



The Northumbrian Language Society Newsletter 28

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

KIPPER KAPER: FISHING FOR FOOD AND PHRASES
the society's special Autumn event
4th OCTOBER 1997 Details p. 5

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Yuh knaa, Ah've just checked back ind wor last Newsletter was in February! So Ah thout Ah beter git on, otherwise Ah might lose me job. The truth is sometimes I don't receive anything to write about. As I've said before, I don't want this to become "Terry Common's Newsletter". It is your Newsletter, so please don't hesitate to let me have some "news"---perhaps an event you have been to or a forthcoming event which you feel may be of interest to our members---anything, no matter how small.

Sum Gatherin' News

However, this Newsletter, following the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering and the Fred Reed Neet just 2-3 weeks after, usually has enough material "tae gan at". Being involved with the Dialect side of things on Gathering Saturday and being away on the Sunday I may have to leave some of the Gathering information to Kim! Certainly the dialect at Collingwood House was very well attended, the same venue being used for the young singers afterwards. The new idea of serving tea and coffee seemed to go down well (d'ye like the pun?), thanks due to Mrs Jacqueline Wylie, her daughter Sarah and a certain Avril Common... The biscuits provided by Donkin's the Baker (which you still had to pay for) were rather novel being moulded in the form of Oldgate Clock Tower.

You know, sometimes people say to me it must be wonderful to be at the Gathering and witness all the activities going on. Well, I've run in the Great North Run a number of times and people ask the same question. The answer is, "No". In the GNR you are only involved with the people around you, who admittedly change as the race proceeds, but it is not the spectacle as you see on TV. The same thing happens at the Gathering: you know all about what you've been involved in but during that time you missed so much else.

Winnors' Concert

The Winners' Concert on Saturday night at the Bagpipe Museum was full as usual, and I did have the pleasure of being there. I don't like to pick out individuals in our Newsletter (though Nick Short certainly deserved his mention last year with his Northumbrian plaid) but I would like to mention one of our old (not auld, ye knaa, but regular) contestants in the dialect competitions over ythe years, Minnie Selkirk. To me Minnie has never come over as well as she could during dialect recital contests (me owyn obsorvations, ye knaa), but at the Concert she was brilliant and this was borne out by the applause she received. Well done, Minnie, keep it up.

Place Names

I really cannot gan on any longer just promising to tell ye about Goodwife Hot so here it is. It's the name of an earthwork situated on a hill near Birtley, North Tyne. "Hot" is a corruption of the Celtic "holt", a fort on the hill. "Goodwife" is a little more obscure, but again is a corruption of Celtic "Goodwife/Oldwife" as the fort survived longer than some of the surrounding seven forts, or to put the idea into understandable Northumbrian, "By God, she's been a gud lass, yon fort on the hill." Uhm, maybe. Eet waasn't aall thet excitin efter aal, waas eet?

Noo, here is a one for strangers to the county. Never ask where tae find the Green Lonnon. At my last count I got to eleven throughout Northumberland. I rather think there could be many more.

Barnard Castle Event

The Society has been invited by the Teesdale Arts Project to take part in a dialect evening at Barnard Castle on the evening of Monday 10th November. Those interested in coming along, whether as audience or speakers, should contact Kim (tel. no. & address p.5) for details which are to be finalised soon.

Live Theatre

The Live Theatre Co. produced the memorable play cycle "Twelve Tales of Tyneside" earlier this summer. The event, performed over two nights (or matinees!) included humorous links by Leonard Barras, using Tyneside dialect as only he can, and moving pieces by our President, Tom Hadaway, and Mike Chaplin, son of the late Sid Chaplin, our first President. One of the plays, by Shaun Prendergast, used the Northumbrian poem "The Swain" by Fred Reed as a vital part of its story.

Northumbriana

The magazine has not yet resumed production, but should be relaunched soon. Contact Kim (p.5) with any queries/orders.

Reed Supper and Society AGM:

Over forty members and friends attended the thirteenth annual Reed Supper on 30th April, one of the most enjoyable such suppers we have had, though fewer came along to our AGM earlier in the evening.

A message of greeting from the President, Tom Hadaway, who was indisposed (wey, man, he hed a partickly bay-ad smit), was read by Vice-President Janet Brown. The meeting agreed to raise subscriptions by £1 from April 1998 (divvent whinge, thuv been two pund since we forst saarted in 1983, an wuh still hevin con-seshuns fa the seeneeor cittizens); the officers and committee for 1996-7 were re-elected for the year 1997-8, and the post of Chairman left vacant by the untimely death of founder Roland Bibby was filled by Gosforth member Peter Arnold.

Ann Sessoms piped in the muckle Greet Stotty; toasts and replies were delivered with aplomb and enthusiasm by Dick Lowes (to his grandmother's stotty), Norman Grainger (on behalf of the singing stotty), Terry Common (to the bard) and Peter Mortimer (on Fred's behalf). A varry canny time waas hed bi aall.

Age Concern

---is hoping to bring together older people and children on walks or in the classroom. Talking about an area, reminiscing and explaining words, games and the "olden" days helps youngsters with history and social skills and is enjoyable for grown-ups. Anyone interested should contact Janet Brown (01670 790465).

News from the Branches

Hexham At the meeting of the Hexham Branch of the Northumbrian Language Society held on Wednesday 4th June, members endeavoured to speak the Northumbrian language throughout in an effort to help preserve this beautiful language. All members present contributed and there were some amusing and interesting incidents related which happened mainly during their school days. A great evening was had by all and a very positive contribuition made to this worthy cause.

Mr Mike Tickell has been invited to attend the next meeting, to be held on Wed. 3rd Sept. at 7.30 pm in the office of Messrs. Nicholson Wood & Gregg, Priestpopple House, Priest-popple, Hexham. We shall be pleased to extend a warm welcome to anyone who can attend. George Johnson (01434 605413).

Newcastle The July meeting, held at Spital Tongues Community Centre, featured Northumbrian songs by Kim and John Bibby. These included rediscovered 19th century pieces on such still-topical issues as the proposed East-west canal and the glories of Newcastle's Leazes Park, and the song "Coaly Tyne" which was

written to the tune most commonly associated with "Auld Lang Syne", which is in fact a melody composed by the composer William Shield from Swalwell, near Gateshead.

Next Newcastle meeting is Wed. 10th September -- details from Branch Sec. George Wallace (0191 2583105).

Kipper Kaper Saturday 4th October

Our next theme day, on fishing and food in Northumberland, is to be held on the above date, in conjunction with a new initiative, Northumberland Food Week. We wor fair skumfished tryin te find a nyem fa the day, but that canny lass frem Sandyford, Jane Smailes, hit upon Kipper Kaper, se bleym hor. Members and friends are requested to meet for coffee from 10.45 am in the Ward Room of the **Olde Ship Hotel** on Main Street, Seahouses.

Provisional programme:

10.45 am onwards: Coffee and Wampishtward (crossword)

11.00: Speaker on local fish and food

11.45: Visit to Marine Life and Heritage Centre

12.45: Lunch (not covered within the costs: The Ship sells bar meals, there are several fish & chip restaurants and the beach is nearby for a picnic if you dare in October)

2 pm: Katrina Porteous on fisher language and poetry, at Olde Ship.

3.15 pm or thereabouts: Puzzle results & Finish.

Charges for the function room, morning coffee and museum admission force us to ask for £3 from each person attending (payable on the day). The Secretary would like to know how many wish to attend: **Please ring (0191 274 7756) or send the form from the bottom of the central insert page of this newsletter to the Secretary, Mrs. Kim Bibby-Wilson at 36 Auburn Gardens, Fenham, Newcastle, NE4 9XQ, by 1st October.** Please let Kim know if you have transport problems.

N-autumn-brian Musical Events

(contact Kim for further details)

Sat. 11th Oct. 10.30 am What is Northumbrian Music? A forum launching Northumberland Music Week. Morpeth Bagpipe Museum

Fri. 17th Oct. 8pm Blue Moon Band Barn Dance Ashington L.Cent.

Sat. 29th Nov. 8pm Blue Moon Band 10th Birthday Barn Dance Morpeth YMCA Hall with WercasFolk Choir (Gathering fundraiser).

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P.S. Divn't let us forgit tae tell ye aboot Allington Show next time. The date for this year's show is 11th October..