



*"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"*

**Members' Newsletter No: 71 – February 2010**

## NEXT HAPPENIN

**43<sup>rd</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering**

**Friday – Sunday, 9 – 11 April 2010**

**at various venues in Morpeth town centre**

(See separate information sheet with this newsletter for more details)

## GAFFOR'S GRUMLINS

*Deor Reedor-Hinny*

*Aah wes reedin a peece on thi web t'other day, an it reely got us thinkin. Di yous knaa theer's about 7,000 different tungs in thi world, thi maist o them wiv ownly a hanfu o folk speekin them? Aah didn't knaa that til Aah red it. This gadgy reckons that aboot half o them tungs'll disappear in a few years cos the yung uns divvent larn ti taalk theer ain tung. Thi schools divvent encourage them to dee it, and thi owld folks often giv up taalkin their ain tungs when thi gan ti wark, often in other pairts o theer countries. In sum places, thi governments put up the cash to keep these tradishuns alive, but not heor in Britain. Maist o the local tungs disappeared years ago, cos they were thowt ti be common. We knaa thet's daft, cos it's wor local tungs wot tells wuh we wuh are. If wuh aal talked modern English an nowt else, wot a borin place this country wad be! Let's mek it wor New Year Resolooshun thet we're ganna mek sure thet wor Northumbrian tung dissent gan the same way as aal these other tungs. Wuh must keep talking proper whenever wuh can, so thet folk knaas theor's a reel choice here in thi north. Let us knaa wot yous think aboot this. Keep Ahad.*

**The Gaffor**



# SOCIETY NEWS

## Beamish Visit

Most people associate the word "Beamish" with the famous outdoor museum of north east life. Well, it is, but there's also a lot more. One of the collections is an oral archive of local people speaking about their experiences of life. This is of direct relevance to our work with the language, so we're going to organise a visit soon to find out more. The visit is likely to take place either during the school half term week at the end of May, or in late July. If you would like to go along, please get in touch with Kim on 01670 513308.

## Future Northumbrian Church Services

We've been discussing the possibility of having another Northumbrian church service. We've finally decided to try to hold one in July or August 2011, probably in Newcastle. The theme is likely to be "Northumbria's Saints" and there will be a lot of work involved in agreeing on a form for the service, and then getting the hymns, readings and prayers translated into Northumbrian. If you would like to be involved in this task, please get in touch.

## Saving The Chantry

There have been rumours that the County Council might be going to close the Chantry as a museum as part of its cost-cutting budget exercise. As you know, the Chantry houses the bagpipe museum, and many heritage groups, including us, use it for meetings, concerts and events. The Gaffor wrote to the council recently to complain about this, and to urge the county to keep it open. We're pleased to report that we've had a reply saying that the Chantry isn't going to be closed, and that the County Council hopes to turn all of the museums into a trust to protect them for the future, and to make it easier to apply for funding for future developments.

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**SPECIAL EVENT – SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT THE GATHERING – a celebration of the dialect poetry of Robert Allen. From 4 – 5pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Bring along your favourite Robert Allen poem to read out. You won't be alone.**

## Endangered Languages

The Gaffor's editorial makes it clear that all minority languages are under threat. In many places, there are only a handful of people left who can speak the local tongues. When these folk die, the language dies with them. Northumbrian is as much at risk as these other languages. That's why we exist. At least in Europe there is a recognition that minority languages are important parts of the history, heritage and identity of people and places. We are going to get in touch with the European Bureau of Regional or Minority Languages to remind them of our existence, and to see how it might help us in our work.

## Letter to the Editor

*Dear Sir*

*I was angered to see recently on a pub notice board in the town the Northumbrian (and South Scottish) word "crack" spelled as "craic". This is following the London "Irish pub" fashion. It is a sad thing that Metropolitans are proud of their knowledge of foreign countries and ashamed of their knowledge of their own.*

*Yours etc  
Michael Bell*

## Alnwick Words

The following words have been sent to us by David Turnbull as examples of what can still be heard in some pubs in the town:-

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Gadgi (man)      | Clarts (mud)           |
| Yagi (fire)      | Pani (stream/rainfall) |
| Manashee (woman) | Deek (look at)         |
| Donnerd (stupid) | Ket (useless)          |

Any comments anyone? Why not write to us with a list of up to ten Northumbrian words that you can still hear regularly in use where you live.



## 36 Aad Lost Words

A few years ago Raymond Reed wrote a piece ("A Day Oot Wi Me Marras") which used a lot of dialect words which were in common use when he was a youngster living in the Ashington area. Peter Athey, who was last year's Memorial Lecturer, has done the same thing for the Felton area in mid-Northumberland.

### *Half A Gowpen O Meal*

*A Lowter o Crowdy Cowped in a Hut on the step,  
The bowl a scatter o Playgens, that Fummelin fingers couldna Kep.  
"Fetch that laddie a Skelp we the Thievel" yelled Crabbit Mistress Cair-reus.  
"Howt," roared Aad Dode, "there's eye slips where there's bair-reus.*

*"Forby ye wor a Glaykit lassie once yoursell, an gai Sweer te train.  
Aa mined yor mother sayin, she wished ye'd had a brain."  
He stooped an grabbed a reed het Aizle oot amang the bars  
An rammed it doon on his Dottle, fingers numb we aad burn scars.*

*"Aa'm away oot by, te the Stell, to cow the Eows  
Te corn the Gimmers, an torn the Trows.  
An be the Lousin, Aa'll hey Layered an Clarted Duds  
We Shaain the Bagies, an Pittin the Spuds.*

*"Aa can tell the Thane, as we stand in the weel Har-rled yard  
Aa've Eye Dyun his askin, an Aa've Eye Dyun ma Darge  
Aa've no Reested in the Limmers, Aa think that Aa've Dyun weell  
So niver mind a broken Crowdy bowl, an half a Gowpen o meal."*

*Lowter ..... a large quantity  
Crowdy ..... a thick oatmeal gruel  
Cowped ..... tipped over  
Hut ..... a heap  
Playgens ..... broken shards of china  
Fummelin ..... fumbling  
Kep ..... catch  
Skelp ..... hit, clout  
Thievel ..... wooden spoon  
Crabbit ..... bad tempered  
Howt ..... nonsense  
Glaykit ..... silly  
Sweer ..... awkward  
Aizle ..... cinder  
Dottle ..... last bit of pipe tobacco  
Stell ..... sheep pen  
Eows ..... ewes  
Gimmers ..... yearling sheep*

*Trows ..... trough  
Lousin ..... finishing time  
Layered ..... soiled  
Clarted ..... dirtied  
Duds ..... clothes  
Shaain ..... topping and tailing  
Bagies ..... turnips  
Thane ..... farm manager  
Harrled ..... mud-free  
Darge ..... day's work  
Reested ..... refuse to work  
Limmers ..... cart shafts  
Gowpen ..... double hand full  
Pittin ..... put in a storage pit  
Eye ..... definitely, surely  
Cow ..... call  
Dyun ..... done  
Forby ..... besides*

# **43<sup>rd</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering**

## **9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

Wor muckle three-day fligarishon of concerts, workshops, street entertainment, indoor events, music, dance, craft, dialect and traditional fun has this year a 'Life on the Land' theme.

The Gathering's main dialect events take place on Gathering Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, with Keith Gregson giving a talk on the sea songs and shanties collected locally by Runciman, a session on local songs and the folk scene with Jim Bainbridge, and the "live" dialect competitions and prize giving for the pre-judged writing classes.

There are three groupings of competitions.

Rules and entry forms are on the website: [www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk) or obtainable from **Kim on 01670 513308** or at the **Chantry Tourist and Information Centre**, Bridge St., Morpeth.

Prizes are engraved plaques for first place, and in most cases an annual trophy, with certificates for other placings.

A small entry fee is charged to help with costs (in the case of Performing, the cost of the venue admission ticket).

**GROUP A : ART & CRAFT** includes painting, photo, needlework, models, proggy mats, etc.

***Entries to Morpeth Town Hall from 5.30 pm to 7 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April.***

**GROUP B : WRITING & COMPOSING** (judged in advance: closing date Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> March; junior classes 3<sup>rd</sup> April) includes Melody and Song Writing, and Standard English writing classes: Stage Sketch, Short Story, Essay, Local History Article, 3-Act Play. The dialect classes are for Novice Northumbrian Verse, Open Northumbrian Verse, Northumbrian Prose, Junior Dialect Verse and Junior Dialect Prose (among other junior classes).

**GROUP C: PERFORMING** includes clog dance, singing, instruments, groups and the two speaking classes: **Fine Northumbrian Speech** and **Story-Telling**.

***Entries received at venues on the afternoon of Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April.***



43<sup>rd</sup>

# Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering



## 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2010 Programme - all details & prices to be confirmed Edition 2

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April:

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** with refreshments; adult & junior craft competitions (entries received Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> April 5.30pm - 7 pm). Displays/stalls: photos, proggy mats, smallpipes, shepherds' sticks, T-shirts, cards, books, CDs *Town Hall Corn Exchange (level access)*

10.00 - 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** Hautbois (Victorian rural music), Maximus the Centurion, Lesley Bentham, Rent a Peasant, stories, juggling. *Market Place*

*During the weekend performers will visit care homes*

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

Daytime **DANCE WORKSHOPS** 11.00 circle dances; 1.00 Northumbrian/ Borders country dances; 2.15 Lord Collingwood era; 3.30 Victorian; with Morpeth Circle Dancers, Mike Ruff and Robin Dunn *Town Hall*

2.00 - 4.00 **CHILDREN'S BOOK LAUNCH** and activities with local writer Amanda Baker *Library Free*

Daytime **JUGGLING WORKSHOPS** with Circus Tony *Market Place Free*

5.30 - 6.30 **BEDTIME STORIES** Taffy Thomas *Library*

7.30 **MUSIC OF THE SHEPHERDS** concert with Ernie Gordon, Bob Bolam, Kat Davidson, Voicemale, Alex Swailes, Windy Gyle Band *Methodist Church Price tba*

8.00 **SINGAROUND** with Sedayne *Queen's Head Free*

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

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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** Addison Rapper, Punch & Judy, Time Bandits, Maximus, Wilkinson Clog, Twostep, Lisa Marie dancers, Morpeth Waits plus stalls *Millennium Green, Park, Market Place, Sanderson Arcade*

Daytime **NORTHERN HISTORIC** Living History camp and **RENT A PEASANT** *Paddling Pool & Herb Garden Free*

10.00-3.30 **STORYTELLERS' GARDEN** Taffy Thomas, Sedayne, Jim Grant. *Bakehouse Yd Millennium Green*

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

10.00 - 10.45 **MEET JIM BAINBRIDGE** the singer performs and discusses his influences with fellow former Marsden Rattler Jim Irvine *St Robert's Church Hall*

10.00 - 10.45 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Drop in session - all welcome *Bagpipe Museum Free*

10.00 **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, banners, street show including hiring fair and agrarian revolt. *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 - 1.00 **TWO NORTHUMBRIAN SAILORS AND THEIR SONGS** Keith Gregson takes a quirky look at local shanty collector Runciman and songs on Collingwood in the bicentenary year of his death *St Robert's Church Hall*

12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday

12.30 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** Joiners Arms *Free*

**Saturday Competitions:** Passport ticket for entrants & audience 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 - NOTE VENUE IS GROUND FLOOR OF CHURCH THIS YEAR*

2.30 **WRITING RESULTS** and recital by entrants of this year's dialect prose & poetry. (Writing competitions closing date 20<sup>th</sup> March, juniors 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)*

3.00 -3.40 **TIME FOR GEORGE** puppet story about the Clock Man: A Fishy Tale *Methodist Church Free*

3.00 - 3.30 **BATTLE** Northern Historic and Time Bandits re-enact a Northumbrian agrarian revolt (volunteer rioters contact Gathering for rehearsal details) *Bandstand area*

4.00 - 5.00 **EVENT** *St. Robert's Hall*

4.00 - 5.00 **RACHEL McCARRON AND SEDAYNE IN CONCERT** Beguiling and unusual songs and instruments *Chantry Bagpipe Museum*

5.00 - 5.40 **TIME FOR GEORGE** puppet story about the Clock Man: Off to the Towers *Methodist Church Free*

6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** guest Jim Bainbridge plus 2009 open winners *Town Hall Ballroom (note venue)*

7.30 **TWILIGHT TALES** Jim Grant & Sedayne (wrap up well and bring torch) *Bakehouse Millennium Green Free*

8.00 **BARN DANCE** Fiddlers' Elbow plus guest spots including Wilkinson Dancers. Please bring own drinks - no bar. And please - no stilettos! *St George's Church Hall*

8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** session *Old Red Bull*

8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April: *St. John Ambulance rear Town Hall.*

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

10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** Maximus, Lesley Bentham, Time Bandits, Jim Grant, Northern Historic, Sedayne, Rent a Peasant, *Market Place & Park*

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

10.30 **CHURCH SERVICE** *St George's UR Church*

11.00 **THE STORY OF THE LONG PACK** Sedayne tells the legend in words and music *St Robert's Church Hall*

11.00 - 12.00 **IN COLLINGWOOD'S FOOTSTEPS** walking tour *Meet at Turner Herb Garden in Park Free*

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

12.30 - 1.30 **WEST GALLERY MUSIC** *St George's Church (song/instrument workshop evening of 7<sup>th</sup> April - contact Gathering for venue, music & enrolment details)*

1.00 - 3.00 **TOURS OF OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER**, Mayor's Parlour, Civic Silver *Town Hall Free*

1.30 - 3.00 **FAMILY CONCERT** by Clockwork Folk Band, guest performers and 2009 junior winners *Town Hall*

2.00 - 4.00 **NEWMINSTER ABBEY** walking tour led by Chris Hudson - assemble front of Town Hall (stout shoes)

3.00 - 3.30 **BATTLE** details as Saturday

7.30 **TOM TEMPLE'S FILMS** showing by Keith Hartnell of local archive films of life on the land *Town Hall*

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](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)





# *Northumbrian*



## *Concert*

**An evening of traditional music and dance**

**Part of the Collingwood 2010 Festival**

**Performers include**

***Alistair Anderson***

***Border Directors***

***Clock Tower Cloggies***

***Anita James and Ernie Gordon***

***Voicemale***

***M.C. Alex Swailes MBE***



**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010**



**7.30 pm**

**The Ballroom, The Town Hall,  
Market Place, Morpeth, NE61 1LZ**

**Tickets £8.00 (Concessions £6.50)**

**from Morpeth Chantry TIC 01670 500700**

**or from Kim Bibby-Wilson 01670 513308**



**Interval refreshments available**



**Greater Morpeth  
Development Trust**  
Regeneration of town & countryside  
www.gmdt.org

*A fund-raiser for 43<sup>rd</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010*

# WOT'S NEXT

**Friday 5 March: Gathering Fundraising Concert** – Morpeth Town Hall Ballroom: at 7.30pm. See details on another page of this newsletter.

**Saturday 6 March: Collingwood Bi-Centenary** - Morpeth Town Hall Ballroom.

1. 10am – 1pm Sedayne will be telling stories of the sea as one of the associated events being held to commemorate Collingwood's death at sea in March 1810.
2. 2pm – 4pm "Master and Commander" free showing of this feature film showing life on board a Royal Navy warship at the time of Nelson and Collingwood.

Other events are being held on Tyneside over the weekend.

**Saturday 20 March (Cuthbert's Day): Northumbrian Heritage** - Kielder Castle Visitor Centre. Enjoy an introduction to the songs, dance and traditions of Northumberland.:-

1. 12noon -1.30pm The origin of local words and dialect poetry
2. 2.30-4pm Northumbrian smallpipes and clogdancing

**Friday to Sunday 9-11 April – 43<sup>rd</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering.** See details on another page of this newsletter.

**Saturday 8 May: Annual General Meeting and Reed Neet** – Masonic Hall, Winton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth.

1. 7pm Annual General Meeting
2. 8pm Reed Neet

This announcement serves as the calling notice for the AGM.  
See separate sheet for details of the Reed Neet.

**Monday 31 May: Local History Fair** – Woodhorn Heritage Centre from 10am until 4pm. We hope to have a stall at this event, and we would appreciate your support on the day, either by volunteering to help, or by visiting the fair.

**Sunday 5 September: National Dialect Day** – Sid Calderbank from the Lancashire Dialect Society is hoping to organise the second Dialect Day, somewhere in the North West, where members of the different dialect societies in the country can come together to celebrate the survival of their local dialect. Further details will be published when we have them.

**Thursday 7 October: National Poetry Day** – several locations in the county. We are hoping to be able to mount a number of events throughout the day in different parts of Northumberland, where NLS members will recite, in Northumbrian, worthy pieces to celebrate this national day. Watch out for further details.

**Saturday 16 October: Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture** – Morpeth Town Hall Ballroom from 2pm until 4pm. Doors open at 1.30pm. Speaker and topic to be confirmed.

**Saturday 11 December: Yule Meet** – Morpeth Chantry Museum from 2pm until 4pm. This is a tentative date. Please make a note of it now. We will confirm the actual date later.

*Northumbrian Language Society – Registered Charity No: 515179*

*Passionate* about dialect

north east  
england