



The Northumbrian Language Society Newsletter 27



Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland
Editor: Terry Common **February 1997**

AGM AND REED SUPPER: 30 APRIL 1997 Details p. 2

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Aye, No.27. This is my sixth newsletter since becoming Editor. As they say, "Hoo time flies". Since our last letter we have sadly lost our Chairman, Roland Bibby. To lose a Chairman of any society is always tragic and sad, but we, indeed Northumberland, didn't lose just a Chairman but someone who stood for so many things in our County, and will be very difficult to replace. The usual format of this newsletter has changed (just a little) because of this.

In our last newsletter I promised you a little insight into my experiences of "Allington" show and a few more place names of Northumberland. Well, I have left them out this time, not that Roland would have disapproved but I feel they would be better kept for next time. Kim and I felt it was important to get this letter out as quickly as possible so everyone was informed of the Gathering not so far away, also the AGM and "Fred Reed Suppa Neet" on 30th April. I'm pleased to tell you the venue for the Reed Neet has been booked, and, tho' through difficulties, has had to be changed, will I feel be very cosy and hopefully enjoyable. I shall leave it to Kim to provide you with details of the same. Ye knaa, the nasty leetle bits about hoo much eet's gan i cost ye, ind such.

Useful Addresses and Numbers

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Treasurer: Miss H. Dickson, 95 Rosalind St., Ashington, NE63 9BW

Newcastle Branch Secretary: George Wallace 0191 2583105

Hexham Branch Secretary: George Johnson 01434 605413

Craft Fayre

We have had news that there is to be a Craft Fayre at Otterburn Mill on 15th and 16th March from 10 am to 4 pm.

Live Theatre

The Live Theatre Co. have a hilarious comedy "For the Crack" on tour in February and March, including a performance at Ashington

Leisure Centre on 5th March. For information ring 01670 520512.

Cliff Jackson

Members will be sad to hear that Cliff Jackson, an Executive Committee member in the late 1980s and early 90s, has died this month at the early age of 44. Cliff was a keen linguist and being a Morpethian took a strong interest in the Romany words used in the town.

Reed Supper and Society AGM:

As it is unlikely that another newsletter will be produced before April, the subscription reminder and Reed Supper application form are enclosed. Please note that Terry Common is handling supper applications, and Hazel Dickson the subs. (Cheques payable to Northumbrian Language Society, please.)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: TO ALL MEMBERS:

You are cordially invited to the 1997 Annual Meeting, to be held at the Sun Inn, Morpeth, on **Wed. 30th April** at 7.00 p.m.. The Sun Inn is near St. Mary's Church on the road in to Morpeth from Newcastle and the South, with a bus stop outside and a good and large car park adjoining the premises.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 1996 Annual Meeting.
3. Executive's Report for 1996-7.
4. Treasurer's Report for 1996-7. (Note: it is proposed to increase subscriptions from 1998 to help cover more realistically postage, newsletters, society projects, etc. The subscription level of £2 has remained unaltered since the Society's formation in 1983)
5. Election of Officers:
 - a) President (elected 1996, Mr. Tom Hadaway)
 - b) Vice-President (1996-7: Mrs. Janet Brown)
 - c) Chairman (1996-7: Mr. R. Bibby; post now vacant)
 - d) Vice-Chairman (Mr B. Robinson)
 - e) Secretary (Mrs. K.M. Bibby-Wilson)
 - f) Asst. Secretary (Miss M. Burdon)
 - g) Treasurer (Miss H. Dickson)
 - h) Bibliographer (Mr. G. Wallace)
 - i) Newsletter Editor: (Mr. T.A. Common)
 - j) Hon. Auditor (Mr. T.H. Horne)
6. Election of Executive: (5) (Miss M. Burdon, Miss J. Wood, Mr. G. Johnson, Mr. N. Short, Mr. G. Simpson).
7. Other Elections (if proposals received):
 - a) Fellows of the Society (**Miss K. Porteous**)
 - b) Hon. Life Past Presidents (none proposed)
 - c) Hon. Past Vice-Presidents (none proposed)
 - d) Hon. Life Members (none proposed)
8. Any Other Business.

The Thirteenth Reed Supper

Again we celebrate the life and work of the late Fred Reed F.N.L.S., poet and student of Northumbrian, for years editor of *Ashington Colliery Magazine*, and co-founder of *Northumbriana Magazine* and of this Society. The Supper takes place on Fred's birthday, Wed. 30th April, at about 8.30 p.m., at the Sun Inn, Morpeth (see Annual Meeting notice above).

The 13th Reed Supper Programme

*Peypin in the Muckle Greet Stotty Cyek.
Sarrimoanyil Forst Hack bi the Preseedint,
The Stotty Cyek Weesh bi the Chairman.
Tradeeshnal Suppor o' Peys an' Peas, an' thin Stotty
Address ti the Muckle Greet Stotty
Ripley on eets bihaaf
Address ti the Baard, wor ain Freed Reed
Ripley on hees bihaaf
Bits an' Pieces, hwen aal willin is axed ti hoy in tha bits o' varse,
tyales, sangs an' owt else thit entortyains aal gud Northumbrians.
Bennydikshin, canny and tradishnal, bi Freed Reed.
(Speakers invited include Mike Tickell, Paul Murphy, Norman Grainger and Peter Mortimer who all expressed strong interest when approached by the Secretary. Due to the sad loss of the Chairman, there has not yet been time to ascertain whether all are still available.)*

30th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering 4th-6th April 1997

At the start of April, before the Reed Supper, comes the Morpeth Gathering, the annual festival of Northumbrian traditions and culture, in its usual slot of the weekend after Easter.

The Gathering, most of you will not need reminding, is the grandparent of the Society. A programme of events is enclosed with this newsletter. You are warned that the main streets will be closed for an hour for the Young People's Pageant and Border Cavalcade on Gathering Saturday, and that parking in Morpeth is currently under review--the parking disc may be replaced by car park charges.

This year the dialect sessions, kindly sponsored by Mr. Jim and Mrs. Eve Short of Morpeth, take place on Gathering Saturday in Collingwood House, Oldgate, and are followed in the same venue by the singing competitions. Refreshments will be available for performers and audience at the afternoon session. Later on Saturday dialect pieces by last year's winners will feature at the early evening concert in the Chantry Museum.

Gathering Competitions

You are reminded that the Storytelling and Fine Northumbrian Speech classes are entered on the day, but poetry, prose, composing and other writing competitions are entered in advance. Those entering dialect poetry and prose classes are requested to attend, or send a deputy, in order to recite their entries during the session. As the late Chairman so often helped out by reciting pieces by absentees, it is hoped that writers will this year make every effort to come along to make the Dialect

Recital a success.

The **closing date** for writing competitions is **15th March**. Entry forms and rules leaflets are available from The Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum, Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1PJ or from the Competitions Secretary, John Bibby, Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, NE61 1RF. Entry fees have had to rise slightly to cover postage, winners' awards and so on.

Fishing Day

We hope to reschedule the postponed social event for some time in the future, though Spring looks unlikely at the moment.

Northumbria

It is hoped that the Society and the Morpeth Gathering will resume production of the magazine, in some form, after an interval, despite the loss of its founding Editor, our Chairman. There is still a backlog of Language Survey findings to publish, and many articles from contributors in hand or promised, and of course the winning and other entries to the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering's writing competitions will still need to be published. We shall keep you informed of progress. Any stockists or subscribers reading this are requested to bear with us.

Yule Meet

The Society's Christmas get-together on Saturday 14th December at Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum was a great success, though numbers were lower than in previous years.

Our new carol by Hazel Dickson was sung by those present (this was also heard just before Christmas on Radio Newcastle, sung by the Secretary during a short feature on old and new Northumbrian Christmas songs, during Julia Hankin's afternoon programme). A Christmas wampishtward (crossword, hinny) was provided; members were then invited to think up nicknames for the coins which grace our purses and came up collectively with:

1p meg 2p feckle 5p tiddler 10p femmer
20p winky 50p wonky £1 Maggie

(the last from an old joke involving it being small and brassy and wishing it could be a sovereign).

After the refreshments came the highly entertaining "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?", the Northumbrian version of "Call My Bluff" with team members Hazel Dickson, Roland Bibby and Terry Common defying the audience to identify the real meanings of ten aad words. The game worked well, and it's hoped that versions can be played by the branches at future meetings.

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See ye aal eet the Gatherin. Keep Ahad --- Terry Common