

# Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



Members' Newsletter No: 57 – Summer 2006  
Why not visit our website? [www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)

Charity No: 515179



Patrons: Their Graces the Duke & Duchess of Northumberland

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## NEXT EVENT

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, from 11am until 4pm, at the Bailiffgate Museum, Alnwick  
– a Northumbrian Language Day

A day of activities and events for all the family to get involved in. There will be games, puzzles, language-related activities, recitations, Whe's Tellin Hoafies?

You don't have to be there all day. Why not just drop in for an hour, see what's going on, and maybe join in some of the activities? The Hoafies event will probably be in the afternoon, at about 3pm, to round off the day's events.

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## GAFFER'S GRUMLINS

Deor Reedor hinny,

Heor's thi summa eedishun o thi nyoosletta. It's full o nyoos an informashun aboot wor activities an events up ti thi end o thi year. Aa reckon theor's summat fer ivveryone ti git thor teeth inti. We're axin fer yor input at one or two places an aal, so Aa hope yu'll get in tuch. Wu need ti knaa in partikler wot yu think aboot thi AGM an Reed Neet, so please give it sum thowt an get in touch. Wor contact details are later on in thi nyoosletta. Gan canny.

*The Gaffer*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM was held at Craik Park, Morpeth on Saturday 6 May, and the event was filmed by Tyne Tees TV for its community programme. The meeting considered the Executive Report and the Annual Accounts, and a new Executive Committee was elected, including two new volunteers.

## **REED NEET**

The AGM was followed by the traditional Reed Neet event. The stottie was piped in, Roland Bibby's Stotty Cyek Weesh was made by the Gaffer, Peter Arnold, and guests then enjoyed the traditional pie and peas supper. This was followed by the formal toasts and replies to the Stottie and the Bard.

Members then hoied in their own contributions, and the evening finished with the Bennydikshun written by Fred Reed and recited by Alex Swales, and by the playing of "The Gentleman" by Kim and John Bibby.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Bailiffgate Museum, Alnwick – 11am until 4pm – a day of Northumbrian Language activities for all the family.**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Westgate House, Morpeth – NLS Executive Committee meeting – 1-3pm**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October – National Poetry Day – there will be activities organised throughout the day in a variety of locations to celebrate this opportunity to raise the profile of the language through traditional Northumbrian verse.**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Morpeth Town Hall – 2-4pm – Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture, this year given bi Maistor Mike Tickell. This is an event not to be missed. Please put the date in your diaries now!**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Westgate House, Morpeth – NLS Executive Committee meeting – 2-4pm**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Chantry Bagpipe Museum, Morpeth – Yule Meet – 2-4pm**

## **DIALECT DAY 2005**

This was a combined event, bringing together our annual Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture and the biennial Regional Dialect Societies Day. The event took place on Saturday 16 October last year at Stamfordham Village Hall.

The venue worked very well, with plenty of space, and good-quality facilities for the hundred or so people who attended from all over the north of England.

The guest speaker was Simon Elmes, the BBC producer responsible for the very popular and successful series "Routes of English". His thoughtful and wide ranging talk on the origins and variety of our regional dialects and languages was very well received by the knowledgeable audience, and it provoked a lot of interest and questions.

After a refreshment break fuelled by food brought by those present, and a chance to browse through the stalls of the various language and dialect groups, the afternoon was rounded off by a couple of contributions from each society present. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive event.



## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

The "Northumbriana" website is being updated, and there is an opportunity to make changes to reflect the evolving nature of our activities. If you have any ideas/suggestions for the website, please let us know. Contact either the Gaffer Peter Arnold, or the Secretary Kim Bibby-Wilson. And don't forget that our website address is [www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)

## **MEMBERS' FAVOURITE NORTHUMBRIAN POEMS**

There is a project to produce a list of people's favourite Northumbrian poems, and we think it is an ideal opportunity for members of the Society to get involved. So, what's your favourite Northumbrian poem? If you haven't got one, why not try and find one. There are lots to choose from. Freed Reed, Robert Allen and Peter Athey have all published a lot of their own poetry; but there are others as well. Please send the details, or a copy, of your favourite poem to the Gaffer Peter Arnold, and we'll send them on to the project organisers.

## **DATES FOR FUTURE AGM/REED NEET EVENTS**

Originally, the Reed Neet, which is a celebration of the life and work of our poet laureate, Fred Reed, was held on his birthday, which is 30<sup>th</sup> April.

More recently, the AGM has been combined with this event, and this has worked quite well. However, leaving enough time to have the Society's accounts audited (our financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March) and presented to the AGM has presented us with some practical difficulties, and the actual date of the combined event has tended to

drift further away from the end of April into the middle of May.

What we would like to know is what members think. Do you think the combined AGM and Reed Neet is a good idea? Should the Reed Neet be on his birthday (30<sup>th</sup> April)? Should the two events be separated? Please let the Gaffer, Peter Arnold, know if you have any ideas about this.

## **"NEVER MIND THE FULLSTOPS"**

Have you seen a new programme on TV called "Never Mind The Fullstops!"? It's a quiz programme about the more obscure words in the English language. One of the features of the programme is a short clip of people speaking in strong regional dialects, and the panellists have to guess where the speakers are from, and translate what they're saying into standard English. On one of the programmes, wor ain Raymond Reed was featured speaking his Pitmatic version of Northumbrian. Well done Raymond!

## **MEMBER DETAILS**

Please can you check the address label on the envelope this edition of the newsletter came in. Have we got all the details of your address right? Please let the Gaffer Peter Arnold know if we need to make changes. Thank you.

## **DIALECT COMPETITION RESULTS FROM THE GATHERING**

This year's Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering was another great success. The weather was good, the performers were excellent, and people enjoyed themselves. The Northumbrian Language Society's contribution this

year included a donation to the Gathering to help it overcome a temporary (hopefully!) cash flow problem. There were also the usual dialect competitions on the Saturday afternoon. The Fine Northumbrian Speech competition was won by Bob Bolam from Prudhoe, and Nick Short of Hexham was second. The Story-Telling competition was won by Raymond Reed from Stakeford, Bob Bolam was second, and Bill Stephenson from North Shields was third.

## DIALECT CHURCH SERVICE

We held a Dialect Church Service last year on Sunday 21 August in St George's United Reformed Church, Morpeth. The minister of the church, the Reverend Ron Forster, is a keen advocate of all things Northumbrian, and welcomed us warmly to his church, and hosted the event enthusiastically. About thirty people took part in the service, and members of the Society read lessons or played music. It was a good experience, and copies of the service are available from the Secretary, Kim Bibby-Wilson.

## NLS CONTACT DETAILS

**Chairman:** Peter Arnold,  
30 Chapel Grange, Westerhope, Newcastle  
upon Tyne, NE5 5NF. Phone/Fax: 0191  
264-4811. Email: [pia@beeb.net](mailto:pia@beeb.net)

**Secretary:** Kim Bibby-Wilson,  
Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth,  
Northumberland, NE61 1RE.  
Phone: 01670-513308.  
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**Treasurer:** Miss Hazel Dickson,  
95 Rosalind Street, Ashington,  
Northumberland, NE63 9BW. Phone:  
01670-811697.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have been asked if we know of any family that would be willing to provide accommodation for an American student for a period of six months. She is a 16 year old who is participating in an exchange programme. She will be attending a local Morpeth school from January to June 2007. Training and support will be provided for the host family, together with some financial help with expenses.

Anyone interested can get more information from Kate Gordon, Director, [internStudy.com](http://internStudy.com), Suite 1, John Buddle Work Village, Buddle Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 8AW, Phone: 0191 226 7345; [www.internStudy.com](http://www.internStudy.com)

## DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE NORTHUMBRIAN DIALECT POEM?

A website anthology of contemporary dialect poems across the UK is currently being compiled, and members are asked to contribute, either their own work, or that of someone else. The rule is that the poem must be written by someone currently alive or only recently deceased, so that the anthology reflects the dialect as it is spoken now.

If you are interested in taking part, you can find out more information from the organiser Ross Holland, who can be contacted, via the internet, on [www.freewebs.com/englishdialects](http://www.freewebs.com/englishdialects)

To avoid any confusion over membership, you're only a member if you have a receipt from the Treasurer for the current financial year. Your membership card is not proof of membership, though useful to have when attending events. If you're in any doubt, please contact the Treasurer, Miss Hazel Dickson.