

Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

Newsletter 39 - Spring 2001

Society patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

Next Events:

Friday 23 March - Grand Northumbrian Concert

Friday-Sunday 20-22 April - Morpeth Gathering

Saturday 5 May - AGM & Reed Neet

FORST PEECE

Aah hope yer aall ganner tek part in this yeor's Gatherin wen it cums roond in April. Wu need mair folks tu gan in fer the competishuns, speshally the speakin wuns. Wor tung'll only survive if mair folk speak it. It's nee good leavin it to sumone else te dee - yu'll ha te dee it yorsel. There's two main categories - storytellin, an dialect reseetashun. Noo aah've hord yu tarkin proper, an aah knaa yu can dee it, so haway an git an entry form frae wor Kim, (closing date: 31 March) an git yorsel reddy fu the Gatherin weekend. Yu'll enjoy it an aall; yu'll giv lots o folks a geet deal o pleasure; an yu nivvor knaa - yu might even win, and git yan o them sortificates wi yor name on, and a geet silver cup, or a shield, or summat like that, to keep til next yeor.

Society News

Did yu heor wu on the wireless?

Those who were at last year's Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture will know that the proceedings were taped by BBC Radio 4 for a series of programmes about small charities.

Well, the programmes were broadcast in the first week of January, and ours went out on Wednesday 3 January at 3.45 on national Radio 4.

Members who attended the Yule Meet at the beginning of December got a sneak preview of the programme, and it was well-received.

As well as extracts from Johnny Handle's lecture, the programme also had interviews with chairman Peter Arnold, secretary Kim Bibby-Wilson, and member Raymond Reed.

We are reliably informed that the programme was even heard in foreign places like Derbyshire, so it was obviously received all over the country!

YULE MEET SUCCESS

Another successful pre-Christmas event was held in the Chantry Museum on the afternoon of Saturday 9 December.

We kicked off with some of Hazel Dickson's wonderfully alcohrolic punch (there was a safe version as well!), and this was followed by the playing of the Radio 4 tape aforementioned.

After that, there were contributions from the assembled throng, and then the food! (brought by members) Then there was the raffle, and this year there were so many prizes donated, that everybody got one.

The second half was taken up with "Whe's tellin hoafies?" and again, this proved to be an immensely popular game, with the team outdoing each other to tell the biggest hoafies imaginable.

And then we finished off singing the Society's Christmas carol "Sing, Haway me lad". Roll on next year!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dictionary: Work is progressing steadily. We're up to "r" now, and we hope to be finished the first stage by the summer. After that, the second stage is to circulate our list to members for comments and suggestions; and then the third stage is to get it published!

Greeting Cards: the success of our two Christmas cards means that we are looking for new ideas for cards that can be used for a variety of purposes. If you've got a good idea, please tell us about it. It doesn't matter if you can't draw your idea - just tell us about it, and we'll do the rest! Get in touch with Peter Arnold on 0191-285 7209 if you have an idea we can use.

Publications: We're getting to the point where our sales of publications are now beginning to make a positive contribution to our finances. But we could do with selling more. Have you got a copy of all the books, tapes and CDs that we've got in stock? If not, give Kim Bibby-Wilson a call on 01670-513308. We're also hoping to have a new publications

catalogue available soon. Watch this space!

Northumbriana: We're going to make a big effort this year to see if we can get the magazine restarted. We're still in the process of sorting through all the material that's available; but keep your fingers crossed folks - this could be the year when number 51 is published!

Membership Subscriptions: Our membership year runs from 1 April, so subscriptions are now due. We've included a form with this newsletter. Please help us by paying as promptly as you can.

At last year's AGM there was a discussion about subscriptions, and it was agreed that the Executive Committee would discuss the matter and bring a recommendation to this year's AGM. Several people suggested that a £5 subscription was not unreasonable, and it is possible that will be the figure recommended for next year, 2002.

Please send your subscriptions (and your Reed Neet orders) to the Treasurer, Miss Hazel Dickson at 95 Rosalind Street, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9BW.

THINGS TE GAN I' YOR MEETINS BYUK

Friday 23 March: Grand Northumbrian Concert - Morpeth Toon Haal, starting at 7.30pm. This is now completely SOLD OUT!

Thursdays 22 & 29 March: Storytelling Workshops - Morpeth Library, Gas House Lane at 4.30pm each day. These are designed for adults who want to improve their verbal presentation skills. The tutor is Shonaleigh, Morpeth's Artist in Residence. Further details from Lowri Bond at MidNag on 01670-514351.

Saturday 7 April: Local History Day - County Hall, Durham. We've got a stall booked all day at this event, and it would be great if members could volunteer to help on the stall. You don't have to be there all day, an hour or two in the morning or the afternoon would be a big help. There'll be plenty of our merchandise on sale, plus the chance to have a look at all the other stalls as well. Contact Kim on 01670 513308 if you can help.

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 April: 34th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. Please refer to the enclosed leaflet for all the details you need for this event.

Saturday 5 May: Annual General Meeting and Reed Neet - Morpeth Comrades Club, Bell's Yard, Morpeth; the AGM is at 7pm, to be followed by the traditional Reed Neet celebration at 8pm. This will feature toasts to the bard and the stotty, and contributions from the audience. The cost of the Reed Neet is £3.50, payable in advance only, by Saturday 28 April. Please get your order in quickly. Use the combined Membership Renewal Form and Reed Neet Order Form enclosed with this mailing. Please send all memberships and Reed Neet orders to the Treasurer, Miss Hazel Dickson, at 95 Rosalind Street, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9BW.

Saturday 13th October: 2pm - 4th Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture - Morpeth Toon Haal. Details of speaker and topic to be confirmed.