



The Northumbrian Language Society



Newsletter 29

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

* * * * * YULE MEET: * * * * *

the Society's Christmas event on the afternoon of
 Saturday 13th DECEMBER 1997 Details p. 4

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Why, ye knaa, it waas Jule wor last Newsletter, in wiv aa been sunbornt since then, if yu wor in the right place it the right time, that is. Ah had a waak up tae Harbottle lake (lough) yin day in Aagust ind had a quiet sit doun. Man, apart from the bord life there wis nowt theor, or so Ah thought! Efter aboot ten minutes an adder (yuh knaa, wor only poisonous snake) wis cumin slitherin towards us. Noo been born in the country Ah knaa these things ill not hort ye, if ye divn't attempt tae hort them. Mind, the can give ye a nasty bite which in extreme cases (doon in health, etc.), or depending where the bite is, can be fatal. But it is painful, Ah knaa, Ah've been bitten twice. Hooever, this particular beastie thowt it a gud idea tae travel ower me ankle, both ankles, ind carry on its way. Then Ah thought, "Hoo many people from wor big toons cud ever experience this?" ind Ah felt sad for them. Aye. it's great tae be a Northumbrian.

Kim told me she wanted this Newsletter oot kinda sharpish so Ahim not gan tae gan on ind on. Hooever, Ah thowt it might be right tae mention a member of wor Hexham branch, Nick Short. A wonderful article was published in the Regional News of the Journal on 24th July. The story which was laid at a spot near the Scaup Burn to commemorate the Maid of Kielder was sculpted by Nick himself. A quite lengthy and interesting story which I cannot fit in our Newsletter but a "gud yin tae keep ahead of" maybe for a future Northumbria when it gets going again. Well done, Nick.

In most Newsletters I mention the Live Theatre at Newcastle. Maybe you get sick of me reminding you of it but it is good. I've been, and I would be interested to know of other members who have enjoyed (or otherwise!) their shows.

Well, Kim, gan on noo, Finny, eet's your torn, git them tell about the cumin dates, an minc. Ah hope tae see ye aal it Morpeth Chantry on December 13th.

News from the Branches

Hexham The November meeting featured John Bibby & Kim Bibby-Wilson performing Northumbrian songs. The next meeting, following the Christmas break, will be the branch AGM on Wed. 4th February, 1998. Details from Branch Secretary George Johnson (01434 605413).

Newcastle The next Newcastle meeting will be the Branch Christmas party on Wed. 10th December. Details from Branch Secretary George Wallace (0191 2583105).

Future Events

Friday 20th February, 1998: The Grand Winter Concert of Northumbrian Music and Dialect in aid of the Morpeth Gathering. List of performers to be confirmed but includes Alistair Anderson. 7.30 pm, Morpeth Town Hall. Raffle and light refreshments. Details from Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum, 01670 519466.

Friday 17th April to Sunday 19th April, 1998: The 31st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. The usual weekend devoted to all aspects of Northumberland's traditional culture, including dialect poetry, reciting, storytelling and writing competitions. Details & competition particulars from Bagpipe Museum as above.

Saturday 13th June, 1998: a special day at Lanercost during which our Society will meet members of the Lakeland Language Society. Put this date in your diary now, and please make every effort to attend! More details when we have them.

Kipper Kaper

Our Autumn themed day was well publicised in the local press and through its inclusion in the North Northumberland Secret Kingdom Festival of Food, but this did not result in any non-members (except for honorary member-for-the-day Mr. Brown, father of our Vice President) venturing to join the eighteen-or-so of us on our pleasant and entertaining day's activities.

Bill Weeks took us on a "tour" of Northumberland's traditional recipes; the Marine Life Centre displays included a fisherman's cottage with recorded dialect conversation; there was a special visit to the 19th century smokehouse at Swallow Fish Ltd.; Bob Bolam provided a challenging Wampishtward crossword puzzle and proved that he was the original School Board Man (you had to be theor te knaa whet Ah'm gan on aboot); and Benny Graham regaled us with songs such as "The Harrin's Heed" and "Hedgehog Pie". Our thanks to all participants and the management of the Olde Ship Hotel, and our best wishes to Katrina Porteous who was indisposed and unable to come along.

Barnard Castle Event

Bob Bolam and Kim Bibby-Wilson represented the Society at a get-together run by the Teesdale Arts Project at Barnard Castle on Monday 10th November. They exchanged views and dialect readings with Kay Wilson, Literature Festival Organiser, and Kathleen Teward of Teesdale, who has published poetry by Walter Dent Bayles and who is now working on compiling a dictionary of Teesdale dialect. It was fascinating to note the similarities and differences between Northumbrian and our southern neighbour; even fewer non-standard English words seem to have survived in the Teesdale area.

St Mary's Lighthouse Centenary August 1998

To celebrate this occasion a competition is being held. Writers are requested to send poems of no more than 40 lines, typed on A4 paper, on a subject related to St Mary's Lighthouse, Curry's Point, school trips to the site, or some theme with relevant local colour. Selected poems will be published in June in an anthology and there will be a public reading at the Morden Tower in August. There is no closing date, but the earlier an entry is received the more chance it has of being included in the published selection. Send poems to Alan C Brown, 189 Stamfordham Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3JL as soon as possible.

Northumbria

The magazine has still not yet resumed production, since the nerve centre at Morpeth is currently undergoing remedial building work. The relaunch of the publication should take place during 1998. Most back issues are still available, and an index is being planned to cover issues 1-50. Details from Kim (0191 274 7756).

Members

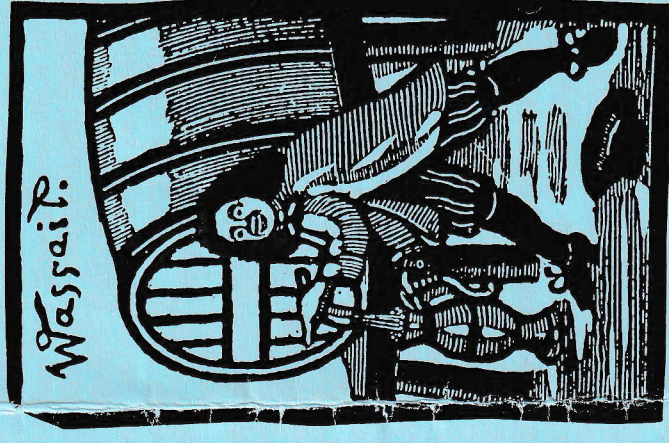
We welcome four new or rejoined members: Mr Robert Taylor of South Shields, Mr Alex Swailes of Longframlington, Mr Peter Jones of Ryton and Mr Cyril Robson of Alnwick.

Sadly, we have to report the deaths of two of our longest-standing members, Mrs Terry Robinson of Fenham, wife of Vice-Chairman of the Society and the Chairman of Newcastle Branch, Ben Robinson, whom everyone will remember for her friendliness and informed contributions during many meetings, and Mr Ronald Duncan of Morpeth, a true gentleman and tireless supporter of so many facets of Northumbrian life. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to both families.

Newsletter Editor's address: 34 Middlegate, Loansdean, Morpeth, NE61 2DD (tel. 01670 515967) Keep Ahad --- Terry Common

*Howway, Rinnies, get yorsels along te Morpeth
just afore Christmas for te tyek pairt in the*

Yule Meet



The Northumbrian
Language Society's
Christmas social
event with chat,
entertainment
and festive fare.

Non-alcoholic and
alcoholic punch provided.
Please bring mince pies
or light snacks to share.

Featuring "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?"

the Northumbrian version of "Call My Bluff"

**Saturday 13th December 1997
from 2pm to 4 pm**

**at Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum,
Bridge Street, Morpeth, Northumberland**

Admission is FREE

but donations are welcome and a raffle will be held.

Further details on this and other NLS activities from the Secretary, Northumbrian Language
Society, 36, Auburn Gardens, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9XQ (0191 274 7756)
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