

Derry Cittie & Strabane Destrìck

Ulstèr-Scotch Leid Week

24-28 | Nov | 2025

www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscotsweek



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Cathair Dhoire &
Cathair an Strabane
Derry City & Strabane
District Council


Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch



HERE
FOR ARTS
& CULTURE
IN DERRY & STRABANE

Supported by The Ulster-Scots Agency

 @fairfaaye

Fair faa ye!

Join iz fer Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025

Ulster-Scots baes aa aroun' iz, an' Ulster-Scots Leid Week gies iz an unco chanst tae lairn mair about the leid an' tae mairk an' celebrate the inpit at Ulster-Scots maks tae oor city an' airt.

The yeir Derry City an' Strabane Destricks Cooncil ir sarious gled tae offair a week-lang programme o' daeins, taakin in taaks an' ganches, daeins fir wains, film screenins an' danders. Oor programme features a wheen o' differ voices amang thaim Ulster-Scots screeveners, poets, film makers an' perfoarmers.

Sae gif ye onie hae a Wheen o' Wurds, uise The Hamely Tongue ivry day ir gif ye're onie wantin' tae fin oot about the Ulster-Scots leid, the yeir's programme haes sim thing fer ivryboadie.



Derry Cittie & Strabàne Destricks Ulster-Scotch Leid Week

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Derry City an' Strabane Destricks Cooncil's programme baes kin'ly hefted bae the Boord o' Ulster-Scotch.

Fer mair wittens gae tae www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots fer the latest newins.

Follae iz oan Twitter @Fairfaaye
#UlsterScotsLanguageWeek #Leidweek

Aa the events an' daeins in the programme ir free bit beukin baes needfu' fer in-person daeins.

Tae beuk yer place aa onie o' the in-person daeins get oantae ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com ir Teyyphone iz oan (028) 71376579.

Tak' tent aa the programme micht bae subject tae altheration.



Supported by The Ulster-Scots Agency

Fair faa ye!

Join us for Ulster-Scots Language Week 2025



Derry Cittie & Strabane Destrìck **Ulster-Scotch Leid Week**

24-28 | Nov | 2025

Ulster-Scots is all around us, and Ulster-Scots Language Week provides us with a unique opportunity to learn more about the language and to celebrate the contribution which Ulster-Scots makes to life throughout the city and district.

This year, Derry City and Strabane District Council is delighted to offer a week-long programme of events including talks, events for children, film screenings and walking tours. Our programme features a diverse range of voices, including Ulster-Scots writers, poets, film-makers and performers.

So, whether you just have a when o words, speak tha hamely tongue daily, or are just curious about the Ulster-Scots language, this year's programme has something for everyone.

Derry City and Strabane District Council's programme is kindly supported by The Ulster-Scots Agency. Visit www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots for the latest updates.

**Follow us on Twitter @fairfaaye
#UlsterScotsLanguageWeek #LeidWeek**

All events in the programme are free but booking is essential for in-person events.

To book your place at any of the in-person events please contact ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com or call us on T: (028) 71376 579.

Please note that this programme may be subject to change.



Supported by The Ulster-Scots Agency

Talks and Lectures

Brocht Ower

**An illustrated talk
with writer Robert Campbell
Tuesday 25 November 2025
1pm, Whittaker Suite, Guildhall**

Join poet and author Robert Campbell on a fascinating personal journey that seeks to understand the complex history and evolution of the Ulster Scots language, and answer many of the hard questions. This talk weaves together a personal story and epic history, exploring deep family connections, serendipitous personal interactions, and little-known historical facts. The speaker will trace the institutional forces that led to the rapid decline of Ulster-Scots, its partial recovery, and ideas for stability and future growth, along with broaching the serious issue of the 'Ulster Scots Echt'. This is an essential conversation for anyone interested in language, heritage, and the future of identity in this part of the world.

The session is accessible to everyone, is delivered in a playful and lighthearted manner, and is interactive.



Robert Campbell: Robert Campbell is a writer, poet and artist. He originally hails from East Antrim but has lived in the North West for the last 16 years. His children's books include: 'Sled Down' - a Christmas story set in and around Culmore and Derry's Walls; 'Captain Timmy and the Bobbing Barrel' - a story about pirates who lose their ship at Portrush; 'George and the Elephant' - the story of a child's struggle with dyslexia; spoken word story - 'Captain Timmy and the Terrible Turnip: a Halloween Tale'; and he is currently working on 'Captain Timmy and Finn McCool's Griddle'. Further information: www.robertcampbell.me

Admission Free: / Light refreshments provided from 12:30pm

To book your place contact

T: 028 71 376 579 or
email ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com

Narnia and Hame

by the Sandy Loanen

With Dr Frank Ferguson, Ulster University
Thursday 27 November 2025,
1pm Whittaker Suite, Guildhall

In this talk Dr Ferguson will chart the Ulster-Scots influences that helped shape C.S. Lewis's life. He will trace the impact of family connections, place, language, and literature and demonstrate how these all played out in Lewis's creative thinking. From his childhood home of Little Lea set amid the burns of East Belfast to the august halls of Oxford and Cambridge, this talk will illustrate the strong threads of Ulster-Scots culture, language and association that formed Lewis's character. It will also argue that Lewis's Ulster-Scots side appears in his work and life when least expected. Rather than being a buried treasure of his past life, Dr Ferguson will suggest it formed a vibrant and living element of his daily experience.

Dr Frank Ferguson:

Frank Ferguson is the Research Director for English Language and Literature at Ulster University. An experienced researcher in literary studies, he has written and edited a number of publications on Irish and Northern Irish literature including, *Ulster-Scots Writing*, an Anthology, (Four Courts, 2008) *Revising Robert Burns and Ulster: literature, religion and politics, c.1770-1920* (Four Courts 2009) *John Hewitt, A North Light* (Four Courts, 2013). He has managed a number of major literary and educational projects. He is the Chair of the John Hewitt Society, a Governor of the Linen Hall Library, and Chair of the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund.

Admission Free: / Light refreshments provided from 12:30pm

To book your place contact

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email ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com



Talks and Lectures



Hinba: The Lost Isle of St Columba With Alan Millar

Friday 28 November 2025, 1pm

Glenelly Suite, Derry City and Strabane

District Council Offices, Derry Road, Strabane

Join Alan as he recounts his 2024, ACNI-assisted journey to the southern Hebridean island of Colonsay, in search of his Mesolithic ancestors, only to be astounded and delighted by how powerfully fellow Donegal man St. Columba still resonates through this region. How he heard, for the first time, of the lost island of Hinba, with its monastic settlement, linked to Iona. Greatly inspired, Alan started work on his own modern take on St Columba and Hinba with poems exploring the past, present, landscape and shared heritage of the wild western coasts of Scotland and northern coasts of Ireland.

Alan Millar:

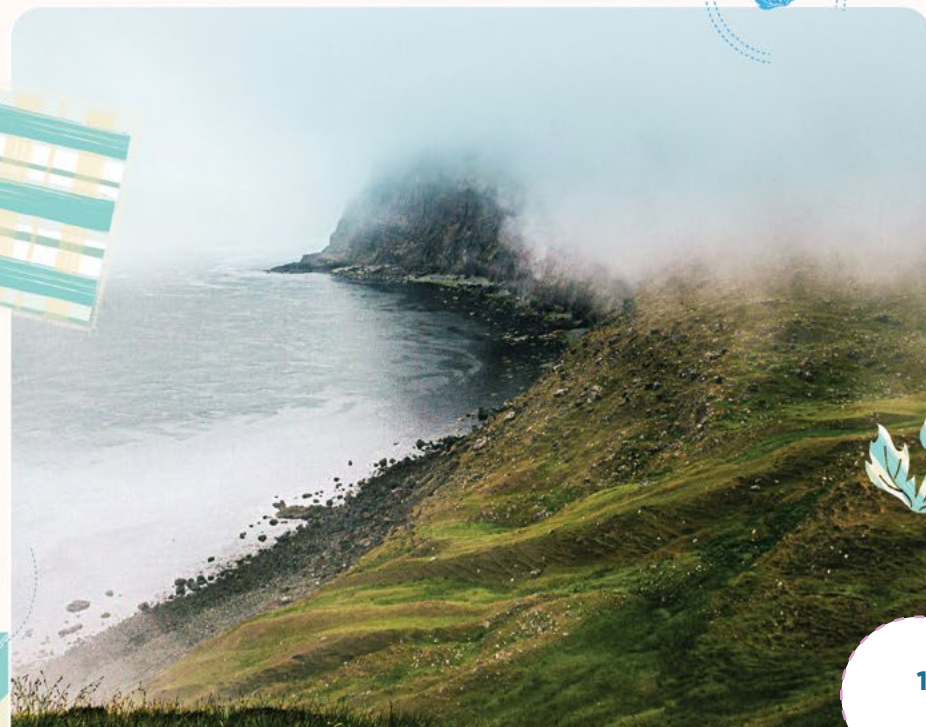
Alan Millar is a poet, writer and journalist from the Laggan Valley, East Donegal, who now lives in Ballymoney, Co Antrim. His first collection of poetry 'Echas frae tha Big Swilly Swally' was published, May 2023. He was nominated for Scots Writer of the Year, 2023 in the Scots Language Awards the same year. His second collection, Frae Erris tae Wrath, assisted by ACNI, is due out presently. He commenced a Doctorate at Ulster University in 2024 on the United Irish newspaper, Northern Star. In May 2025 he joined the Board of the Ulster-Scots Agency, as Irish government nominee. In June 2025, he was joint editor of the Flann O'Brien trilingual schools' creative writing collection 'Abhainn Burn River'. In August 2025, he was appointed editor of the Scots Language Society's magazine Lallans.

Admission Free: / Light refreshments provided from 12:30pm

To book your place contact

T: 028 71 376 579 or email

ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com





Short Films

Tha Wee Schuil

Written and performed by Anne McMaster

Available online from Monday 24 November 2025
at www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots

A 15-minute narrative film with an original Ulster-Scots script/voiceover drawing on archival photographs, images and memories of rural children who attended Moneydig Primary School (between Garvagh and Kilrea). This film traces the life and times of a wee two-room school and shares the stories and experiences of those who came to learn. This is a celebration of the Ulster-Scots language and the weans who spoke it. The film finishes with the final day of the school when present and past pupils gathered together in the wee building to say goodbye.

Anne McMaster:

After a 25-year career as a professional playwright, theatre director and lecturer in Performing Arts, Anne now writes full-time. She publishes poetry and novels internationally in both English and Ulster-Scots. A confirmed introvert, she's both surprised and grateful to find herself appearing regularly on BBC TV and radio. An Ulster-Scots book of nursery rhymes two new poetry collections and a screenplay will be announced shortly.

If Headstones Could Speak Derry City Cemetery and the Ulster Scots

Narrated by Seamus Breslin,
Friends of Derry City Cemetery

Available online from Monday 24 November 2025
at www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots

"If these stones could speak, they would echo the praise of generations past – Ulster Scots who helped raise this city from the ground up."

In this short film, local historian Seamus Breslin, MA, explores the lives and stories of past generations of Ulster Scots. The film highlights the lives of notable Ulster Scots who settled in the city, bringing with them a unique and vibrant tapestry of language, music, food, and associated traditions. It tells the story of how the Ulster-Scots and Irish traditions integrated to form an eclectic fusion of language, music and culture, which would eventually make its way across North America and the world.



In this film, Ulster Scots music and language are blended with the remarkable stories of individuals including:

- Foster Collins – a pioneer and founder of American ragtime music
- The Tillie family – who revolutionised the shirt industry through mechanization
- The McCorkells – whose ships carried emigrants across the Atlantic
- Cecil Frances Alexander – composer of the beloved hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'
- The McFarlands – influential in politics, industry, and military affairs
- The Mitchells – known for their contributions to medicine, military service, and the Young Irelander movement
- McKnight – prominent in journalism, tenant rights advocacy, and Presbyterian life
- Gilmore – a trader and noted philanthropist
- Knox – a political figure, remembered in stories like that of the 'half-hung' MacNaughton

Further information:

<https://www.friendsofderrycitycemetery.com/>

Short Films

The Witch of Glentow:

With award-winning director
Tristan Crowe and Negative Waves

Wednesday 26 November 2025, 6:00pm
Green Room, Guildhall

A public screening of 'The Witch of Glentow' and a selection of Ulster-Scots themed films by award-winning director Tristan Crowe and his team at Negative Waves. 'The Witch of Glentow' (18 mins) is a dark, surreal journey through a North Antrim village unsettled by a mysterious visitor. Rooted in Ulster-Scots language and tradition, it offers a striking new vision of local folklore.

Directed by Tristan Crowe and produced by Liam Logan and Mick Crossey with support from Northern Ireland Screen's Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund, the film stars Clíodhna McCorley (Hope Street), Richard Clements (The Fall), Pádraig O'Grady (The Lieutenant of Inishmore), and poet Charlie Gillen, with an original score by NI Music Prize winner Mark McCambridge (Arborist). Set amid the rugged beauty of North Antrim, a storyteller (Gillen) recounts 'The Witch of Glentow' to children around a bonfire—until eerie events blur myth and reality. Also screening are four Ulster-Scots shorts: Freedom in Tha Dairkest Oo' (Aileen McCahon), Keps (Charlie Gillen), This Moarnin Shuld Be a Plantin' (Anne McMaster), and The Wanderer (James Orr), each inspired by Ulster-Scots poetry and storytelling. The team will also be previewing their new Rhymes of Rebellion project.



Tristan Crowe:

Tristan Crowe is a multi-award winning director whose filmmaking career has spanned over two decades. His work ranges from short film dramas to television documentaries, music videos, podcasts and virtual reality experiences. Notable projects include The Witch of Glentow short film, Abandoned Ulster (recently broadcast on BBC2) and This Oul Fermin Life which picked up multiple awards on the short film circuit. Other recent projects include the directing of short 'The Last Word' which was written by author Jan Carson and commissioned by NI Screen's Digital Archive, and shown at the MAC Belfast, and the documentary Rise, which was an official selection Doc Ireland festival.

To book your place contact

T: 028 71 376 579 or
email ulsterscots@derrystrabane.com



Footsteps and Verses: The Ulster-Scots Poets Trail With David Douglas of Derrie Danders

Thursday 27th November 2025, 10:30am

Friday 28th November 2025, 10:00am

Step into the world of Ulster-Scots literature.

Join David Douglas for two exclusive literary walking tours of the city, and learn more about the life and work of some of the most iconic poets to hail from the Ulster-Scots literary tradition. Explore the streets and landmarks which inspired writers such as Cecil Frances Alexander and W.F. Marshall, and enjoy live poetry readings and interactive discussions along the way. These tours will also shine a light on other influential voices, including G.P. Findlay and Sarah Leech of Raphoe, Co. Donegal – one of the few known female poets from the Ulster-Scots tradition. Plus, uncover surprising literary connections: from the influence of Robert Burns to the ancestral ties between Ulster and American author John Steinbeck. Led by David Douglas of Derrie Danders, an experienced and engaging guide, these tours promise a unique opportunity to connect with the depth, diversity, and global reach of Ulster-Scots culture—right in the heart of the city.

Each tour is limited to 20 participants.

Event 1

Thursday 27th November 2025

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Start/End: Starts at New Gate, 2-4 Kennedy Place, BT48 6RF and finishes at the Guildhall

Booking:

<https://www.newgatearts.com/events/footsteps-verses-the-ulster-scots-poets-trail-1>

Event 2

Friday 28th November 2025

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Start/End: Starts and finishes at New Gate, 2-4 Kennedy Place, BT48 6RF

Booking:

<https://www.newgatearts.com/events/footsteps-verses-the-ulster-scots-poets-trail>

Blether & Bounce

An interactive dance and language programme with the Sollus Highland Dancers

Blether & Bounce is an innovative interactive programme designed to help children engage with the Ulster-Scots language through fun, energetic, and team-based physical challenges. By combining movement, play, and language learning, the sessions ensure that children not only enjoy the experience but also develop lasting connections with Ulster-Scots.

Delivered by Sollus Highland Dancers, this programme will provide 10 sessions across 4 schools during Ulster-Scots Language Week 2025 giving approximately 300 children the opportunity to explore and celebrate Ulster-Scots in an active and memorable way.

Further information:

Sollus Highland Dancers, The Sollus Centre,
231 Victoria Road, Bready BT82 OEB
Tel: 028 7184 1892 or email: sollusdance@hotmail.com



Sollus Highland Dancers:

Sollus Highland Dancers was formed in 2001 and is led by Georgina Kee-McCarter. In their short history, the group has recorded phenomenal success in the competition arena, including being crowned European & Ulster Choreography Champions. The group has performed in showcases and festivals throughout Europe, including Holland, Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium and has performed at numerous events in Britain including at Windsor Castle for the Royal Family. In 2019 the group was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, an MBE for volunteer groups.

Story Creation Workshops

**With Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin
in partnership with writer and
storyteller Robert Campbell**

The Droichead Project at Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin is working in partnership with local writer and storyteller Robert Campbell to celebrate the Ulster Scots language as an important and colourful tradition within our local linguistic tapestry. Robert will be facilitating story creation workshops with children in three Irish medium primary schools in the Derry and Strabane area, helping young people to explore language and storytelling using Ulster-Scots words and phrases. Robert will help bring the stories to life with vibrant characters, rich descriptions and captivating plots. Kids will have the chance to play with the interaction of Scots words and Irish patterns, exploring the impact of our diverse linguistic cultures on how we use words and language today, giving us a unique vocabulary, completely entwined with our sense of place.

Robert Campbell:

Robert Campbell is a writer, poet and artist. He originally hails from East Antrim but has lived in the North West for the last 16 years. Robert's understanding of Ulster-Scots comes from a native speaking perspective. Though suppressed for many years he found his Ulster Scots voice in poetry. His Ulster-Scots work includes: 'Lock Doon Poems'; 'Peep Frae Your Mind' (poems); short stories collection 'Tales Frae the life o James Finlay Bruce'; spoken word performance 'A Dander Through Narnia'; videos of poems; and even an Electronic Dance Music (EDM) track. His children's books include: 'Sled Down' - a Christmas story set in and around Culmore and Derry's Walls; 'Captain Timmy and the Bobbing Barrel' - a story about pirates who lose their ship at Portrush; 'George and the Elephant' - the story of a child's struggle with dyslexia; spoken word story - 'Captain Timmy and the Terrible Turnip: a Halloween Tale'; and he is currently working on 'Captain Timmy and Finn McCool's Griddle'.

Further information: www.robertcampbell.me

Further information:

Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin,
T: 028 71 264132,
catherine@culturlann.org



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This information is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, Braille, PDF, audio formats (CD, MP3, DAISY) and minority languages.

For further information on alternative formats please contact

Tel: 028 7125 3253

Email: equality@derrystrabane.com

Further information on Ulster-Scots is available at
www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscots

For further information

call: 028 71 376 579

or visit: www.derrystrabane.com/ulsterscotsweek



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