

Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



Newsletter 40 - Summer 2001

Society Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

Next Events:

Saturday 1 September - Morpeth Arts Day - Town Hall

Saturday 8 September - Seahouses Sea Shanty Festival

Saturday 8 September - Dialect Gatherin - Bowes, co Durham

Saturday 13 October - Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture - Morpeth

FORST PEECE

Theor's mair ti reed in this edition o the newsletter, cos theor's mair gannin on noo thet needs tellin aboot. I hope yor pleased, cos Aa am. It means thet mair folks are tekkin pairt in events an suchlike than ivvor afore. An thet means theor's mair peepel taakin proper Northumbrian, an thet must be good news fer wor tung. As the sayin gans: "If yu divvent use it, yu'll lose it" an wu divvent want ti dee that, do wu? But wu musn't be ower clivvor like. Wu've got a lot mair wark te dee, and wu'll be needin yor help ti dee it aal. Yu can help be mekkin sure yor subscription is paid, and be tekkin part in as mony o the events as possible. An tellin yor freends and relatives aboot wu is allus a good idea. So howway folks, git along and join in!

Society News

On Saturday 5 May, we held our AGM at the Comrades Club in Morpeth. The meeting received reports from the Chairman and the Treasurer, and adopted the audited accounts. We're in a reasonably healthy position, provided that wu divvent gan daft like, an spend ower much munny.

We also approved new subscription rates from next year. These are:- £5 for individual members; £6 for a couple; and £3 for people over pensionable age.

A new Committee was also elected, as follows:-

President - Tom Hadaway

Vice-President - Janet Brown

Chairman - Peter Arnold

Secretary - Kim Bibby-Wilson

Treasurer - Hazel Dickson

Press Officer - Brian James

Committee - Terry Common, Meg Burdon, Julia Wood, Glenn Simpson, Heather Ging

The AGM was followed by the traditional **Reed Neet**, attended by over fifty members and friends of the Society.

Efter the pipin in o the stottie, wor President Tom Hadaway had the forst hack at the breed, efter which wu had wu pie an pees an coffee. Wu then had the toast ti the Bard an the Stottie, an this year, wor speakers were Linda McCullough-Thew frae Morpeth, Douglas Mennear o Ovingham, Ted Hall o Berwick, and Richard Berg-Rust frae Low Fell. Efter the finished speekin, lots o wor members hoyed in bits o varse an readins, and wu had a reet canny time.

Tom Hadaway med a poem up while ee wes sittin waitin is torn

Mental Fatigue

Work!

Ye caal that work?

Aal day

Sittin on ya hint end

Pushin a pen?

Work!

Yesterday

Me an big Jacky

Lifted ten ton

Ti the Grimsby wagon.

Ten bloody ton!

Box bi box.

None o yon fancy fork lifts.

Hundredwite bi hundredwite.

An the rain beatin on wu.

That's work!

Not a writer born

Can set it doon.

Aa knaa,

Cos Aa've tried.

Man, efter the forst two sentences

Aa were that exhausted

Aa fell asleep

Ower the tyembl.

Written by Tom Hadaway, on Saturday 5 May 2001, in the Comrades Club in Morpeth

Bits An Peeeces

Stotty Book: we've decided to publish a book containing as many of the contributions as possible from our Reed Neet celebrations. Those of you who have attended these wonderful events will know that there are four main contributions - A Toast to the Stotty, A Reply on its Behalf, A Toast to the Bard, Fred Reed, and finally, A Reply on his Behalf. If YOU have been a contributor, we would like to hear from you! We would like to publish YOUR contribution - if you can remember it, or find it, that is! Please look for it, and send it to our chairman:- Peter Arnold at 14 Dilston Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, NE3 1XX; telephone & fax: 0191 285-7209.

Christmas Cards: our two Christmas cards have proved to be a success, but we really would like some new designs to go with these best-sellers. Have you any ideas for a seasonal greetings card with a Northumbrian theme? It can be funny or serious, but it must use the language in some form. Don't worry if your drawing skills are not top-class. If you can describe your idea in words or a sketch, we can get it turned into a top quality piece of work. But time is running out, so if you have an idea, please, please get it to us as soon as possible so we can get it prepared and printed in time for Christmas. Please send your ideas to Peter Arnold at the address printed above. (We're also looking for ideas for general greeting cards with a Northumbrian slant. Any ideas? Please send them to Peter as well.)

Subscription Reminder: our membership year runs from one AGM to the next, that is from the beginning of May to the end of the following April. We sent you a reminder with the last Newsletter, and some of you forgot to fill it in and send it back!! How could you forget? Well, we need your money to help us carry out our work on your behalf. There's the Newsletter to pay for, and books to publish, and events to organise, and information to print, and new ways of promoting the language to develop, etc, etc. Please help us by renewing your membership as soon as possible. If you can, why not get a friend to join if they have an interest in the language? You could buy a subscription for someone as a birthday present - now that's different isn't it? Go on, send us your subscription today if you haven't already done so! Please send your

subscription to our Treasurer:- Miss Hazel Dickson at 95 Rosalind Street, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9BW.

Moody Book: at long last, it looks as though it may be possible to publish a reprint of this important book. The real problem causing the delay over many years has been the cost of printing. In addition, there have been some delays caused by preparing and proofreading the text. This has now been done, and we think a potential publisher has been found.

Members will recall "Meyk an Moas" which was published by the Society some years ago by Roland Bibby, in collaboration with a German language scholar and publisher called Manfred Gorlach. As a result of connections with British academics like Joan Beal (who has recently moved to Sheffield), Herr Gorlach is interested in reprinting the Moody Book. It's early days yet, but we are quite hopeful that these European links will help us to have this seminal text reprinted. We'll bring you more information as soon as we get it.

Do YOU know of Will Coombs of Ashington? We're looking for people who might know of the family, because we need to contact them to ask for permission to use some of Will's material in a publication being prepared by Johnny Handle. If you have any information, please get in touch with Johnny at 15/16 Wood Terrace, High Spen, Rowlands Gill, co Durham, NE39 2AQ.

Publications For Sale:

"The Keel Row" - a new book of forty north-eastern songs, most well-known, but some not so well-known, compiled by Matt Seattle. £9.95, plus £1 post & packing.

"O'ergrown" - a new CD from Spindlestone featuring sixteen songs and tunes from Northumberland and Tyneside. £12, plus 75p post & packing.

"Wor Nanny's A Mazar" - we've got some more of these very popular music hall songs, on CD and tape. CD = £12, tape = £8, plus 75 post & packing.

"Larn Yersel Geordie" - this hilarious and brilliant series is now on CD. This is a must for all serious students of Northumbrian!! £12, plus 75 post & packing.

All of these can be obtained from Kim Bibby-Wilson at Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1RE, telephone: 01661-513308

34th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering April 2001

RESULTS OF LITERARY AND RECITING COMPETITIONS

B 1 Song Composition: 1, "Ah'll Hoy in a Penny" Dick Lowes - lyrics (Benwell) and Kim Bibby-Wilson - tune (Morpeth); "Sawdust Jack" Tom Patterson (Birmingham); 3, "The Betrayed" George Burdon (Chapel Park)

B 3A Novice Dialect Verse: 1, "Poonds an Oonces" Florrie Merihein (Ashington); 2, "Wor Hoose" Margaret P Stephenson (North Shields); 3, "Ah Woork at the Collry" Nova Jane Acres (Guide Post)

B 3B Open Dialect Verse: 1, "Abboot Aad Sideboards" Alan C Brown (Newcastle); 2, "Summer Solstice at thi Hoal o' thi Queen o' thi Faihries" Nick Short (Hexham); 3, "The Pitmen's Wives" Dorothy Whitehall (Monkseaton)

B5 Dialect Prose: 1, "Shilling Pot Spring" Nick Short (Hexham); 2, "Tooths ind Ceiling's Baptisims" Sylvia Hutchinson (Kenton)

B 6 Stage Sketch (One Act): 1, "Aroond the Clippy Mat" Bill Bright; 2, "Before the Wedding" Joan Phillips (N Shields)

B 7 Novel : 1, "The Spider's Touch" George Burdon

B8 Short Story: 1, "A Dark Day at Morpeth" Dick Lowes; "If Only...." Dorothy Whitehall; 3, "Cresswell Discovered" Adrian Gerald McRobb (Cramlington); HC, "Hoo Dis thi Blinkin Bridge Blink?" Bill Kendal (Winlaton); C, "Thi Hoal o' thi Queen o' thi Faihries" Nick Short

B 9 Essay: 1, "What a Difference a Day Makes" Dorothy Mayhew (High Heaton); 2, "Celt or Angle" Gavin Douglas (Rothbury); 3, "Ruins of the Low Long House" Nick Short

B10 Local History Article: 1, "A Memorial for Roland" Nick Short; 2, "The Worker's Record" Dorothy Mayhew; 3, "Wor Navy Wor Toons" Phil Huntley (Alnwick); C, "Warkworth Castle with her Village and Church" Sylvia Hutchinson

B11 Junior Local History Project: 1, "Morpeth's Castles" Elizabeth Wilson (Morpeth)

C18 Fine Northumbrian Speech: 1, Raymond Reed (Stakeford); 2, Nick Short; 3= Norman Shiel & Johnny Handle (High Spen)

C22 Story Telling: 1, Terry Common (Morpeth); 2, Dorothy Mayhew; 3= Minnie Selkirk & Nick Short.

Apologies to those who haven't got their certificates and trophies yet - we hope to get them to you soon!

The Northumbrian Language Society & Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering invite you to their

Northumbrian Events 2001-2

Mon. 20 August: Spindleston Reunion Concert 7.30pm Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum Singer Ray Leonard returns from Canada to join brother and sister multi-instrumentalists John and Kim Bibby for nostalgic concert of their classic repertoire of traditional Northumbrian songs and music (also at folk clubs at Allendale Fri. 10 August; Newcastle Bridge Hotel Mon. 13 August; Cramlington Tues. 14 August)

Sat. 6 Oct. What are the Northumbrian Pipes? 11 am Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum. The first event of Northumberland Traditional Music Festival. A forum on the origins, nature and music of the smallpipes with Julia Say, Colin Ross, Matt Seattle and Grahame Wells.

Sat. 6 Oct. Annual General Meeting of the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering 2 pm Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum.

Sat. 13 Oct. Dialect Workshop 11 am Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth A follow-up to April's Morpeth Gathering competitions, at which entrants will have a chance to recite their poetry and prose and discuss the Northumbrian language

Sat. 13 Oct. The Fourth Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture "Nivvor Can Be Telt": The music of words in Northumbrian, poetry, song and speech. 1.30 for 2 pm Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth : come in time for a drink and chat Poet Katrina Pórtéous celebrates the centenary year of the birth of Fred Reed

Tues. 16 Oct. The Border Directors 7.30 pm Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum A concert by the region's foremost traditional band, featuring Northumbrian & Border pipes

Sat. 1 Dec. Barn Dance 8 pm St. George's Church Hall, Morpeth Music by the Border Directors (formerly the Blue Moon Band). Pie and peas supper. No stiletto heels, please. Fund-raiser for the Morpeth Gathering

Sat. 8 Dec. Yule Meet 2 - 4 pm Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum The Lang. Society's yuletide get-together, with food & drink, entertainment and a few hoafies

A Friday in Feb. or Mar. 2002 Grand Winter Concert 7.30 pm Morpeth Town Hall Fund-raiser for the Gathering with superstar musicians such as Alistair Anderson

5-7 April 2002: 35th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Annual festival of Northumbrian music, craft, dance, traditions, language, history; street events, concerts, etc.

A date to be fixed around 30 April: The Reed Neet Annual supper of pies and peas with toasts to the bard, the late poet Fred Reed of Ashington, and the Muckle Greet Stotty

Further details of all events from 01670 513308
Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, NE61 1RE

(note change of postcode)

www.northumbriana.org.uk

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

STOP PRESS: Clog Dance sessions 5-6 pm Morpeth Town Hall Thursdays from 13 Sept for all levels and ages

THINGS TE GAN I YOR MEETINS BYUK

There will no Oswaldtide Service church this year, because the foot and mouth epidemic has made it difficult to organise.

Saturday 1 September - Morpeth Arts Day: 10-2 Town Hall - we will be having a stall at this event to promote the Society's activities.

Saturday 8 September - Seahouses Sea Shanty Festival - we will be having a stall at this popular event - whatever the weather!! - from about 10 in the morning until about 4 in the afternoon. On the same day, in the **parish hall at Bowes in county Durham, starting at 2pm**, there is to be a **Dialect Gatherin** of all the north of England dialects, and we desperately need someone to go. Any volunteers? Ring Peter Arnold on 0191-285 7209 if you can represent wor Northumbrian tung!!

Saturday 13 October - 11am - 1pm in Morpeth Town Hall - Dialect Workshop. This is a new venture designed to enable those who entered the verse and prose competitions in the Gathering to recite their work and discuss the language. And then, in the afternoon, we have the popular **Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture** at 2pm in Morpeth Town Hall. This year's lecturer will be Katrina Porteous, whose talk is called "Nivvor Can Be Telt" the music of words in Northumbrian poetry, prose and song. It will be part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of Fred Reed's birth.

Saturday 8 December - Yule Meet at 2pm in the Chantry Museum, Morpeth. This is our annual yuletide get-together, with food, drink, entertainment, and a few hoafies.

5 -7 April 2002 - the 35th Northumbrian Gathering, our annual festival of Northumbrian music, craft, dance, traditions, language, history, street events, concerts and a host of other events. Members of the Society should be preparing their language entries now. There were quite a lot of entries this year, so there should be a good competition next year. Go on, have a go!