

Northumbrian Language Society

Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung

Charity No: 515179

Members' Newsletter No 52
March 2005



Patrons: Their Graces The Duke & Duchess of Northumberland

Obituary: Tom Hadaway

It is with great sadness that we announce the recent death of our President, Tom Hadaway. Tom was on a family visit to Ireland, when he was taken ill. He died with his family around him. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time. At his funeral, the Society was represented by our vice-President, Janet Brown, and by our Secretary Kim Bibby-Wilson.

Tom Hadaway was a self-made writer and playwright. He spent most of his working life on the fish quay at North Shields, and his experiences there formed the background for many of his plays. He turned to writing quite late in his life, but his use of language, based as it was on the Northumbrian language and dialect, struck an instant chord with local audiences, and his fame spread. Last year, a festival of his plays was put on in the north-east, as a tribute to his fame as a playwright. It was a great success, and a fitting tribute to a local playwright who had achieved national recognition. Tom was a quiet man, but one it was easy to get on with and to talk to. As our President, he supported our activities loyally, and it was a great privilege to have him with us. He will be sorely missed.

At our AGM and Reed Neet in 2001, Tom was one of our guest speakers, and whilst he was waiting for his turn to speak, he wrote the poem below:

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 tyeb!

Moody Book

Our Secretary, Kim Bibby-Wilson, writes: *"Unfortunately the Moody Book is again delayed, this time because the printer has gone bust - an alarming and completely unforeseen development. They've said they'll see the project through by finding another printer, but that's not going to happen overnight, especially when the item is conceived as a large hard-back. I was going through to Newcastle to work with them on their computer on the final, final proof-reading, so that is interrupted too. I'm extremely anguished that yet again people are to be disappointed, particularly those who kindly sent their money around Christmas when we fully expected not to have to wait much longer. Thank you to those people who did so. We hope you're willing to hang on another couple of months or so - it's well worth waiting for."*

AGM & Reed Neet

Saturday 14 May 2005 - AGM at 7pm; Reed Neet at 8pm

Venue: Craik Park, the home of Morpeth Football Club, High House Road, The Common, Morpeth (Approaching from the south - take the Walton Road, to the left, signposted to Kirkley Hall - there's a bus stop just beforehand - then after a few twists and turns the road straightens out towards the "pill" factory - turn right just before the road passes underneath the A1, signposted to Mitford, and go a short distance along a narrow, twisty road until you see the sign for Craik Park - the drive's entrance is on the right)

Tickets for the Reed Neet (including a pie and peas supper with tea/coffee) are £4.50 each. To order your tickets, please fill in the attached form, including your membership renewal, and return it before the closing date.

Speakers for the Reed Neet:-

Toast to the Bard: Raymond Reed
Reply on behalf of the Bard: Heather Ging
Toast to the Stotty: John Stenhouse
Reply on behalf of the Stotty: Meg Stephenson

Meetins An Happynins

1 - 3 April : Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering at various venues in Morpeth town centre - please see the enclosed brochure for all the details. (NB: Sunday's 6.30pm talk ends at 7.30pm, not 7pm as advertised) Of special interest to Language Society members are the Saturday afternoon competitions for Fine Northumbrian Speech and Storytelling, followed by the Dialect Recital and Prize Giving of competition categories judged beforehand.

14 May : Northumbrian Language Society AGM (7pm) and Reed Neet Supper (8pm) at Craik Park, High House Road, The Common, Morpeth. Please see earlier item and attached slip for details.

Details of other events we're involved in will be published in the next newsletter.