

SOCIETY NEWS

We have had a contact from Brazil! A teacher of English as a foreign language, Jorge Alexandre de Sousa Gomes (Jo Alex) has asked us for information about Northumbrian. She wants her students to understand something of the history of English by focusing on Northumbrian as an example of the many strands which go to make up modern Standard English. We are in correspondence with her, and we'll keep you informed of developments.

Wordsearch: we've been asked to help with the derivation of "glaggum" and "chort". The NLS Committee briefly discussed them at the last meeting, but they weren't too sure where they came from. Have any members got any ideas? If you have, please get in touch with the Gaffer on 0191 264 4811, or by email on pja13@btinternet.com

Kim (wor Secretarry) recently had an interesting letter from an exiled Northumbrian who now lives doon sooth in Cambridgeshire. Here's an extract from his letter

"I've had much fun with Mr Moody already. For an example, I went for a lucky dip the other evening and came up with 'tarry-toot', and what a flood of reminiscence that brought on. His definition of tarry twine wasn't quite what I had in my mind's eye, but I could see the link.

I spent my childhood in Dipton a mining village in north-west Durham County. The pit haulage system relied on thick steel hawsers which in due course snapped and were thrown out onto the spoil heaps. If one looked around, one would soon come across a short length of a couple of feet or so, which if sufficiently rusted could be unwound, revealing a core of twine. This twine had magic properties, for once lit with a match it would glow until it slowly burned away. Obviously it had been treated with a preservative chemical. No doubt in days gone by that chemical would have been tar, hence tarry-tout. Well, if one lit one's tarry-tout, and culled a heap of dry grass, it didn't take much effort to blow the glowing end close to the tinder, and there was a fire! It was a primitive fire lighter, and like most kids I was fascinated by fire. One day I overdid the fire raising and had a small blaze on my hands, which I only managed to put out with much panicking! That was the end of tarry-tooting for me."

A New Zealand Geordie? Clive Dalton is a Northumbrian bi borth, but noo lives doon under in New Zealand. When he was a yungun, he seems ti hev spent his time as a daft laddie on farms in wat is noo North Tyneside. Well, he's noo a farmin export, but he's got a computer blog site wheor he sets doon aall sorts ov memries ov his years in the northeast. If youse hev got a computer, and it's connected ti thi internet, yuh cn log on an read aall about his life as a daft laddie, and check oot his canny wordlist an aall. His blog address is <http://woolshed1.blogspot.com>

The traditional pre-Christmas Yule Meet was held on Saturday 13 December. We weren't able to use our usual venue in the Chantry because of the flood damage, and the weather wasn't ower good on the day either. The result was we had a smaller attendance than usual, but those who braved the conditions and made their way to St Robert's Church Hall had a good time sharing food, fellowship and fun.

The Gaffer med his way up ti Wooler at the beginning o February wheor he gev a talk about wor tung tiv about three dozen members of the University of the Third Age (U3A). The folks theor seemed tiv enjoy the event, an the gov wu a small donation at thi end.

Robert Allen CD: at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, it was agreed to go ahead and produce the CD of Robert Allen's poems. You will remember that these were originally produced as audio tapes to go with the book of poems Robert wrote. Well, we've decided it's time to put the poems onto CDs. We hope to have them ready by the Gathering, so look out for them! They'll be very popular. We haven't agreed a final price yet, but it looks as though it will be in the region of £12 for the two-CD set.

AGM and Reed Neet: These events have been fixed for Saturday 2nd May, and they will be held at the Masonic Lodge in Howard Terrace, Morpeth, starting at 7pm. The business of the AGM will be to receive reports of the Society's activities during the last twelve months, to receive and approve the accounts, and to elect the officers for the next twelve months. Tickets for the Reed Neet, which will start at 8pm, after the AGM, will cost £5.50. See the attached sheet for full details.

MEETINGS AND happnins

17th-19th April: 42nd Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. See the back page for all the details. Writers – please take note of the closing date for entries as set out on the front page of this newsletter!!!

Saturday 2nd May: Northumbrian Language Society AGM and Reed Neet celebration. The AGM starts at 7pm, and the Reed Neet begins after the AGM at 8pm. This year, because of the shortage of venues caused by the flooding, we will be at the Masonic Lodge in Howard Terrace in Morpeth.

Saturday 16th May: Durham Family History Day at County Hall, Durham, from about 10am until 4pm. If you can come along at some point during the day, that would be great. The Family History Day is a very popular event, and there will be lots of people there.

5/6 September: Lancashire Dialect Society event at Fleetwood, on the Fylde Coast. They are planning a national English Dialect event this year, with speakers, competitions and entertainment. People from Norfolk and Lincolnshire will be there in addition to folk from the Northern Dialect Societies. More details from www.sidcalderbank.co.uk

Thursday 8th October: National Poetry Day. Following last year's successful event, which saw events in Wooler, Morpeth, Ashington and Newcastle, all involving Northumbrian Language Society members, we are keen to build on what we did. More details later.

Saturday 17th October: Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture in Morpeth Town Hall, starting at 2pm. This year's speaker will be popular Northumbrian character and poet, Peter Athey, who will be talking about his life and reading some of his dialect poetry.

A Saturday afternoon in early December: the world-famous NLS Yule Meet!! Festive food, fellowship and fun for all NLS members. A great way to celebrate the season.

In 2010 we are planning to have another Northumbrian Church Service. We haven't decided on a date or venue yet, but we are in discussions about these details at the minute. Whenever it is held, it will need a lot of preparation. We would like any members who feel they can translate readings, prayers or hymns into Northumbrian to volunteer to help. Please get in touch with Hazel Dickson on 01670 811697 if you would like to be involved.

In addition, we really do need some Northumbrian Christmas readings and carols which we can use at events like the Yule Meet. If you have any suitable material, please get in touch with the Gaffer on 0191 264 4811, or by email on pja13@btinternet.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND REED NEET APPLICATIONS

With this newsletter, you should find a form reminding you about subscriptions, and an application form for tickets to the Reed Neet.

Subscriptions for 2009/2010 are due on the 1st of April. They are £10 for individuals; £5 for concessions to older folks and youngsters under 18; and £15 for two or more people living at the same address. Please return this form as soon as possible.

Tickets for the Reed Neet cost £5.50 each, and this includes the traditional pie and peas supper with tea or coffee, and the entertainment. The closing date for letting us know you're coming is Monday 27th April.

NLS CONTACT DETAILS

Chair/Gaffer: Peter Arnold,
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Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 5NF.
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42nd Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

17th-19th April 2009 Programme - all details subject to confirmation Edition 1

Friday 17th April:

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** with refreshments; adult & junior craft competitions (entries received Thurs. 16th April 5.30pm - 7 pm). Displays/stalls: proggy mats, smallpipes, shepherds' sticks, T-shirts, cards, books, CDs *Town Hall Corn Exchange (level access) 50p/30p*
10.00 - 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** Hautbois (early 18th century music), Prof. Gruenmensch's Punch & Judy, Lesley Bentham, stories, etc. *Market Place Free During the weekend performers will visit care homes*
11.00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Gathering by Chairman of Morpeth Town Council *Town Hall Exhibition*
11.00 **CIRCLE DANCE WORKSHOP** *Town Hall Free*
12.00 **18th CENTURY DANCE WORKSHOP** *Town Hall*
2.00 **MORPETH & THE JACOBITES** lecture by John Sadler on the 1715 rebellion *Town Hall Free*
3.00 - 3.30 **SIR JOHN VANBRUGH: A Life of Irony** - Ray Alexander portrays the great architect *Town Hall Free*
3.30 **JUGGLING WORKSHOP** Chris Walton, Ed Hague & KEVI Cirkus Clowns *Market Place Free*
5.30 - 6.30 **BEDTIME STORIES** Taffy Thomas *Library*
7.30 **SIR JOHN'S DELIGHT** 18th century-style concert with Chris Ormston, Stewart Hardy and Frank McLaughlin + community band (contact Gathering office for details of pre-Gathering workshops) *Methodist Church £6/£5*
8.00 **SINGAROUND** with Sedayne *Queen's Head Free*
8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** with Alasdair Turnbull, Keith Besford & friends *Tap and Spile Free*

Saturday 18th April: (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 **CHILDREN'S TALES** Sedayne *Library Free*
10.00-3.30 **STREET ENTERTAINMENT** Punch & Judy, Time Bandits, Addison Rapper, Maximus the Centurion, Tempus Experientia, Sedayne, Taffy Thomas, Hexham Morris Men, Tyne Bridge, Ray Alexander, Iain McNicol, etc. *Millennium Green Storytellers' Garden, the Park, Market Place, plus Living History in The Park Free*
10.00 - 10.45 **CLOG DANCE WORKSHOP** Bring flat hard-soled shoes. With Anne Walton. *Town Hall Free*
10.00 - 10.45 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Drop in session - all welcome *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 and civic leaders. Dancers, giant figures, street theatre incl. suffragettes & proclamation of King James III. *During this time (10.45 - 11.45 am) Market Place & town centre from Chantry roundabout to Manchester Street closed to traffic. Alternative route via Dark Lane/ Dacre Street/ Manchester Street.*
12.00 **NUTCRACK NEEGHT AND OAK APPLE DAY** talk by Keith Gregson: a Cumbrian struggles to understand NE customs and language *St Robert's Church Hall Free*
12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday
12.00 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** Joiners Arms *Free*

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. Refreshments at all venues except museum.
12.00 **CLOG DANCING** *Town Hall*

1.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES & LOWLAND/ BORDER /HALF-LONG PIPES/ETC** *Bagpipe Museum*
1.30 **SPEAKING** - dialect & stories *St Robert's Church Hall*
2.00 **BANDS, ACCORDIONS, FIDDLES, OTHER INSTRUMENTS, DUETS** *St. George's Church Hall*
2.30 **WRITING RESULTS** and recital by entrants of this year's dialect prose & poetry. (Writing competitions closing date 28th March, juniors 4th April) *St Robert's Church Hall*
3.30 **SINGING** including groups *Town Hall*

1.00 - 3.00 **BIRD & BATBOX** making *Old Bakehouse Millennium Green, Newgate St. Free (pay for materials)*
1.30 - 2.30 **VOTES FOR WOMEN?** Join local school-children staging Anti-Suffrage Rally *Methodist Ch Free*
3.00 - 3.40 **TIME FOR GEORGE** new puppet story about the Clock Man: A Fishy Tale *Methodist Church Free*
3.00 - 3.30 **BATTLE** Northern Historic re-enact a Jacobite skirmish from the 1715 Rebellion *Park Bandstand area*
4.00 - 5.00 **AN AFTERNOON WITH EDWIN WAUGH** Sid Calderbank on the Lancashire dialect poet *St. Robt's Hall*
4.00 - 5.00 **THE SUN KING IN MORPETH** Francis Wood on the musette (bagpipe) of Louis XIV *Bagpipe Museum*
5.00 - 5.40 **TIME FOR GEORGE** details as at 3 pm
5.30 - 6.00 **SIR JOHN VANBRUGH** details as Friday
6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** guest smallpiper Keith Davidson plus 2008 open winners *Bagpipe Mus'm £5/£4*
7.30 **TWILIGHT TALES** Taffy & Sedayne *Millenn. Green*
8.00 **BARN DANCE** The Border Directors plus guest spots. Bar. No stilettos! *St George's Church Hall £6/£5*
8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** session *Old Red Bull*
8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday

Sunday 19th April: *St. John Ambulance rear Town Hall.*

9.30 - 4.30 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Fri. *Town Hall*
10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** jugglers, stories, Punch & Judy, Living History *Market Place & Park*
10.00 - 11.00 **ORIENTEERING** event (prizes at 12) *Park*
10.00 - 12.30 **NEWMINSTER ABBEY** walking tour led by Chris Hudson - assemble front of Town Hall (stout shoes)
10.30 **CHURCH SERVICE** *St George's UR Church*
11.00 **THE STORY OF ST ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER** 850 yrs after his death: Sedayne *St Robert's Church Hall*
11.00 - 12.00 **TURNER'S TREES** walking tour Meet at *Turner Herb Garden in the Park*
12.00 - 2.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday.
12.00 - 3.00 **MUSIC AND ART** at the Chantry (tbc)
12.00 - 12.30 **SIR JOHN VANBRUGH** details as Friday
1.00 - 3.00 **TOURS OF OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER,** Mayor's Parlour, Civic Silver *Town Hall Free*
1.30 - 3.00 **FAMILY CONCERT** by 2008 junior winners, Northumbrian Ranters, tales of Morpeth Flood with Taffy Thomas and Newminster School singers *Town Hall Free (contact Gathering office if you've flood tales to tell)*
3.00 - 3.30 **BATTLE** details as Saturday
6.00 - 7.00 **THE WHINHAMS OF MORPETH** talks on the famed father and son - gooseberry grower and musician - with Alan Davison and Graham Dixon *St George's Ch*
7.30 **FOR THE LOVE OF MARY HOLLON** Rose Reeve's musical play about the Hollons *St George's Church £5/£3*

After the Gathering: Friday 8th May

7.30 **THE AVISON ENSEMBLE** tercentenary concert of the music of Charles Avison *Methodist Church £10/£8*

M.N.G. Committee, part of Morpeth Antiquarian Society, Reg. Charity no. 507640, reserves the right to alter event details.

TICKETS: Morpeth TIC 01670 500700 **GATHERING OFFICE/QUERIES:** 01670 513308 www.northumbriana.org.uk

MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING

Extract from rules – full details available from Kim 01670 513308 , Morpeth TIC or on website www.northumbriana.org.uk

GROUP B WRITING COMPETITIONS

ENTRY FORMS: A separate form per competition is needed, available from Kim 01670 513308 , Morpeth TIC or on website www.northumbriana.org.uk

ENTRY FEE: Children's competitions are free. For **each** other class an entry fee of **£1** for one item, **or £2.00** for two or more items entered, is to be paid on sending/ delivering entries and forms. Please make any cheques payable to MNGC.

(4) CLOSING DATE: Saturday 28th March 2009, except for children's classes, which are Saturday 4th April 2009. Late entries may be acceptable -- please ring to check.

NORTHUMBRIAN LANGUAGE WRITING

(see website for other categories)

B3a: NOVICE VERSE: for an original poem in a Northumbrian dialect of up to about 5 minutes' recitation time; manuscripts judged on literary and dialect merits and traditional verse forms.

B3B: OPEN VERSE: as for Class B3a.

B4: JUNIOR DIALECT VERSE: entrants, children aged under 14 on Gathering Saturday; entry, as for Class B3a, except for recital requirement; school multiple entry welcomed,

B5: DIALECT PROSE: for an original prose piece in a Northumbrian dialect; judged as in Class B3a excluding verse requirement.

B15: JUNIOR DIALECT PROSE: entrants as for Class B4; entry, an original prose piece in a Northumbrian dialect of up to about five minutes' recitation time; no recitation requirement.

GROUP C PERFORMING COMPETITIONS

EVENT: SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2009 St ROBERT'S CHURCH HALL

(rear of COLLINGWOOD HOUSE, Oldgate) 1.00 for 1.30 p.m.

ADMISSION / ENTRY FEE: TICKET AT DOOR £2.00/CONCESSION £1.50

Entry forms available on the day at the venue

1.30 Speaking

C18: FINE NORTHUMBRIAN SPEECH: one entry per entrant; a recital of up to 5 minutes' duration (excluding any introduction), of all or part of any piece of Northumbrian verse or prose, by any writer; entrant to supply judge with a copy of text before reciting; judged on understanding of text, oral delivery and quality & consistency of Northumbrian accents & vocabulary.

Entrants are recommended to choose texts rich in Northumbrian words, expressions & character. District dialects of the language are acceptable; entrants may wish to specify on entry form the dialect area (e.g. Tyneside/Geordie, Coquetdale, general).

C22: STORYTELLING: a story set in Northumberland; by entrant or another person or traditional; up to 5 minutes (excluding any introduction); dialect as appropriate; judged on presentation, atmosphere, character, dialect quality & use of memory. District dialects: see C18.

2.30 Writing Awards & Dialect Recital

Presentation of Group B awards (composing, junior & adult dialect, history articles, projects, stories), interspersed with live performances of entries to this year's verse & prose competitions