



"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

Members' Newsletter, Number 85, Summer 2013

Whaat's Happnin

Saturday 21 September – A Northumbrian Evening organised by the Northumbrian Association at the Battlesteads Inn, Wark, Northumberland. Full details are included on the full-page advert in this Newsletter.

Saturday 12 October - Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture – Morpeth Town Hall, starting at 2pm, doors open at 1.30. This year's lecture will be given by Raymond Reed. The title of the lecture is "The Importance of the Northumbrian Language"

Saturday 18–20 October – English Dialect Weekend in Exeter. Last year's event was in Morpeth, and this year's event is in Devon. It's part of a campaign by several dialect groups to preserve our distinctive English dialects. There will be people from all over the English speaking community there. We will be represented by several members whose attendance is being made possible by a very generous donation.

Saturday 14 December - Yule Meet, our seasonal, pre-Christmas event, starting at 2pm in the Chantry Museum in Morpeth. There will be contributions from those present, a shared meal with food brought by those attending, and afterwards, our celebrated Northumbrian word game "Whe's Tellin Hoafies?"

Friday-Sunday 25–27 April 2014 - the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. This is advance notice so you can put the dates in your diary now.

Northumbrian Language Society

Charity Number 515179

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Passionate about dialect

north east
england

Executive Committee Report presented to the AGM on Saturday 4th May 2013

Introduction - the Executive Committee has met on several occasions to deal with the normal business of the Society. We are a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which means we get advice and support in our role as a charity. The finances are in a sound state, and details will be in the Treasurer's report.

Annual Calendar - our main activities in the last twelve months have been the language competitions at the Morpeth Gathering, the Reed Neet, the Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture, National Dialect Day, and the Yule Meet. In addition, members of the Society have given talks on the language to community groups, and some members have also entered competitions organised by other heritage organisations.

National Dialect Day - We hosted this event in Morpeth in October 2012, and for many, it was the dialect highlight of the year. We were joined by members of dialect societies from Devon, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria.

We had a marvellous piece of pre-event publicity, courtesy of BBC's Radio 4 programme, Saturday Live which featured Raymond Reed reading "A Day Oot Wi Me Marras".

The competitions were popular, well-delivered, and the prizes were spread widely. We combined the day with our annual Roland Bibby Lecture, and the lecturer was our Chairman, Peter Arnold. His theme was the challenges facing dialects of English. In the evening break, there was a preview of a new film on Bondagers, and the evening concert was appreciated by the small audience. We held a Dialect Church Service on the Sunday morning in St George's which was well attended, and proved to be a popular with the host congregation and with our visitors.

Dialect Day 2013 is in Devon, and we are hoping to be represented by a sizeable delegation, thanks to a very generous donation by one of our members.

Dictionary - As promised last year, work has restarted on this project. The draft dictionary has been reorganised and substantially rewritten, and a further consultation session was held at this year's Gathering. The results of that are being added to the draft, and once that is completed, it will be handed over to experts who will give further advice about the next steps.

Hoafy Trophy - This was a new category of dialect competition introduced at this year's Gathering in memory of Terry Common, whose death was mentioned in last year's report. The trophy was generously donated by Terry's family, who attended the launch event. There were four entries, each with a different theme, and all trying hard to convince the audience they were telling the truth! The judges had a hard task deciding on the winner, but the trophy was eventually awarded to Raymond Reed. The family were delighted with the response of the audience, and thanked the competitors for their contributions. We are looking forward to next year's Gathering, and to even more entries!

Other Events - This year's Gathering also saw a number of entries from children in the dialect competitions which were judged in advance. We were delighted to be able support the work of James Tait who worked with children from schools in Rothbury on the dialect. You may have seen James and the children featured in an episode of BBC TV's Countryfile in February. It is early days, but we are hoping that James' work will be continued in the schools, and that the youngsters will be continued in the schools, and that the youngsters will be able to enter dialect events at future Gatherings.

The dialect will only survive if children and young people take it up enthusiastically, and use it in modern contexts. This will also require schools to accept the relevance of dialect in the speech of their students, both inside as well as outside the classroom. Any encouragement that members of the Society can give to their own children and grandchildren must surely reap benefits later on. Please do what you can to spread the word about our dialect!

Sad News - It is with great sadness that we report the death of Renee Chaplin, Sid Chaplin's widow. Several members were able to attend the funeral, and a memoir by Heather Ging was published in a recent edition of the Newsletter. We have also heard recently of the death of Barbara Hadaway, the widow of our last President, playwright Tom Hadaway. Our sympathies go to the families of both women.

Thanks - the Northumbrian Language Society is a voluntary organisation. We have no premises, or machinery, and we do not employ any staff. Everything is done by volunteers, and we would like to thank all the Executive members for their support and work over the last year. Thanks are also due to the many members of the Society who have supported our activities.

COMPETITION RESULTS

GROUP B : WRITING & COMPOSING

B1 Song Writing: 1, "These Old Stones" Jane Waites (Barnard Castle); 2, "Jack Simpson Kilpatrick" Tom Patterson (Birmingham); 3, "Piots" James Rawson (Lancaster); HC, "The Corn Road" John Homer (Rothbury); Commended, "Charity Hall" John Homer.

B1a Junior Song Writing: HC, "A Good Day Scouting" Sam Etterly and Philip Heywood; C, "The River" Bertie Hinson and Lucas Robinson and Dawn Fuller (all of Rothbury).

B2a Melody: 1, "Ian Murray, the Rothbury Rebel" Colin Bradford (Alnwick); 2, "Newminster Lads" Maureen Davison (Morpeth); 3, "The Slipway" Rae Colville (Stirling).

B2b Composing Excellence: 1, Colin Bradford; 2, Pauline Page (Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire); 3, Rae Colville.

B2c Variations: 1, "Top o' the Hill" Pauline Page; 2, "Wild Hills o' Wannies" Rae Colville.

B2d Junior Melody: 1, "Jiggety Jig" Rachael Kennedy (Rothbury).

B3a Novice Northumbrian Verse: 1, "Geordie in Heaven" Brian Dawson (Blyth); 2, "Northumbria!" Peter Arnold (Hexham); 3, "Geordie at Christmas" Brian Dawson.

B3b Open Northumbrian Verse: 1, "Thi Shepherdess" Nick Short (Hexham); 2, "When Blyth Toon won the Money" Carol Powells (Cramlington); 3, "A Wrinkle in Time" George Carrick (Cramlington); HC "The Drumming o' the Snipe" Nick Short; HC, "A Lament for Bettor Breed" Dick Lowes (Newcastle).

B4a Junior Northumbrian Verse (First School): 1, "A'm A Horse" Olivia Maczak; 2, "Ganning for a Walk" Joshua Mungal; 3, "Gannin for a Wack" Antje Hall; HC, "A Hike with my Puppy, Star" Tom Clark and "The Flying Derg" Daniel Wilson; C, "The Crazy Clock" Joshua Mungal and "Ingram Valley" Harry Gooden (all of Whittingham).

B4b Junior Northumbrian Verse (Middle School): 1, "Northumbrian Art" Emily Arkle; 2, "The Dark" Josef Laverty; 3, "The Weather" Tom Davidson; HC, "Northumberland" Gracie Bolton and "Farming" Eleni Woodfine-Rendles; C, "A Place of Magic" Nicole Souter (all of Rothbury).

B5 Northumbrian Prose: 1, "The Leek Show" George Carrick; 2, "Beside Mesel" George Carrick; 3, "The Mug Wump" Nick Short.

B7 Novel: HC, "Staying Alive" George Carrick.

B8 Short Story: 1, "The Smoke" George Carrick; 2, "Harrier Harried" Nick Short; 3, "Tree of Bones" Peter Hart (Longbenton); HC, "Missing" Ian Ashbridge (Cramlington) and "The Dreaded Barbie" Nick Short; C, "No Horizon" Adrian McRobb (Cramlington).

B9 Essay: 1, "Looking Over your Shoulder" Peter Arnold; 2, "Town and Village, My Father's Life" Maisie Polwarth; 3, "Aspects of Northumbrian Literary Heritage" James Rawson.

B10 Historical Article: 1, "Margaret Selby" Adrian McRobb; 2, "Oot o the Wild Hills of Wannie" George Carrick; 3 and HC, "An Island Garden" Morag Forsyth.

B13 Junior Short Story: 1, Piece by Jacob Cansfield; 2, "Thrunton Woods Secret" Dylan Page; 3, "Walk Down by Thrunton Woods" Max Armstrong and "The Singing Seals and Funny Fish" Antje Hall.

B15 Junior Northumbrian Prose: 1, "Netherton" Will Dick; 2, "Newcastle Falcons v Cornish Pirates" Allan Ritchie (both of Rothbury).

GROUP C : PERFORMING

C18 Fine Northumbrian Speech: 1, Raymond Reed (Stakeford); 2, James Tait (Rothbury).

C22 Story-Telling: 1(tied), Anna Fancett (Bedlington) and Raymond Reed.

C26 Hoafy Trophy: 1, Raymond Reed; 2, Peter Arnold (Hexham); 3, Nick Short.

Next year's Gathering: 25th to 27th April 2014

www.northumbriana.org.uk

The Northumbrian Association
invites you to a
NORTHUMBRIAN EVENING

at Battlesteads Inn, Wark,
nr. Hexham
on Saturday 21st September 2013



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING NORTHUMBRIA'S FINE LOCALLY SOURCED
FOOD, WINE AND MUSIC!!

Listen to THE REELY CUEL CEILIDH BAND
Join in with DAWN AND ALLY'S FOLK SINGALONG

Dine on choices from:

Starters

- Homemade soup of the day with crusty bread
- Baked figs with blue cheese & balsamic reduction
- Smoked fish, meats and cheese with homemade pickle
- Home smoked mackerel with horseradish remoulade

Main courses

- Braised lamb shank with creamy mash and a rosemary and leek sauce
- Home-made local game pie with buttery mash and late summer greens
- Garden beetroot and goat's cheese risotto with poached egg and parmesan
- Confit of belly pork with black pudding, mash, pan fried fillet, coarse mustard sauce

Desserts

- Sticky toffee pudding with plump fresh dates, warm toffee sauce, blackberry ice-cream
- Award-winning whisky and marmalade bread & butter pudding, custard or cream
- Mixed berry pavlova with whipped cream, fresh berries and coulis
- Cheese cake of the day with Beckleberry's ice-cream
- Rich chocolate Brownie with warm chocolate sauce & Beckleberry's ice-cream



Booking Information:-

Dinner: £35 pp. Deposit £25 pp. Balance by Aug.31st.

Send cheques, payable to The Northumbrian Association, to:-

Judith Robson, Event Organiser,
9, Haydon,
Fatfield, Washington,
Tyne & Wear NE38 8PF

Contact for further info. 0191 416 8304

*A £10 donation per head will be made to the MacMillan
Nurses in memory of John Danby, recent past Chair*

For overnight room reservations tel. 01434 230209

Society News

National Dialect Day - Preparations for our participation in this event in Devon in October are proceeding apace. We have a team ready and willing to go, and some of them are rehearsing their entries for the competitions and the Saturday evening dialect concert. (What the others are doing is anyone's guess!) However, it promises to be an exciting weekend of events, and we are all looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones from across the country.



Billy Bell, Redesdale Roadman,

Border Bard - This is the title of a new book of dialect poetry written by Billy Bell (1862–1941) who lived at Byreness in Redesdale. He was largely self-educated, and worked as a roadman for the local Council for most of his life. This book is a selection of seventy-five of the more than three hundred and sixty poems he wrote, some in dialect, some in Standard English. Most were written during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Included in the book are three different versions of his popular "Bellingham Show", as well as "The dosin o the Hoggs". Many record his impressions of the life around him; others comment on local themes; and some are verse letters he wrote to friends and family. There is a good mixture of humour and seriousness, and there is no doubting his skill as a poet. His attitudes to people and events are very much of the times he lived in, but like Fred Reed, there is much to think about in his verse, and the publishers are to be congratulated on bringing this book out. The book was launched at an event in Hexham in April, and Johnny Handle and Mike Tickell were two of the performers who read or sang from the collection. There is an informative though brief biography, comment by Johnny Handle on the verse itself, and a couple of articles about Billy Bell, his poetry and his time, written at the time. The book costs £8.99, and it should be available from most good bookshops. There is also an e-book available, and it is planned to produce an electronic version of all of his poems later.



New Dialect Website - George Burdon has contacted us to let us know about his new website which features original Tyneside songs, poetry and short stories. The website can be accessed at www.onceuponthetyne.com



New Fellows Elected - At this year's AGM in May, two new Fellows of the Northumbrian Language Society (FNLS) were elected in recognition of their efforts in promoting the language over many years. **Nick Short** and **Hazel Dickson** were unanimously approved by the meeting for the award. Their certificates were presented by our President, Katrina Porteous. Both Fellows said a few words afterwards, and Hazel read out a short poem she'd written for the occasion:-

Fellow of the NLS

I've been a pal, a mate, a marra,
But I've never been a Fellow afore noo,
Other folk hev chaaked their nyems
Doon on thi roll ov honour
But aal av dyun is figured oot thi dues.

Fred Reed and Robert Allen, Moody,
Hadaway, Bibby, aal wer Fellows and true chums,
They hev chaaked their nyems
On thi Northumbrian Book of Fame,
But aal av dyun is figured oot thi sums.

So doff yor cap and hunker doon
When other Fellows pass,
Haad on ti yor tung, yor ancient heritage,
A bit o tea, a canny crack
Is aal thi honour owing ti this lass.



Noah's Ark - This modern dialect play is based on the only surviving fragment of the Newcastle Cycle of medieval Mystery Plays. Each guild of tradespeople in the town put on a play as part of the Corpus Christi feast, held each year in June or July. The plays were paraded round the town on carts, and performed by guild members. A shortened version of the play was performed recently outside St Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle by a group of youngsters from the Northumberland Church of England Academy in Ashington. Friday 12 July was a hot and sunny afternoon, the noise from the traffic was awful, but the actors put on a good show, in dialect, and their efforts were much appreciated by the small but enthusiastic audience. The play was written by wor Gaffor who was fair chuffed by the young people's efforts, and who knows, he said, it might appear again before long! You have been warned!

TV Stars - Hazel Dickson, Raymond Reed and James Tait recorded "Whe's Tellin Hoafies" for the Discovery Channel's "Globe Trotter" programme recently. Their successful efforts to bamboozle the American presenter is due to be shown in November. It's part of a feature about the wider north-east region.

Yule Meet Mazer - At last year's Yule Meet, Kim circulated the following list of words and invited those present to invent modern dialect words for each one. The first two were given as examples:

Philips screwdriver - starry heed
Pneumatic drill - windy pick
Torch - lowe, pointy lowe
Computer - thinky-kist, knaa it aal
Television - goggle-box, cyclops
Washing machine - ganzie cleaner, auto poss, nae hand poss
Tumbledryer - lowpin claes line, dry lower
Mobile phone - lug plug, lug sticker, carry gob
Smart phone - posh folks talkie, classy gob
Satnav - finnd thi flud, wheorivvor, weor ti gan
Dishwasher - boodie basher, wor lad
Helicopter - whorly bord
Facebook - mirror, timewaster, fyess book
Social media - hor ower thi fence
Twitter - blethor, yakkie gossip shop
Laser - het lowe
Parking meter - metal thief
Bank cash machine - hand oot, hole in thi waal
Large Hadron Collider (divvent ask!) - muckle geet dunsher
Call centre - crack haal, bugger gobber
Microwave oven - kissen kist, fud morderer, bait killer
Wheely bin - trundle ket, carry oot

What do you think? Can you come up with some ideas for modern dialect words for this modern technology? Get in touch with Kim Bibby-Wilson with your suggestions. Her contact details are on the front page of this Newsletter.

Northumbrian Symbols - you will remember in a previous Newsletter that we asked you for your ideas for some Northumbrian symbols. A couple of people wrote in with some suggestions, which are printed below. What do you think? Have you got any further suggestions to make?

Northumbrian food..... panhagglety; bubble and squeak; bangers and mash; stotty cyek
flower pittly bed; blue gentian
anthem Blaydon Races; Waters o Tyne; Canny Shepherd Laddie; Lambton Worm
tree rowan
animal Bedlington terrier; Chillingham wild cattle; red squirrel
bird magpie; curlew
motto Gan on theor, bonny Lad/Lass; Haway Thi Lads!
capital Morpeth; Newcastle; Bamburgh
drink Lindisfarne Mead; Alnwick Gin; Newcastle Broon Ale
flag Northumberland County Council coat of arms; St Bernicia; Bamburgh beast
badge small shield of St Bernicia; Bamburgh beast
patron saint .. Cuthbert; Oswald

Other suggestions - **Northumbrian headgear** dut (bowler hat); miner's helmet; Tam O'Shanter
poem "Northumberland" by W W Gibson

Rothbury Traditional Music Festival - some of the dialect entries in this year's Festival, held on Saturday 20th July, have been recorded for the new ITV series "Robson's Northumberland" presented by actor Robson Green. Robson won the Novice Poetry competition, but he also interviewed some of the children and adults involved in the day's events. These included Nick Short who came second in the Open Dialect Poetry. Raymond Reed came first with James Tait third. Another excellent entry was from Richard Mason. There were seven children and five adults competing, and the poetry classes were at a larger venue this year as they have attracted the largest audiences of the competitions in recent years.

