

# *Northumbrian Language Society*

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



Charity No: 515179

**Members' Newsletter No 53 - Summer 2005**

Patrons: Their Graces the Duke & Duchess of Northumberland

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*Next Happnin*

## **Dialect Church Service**

Sunday 21 August at 2.30pm, in St George's United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth, followed by refreshments.

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### *Gaffer's Grumlings*

*Dear Reedor Hinny*

It's been ower lang since wor last newsletter, an Aah's geet soory about that. Aah've been varry busy like, wot wi tryin to keep Newcassel City Coonsil on the strite an narrer, an then decidin to shift hoos. Aah'll tell yous summat. Aah divvent think much o this hoos shiftin lark. It's aal hassel and aggrivation. An hev yuh seen the prices! Why, Aah reckon somebody somewheer must hev a lot of dosh, cos Aah sartinly haven't, but the expect us to coff up a lot ov it if Aah want to shift like. It's a mug's gyle, an me an her indoors isn't gan te dee this again. They'll het te carry we oot in a box if the want us to shift again, Aah can tell ye! Onyroad, wor canny Society's still gannin on, an Aah hope yous can cum along to sum o wor events wot's set oot in this edition o wor newsletter. An Aah hope that it's not ower lang till the next un. Gan canny.

*The Gaffer*

# *Society News*

## **Annual General Meeting & Reed Neet**

The new venue for this event (Craik Park, home of Morpeth Football Club) proved to be quite successful, but I'm sure you'll let us know if it wasn't! Twenty members were present for the AGM, which was held on Saturday 14 May. The accounts were presented and agreed. We have sufficient funds for our day to day expenses, with a small amount available for new ventures. The election of Officers took place, and the following were approved:-

President - vacant  
Vice-President - Janet Brown  
Chairman - Peter Arnold  
Vice-Chairman - vacant  
Secretary - Kim Bibby-Wilson  
Assistant Secretary - Meg Burdon

Treasurer - Hazel Dickson  
Bibliographer - vacant  
Newsletter - the Chairman  
Hon. Auditor - Mr T H Horne  
Press/Publicity - Brian James

Executive Committee members - Julia Wood, Terry Common, Liz Elliot (NB: there should be 5 committee members, so we have two vacancies)

As you can see, there are three vacancies, and whilst a number of names have been suggested, no-one has so far volunteered. We'd love to hear from you on these issues, either to suggest someone who could be approached to do the job, or to volunteer yourself. We do need new people to help with the work of the Society.

Iain Elliott has volunteered to take on the specific role of audio equipment supervisor, and he demonstrated some of the recording equipment that Canford Audio have very kindly made available to us. Some field recordings in the Rothbury area are being carried out we understand. It would be appreciated if you could let us know the names of people you know whose use of the language should be recorded. This is an important part of our work, but we need your help in pointing us in the right direction so that we record the right people.

The Reed Neet was attended by about forty people, and it was a success as usual. Our speakers were well received, and plenty of volunteers hoied in their own contributions.

## **Are You On The Net?**

For those members who have a computer, and have access to the internet, you might like to know that we have a website.

The address is [www.northumbria.org.uk](http://www.northumbria.org.uk)

The home page shows you the link to the Northumbrian Language Society pages. We try to keep it up to date, and we are very grateful to our webmaster Dave Pope who looks after it on our behalf.



## Keep in Touch

From time to time, members might need to contact the Society to find out more details about an event for example, or to raise a query about subscriptions. The main contacts are as follows:-

**Chairman - Peter Arnold** (for all general matters to do with the Society)

Peter lives in Newcastle, but he's moving house soon, so the best contact is on his mobile phone 07906-722887, or by email on [pja@beeb.net](mailto:pja@beeb.net)

**Secretary - Kim Bibby-Wilson** (for details of events)

Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1RE;  
phone 01670-513308

**Treasurer - Miss Hazel Dickson** (for queries about subscriptions)

95 Rosalind Street, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9BW  
phone 01670-811697

## Do You Know .....?

At a recent meeting, a member of the audience asked if anyone knew the origin/derivation of the phrase "me pairies is sore", meaning "my feet are aching". Please get in touch if you have any suggestions.

## Moody Book Update

The good news is that an alternative printer has been found who can do the job for us. The not so good news is that the text still isn't quite ready to go to the printer. The problem is that a previous attempt to deal with the text electronically (on a computer!) added quite a number of strange and unusual settings which have to be got rid of, and that's what's taking the time. This is the job that Kim is now doing. She has to compare what's on the computer with the original to make sure there are no mistakes. This is a lengthy and painstaking process, and there's no shortcut! So, we're very, very grateful to all those people who have been waiting ever so patiently for quite a long time now for their book. We are making progress, and Kim is trying to get the job done by the end of the summer holidays, so please try not to contact her, unless it's really urgent, so that she can get on with the job. Thanks a lot for your patience, understanding and continued support.

## Have You Paid?

*The Treasurer tells me that some members still haven't paid their subscriptions for this year. Shame on you! Remember, the work we do for the language is paid for by your subscriptions. And it's very reasonable - £5 for individuals; £6 for a couple; and only £2 for people entitled to concessions. I'm afraid that we won't be sending you any more newsletters if you haven't paid your subscription, so please send your money to the Treasurer as soon as possible.*

# *Meetins An Happnins*

**Sunday 21 August - Dialect Church Service**, celebrating the lives of our Northumbrian saints with hymns, address and responses in local dialect. The service will begin at 2.30pm in St George's United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth (that's the one at the end of the bridge opposite the Chantry) and it will be followed by some light refreshments. We are very grateful for the support we have received for this event from the minister, Rev Ron Forster, and the URC elders. Please make every effort to come along and support the Society at this event, and please tell your friends, neighbours and families about it as well. Let's see if we can fill the church!!

**Thursday 25 August - Spindlestone in Concert** at 7.30pm in the Chantry Bagpipe Museum in Morpeth. Tickets £6 (£4 concessions) either from the Chantry in advance (phone 01670-500717), or on the door on the night. Any queries, contact Kim on 01670-513308. This event will feature sparkling arrangements of traditional songs and tunes of the North-East performed by singer Ray Leonard, now resident in Canada, and brother and sister multi-instrumentalists John Bibby and Kim Bibby-Wilson from Morpeth. The concert also features the launch of the new CD "Wanton Frolic" which includes songs such as "The Paanshop Bleezin", "Cullercoats Fishlass" (blues version not exactly following the style of Ned Corvan), "Travelling Candyman", "Buy Broom Buzzems" and "Sedgefield Frolic".

**Saturday 10 September - Great North Fair Family History Day** at Gateshead Stadium. Doors open at 10am and close at 4pm. We will be having a stall again, and help with it would be greatly appreciated.

**Thursday 6 October - National Poetry Day.** There will be a number of local poetry activities throughout the day in a variety of venues. More details later.

**Saturday 15 October - North of England Dialect Societies Bi-annual Joint Meeting**, hosted by the Northumbrian Language Society, incorporating the annual Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture. This year's Joint Meeting and Memorial Lecture will be held in Stamfordham Village Hall. Doors open at 1pm; societies' stall open at 1.30pm; and the formal proceedings will begin at 2pm. There will be a formal lecture, followed by questions; a shared tea; and then each of the dialect societies will entertain us with items in their own regional speech. The event should finish between 4.30 and 5pm. The title of this year's lecture will be "Talking for Britain: Language in a Landscape" and it will be given by Simon Elmes (creative Director, BBC Radio: "Routes of English", "Word for Word" etc). Simon will talk about the way vernacular English in Britain is evolving - in all its forms: dialect, slang and popular idiom; as revealed in the ground-breaking Voices project.

**Friday 21 October - Barn Dance** with the Border Directors at 8pm in the St James' Centre, Wellway, Morpeth. Tickets (prices to be confirmed) can be had from the Tourist Information Centre at the Chantry Museum on 01670-500700. Any queries, contact Kim on 01670-513308. The Barn Dance is organised by the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee. It will feature traditional ceilidh dancing and a pie and pea supper to kick-start the town's Collingwood weekend festivities. Top local musicians and an expert caller to guide the dancing.

**Saturday 10 December - Yule Meet**, from 2pm to 4pm in the Morpeth Chantry Museum. This is a provisional date for the Society's annual pre-Christmas get-together.