

# Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



## Newsletter 36 - June 2000

Society patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

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### Next Events:

Alnwick Millennium Festival, Saturday & Sunday 24 & 25 June 2000

Alnwick Fair, Monday 26 June 2000

The Society will be present at both events, so please come along and support the cause! More details inside.

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### FORST PEECE

Wey man, wot a time it's been! Aa's reet knacked! Forst off theor wes the Gathering like, an if you've ivvor been tiv it, ye'll knaa hoo much theor is ti dee an see. An then theor's been aall the preporations like fer this geet big millennium event up at Alnwick, an the Alnwick Fair, an aall the tother meetins at Berwick, an Seahouses, an Ashington, an Morpeth, an Hexham, an Newcassel. In fact, theor' hardly ony spot weor not gannin tiv in wor canny coonty ti spread the word o wor tung! Aah reckon theor's summat gannin on in ivvry month up ti the end o the year like. Aah divvent knaa hoo Aa'm gan ti fit aall these meetins in, but Aah'm gannin ti hev ti try. Whey man, Aah hope yore gannin ti be theor an aall, cos Aah's gannin ti leuk daft on me aan like!

## Society News

**Fill That Gap!** - there are a few vacancies on the Society's committee for people who might have a little bit of time to spare to help us look after our affairs. If this appeals to you, give our Secretary Kim a call on 01670-513308, for a chat and to find out more.

**Press and Publicity:** Brian James is our media man. He keeps a record of all our activities, and deals with the press. However, he needs your help. If you see articles in your local paper about dialect events, or letters, that have a bearing on our work, please cut them out and send them to Brian. He lives at The Old Forge, 7 Upper Dodds Lane, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1XN, telephone 01665-603364, e-mail: brian@dodlan.freemove.co.uk

**Alnwick Branch:** Brian James is also trying to establish a branch for members who live in north Northumberland. Almost everyone he has contacted supports the idea, so he hopes to organise an event in late September. Look out for more details in the next Newsletter.

**Stottie Byuk:** We're hoping to publish a book next year about "The Stottie". As well recipes and folklore about this natural Northumbrian nosh, we would like to include the contributions of members who have taken part in our Reed Neet celebrations. So, if you've ever toasted the stottie, or made a reply on its behalf, please have a look for your words, so that we can include them in our book.

**Publications:** We have quite a list of publications for sale, all of which are well worth buying. Pride of place at the minute goes to Fred Reed's book of dialect poems "The Northumborman", and to our CD "The Wund an the Wetter" by Katrina Porteous and Chris Ormston. If you haven't yet bought these titles, do so soon, because they're proving to be very popular.

For details of these titles, plus our other books, tapes and CDs for sale, contact Kim Bibby-Wilson on 01670-513308.

## THINGS TE GAN I' YOR MEETINS BYUK

**Saturday 17 June at 2pm:** the Lakeland Dialect Society is holding its annual meeting to which we have been invited, in Caldbeck, Cumbria. Meet in the village car park. There will be a guided tour of Caldbeck, followed by an indoor cultural session, which will include dialect speaking, songs and other entertainment. Refreshments will be provided, but please bring your own drinks. For more details, contact the organiser, Mrs Jean Scott-Smith on 01931-716386

**Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 June:** Millennium Festival Weekend, Alnwick - we will be having a stall at this prestigious event, which celebrates everything that is uniquely Northumbrian, so please come along for some of the time and see what's on offer - and we're ordering some especially fine weather for the occasion! The event is being held on The Pastures below the castle, from 10am until 5pm on both days. Entry is free, but there is a £5 car park charge. There will be plenty of food and drink for sale, as well as a wide range of stalls, tents and activities for the whole family, including some language games etc at our stall.

**Monday 26 June:** Alnwick Fair - we've taken a stall again at this well-established week-long fair, so come and support us if you can. We're only there for one day, between 9am and 5pm, but we'll have merchandise for sale, there'll be members of the Society to chat with, and we'll be doing some musical turns as well. What more could you ask for? Decent weather perhaps?

**Saturday 15 July:** Berwick Medieval Festival. We will be having a stall at this event. More details from Brian James on 01665-603364.

**Sunday 6 August:** Northumbrian Dialect Church Service, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Ashington, starting at 3pm. This is the Sunday closest to St Oswald's Day which is the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. Many people regard St

Oswald as the patron saint of Northumberland, so we thought it would be an appropriate day for a Northumbrian Dialect Service. The service is a new venture for the Society, and one we hope everyone will support, whatever their religious persuasion. After the service light refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to chat to friends.

**Saturday 12 August** : Alnwick Castle Country Fair. We're taking a stall (for one day only!) at this prestigious three-day event covering all kinds of countryside activities, so that we can let people know what we've got to offer. (There is a rumour that some members of the Royal Family may be taking part in the Fair, so there's another reason to come along and see what's going on!) More details from Brian James on 01665-603364.

**Wednesday 6 September**: Hexham event, 7.30 - Royal Hotel, Priestpottle, in the Court Room - "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?" Bar provided.

**Saturday 9 September**: Seahouses Sea Shanty Festival, - the Society will be involved in some way with this popular local event, probably taking a stall, and contributing to the entertainment. More details in the next newsletter.

**Wednesday 13 September**: Tyneside event, 7.30 - 14 Dilston Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle (wor chairman's hoos) - "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?"

**Saturday 21 October**: 3<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Lecture, County Hall, Morpeth at 2pm - this year's lecture will be given by well-known Northumbrian musician, singer, storyteller, language expert and NLS member, Johnny Handle.

**Saturday 9 December**: Yule Meet, Morpeth Chantry Museum, from 2 til 4 - our annual yuletide celebration, with food and drink, stories, songs and recitations, and our world famous "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?"