

# Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



## Newsletter 37 - September 2000

Society patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

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### Next Events:

#### "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?"

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Royal Hotel, Hexham

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 14 Dilston Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, Seahouses Sea Shanty Festival

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### FORST PEECE

Whey man, wot a time wuv had! Sin wor last newsletter, wuv bin ti Alnwick (thriceower), Berwick an Ashington. Some fokes went oot the cuntry ti Caldbeck in Cumbria as weel. There's bits o writin aboot these ower the page like. An up til Chrusmus we're gannin ti Hexham, Newcassel, Seahouses, and Morpeth (twiceower). Sum o wor committee's fair knackered frae aall this chessin aboot, but wuv met some reet canny foke in aall these places, an mair peepul knaas aboot wor tung than ivvor afore. Cum an jine wu iffin yu can - wud luv to see yu!



## Society News

Our Treasurer, Hazel Dickson, hasn't been over grand recently, but she's getting better, and she would like to thank all those members who have sent her their best wishes. It's been very much appreciated.

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Since the last edition of the Newsletter, we've been represented at four different events - three in Alnwick, and one in Berwick.

We went to the Northumberland Millennium Festival Weekend at Alnwick Castle over the last weekend in June, Alnwick Fair on Monday 26 June, Berwick Medieval Fair on Saturday 15 July, and finally, we were back at Alnwick on Saturday 12 August for the Alnwick Castle Country Fair.

We were lucky with the weather at all of these events, and we met a lot of people, gave away plenty of publicity material about the Society and our events, and sold a reasonable amount of our merchandise.

The most important part of our involvement in all of these events is that we raised the profile of the Society. We talked to people about the Northumbrian language. They were able to hear it as well, either in performance, or on tape. And we exchanged views and opinions about the origins of words. Taking part in these events can be tiring, but the contacts we make are worth the effort. We are the guardians of the language, and we must get out and about to spread the word about it. Please come and join us if you can - it's good fun!

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On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August we held a Saint Oswaldtide church service entirely in Northumbrian. This took place at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Ashington, and about a hundred people attended. The idea was Hazel Dickson's, and several members of the Society helped by translating texts and hymns. The whole service was conducted in the language, and many people said how much they'd enjoyed it. There was specially-composed music on the harp and the pipes, and we finished off with tea and biscuits. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Thanks to everyone who supported the event.

## Press Comment

The following piece appeared in the Sunday Times on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Sandi Toksvig was writing about a BBC series she'd been involved in a couple of years ago. She wrote:- *"I met some people from Northumberland and I could hardly understand them. It wasn't that they had really strong accents - although they did - they were literally speaking a different language, using words I hadn't heard before."*

We rest our case.

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## A Northumbrian in Cumbria

Society member Bob Bolam visited Caldbeck in Cumbria recently, and wrote the following song (sung to the tune of "The Blaydon Races"). He was in the village for the Lakeland Dialect Society's meeting which included a guided tour of the area.

Aa had a poke roond Caldbeck  
T'was in the month of June  
T'larn aboot a huntin man  
Ye likely knaa ees tune  
A sunny day an nowt t'pay  
It seemed a canny deal  
Aa trailed the guide through countryside  
An hunted for John Peel.

Oh me lads, ye should of all been gannin  
If owt like this is on agyen,  
Include it in yor plannin.  
A canny waalk an friendly taalk  
An bonny things t'see.  
It's just a shame folk bided hyem  
The could of been wi mel



## THINGS TE GAN I' YOR MEETINS BYUK

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

**Saturday 9 September:** Seahouses Sea Shanty Festival, where we'll probably have a stall, and contribute to the entertainment. More details from Brian James on 01665-603364.

**Wednesday 13 September:** Tyneside event, 7.30 - 14 Dilston Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle (wor chairman's hoos) - "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?" Contact Peter Arnold on 0191-285 7209 for information about how to get there.

**Saturday 21 October: 3<sup>rd</sup>** Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture, Town Hall, Morpeth at 2pm. Please note the change of venue for this year's lecture. We will be in the first floor Ballroom - a fine setting for this important event. This year's lecture will be given by well-known Northumbrian musician, singer, storyteller, language expert and NLS member, Johnny Handle, and the title of his lecture is "There's more than meets the ears". Light refreshments will be available, as well as a wide range of Northumbrian merchandise, including our world-famous Christmas cards! Contact Kim Bibby-Wilson on 01670-513308 for more information.

**Alnwick Branch:** Brian James is hoping to have a meeting in late September or early October for members who live in north Northumberland. For more information, contact Brian at The Old Forge, 7 Upper Dodds Lane, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1XN, telephone 01665-603364, e-mail: [brian@dodlan.freemove.co.uk](mailto:brian@dodlan.freemove.co.uk)

**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?" Please bring a small prize for the raffle, a contribution to the food, and be prepared to hoy in your own contribution to the entertainment. We'll finish off by singing our Christmas Carol, written by Hazel Dickson to a tune by Kim Bibby-Wilson.