



Keepin ahad o wor tung

Charity No: 515179

Patrons: Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland

Members' Newsletter No. 63 Spring 2008

***NEXT HAPP'NIN'...

41ST MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING 28th-30th March

**festival of sixty events promoting the county's
traditional music and culture with special events on
a 'Crossing Borders' theme and a celebration of the
500th anniversary of William Turner**

(fund-raising concert Morpeth Town Hall 8th February)

Gaffer's Grumlins

Happy New Yeor!! Aah hope yous've aal got one o them Moody byeuks, like. It's a grand read – mind , Aah divvent think it's one o them byeuks wot yuh read aal at once: theor's ower mony pages fer one thing, an it'll stow yor noddle fer another. Gan at it canny like. Tek yor time, an enjoy it. Aah met a fella in the toon efter wuh had browt the byeuk oot, an he had a copy. Ee sed ee'd borrad it frae the library in Ponteland cos he was wanting to knaa wot sum Northumbrian words meant in English. Ee wes reading sum plays wot had been writ in wor tung aboot sixty yeors sin, an he couldn't folla it aal. It jist gans te show hoo important it is, thet wuh aal keep ahad o wor tung, an use it as often as wuh can else it'll gan, an then wot 'll wuh dee?

Keep ahad

The Gaffer

Recent Events

Yule Meet 2007

Our chairman, Peter Arnold, introduced the proceedings, his bold tie adding a festive flourish to the occasion. We were treated to readings by Peter, Raymond Reed, Nick Short and Terry Common. Peter read a Fred Reed poem about a modern Christmas Eve and Raymond continued with thoughts of days long gone. His reminiscences, with references to 'Mount the Cuddy,' drippin' and those evocative co-op check numbers, sent everyone off in memory to rooms with high wooden counters, blue bags of sugar and swishing bacon slicers. Nick remembered days of simple pleasures in his poem, 'The Dandy Sands' which had been successful in the Gathering competition and also read, 'The Lead Miner's Lot.' Despite his self-effacing introduction, Terry entertained us all thoroughly and his thoughtful sentiments were appreciated.

There was music too. Dick Lowes contributed a song and encouraged audience participation with his 'Dance tiv us Jenny... Ah'll Hoy in a Penny.' Then Kim played 'Farewell to the Albatross' with obvious enjoyment and added a medley of carols during which there was an additional drone of humming from the audience by now well-mellowed by Hazel's famous punch. After the sharing of excellent food and conversation there was the usual raffle kerfuffle and then the Tintinnabulation. The participants, despite not having been oiled since last year, (believe that if you like!), flourished under Kim's excellent tuition aided by the aforesaid punch and Janet produced a new, 'posh' version of Twinkle Twinkle to cheers and applause.

'Whe's telling Hoafies' was, as ever, a resounding success except that Diane made it rather too easy for the audience and plans to have acting lessons before next year.

Thanks to all who contributed whether by bringing food to share, mixing alcoholic concoctions or simply by being there. We all enjoyed the afternoon and it was further evidence that the simple, ordinary things in life can't be beaten. We look forward to next year for more good company and cheer and wish you all a healthy 2008.

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Joan Phillips of Cullercoats has us sent a fascinating piece about her Gannie which we're sorry we haven't space for in this issue – watch out for it next time.

Society News: Items of Interest

TEK A DEEK AT THIS BARI LIST OF ROMANY WORDS!

After the Society manned a stall at Hexham Local History Day, Peter Brooks (and Arlene) contributed the following list of Romany words as known and used by some Hexham families.

Bari = Good
Charva = Child
Clapey / Claped = Mad, insane
Clemmy = Stone
Collopers = Teeth
Cowp = Fall over
Deek, Deeks = To Look
Fams = Hands
Gadji = Man
Glimmers = Eyes
Gorbet = Child
Jugal = Dog
Kushti = Nice, good
Lowi = Money
Mang nix = Say nowt
Mangin / Mingin = Dirty
Maski = Cat
Moota = To wee
Morti = Women
Nash = To rush or run
Nixi Bari = Nothing good
Parni = Water
Parp = To smack or hit
Peeries = Feet
Peev = Alcohol
Peevie = Been drinking
Scran = Food or to eat
Shan / Shanny / Shanned = Annoyed
Trashed = Scared
Yag = Fire
Yari = Egg

Kim adds a comment. "As far as I know, 'coup' and 'clemmy' are standard Northumbrian... otherwise it's a muckle bari list!"

POETRY PRIZE FOR MINER'S LAMENT

Dr. Francis Jones, who lectures in translation studies in the School of Modern Languages, Newcastle University has been awarded the 3rd David Reid Translation Prize for his rendition of a of a medieval Dutch poem as a Northumbrian Pit ballad entitled, 'A Northumberland Collier's Lament for his Marra.' The original poem is about the death of a minstrel called Egidius and Dr. Jones translated it first into standard English and then into Northumbrian. Dr. Jones is a Yorkshireman by birth and his childhood was spent in a mining area. He recalls ballads about pit disasters from his childhood. The judges commented on the fact that the dialect allowed Dr. Jones to capture the human emotion, "the immediate sense of grief and loss," more effectively than may be possible in standard English; a fine tribute to our beautiful language. Here are the standard English and the Northumbrian versions.

Egidius, where do you hide?

For you, my one true friend, I pine,

And I still live, though you have died.

Our friendship was so good, so fine -

But all our lives are on the line!

By heaven's throne you now reside,

On you a brighter sun's rays shine -

May all its joy in you abide.

Egidius, where do you hide?

For you, my one true friend, I pine -

And I still live, though you have died.

So pray for me - to sin I'm tied,

And round me worldly troubles twine -

And keep my place there by your side

*Until I've sung this song of mine,
For all our lives are on the line!*

*Egidius, where do you hide?
For you, my one true friend, I pine -
And I still live, though you have died.*

A Northumberland Collier's Lament for his Marra

Ee, Geordie lad, where did ye gan?
Ah'm missing ye, old pal of mine —
The stanes that killed ye spared me, man.
Wor nights oot doon the toon were fine,
But aall wor lives are on the line.

Ah'll bet ye're sat at God's right han',
Not drinking Broon, but angels' wine —
Enjoy it, hinny, noo ye can.

Ee, Geordie lad, where did ye gan?
Ah'm missing ye, old pal of mine
The stanes that killed ye spared me, man.
So pray for wa — Ah'll not live lang
But the crack's still canny by the Tyne.
To sing this song oot Ah began
Then sit beside ye's my design,
'Cause aall wor lives are on the line.

Ee, Geordie lad, where did ye gan?
Ah'm missing ye, old pal of mine —
The stanes that killed ye spared me, man.
Wor nights oot doon the toon were fine,
But aall wor lives are on the line.
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Meetin' s and Happ' nin' s

8th March 2008

Closing date for entries to Gathering writing competitions
(note: extended deadline replacing date previously published)

28th–30th March 2008 (event details on page 8)

Morpeth Gathering. For competition details contact Kim or
see website: www.northumbriana.org.uk

Saturday 3rd May 2008 at 7pm

Society AGM (7pm) and Reed Neet Supper (8 pm)

2 or 9 October 2008 Poetry Day

25th October 2008 Annual Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture

13th December 2008 Yule Meet

SUBSCRIPTIONS*SUBSCRIPTIONS*SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to those who have sent in subs. and, in particular, to those who have included top-up subs. for previous lapses. We always send newsletters for at least a year after you have lapsed, hoping that they will jog memories to keep membership going. In the next mailing the annual subscription renewal and details of the 3rd May AGM and Reed Neet Supper will be sent out.

Denny Spence - Obituary

We are most sorry to report that one of the Society's longest serving members, Denny Spence of Frankham Farm, Fourstones, died on 11th January at the age of 82. Denny was for many years the Chairman of our Hexham Branch and was awarded an Honorary Membership for his contribution to the Society's work. It's thanks to Denny and branch Secretary the late George Johnson that the branch lasted for so long, as finding officers to keep groups going has proved an increasing problem over the years. Denny was the ideal chairman, welcoming members and speakers with an easy grace, recounting anecdotes from a wealth of experiences and filling in when speakers were delayed or unavailable. Kim was able to represent the Society at the funeral, although it is a mark of how popular and respected Denny was (not only was he widely known in the Northumbrian farming community but he had spearheaded the huge undertaking of funding and redeveloping Newbrough Town Hall) that she had to stand with many others outside the church at Newbrough as it had been full for a good thirty minutes before the service began. Our sympathies go to Mrs. Spence and the family.

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KEEP IN TOUCH!

Should you wish to contact us for further details or to enquire about subscriptions, the main contacts are as follows:-

Chairman Peter Arnold

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Phone/fax 0191 2644811 email pja13@btinternet.com

(for general information about the Society)

Secretary Kim Bibby-Wilson

Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth Northumberland NE61 1RE

Phone 01670 513308 (for details of events, and to send any contributions to be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor))

Treasurer Hazel Dickson

95, Rosalind Street, Ashington Northumberland NE63 9BW

Phone 01670 811697 (for queries about subscriptions)



41st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

28th-30th March 2008 Programme - all details subject to confirmation Edition 2

Friday 28th March:

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** with refreshments; adult & junior craft competitions (entries received Thurs. 27th March 5.30pm - 7 pm). Displays/stalls: proggy mats, smallpipes, shepherds' sticks, T-shirts, cards, books, CDs *Town Hall Corn Exchange (level access) 50p/30p*

9.30 - 4.00 **GATHERING IMAGES** exhibition by last year's artist in residence Catherine Stott *Methodist Church*

10.00 - 3.30 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** Hautbois (Border Reivers music), Punch & Judy, Lesley Bentham's costumes, stories, etc. *Market Place Free*

Friday & Monday: performers visit care homes & schools

11.00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Gathering by Chairman of Morpeth Town Council *Town Hall Exhibition*

12.00 onwards **MUSIC WORKSHOPS** to be arranged *Chantry Bagpipe Museum*

1.00 - 3.00 **FAMILY ART WORKSHOP** Painting inspired by music & stories with artist Catherine Stott & performer Sedayne *Methodist Church (pay for materials)*

5.30 - 6.30 **BEDTIME STORIES** with Taffy *Library Free*

7.30 **CROSSING BORDERS** concert: Mike Tickell, Matt Seattle, Northumbrian Ranters, Misericordia, Ceri Rhys Matthews & Christine Cooper *Methodist Church £6/£4*

8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** with Alasdair Turnbull, Keith Besford & friends *Tap and Spile Free*

Saturday 29th March (10-4 Park & Ride at County Hall) *St. John Ambulance at rear of Town Hall.*

9.30 - 6.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday *Town Hall*

9.45 - 10.30 **STORIES AND LEGENDS** for children with Sedayne *The Library Free*

9.45 - 10.45 **WORKSHOP** to be fixed *St. Rbt's Ch. Hall*

10.00-3.30 **STREET ENTERTAINMENT** York Waits, Dodgy Clutch, Punch & Judy, Rent a Peasant, Addison Rapper, Misericordia, Iain McNicol, MacUmba, Sedayne, Taffy Thomas, Hexhamshire Lasses, Ellington Band, etc. *Market Place, Back Riggs (if available), Millennium Green storyteller's Garden, Turner Garden, Park Bandstand*

10.00 - 10.45 **CLOG DANCE WORKSHOP** Bring flat hard-soled shoes. With Anne Walton. *Town Hall Free*

10.00 - 10.45 **MEET THE PIPERS** Drop in session for guests and audience *Bagpipe Museum Free*

10.30 **RING O' BELLS** Clock Tower open afterwards

11.00 **PAGEANT** Border piper, flags, Lord Greystoke's return from Otterburn, welcomed to Town Hall by Morpeth Gadgy. Music, dance groups, Dodgy Clutch giant figure. *During this time (10.45 - 11.45 am) Market Place & town centre from Chantry roundabout to Manchester St. closed to traffic. Alternative routes via Dark Lane/ Dacre Street/ Manchester St. or Chantry Place/ Newmarket/ Oldgate.*

12.00 - 5.00 **GATHERING IMAGES** exhib'n *Meth. Ch.*

12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday

12.00 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** Fred Brierley *Joiners' Arms*

Competitions: Passport ticket for entrants & audience £2.00/£1.50 includes free entry to Exhibition. Doors open 30 minutes before times given below to allow entrants to register.

12.00 **CLOG DANCE** + new double hornpipe class *Town Hall*

1.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES & LOWLAND/ BORDER**

/HALF-LONG PIPES/ETC *Bagpipe Museum*

1.30 **SPEAKING** (dialect reciting & story-telling) Refreshments available *St Robert's Church Hall*

2.00 **BANDS, ACCORDIONS, FIDDLES, OTHER INSTRUMENTS, DUETS** Refreshments *St. George's Church Hall*

2.30 **WRITING RESULTS** and recital by entrants of this year's dialect prose & poetry. (Writing competitions closing date 8th March) Refreshments *St Robert's Church Hall*

3.30 **SINGING** incl. groups & concert bands *Town Hall*

2.00 - 2.30 **FREE FAMILY SHOW** MacUmba - Scottish pipes and Caribbean rhythms *Methodist Church*

1.30 - 3.30 **BIRD & BATBOX** making *Old Bakehouse Millennium Green, Newgate St. Free (pay for materials)*

3.00 - 3.40 **TIME FOR GEORGE** puppet story about Mr George the Clock Man *Methodist Ch. Free*

3.00 - 3.30 **BATTLE** Sealed Knot re-enact civil war battle from Welsh Borders *Park Bandstand area Free*

4.00 - 5.00 **ST CUTHBERT'S STORY** Sedayne *St. Rbt's*

4.00 - 5.00 **CALL OF DUDY** Jefe Brown presents Czech bagpipe festival archive films *Bagpipe Museum*

5.00 - 5.40 **MORE TIME FOR GEORGE** a second, new adventure (other details as at 3 pm)

6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** guest smallpiper Neil Smith plus 2007 open winners *Bagpipe Mus. £5/£3*

7.30 **TWILIGHT TALES** Taffy & Sedayne *Mill. Green*

8.00 **BARN DANCE** The Castle Band plus guest spots. Bar. No stilettos! *St George's Ch. Hall £6/£4*

8.00 **NORTHUMB'N PIPERS** session *Old Red Bull*

8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday

N.B.: CLOCKS GO FORWARD TONIGHT!

Sunday 30th March *St. John Amb. at rear Town Hall.*

9.30 - 4.30 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Fri. *Town Hall*

10.00 **COFFEE MORNING** *St Robert's Church Hall*

10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** stories, Punch & Judy, Morpeth Pipe Band, etc. *Mkt Place & Park*

10.00 - 11.00 **ORIENTEERING** event (prizes at 12) *Park*

10.30 **CHURCH SERVICE** *St. George's URC*

10.30 - 11.30 **TURNER'S FOOTSTEPS** walking tour *Meet at Turner Herb Garden in the Park*

12.00 - 4.00 **GATHERING IMAGES** exhib'n *Meth. Ch.*

12.00 - 2.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday.

12.00 - 5.30 **SOLO SINGING** course by 20,000 Voices Enrolment details from 01665 606280 *Methodist Church*

1.30 - 3.00 **FAMILY CONCERT** 2007 junior clog and music winners plus guest Sandra Kerr *Town Hall Free*

2.00 - 4.00 **TOURS OF OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER**, Mayor's Parlour, Civic Silver *Town Hall Free*

2.00 **THE LIFE OF WILLIAM TURNER** told in music, dance and drama by King Ed. VI pupils *Park Turner Garden*

3.00 - 3.30 **BATTLE** details as Saturday

6.00 - 7.00 **WILLIAM TURNER** - father of English botany Talk by historian Marie Addyman *Methodist Church Free*

7.30 **THE YORK WAITS** shawms, hurdygurdy, pipes, tabors, strings - the country's leading early music band returns to Morpeth to present, in full costume, the music of the Tudor era, including a special new "Fanfare For William Turner" *Methodist Church £8/£6*

M. N.G.C., a member of Ass. of Festival Organisers & a standing committee of Morp. Ant. Soc., Reg. Char. 507640, reserves the right to alter event details.

TICKETS: Chantry TIC tel. 01670 500700 and during Gathering at Town Hall. **PATRONS:** 01670 790465. **DETAILS:** tel. 01670 513308 www.northumbriana.org.uk