

Newsletter 32

Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

Editor: Terry Common

September 1998

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MEMORIAL LECTURE Sat. 17th October 2 pm

YULE MEET Sat. 12th December 2 pm

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Why, Ah hope ye've aal hed i gud summor despite aal the rain. Mind, eet's made the bagies growh, amang other things. In July a family of ducklins, and mother, whar swimmin in a puddle rite on the side iv the road it Sharpeton. Very dangerous, but they aal seem tae have sorvived ind probably traips tappy-lappy ower tae the Coquet for a swim noo.

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture Sat. Oct. 17th

All members and friends are invited to this important event. Thirty local and regional organisations have given moral (not financial yet!) support to the launch of the lecture series celebrating all aspects of Northumberland's culture and history. Our Society has organised the inaugural lecture (see overleaf), delivered by the enthusiastic and knowledgeable Stanley Ellis who spoke at our first AGM and who promises to play his own field recordings from the 1950s as well as trace the work done by many over the last century in the study of the Northumbrian language. The lecture is free, but if you want to eat afterwards please book a meal via our Secretary, Kim (note overleaf her address change, back to the ancestral Westgate House). **Volunteers** to help man the Society stall, etc., please ring Kim if you can help, or if you need directions to County Hall at Loansdean, Morpeth.

See also details of the Northumbrian song forum on 10th Oct. overleaf.

Where Rugged Rascals Ran

Earlier this year saw the launch of Allan Wood's poems on cassette with the above name. The "do" was held in May in the Queen's Head at Rothbury and a grand night it was. I was honoured to be invited, and proud to be there. There were about 40 to 50 of us with a few Coquetdale characters like Tom (Poss) Mason, Jimmy Pringle, not auld characters ye knaa, same age as me!

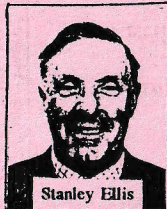
Allan, a shepherd, was born and bred in the valley and has a tremendous knowledge of the ways of Coquetdale and its people. He has written poetry for many years and has won and judged at dialect competitions, including the Morpeth Gathering. His cassette is now available and aynoe interested in purchasing a copy should contact Tony Sandford on 01669 620676. Once the cost of producing the cassette is met, all further money will be given to charity.

Impromptu Northumberland

A while ago Avril ind me caaled in eet the Star Inn at Harbottle, a waaterin hole Ah knaa weel. Afore lang an accordion struck up, played be an auld freend, George Cowan. Then Ah sees a drum being set up by another auld freend, Jock Wilson. Suddenly whe hed music. Then they wore joined be a young lady, Joan Kirk, whe wud try hor hand with an accordion. An auld Coquetdale character, Adam (Smokey) Dagg produced a mouth organ and joined in. A bit later Ah hord a rattlin noise in the corner. Aye, Lenny Watson

The Northumbrian Language Society presents

A Century of Northumbrian Dialect Research

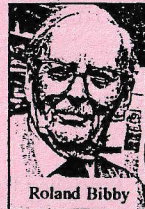


Stanley Ellis

Linguist & broadcaster
Stanley Ellis

(Hon. Lecturer, Leeds Univ.)

delivers the first



Roland Bibby

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture

in the centenary year of Heslop's historic Lit. &
Phil. lecture on the Northumbrian language.

Sat. 17th October 1998

2 pm

County Hall, Morpeth.

Free admission.

Followed at 3.30 by optional buffet.

*(Buffet tea only to be booked in advance - please
send cheque for £5 per head, payable to
Northumbrian Language Society, to:)*

*Hon. Sec., Northumbrian Language Society,
Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth,
Northumberland, NE61 1RF Tel. 01670 513308*

(photo Ian Winter The Journal)

N-autumn-brian Events

1998

Sat. 10th Oct. What is Northumbrian Song?

A forum presented by the Morpeth Gathering with guest speakers and singers including Terry Conway, Benny Graham, Johnny Handle & Mike Tickell. The first event of Northumberland Music Week and a follow-up to the past two years' successful seminars on traditional music.

10.15 am to 11.45 am. Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum.
£1 at door. Details 01670 513308

Thurs. 15th Oct. Ceilidh

Dancing to the **Blue Moon Band** with spots by local singers. Part of Wanbeck Festival & Northumberland Music Week.

8 pm Bothal Suite, Ashington Leisure Centre. Ticket £3 (£2 unwaged and Ashington Folk Club members) from the Folk Club, Ashington Leisure Centre, Ashington Library or ring 01670 816500 or 01670 513308.

Sat. 17th Oct. A Century of Northumbrian Dialect Research

Linguist & broadcaster Stanley Ellis (Leeds Univ.) delivers the first **Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture** hosted by the Northumbrian Language Society

2 pm County Hall, Morpeth. Free.

Followed by optional buffet tea (£5 booked in advance).

Details 01670 513308

Sat. 28th Nov. Barn Dance & Supper

with the **Blue Moon Band**; fund-raiser for the Morpeth Gathering (9th to 11th April 1999).

Guest dancers. Pie and peas supper. Bar.

8 pm Morpeth Town Hall (note new venue)

Prices to be fixed. Tickets from Morpeth Tourist Information Centre, The Chantry, Bridge St., Morpeth 01670 511323

Further details of all events from 01670 513308

The Blue Moon Band, the Northumbrian Language Society (Reg. Charity No. 515179) and the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee (a standing committee of Morpeth Antiquarian Society, Reg. Charity No. 507640) reserve the right to alter programme details.

The Northumbrian Language Society, Reg. Charity No. 515179,
reserves the right to alter programme details.

from Rothbury hed "just happened tae find" sum spoons in hes top pocket ind wis soon gannin merrily playin them. As the night wor on mair ind mair wud try their hand it singin, everything from "Wooden Heart" to "Nobody's Child". This was not a stagershow, just an unpaid, impromptu Northumbrian evening. The talent of our Northumbrians never ceases to amaze me. I wandered back up the road te the cottage at sum late hour, the soond of music still in ma heed but Ah still meneged tae hear the hoolets caalin. (NB Spoons specially for playing are made by Lenny Watson himself and can be purchased at the Rothbury Gallery, opposite the Queen's Head).

Joint Meeting with Lakeland Dialect Society

The historic refectory at Lanercost Priory, now used as a community hall, was the venue for this splendid afternoon in June. The Lakelanders did us proud, with raffle, bring and buy, a splendid tea and, ye bugs, how they like to recite! Our small but select group from the NLS had a very warm welcome and we look forward to hosting the return match next year. The evening's merry neet at the Centre of Britain, Haltwhistle, saw an even smaller number of us enjoy a Roman banquet (Chairman Peter Arnold was emperor for the neet) follad by sangs, tyunes and increasingly outrageous tyales from members and passing tourists.

Christmas is Coming

A Society Christmas Card: with the aid of modern technology committee member Brian James of Alnwick has designed a very witty card using cartoons, the language and a reference to a well-known local artwork (Ah winnut describe it for feor uv givin the joke away). Samples of this full-colour card will be on view at the lecture and can be ordered then or by post from Kim (price to be fixed, but something around £1.50 each).

"Bob's Bridges" is edited by NLS member Chris Hudson ind wor vary own Vice-President Janet Brown. Bob worked roughly 40 years for Northumberland County Council "on the bridges". The book gives a fascinating insight into the art and problems of bridge building. I had the pleasure of knowing Bob, his wife Queenie and their family. "Bob's Bridges" is available in bookshops or from Pentland Press Ltd., 1 Hutton Close, South Church, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6XB.

"The Medieval Guilds of Morpeth" is a book by our late chairman, Roland Bibby. The first in a series of publications by Morpeth Antiquarian Society, it covers the history of Morpeth's craft guilds and Old Corporation, featuring material from the "By Font and Wansbeck" column of the "Morpeth Herald" from 1965 and 1995 and fully revised by Roland before his death, with new illustrations and a full colour cover. It is available at £4.95 at good bookshops in Morpeth and Waterstone's in Newcastle, or by post (+ 50p p&p) from Mrs. Janet Brown, "Bilsdale", Ulgham, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 3AR.

"The Border Directors" is a new CD by the Blue Moon Band to be launched in October. It has Northumbrian or Border pipes on every track; all tunes and songs are traditional Northumbrian or written in the tradition by the band, including John Bibby's "The Gentleman", written last year & dedicated to Roland's memory. Price & ordering details from Kim (01670 513308).

Yule Meet

Our traditional Christmas get-together is on Sat. 12th December (2pm to 4 pm) at Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum. PLEASE come along to support the Society and hev a really canny time. Hazel will myek the punch an ivrybody hes te bring a bite te eat, be it mince pies or whaativvor. There'll be a bit crack an a chance te play or waatch the legendary "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?" (wor Northumbrian version of "Call My Bluff", which last year featured such words as Tinkeltankel and Rozzle). There probably won't be another newsletter before the date, so note it NOOOOOO in your diary.

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Whey, Ahh seem to hev covered ivrything for noo, so till the next yin,
Keep ahead.

Terry Common