

# NORTHUMBRIAN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

"Keepin Ahada Wor Tung"



Charity No: 515179

Members' Newsletter No:45

Winter 2002/2003



Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

## NEXT HAPPNIN

**Yule Meet**

**Saturday 14 December at 2pm  
in the Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum**

Our annual pre-Christmas celebration, with:-

Food & Drink

Raffle

"Whe's Tellin Hoafies?"

a Geordie Mummers' Play,

our Northumbrian Christmas Carol

If you're coming along, please remember to bring some food to share, and a prize for the raffle.

## SOCIETY NEWS

**Dictionary:** about half of it has been put onto a computer, and when we get the other half done, we'll be circulating it to all members for information and comment.

**Alnwick Gathering:** we had a stall in the Playhouse for most of the day, and met quite a few people, and sold some more of our merchandise. It was good to talk to people from other parts of Britain, and it was even better to learn that many of them knew about Northumbrian as something special. One gentleman wasn't so convinced however, but even he had to admit that our language was unique amongst the dialects of English.

**Memorial Lecture:** this had been another successful event. About 60 people heard Dr Joan Beal from Sheffield University (and an NLS member) talk about the differences between the different versions of the language which were recorded in the 1960s and more recently, particularly among young people, who seem to be losing the language quickest. There was a very lively discussion afterwards, with a lot of members of the audience asking questions and making points.

Before this, we had a stall at the Morpeth Arts Day coffee morning, and several members of the Society read poems or played the pipes. And for the real diehards, there was the Pipers' Society Concert in the evening, and a good audience was treated to a very interesting and varied repertoire of local tunes played on a number of different instruments.

**Leader+** : this was a day in Alnwick organised by the district councils in the north of Northumberland to explain what was being done to distribute European money in the area. They are calling for projects which will benefit local community groups, and we were invited along to see if it was relevant to us. We were also there to provide some of the entertainment which broke up the day. Several members of the Society read poems, sang songs or told the audience how important it was that we kept our language alive. One of the most important contacts we made was with the key speaker, a Welshman who is also connected with the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages, and he urged us to get involved with this organisation, which might be able to help us. We've tried to get in touch with them on a number of occasions in the past, but we'll make more effort in the future. He also made it clear in his presentation to the meeting, that there were many similarities between the situation in Wales over the status of Welsh and the status of Northumbrian in relation to English. Does anyone have any views on this issue? We'd love to hear from you if you do.

## MEETINS AN HAPPNINS

**Wednesday 25th December:** Radio Newcastle programme about local Christmas customs, featuring our Christmas Carol

**We need an event in Hexham** - please get in touch if you have any ideas for venue and topic.

**Saturday 5th April 2003:** Local History Day in County Hall, Durham - we're taking a stall at this important regional event, and we'll be putting on some performances as well as selling merchandise, meeting people, and forming networks with other interested groups and individuals. Please support us by coming along for the day.

**Friday to Sunday 25-27 April 2003:** 36th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering - the most important and influential Northumbrian event in the calendar - an annual celebration of everything Northumbrian - language, music, dance, crafts, literature & performance. There will be the traditional pageant, street processions and events and concerts throughout the weekend, so why not book the dates in your diary now! NB: The closing date for the writing competitions is Saturday 5th April 2003.

**Saturday 11th October 2003:** This is the date booked for the next Memorial Lecture. However, 2003 is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Society, so we might have a celebration event instead, including the possible launch of the Moody Book.