

Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

Charity No: 515179

Members' Newsletter No: 58 - September 2006

Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland



Next Happnin

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture

Saturday 14 October, 1.30 for 2pm in the Town Hall, Morpeth – Free Entry
Maistor Mike Tickell - "Northumbrian Dialect in Poetry, Song and Ballad"

Gaffor's Grumlings

Deor Reedor hinny

Did yu see the article in the local press a while back aboot a story that Newcastle City Coonsil had stopped staff speakin Northumbrian? It was in aall the papers and on the telly an the wireless. Apparently, a member o staff is supposed to hev gon on a course where he wes tellt not ti call women "hinny" or "pet". Nee one knaas whe this fella is cos it was aal "Anonymous" accordin ti thi Journal an thi Chronicle. Well, that's a bit suspicious isn't it? Some o thi media axed me what Aah thowt, an Aah tellt them it was a daft idea if it was true.

Well, when aal comes to aal, it torns oot it wes aal med up, an it wern't true. The Coonsil never sed it tiv its staff, and there's nee policy aboot it either. But thi damage hes been done noo. Folk from aal ower the country have had a good laugh at wor expense. Whe ever med this story up doesn't like wu, or wor tung. Aah tellt one o thi telly stations that the story wasn't true, and do yu knaa what they said? The reporter said "That doesn't matter. It's such a good story, we're going ahead with it anyway."

With "friends" like these, who needs enemies? Haway folks! Taak proper whenever yu can, an divvent let the buggers grind wu doon!

The Gaffor

Society News

Childhood Games in Northumbrian

Can you remember any games you played as a child which had rhymes in Northumbrian? "This England" magazine is looking for contributions to publish in a future edition. If you know of any playground games, or any other kinds of childhood activities, which used rhymes in your local dialect, then why not write them down and send them to the magazine? The contact is Katie Bradshaw at "This England", PO Box 52, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1YQ.

Corrections

Two reports from the last edition of the newsletter should have been listed as additions to the Executive Report at the AGM. These were the reports on the Dialect Service, and the Dialect Day. The Gaffor got carried away with his gafforin and wrote them as separate articles. Sorry. I've given him a good talking to, and he promises to do better in the future. We'll see!

And while I'm on about mistakes, here's another. Well two actually. Did you notice there were two articles about the same topic? The article on your favourite Northumbrian poems was printed in two slightly different versions, and again, we're sorry about that. If you have a favourite Northumbrian poem, and you've got access to the internet, why not send it to the project organiser, Ross Holland at www.freewebs.com/englishdialects

Meetins an Happnins

Saturday 14 October – Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture, Morpeth Town Hall, 1.30pm for 2pm – Mike Tickell: "Northumbrian Dialect in Poetry, Song and Ballad". Free entry.

Saturday 4 November – Executive Committee Meeting: Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth

Saturday 11 November – Alnwick Northumbrian Gathering. There is a dialect competition in the afternoon. Further details from www.northumbrian.info

Saturday 2 December – Yule Meet: Chantry Museum, starting at 2pm

13-15 April 2007 – Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering: the Language Society competitions are on the Saturday afternoon as usual, and it would be good if YOU decided to take part in one of the many dialect writing competitions that are judged in advance of the day. The two competitions on the Saturday are Fine Northumbrian Speech, and Storytelling. We need new competitors. Please think about having a go! You can get details from Kim.

Saturday 12 May – Durham Family History Day

Saturday 19 May – NLS AGM & Reed Neet

Thursday 4 October – National Poetry Day

NLS CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Peter Arnold,
30 Chapel Grange, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 5NF.
Phone/Fax: 0191 264-4811. Email: pja@beeb.net

Secretary: Kim Bibby-Wilson,
Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth,
Northumberland, NE61 1RE. Phone: 01670-513308.
Email: kim@northumbria.org.uk

Treasurer: Miss Hazel Dickson,
95 Rosalind Street, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9BW.
Phone: 01670-811697.