

RAW DEAL: READERS' CHAMPION

PAGES 38

6 PAGES OF PUZZLES & CARTOONS

STARTS ON PAGE 51



INSIDE



INSIDE TODAY

FashionBeautyHealthShort StoriesShopping MoviesTV newsTV reviews TV listingsPodcasts RadioBooksIdeal homes Gardens Real LifeScore SpyBakingFoodWine RestaurantsInstagrams TheatreMusicRoss King TravelScotland the Best

...and much more

RELAX FRANCIS GAY - PAGE 46

IMAGES

BEST FROM THE WEEK - PAGE 36

LETTERS READERS' VIEW - PAGE 39

SPORT KENNY DALGLISH - POST MATCH

About time rich coughed up for Covid

JUDY ON BILLIONAIRES' CALL FOR MORE TAX - PAGE 24



POST Match All the action and reaction inside



Makar: Speaking Scots

By Murray Scougall mscougall@sundaypost.com

Regarding Scots as a language in its own right would boost the country's self-confidence, according to the Makar.

Kathleen Jamie, the national poet, says young people are reclaiming Scots and says it is time the country gained confidence from being bilingual.

Whether Scots is a language, a

dialect, or English slang has been discussed for years but Jamie is under no doubt and says young Scots such as poet Len Pennie and singer Iona Fyfe are among those promoting its use on social media to a new audience.

"It's wonderful to see younger people developing it again, because when I was young we associated it with old people," Jamie said. "It was old people's language, something to do with Hugh MacDiarmid, and you didn't

speaking it but if you did, you got the belt. Young people are revitalising it and that is wonderful.

"If you have a minority language, why not use it? If you can be bilingual, who wouldn't? Bilingual people are smarter, more confident, more successful, because they can move between languages. We all speak English, so if we can get our Scots up and running as a parallel language, yes!

"Treating Scots as a fully-fledged language, which a lot of lowland

will help make us less timorous beasties

Scots can be bilingual in, would be wonderful for our self-esteem, which we have real problems with in this country, and I'm convinced a lot of that is to do with the uncertainty around language."

Before Burns Night on Tuesday, Jamie questioned why generations of pupils have been taught to recite the Bard's verse for only one week of the year.

"Isn't it bizarre?" continued Jamie, who taught creative writing at the universities of St Andrews

and Stirling. "We learn Burns for one week and then drop it immediately, because 'You'll not get a job speaking like that.'"

Last week, it was revealed by researchers at Glasgow University that even Burns was discouraged from writing in Scots. Academics at the Centre for Robert Burns Studies looked at 800 letters written by Burns and around 400 from his friends and admirers.

Dr John Moore, a Scottish physician and travel writer, wrote

regularly to Burns and advised him: "...it is evident that you already possess a great variety of expression and command of the English language, you ought therefore to deal more sparingly for the future in the provincial dialect - why should you by using that limit the number of your admirers to those who understand the Scottish, when you can extend it to all persons of taste who understand the English language..."



National Bard Robert Burns

Dr Rhona Brown, senior lecturer, said: "But Burns is his own man and ignores the advice and carries on. I think history has now shown he was right."

For Jamie, who was appointed Scotland's fourth Makar last August, the influence of Burns was around her from an early age.

"When I was a wee girl, the books every Scot had was the Bible and Burns, and a load of comics," explained the 59-year-old, who lives in Fife. "My family

comes from Ayr, so he's been a figure in my life forever. "He manages to reinvent himself for every occasion, it's quite clever. Now he's being re-examined as an eco-poet or a nature poet. Why not?"

Jamie will participate in several international Burns' Night celebrations and will be in conversation with playwright David Greig at Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Winter Words literary festival, online on Feb 19.

Burns nominee: Traffickers hate us. I travel with utmost caution

By Sally McDonald smcdonald@sundaypost.com

In an Indian courtroom, Dr Digambar Narzary locks eyes with the child sex trafficker he has just helped to convict. What he sees is pure hatred. This man wants to kill him, and he is not the first.

Gangsters wrote in chilling detail exactly what they would do to Narzary if he continued to wrestle children from their grasp. But he is undeterred; his resolve and courage fuelled by the girls he saves.

Narzary, who along with his supporters has rescued 6,200 girls since setting up the charity Nedan in India in 2004, is one of three finalists in this year's Robert Burns Humanitarian Award.

Part of the annual Burns an' a' that! Festival, the prestigious prize recognises courage, commitment, inspiration, and hands-on humanitarian efforts from people of any nationality, race, age or gender.

Other finalists in the scheme, supported by South Ayrshire Council and Event Scotland are Sister Lucy Kurien, founder and director of Maher, an organisation for abused and destitute women and children, also in India, and Paul Kasonkomona, a human rights defender and director of the Centre for Tolerance and Peace, in Zambia.

Speaking from Assam, from where vulnerable children are snatched or lured for sexual slavery, bonded labour, forced marriage and the illegal trade in human organs, Narzary said: "Young girls are lured from Assam to Rajasthan for marriage because there is a shortage of women there. Traffickers take adolescent girls

Young people hold placards and participate in a silent protest rally against the rape and murder of a teenage girl in Ranchi, in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhan in 2018

Picture AP



for men who are 40 plus. Just 10 days ago I got back one 17-year-old girl trafficked to Rajasthan for marriage."

The activist admitted: "Every horrifying experience leaves its mark. We ourselves need lots of professional counselling to deal with the kind of trauma we face."

The girls Nedan has saved are those whose cases are pending court or who have been through the court system. In reality, Narzary says, the organisation has saved 11,200, the additional number made up of those who have benefited from preventative measures or whose cases are not in the legal system.

But success is hard won. Narzary said: "By preventing somebody's business, you become their biggest enemy. I have met many traffickers in the court and in the police station. I see lots of hatred on their face towards us."

"I received a letter from the traffickers after I brought back 11 girls from Mumbai. They said if I continue my prevention, raid and rescue work, they will kill me. I am not afraid as I always believe wrongdoers are much more afraid than we are. But I travel with utmost caution."

The activist began work liberating bonded child labourers from the carpet industries before returning to help in his home in Assam, a region riven by conflict and displacement. In 2002 he and "other like-minded professionals" began visiting its

many relief camps to see what they could do to help.

"We realised there were no adolescent girls and boys in the camps," he said. "Their parents told us vehicles came from neighbouring states and took them away in the name of work and education and they never returned."

He said: "That was a turning point when we realised there was a huge number of girls being trafficked. "We then carried out raids and rescues while the traffickers were taking girls by train, by bus, by taxi. That's how our movement started."

It also went on to set up the Destination Girls Home, where the youngsters stay while their families are found and where they can safely remain until the age of 18 if there is no family to take care of them. The charity places and supports them in education and when they have completed studies helps them to find work. Older girls who are still vulnerable stay on campus in an after care unit - some go on to become Nedan's girl champion activists, supporting their work. Children returned to families are subject to monthly follow-up visits to ensure they remain safe at home.

Narzary said: "It is a tremendous happiness to see a child being educated, begin to heal their own scars, and to have a smile on their face."

He added: "I was pleased to hear that I have been nominated for this award. I have been liberating children from modern-day slavery for the last two decades. I want to continue my work and provide new lives to children."



Digambar Narzary

THE SHORTLIST

The winner of the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award will be chosen towards the end of January with Sister Lucy Kurien from India and Paul Kasonkomona from Zambia also in the running.

Sister Kurien joined the Holy Cross order at the age of 19 and in 1997 founded Maher, meaning "Mother's Home", a community and interfaith organisation. It looks after hundreds of street children and destitute or mentally ill men and women. It has transformed the lives of more than 85,000 people. Kasonkomona is a human rights defender

and executive director of the Centre for Tolerance and Peace, in Zambia. He champions the health of LGBT people, and other marginalised groups. In 2013, he was arrested for arguing recognition of gay rights was necessary to combat the Aids epidemic in Africa. His acquittal took 22 months.

Weather

Aberdeen, Inverness and Highlands - It will be a dry start to the day with some brightness. Through the morning it will remain largely cloudy although there will be some breaks to allow for sunny spells. Mostly cloudy afternoon away from the far east. Max 7-10C. Dundee, Tayside and Fife - After a bright start to the day it will become rather dull with limited brightness through the morning. In the afternoon there will be some more breaks in the cloud allowing for sunny spells. Max 6-9C.

Central and Clyde Coast - An overcast start will set the theme of the day with lots of cloud through the morning and afternoon with limited brightness. Remaining dry despite the cloud. Max 6-9C. Scottish mountain forecast for climbers - It will be a dry but cloudy morning in the hills. Some rain possible in the afternoon moving in on the strong wind. Outlook - A rather cloudy day countrywide with a band of rain moving in across the west. Dry further east with some sun possible in the far east.



EDITORIAL POLICY

The Sunday Post is committed to journalism of the highest standards, producing our newspaper with accuracy, honesty and fairness. Our journalists adhere to the Society of Editors' Code of Practice, administered by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). It is our policy to publish clarifications and corrections as quickly as possible. To make a complaint, please email us at news@sundaypost.com or write to The Editor, The Sunday Post, Speirs View, 50 High Craighall Road, Glasgow G4 9UD or call 01382 223131. If we cannot resolve your complaint, IPSO can be contacted at www.ipso.co.uk, by emailing complaints@ipso.co.uk or calling 0300 1232220.

NEWSDESK GLASGOW: 0141 567 2814 DUNDEE: 01382 223131

LOTTERY NUMBERS BONUS

NATIONAL 1 20 25 35 46 59 28

HEALTH 16 26 27 35 36 42