



The Northumbrian Language Society



PATRON: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.

PRESIDENT: Hon. Aldmn. Mrs. E. Mitchell, O.B.E., M.A..

Newsletter 19

HAAVEST HYEM—WOR KERN SUPPOR.

The Reed Supper is well established on the poet's birthday, 30th April, but the other Society function we have tried, a party at Christmas or New Year, has latterly run into difficulties, of bad weather, dark nights, crowding functions or whatever. So it is that we turn to another traditional festival, Harvest Home, with a Kern Supper as our theme.

THE DATE is to be **FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER**, at 7.30 P.M.. **THE PLACE** will be a ground-floor function room in the refurbished **QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL**, Bridge St., Morpeth (near the Market Place).

THE TRADITIONAL MEAL will be Scotch broth and stottie cake; coffee and girdle cake.

Then there follows an entertaining **TALK** by the well-known **JOAN PRINGLE** of Alnwick, on her experiences as a war-time Land Girl in North Northumberland, shedding light on folk, life and language there.

The remainder of the evening is devoted to contributions of verse and prose from those present.

Admission will be **by ticket**, costing £4.00 inclusive, to be had from Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, NE61 1RF (513308 for enquiries). Time is short, however and we must order the suppers in advance. **PLEASE, therefore, send the ticket order form to arrive by Wednesday 29th September.** Tickets will all be posted until time seems too short, when they will be held at the function room door.

■ **Joan Pringle** may be remembered taking part in a dialects programme with that expert and friend of Northumbrian and the Society, Mr. Stanley Ellis.

THE NEWSLETTER.

The Society's Executive would like to see the Newsletter appear more often, and seeks

(a) contributions, interesting, relevant to the Society's concerns, and **short!**

(b) someone able and interested to produce, or at least edit, the Newsletter.

Until (b) comes to pass, contributions should be sent to R. Bibby, at Westgate House.

THE COLD TROD.

This is the romantic name of one Society project, to list and publicize speakers and singers willing to commend Northumbrian to their listeners and alert them to the need to use the language much more if it is to be saved from extinction. An organizer is needed who could receive suggested speakers' and singers' names, write to them and list them if they agree to support the language. Copies of the lists would then go to societies, clubs etc. seeking local speakers and singers.

If you might be interested in the organizer's worthwhile task, please write or ring R. Bibby at Westgate House, Morpeth 513308.

Meanwhile any readers who can suggest any speaker (not necessarily talking about the language, but about some aspect of Northumberland (Tweed-Tyne) or singer (of Northumbrian songs amongst others) could send word to Westgate House, to get the project started.

THE MOODY BOOK.

The Binlesses patiently continue with their marathon task of word-processing this lengthy work. They hope to finish Volume 2 by Christmas. Meanwhile, your Chairman has proof-read their print-off of Volume 1, but all the corrections have to be put into the computer and, so important is the book, the corrected print-out had better be proof-read again (a much lesser job than the first). That leaves Volume 2...

DR. HULL'S WRITINGS.

Moody was always referring to this great friend and fellow student of Northumbrian (mostly of its Tyneside dialect) and we have long hoped to track down his writings on the subject. Now our Executive member, Miss Meg Burdon, has tracked down much of them. She found his articles in the naturalists' magazine, "Vasculum"--notes on place-names and dialect. More recently she

has tracked down his "Tyneside Glossary" (much mentioned by Moody) in a Newcastle museum, and we look forward to publishing both after Moody's book. Many thanks go to the tireless Miss Burdon!

A JOE HOLLAND MEMORIAL.

The wish to publish the writings of our late and much-missed Vice-Chairman was mentioned in the previous issue. Since then his son, Mr. Jim Holland, has been most helpful, providing the files of his father's writings. These have been sorted into those published in the University's four volumes of dialect writings by members of Miss Jean Crocker's Further Education classes, and those apparently unpublished. The first group amounts to about 33,000 words; the second to about 35,000, so that some selection and pruning may be needful. The Newcastle Branch is most active in this work, and the hope is to print Joe's unprinted works in a memorial volume, and separately to produce a volume of selections from the classes' booklets, both Joe's and others' work.

THE ROTHBURY FESTIVAL 1993

This year the Rothbury Festival has been dispersed over three occasions, one of which, **tomorrow**, is of special interest to N.L.S. members. From 12 noon tomorrow, there are the competitions for pipes, accordion, fiddle, other instruments, singing, composing and **dialect poetry**. These are followed by a concert featuring some judges and competition winners. Judges include Kathryn Tickell and Iain MacPhail. Enquiries: Rothbury (0669) 20149 or 20718.

THE REV. DR. JOHN EDWARD HULL, 1863-1960.

His career: pupil teacher, Perkinsville School; student, St. Bede's Training College, Durham; student, Hatfield Hall, Durham University; B.A. degree 1888; M.A. degree c. 1890; Holy Orders; Vice-Principal, Bede College; curate at South Shields, Bedlington, Haltwhistle in turn; Vicar at Ninebanks 1905, then Belford, until 1944; Hon. Degree of D.Sc. in 1933. His principal research was into spiders, finding many species new to science, and others new to British arachnologists. He introduced new techniques into both fieldwork and classification. He was a founder and for 24 years editor of "Vasculum". His light relief in research was into place-names and Tyneside dialect. He died at 93, at home in High Spen.

APOLOGY.

And here this newsletter must shudder to a halt, not for lack of news, or letters, or heart, or patience, but for lack of time.

This year's Morpeth Gathering took a vast time to be closed down and mopped up, and that left "Northumbriana" 44, half done, running late. When finished and printed it was three months late*, and then it took ten days of motoring in assorted rains and unassorted clouds to get it round the faithful retailers who kindly stock it. Then there was the weekly column to do, yet again, for Thursday, and the realization that the Newsletter must go out this week if the Kern Supper were to be attended by anyone. If this is the last sentence, it can be photocopied tomorrow and even posted then, the 16th--thirteen days for the meals to be counted and ordered, almost the customary fortnight!

*Of course this means an extra 3 months late. The last many issues have been three months late, ever since this quarterly turned itself into a half-yearly, without so much as a "by your leave".

Post no bills.