



The Northumbrian Language Society Newsletter 30

Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland
Editor: Terry Common March 1998

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REED SUPPER AND AGM:
the Society's Spring event Thurs. 30th April Details below
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I hope everyone of you had a happy festive season. This is the first chance I've had to wish you all the best for 1998. Wor Society members ended the year on a festive and interesting afternoon at the annual Yule Meet at Morpeth Chantry Museum on December 13th. A couple of quizzes, raffle and entertaining recitals made it a happy afternoon. There wis plenty nibbles ind Christmas fayre tae chow on ind of course wor now "tradishunul punch" provided as usual by wor good treasurer Miss Hazel Dickson. Ind we sang wor vary ain Carol composed be the afremenshunned Hazel for wor Yule Meet in 1995.

Northumbrian Folk

Ah wis hevin i crack wi' in auld retired shepherd friend iv mine in Harbottle village the other day. Alang came a gentleman who wis stayin in yin iv the holiday cottages in Harbottle. A nice fella, who wis tarbly interested in Northumberland ind Coquetdale in particular. Efter tellin us aboot how peaceful it wass compared to his southern city he axed if we "got much snow" here in winter. No, we divnt, sed auld Anty (Anthony), but we whiles git i lot iv "snaa".

Let's Get Them Gethered In

Ad divnt knaa about the rest iv ye but ahve been tryin to git folk interested in joinin wor language society. Ah think ahve alridy gettin one ind ah knaa anither whe wud join when ah git catched up wi him. Ah think theor's plenty oot theor whe wud like to join, eets jist a case iv gettin had i them.

The Gatherin an Fred Reed Neet

At this time of year we could fill the newsletter "wi nowt else". I am going to leave the details of the Gathering up to someone whee knaas better than me, Kim. However, ah can tell ye about the Fred Reed Supper. The venue is changed again this year. It

is to be held in the concert room of Morpeth Comrades Club. As I'm a member of the Club "Ahve meneged to git eet it the rite price"! As the room can hold 120 we will be given a lot more space than last year. Unfortunately it is an upstairs room and there is no disabled access. The date remains the same, Fred's birthday, 30th April, a Thursday. The time is 8.30 pm.

The Club is well situated in Morpeth town centre, in Back Riggs shopping area. It is only 50 yards from the bus station and opposite the Co-op supermarket. There is ample parking in Back Riggs between the rear of the Club and the Iceland store.

The pies will be chicken or chicken and mushroom; vegetarian pies will be available but must be ordered at the time of booking. Latest date for booking a supper, 23rd April. Unfortunately on this occasion it will not be possible to provide coffee.

Tickets are £3 a head (a reduction on last year's price). Please complete the enclosed booking form and send it to me (address at end of newsletter) with a cheque made out to "Northumbrian Language Society" and a s.a.e. for your ticket. We would appreciate it if you would keep payments separate from Society subscriptions which should be sent to the Treasurer.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: TO ALL MEMBERS:

You are cordially invited to the 1998 Annual Meeting, to be held at the Comrades Club, Back Riggs, Morpeth, on **Thurs. 30th April** at 7.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 1997 Annual Meeting.
3. Executive's Report for 1997-8.
4. Treasurer's Report for 1997-8.
5. Election of Officers: (last year's office holders in brackets)

a) President (Mr. Tom Hadaway).	b) Asst. Secretary (Miss M. Burdon)
c) Vice-President (Mrs. Janet Brown)	d) Treasurer (Miss H. Dickson)
e) Chairman (Mr. Peter Arnoldt)	f) Bibliographer (Mr. G. Wallace)
g) Vice-Chairman (Mr B. Robinson)	h) Newsletter Editor: (Mr. T.A. Common)
i) Secretary (Mrs. K.M. Bibby-Wilson)	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:
 - a) Fellows of the Society: the Executive Committee proposes Miss Katrina Porteous, nationally acclaimed poet and student of Seahouses fisherfolk speech, nominated at last year's AGM
 - b) Hon. Life Past Presidents (none proposed)
 - c) Hon. Past Vice-Presidents (none proposed)
 - d) Hon. Life Members (none proposed).
8. Any Other Business.

Then, at 8.30 pm, members and friends are invited to:

The Fourteenth Reed Supper Programme

Celebrating 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.

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 bi Maistor Evan Martin
Ripley on eets bihaaf bi Mistress Jean Crocker
Address ti the Baard, wor ain Freed, bi Maistor Mike Tickell
Ripley on hees bihaaf bi Maistor Raymond Reed (fresh from his
muckle success at the Getherin's February fund-raisin consart)
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.

News from the Branches

Hexham Eight members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Hexham Branch of the Society held in the office of Messrs Nicholson, Wood & Gregg, Priestpopple House, Hexham on Wed. 4th February 1998. Five meetings were held during 1997 which were greatly enjoyed by all members attending. The 1997 AGM was held in February. Mr Jim Anderson was guest speaker in April and members endeavoured to speak the Northumbrian Language throughout the June meeting. Mr Mike Tickell was guest speaker at the September meeting and Kim along with brother John entertained us at the November meeting. Attendance at these meetings was respectively 9,9,6,8,8. The disappointingly small attendance at the AGM I have been told was due in part to Newcastle United scheduling their replay match for that night. Some research on the language survey was attempted at each meeting but we are hoping to be put on the right path when the survey is resumed in the future.

The meeting of Wednesday 1st April was to have welcomed Society member Mr Edwin Grieve, of the "Edwin's Kingdom" video series, as speaker, but unfortunately Mr Grieve has suffered a heart attack. Nick Short was due to perform some of his writings in his place. Our best wishes to Edwin.

---Branch Secretary George Johnson (01434 605413).

Newcastle The branch has no meeting before the Society AGM. Meetings have been held recently at members' houses. Details

from Branch Secretary George Wallace (0191 2583105).

Members

We welcome two new members since our last newsletter, Miss Ruth Matthews of Cullercoats and Mr Brendan Riley of London but originally from Blyth.

Future Events

Friday 10th April: Belford Craft Gallery hosts a traditional music concert (one of a regular series held on the second Friday of each month) featuring Hotspur's Heroes. Proprietor Audrey Atkin tells us that Llanerch Publications of Cardigan are about to issue a reprint of the 1882 Northumbrian Minstrelsy, the book, originally produced by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, which first published both words and music of Northumbrian songs along with current smallpipe tunes.

Friday 17th April to Sunday 19th April: The 31st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. The weekend devoted to Northumbrian traditions, grandparent of our Society. The dialect events take place at the usual venue, St. Robert's Church Hall, rear of Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth, on Saturday 18th, with story-telling and Northumbrian reciting at 1.30 pm. After a refreshments break, there follows at 2.30 the session involving awards to entrants to the pre-judged writing competitions, with readings from dialect prose and poetry competitors. The dialect competitions are again kindly sponsored by Jim & Eve Short.

Three of last year's winners, Nick Short, Terry Common and John Carpenter, will appear during the 6.30 pm Winners' Concert (also featuring Johnny Handle) at the Chantry Bagpipe Museum. Tickets in advance from Chantry Tourist Office (01670 511323). A programme of all events is on the back of this newsletter.

Saturday 13th June, 1998: Joint Meeting with The Lakeland Dialect Society: a special day at Lanercost at which members can share poems, stories, words and music and get to know each other. Transport arrangements will be made to help as many as possible to attend. We may hold an evening event in connection with this on the Friday or Saturday. Details will be sent out in the next newsletter, following the AGM.

Subscriptions are due April 1st

A form for you to complete is enclosed. Please send subs to our Treasurer, Hazel Dickson, at the address on the form. You may bring them along to the AGM but you are reminded that subs must be paid at the start as only paid-up members may vote. It also helps Hazel if she receives cheques before the AGM so that she can prepare receipts/membership cards, rather than spending the evening submerged in a ledger letting her pies and peas go cold.

Northumbriana

While we still can't predict when issue no. 51 might emerge, the editorial base is getting back to normal after damp-proofing, wood-worming, rewiring and other -ings, and the index to the first 50 editions is very nearly prepared. This has been conscientiously tackled by our Vice President, Janet Brown, and is likely to be available soon---details in the next newsletter and possibly at the AGM.

Steps are being taken to provide copies of the previously sold-out back numbers 1, 8 and 10 (these will have to be priced at about £2 each to cover production costs), and all other back issues are available at their various cover prices. A new member recently purchased all the back numbers (except the elusive out-of-print three volumes) in one go at the knock-down discount price of £25. If you'd like to order any back issues or reserve an index, please write to Kim Bibby-Wilson c/o Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, NE61 1RF.

Bits an Berbs

***A fascinating reprint, "Hetton-le-Hole Pitmatic Talk, A Dialect Dictionary of 1896" edited by Revd. FMT Palgrave was published before Christmas by David Ridley of Johnstone-Carr Local History Publications, PO Box 140, Gateshead, NE8 3YP. While there is no space for a review here, it is recommended to members as it reveals the similarities and differences between the speech of that area of Durham and the language of our area of interest further north which was recorded in Heslop's glossary of the same era.

***The Secretary spoke to a meeting of Heddon-on-the-Wall ladies recently, and was told by a member that while on holiday in Canada she had encountered a native called Mr Warkontyne.

***Have you noticed on the credits at the end of TV programmes lately a couple of appearances by someone with the surname Otterburn-Hall?

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Postscript

In our last newsletter we informed you of the sad loss of Terry Robinson, so while I will not dwell on that I would like to mention the letter I received from Jane Smailes informing me of the bereavement. Thank you, Jane.

Hope to see ye aal at the Getherin. Keep Ahad. -Terry Common

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31st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering



17th-19th April 1998 Programme

Friday 17th April

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** with refreshments; entries to adult & junior craft competitions (entries received Thurs. 6 pm.) Displays: small-pipes, shepherds' sticks, needlework, disabled craft, etc. T-shirts, Clock Tower biscuits, books, tapes on sale *Town Hall 30p/10p*
 10.00 - 1.30 **DOO-IT-YOURSELF** workshop: make & playing didgeridoo & bullroarers with Mark. Drop in any time during session. *Chantry Bagpipe Museum Free (charge for materials if you take away an instrument)*
 10.30, 12.30, 3.30 **ROBIN HOOD PUPPET SHOW** and music by Michael Wray *Market Place Free*
 11.00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Gathering by Chairman, Morpeth Town Council *Town Hall Exhibition*
 2.00 - 3.00 **STORY-TELLING FOR CHILDREN** with Pat Renton *Morpeth Library Free*
 2.00 - 4.00 **BORDER PIPES RECITAL** with Matt Seattle and friends *Bagpipe Museum Free*
 8.00 **BARN DANCE WORKSHOP** Grahame Binless and Robin Dunn discuss the development of traditional Northumbrian social dances and help you try them out. Music by Robin Dunn and Sue Morgan *St Robert's Church Hall (Collingwood House) £2/£1*
 8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** with Alasdair Turnbull, Keith Besford & friends *Tap and Spile Free*
 8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN MUSIC SESSION** with Ray Sloan *Sun Inn Free*

Saturday 18th April

9.30 - 6.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday *T. Hall*
 Daytime **STALLS** including Lions bookstall *Back Riggs*
 9.45-10.45 **STORY-TELLING** as Friday *Library Free*
 10.00-1.30 **DOO-IT-YOURSELF** Didgeridoo & bull-roarer workshop *Bagpipe Museum Free (see Friday)*
 10.30 **PEAL O' BELLS** from Morpeth's historic Clock Tower; open to public later - entrance at rear
 10.40-3.30 **STREET ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, Robin Hood, Addison & Short Circuit rapper dance, Hexham Morris, Grand Theatre of Lemmings' amazing mechanical morris *Market Place & Back Riggs Free*
 11.00 **BORDER CAVALCADE & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGEANT** Pipers, dancers, horses, children & figures reach Town Hall; welcome by Morpeth Gadgy; rosettes presented by Mayor of Castle Morpeth. Performances by Drummed In band *Market Place Free*
 11.30 **CLOG DANCE WORKSHOP** for novices & experienced dancers (bring hard-soled shoes) with Anne Walton & Shona Harper *Town Hall Ballroom Free*
 11.45 **SONG WORKSHOP** with Werca's Folk and Wessex Women choirs *St. Robert's Church Hall Free*
 12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday *Tap & Spile*
 12.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN MUSIC & SONG SESSION** with Elsie and John Nettleton *Sun Inn Free (collection taken)*
 1.30: **HILL RUNNING EVENT** Fun run for youngsters; t-shirts and mugs for all entrants. Prizes presented 2.30. Details: Doug Cockburn 01670 512373 *Carlisle Park*

2.00 - 3.00 **BIG FUN CLUB** family show *St James Community Centre (note change of venue) Free*

Saturday Competitions at following venues:

entrants & audience welcome passport ticket (includes free entry to Exhibition) *£1.20/60p*
 12.30 **CLOG DANCE** (child & adult) *Town Hall Ballroom*
 1.30 **SPEAKING** (dialect reciting & story-telling) *Refreshments available St Robert's Church Hall*
 2.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES & LOWLAND/ BORDER/HALF-LONGS/ETC** *Bagpipe Museum*
 2.00 **BANDS, ACCORDIONS, FIDDLES, OTHER INSTRUMENTS & DUETS** including Junior Band comp. *Refreshments St. George's Church Hall*
 2.30 **DIALECT RECITAL** by entrants of this year's dialect prose & poetry. Results of writing competitions (judged in advance) *Refreshments St Robert's Church Hall*
 3.30 **SINGING** including groups *Town Hall*
 6.00 - 8.00 **JUNIOR CEILIDH BAND SESSION** with Alistair Anderson *YMCA Club Room Free*
 6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** with Johnny Handle, Christine Hendry & 1997 winners including Colin Bradford, John Carpenter, Terry Common, Peter Curd, Avril Huntly, David & Joey Oliver, Nick Short, Laura Thirkell *Bagpipe Museum £2.50/£1.50*
 8.00 **BARN DANCE** Glen Aln Band; caller Grahame Binless. Guest spots. Bar. *YMCA Hall £4/£2*
 8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SESSION** with Joy Richardson *Sun Inn Free (collection taken)*
 8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday *Tap & Spile*

Sunday 19th April

10.00 **FAMILY SERVICE** with Women Folk Choirs. Service led by the Rector, Canon Alan Craig. The choir will later visit the grave of Morpeth Suffragette Emily Davison *St Mary's Parish Church* (A group will also perform at a local hospital during the morning)
 10.30 - 4.30 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Fri. *Town Hall*
 12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday
 2.00 **HIGHLAND PIPES & DRUMS** competitions. Doors open 1 pm for competitors; draw at 1.30. *Refreshments St. George's Church Hall £1.00/60p*
 2.00 **FAMILY CONCERT** Canny Fettle, Stobhill Clog Dancers, 97 jun. clog & song winners Bridie Walker, Laura Hewison, Helen Wigham. *Town Hall Free (collection)*
 2.00 - 4.00 **THE BELLS! THE BELLS!** Visit the historic Clock Tower (entrance at rear) *Admission charge*
 2.00 - 4.00 **TOURS OF OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER** + Mayor's Parlour & Civic Silver with Isobel Smail, Joan Green, Trevor Hulbert & Jim Buchanan *Town Hall Free*
 6.00 **WOMENFOLK CONCERT** including premiere of specially commissioned pieces written by Sandra Kerr and Sammy Hurdon for Wessex Women & Werca's Folk choirs. *Refreshments. Town Hall £3.50/£2.50*
 7.30 **NORTHUMBRIAN FILMS** archive local films presented by Clive Temple. *Refreshments. St James Community Centre £2*

Next year's Gathering: 9th -11th April 1999

M.N.G.C., a standing committee of Morpeth Antiquarian Soc. Reg. Charity 507640, reserves the right to alter event details. Supporters include MdNAG, N. Arts, Sir J. Knott Trust, Brumell & Sample, Castle Morpeth Bcr. Coun., Morpeth Town Coun., PT Dixon, Black Horse, Morpeth Chamber of Trade.

DETAILS & TICKETS: Morpeth Chantry Tourist Info. Centre, Bridge St., Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1PJ (01670 511323). Also during Gathering weekend at Town Hall.