



"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

Members' Newsletter, Number 82, March 2012

Next Happnin

Friday to Sunday, 13-15 April

Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

See enclosed leaflet for more information

Our "Story Telling" and
"Fine Northumbrian Speech" Competitions
start at 1.30 in
St Robert of Newminster Church Hall
on Saturday 14th April.
Please come along and support us!

Northumbrian Language Society

Charity Number 515179

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Northumberland

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Terry Common 1943-2012

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death on Friday 16th March of Terry Common. Terry's wife Avril reports that he was unwell after they got back recently from visiting family in Thailand, and that he took a turn for the worse on the Friday morning, and died suddenly before medical help reached them. Our thoughts are with Avril and the family at this difficult time. A full appreciation of Terry's life, and of his contribution to the Northumbrian Language Society, will appear in the next edition of this Newsletter.

Latest Happnins

On Tuesday 10th January, **Kim gave a talk on the language to members of Longhorsley Local History Society**. There were about two dozen members present. The event had been well received, some of our merchandise had been sold, and interest in the work of the NLS was raised.

The pre-Gathering Fund Raising Concert was held in Morpeth Town Hall Ballroom on Friday 10th February. As usual, it was well attended, the acts were enthusiastically received, and much-needed funds for the Gathering were raised.

Kim gave another talk about the language to members of Belford Local History Society on Wednesday 29th February.

Morpeth's Olympic Games

As most of you will know, the Olympic Games are being held in London this summer. What you may not know is that a number of communities in Britain held their own versions of the original Olympic Games long before the modern Games were launched in Greece in 1896. Morpeth was one of those communities.

The Morpeth Olympic Games were held regularly from 1873 until 1958 in a variety of places in the town. The main sports were sprinting, boxing, wrestling, the high jump, the triple jump, and the pole vault.

There is an event on Morpeth's role in the development of the modern Olympics at this year's Gathering. It is a talk by sporting history expert Martin Polley, author of English Heritage's book **"The British Olympics"**, at 6pm on **Sunday 15th April in Morpeth Town Hall**. Tickets are £5.

Following this event, in the same place, at 7.30pm, there will be a screening of archive films, presented by Keith Hartnell, including **Tom Temple's Morpeth Olympic sequences** and other local sporting heritage films. Tickets are £5.

On the same theme, we are still interested in any **Northumbrian language sporting terms**. If you know of any, please contact Kim with these as soon as possible before the Gathering. Her contact details are on the front page of this Newsletter.

A little weather poem by Neil Smith of Whitley Bay:-
**When the grittor
Gans through Snittor
Ye Knaa it'll be bittor**

This weather poem could be the start of something big. First off, this little offering could do with a cartoon like Henry Brewis used to do. If you're feeling artistic, why not have a go, and send it in to me, The Gaffor, at my address on the front page of this Newsletter. Next, does anyone know of any other Northumbrian weather poems/rhymes/Northumbericks? If not, why not have a go at writing some? We need some for the National Dialect Day in October.

Graeme Lawson, originally from Tynemouth, asks:

"Does anyone know the word '**dregs**' as in '**Put the dregs on**'? At a friend's house it meant trousers, but down the pit it was evidently some lever or rod for braking tubs. And what about the Pitmatic word for both ears and the safety catch under the lift cage? Was it '**keps**' maybe?"

Anyone with any information, please let The Gaffor know.

Blaydon Races

You know it's the 150th Anniversary of the Blaydon Races this year, don't you? (Hint : "Aa went te Blaydon Races, 'twas on the ninth ov Joon, Eighteen hundred an sixty-two, on a summer's efterneun...") Well, local Blaydon lad Roly Veitch has brought out a couple of CDs of Tyneside songs which he thinks you might like. The CDs contain mostly traditional songs and tunes, with a few that Roly's written himself included for good measure. The titles are "Canny Tyneside" and "Geordie Roots". He's also bringing out a third CD later this year. If you are interested, you can probably find the CDs in most record shops, or you can visit Roly's website www.rolveitch.20m.com

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the first of April. There is no change to the subscription fees. A renewal form is included with this Newsletter. Please fill it in and return it to the Treasurer, John Davidson, as soon as possible. His contact details are on the form, and on the front page of this Newsletter.

Reed Neet

Also in this mailing is a form for ordering tickets for this year's Reed Neet celebration. If you are attending, please fill it in and return it to Treasurer John Davidson as soon as possible.

Whaat's On

13-15 April : Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering – the north east's premier traditional heritage festival, held the weekend after Easter. Lots of indoor and outdoor events, activities, competitions, exhibitions, cavalcade. Please make a note of the dates, and come and support the dialect competitions on the Saturday afternoon. Full details are in the glossy brochure included with this newsletter.

13 April- 5 May : "Close The Coalhouse Door" by Sid Chaplin (former NLS member). Classic north eastern drama comes home for an extended run. Don't miss it! PS : the early shows clash with the Gathering, and the last night is on the same evening as our AGM and the Reed Neet, so please go between these dates if you can. Venue : Northern Stage, Newcastle. Box Office 0191 230 5151, or look at the website : northernstage.co.uk

Saturday 5 May : Northumbrian Language Society AGM, 7pm & Reed Neet 8pm. Venue: Masonic Lodge, Witton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth. There is a large car park on site, at the rear. Tickets for the Reed Neet will be £7 each. An application form for tickets is included with this newsletter.

24-27 May : Hexham Gathering – An annual festival for young folk singers, musicians and dancers. The Gathering centres around the Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham, with more performances in surrounding villages and outdoor spaces in Hexham. There is also a grand ceilidh in the Wentworth Leisure Centre. You can get further details of what's on from the Queen's Hall website www.queenshall.co.uk or by phone on 01434 652477.

22-24 June : Brantwood Poetry Workshop Weekend – This workshop is being held in the former home of John Ruskin, celebrated Victorian writer and critic, in the heart of the Lake District, and it will be led by poet Geraldine Green. Full details can be had from the website www.brantwood.org.uk or by email: enquiries@brantwood.org.uk or by phone on 015394 41396, or by writing to The Brantwood Trust, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8AD

13-15 July : Rothbury Festival – This annual event features traditional music, song and dance, and some dialect competitions. There is a ceilidh, competitions, pub sessions, a concert, and workshops. There are also outdoor displays of music, song and dance. For more information. phone 01669 621000.

20-21 October : National Dialect Gathering. This event will be held in Morpeth Town Hall on the Saturday, 20th October. incorporate our traditional Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture on the Saturday, and a Dialect Church Service on the Sunday morning.

November : Alnwick Gathering – There was no Gathering in 2011, and we have no information yet about 2012. If one is held this year, it usually takes place in the middle of November. We will let you know as soon as we know!

Saturday 8 December : Yule Meet. Venue : Morpeth Chantry Museum, 2-4pm. This is our traditional pre-festive season "do", but this year may be different. We will still have our shared meal, where everyone who attends brings something simple, either sweet or savoury, for us all to eat, plus Hazel's marvellous punch, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The entertainment this year, however, is likely to include a performance of a new Medieval Mystery Play, written in Northumbrian, and based on the only surviving fragment of the medieval Newcastle Cycle of Mystery Plays. You have been warned, so please don't be upset if some of our usual items don't feature this year!!!!

Passionate about dialect

north east
england

Northumbrian Language Society

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Subscription rates from 1st April 2012

Individual members: £10

Joint members: £15

Concessions: £5

(unwaged adults and young people under 18)

Name: Memb. No:

Address:
.....

Postcode: Phone:

Email :
(Giving us your email address helps us keep costs down by making it possible for us to contact you quickly)

NB: Please note that your membership details will be held on a computer database for NLS use only, and will not be made available to any other organisation without your consent.)

**Please make your cheques/postal orders payable to :
"Northumbrian Language Society"**

Please return this form to:

Mr John Davidson
10 Burnhouse Road
Wooler
Northumberland
NE71 6EE

Reed Neet Ticket Application Form

(return this part of the form with your payment)

Date : Saturday 5th May 2012 at 8pm

Venue: Masonic Lodge, Witton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth

Tickets : £7 (including stottie cyek, pie & peas supper, tea or coffee)

Name :

Address :

Postcode : Phone:
(in case we need to contact you urgently)

No. of tickets required : Meat Pie Vegetarian Pie

Please return this form to:

Mr John Davidson, 10 Burnhouse Road, Wooler,
Northumberland, NE71 6EE

NB : Closing date for ticket applications is Tuesday 1st May
(Phone John Davidson on 01668-281462 for late applications or queries)

Reed Neet Ticket

(Please cut out this part of the form and bring it with you –
it is your ticket for the event)

Make a note of the number of suppers ordered : Meat Vegetarian

Saturday 5th May 2012 at 8pm

Masonic Lodge, Witton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth.
(Preceded by the NLS AGM at 7pm in the same place)