

Northumbrian Language Society

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"



Charity No: 515179

Members' Newsletter No: 59 - November 2006

Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

Next Happnin

Saturday 2nd December at 2pm

YULE MEET

Chantry Museum, Morpeth

(Full details in the Meetins an Happnins section of this Newsletter)

Gaffor's Grumlins

Dear Reedor kinny

Yu'll reed in this newsletta that the Moody Byeuk is aboot ready. "An aboot time an aall!" div Aah heor yu say? Well, it's tekken wor Kim hoors an hoors to dee the job, and we're geet pleased that it's varnigh ower. One o the reasons why it's tekken see lang is on account of misteks med when the words have been put intiv the computer like. An Moody hissel wesn't allus sartin aboot hoo sum o the words should be spelt, an mekkin sure that wot he wrote wes wot he ment, an not a mistek, hes tekken a geet lang time an aall. But it's noo at the printers, and we're hoppin ti git the book itsel in the New Year. An once that's oot the road, us'll be able to get on wiv summat else!

The Gaffor

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture 2006

About 80 members attended to hear Mike Tickell talk about "Northumbrian Dialect in Poetry, Song and Ballad". In a wide-ranging lecture, Mike discussed how the Northumbrian language had influenced a number of poets from previous generations as well as today. He illustrated his points by readings from Wilfrid Gibson, Basil Bunting and Fred Reed, as well as from other poets writing in standard English. Mike's point was that pride of place was a big influence on the language used by poets, and that was particularly so for those poets from the north east. After his lecture, Mike answered questions from the audience, and there was an interesting discussion of a number of points.

National Poetry Day

Kim Bibby-Wilson and Terry Common toured a number of shops, cafes and offices in Morpeth on Thursday 5 October, meeting about fifty people and reading a selection of Northumbrian poems written in the language. We are hoping to be more ambitious and better organised in future years so that we can spread the word about our marvellous language.

Alnwick Gathering

For the first time ever there was a dialect poetry competition at this year's event. In the Open Section, Raymond Reed came first, with Peter Athey in second place, and Bob Bolam and Alan McKenzie in joint third. Alan McKenzie won the Novice Section as well. Well done for taking part, and helping to keep the language alive!

Contact from Cornwall

A Cornishman by the name of Philip Hosking has been in touch to find out what we're doing to advance the cause and status of Northumbrian. As most members will know, Cornish has undergone a considerable revival in recent years, so much so, that there is now a GCSE examination available in the Cornish Language. The people of Cornwall are also lobbying hard for their own regional assembly, and Mr Hosking wanted to know what the situation was in our region after the defeat of the referendum in November 2004. Wor Gaffor has written back to Mr Hosking giving him some information, but also pointing out that we in the Northumbrian Language Society are far more interested in preserving our unique language and its literature and culture than in political campaigning. However, we will keep the channels of communication open, because it will be good to hear how they have managed to organise the revival of interest in the Cornish language. There may well be things we need to learn from their experiences that will help us in our campaign for Northumbrian.

The Moody Book

The good news is that the main proofreading of the text has now been completed. Kim is now working with the printer to get it ready for the final production stage. We're hoping that will be finished soon, and then it will be over to the printer to get the book printed, bound and made ready for sale. We're hoping the book will be available in February 2007. Members who have already paid for a copy of the book will have one at the price that was agreed at the time. New buyers of the book will pay the price agreed when the book is published, because costs have risen considerably since we started on this project. It is fair to say that this whole process has taken far longer than any of us thought likely. The main reasons have been the errors and computer glitches made in the early days when some of the work was contracted out to other professionals. Putting these right has been a long and painstaking task. However, then end is now in sight, and the book should be in the bookshops before too long.

Sedayne the Storyteller (aka Sean Breadin)

Sedayne writes: "My grandfather – a lifelong native of Blyth, sired by a Breadin, mothered by a Newsham Clough circa 1904 – had this word "divvens" which could mean almost anything: "Pass me the divvens" he would say, usually when it was perfectly obvious what the thing was actually called. I can't recall him ever using it in a plural sense, though I do quite often ... is this right: divvenses? In discussion with the brother, he reckons it could have been me mishearing "do-ings". Whilst I clearly remember "divvens" (and use it myself as I say) it seems likely it derives from "do-ings". In the Blyth/Delaval area (and elsewhere too of course) "do" can become "div" in contraction – as in the infamous "divvent dunshus" or the truly glorious "diva sh*te". My favourite remains "var-nigh", not quite a contraction, but I allow a hyphen because one would never use either word independently. That said, in the Shiremoor/Backworth area of my youth it was often contracted to "varny", especially in heated discussion. Finally, do you cover place names at all? If so I've got a lovely little piece about the "true" origin of "Boca Chica" in Cambois. As one philosophical family member mused: "Just because you can see the moon from Boca Chica, doesn't mean you can see Boca Chica from the moon".

The Gaffor writes: Have any other members got items like this they would like to share?

Meetins an Happnins

Saturday 2 December – Yule Meet: Chantry Museum, starting at 2pm. This is our annual pre-Christmas get together. The format is traditional too – we start with members of the audience doing a recitation, or telling a story, or singing a song. After that there is an interval when food brought by the audience is shared with everyone present. In the second half we'll probably have a novelty item and then "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?" which is our Northumbrian version of the BBC's "Call My Bluff". We'll finish off with our own Northumbrian Christmas Carol. There will be raffle tickets to buy, and Hazel's wonderful punch to drink. Please bring a small food donation for the half-time bait.

Monday 15 January – NLS Executive Committee meeting, 2pm, Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth

Friday 9 February – **Gathering Fundraising Concert, Morpeth Town Hall at 7.30pm**

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 more competitors. Please think about having a go! You can get details from Kim, or from the website www.northumbriana.org.uk

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@northumbriana.org.uk

Treasurer: Miss Hazel Dickson,

95 Rosalind Street, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9BW. Phone: 01670-811697

PRICE LIST Autumn 2006

	price	no.	total
Northumbrian Voice: CD of the poetry of the late Fred Reed, (digitally remastered) + extra tracks by Fred's son Raymond Ree	£10		
The Northumborman: book of the poetry of the late Fred Reed, of Ashington, "England's leading dialect poet"; introduced by Melvyn Bragg (Northumbrian Language Society/Iron Press)	£7.99		
The Wund an the Wetter: CD + book of Northumbrian poetry (Katrina Porteous) and pipes (Chris Ormston) celebrating Beadnell fishing community (NLS/Iron/Worm Music) - reprint	£10		
Church Service: full text (incl. hymns) of Northumbrian of church service	75p		
Meyk an' Moas: book by Roland Bibby translating classic 19 th century German children's tale into Northumbrian	£2		
The Lang Pack: ancient Bellingham legend retold in Northumbrian verse plus other poems by Robert Allen: tape	£5		
Canny Bit Verse: book of the poetry of Robert Allen	£6		
Poetry Posters: various by Fred Reed et al.	15p		
Northumbriana magazine: 1975-1996; Northumbrian dialect, music, history, nature, etc. (NLS/Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering). Price list available for first 50 issues.	various		
Complete set Northumbriana £40 (p+p + ins. £6.95)	£40		
Index to Northumbriana (first 50 editions)	£2.50		
Charles Dickens in Newcastle poster: two colour facsimile 1852 theatre bill (Soc. of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne/Northumbriana)	£1 (reduced)		
Linking of the Chain: Taffy Thomas book of North legends	£8		
Morpeth's history series: (publ. Morp. Antiquarian Society)			
1. The Medieval Guilds of Morpeth: book by Roland Bibby	£4.95		
2. Morpeth's Market: compiled by Janet Brown	£4.95		
3. Morpeth and the Hollons: compiled by Janet Brown	£3.95		
Wyn's Words: Wyn Bibby's poems about family, local events	£2		
Postcards: Northumberland, Morpeth, Hexham	10p		
Postcards: Lord Collingwood's Dog and historic Morpeth buildings	25p		
Border Directors (Blue Moon Band) Northumbrian music	CD	£12	
Out of the Flames (Matt Seattle) Border pipes	CD	£12	
Barker's Yarka (Blue Moon Band) Northumbrian music	CD	£12	
Border Seasons (M Seattle/Mr McFall's String Quartet)	CD	£12	
O'ergrown (Spindlestone) NE songs and music	CD	£12	
Wanton Frolic (Spindlestone) NE songs and music	CD	£12	
A Good Line of Patter (Johnny Handle) recitations	CD	£10	
Northumbrian Echoes (Ellington Band) music/recitations	CD	£10	
Yon Canny Shepherd Laddie (Graham Dick) NE/Borders songs tape		£7	
Clock Tower framed print by artist Ray Quickfall	£12		
Morpeth Gathering T-shirts/sweatshirts	various		
The Mid-Northumbrian Dialect Thomas Moody.			
700-page dictionary of local words by Amble writer born 1901.	book:	£25	
To be published soon (postage cost to be fixed)	CD-rom:	£12	

MAIL ORDER: Add for p+p 50p (cards) or £1 (other items) unless otherwise stated. Please make out cheques to "Northumbriana" and send to Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth, NE61 1RE.
 Tel: 01670 513308). E-mail: enquiries@northumbriana.org.uk (Sorry, internet sales not possible.)
www.northumbriana.org.uk