

At the Scottish Storytelling Centre – telling St Andrew's story

From St Andrew's Day until Burns Night, the Scottish Storytelling Centre in association with Scotland's Winter Festivals will use Scotland's traditions to bring people together, home and away, in cross-generational celebration.



Inspired by St Andrew himself, 'Fisherman's Feast, Sailor's Rest' on St Andrew's Day has received support through Scotland's Winter Festivals to bring the Galilean fisherman's story of strength and sociability to life, accompanied by a sumptuous supper of fish and chips, celebrating cultural diversity and the contribution of exiles and migrants to Scotland's culture.

Storyteller and author Donald Smith, who will recite the St Andrew story, said: 'Andrew's story is one of persecution and exile. But throughout he is a bridge builder, making friends and connections wherever he goes, even as a refugee. That makes him the patron saint of welcome and hospitality, especially in troubled times.'

The traditional, creative arts are a vital and diverse element of Scottish cultural life, valued by people and communities – locally, nationally and internationally – whatever their background. In Scotland, the traditional arts are underpinned by hospitality: sharing what we have to offer as people gather together, by invitation or coincidence, providing a means for voices hidden from mainstream society to be heard.

'Fisherman's Feast, Sailor's Rest' on Thursday 30 November at

7pm will embrace music, song, poetry and story with contributions from Marjorie Lotfi Gill, Carlos Arredondo and John Hamilton – representing Iranian, Chilean and Irish inheritances.

John Hamilton as host will intersperse the evening with a selection of short stories exploring tales of the sea that link Ireland to Scotland, and both to the rest of the world, as he states:

‘The sea is a road that leads away in hope or in despair. It may also be the road that leads home.’

Marjorie Lotfi Gill will share poems for her pamphlet ‘Pilgrim’, commissioned by Enterprise Music Scotland, which loosely follow the experiences of her father who left Tabriz as a young migrant for America, returned to Tehran, and then left for good during the Iranian Revolution.

These experiences perfectly exemplify the spirit of the first St Andrew’s Day in America 288 years ago, as Marjorie explained: “The poems consider loss of homeland, the work of assimilation, questions of belonging and how the places we are from never leave us.”

Carlos Arredondo is a self-taught guitarist and singer inspired by the Chilean folklorists, Violeta Parra and Victor Jara. He is one of the oldest Latin American performers in Scotland with more than 40 years’ experience and he will share poetry and songs that explore the displacement of people from one place to another.

Storytelling, music, song and dance can play a vital role in promoting understanding between people of different faiths, nationalities and abilities, so this is the perfect event to discover and take part in tradition.

Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for International Development and

Europe, said: “Celebrating St Andrew’s Day is a great way for Scots to keep the spirit of St Andrew alive, by coming together and sharing in something special.

“The Fisherman’s Feast at the Scottish Storytelling Centre is the perfect opportunity for communities to come together and share in traditional music and stories whilst savouring one of Scotland’s most loved dishes.

“It is a fantastic way for guests to enjoy our rich Scottish Culture while marking Scotland’s special day.”

Alongside this special evening for St Andrew’s Day, the Storytelling Centre have collaborated with Girotondo Italian Children’s Club to present a fusion of Italy’s stories and folk dances mixed with Scotland’s ceilidh tradition for an ‘Italian & Scottish Ceilidh’ full of fun and intrigue for all the family, on Saturday 2 December.

See www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk for further information and further events as part of Scotland’s Winter Festivals for Hogmanay and Burns Night.

Thursday 30 November 2017 | 7pm (2hrs) | £15

Fisherman’s Feast, Sailor’s Rest

A celebration of Scotland’s rich cultural diversity for St Andrew’s Night. Enjoy a feast of one of Scotland’s national dishes – Fish and Chips – along with music, song and story emphasising the contribution of wanderers, migrants and exiles to Scotland’s national story.

Saturday 2 December 2017 | 5.30pm (2hrs 30) | £5

Italian & Scottish Ceilidh

A family ceilidh with a difference! The Girotondo Italian

Children's Club invites you to mark St Andrew's Day in a unique way, with a fusion of Italian stories and folk dances mixed with Scottish ceilidh dancing. Come with family and friends to learn some new dances with live music!