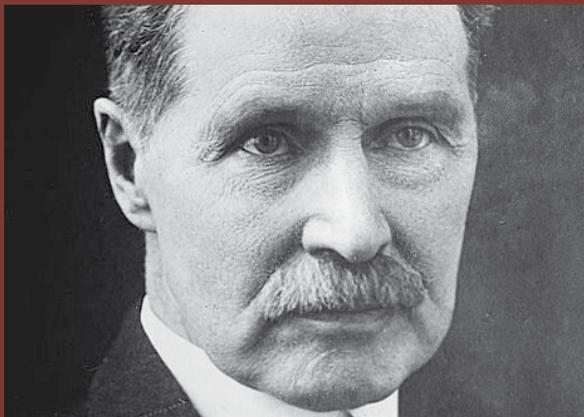




# Funding Boost for Presidential Cottages



**Ulster-Scots Agency  
secures £100K for  
improvements**  
Read more on Page 15



**BONAR LAW: THE ULSTER-SCOTS PRIME MINISTER**

[READ MORE ON PAGE 6](#)



**FIFTH ANNUAL RAPHOE HERITAGE DAY GREAT SUCCESS**

[READ MORE ON PAGE 8](#)



**NEW CENTRE FOR KILLINCHY: EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING**

[READ MORE ON PAGE 5](#)

## Fair faa ye



Welcome to the latest edition of the Ulster-Scot!

There is a huge amount of really positive work going on at the minute in the world of Ulster-Scots and I hope that it is apparent from the content of this edition.

The new visitor exhibition and reading rooms which opened recently at the Presbyterian Assembly Buildings in Belfast are a must see for every Ulster-Scot, especially if you are interested in family history research. The new Livingston Centre in Killinchy is progressing rapidly and we have also now secured an extra £100,000 to invest in the Jackson and Arthur Presidential cottages, kick-starting yet more projects that will leave a lasting legacy for Ulster-Scots.

Our new lifelong learning course on Ulster-Scots migration to New England is oversubscribed in both Ulster and America; and meanwhile we are busy advancing our plans for the first ever Ulster-Scots Language Week, which will take place from 25th to 30th November.

Our young people continue to excel, whether in competitions like the All-Ireland Piping Solos or in high profile performances like Culture Night in Belfast and they predict a bright future for our culture.

We have included some topical features on famous Ulster-Scots, like Bonar Law, the Ulster-Scot who became Conservative Prime Minister at a time of great national crisis; and Dave Gallaher, the Ulster-Scot who led the first New Zealand All Blacks rugby team.

We have also included an article on the latest state of play on discussions about the bridge to Scotland, which will be of interest to all Ulster-Scots and is likely to run and run. Enjoy!

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

## The Ulster-Scot

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

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# Tributes paid to Ulster-Scots linguist

**The entire Ulster-Scots language community was saddened to learn of the death of Ulster-Scots linguist Professor Michael Bryant Montgomery, who sadly passed away on Wednesday 24 July 2019 at the age of 69.**

As distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and Linguistics at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, Michael taught English linguistics for nearly 20 years before retiring in 1999.

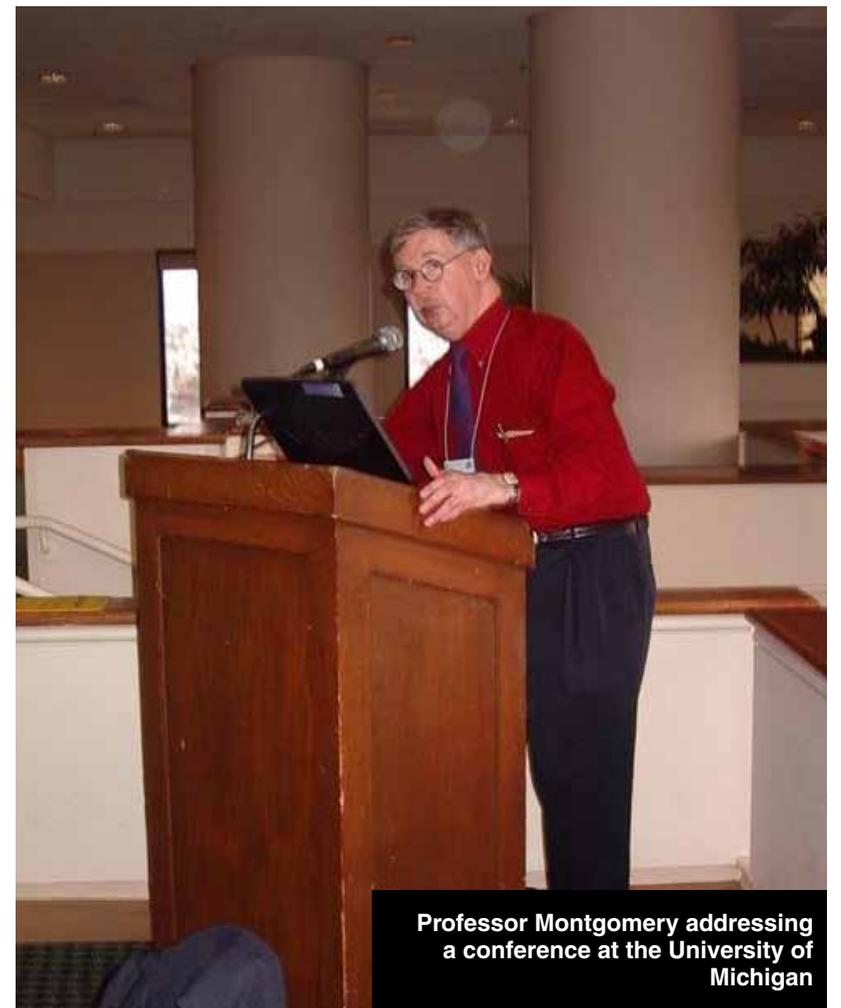
He recognised the influence of Ulster-Scots speech in his native Appalachia and this connection led to decades of work on Ulster-Scots, where he made an enormous academic contribution, through works like *A Blad O Ulster-Scotch* and the *Gregg Volume*.

He was an early academic supporter of the modern Ulster-Scots revival and he brought vital international support to our language movement at a time when it was under frequent attack from critics in the media and academia.

Michael Montgomery saw not only the linguistic value of Ulster-Scots, but also its societal value, stating:

"When written, a full account of Ulster-Scots will profoundly affect our understanding of the linguistic history of Ireland. It will throw into sharp relief the necessity of seeing the language situation in Ulster over the past four centuries as pluralistic and trilingual, involving continuing contact between English, Scots, and Irish Gaelic and the influence of each upon the others.

"We must surely agree with the Good Friday Agreement that Ulster-Scots deserves respect. "Though declining like many regional languages, it is of value



**Professor Montgomery addressing a conference at the University of Michigan**

because of the community and the tradition it represents. "If it is to play a role in the building of mutual respect and understanding in Ireland, it must be seen within proper context as representing one of three historic language traditions in Ulster."

#### Honours

Professor Montgomery's honours included the 2004 Wilma Dykeman Award for Historical Writing from the East Tennessee Historical Society; the Cratis D.

Williams/James Brown Award from the Appalachian Studies Association; one of the Top 100 Most influential People in the Great Smoky Mountains History by the Great Smoky Mountains Association; and a Grammy nomination for the music CD "Old Time Smoky Mountain Music." Professor Montgomery was past President of the American Dialect Society, the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics and the Ulster-Scots Language Society.

## CLICK ON THIS...

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

For Ulster-Scots news -  
[www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news)

To sign up for the Ulster-Scots E-Newsletter -  
visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/register](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency) now and like our page to keep up to date on what's happening, upload your photos from Ulster-Scots events and share your comments.



## WORD OF THE ISSUE

### Guising

#### Meaning:

'Trick or treating' – children in fancy dress going from door to door offering entertainment for gifts or money

# Culcrow Principal encourages schools to include Ulster-Scots

**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, drumming, 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. Our drummers performed at our Spring Concert this year and our junior choir were recorded by Radio Ulster and enjoyed hearing themselves on the radio in December 2018. Ulster-Scots has also enriched our pupils' sense of personal history and links with Scotland.

We have enjoyed plays performed in school by travelling companies, "Fair Faa 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.

In 2017 we completed a local history project in conjunction with Ballybay Primary, Monaghan and studied the 1718 immigration 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.

We are currently looking forward to developing this further by participating in the "Land Of Promise" project and have made links with Derry Village Elementary School in New Hampshire, USA to participate in a cross-Atlantic history/geography project following our ancestors who left Aghadowey in 1719 and researching how they fared in America.

This year is the 300th anniversary of the 1719 immigration and historians in New Hampshire are keen to share their stories of our ancestors and the legacy they have left in New England and throughout the American states.

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.

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.

**By Olive Collins,  
Principal of Culcrow  
Primary School**



**Ulster-Scots has also enriched our pupils' sense of personal history and links with Scotland**

**Culcrow Primary School pupils visiting Ulster American Folk Park**



## 'Upward trend' sees five new primary schools receive Ulster-Scots Flagship School award

**Recent months have seen five new primary schools in receipt of the Ulster-Scots Flagship School award, four in Northern Ireland and one in the Republic of Ireland.**

The addition of Garvagh Primary School, Co Londonderry; Kilross Primary School, Co Londonderry; Lack Primary School, Co Fermanagh; William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School, Dervock, Co Antrim; and Creeslough National School in Co Donegal bring the total number of Ulster-Scots Flagship Schools in Ulster to 60, with another 30 working towards recognition.

Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier said: "The progress of our Flagship Programme demonstrates the growing interest in ensuring that children can learn about their Ulster-Scots identity in school.

"It is a human right of every Ulster-Scots child to learn in school about the culture of the community that they come from. "This is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Not only is it the right of

the child, it is right for the child, because children learn better when they are being taught about things that are familiar to them; and because helping them to understand who they are helps them to relate to others.

"We look forward to working with schools and colleagues across government to continue this upward trend."

The Ulster-Scots Flagship School programme is a cultural and educational programme for primary schools in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which encourages children to enjoy learning about Ulster-Scots and recognise how Ulster-Scots has shaped them, their community and society.

The Flagship programme supports Ulster-Scots in primary schools by providing tutors, educational resources and activities, all aimed at encouraging their children to learn more about Ulster-Scots traditions and culture.

Each school works with the Education Team at the Ulster-Scots Agency to devise a suitable programme running over



at least two academic years. Schools must complete a series of Ulster-Scots themes in their classroom in order to be successful.

**If any schools would like to register their interest in the flagship programme, please contact Gary Blair at gblair@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk for more information.**

## Over 1,000 children attend Summer School Programmes

**Over 1000 children attended 24 Ulster-Scots Summer Schools funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency. The Ulster-Scots Summer School programme supported a wide range of Ulster-Scots activities running throughout the summer.**

Ulster-Scots summer schools are held right across the province with many now holding multiple schools to accommodate the number of children involved. Raphoe Ulster-Scots Pipe Band hosted three summer schools, attracting a total of 150 children from throughout East Donegal. These included a Drama Summer school with 30 children, who at the end of the week put on a public performance of Alice in Wonderland in a script adapted to include Ulster-Scots. South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) also hosted three Summer Schools, including a residential Summer School for teenagers at Roscur Youth Village, and for the first time SEFF hosted a summer school in Rathfriland. Small Steps in North Belfast and the Schomberg Society in Kilkeel hosted two Summer Schools each. Agher Central Primary School PTA, Killinchy After-School Club and Project Orange in

Newtowncunningham all hosted summer schools for the first time, while Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Association hosted a very successful Summer School for the 13th year.

Additional summer schools were organised by Castlederg Young Loyalists Flute Band; Clooney Estate Residents Association; Fermanagh Sports and Cultural Awareness Association; First Steps Community Group; Hillcrest Trust; Irish Street Youth and Community Association; Loughinsholin Cultural Music Group; and Mourne Valley Cultural Association.

The Summer School programme seeks to offer fun to all the children participating, and through fun children and young people are also learning about their Ulster-Scots culture and heritage. Many of the summer schools also take the opportunity for an educational visit to places such as the Ulster-American Folk Park, the Giants Causeway and Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, all of which are eligible for funding.

**Funding is open to all constituted voluntary and community groups. Interested groups should contact our Community Development Officer Derek Reaney reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk.**

# Permanent exhibition will help tell the story of Presbyterianism



**T**he story of Presbyterianism in Ulster is integral to Ulster-Scots and the telling of that story took a major step forward recently, with the opening of major new exhibition at Assembly Buildings, the Belfast headquarters of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Visitors can see a new permanent exhibition, which tells the story of Presbyterianism from the arrival of Scottish Presbyterians in Ulster some 400 years ago, to the founding of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as a denomination in 1840 as well as the work, mission and ministry of the Church today. Those who want to delve more deeply into their heritage can then visit the new premises of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, which have also been developed as part of the project. The PHSI are custodians of a vast collection of Presbyterian records, books and artefacts and which can be explored at their bespoke new Reading Rooms. The new facilities were made possible by funding of more than

£250,000 from the Ulster-Scots Agency. Speaking about the new attraction, Agency CEO Ian Crozier commented: "These excellent new facilities will be invaluable in helping people to understand the Scottish origins of Presbyterianism here, the role of Presbyterians in shaping our society and also the impact that Ulster-Scots Presbyterians have played beyond these shores. It is a must see for every Presbyterian here, as well as thousands of international visitors in search of their Ulster-Scots heritage."

Speaking at the launch, then Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen spoke of the need that would be met by the new facilities: "In recent years we have seen a huge and welcome increase in visitors to Belfast, coming here from all over the world to experience, not only the city and its sights, but the rest of Northern Ireland too. While we are an all-Ireland Church, the administrative heart of the denomination is here in Belfast and we want to be supportive of the city that we are a part of in so many different ways.

In this building we welcome people from across these islands and from around the world, and while we have been able to provide them with some information, we have not been able to really tell them of our Church's rich history and its contribution to society across Ireland."

With over 30 historically important artefacts on display, many of which were loaned by the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, the centre also has a range of interactive exhibits and audio-visual installations.

Here visitors are able to locate the denomination's 500-plus congregations across Ireland, interact with a 19th century map of Presbyterians in Ireland and view short films on the history, life and work of the Church. The exhibition also explores some of the influential men and women, mostly Ulster-Scots, who left their mark on Presbyterianism and looks at the democratic nature of the Presbyterian Church government as well as some of the religious and political controversies, both past and present.

## Historical Society holds an extensive archive of Presbyterianism in Ireland

The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland holds printed and archival material relating to the history of Presbyterianism in Ireland and is located on the other side of the main entrance into the visitor centre. The Society provided all the artefacts, documents and books on display in the exhibition cases. If you are interested in carrying out research into any aspect of Irish Presbyterian history, researching the history of a Presbyterian congregation, tracing your Presbyterian ancestry or want to find out about a minister who ministered in Ireland then a visit to the Presbyterian Historical Society is essential.

The library and archive is open Tues- Wed from 9.30am -1.00pm and then from 1.30- 4.30pm and Thurs 9.30am- 1.00pm. The Society also has a programme of talks and lectures which anyone can attend: Thurs 21 Nov 2019 at 8.00pm - Presbyterian Clerical Families in 19th century Ulster by Dr Janice Homes in McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church, Belfast. Thurs 20 Feb 2020 at 8.00pm - The Rise and Fall of the Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Church by Dr William Roulston in Cullybackey Reformed Presbyterian Church. Any enquiries should be directed to phsi@pcinet.org.



# New centre for Killinchy

**Excitement is building in the County Down village of Killinchy, where a new community hub is taking shape at the local Church of Ireland. Called The Livingston Centre in memory of one of Ulster's first Presbyterian ministers, it has been made possible by an investment of £70,000 from the Ulster-Scots Agency.**

The new centre will be a focal point for a whole range of community activities and will include a permanent exhibition on the life of Rev. John Livingston and his illustrious descendants, who include one man who helped draft the American Declaration of Independence and later negotiated the Louisiana Purchase; one who signed the Declaration of Independence; and another who was a key aide to Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans and later served as his Secretary of State.

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive, Ian Crozier, said: "The Agency was delighted that we were able to support the community in Killinchy with funding which helped them to secure a total funding package of more than £250,000 to allow this brilliant project to proceed. It is tremendously exciting to see the progress of the building work and now the beginnings of the work on the new exhibition."

Rev. Stanley Gamble, Rector of Killinchy commented: "Everyone at Killinchy Parish Church is delighted with the progress of the Livingston Centre and we are all looking forward to seeing it finished and starting on the next chapter, supporting the development of our community in all sorts of ways, not least through greater appreciation of

our Ulster-Scots heritage. Rev. John Livingston is rightly regarded as the first incumbent of three churches in Killinchy, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church and the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church and we hope that our shared history and identity will serve as a unifying force in the local community."

Rev. Livingston was one of the early Scottish ministers who came over to pastor to the burgeoning Ulster-Scots community, occupying a pulpit in the Church of Ireland years before an organised Presbyterian denomination was established. He was part of a group of Presbyterian clergy who, faced with growing hostility from the Anglican establishment, organised the Eagle Wing expedition of 1636, the first organised attempt by Ulster-Scots to travel to America.

The expedition failed and Livingston eventually died in exile in the Netherlands, but he and his family have made an indelible mark on the history of Ulster and the United States.

The community in Killinchy has also recently organised the second annual Livingston Days Festival, from September 27 - 29. The festival is intended to celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. John Livingston, as well as connecting the local community with their broader Ulster-Scots identity.

This year's programme included a Tattoo on Friday evening, which was held at Killinchy Primary School and featured the talent of a range of local bands including Killinchy Silver Band, Cleland Memorial Pipe Band and Lord Londonderry's Own CLB Flute Band. This was followed up by a Family Fun Day on Saturday with a range of exhibitions and talks on an Ulster-Scots theme.



Michelle McIlveen MLA visits the centre under construction



Livingston Tattoo, and right: Rev Livingstone



# Bonar Law: The Ulster- Scots Prime Minister

**The recent anniversary of Ulster Day on September 28 gives us a good opportunity to think about an Ulster-Scot whose support was vital to the campaign against Home Rule.**

While Ulster-Scots can lay claim to 20 Presidents of the United States, to date there has only been one Ulster-Scots Prime Minister of the United Kingdom: Andrew Bonar Law. Law was Prime Minister from 23 October 1922 to 20 May 1923. His short tenure is no reflection on his ability. Ill-health alone curtailed his occupancy of 10 Downing Street. After Law's funeral in Westminster Abbey on 5 November 1923, H.H. Asquith, the Liberal leader, uncharitably remarked: "It is fitting we should have buried the Unknown Prime Minister by the side of the Unknown Warrior." It was a cruel jibe. In his *History of the English-Speaking Peoples since 1900* Andrew Roberts has aptly described Law as "not so much the Unknown Prime Minister as the Unappreciated one." While Law lacked charisma, Roberts admires him for being "utterly straight and decent" and his patriotism. In December 1916 Law put his country before party and his own ambition to allow Lloyd George to become Prime Minister in the belief that the latter would prosecute the Great War more effectively.

In April 1912 Law was the recently elected leader of the Conservative Party and the Leader of the Opposition. He had been appointed leader in November 1911 in order to restore his party's electoral fortunes. He could not fail to be conscious of the fact that he was party leader because his predecessor, Balfour, had led the party to defeat in three successive elections and that the Conservatives were unforgiving when it came to electoral failure. He would also have been conscious that the Conservative Party was accustomed to being in power because, apart from a brief interval between 1892 and 1895, the party had been in office from 1886-1906. On Easter Tuesday 1912, two days before the introduction of the third Home Rule Bill in the House of Commons, Law was the guest of honour at a great Unionist demonstration at the Balmoral Showgrounds. Whereas Winston

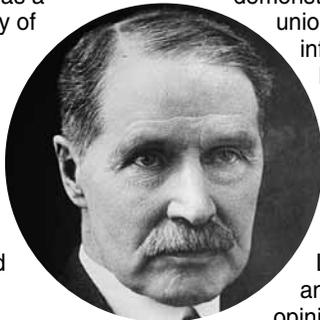
Churchill's speech in Celtic Park on 8 February 1912 had an audience of perhaps 5,000 nationalists and liberals, Law was astounded to find himself with an audience of between 100,000 and 200,000 - one of the largest political demonstrations in British history. 70 special trains brought unionists from all over Ulster. Large contingents of unionists and Orangemen marched in formation from the centre of Belfast to Balmoral. Law and Sir Edward Carson were the principal speakers. The Church of Ireland Primate of All Ireland and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church conducted a religious service. Their presence contributed to the solemnity of the occasion. The presence of seventy Conservative MPs representing English and Scottish constituencies demonstrated that Ulster unionists did not lack influential friends. The largest Union Flag ever woven was dramatically unfurled above the assembled multitudes. The event was designed to impress upon both the Liberal Government and British public opinion the unrelenting opposition of Ulster unionists to Home Rule.

Law spoke eloquently, invoking the siege of Derry as a paradigm for Ulster's plight, identifying the Parliament Act of 1911 as the equivalent of the boom constructed by the Jacobites across the Foyle during the great siege: "You are a besieged city. The Government by their Parliament Act have erected a boom against you, a boom to cut you off from the help of the British people. You will burst that boom. The help will come and when the crisis is over men will say of you in words not unlike those once used by Pitt: 'You have saved yourselves by your exertions and you will save the Empire by your example.'" At the conclusion of his speech, Carson invited every one present to raise their hands and repeat after him: "Never under any circumstances will we submit to Home Rule." Law joined Carson in raising his hand and repeating Carson's pledge. At a Unionist demonstration at Blenheim Palace on 29 July 1912 Law went further: "I can imagine no length of resistance to which Ulster can go in which I would not be prepared to support them, and in

## ANDREW BONAR LAW

"I can imagine no length of resistance to which Ulster can go in which I should not be prepared to support them, and in which, in my belief, they would not be supported by the overwhelming majority of the British people."

*A. Bonar Law*



Andrew Bonar Law

which, in my belief, they would not be supported by the overwhelming majority of the British people." There was a strong personal dimension to Law's support for Ulster. Law's Balmoral speech was not drafted by a clever speechwriter. Law's speech came from the heart because he was steeped in the culture and heritage of Ulster. Although Law was born on 16 September 1858 in Kingston, New Brunswick (now part of Canada), and largely grew up in Glasgow, his father, Rev James Law, was a Presbyterian minister from Coleraine. His brother, William, was a much respected physician in Coleraine. In 1877 Rev Law returned to live at Maddybenny, near Coleraine, and died there in 1882. During the last five years of his father's life, the then-Glasgow-based Law visited Ulster almost every weekend. Law knew Ulster and her people well. According to A. J. P Taylor: "British politics flourish on the basis of compromise and generous emotion," but in the years immediately before

the Great War compromise proved extremely elusive and generous emotion was in short supply. Despite Law's rhetoric, his views were essentially moderate and his case reasonable. If Ireland, by virtue of history, religion and race, merited special treatment from the rest of the UK, by the same criteria Ulster differed from the rest of Ireland. Therefore, Ulster merited different treatment from the rest of Ireland. Law also denied the right of the Government to expel loyal and contented citizens from a community to which by birth they belonged and to place them under the rule of a Dublin Parliament. Law believed that Home Rule was not in the best interests of nationalist Ireland but if that was what nationalist Ireland wanted, he would waive his opposition to Home Rule, subject only to the proviso that Ulster should not be subject to Dublin rule. Asquith, the Prime Minister and a graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, and thereby a member of the intellectual elite, despised Law for having "the mind of a Glasgow

bailie." A 'bailie' was a minor official in Scottish local government. This was pure intellectual snobbery. Balliol, in effect, displaying contempt for 'the university of life'. Most Liberals, with the conspicuous exception of Lloyd George, who also had not been to university, shared Asquith's evaluation. When Law became Conservative leader Lloyd George shrewdly observed: "The fools have stumbled on the right man by accident." Law was intelligent, a master of detail and an accomplished debater. His debating skills had been finely honed in the Glasgow Parliamentary Debating Society. As Chancellor of Exchequer, he was to deliver budgets with minimal notes, to the consternation of Treasury officials. Above all, Law possessed what Asquith did not: passion. He cared passionately about two things in politics: Tariff Reform and Ulster. When Law talked about Ulster he meant business. **Gordon Lucy is Publications Officer of the Ulster-Scots Community Network.**

# Learning at home and in America

## Partnership sees courses delivered in Northern Ireland and United States

As part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's learning development programme, in Autumn 2019 a course about Ulster-Scots history and heritage is being delivered in Northern Ireland and the United States as part of a partnership programme between the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Maine Ulster-Scots Project based in Maine, USA.

Beginning in the late 1600s thousands of Ulster-Scots families left their homes and made the long and dangerous journey across the Atlantic to settle in America. The course of six two-hour sessions has been designed in two parts. One is being delivered in Northern Ireland the other in Maine, USA as part of a Senior College Programme of the University of Maine. In Maine, the course is being delivered in two locations. Augusta, the capital of the state and Damariscotta, a small Maine coastal town. Maine has a higher proportion of Ulster-Scots descendants than any other state in the USA and there is considerable interest there to better understand historic links with Ulster. Ulster-Scots settlers made a significant contribution to the history of the state in terms of culture and commerce. The egalitarian principles



that they brought with them helped influence principles of government at local and national levels that endure in the United States to this day. In Northern Ireland, content will focus on Ulster and examine the background of migration to America in the late 17th and 18th centuries. In Northern Ireland the focus will be on the valleys of the Rivers Bann and Foyle and the area in between. This is an innovative project and if successful, it is hoped to use the approach for teaching and learning

about other aspects of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage. The course content in the USA covers similar background but will include the experiences and influence of the early Ulster-Scots settlers in Maine, in the north-east of the United States. Learners on both sides of the Atlantic will have access to the course materials and will collaborate with each other using an online learning platform developed by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The course has six talks given by Dr William Roulston of the Ulster Historical Foundation, looking at such subjects as the Plantation of Ulster and the immigration of families from Britain; the emergence of organised Presbyterianism and the impact of the Penal Laws on Dissenters; the relationship between landlord and tenant; the development of towns and villages; and the factors that contributed to the departure of so many families for America.

The first of these talks took place on September 23 in Articlave, County Londonderry and in Maine the first classes took place on September 27 and 28.

Those enrolled on the course have access to the new online learning platform developed by the Ulster-Scots Agency. This includes all course materials and tools to allow learners to engage with experts in Ulster and the USA as well as connecting all of the learners enrolled on the course on both continents.

The Ulster-Scots Agency has a very effective partnership with the Maine Ulster-Scots Project and has worked on a number of joint projects over the last year. This work has helped raise awareness about Ulster-Scots migration in both countries and develop a better understanding about how these determined people had significant influence on shaping America and their enduring legacies. The recent book '1718-2018 Reflections on 300 years of the Scots-Irish in Maine' published by the Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with the Maine Ulster-Scots Project has proved very popular.

This course is part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's learning programme which includes support for learning in schools and for adults.

'Land of Promise' [http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/land\\_promise](http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/land_promise) and 'Woven in Ulster' [http://ccea.org.uk/woven\\_ulster](http://ccea.org.uk/woven_ulster) are curriculum based resources designed for primary schools.

Other adult-learning experiences are being planned that will include aspects of Ulster-Scots history and culture, language and literature as well as emigration and influence.

## A wee taste of Ulster-Scots

The Ulster-Scots Agency's Learning Development Programme is a planned programme of work that seeks to create learning opportunities for aspects of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage. The approach is one of lifelong learning – developing teaching and learning opportunities for school and non-school based learning. One aspect of the programme is focused on Ulster-Scots food traditions.

'A wee taste of Ulster-Scots' is a series of 12 short videos in which local celebrity chef Paula McIntyre prepares dishes that represent some aspects of Ulster food traditions. Filming took place in Arthur Cottage in Cullybackey, County Antrim – ancestral homestead of Chester Arthur, 21st President of America. Paula used a traditional griddle over a turf fire in preparing some of the recipes.

As well as a source of heat for cooking the fire provided some

### Paula's food videos show our rich food heritage

welcome warmth on cold January days when the filming took place earlier this year.

The videos are being used as a 'food culture' aspect in the course being delivered in Ulster and America. As part of the course experience in Maine our partners there plan to have course participants prepare some of the dishes at home and share with others when they meet up on the course.

At present the videos are only available as part of the course but we plan to publish these for a public audience soon.

Details about when and where these will be available will follow.



# New look for regional office

£30,000 investment as the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre undergoes a make-over

**T**he Ulster-Scots Agency's regional office in Raphoe, County Donegal has recently undergone a makeover and has re-emerged as the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre East Donegal. The revamp, which involved an investment of €30,000, saw an overhaul of the building's frontage; a new look for the main foyer and the installation of an interpretive exhibition throughout the main areas of the building which focuses on different aspects of Ulster-Scots identity in East Donegal. It follows an expansion of the centre, which has seen the footprint of the premises more than doubled. Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier said: "There is a growing demand for Ulster-Scots activity in the Raphoe area and the Agency has responded to that with the expansion of our premises in Raphoe. "At the same time, the rebranding of the building as the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre East Donegal reflects the fact that it is a regional facility and that the ambition of the Agency is for it to serve as a focal

point for the Ulster-Scots community throughout East Donegal and the wider county. "The new exhibition in the centre reflects the Ulster-Scots history of the area, but also recognises that the centre is not a museum, it is a vibrant and growing cultural hub, which is why it includes many pictures of the new generation of Ulster-Scots and key messages that speak of heritage, history, neighbours and community" The centre is home to a very well supported piping and drumming class which is delivered in connection with the Ulster-Scots Agency's Juvenile Pipe Band and very successful summer schools delivered by Raphoe Ulster-Scots Pipe Band. It welcomes many young people who attend the nearby Royal and Prior School and is also a focal point for a range of Ulster-Scots community activities, including the successful Ulster-Scots Heritage Day, which has grown from strength to strength in Raphoe over the last five years.



## Fifth annual Ulster-Scots Heritage Day

**The Ulster-Scots Agency hosted the 5th Annual Raphoe Ulster-Scots Weekend on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 September 2019.**

The weekend kicked off with a heritage walk on Friday night led by local historian Sean McClafferty. The event included a visit to Raphoe Cathedral, where Dean Barrett had the Cathedral's Communion Silver dating from 1669 on display. The walk also visited the Volt House to see an exhibition of local artefacts. Those attending the walk also viewed the recently installed exhibition in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre. Events on Saturday commenced with a brilliant performance by the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band in the Diamond, the young people taking part were mostly from the Raphoe Class, along with young pipers and drummers who attend the Juvenile Pipe Band classes in Belfast, Cookstown and Fivemiletown. One of the highlights of the day was the highland dance display choreographed by Georgina Kee-McCarter of the Sollus School of Highland Dance from Bready in Co Tyrone. There was also a drum majors



Highland dancers in the Diamond, Raphoe

display, living history re-enactors, a performance from Fermanagh comedian Gary Wilson, a variety of stalls and live music on stage throughout the day with the popular Co Antrim folk group Pure Blarney. A total of 15 pipe bands took part in the parade with pipe bands for Counties Down, Armagh, Tyrone, Monaghan and Donegal, the parade being led off by Arranmore Pipe

Band. Hollymount Pipe Band from County Down, which is celebrating its centenary this year, was also in attendance. The bands then formed a massed band in the Diamond under the command of Pipe Majors Andy McGregor and Alex Brown and entertained the crowds who had gathered for the impressive

conclusion to the day. Derek Reaney, the Agency's Development Officer based in Raphoe commented: "The event is growing year on year and the real focus of this year's event was youth. "It is very encouraging to see so many young people taking part in the pipe bands, the highland dance display and drum majors display.

"The event attracted over 2,500 visitors to Raphoe and we had quite a few folk who visited the area for the weekend. "I would like to thank the local Garda, Raphoe Tidy Towns, residents and business community for their cooperation and support. "We have already started planning to make next year's event even bigger and better."

# in Raphoe



New look reception in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, East Donegal

## Scotch-Irish legacy explored at lunchtime lectures in Belfast

The cultural impact of the Scotch-Irish (Ulster-Scots) in the USA is being explored in a lunchtime lecture series at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter. Local historian, educator, author and Americana enthusiast Alister McReynolds has been exploring the lasting legacy in the United States of people whose roots can be traced back to Ulster. Over the last eight weeks he's talked about pioneers in the field of music – people like Eck Robertson, Henry Gilliland and Clayton McMichen who, whilst unknown to many people, were ground breaking in their day, being amongst the earliest to record their music.

Alister also talked about one of the most famous icons of modern music in his discussion of Elvis Aaron Presley – The King to many – and how his family roots brought together a mix of cultures and influences in the same way his music did too. Country music features widely too in the conversations, with the Bristol Sessions in 1927 and the songs of Jimmie Rodgers, but so too has the poetry and prose of others of Ulster descent



including Robert Dinsmoor who although born in the US wrote much of his poetry in the Ulster-Scots language of his forefathers and the people he lived among.

Alister's talks give a fascinating insight into the role played in the cultural life of America by those whose families left our shores for the New World. There are still three more talks in the series including a look into the Scotch-Irish role in the Gunfight at the OK Corral. The talks will

be held at lunchtime every Friday from November 8 through to November 22. The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre is located at 1-9 Victoria Street, Belfast. If you are driving, it is within easy reach from the Westlink and M3 bridge. It is also just a short walk from Central Station, the Europa Bus Centre and Belfast City Hall. For further information, you can contact the Ulster-Scots Community Network with any queries on 028 90436710.



Hollymount Pipe Band, Downpatrick on parade in Raphoe

# East Donegal and Foyle family history festival a great success

Monreagh Heritage Centre hosted another major Ulster-Scots event recently. Delegates gathered from all over the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada and Australia for the second annual East Donegal and Foyle Valley Family History Festival at An Grianan Hotel, County Donegal on Thursday, October 3, which was made possible by funding from the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Well-known local musician and funny man, Leslie Matthews, compered the full-day event of talks, workshops, music, song and living history plays. The day began with piper, Mervyn Elvin, entertaining guests with a few favourite Scottish tunes, followed by an impressive array of local and international speakers and performers. Local historian, Stewart Buchanan, informed guests of advances in DNA research, including the findings of the recent Buchanan project conducted by his son Ross. Additionally, Roberta Kay from Canada emphasised the importance of DNA in discovering the roots of the world family of Robinsons.

Festival activities focused on the impact of the enormous contribution of the Ulster-Scots diaspora across the world. With this in mind, Frank Collins spoke of a virtually unknown aspect of Ulster American history concerning the Buchanan Family of County Tyrone. Local genealogist, Boyd Gray, presented his reflections on the Irish Immigrants in the land of Canaan - the Ulster experience of migration to the United States of America. Local historian and author, Belinda Mahaffy, presented a fascinating account of the local Ulster-Scots families who influenced the early transatlantic migration to the New World.

The Reverend Francis Makemie, regarded as one of Donegal's most famous sons, migrated to Maryland in 1682 and is recognised as the father of American Presbyterianism. A descendant of Francis' brother, David McKamey from the United States presented an overview of the history of the Makemie family in America entitled: One Ulster American Family. Dr William Roulston, a leading Ulster historian, genealogist and author,



informed delegates on how to research Ulster ancestors in the 1700s. Brian Mitchell spoke of emigration from the Foyle by sail and steam: Londonderry Gateway to the New World 1680-1939. The industrial and artistic heritage of Ulster is another significant aspect of family history and therefore featured strongly at the festival. Colm Clarke from Monreagh worked in the flax/linen industry as a young man and kindly volunteered his services to

demonstrate the art of processing flax stalks into raw linen. (For those interested in viewing the full process of sowing and harvesting flax, please go to the Monreagh Centre Youtube channel). Scottish folk singer, Isobella Ward, sang a selection of ballads, while the Mood Swings Ladies Choir delighted the audience with some traditional American Country sounds. A local drama society, led by Andrew Tinney from

Manorcunningham, scripted and performed a play entitled 'Family Ties' about the Ulster-Scots migration. The honour of closing the day's proceedings belonged to the ever-talented Cool Hand String Band from County Tyrone, who entertained by performing some of the best-loved bluegrass songs and melodies. During the day, delegates availed of free time to visit the many exhibitors displaying artefacts and offering family history services.



Pipe bands performing in Rathfriland Tattoo

## Broad range of Ulster-Scots festivals held throughout 2019

The Ulster-Scots Agency supported a varied range of Ulster-Scots community festivals yet again this year, offering a wide variety of Ulster-Scots activities throughout Ulster and successfully attracted large numbers of attendees. These festivals included a number of new activities, chiefly an outdoor Ulster-Scots Tattoo in Rathfriland showcasing the local talents of Ulster-Scots music and dance. Other novel events included Ulster-Scots guided walking tours and Highland Dance flash mob's on Derry's walls as part of the New Gate Fringe Festival in Londonderry, and the Ulster-Scots music and dance displays on July 13 in Scarva. The Agency's Community Festivals programme supports a number of annual festivals, including Schomberg Society's festival in Killeel, starting with an annual Ulster-Scots gathering at Hanna's Close and finishing off with their traditional pageant and open air concert. Also receiving support was the North Belfast Ulster-Scots Festival which included

an Ulster-Scots art exhibition, Ulster-Scots poetry workshops in schools promoting the Ulster-Scots language and living history tours within Belfast graveyards telling the stories of some notable Ulster-Scots. In County Donegal the festival programme supported the East Donegal and Foyle Family History Festival organised by Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage & Education Centre. This festival focused on Ulster-Scots genealogy and family history, attracting interest from throughout Ulster and the USA. The Community Festival programme in 2019 supported a number of new festivals including, the Seskinore Gatherin in West Tyrone, which included an Ulster-Scots Ceilidh, as well as a family fun day as part of the Livingston festival in Killinchy Co Down. Derek Reaney, Development Officer at Ulster-Scots Agency, revealed the Agency was delighted to offer funding to these festivals and actively encourages community groups to get involved. Email Derek directly at: reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk for details.



# Dave Gallaher: Ulster-Scot and original New Zealand All Black

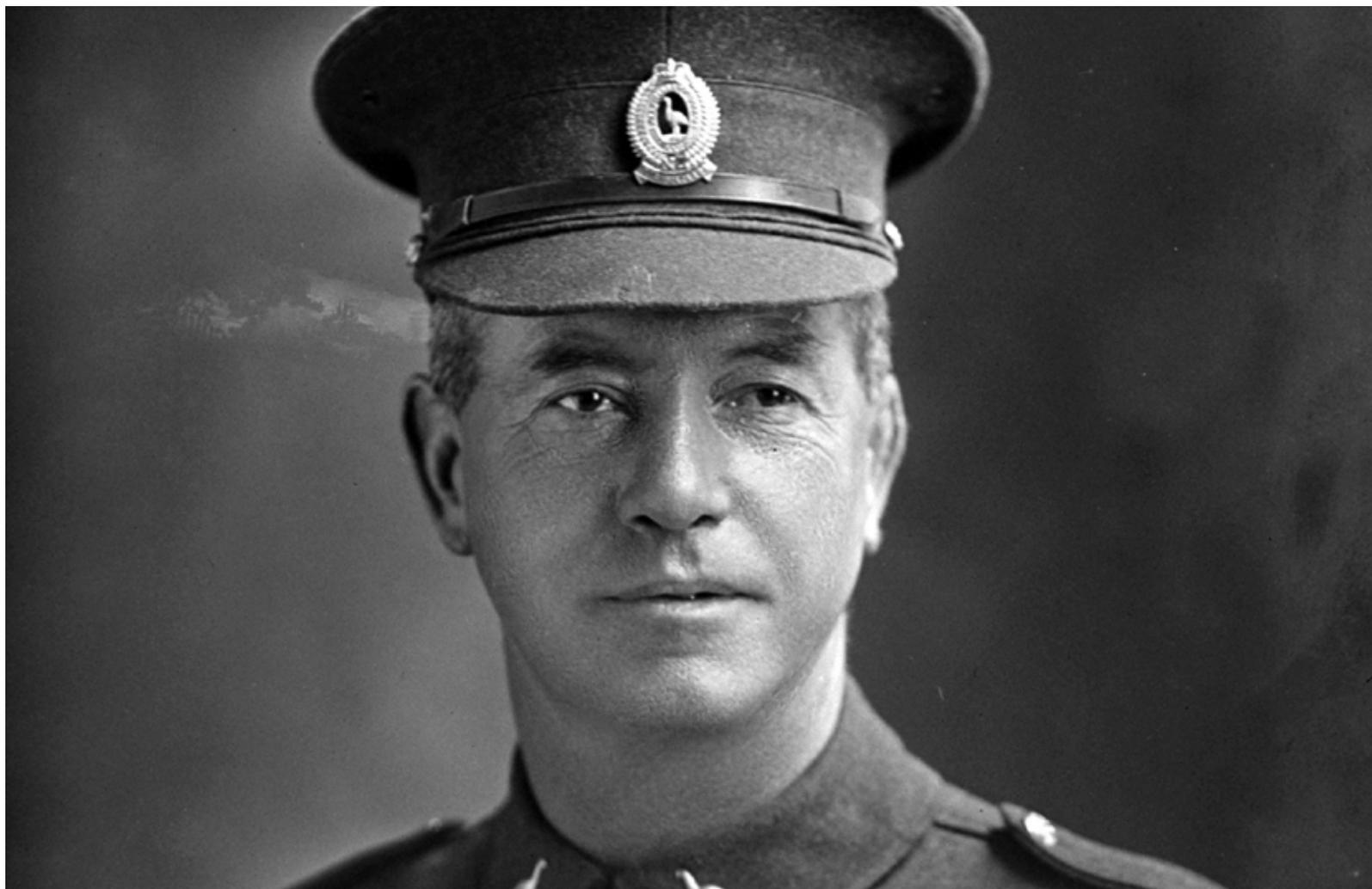
**T**he 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan sees the New Zealand All Blacks trying to win their third World Cup in a row, having run out as champions in both 2011 and 2015. They are the most successful team in World Cup Rugby, having won the famous Webb Ellis Trophy on three occasions. They are the only international rugby team with a winning record against every opponent. That formidable record started with their very first touring team, whose captain, Dave Gallaher, was an Ulster-Scot.

Born on 30 October 1873 in Ramelton, County Donegal, and baptised in the First Ramelton Meeting House on 8 January 1874, in May 1878 David Gallaher's family sailed from Belfast on the Lady Jocelyn to make a new life for themselves in New Zealand. The family name was actually Gallagher but the New Zealand immigration officials in Auckland mis-spelt the name.

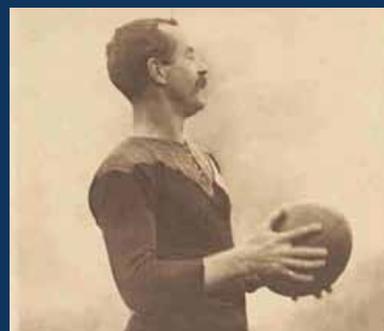
The family originally settled in Katikati, a settlement founded by George Vesey Stewart of Martray, County Tyrone, in 1874, which might be justly regarded as 'an Ulster plantation in New Zealand.' Part of Vesey Stewart's sales pitch for the new settlement was its Ulster and Orange character. In the words of one Robert Stuart: "Be you an Orangeman, you shall meet Orangemen; be you a Blackman, you shall meet Blackmen; be you a Freemason, you shall meet Freemasons; be you what you may, you shall always meet a hearty welcome from honest and contented countrymen." John Hamilton, another settler, identified another appealing feature of life in Katikati. He thanked Stewart for bringing him to a land "where a man can live under his own vine and fig tree" and without "fear of landlord, agent or bailiff."

The Gallaher family subsequently moved to Auckland in the 1890s and it was here that Gallaher began to play provincial rugby. He played 26 representative matches for Auckland.

Gallaher was the captain of the Original All Blacks (often simply referred to as 'The Originals'), New Zealand's first national rugby union team to tour outside Australasia. He captained the team from 1903-1906. The legendary All Blacks five-month tour of Britain in 1905 constitutes the highlight of his career. The All Blacks scored 976 points and conceded only 59 in 35 matches. They won 34 matches and lost only one against Wales and controversy still surrounds the referee's decision that cost them the match. 'The Originals' set a very high standard for all subsequent All Black sides to emulate.



**"Standing six feet in height, 13 stone in weight, hard as nails, fast and full of dash, he bolted from the mark every time, played right up to the whistle and stopped for nothing..."**



**Dave Gallaher's birthplace in Ramelton, Co Donegal**

Gallaher was one of rugby's greatest strategists. At the conclusion of the tour Gallaher and his friend and fellow player J. W. ('Billy') Stead wrote 'The Complete Rugby Footballer,' a 300-page master class in rugby. It is still widely regarded as "the most exhaustive and finest written exposition of the rugby game that has yet been printed." Gallaher served in the Boer War in the 6th and 10th New Zealand Mounted Rifles. He shaved three years off his age to serve in the Great War. On 3 October 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres Dave Gallaher led the men of the 2nd Auckland Regiment over the top for the last time. A piece of shrapnel smashed through his helmet and he was

carried, dying, from the battlefield. An Irish priest was giving the last rites to a soldier, Edward Fitzgerald, at the No 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station when he drew Fitzgerald's attention to a stricken colleague nearby. "Do you know who that is, on the next table?", the padre asked. Fitzgerald shook his head. "That is Dave Gallaher, captain of the 1905 All Blacks." He died on 4 October is buried at Nine Elms Cemetery, Poperinge. Five of the nine Gallaher brothers served during the Great War and three of them died (David, Douglas and Henry). Gallaher was one of the outstanding sportsmen of his era. As his obituary on the front page of Auckland Star put it: "Standing six feet in height, 13

stone in weight, hard as nails, fast and full of dash, he bolted from the mark every time, played right up to the whistle and stopped for nothing big or small." 13 former All Black rugby players were killed in the First World War – one in 10 of those who had worn the black jersey during the previous decade. Four of them were killed within a fortnight in June 1917 when the New Zealand Division took part in the stunningly successful assault on the Messines ridge in which the 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) Divisions also participated. In recent years All Black teams touring France have paid homage to Gallaher at his Belgian grave. His name lives on in the Gallaher

Shield, awarded to the winner of Auckland's premier club competition since 1922. A more recent trophy, the Dave Gallaher Cup, has since 2000 been held by the winner of the first rugby test between New Zealand and France in each calendar year. In July 2011 a 2.7 metre bronze statue of Dave Gallaher was unveiled in front of Eden Park Stadium, Auckland – the home of New Zealand rugby. In October 2015 an All Blacks rugby jersey worn by Dave Gallaher during the 1905 tour was sold for £180,000 at auction in Cardiff. It had been expected to sell for between £20,000 and £40,000 but such is the legend that was Dave Gallaher.

# Ulster-Scots visibility continues to grow in Culture Night celebrations

Culture Night has continued to grow as an important date in the local cultural calendar. This year's event took place on Friday, September 20 and continued into Saturday 21. The visibility of Ulster-Scots at the event has grown year on year and the best of our music and dance was proudly on display yet again. The largest Culture Night events take place in Belfast, where the city centre comes alive with a wide variety of entertainment. The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, in the city's bustling Cathedral Quarter, is ideally placed for Culture Night and we put on memorable displays from the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band; Michelle Johnston School of Highland Dance; and Bannside Lambeg Drumming Club in the area around the centre, as well as a traditional Ulster-Scots music session. Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive, Ian Crozier, said: "Our presence at Culture Night in Belfast grows every year and we will be sitting down soon with key stakeholders in our community to plan the next step in building our presence for next year's event. With



so many people, visitors and locals alike, coming into the city centre, Culture Night is a great opportunity to let people experience the best of Ulster-Scots and we want to make sure that it gets bigger and better every year." Ulster-Scots entertainment was also on display at other Culture Night celebrations across around Northern Ireland. Kirlish Ulster-Scots held an evening of community music,

song dance and rhyme; Mountfield Scottish Country Dancers held a Scottish ceilidh evening with performances from Mountfield Pipe Band; and Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band held an indoor concert to celebrate Ulster-Scots melody within Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. There were also displays of Highland dancing and living history at Ranfurly House in Dungannon, organised by Mid-Ulster Council.



## Blackthorn Pipers getting in tune with monthly meetings

The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre plays host to a monthly gathering designed to promote Bagpipe music across both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as the Pipe Band Season winds down each year. From September through to April, on the third Wednesday of each month, the Centre is the venue for meetings of the Blackthorn Pipers Society. The Society, set up in 2011, brings together solo pipers, RSPBA judges, band musicians as well as bagpipe enthusiasts to provide an opportunity to perform, learn from others and share the music in a relaxed and like-minded environment away from the competition scene that's often associated with the world of pipe bands.

The Society gatherings are open to anyone with an interest in bagpipe music – whether as a player or a listener – and feature a range of players playing tunes new and old either as soloists



or in small ensembles. Each gathering also features a Piper of the Month who plays a set at the end of the night to bring proceedings to a close. This is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the gatherings as it provides a chance to get to hear some of the finest players in the country usually in a solo capacity or as part of an ensemble rather than in the surroundings of a full band. A few times a season there is also an opportunity for a Junior Blackthorn Piper to play too. The last year has seen performances from an impressive array of piping talent, including Ashley McMichael, Sean Maloney, Andy Wilson, Andrew Shilliday, Beth Preston, Harry Stevenson, Ryan Cupples, Samantha Coburn and Mark Hasson. All are welcome, so get yourself down to one of the gatherings from 7-10pm. Dates for your diary are: November 20, December 11, January 15, 2020, February 19 2020, March 18 and April 15.



## Ulster-Scots Agency hails success of two junior drummers

The Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted with the success of two junior drummers, Arren McWilliams and Jamie Kerr. A huge congratulations to Arren and Jamie who both competed in the All-Ireland Solo Piping and Drumming Championships in Lusk, Dublin and were crowned All-Ireland champions. Arren won 1st place in under 16 drumming and Jamie won 1st place in under 14 drumming. Jamie and Arren attended the Ulster-Scots Agency piping and

drumming summer scheme in Spa Primary School ran by music tutors, Barney Megoran and William Wallace. Students from a variety of ages and abilities attended these classes, with some travelling a considerable distance. The results are already evident as a number of pipers and drummers performed at Raphoe Heritage Day in Donegal, and on the same day, a number of students travelled to the Solo Championships in Dublin.

The students all performed brilliantly, getting placed 1st to 5th. The Ulster-Scots Agency would like to congratulate all of the musicians in their competition results as well as those who performed at Raphoe Heritage Day. A special thanks must also go to the tutors for all their efforts. Anyone looking to join an Ulster-Scots music or dance tuition class should get in contact to find their nearest class by emailing [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)

# Rangers' link to Ulster-Scots

Billy Kennedy's new book explores enduring connection with Ibrox club

**M**any folk will be aware of the enormous following that Rangers FC enjoys in Ulster, but how many are aware of the role played by Ulster in the formation and success of the famous club?

A new book, Rangers Football Club – The Ulster Connection, has been published which will be essential reading for the thousands of Rangers supporters in Northern Ireland and beyond. The 132-page publication, authored by veteran News Letter journalist and lifelong Rangers supporter Billy Kennedy, charts this lesser-known but hugely significant chapter in the illustrious history of the mighty Glasgow Rangers from the club's inception in 1872 to the present day. With Christmas approaching, it will be a must-have stocking filler for every Rangers fan.

Two of the club's Founding Fathers, Moses and Peter McNeil had Ulster-Scots roots through their mother Jean Bain, who left Bellshill near Crossgar, Co. Down, and moved to Scotland for work in the mid-19th century, marrying Scotsman John McNeil. Moses, Peter and another brother, Hugh all played in the first Rangers team and Moses McNeil became the club's first international, capped for Scotland against Wales in 1876.



Billy Kennedy with Linfield manager David Healy, an ex-Rangers player

From 1896 to 1901, Moses and another brother Harry, capped 10 times for Scotland, ran the Royal Court Hotel in Bangor, Co Down. 19 'Ulster Rangers' who played at Ibrox were capped for Ireland (before 1921) and Northern Ireland

and contributed much to the success of Rangers Football Club. The book provides a fascinating insight into the careers of more than 30 players from this side of the water, who, through the decades, became part of the fabric

and culture at Ibrox Park. Three Ulstermen have captained Rangers - Bertie Manderson, John McClland and Steven Davis: six from an Ulster connection have been elevated to the Rangers Hall of Fame: and one - Jimmy Nicholl -

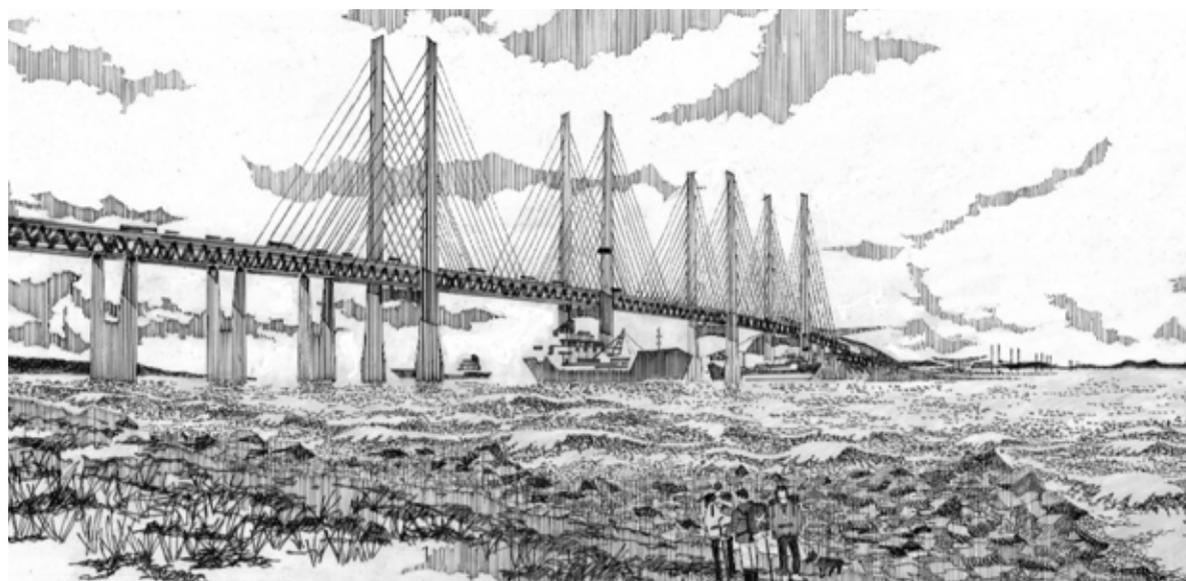
was the club's assistant manager. The Ulster connection at Ibrox Park continues right up to the present day, with two Northern Ireland internationals in the Rangers playing squad - Steven Davis, the current Northern Ireland captain and Jordan Jones. This book, richly illustrated with colour and mono photographs, is a testimony and tribute to momentous achievements of Ulstermen past and present at Rangers Football Club. The work also acknowledges the vital contribution made by the thousands of supporters from Northern Ireland, who regularly journey across the North Channel to Ibrox. Today, Rangers Football Club has 60 supporters' clubs in NI. Author Billy Kennedy served for nearly 50 years as a Director of Linfield Football Club and as Vice Chairman of the famous Belfast club, which enjoys close ties with Rangers F.C. He is also the author of 13 books on 18th century Ulster-Scots (Scots-Irish) migration from Ulster to America and the impact of those pioneers on the development of the United States as we know it today. The book was made possible with support from the Ulster-Scots Agency, which is established to preserve, promote and develop the cultural identity of the Ulster-Scots people at home and abroad.

# Tide turning on bridge prospect

**The prospect of a bridge linking Northern Ireland with Scotland has been much in the news since Boris Johnston entered 10 Downing Street. The new Prime Minister has asked government officials to look closely at the idea, which he first mooted when he was Foreign Secretary.**

Discussion of a bridge to Scotland is nothing new. Carrickfergus-born Engineer Luke Livingston Macassey (1843-1908) proposed a series of options to span the North Channel 150 years ago, including a channel tunnel between Belfast and Glasgow to "promote order and prosperity."

The idea went nowhere because critics were concerned that the state would have to meet the high cost. Macassey went on to mastermind a new water supply for Belfast, which included building the Silent Valley Reservoir. Critics of the idea today cite practical difficulties, including the breadth and depth of the North Channel; the difficult weather conditions in the area; the presence of the munitions dump at Beaufort's Dyke; and the significant cost (up to £20billion) as reasons to dismiss the proposal. Others however, are considering it with more of an open mind. In a recent article, National Geographic magazine talked to several accomplished



architects/engineers who believe the bridge can be built.

Alan Dunlop is the Scottish architect whose 2018 report sparked serious discussion of the idea. He suggested two potential options: a 12-mile crossing from Torr Head to the Mull of Kintyre or a 26-mile crossing from Larne to Portpatrick. The southern route, which would be closer to Belfast and Scotland's

Central Belt is more practical, given the existing road infrastructure on both sides. More challenging than the length of such a bridge is the depth of the sea bed – up to 160m at its deepest. Dunlop proposed a cable-stayed or suspension bridge for the shallower sections and a floating pontoon-style bridge for the deeper sections. He stresses that since oil rigs can operate in seas as deep as 3,000m,

the required technology already exists: "This would be a challenging proposition, but we have the technology and the talent in NI and Scotland to create something as potentially brilliant as this." Dunlop addresses the weather problem with the example of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, a 34-mile series of cable-stayed bridges, an undersea tunnel and four artificial islands which opened

in China last year. It is built to withstand typhoon conditions. His answer to Beaufort's Dyke is simply to cross to the north, where the sea is more shallow. Naeem Hussain, global bridge design leader at design and engineering firm Arup, agrees a Portpatrick-Larne bridge is "entirely practical and doable." Hussain favours a cable-stayed bridge or a suspension bridge. Both styles would be supported by towers standing on top of oil-rig-style frames. He told National Geographic: "The bridge could be constructed with existing and proven technologies, marrying off-shore oil technology with long-span bridge technology. The substructures would be constructed in a dry dock, floated out to the site, and then lowered into position. Large pre-fabricated deck units would also be brought to site on barges and lifted into place."

This analysis brings the discussion back to the issue the Prime Minister himself identified. The stumbling block for significant national infrastructure projects is not science, but the will to make them happen. The businessman who first proposed the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in the early 1980s was dismissed as a crank, but the 34-mile bridge, which took 8.5 years to build at a cost of £15billion, opened last year.

# Hallowe'en and the Ulster-Scots

**It is that time of year when the nights are on the turn and the smell of hearth fires are in the air. It is not freezing yet, but you know it is on the way. Of all the seasonal holidays, Halloween might not have the spiritual significance or inspire the same excitement as Christmas, but there's just something about its ghoulish theatricality which never fails to enchant.**

A special time of the year when many believe that the spirit world can make contact with the physical world, a night when magic is at its most powerful.

Where did Halloween originate? Why the 31st October?

Firstly the Hallowe'en comes from a Scottish term for All Hallows' Eve. The date of 31st October was adopted by the church in the 8th century as the eve of All Saints Day. The day originates from ancient pagan festivals held by the Celtic people of Ireland & Britain. In the modern day Halloween continues to be one of the most celebrated festivals of the year throughout Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Despite their staunch Presbyterianism, the Scots were superstitious people and belief in fairies and the supernatural world was quite normal. When the Scots came to Ireland they brought with them their traditions. This was documented in 1821 when the

Rev. John McCloskey of Banagher parish, Co Down proposed that the Scots who migrated to Ulster in the seventeenth century came with the "whole train of witches, the tribe of fairies, the overlooking (bewitching) of horses and cows".

The Ulster-Scots Halloween traditions included lighting bonfires, parties with unusual food and games, practical jokes and children visiting houses guising (wearing a disguise) & rhyming - in the hope of receiving apples or nuts. Turnips (Neeps) were hollowed out and faces carved into the skin of the turnip. They were then lit by a candle placed inside the turnip and put outside the home to ward off evil spirits.

Every year we hear the kids rhyming this verse with varying degrees of accuracy and enthusiasm:

**"Hallowe'en is cumin' tha goose is gettin' fat.  
Wud ye please put a penny in tha oul man's hat.  
If ye havnae got a penny a ha'pney wull do.  
If ye havnae got a ha'pney God bless you.  
And yer oul man too."**

Not forgetting our kinfolk in the United States where Halloween is also very popular, people are often unaware of the celebration's strong Scottish connections.

A land that has such atmospheric landscape and array of haunted

castles, peculiar superstitions and occasionally morbid history, it's not surprising that Halloween first took off in Scotland.

Even the world famous Bard of Ayrshire Robert Burns got with the spirit of Halloween and wrote a poem in 1785 which details many of the national customs and legends surrounding the festival.

Halloween is just around the corner, so why not introduce some Ulster-Scots into your celebrations this year with

**Dookin' (Dunking) for apples** – This age old game involves trying to grab apples floating in a tub of water using your mouth, with your hands tied behind your back. If you want make it more difficult have a go at catching them with a fork.

**Treacle scones** – Once again with your hands tied, this messy game challenges participants to take a bite out of treacle covered scones hanging from ropes.

**Nut burning** – Recently engaged? Find out if you and your husband/wife to be will live happily ever after. Each throw a nut into an open fire. If they quietly smoulder amongst the flames your marriage will be a happy one, but if they hiss and crackle you could be in for trouble!

**Sausage rolls** – The Witchcraft Act of 1735 forbade the eating of pork pastries on Halloween. It wasn't until the 1950s the law was repealed and since then sausage rolls have been a popular treat at Halloween parties and gatherings.



## Mrs J.H. Riddell: Ulster-Scots ghost novelist

**The Ulster-Scots novelist Charlotte Eliza(beth) Lawson Riddell was born at The Barn in Carrickfergus, County Antrim, on 30 September 1832, the youngest daughter of James Cowan and his wife Ellen Kilshaw. Her father was a prominent citizen and for some years he was an alderman and High Sheriff for the county of Carrickfergus.**

The surname Cowan is common throughout the Scottish Lowlands but especially Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire, areas from which many Ulster settlers came. At that time Carrickfergus had a population of more than 8,000 people of whom 6,000 were Presbyterians and mostly of Scottish descent.

James Cowan was widely read and was a member of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society. He ensured that Charlotte was also widely read and by the age of ten she had read through the Koran.

Charlotte started writing at an early age and she produced her first serious work at the age of fifteen. It wasn't published but those who saw it were impressed by her potential as a writer.

After her father's death Charlotte and her mother were left in poor



financial circumstances and eventually moved to England, where she married JH Riddell, a civil engineer, in 1857. They were not well off, however and she turned increasingly to writing as a means to boost their income. Her first novel, The Moors and the

Fens appeared in 1858 in three volumes under the pseudonym of F G Trafford. This was the name she used in her early years of writing. It was the start of a long writing career which spanned about 40 years and in which she produced nearly 40 novels.

Charlotte also edited a magazine called Home, which was one of the first women's magazines, and was also a frequent contributor to The Saturday Review. From 1867 she was co-proprietor and editor of the St James's Magazine.

She was a prolific writer of supernatural tales, especially stories of haunted houses and E F Bleiler once called her 'the Victorian ghost novelist par excellence.' This aspect of her work included classic short stories like The Open Door and Nut Bush Farm, along with four supernatural novellas. In 2017 one reviewer put her in a list of the top '11 Women Horror Writers You Need to Read' and remarked: 'For great Victorian-era ghost stories, look no further than Charlotte Riddell. Today, Riddell's stories feel old-fashioned in the best possible way – they're full of musty deserted mansions and ghosts with unfinished business'. Weir Stories, a collection of some of her best ghost stories, was published in 1832 and has been described as a "classic of Victorian supernatural fiction".

Due to its county Down setting and its Ulster-Scots characters, a later novel Berna Boyle (1884) was the best known in Ulster. It contains a wonderful description of a funeral at

Knock graveyard, which was 'a fine heartsome place. There's always some sort of wind stirring among the headstones.'

Charlotte was the first pensioner of the Society of Authors, receiving a pension of £60 a year in May 1901. In 1903 she published The Banshee's Warning and other tales, a collection of six short stories. One of the stories contains fine descriptions of the coast-drive from Belfast to Larne in olden days. Charlotte died at Hounslow, London on 27 September 1906, aged 74 years, and her death was reported in newspapers across the British Isles.

The Northern Whig (29 September 1906) had a long obituary, headed 'AN ULSTER NOVELIST' and it reflected the high regard in which she was held in her home province. 'British fiction has lost of its pleasantest modern exponents, and one whose work was warmly appreciated in this city and neighbourhood on its own merits as well as from her local connections... Mrs Riddell wrote her own name high on Ulster's roll of fame.'

**Nelson McCausland is an Ulster-Scots author, activist, media commentator and newspaper columnist.**

# £100k funding boost for cottages



story of the Scotch-Irish (as Ulster-Scots are known in America) at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast and a Patriots, Pioneers and Presidents Trail which encompasses all of the key sites in Northern Ireland and the border counties. At the same time, the Agency has worked closely with the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington DC to promote our heritage through events and exhibitions in Maine, Louisiana, Georgia and New York. This included a highly successful mission to the St Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, alongside the Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band and successful involvement with the Carnegie Migrations Festival in New York City.

Ian Crozier added: "Our Presidential cottages are the most tangible demonstration of our connection to the United States, but for many years, instead of being seen as a crown jewel, they have been treated as the Cinderella of Northern Ireland tourism.

Now, as a result of the work of the Ulster-Scots Agency and our partners in the local Councils and beyond, the cottages are starting to be recognised once again for their immense cultural significance and the potential that they offer in tapping into an American tourist market that is already worth more than \$72million a year to Northern Ireland."

In a development that signals good news for the promotion of our links to the United States, the Ulster-Scots Agency has secured £100,000 in additional resources to fund improvements in how our story is told at two of Northern Ireland's Presidential cottages.

The money, secured from Stormont's Department for Communities, will be used to improve the presentation of the Ulster-Scots/Scotch-Irish story at

the Andrew Jackson Cottage outside Carrickfergus and the Chester Alan Arthur Cottage in Cullybackey, which are in the care of Mid and East Antrim Council.

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier said: "Through this project, we want to make it easier for visitors to find their way to the cottages and once they get there, to make sure that they learn not just about the individual Presidents, but

the Ulster-Scots community that they came from and the contribution that we made to the development of the American nation."

Northern Ireland can boast four cottages linked to American Presidents which are open to visitors. In addition to the Jackson and Arthur cottages that will be targeted by this initiative, there are also cottages linked to President Ulysses S. Grant, near Ballygawley

and President Woodrow Wilson near Strabane. The remains of a fifth cottage, linked to assassinated President William McKinley, were removed from Dervock and are held by National Museums Northern Ireland.

The Ulster-Scots Agency has already undertaken work at the Grant Cottage in partnership with Mid Ulster Council, as well as developing a visitor gallery telling the

## New Ulster-Scotch Leid Week



European Day of Languages on 26th September saw the announcement of a new initiative from the Ulster-Scots Agency to promote the Ulster-Scots language. Ulster-Scotch Leid Week will take place from November 25 to 30 and will see a wide range of activities to promote awareness of and respect for the language.

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier said: "We are really excited that the first ever Ulster-Scotch Leid Week will take place this year, during the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

"We are working hard to put together a diverse programme that will help folk to understand more about the Ulster-Scots language, the role that it plays in the lives of its speakers and the place that it has within our wider community. We have already confirmed distinguished speakers from Ulster, Scotland and beyond, but the week will also include talks, workshops and screenings in a range of local community venues. "Forbye that, we will also be

launching a brand new badge for those that hae a wheen o wurd in that Ulster-Scotch leid, which we hope people of all ages and backgrounds will wear as a symbol of pride in their Ulster-Scots linguistic identity."

The Ulster-Scots Agency made the announcement with a social media post in Ulster-Scots, which stated: "It's European Day o Leids tha day. A brave day tae tell ye that tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch will be haein tha first ever Ulster-Scotch Leid Week fae tha 25th til 30th Novemmer.

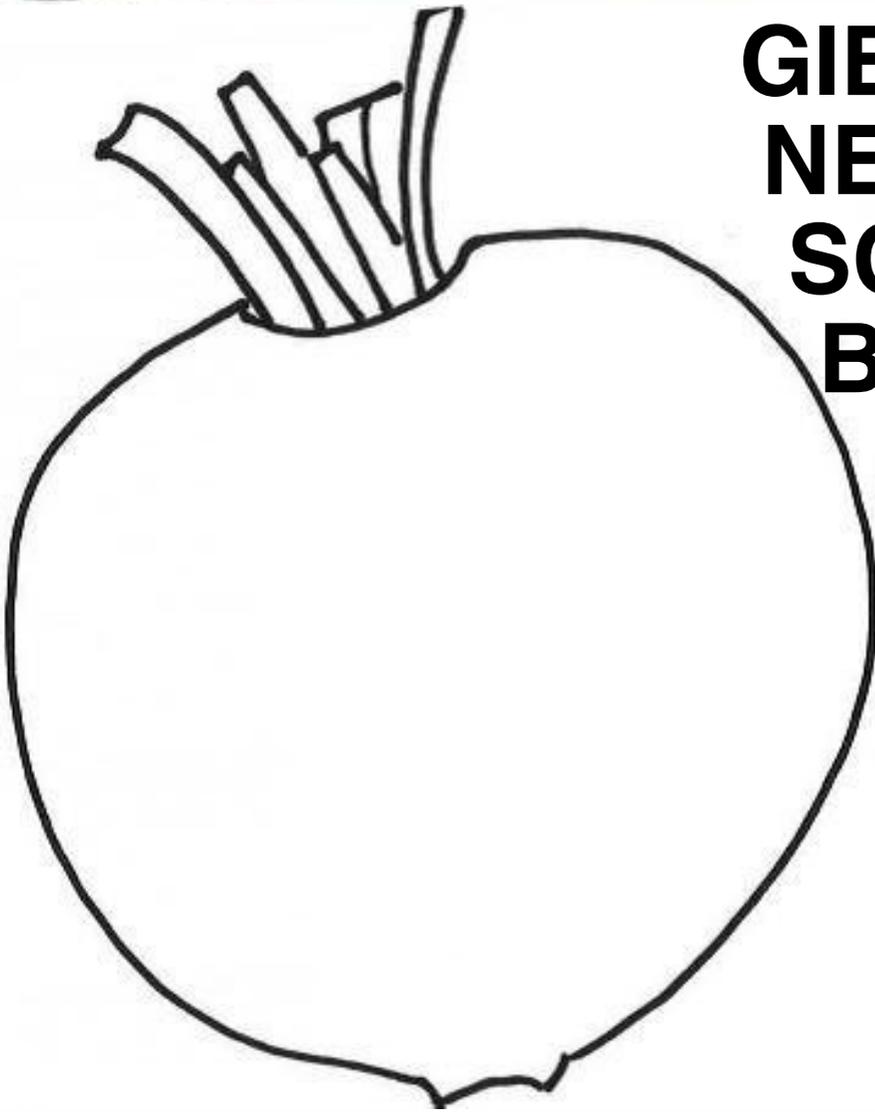
"Owre tha siven days thaur will be a guid wheen o events tae help ye til ken mair anent tha Hamely Tongue, whas taaked bae fowk aa owre Ulster. Luk oot fur mair news nearerhaun tha time.

"The announcement was very positively received on social media, with the overwhelming reaction from people being surprise that they could read all or most of the Ulster-Scots text. This isn't surprising, as most people here have quite a lot of Ulster-Scots but often they don't realise it.

"We want ye tae ken that maist fowk in Norlinn Airlann hae a wee bit o Ulster-Scotch, an monie fowk hae a brave bit mair forbye," added Mr Crozier.



## WEANS' WURLD



# GIE THA NEEP A SCARY BAKE!

### WIN A FAMILY PASS TO ARMAGH OBSERVATORY & PLANETARIUM

To be in with a chance of winning a family pass either:

1. Send us your scary face neep design
2. Draw us a scary Hallowe'en picture
3. Send us a photo of your carved neep or pumpkin

the **Ulster-Scot**  
**COMPETITION**

Send your entries by email to [competition@ulsterscotsagency.com](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.com) with Weans' Wurld competition in the subject line. Please remember to include your name and contact details. Alternatively, post your answer to: Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG  
Closing date: 15th November 2019  
Competition winners' names and the winning photo will be shared in the next issue.

## LET'S LEARN

The Scots Hallowe'en tradition of guising involves children going from door to door in disguise and a gift in the form of food, coins, apples or chocolate is given out in exchange for the child performing a party trick. The tradition is called guising because of the disguises or costumes worn. Are ye gang guising? Send us your photo, we'll share it on our Facebook page.  
[www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency](http://www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency)

WEDNESDAY 30 & THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER

### POTIONS & EXPLOSIONS (LIVE SCIENCE SHOW WITH SCIENTIFIC SUE)

EACH SHOW APPROX 60 MINUTES

Join Scientific Sue for a special Halloween themed "Potions and Explosions" live science show at the Armagh Planetarium on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October.

Prepare yourself for lots of explosions, mess, fun but more importantly learning! Lots of audience participation will be needed in this show.



## DAE YE KEN?

Traditionally it was root vegetables like the neep (turnip) that was carved to scare away the monsters. Immigrants travelling to America took this tradition with them and used pumpkins instead when they couldn't find turnips.

# Places to visit: Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

## A spooky attraction for half term

Join us this Halloween for an out of this world experience. We have events for people of all ages, from Wee Wonders to our Adult Only Takeover. Come see our telescopes on our special Observatory tour and bring the kids along to watch our very special "Spooky Space" 360 degree dome show. Armagh Spookservatory and Planetarium, the place for space this half term!

