THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER
Groundbreakers: Ulster’s Forgotten Radical Isabella Tod

MONDAY 28 OCTOBER
Amhrán an Fhir Bháin

THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER
Stumpy’s Brae

THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER & FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER
Blas

Places of Interest: Moira, Cultra, Omagh
Groundbreakers: Ulster’s Forgotten Radical Isabella Tod

Sunday 27 October
BBC Two Northern Ireland, 9pm

In a new BBC Northern Ireland documentary, former Apprentice star and Northern Ireland native, Margaret Mountford, goes on a journey to explore the life of a remarkable woman whose lasting impact is felt across Northern Ireland and beyond every day – but whose name and achievements are largely forgotten.

This visionary, regarded by many as one of the UK’s most prominent feminists of the nineteenth century, helped persuade Queen’s University to admit women into classes and was one of the few women, of her time, asked to give evidence to Parliament.

Her name is Isabella Tod. As part of BBC Two Northern Ireland’s ‘Groundbreakers’ season, Groundbreakers: Ulster's Forgotten Radical Isabella Tod, on Sunday, October 27, explores this remarkable woman's life and vision.

Isabella Tod was born in Scotland in 1836 but came to live in Belfast in the 1860s – a city that was changing from a sleepy town into an important industrial city.

Margaret takes a journey into the past and discovers a woman living in Victorian Belfast who did more than most in the advancement of women’s rights in modern times – intent on transforming the role of women in society and was one of the most successful campaigners for social reform in the late 1800s.

Groundbreakers: Ulster’s Forgotten Radical Isabella Tod, on BBC Two Northern Ireland on Sunday, October 27 at 9pm, is made for BBC Northern Ireland by Below The Radar with assistance from the Northern Ireland Screen Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund.

KM

The Farm Fixer 3/6

Monday 28 October
BBC One Northern Ireland, 7.30pm

Times are tough for small family farms and rural enterprises. They need help. They need to find new ways to make money. And the clock is ticking.

In the third of six programmes of The Farm Fixer on Monday 28 October on BBC One Northern Ireland at 7.30pm, Nick Hewer, Lord (Alan) Sugar’s right-hand man, continues to provide the strategic planning expertise to farmers and rural enterprises they so desperately need.

Nick’s business motto is that doing nothing is not an option.

But how will the individuals involved in the series respond to Nick’s no nonsense approach or will he have a fight on his hands?
Nick, whose mother is from Bangor and he was educated in County Kildare, admits he is no farming guru. But with 40 years of experience he believes that what he does have to offer is common sense.

Getting the Nick Hewer treatment in this third programme will be Ian and Karen Matthews who run a pet crematorium on the outskirts of Moira in County Down. For the business to survive some radical changes are needed. Can Nick help turn ash into cash?

CC

Amhrán an Fhir Bháin
NEW
Monday 28 October
BBC Two Northern Ireland, 10pm

Amhrán an Fhir Bháin is a documentary celebrating the life and works of Seán Bán Mac Grianna from Rannafast in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

Seán Bán (1905-1979) was born into a family of poets and storytellers in an area of Donegal with an astonishing Irish literary heritage. The brother of renowned Donegal writers Séamus Ó Grianna and Seosamh Mac Grianna, he was himself a magnificent writer, poet, storyteller and musician.

In the 30 minute film, on Monday 28 October on BBC Two Northern Ireland at 10pm, Séan Bán is remembered through the significant body of beautiful songs that he penned, songs such as ‘Mheall Sí Lena Glórthaí Mé’ and ‘Cumha an Fhile’, songs that have provided hits for Altan, Clannad, and many others since.

Seán Bán spent his life in Rannafast where he taught at the popular Irish language college, Coláiste Bhríde. He is fondly remembered by many who passed through its doors as a wonderful teacher and seanchaí.

An expert on genealogy, he has been described as one of the last Gaelic bards and is also remembered fondly by the Irish language community in Belfast. During the Irish language revival in Belfast in the 1960’s, members of Cumann Chluain Ard recorded Seán Bán telling stories and singing songs. The recordings were used at the time as a teaching resource and they were subsequently published in a book.

‘Amhrán an Fhir Bháin’ is a celebration of his life and works and features performances from T with The Maggies, Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde and Aodh Mac Ruairí among others.

Producer Gráinne Holland says: “I have long held an interest in Seán Bán Mac Grianna’s work and it was a great honour for me to be able to tell his story in this way. His songs and poems are as fresh today as ever and remain popular with a younger generation.”

Amhrán an Fhir Bháin was produced by Imagine Media Productions with funding from Northern Ireland Screen’s Irish Language Broadcast Fund.

MD
Blas 🌟 NEW
Thursday 31 October & Friday 1 November
BBC Radio Ulster, 7pm

BBC Radio Ulster’s Irish Language programme will be broadcasting live from Killarney at Oireachtas na Samhna, the annual festival celebrating traditional Irish music, dance and verse. On Thursday, October 31 Tomaí Ó Conghaile will be on air sharing all the craic and culture the festival has to offer and on Friday, November 1 Lynette Fay will be getting your weekend underway live from the festival.

MD

Stumpy’s Brae 🌟 NEW
Thursday 31 October
BBC Two Northern Ireland, 10pm

Stumpy’s Brae is a dark, gruesome and terrifying tale of temptation, murder and revenge to be shown on BBC Two Northern Ireland on Thursday 31 October at 10pm.

When their meagre life savings are unjustly taken from them, a poor peasant couple decide, one stormy night, to offer shelter to a mysterious pedlar in exchange for money. However, a terrible turn of events brings about strange and horrifying consequences with a supernatural twist.

Starring Nigel O’Neill, Louise Matthews and Lalor Roddy, Stumpy’s Brae is a chilling adaptation by Darren Gibson of the eponymous poem by celebrated writer Cecil Frances Alexander, famous for penning such hymns as ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ and ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’.

The half hour drama filmed on location at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra and the Ulster American Folk Park outside Omagh, was produced by Belfast-based Six Mile Hill Productions for BBC Northern Ireland and received funding from Northern Ireland Screen’s Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund.

CC