

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

Members' Newsletter No. 74, Autumn 2010

Next Event

Saturday 16th October
The Ballroom, Morpeth Town Hall
at 2pm

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture 2010

"Just A Line On A Map?"
Accent and Identities on the Scottish/
English Border

Speakers: Carmen Llamas and Dominic Watt
(York University)

Free admision. Full disabled access.
Doors open and free drinks at 1.30pm

NORTHUMBRIAN
LANGUAGE SOCIETY

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GAFFER'S GRUMLINS

Deor Reedor Hinny

I hope yuh cn git along ti thi Lecture on the 16th, cos it's ganna be geet interestin – thi folks frae York University hev been studyin the words used bi bairns along the border, an they've cum up wi sum thowts aboot the state o wor tung thi day. Talkin ov words, can Aah thank aall of yuh whe've tekken thi trubbel to send is yor thowts aboot the dictionary Aah sent oot in June. Fer them wot hesn't dun owt yit, the cut-off date ti get summat tiv is, is ganna be the 31st of October. Mind on noo, an divvent forget. See yuh at Morpeth at thi Lecture.

Gan canny

The Gaffer

Dictionary

Thanks to those people who have sent in their suggestions for the dictionary. Every response is helpful, and the ten or so members who have responded will have their contributions added to the start list.

To those of you who meant to respond, but haven't got round to it yet, you have a few weeks left to do so.

The closing date for all responses is Sunday 31st October. After that, all the responses will be added to the list, and then in the new year, the revised list will be worked on to produce the final version.

Heritage Open Day

On Friday 10th September, four members of the Society and ten members of the public met in the Town Hall in Morpeth to talk about the language. Topics covered included why folks don't use Northumbrian even though they know it. Social pressure from employers was mentioned as a major cause. Talking in Standard English was considered to be more "professional" than using regional accents or dialect. Some of those present agreed to be recorded speaking in wor tung.

Northumbrian Church Service

We're planning to hold another Northumbrian church service next year. The proposed date is Sunday 7th August, probably in St Andrew's Church in the centre of Newcastle, at 2pm. These details will be confirmed later, but can you put the date in next year's diary as soon as possible, because we'd like to have a full church is possible. This event is open to everyone, not just Society members, so please let your friends and family know.

The theme of the service will be "Northumbrian Saints", and if you would like to be involved in the preparations, please let us know soon.

National Dialect Day 2012

Some of you may remember that a few years ago there used to be a bi-annual get together for the dialect societies in the north of England. We hosted one in Stamfordham which some of you may have attended.

Recently, Sid Calderbank of the Lancashire Dialect Society has started a National Dialect Day for all the regional dialects of English. The first one was last year, and this year's unfortunately clashes with our Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture on the 16th of October, so we can't attend.

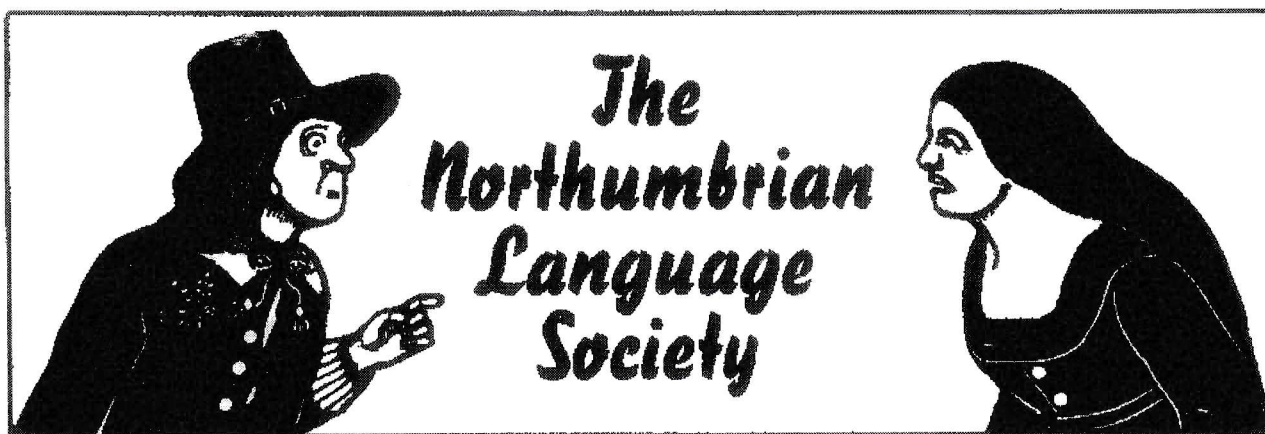
However, we've volunteered to host the event in 2012, probably in September. We're on the lookout for a suitable venue - it must be easy to get to from other parts of the country, either by car or by public transport, and be able to hold about a hundred people, and have facilities for refreshments. So if you know of anywhere that might fit the bill, please get in touch so we can have a look.

British Library Events

The British Library in London is holding an exhibition soon called "Evolving English: One Language, Many Voices". It will be on from the 12th November this year until the 3rd of April 2011.

It is the first ever exhibition exploring the evolution of the English language, from Anglo-Saxon runes to modern day rap. The exhibition will examine where the language is now, where it has come from, and where it is heading. The new varieties of the language appearing in world literature and on the internet show that this incredible story is by no means over.

If you want to find out more details about all of the events being mounted as part of the exhibition, please visit the British Library's website at www.bl.uk This sounds like a very interesting event to go and see if you're visiting London.



Keepin ahad o wor tung

The 2010 Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture

Saturday 16th October at 2 pm

The Northumbrian Language Society presents

Just a line on a map?

**Accent and identities on the Scottish/
English border**

**Speakers: Carmen Llamas and Dominic Watt
(York University)**

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

Free admission. Full disabled access.

Doors open and free drinks 1.30 pm

Further details: Hon. Sec. NLS: Mrs Kim Bibby-Wilson, Westgate House,
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Website: www.northumbriana.org.uk

WOT'S NEXT

Saturday 16 October: Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture – Morpeth Town Hall Ballroom from 2pm until 4pm. Doors open at 1.30pm. Speakers and topics to be confirmed. See attached sheet of this newsletter for more details.

Saturday 11 December: Yule Meet – Morpeth Chantry Museum from 2pm until 4pm. Our traditional seasonal celebration, with a shared meal (please bring a contribution), the Raffle, hoyins in frae them wot's theor, and "Whey's Tellin Hoafies?"

Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May 2011: Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering - make a note of these dates now of our traditional celebration of everything Northumbrian (and a lot else besides!). Further details later.

Saturday 7 May : Annual General Meeting and Reed Neet - again, please make a note of this date now. Venue, and further details later.

If you're thinking of going to the British Library exhibition in London, you might find the following events of interest:-

Saturday 20 November : "Beowulf" - a performance of the first part of this Old English epic poem in the original Anglian (with surtitles in modern English) 2.30 to 4pm

Monday 29 November : David Crystal - the Stories of English - one of the world's greatest authorities on the English Language explores its evolution in a wide-ranging presentation. 6.30 to 8pm

Monday 6 December : English, the World's Language? - what is the future of English as the lingua franca of the modern world? 6.30 to 8pm

Monday 13 December : Green's Dictionary of Slang - the long-awaited and newly-published magnum opus from the English-speaking world's slang lexicographer, Jonathon Green. 6.30 to 8pm

For the full programme of events, visit the British Library website at www.bl.uk

Passionate about dialect

north east
england