

Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



Charity No : 515179

Members' Newsletter No 50 September 2004



Patrons : Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

Next Happnin

"Whispers of Britain"

Thursday 30 September between 11am and 1.30pm
in the Chantry Museum

Fancy something different? This writing workshop is being organised by a touring theatre company who are going round Britain with a folk tale which they are turning into a play. They are visiting different parts of the country and getting local speech communities to add bits to their evolving play. The organisers are very keen to get some authentic Northumbrian input, and you would like to help, wouldn't you?

Contact Kim on 01670-513308 if you want some more information/reassurance etc, or better still, just turn up on the day and join in the fun! Light refreshments provided.

NB : Saturday 16 October - Memorial Lecture : see inside for details

Gaffer's Grumlin's

Deor Reedor Hinny

Efter months o bother, we've gettin the newsletta oot at last! Thi main reason fer thi delay is Aa've tekken ower runnin the world doon at Newcassel, an it's kept is bissy like. Ony road, Aa hope ye enjoy readin wot we've been doin, an thet ye can cum ti the events listed in the Meetins an Happnins bit. An can Aa perswade ye ti cum ti thi Lecture on Satda 16 October. We didnt hev enuff folk at thi AGM, so we couldn't pass thi Minutes o thi meetin in 2003. We reely need to get these passed, so we can get on wi thi bisness o thi Society. Pleees cum alang if'n ye can. Ta. Gan canny.

The Gaffer

Society News

Morpeth Gathering - 16-18 April : another successful event; the Language Society's competitions on the Saturday afternoon had more entries than normal, and an increased audience. Here are the main results :-

Novice Dialect Verse - 1 "The Traveller's Return" George Carrick, Cramlington; 2 "Leek Thief" George Carrick; 3 "Thinking Back" Keith Laidlow, Acomb; Highly Commended "Weekend Visitor" Jadzia Rice, Heddon; Commended "Ashington Allotment" Jadzia Rice.

Open Dialect Verse - 1. "The Wild, Wild Rose of Lewis Burn" Nick Short, Hexham; 2 "The Hormit Crab" Alan Brown, Newcastle; 3 "Family Holiday" Meg Stephenson, North Shields; HC "The Lead Miner Boy and his Dad" Cynthia MacKenzie, Hexham; Com "The Mobile" Terry Common, Morpeth; "Daays Oot in Tynemouth" & "Ode ti a view o Stepney Bank" Sylvia Hutchinson, Newcastle.

Children's Dialect Verse - 1 "Five Senses" Abigail Laidlow, Acomb; 2 "Fairies" Annaliese Laidlow; 3 "Alley by Day and Street by Night" Annaliese Laidlow.

Dialect Prose - 1 "Fairwell for the Precious Bairn" Nick Short; 2 "Me Da and his Garden" Dorothy Mayhew, Newcastle; 3 "The Morn" Terry Common.

Fine Northumbrian Speech - 1 = Nick Short & Raymond Reed, Stakeford; 3 Terry Common.

Story Telling - 1 Minnie Selkirk, Westerhope; 2 Nick Short; 3 John Hutchinson, Newcastle.

AGM & Reed Neet - Saturday 1 May : unfortunately, not enough people turned up to make the AGM quorate, but we got the business done and we'll try and get the formal part of the 2003 meeting approved at the Lecture on 16 October. See the back page, where the Minutes of the 2003 AGM are printed. These are what need to be agreed. The Reed Neet went down well as usual, particularly the contribution from first-time speaker from over the Border, Dr Alistair MacDonald, and a good time was had by all.

Alnwick Bailiffgate Museum event - Thursday 1 July : a good audience of local people enjoyed a varied evening of Northumbrian entertainment. There were stories and recitations in the first half, and "Whe's Tellin Hoafies" in the second.

Great North Family History Fair - Saturday 11 September : Kim and the Gaffer spent the day meeting people from all over the world. The Fair was busier than last year - more stalls and more visitors - and we sold quite a lot of merchandise.

Look out in the next newsletter for some thought-provoking ideas from member Robert Craig about the origin of Northumbrian, and how it should be spelt.

An enquiry from Dr Graeme Lawson : "Has anyone come across a character by the name of William Stevenson (spelt William Stevenysson) of 'Braburne' in Northumberland? He was apprenticed to a harper-and-piper in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, in about 1461. [*A bit before my time, says the Gaffer!*] Anyone any idea where 'Braburne' is or might be?" If any member can help with this enquiry, please get in touch with Kim on 01670-513308.

Moody update : despite all of our best efforts, the Moody Book is still not ready. However, we're trying very hard to get it printed for Christmas (this year!), so please keep your fingers crossed! We'll let subscribers know when to send some money, once we've established the actual release date.

Chantry Museum campaign : as NLS members living in Morpeth will know, the Chantry Museum is under threat of closure. The borough council wants to sell it off because it's not making enough money. The plan has caused an uproar in the town, and several NLS members are heavily involved in the campaign to keep it open. If you want to get involved in the campaign, contact Kim on 01670-513308 and find out what you can do to help.

Durham Literature Festival - 26 September to the 23 October: the reason for bringing this month-long literary festival to your attention is that on Saturday 9 October there is to be "A Tribute to Sid Chaplin" event. Sid was the first President of the Northumbrian Language Society, and did a lot to help keep the language alive. This event is being held at 7.30pm in the Gala Theatre in Durham, and tickets cost £5. You can get more information on 0191 301 8245.