more!
- A visit to Ireland's only accessible rope-bridge at Carrick-a-rede.
- A stop at Ireland's highest pub.
- A tour of Sentry Hill - an authentic old



Ulster farmhouse showing life in rural Ulster during the 19th and 20th centuries.

New features for Tracing your Irish Ancestors September 2017

- Pre-Conference Irish Genealogy Essentials Course.

- Tour of Newgrange passage tombs at Bru na Boinne.
- Extended stay in Derry/Londonderry to take in such sites as: St Augustine's Church, the Tower Museum, the Siege Museum, the Long Tower Church and more!
- Tour of Co. Down including a trip to Down Cathedral, said to be the burial place of St Patrick.
- Tour of the Georgian City of Armagh, the



Ecclesiastical Capital of Ireland. A visit to Ireland's only accessible rope-bridge at Carrick-a-rede.

The cost to participate in our Conferences is just £849.99 (GBP). Given the current low value of sterling (GBP) against other currencies now is a particularly good time for overseas visitors to purchase. The present exchange rate values will ensure overseas delegates can make a very tidy saving on the cost.

Spaces are filling up fast so book your place now. For more information and guidance on how to register for the **June** event please see www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/summer/ For more information and guidance on how to register for the **September** event please see www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn/

Wayfaring Stranger with Phil Cunningham

Music and history combined in a new series which aired in April, presented by acclaimed Scottish musician, composer and broadcaster, Phil Cunningham.

Across three programmes, Phil explored age-old musical connections between Scotland, Ulster and America and celebrated not only an extraordinary history, but a vibrant, living tradition.

The migration of music unfolded over many generations and many journeys. Phil followed in the footsteps of the Ulster-Scots pioneers who brought their music to America's furthest frontiers.

Wayfaring Strangers With Phil Cunningham, was featured on BBC Two Northern Ireland in April and uncovered the fascinating story of how the songs, hymns and tunes they carried with them became a corner stone of American music - country, gospel, bluegrass and rock 'n' roll.

Phil's journey took him from Scotland, via the hearths and homes of Ulster, across the Atlantic and down the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the Appalachian Mountains and beyond.

The story began in Scotland, as Phil examined the distinctive sacred and secular traditions which would cross over the narrow sea to Ireland.

He followed the mass migration of Scots to Ulster which began in the 17th century, and explored how their musical traditions enriched Ireland's musical story, before travelling on to a new world.

The second programme followed the



Phil Cunningham and inset, Phil with Paul Brady

'wayfarers' in their next great migration, across the Atlantic, and picked up the trail on the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the Carolinas and Appalachia. Phil discovered how the musical legacy of those first Ulster-Scots settlers was cherished and handed down, but also how it mixed and mingled with native and African American traditions, absorbing new influences and new instruments to create something utterly unique.

The final programme followed the story from

the mountains to the mainstream, as another wave of migration from Appalachia helped bring the lasting musical traditions of the Ulster-Scots to a wider world.

As he traced the music, and those restless travellers who carried it with them, Phil joined an international cast of performers, helping viewers experience for themselves the power of hymns, tunes and songs that have endured for centuries.

Among the artists who appeared in the series are country legends Rosanne Cash and



"Wayfaring Strangers With Phil Cunningham, was featured on BBC Two Northern Ireland in April and uncovered the fascinating story of how the songs, hymns and tunes they carried with them became a corner stone of American music."

Ricky Skaggs, rising star Rhiannon Giddens, bluegrass virtuosos Tim O'Brien and Jerry Douglas, along with Paul Brady, Mairéad Ní Mhaoinigh and celebrated Appalachian singer, Sheila Kay Adams.

Wayfaring Stranger With Phil Cunningham was a Below the Radar production for BBC Northern Ireland in conjunction with the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund/Northern Ireland Screen.

The series is a part of BBC Northern Ireland's *Keepin' 'er Country* programming.

Ulster-Scots Juvenile Pipe Band:

one-to-one with Arren McWilliams by Victoria Catterson

Donaghadee drummer Arren McWilliams may only be 13 but he is already in a Grade One band; and is travelling the world all thanks to his interests and talent. Last year he went to the Gapa Tattoo in Germany with Lisbeg Pipe Band and participated in the Festival Interceltique in Lorient with the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, with hopes to return again this year. He's also travelling to the Moscow Tattoo in August. When the busy teen isn't travelling the world, he also plays in the Campbell College School Pipe Band, Army Cadet Force Pipe Band and occasionally helps out local bands; he was even lead drummer of the Harry Ferguson Memorial Pipe Band last year.

Age: 13

School: Campbell College

Current band: Pipes & Drums of the Police Service of Northern Ireland

Hobbies outside of drumming: Hockey, football & archery, piano and Army Cadets.

How long have you been drumming?

I've been drumming for two and a half years,



although I did a little when I was seven; until my tutor moved to Australia to further his drumming career.

How/Where did you learn to drum?

I met Brendan Megoran from the Ulster Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band at a workshop; who suggested I attend the

teaching programme. I now go to the class in Clogher & also in Campbell College.

What attracted you to drumming and/or pipe bands?

I was drumming before I was walking, so had a natural interest. My Great Grandfather was a pipe band drummer so maybe a little inherited, although I never met him.

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

My sister is also in the band which is great. I enjoy the variety of venues we do like the SSE arena, Belfast Waterfront or Carrickfergus Castle with choirs or an orchestra. The tutors are also fantastic.

How often do you practice?

I practice every day either at band, Ulster-Scots Agency tuition class, cadets or at home.

Is there anything you aspire to achieve in drumming such as winning the worlds, competing in Grade One or winning solo competitions?

I've recently joined a Grade One band &

won prizes in solo competitions so I hope to continue to do well in both. In the future I'd like to become a tutor with the Ulster Scots Agency.

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

There are many great players like Jim Kilpatrick, Alex Duthart & Stephen Creighton; it would great to be able to play like them but I am also greatly inspired by the skills & enthusiasm of experienced players that I have met during the last few years.

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

I would definitely recommend seeking a good tutor. I found the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile teaching programme very beneficial to me. Visit local competitions between May and August to get a feel for pipe bands.

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

Bright Lights take centre stage at 'Punjana afternoon tea dance'



Pictured at the Punjana Afternoon Tea Dance to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Ulster Hall, Belfast are the dancers from Bright Lights. They performed various styles of dance including, Ballet, Highland and Irish Dancing. Pictures: Collette Creative Photography





CULTURE EVENT MARKS LEGACY OF ROBERT BURNS

Some local primary school children would have been forgiven for feeling 'wabbit' (tired) after completing a six week course under the watch-full eye of Ulster-Scots Language facilitator Anne Morrison Smyth.

It ended up with over 80 young people networking together to celebrate the life, loves and legacy of Robert Burns by hosting an Ulster-Scots Burns Dinner at Newtown Stewart Model Primary School. The schools which participated in the Ulster-Scots language workshops within their own schools over the past four weeks included Gortin Primary School, Langfield Primary School, Ardstraw Jubilee Primary School and Newtown Stewart Model Primary School. The Burns School Dinner brought together four primary schools from Fermanagh and Omagh council area and Derry City and Strabane District Council area and saw the 'weans' research the history to write their own Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. The project encouraged the children to work together to recite poetry, participate in social dancing and perform 'First catch your Haggis' and the 'address to the Haggis' which saw each school doing 2 verses of the poems. The Burns Supper stalwarts of 'The Toast to the Lassies' and the 'Reply to the Laddies', the 'Selkirk Grace' were also performed as well as two of Burns' most famous songs 'My luv'e's like a red, red rose' and 'Auld Lang Syne'. Each school received some fun filled Ulster-Scots tuition from Anne Morrison



Smyth who said: "To hear and see our Ulster-Scots language developed in a short time over six weeks through our weans and to know they have enjoyed it and to see their confidence developed to taking to the stage and reciting Ulster-Scots poetry, 'Quor weans yin wile proud'." Each child also researched their surname tartan and wore a piece on the day. The children from Gortin Primary School's interpretation of the Immortal memory to Robert Burns - "Robert Burns was born in the village of Alloway, on the January 25 1759, just two miles away from Ayr in Scotland. He died on the July 21 1796 aged only 37 years. He was only 15 years when he wrote his first love poem, when he was 27 he became famous for his poems, he didn't go to school but was taught by his father to read and write. He was a poet, lyricist, and an excise man, he

arranged a new edition of his poems with Edinburgh publisher William Creech, selling his copyright for 100 guineas. Robert Burns was married to Jean Armour in 1788, and had 12 children and also had three other women in his life, he had three daughters all called Elizabeth, all of his woman were servants like many woman in the 18th century. His last son Maxwell was born on the day he was buried. There is a statue of Robert Burns in Co. Louth." Newtown Stewart Model Primary School hosted the Robert Burns Cultural Event on Thursday March 9, with over 85 children taking part. Also on this day Clogherny Scottish Country Dancers were on hand to teach the children some steps of the dance. Self-taught Ulster-Scots speaker William 'Bill' Robb from Castledearg, recited some famous poems in the Ulster-Scots language. He also expressed his passion

for the language and would like to see all children being taught this in schools. Ian Dinsmore piped in the Haggis and also played some other tunes. Everyone would like to thank Avril Millar the cook at Newtown Stewart Model Primary School and her team for the splendid 'Burns Dinner' including Haggis for everyone. Irene Spratt, Ulster-Scots Development Officer with Derry & Raphoe Action said: "I am delighted with the project, which has built on the last two years' performance of the Ulster-Scots language through 'Public Speaking.'" "This project will leave a lasting legacy within West Tyrone as this is the first time the formalities of a 'Burns Supper' has been carried out by children. "Public speaking instils confidence and helps people to become better communicators, and generally more successful in all aspects of life. When there is a chance for your child to practice public speaking, take advantage of it because it will be extremely beneficial for them as an adult. "The Ulster-Scots Language workshops allow the children to participate and recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language." Derry & Raphoe Action would like to thank the funders of this project for grant-aid - The Ulster-Scots Agency, and Derry City and Strabane District Council.



The de Winds may be gone but they'll never be forgotten

The de Winds are typical of families who were well-known in, and contributed much to, a local community but who, because the lineage has long since died out, have tended to fade from the forefront of public consciousness.

In the case of the de Wind family, the menfolk sought more global pastures, and most of the women remained unmarried. As far as I am aware, there are no descendants of the de Wind family on the island of Ireland, yet a hundred years ago they could be counted as prominent members of the Comber community.

I have not been able to discover why Edmund's father, Arthur Hughes de Wind, came to Comber probably around 1860, but he appears to be descended from adventurous, itinerant ancestors. One source states that he came from Singapore, which indicates that the family's origins were probably Dutch (that is, the de Winds). A century earlier, the de Winds had been leading burghers a little further up the Malay peninsula in Malacca, and at some stage in the first half of the 19th century some of the family had moved to London; there is a record in 1850 of the death in the capital of a 'son of the late John de Wind of Malacca', 16-year-old Norman de Wind (the name given also to one of Edmund's older brothers). It may have been these genes which were to inspire the peripatetic spirit of Edmund and his two brothers, Arthur Adrian and Norman.

Arthur wasted no time in becoming integrated into Comber society when, at the age of 25 or 26, on 12 April 1863 at the parish church, he married Margaret Jane Stone, a member of the family established at Barn Hill. They produced eight children, Edmund being the youngest, born twenty years after the marriage. Arthur's dedication to the parish church is exemplified by his becoming the organist for forty years, and both he and his eldest son, Adrian, were appointed members of the Church Vestry (along with members of the Stone family) in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Adrian, at some stage, was also asked to regulate the parish clock. Arthur senior was a civil engineer, becoming

very briefly Chief Engineer to the Belfast & County Down Railway, and he was followed in this profession by the two sons, Adrian and Norman, who were both to travel abroad to further their professional identity. It is difficult to be precise about their career movements. Adrian was certainly in Comber at the start of the 1890s, but he died on 3 July 1908 described as an engineer and tea planter in Assam. The movements of Norman, who was also an engineer by profession, are a little more difficult to determine. He was playing golf with the Armagh golf club in the late 1890s and was in Comber in late 1901. He also participated in a Beagle Hunt at Killyleagh in 1908 with his sisters Alice and Florence as well as with Edmund. Yet in October 1907 he applied for a patent in the United States for a crushing machine, which was granted in January 1909 – yet he was certainly in Comber in December 1909 when he consolidated the de Wind social cachet by marrying Ethel Andrews, daughter of John Andrews JP. At some stage they moved to America and he established a successful career in engineering. In 1924 he sold the family home, Kinvara, which his father had built, but – as tended to happen amongst exiled Ulstermen – he continued to show an interest in the province. In 1938 he was to be found as an adviser to the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Committee. It may be of passing interest that Norman lived to the age of 99 and his wife survived to enjoy her hundredth birthday! Such characteristics were also manifested by Edmund. He pursued the sporting proclivities exhibited by his brother Norman, and played tennis, hockey and cricket, the latter with

the North Down Cricket Club – and was listed in the Belfast News Letter in January 1916 as one of the club's former members now fighting in the War. After he left Campbell College in 1900, Edmund joined the Bank of Ireland and worked briefly in Belfast and then in Cavan until 1911 when he was lured by the broader vision and new opportunities offered by Canada. Along with at least eight other fellow Campbellians he was employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, initially working in Toronto before becoming based in Edmonton in Alberta.

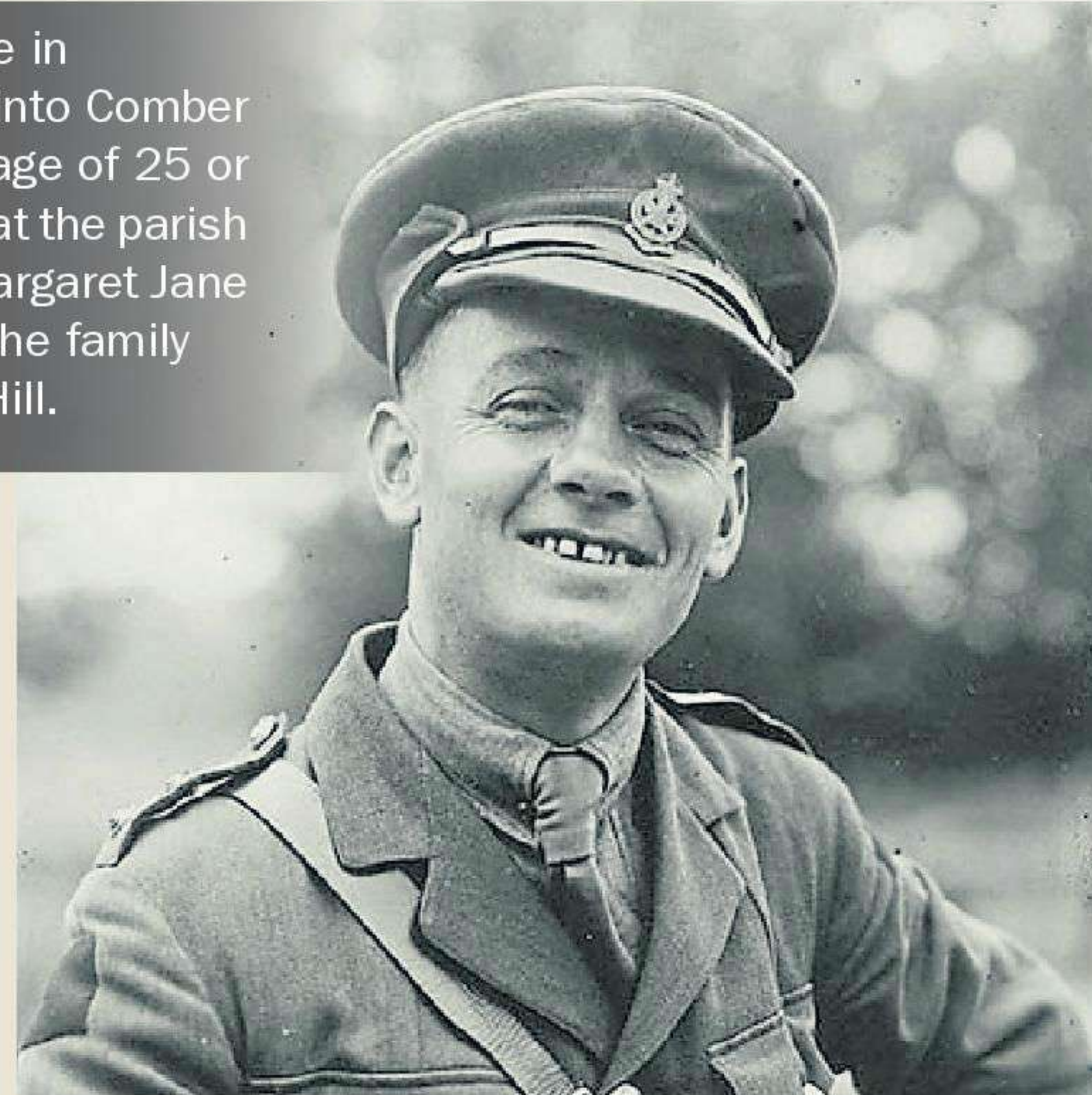
A certain nostalgia is suggested by the assertion that he took a close interest in the development of the Ulster Volunteer Force and, when war broke out in Europe in August 1914, he was one of many exiles to enlist and he travelled to Europe in 1915 with the

machine-gun section of the 31st Battalion of the Canadian Infantry. By the end of September that year he was located south of Ypres, and in April 1916 was engaged in the capture of craters at St Eloi in a desperate campaign which witnessed the death of at least two fellow Campbellians. By September 1916 the Canadians were heavily involved during the Battle of the Somme at Courcellette, where they were decimated by rifle and machine-gun fire, suffering over 6500 casualties.

It is not entirely clear whether Edmund was at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Some sources indicate that he left the ranks of the Canadians about that time, although others suggest a date of September 1917 when his commission came into force. Ever since Edmund had returned to Europe in

early 1915, moves had been made to obtain a commission for him in the Irish forces. His father made an approach to his relations in the Andrews family and, in June 1915 from the Sleave Donard Hotel, the Rt Hon Thomas Andrews wrote to the authorities requesting "a commission for my friend Edmund de Wind". This began on 26 September 1917 and Edmund joined 17th RIR for training in Dundalk, and was eventually posted to the Fifth Army as a member of 107th Brigade, 15th RIR.

By early 1918 the Allies built 14 redoubts on the Western Front and Edmund's battalion found itself posted right on the front line at Grugies, near St Quentin in the Racecourse Redoubt, which information at the Imperial War Museum suggests he commanded. The odds against them,



when the attack began on 21 March, were overwhelming as the Germans had transferred a large number of forces from the redundant Eastern Front. Cyril Falls in his History of 36th (Ulster) Division wrote: "There is evidence that Racecourse Redoubt, which contained the battalion of the 15th Rifles, was attacked before the companies of the front system. Hopeless indeed was the position of the men in this front system, outnumbered three or four times, taken in rear by parties which came upon them without warning. The case of the machine-guns, from whom, in the defence of the valley, much had been hoped, was equally desperate. The Germans swept on them, as it were, out of nothingness. Few can have had opportunity to fire a shot ere they were rushed.

Clearly Edmund did offer creditable resistance, and held his position until late afternoon; when the battalion retreated there were only 30 men unwounded. The Battalion War Diary states baldly that 'The Battalion itself was gone, killed, wounded or prisoners'. The citation for Edmund's personal role, and award of a Victoria Cross, appeared in the London Gazette on 15 May 1919, and read: "For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on 21 March 1918 at the Racecourse Redoubt near Grugies. For seven hours he held this most important post and, though twice wounded and practically single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help. On two occasions, with two NCOs only, he got out on top under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many. He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour self-sacrifice and example were of the highest order. Edmund's father had died in February 1917 – and had never known of the grant of the commission – so his mother went to Buckingham Palace to accept the award on 28 June 1919 – exactly five years to the day since the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the catalyst for the global war. I feel there is some mystery about the process of the award as, in the weeks after his death, no-one seemed aware of his courageous actions. When approached by the family in April 1918 the War Office could not provide any definitive information about him. Also on 11 June 1918, the battalion's adjutant, Captain L S Duncan replied to a letter from one of Edmund's sisters, which Edmund had never received. Duncan seemed to know nothing, nor had he been informed, about Edmund's heroism. I have never fully ascertained how the information was gathered. It is pleasing that a community is prepared to make a tangible gesture to someone who has brought it credit over the years. There are about a dozen memorials to Edmund in Northern Ireland, France and Canada – the most spectacular being Mount de Wind in the VC range in Jasper National Park in Alberta. Nevertheless, it is a worthy project to find an alternative to the German field gun donated to the town in memory of his service, which was unnecessarily pilloined during the Second World War – and I sincerely wish the project every success.

McIveen and Mike Nesbitt; and Ards and North Down Councillor Jimmy Menagh. Chief Executive of Ards and North Down Borough Council Stephen Reid was also present. Welcoming the community initiative that has brought so many groups and individuals from Comber together Mr Shannon noted that while Edmund De Wind VC had never been forgotten in Comber there was no physical memorial to him in the town. "I would urge local businesses, local people and community groups to get involved with the aim of reaching the very achievable target set at £5,000," he said. "There is already endorsement from Comber Royal British Legion and Comber Historical

Society and importantly from Ards and North Down Borough Council. "As the centenary of Edmund De Wind's death in battle where he showed incredible bravery and courage approaches, family members from New Zealand and the United States of America are keen to see the culmination of this memorial project," Mr Shannon added. "Let's all put our shoulder to the wheel and move towards this goal. "Of course this is about much more than a physical memorial," he concluded. "It's also about the educational programme which brings in community and youth groups – the adults of tomorrow."

Historical walks, exhibitions and displays and an educational element about the First World War and its legacy are among in a year-long commemorative programme remembering Comber's war hero Edmund De Wind on the centenary of his death. This significant history and heritage project across the whole of the Ards and North Down Borough Council area will involve local community groups, historical societies, volunteers, schools, arts centre and museums. Second Lieutenant Edmund De Wind who was born in Comber on December 11, 1883 was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for 'most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice' during the Great

Comber war hero Edmund De Wind to be remembered

War. The VC is the highest award that can be given to a member of the British armed services and is reserved for the 'bravest of the brave'. A memorial fund was launched in Comber with the vision to unveil a memorial plinth in the town's Square recognising Edmund De Wind's valour on the 100th anniversary of his death – March 21, 2018. A Comber man who received the highest military award for his self-sacrifice in saving others needs to be honoured and remembered by his home town, Chair of the Edmund De Wind VC Centenary Committee, Alan Stevenson underlined. "We want to increase understanding, both

locally and beyond, about who he was and why he was awarded the Victoria Cross," he said. Among those who attended the launch were Leonard Quigg, great nephew of Robert Quigg VC a memorial to whom was unveiled by HM The Queen in Bushmills in June 2016. Leonard, who is Chair of the Robert Quigg VC Commemoration Society, offered the Edmund De Wind VC Centenary Committee as much help and assistance as possible – and the committee made the first donation to the Edmund De Wind VC Memorial Fund. The evening was chaired by Councillor Trevor Cummings, a member of the Edmund

early 1915, moves had been made to obtain a commission for him in the Irish forces. His father made an approach to his relations in the Andrews family and, in June 1915 from the Sleave Donard Hotel, the Rt Hon Thomas Andrews wrote to the authorities requesting "a commission for my friend Edmund de Wind". This began on 26 September 1917 and Edmund joined 17th RIR for training in Dundalk, and was eventually posted to the Fifth Army as a member of 107th Brigade, 15th RIR.

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Ardstraw Jubilee Primary flag ship award



On the morning of March 30, Ardstraw Jubilee Primary School completed their Ulster-Scots Flagship School course and received their award. Ardstraw Jubilee is a particularly active school and has been engaged with the Ulster Scots Agency for some years now. To qualify for the award, the teachers and pupils in Ardstraw Jubilee undertook a 10 week Starter programme whereby the Agency organised for nine different tutors, each delivering a different subject to visit the school. On the tenth week, the staff and pupils chose three themes/subjects they wished to focus on.

Ardstraw Jubilee pupils began the second phase of the Ulster Scots Flagship programme with a course in Scottish Country Dancing which ran from April to June 2016. This was followed by a drama project in the autumn term and then a course in the Ulster Scots Language towards the end. They also looked at an Ulster Scots innovator, learning much in the process. As well as all of this, the pupils of the school participated in an annual Ulster Scots Poetry competition organised by Derry and Raphoe Action which included a number of their neighbouring schools. The award was presented at a special Assembly by Gary Blair, Education Officer, on behalf of the Agency.

Midsummer's Hootin Annie's

Join Monreagh Ulster Scots Centre for a night of Scottish music and dance at the Halfway House Burnfoot, County Donegal on June 22 from 8:00 pm - 11:30 pm. The evening will feature the award-winning Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band and special guests. A hot buffet supper will be served during the night.

Tickets are available at €10 per person and can be purchased using Paypal (please bring your paypal receipt for admission to the event). Alternatively you can contact the Monreagh Centre at office@monreagh.net or telephone +353 (0)74 9140708 for further details.

The fireman heroes of the Belfast Blitz

A follow up letter from the Belfast Blitz piece originally published in the Ulster-Scot in March 2016. Special thanks to David B McAuley and his family for submitting this article.

Your March 19 2016 newspaper printed an article relating to John Clarke MacDermott which was indeed of great interest to both me, and my wife June.

However I consider it necessary to clarify certain important aspects, in relation to the contacting of the Southern Irish Prime Minister, Eamon De Valera, for the purpose of seeking help from the Southern Irish Fire Service, towards fighting the massive Belfast fires, created by the Easter 1941, April 15, and May 4, air-raids on the city. Actually, the original suggestion, and request, for the Southern Irish Fire Service help, came from my wife June's grandfather, William McCullough, who at that time was County Officer of the Fire Service, and Deputy Chief-in-Charge of Belfast, but due to illness of his Chief Officer, William had been left in control, so was the person who crucially decided to request the City Commissioner of Police, R.D. Harrison, to contact J.C. MacDermott, with the purpose of seeking all assistance possible, from the Dublin Fire Service Authorities.

In response to William McCullough's request, a telegram was sent to the Town Clerk of Dublin, asking for the Southern Brigades help in fighting the ferocious Belfast fires? This resulted in a swift reaction from the Southern Irish Prime Minister, Eamon De Valera, who immediately had 13 Brigades speeding north for that purpose, and indeed, on the next May 4, Belfast Air-raid, 13 Southern Irish Brigades, once more, came to the aid of William McCullough's own Belfast Firefighting units.

William's own son, George, was also a Fireman in the Belfast Brigade, and during one of the raids, while on duty, he was blasted from the bottom of a house stairway, up to the landing above, when a bomb exploded nearby, but miraculously suffered little injury. The McCullough family were provided with a residence in the Chichester Street Fire Station Headquarters Complex, due to William, the father, being County Officer, and Deputy Chief-in-Charge. They worshiped in May Street Presbyterian Church nearby. Another of William's sons, named David, once wondered from the Fire Station dwelling as a little boy, and became lost in the streets of Belfast, so began to cry. Some of the people came to his aid, and asked him where he lived? His reply was; 'I live in the fireplace!' Some head scratching followed, no doubt. A grandson of William, also named William (Billy) McCullough, played football for



top of Knockagh Hill, near Knockagh War Memorial. At that time, my parents owned a farm there, and those war time raids were to me, like ghastly scenes from Hell. Belfast, the Docklands, and Shipyards ect, were all a sea of licking, dancing flames, with huge billows of illuminated smoke/steam, while large delayed action bombs, still continued to flash brightly, followed by their blast, which ripped up at us, as we stared from above, in sheer horror.

I can still, to this day, see the flames reflected in the waters of the Docks, and Belfast Lough and it appeared to us up on the hilltop, that Belfast was finished as a great city. Nothing could have been further from the truth, however, as history reveals. Little did I know then, that later in life, I would marry a granddaughter of William McCullough, who had led and instructed, all those brave, and valiant Firemen, in their fearsome battle to save our great city from complete destruction, and see it restored once more.

It was therefore somewhat ironic, that even on our wedding day, we were confronted by an incident connected with fire, when in the early morning hours, a short time before our wedding ceremony in Whitehouse Presbyterian Church, on June 9 1973, the church was broken into, and all fire extinguishers were activated, with the contents of each being fired throughout the interior of the church building.

Thankfully, an emergency squad quickly restored the premises back to normal for our wedding ceremony that day. Perhaps some of the individuals had been attempting to eliminate any 'old flames' from some of my past conquests? However, over the following years of 'The Troubles' a few attempts were made to set fire to those church buildings, and finally, sadly the main church - a listed building - was completely gutted by fire.

This Whitehouse area had suffered terribly during the Belfast Air Raids, but the church buildings had remained intact throughout. On one day alone, after the awful Easter 1941 raid, the then church Minister, Reverend James Nutt, conducted funeral services for 13 members of the congregation who were all killed in that one raid. Hugh McCombe, a Church Elder, and his wife, were sheltering under a strong stairway in a building, along with many others, both Protestant, and Catholic. The area under the stairway was crammed with people, and as the bombing intensified, one little Catholic lady produced her Rosary Beads, and began calling on all the Saints to come down and protect them? This brought an immediate response from a nearby Protestant lady, who exclaimed; 'For goodness sake, don't be asking any more people in here!' 'There's no room as it is!' Perhaps providentially, all those people did survive, and lived to tell this tale. In the midst of it all, the Ulster people still have a great sense of humour.

David B. McAuley.

Glentoran, and became Captain of that team. He was referred to, as the 'The Tank', due to his footballing tactics on the field. One could say he was 'full of fire' in a different way to his grandfather. The accompanying photograph, displaying a Belfast Wartime Fire Engine, and similar to the one presently on display in Cultra Ulster Transport Museum, shows William McCullough seated in front, beside the driver, and includes his son, George, at the engine rear, wearing a Fireman's mask. This picture, with the Fire Crew members, was taken inside Chichester Street Fire Station Complex. When the Southern Irish crews arrived in Belfast, to help fight the ferocious fires, they had no waterproof protective clothing, so they suffered greatly, due to the water spray continually drenching them, as they worked amongst the multitude of fire hose jets in action. Both the second, and third raids on Belfast, were massive assaults, especially the third one, which resulted in multiple,

raging widespread inferno's. These had such fury, they almost developed into a situation similar to what happened in Dresden, towards the war end, when prolonged, saturation bombing by the Allied Forces, which began at night, eventually left the whole city of Dresden engulfed in one mammoth conflagration, so huge, that suction of the air towards the flames, pulled those attempting to escape, back into the inferno to their death. A cousin of mine, Reverend Ray Davey, was a Prisoner-of-War in a castle, just a few miles outside Dresden, so witnessed that awful scene. As a Presbyterian Chaplain, he had visited, under armed guard, Prisoner-of-War Camps in Dresden, earlier in the day, and now found himself back at his prison castle, trembling in fear at the ghastly scene unfolding. Some years after the war end, Ray founded the International Corrymeela Reconciliation Centre, near Ballycastle. He died in recent years, aged 97. His brother Will, was a Doctor in the Royal Airforce during the war, and was one of the first Doctors to land in France on D.Day, in a glider. He also died some years ago over 90. As a seven year old boy, I witnessed all the Belfast Air Raids from my vantage point on

Five days in Ulster *By David Peters*

David Peters from Maryville College, Tennessee was part of a group of students to visit Northern Ireland to study the Celtic Connections between the Appalachia and the Ulster region. Here is his own personal account of the trip...

FRIDAY JANUARY 13

When our plane started its descent over Northern Ireland the sun had just begun to rise. A light snow had fallen on the fields and they were shimmering like gold. Out the window I could see the rolling hills of farmland dotted with sheep. I had always pictured in my head what this sight would look like but for the first time ever, it was even more beautiful than I could have imagined.

Our group of students traveling from Maryville College came to Northern Ireland to study the Celtic Connections between the Appalachia and the Ulster region. We were met at the airport by Neil who would be our driver for all five days of our stay. We all enjoyed his company and we were glad to have him as our driver as he seemed a great fit for our group.

Our first stop was the Discover Ulster Scots Center where we had a delicious lunch provided by the Ulster Scots Agency. We were met with great hospitality from the moment we arrived until the very moment we were on our way home. After an informative lecture-style inauguration to Ulster-Scots culture, we were excited to hear some traditional music played on the bagpipes.

After that initial visit we set off for a city tour by bus. This was one of my favorite parts of the trip. We got a real sense of the city's history as we toured past the beautiful churches and murals. Our first day also included a trip to the Titanic Museum. We had a blast wandering around that amazing facility as it is the epitome of a fun and state-of-the-art Museum.

SATURDAY JANUARY 14

Our group met with Mr. Jonathan Burgess who would be our guide on visits to Donegal and Londonderry. Our first stop was the Monreagh Heritage Centre to meet with Mr. Kieran Fegan.

Mr. Fegan graciously toured us around the Centre as we talked about the Celtic Connections between our two cultures. We even got a chance to enter the Monreagh Presbyterian church located right across the way.

Knowing how Presbyterianism played such a key role in the shaping of local history and culture, it was nice to see and learn of the inner workings of the local church. This was an important part of our trip because Maryville College, Tennessee was founded almost two hundred years ago by Isaac Anderson, a Scots-Irish Presbyterian Minister and is still associated with the Presbyterian Church today.

Our next stop was the Siege Museum to learn about the Apprentice Boys and the siege of Londonderry. The Siege Museum was new and modern and offered so much information to behold. We looked at amazing artefacts and enjoyed interactive displays. We learned so much so fast it almost made our heads spin, but we loved it!

Mr. Burgess toured us around the city walls as he discussed the history of the city and Troubles that had afflicted the region in the



past. I overheard some of my classmates use the term "eye-opening" referring to all the history we had learned about on that day.

SUNDAY JANUARY 15

Our group visited the Ulster American Folk Park. It was truly interesting to see the connections between our two cultures laid out so vividly. Like all the museums we visited in Northern Ireland the Ulster American Folk Park was modern and all the exhibits were well crafted.

Throughout the park the traditional buildings of the past brought us to a time before our own. The log cabins and barns were familiar and emphasized the historical connection between Ulster and Appalachia.

MONDAY JANUARY 16

Our trip to the Brownlow House was awesome; I mean that in the most literal sense of the word! There was so much to see in such a small amount of time. Local historian Mr. George Patton walked us through the amazing architecture, the War Memorabilia museum, the Tea Room and the many beautiful staircases on the property.

What an amazing place. Thanks to Mr. Maynard Hanna and Croom Media, we had a nice sit-down with delicious assorted scones and coffee. A special thanks to MLA Carla Lockhart who took time out of her schedule on a very busy day to come and speak with us.

After Brownlow House we visited Dan Winter's ancestral Home. We visited with Ms. Hilda Winter who provided us with a unique and historical account of the Battle of The Diamond and the birth of the Orange Order. We had an amazing meal with Ms. Winter, courtesy of Billy Moorcroft and the County Armagh Community Development group.

We then made our way to the newly renovated Sloan's House Museum of Orange Heritage. What a modern and well-designed institution it was! Mr. Denis Watson gave us a grand tour around the museum and its newly installed exhibits. Mr. Watson wanted us to truly know what Orangeism is all about and after the tour he opened the floor to a question and answer-style discussion. What a way to learn!

From there we travelled out into the countryside to Mr. David Alexander's home where he introduced us to the beautiful and powerful lambeg drum. Our group listened intently when Mr. Alexander spoke about how they were designed, the significance of their ornamentation, and how they were carefully built.

Each member of our group got a chance to put on the drum and feel the weight and power of this incredible instrument. After that, we made a quick stop at the Portadown Orange Lodge to speak with Mr. John Proctor and other members of the Lodge. It was in perfect sequence having learned about the beginnings of The Orange Order and then seeing the operation of a working lodge. Mr. Proctor and his associates talked with us about some of the amazing programs the Portadown Orange Lodge sponsor for local youth and the elderly. I was personally inspired to find out the specifics of some of these youth programs including but not limited to the promotion of art and afterschool activities for local students. We had a perfect end to a long day with a delicious dinner and traditional Scottish dancing.

A special thank you to the ladies of the Aughlish Ulster Scots for the home-cooked meal, our dancing instructor, and to Mr. John Minnis and the Aughlish Ulster Scots for hosting us.



"The Giant's Causeway, a place to which I'm sure I will return in my dreams many times during my life."

TUESDAY JANUARY 17

This day was all about seeing the beautiful coastal scenery in County Antrim. We visited the historic Bushmills Distillery and it was amazing! At Bushmills, we got a sense of the modern world mixing with the historic practices of distilling. We even got a chance to have a sample of the oh-so delicious 12-year-old distillery reserve.

After a brief stop at St. Patrick's first church we made our way to The Giant's Causeway, a place to which I'm sure I will return in my dreams many times during my life! What a beautiful and magical place it was amongst the cliffs and the sea. Our group crawled, hiked, and climbed, over as much of the landscape as possible. We won't soon be forgetting that day at the Causeway.

By the end of the five days in Northern Ireland our group had learned so much about the culture and history of the Ulster society. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the members of the local community who took time out of their schedules to meet with us. Also, we would like to send a special thank you to Ms. Catriona Holmes and Mr. Ian Crozier of the Ulster-Scots Agency for providing our group with a meal and introduction to Ulster-Scots heritage and supporting us during the entire duration of our stay in Northern Ireland. We truly appreciate these generous gifts, for without their help it would have been impossible to have such impactful experience.



Celebrating diversity

On Friday May 5, the Ulster-Scots Agency participated in the Diversity Day event held in the Girl's Model School, Belfast. The Diversity Day celebrates a range of different cultures represented within Northern Ireland and the Agency supplied tutors skilled in Highland Dance, Bagpipes, Snare drumming and Living History.



Competition season starts in Bangor as FM Montgomery look to lay down a marker

The competition season in pipe banding in Northern Ireland begins against the backdrop of Bangor Castle on Saturday May 13 and continues through to its climax at Portrush in mid-August.

And what an appetising opener is in store in Bangor, which sees a six-strong field in grade one including reigning world champions Field Marshal Montgomery and the first appearance for some time in Northern Ireland of Scottish challengers Vale of Atholl, whose drum corps is now under the control of former Cullybackey leading tip Adrian Hoy.

They'll be joined in grade one by Bleary & District, Ravara and the newly promoted band of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, alongside Closkelt, who are 'playing up' from grade two. As well as six bands in grade one, there will be three competitors in grade two in Bangor, six in grade 3A, four in grade 3B, ten in grade 4A and 14 in the grade 4B competition.

The piping judges in Bangor will be George Wilson, Alan Ronaldson, Jim Semple and Ian Wood, while Mark Wilson and Sandy Steele will oversee the drumming and Ciaran Mordaunt and Cameron Edgar look after the ensemble. Bangor will be a precursor for the first of the five 'majors' of the 2017 campaign, the British Championship at St James Playing Fields in Paisley, where 144 bands will come to the line, including 10 Northern Ireland band representatives and more than 20 drum majors. Northern Ireland, of course, will stage one of those majors, the UK Championships in the grounds of the Stormont Estate on Saturday June 10, when 104 bands have entered. And Field Marshal Montgomery, under long-serving pipe major Richard Parkes,

will be vying to retain their UK crown in their 'home' major, where they have been drawn to play first of the 14 protagonists that day.

The full running order for grade one at Stormont is: Field Marshal Montgomery (1.30pm, other bands to follow at 10-minute intervals), Inveraray & District, Bleary & District, Vale of Atholl, Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia, St Laurence O'Toole, Ravara, Glasgow Police, Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia, Scottish Power, PSNI, Buchan Peterson, Johnstone, Police Scotland Fife.

Meanwhile here is your guide to where to see the pipe band contests this summer:

- May 13 - Ards & North Down Championships in Bangor
- May 20 - British Championship in Paisley
- May 27 - Co. Fermanagh Championships in Enniskillen
- June 3 - Mid-Ulster Championships in Cookstown
- June 10 - UK Championships at Stormont
- June 17 - Craigavon & District Championships in Lurgan Park
- June 24 - European Championships at Forres
- July 1 - All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships in Lurgan Park
- July 15 - Co. Antrim Championships in Glenarm Castle
- July 22 - Ulster Championships in Antrim
- July 29 - Scottish Championships in Dumbarton
- August 5 - Lisburn & Castlereagh City Championships in Moira Demesne
- August 11/12 - World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow Green
- August 19 - North-West Championships in Portrush

Foundation Certificate Presentations



The Ulster-Scots Agency presentation of Foundation Certificates in piping/drumming to children who have participated in the tuition programme, will be taking place on June 8. Receiving this award is proof of the hard work and dedication that

pupils have shown in learning to play their chosen instrument as part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's tuition programme. The presentation of certificates will be held in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on June 8 from 7pm - 9pm for invited guests.



Scottish success for Kirknarra School of Dance

The Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance had the opportunity to spread their competition wings across the sea to Stranraer in the Scottish mainland for the annual Stranraer Highland Dance Competition.

Competing against over 90 Highland Dancers from all across the British Isles, Kirknarra School of Dance were proud to represent their homeland of Mourne winning huge successes and bringing back a number of trophies and medals!

Newly promoted Kirknarra dancer, Morgan Morris was delighted to win a medal at her first competition at the Novice Category proving true grit when it comes to the passion she has for Scottish Highland Dancing. Kirknarra's senior dancers at the Intermediate and Premier categories also performed to a high standard winning many trophies and medals throughout the afternoon! At the youthful age of 10, Kirknarra dancer, Lucie Annett was proud to win Overall Runner



Up for both Highland and National Dances, proving her worth at such a young age. Emma Spiers, a Kirknarra dancer also at Intermediate Level was overwhelmed to win Runner Up in the Highland section. All of the Kirknarra performers had a fantastic day and the trip across the water proved to be once again a huge success for the Dance School. The Kirknarra School of Dance are already practicing in Reivers House in preparation for their next Highland Dance competition in Bangor in the coming weeks! A spokesperson from the Schomberg's Kirknarra School of Dance commented: "Everyone in Reivers House is very proud of all of our Kirknarra dancers competing at this very high standard across the water and would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best in coming weeks in Bangor!" Highland Dance Tuition classes are ongoing in Reivers House on Thursday evenings and new faces are always welcome! These Tuition Classes are supported by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Markethill Ulster-Scots dancers complete examinations

The Markethill Ulster-Scots Dancers have recently completed their highland dancing examinations. Dancers from the Junior, Intermediate and Senior classes all received awards in the examinations. The pupils are pictured here with their dance teacher Kelly Forsythe.



► Pictured clockwise: The Intermediate, Senior and Junior classes from Markethill receive their awards

James Blackwood: breaking new ground in Premier Dancing

Newtownhamilton dancer James Blackwood has enjoyed a very successful year in 2016. James started dancing at the age of nine and quickly worked his way through the competitive groups being the first male dancer to become Premier and be eligible to take part in Championships. In January 2016 he joined Belfast Dance Group, Bright Lights, and is taught by teachers Elizabeth Gollan (Scotland) and Alana Wright (Belfast). 2016 got off to a good start for him winning the European Pre-championships (Highland) in Londonderry, and then throughout the year winning both Highland and National trophies. James took part in the Ulster Championships in Londonderry and is now the current adult Champion - the first male dancer to win it. James also took part in the first Northern Ireland Championships held in Bessbrook Co Armagh and was first runner up in the Adult Group. James also enjoyed taking part in the Walled City Tattoo in concert in the Millennium Forum Londonderry. Over the years of dancing James has made many good friends worldwide and is currently getting ready for the 2017 dancing season and is intending to travel to Australia to take part in the Australian International in July 2017 in Gosford just outside Sydney.

“James took part in the Ulster Championships in Londonderry and is now the current Adult Champion - the first male dancer to win it.”



Glenarm Castle gearing up for July's *Dalriada Festival*

Spring is in the air and that means the long-anticipated annual Dalriada Festival at Glenarm Castle in Co Antrim is brightening our days with the announcement of this year's programme highlights.

As Ireland's most popular family festival, attracting over 30,000 visitors each year, Dalriada is again presenting a cornucopia of delights including music, food, sport and children's events sure to delight everyone. Set against the spectacular backdrop of Glenarm Castle, visitors from near and far flock in their thousands each year to enjoy the atmosphere and entertainment of this magical festival which continues to go from strength-to-strength.

The Camlin Group is once again the titled sponsor and for the first time ever, the official Peppa Pig characters will meet and greet the kids on July 15 and 16. This children's favourite is set to equal the phenomenal success of last year's meet and greet with Nickelodeon's PAW Patrol which attracted thousands of fans to the event. Dalriada Festival also welcomes the return of the annual County Antrim Pipe Band Championships, The Nation's Strongman Championships and an exciting addition to the festival - Northern Ireland's first ever Wife Carrying Championships. Another 'first' for Dalriada and indeed Northern Ireland is Northern Ireland's first ever Mussel Eating Competition, sponsored by The Fullerton Arms in Ballintoy!

Due to popular demand, this year's festival kicks off on July 14, a day earlier than previous years, with the return of Ireland's favourite country star, Nathan Carter, sponsored by The Sitting Room Hairdressing in Ballymena. Donna Taggart, whose single *Jealous of the Angels* has received Global success and has now reached 85 million



views on Facebook, will be making her Dalriada debut. The Fureys and Dublin City Ramblers are just some more of the festival's music offerings on July 15 and 16. The community of Glenarm will take up the baton from July 17, hosting an action-packed programme of sporting events and other entertainment including a duathlon, triathlon, super-endurocross, rowing regatta and mountain bike enduro race. The festival will culminate with a street fair, carnival and fireworks finale on July 22.

Nigel Campbell, events and marketing manager for Glenarm Castle, unveiled the varied programme on offer at this year's summer festival. He explained:

"When people hear that Dalriada Festival is launching, they know summer is on its way. There's already a great buzz about our festival locally and further afield."

"Having the official Peppa Pig characters for the first time in County Antrim is a real coup and there's so much more to enjoy with the eight music stages and comedy house."

"We haven't forgotten our good food-loving visitors as the fine food courtyard will be serving up our own short-horn beef, which is farmed at Glenarm and recently won supreme overall champion at the prestigious Great Taste Awards in London."

"There's certainly something for all the family with lots more entertainment for the children, crafts and shopping, live wrestling and our ever popular sheep fashion shows and companion dog competition."

"As ever, we are indebted to all our sponsors for their continued support, especially The Camlin Group and Mid & East Antrim Council. Without their financial commitment to our festival, we just wouldn't be able to offer this top class entertainment."

"We are particularly grateful to our media partners *The Belfast Telegraph*, *Sunday Life*, *Cool FM* and *Downtown Radio* for their priceless support and publicity too."

Oakfield Primary School awarded flagship status



► Oakfield pupils receiving an OCN Level 1 in playing the tin whistle

The Ulster-Scots Flagship School programme is a cultural and educational programme, devised and managed by the Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with primary schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The purpose of the programme is to support primary schools in the development of high quality educational and curricular opportunities for children and young people to learn more about Ulster-Scots heritage and culture. Oakfield Primary School has

demonstrated a continuous commitment to Ulster-Scots learning in school and has been awarded the Ulster-Scots Flagship School status and received the Ulster-Scots Flagship School award. During the last four years P6 pupils have participated in

a cultural trip to Scotland, and Ulster Scots workshops in Music, Dance, History, Art and Drama. Oakfield pupils are the first to have received an OCN Level 1 in playing the tin whistle through the Ulster Scots Agency. Mr Blair from the Ulster Scots

Agency visited the school on Wednesday April 26 to present this prestigious award. Mr G. Mc Cluskey (principal) and Miss V. Logan (P6 teacher) were commended for their valued input into the Ulster Scots heritage programme.

RECIPES

COOKING WITH JUDITH McLAUGHLIN



Crispy Kale Salad

(Serves: four side salads)

HOW TO MAKE THEM:

Into the salad bowl, whisk together vinegar, mustard, pepper and salt, and honey until evenly combined. Slowly whisk in olive oil until emulsified (thickened and evenly combined). Add in kale and toss to coat. Allow to marinate in fridge for 30 minutes to an hour before serving, stirring a time or two. Meanwhile, turn oven to broil. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Scatter shredded cheese over baking sheet in a thin layer. Keep a close eye and cook under the broiler until just barely golden and cheese is lacey, about four minutes (ovens will vary).

Once cooled, break cheese crisps up. Just before serving, top salad with remaining ingredients. Serve.

Salad tips

Mustard and olive oil don't mix well. Be sure to first dissolve mustard in vinegar before adding oil. If the deed is done, try blending in a food processor before starting over. Make salad dressing in serving bowl for one less dish to clean. If using kale, dress ahead of time and allow to marinate. If using any other leafy green, dress just before serving. Fresh herbs on hand? Chop and add into the salad for an added bright flavour.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ tbsp. red wine vinegar (or other variety)
- 1 ½ tsp. Dijon mustard
- Pinch of freshly cracked pepper and kosher salt
- S squirt of honey
- 3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 3 large kale leaves, destemmed and chopped
- ¼ cup Cheddar, grated
- 1 carrot, ribboned or shredded
- ¼ cup radicchio, shredded
- 1 scallion, chopped
- Handful of sunflower seeds

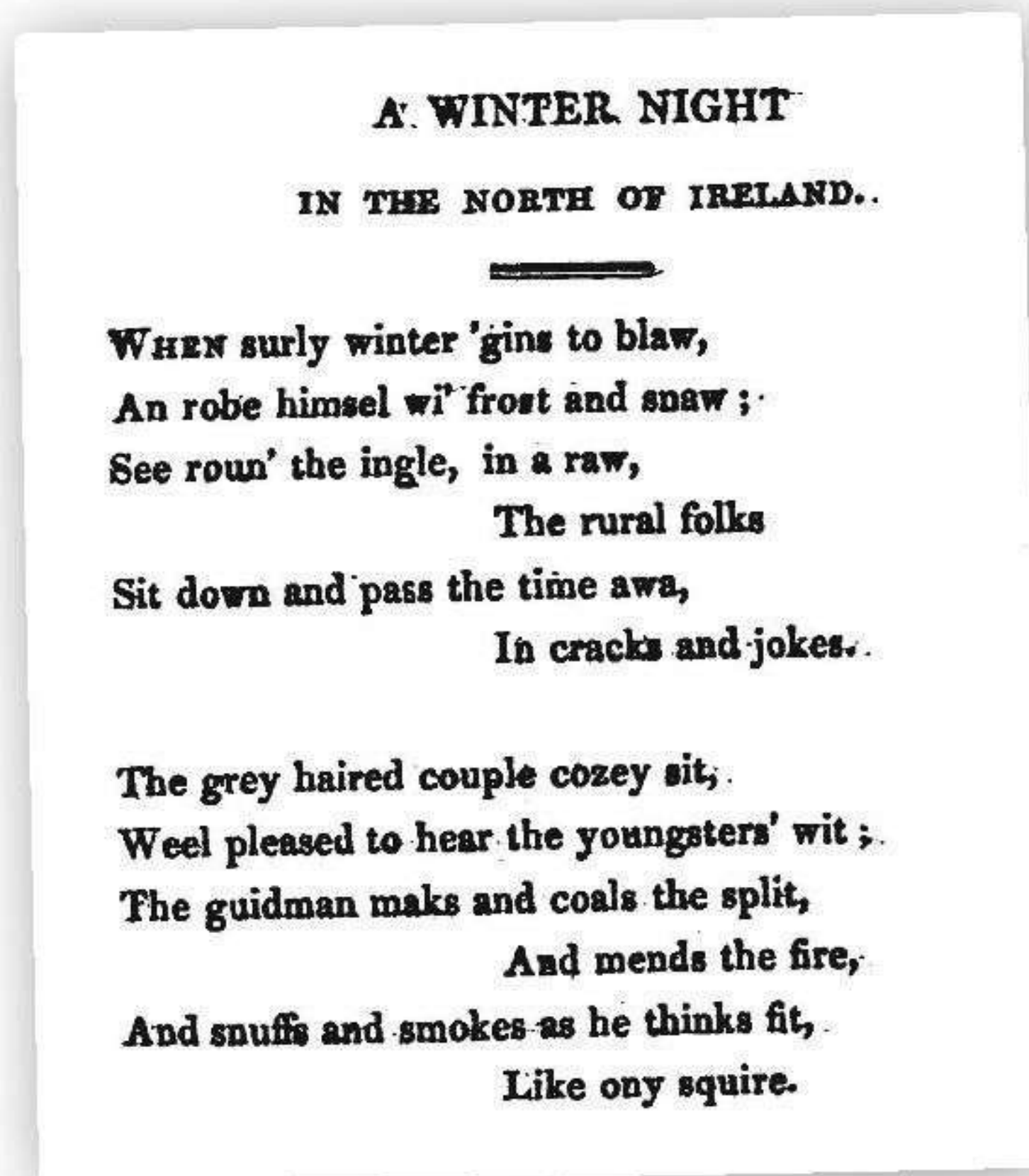
The Genius of the Natal Shore *By Frank Ferguson*

*O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!*

Sometimes it is better not to listen to Burns' great admonition as beauty is occasionally very far removed from the eye of the beholder. When the poet John Keats made a tour of the Lake District, Scotland and Ireland in 1816 he was fairly unhappy with the Irish leg of his journey:

"We had the pleasure of finding our way through a peat-bog, three miles long at least - dreary, flat, dank, black and spongy - here and there were poor dirty creatures, and a few strong men cutting or carting peat."

He had intended to travel to the Giant's Causeway, but after miscalculating the distance by working in the shorter English miles rather than the Irish ones, he had to abandon his ambition to see the famous rock formations. Ireland did not impress him very much, and he positively rankled at Belfast. One could imagine him like a modern day disgruntled tourist itching to give the province one star on his smartphone. His arrival in Belfast proved most upsetting for him: *"We heard on passing into Belfast, through a most wretched suburb, that most disgusting of all noises, worse than the bag-pipes, the laugh of a monkey, the chatter of women, the scream of macaw - I mean the sound of the shuttle. What a tremendous difficulty is the*



improvement of such people." This might have annoyed the citizens of Belfast immensely had they read his letter, especially as many felt that the town was embarking on a great new future, where they believed art and industry would combine to build the perfect enlightenment city. Keats did not warm to the place or culture of what his chamber

maid described as a 'nate toone'. The attendant spirit, or as some of his peers might have said, the genius of the place was to his mind, too rauchle for his rarefied sensibilities. A pity, for one wishes that Keats had spent a little more time searching out his fellow poets along the townlands of Antrim and Down, for he might have found more sustenance for

his weary spirit on that pad. Had he travelled a few years previously, he might have encountered the Larne-born William Hamilton Drummond, who had published an epic poem on the Causeway in 1811. The poem cast in the epic form, demonstrates the full range of Drummond's Ulster-Scots cultural, philosophical, theological, scientific and mythological interests.

COME lonely Genius of my natal shore,
From cave or bower, wild glen, or mountain hoar;
And while by ocean's rugged bounds I muse,
Thy solemn influence o'er my soul diffuse:
Whether thou wanderest o'er the craggy steep,
Where the lorn spirits of the tempest weep, Or rov'st with trackless footsteps o'er the waves,
Or wak'st the echoes of thy hundred caves;
With joy I hail thy visionary form,
Rough, dark, august, and clad in night and storm:
To me more dear thy rocky realm by far,
The cliff, the whirlwind, and the billowy war,
Than e'en the loveliest scenes which Flora yields,
Her myrtle bowers, or incense-breathing fields.

While such poems are perhaps much less commonly read today, it

is nevertheless a grand endeavour at articulating his fondness for his natal county, and is an attempt to communicate the singularity and sublimity of the Causeway to local and international readers. Keats might also have encountered the Dunservrick poet John McKinley, a highly talented bardie who could turn his hand from everything from the versification of the Book of Revelations to vignettes about cosy soirees in an Ulster cottage. Had Keats wandered into the world of McKinley's *A Winter night in the North of Ireland* he might have enjoyed a more hospitable hearth and adventure:

When surly winter 'gins to blaw
An robe himsel wi' frost an snaw;
See roun' the ingle, in a raw,
The rural folks,
Sit down and pass the time awa,
In cracks and jokes.
The grey haired couple cozey sit,
Weel pleased to hear the youngsters' wit;
The guidman maks and coals the split,
An' tends the fire,
And snuffs and smokes as he sees fit,
Like ony squire.

Keats missed all these things on his journey. Thankfully, for us, they remain within the world of Ulster-Scots poetry, waiting to be rediscovered, if we just take the time to find the genius of the local place.

WEANS' WURLD

Food and drink....

Below are some common Ulster-Scots words when it comes to the world of food, drink and cooking. How many can you find?

Scallions (Spring Onions)

Tay (Tea)

Sope (Sip)

Breid (Bread)

Prootas (Potatoes)

Epple (Apple)

Fadge (Potato Bread)

Scullery (Kitchen)

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

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION

A FAMILY PASS TO THE DALRIADA FESTIVAL

The Dalriada Festival returns to Glenarm Castle on July 14 promising an unbeatable mix of music, food, sport and children's events. Highlights will include the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships, the Strongman Championships, Mussel eating and super-endurocross all culminating with a street fair, carnival and fireworks finale on July 22. Meanwhile the official Peppa Pig characters will also be making a special appearance! To be in with a chance of winning a family pass to this year's festival, simply answer this easy question.

Q. CHARACTERS FROM WHICH CARTOON ARE SET TO APPEAR AT THIS YEAR'S DALRIADA FESTIVAL?

Email your answer to competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with "Dalriada" in the subject line, providing also your name, address and telephone number.

CLOSING DATE: **JUNE 16**



WIN

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION WINNERS...

St Patrick's Centre



Congratulations to:
Naomi Jones from Ballyrobert
 who won a family pass to the Saint Patrick's Centre in Downpatrick.
 We hope you enjoy your day!