

# NORTHUMBRIAN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

"Keepin Ahad Ov Wor Tung"



Charity No: 515179

**Members' Newsletter No 46**

February 2003



Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

## NEXT HAPPIN

Friday 14 March at 7.30pm

### **Grand Northumbrian Concert**

Morpeth Town Hall Ballroom  
Tickets £6 (concessions £4)

## SOCIETY NEWS

Since the last newsletter, we've had a very busy time working with Karen Corrigan at Newcastle University on our joint submission for heritage lottery funds for a large language project that would have helped us get the Moody Book published. We got the bid prepared and submitted, only to be told that we wouldn't get any funds because there was another heritage lottery bid from another Northumbrian language project! They wouldn't tell us at first who the other bidders were, but we eventually discovered it was from a group at Northumbria University. Since then we have held a number of meetings, and it seems highly likely that both groups will submit a very big joint bid that looks as though it may stand a reasonable chance of being accepted. We will keep you informed of progress.

This crisis has had an effect on our plans for the Moody Book. The Society's Executive Committee has decided to try and raise the funds independently of the heritage lottery bid, and so our Secretary Kim has spent a lot of time talking to people who might be able to help us financially, and filling in application forms for money. We're pleased to be able to report that we have been successful in raising some of the money we need this way, and we're quite hopeful that we'll be able to get on with the printing of the book during the summer. Our aim is to have it ready in time for our 20th anniversary event on Saturday 11 October. If you think you can help, or if you know of sources of funding we might try, please let wor Gaffer, Peter Arnold, know on 0191 285-7209.

## **Top 10 Northumberland Folk Songs**

Members of the public are invited to vote for their favourite Northumberland songs. Songs must be in the traditional style and originate from Northumberland or have a Northumberland subject matter (eg. "Hexhamshire Lass"). NB: This is a County Council event, so Tyneside songs will not be eligible. The first stage is for nominations to be made for up to five songs which you think should be included in the final list. Nominations by post, or visit the website, to be received no later than Monday 31st March. The shortlist will be announced during the Morpeth Gathering and then published on the website and elsewhere in order for voting to take place over the summer, before the county's October music festival.

Send nominations by post to

David Coombes, NTM Festival, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF,  
or visit the website: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/vg/musicfest.html](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/vg/musicfest.html)

## **Yule Meet 2002**

This was one of our most successful Meets ever. We had a full house, and an excellent time was had by all. There were the usual items - "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?" and contributions from the members present. The food and drink went down a treat, and the raffle was very well supported. But I guess the highlight of the afternoon was the first public "performance" of our mummers play. One of the cast was absent on the day, so Alex Swales was "volunteered" at the last minute! He did remarkably well considering. The guisers were half in costume, but they read their parts with gusto, and it brought the house down. If you're really good, you might get to see it at other events!

## **Help Needed....**

Colin Wilson has asked us to ask you if anyone knows anything about a relative of his from the early part of the nineteenth century, about whom he's trying to find out more information. The relative in question is William Gibson, who published a book in 1828 called "The Sailor: or, The Coquet Cottage and other Poems in the Scottish Dialect". If anyone has any information, please can they contact Kim in the first instance, on 01670-513308.

## **Northumbrian Language Society 20th AGM**

This year's AGM will be held in the Comrades Club, Back Riggs, Morpeth at 7pm on Saturday 3rd May, and members are asked to note that this is the official calling notice.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM, and matters arising
3. Report from the Executive Committee
4. Report from the Treasurer, and consideration of the audited accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Executive Committee and Honorary Officials
7. Election of auditor
8. Any Other Business notified in advance

Members are asked to remember that subscriptions to the Society are due on 1st April. Please see separate sheet included with this Newsletter for details. We're also including a revised Reed Neet application form. We know this is very early, but we're trying to cut down on the bureaucracy and the hassle, so please co-operate by filling in both forms as soon as possible, and sending them back to the Treasurer. Thank you.



## **Northumbrian Language Society 19th Reed Neet**

This will follow the AGM at 8pm, also in the Comrades Club, and it will be in the traditional form:-

1. Thi Peypin In the Muckle Greet Stotty Cyek
2. Thi Sarrimoanyil Forst Hack
3. Thi Stooty Cyek Weesh
4. Thi Tradishnal Suppor
5. Thi Address ti the Muckle Greet Stotty
6. Thi Ripley on eets bihaaf
7. Thi Address ti thi bard, wor ain Fred Reed
8. Thi Ripley on hees bihaaf
9. Thi Bits an Peeeces, hwen aal willin is axed ti hoy in tha bits o varse, tyales, sangs an owt  
else thit entortyains aal gud Northumbrians
10. Thi Bennydikshin, canny an tradishnal, rit bi Fred Reed

Tickets for this year's Reed Neet are £4, which includes the traditional pie and peas supper. Please see special sheet included with this Newsletter for details. Please book your tickets early.

## **36TH MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING**

This year sees the 36th annual feast of Northumberland's traditional music, crafts, dialect, dance, history, literature, sports and culture, held the weekend after Easter in Morpeth. This year the festival celebrates the Old Great North Road, which runs through the town (despite the major roadworks going on!). Many events are aimed at families, and all have a strong Northumbrian flavour.

The main dialect event is at St Robert's Church hall on the afternoon of Saturday 26 April. There are competitions for performing on the day, but also various poetry and writing classes judged in advance. The colour programme will be sent to all NLS members in mid-March.

### **Highlights**

- \* **The Great North Road:** Friday's concert features songs and tunes from along the route with young musicians, singers and fiddler Stewart Hardy; Michael Wright tells the tale of the traveller and the monkeys; Shonaleigh performs the locally-created story, based on a true event, of the little town clerk who solved his problems by blowing up the town bridge.
- \* **Winners' Concert** with guest smallpipes maestro Chris Ormston
- \* **Over 100 competitions** for traditional instruments, singing, composing, clog dancing, reciting, writing and crafts. The deadline for all writing competitions is Saturday 5 April.
- \* **Music in the Turner Herb Garden** with Squeak's Noyse; living history and travellers' tales with Rent a Peasant
- \* **Pageant, performances and stalls** in the town centre and park
- \* **Storyteller's Garden** with Taffy Thomas at the Millenium Green
- \* **Barn Dance \* Orienteering \* Historic Tours**
- \* **Crafts Exhibition** with shepherds' sticks, needlecrafts, models
- \* **Workshops** including country dance, crafts, clog and gewgaws
- \* **Park & Ride** using vintage bus from County Hall

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