



## Members' Newsletter No 95 Late Spring 2016

“Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung”

### Next Happnin

#### 49th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

## 1st to 3rd April 2016

**Please see enclosed leaflet for full details**

The Speaking and Writing Competitions, hosted by the Northumbrian Language Society, are on the Saturday afternoon, the 2nd of April in St Robert's Church Hall, behind Collingwood House on Oldgate.

Please come along and support this event which celebrates our rich Northumbrian speech, stories and hoafies, plus the results of the pre-Gathering competitions, and recitals of prose and poetry.

### NLS Contacts

If you want to get in touch with us about any of the items in this Newsletter, or about a dialect query, or to volunteer to help, contact:-

#### Peter Arnold

33 Hackwood Glade, Hexham,  
Northumberland, NE46 1AL;  
phone: 01434 608230;  
email: [pja13@phonecoop.coop](mailto:pja13@phonecoop.coop)

#### Kim Bibby-Wilson

Westgate House,  
Dogger Bank, Morpeth,  
Northumberland, NE61 1RE;  
phone: 01670 513308;  
email:  
[kim@northumbriana.org.uk](mailto:kim@northumbriana.org.uk)

or visit our website at:-  
[www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)

### Dates For The Diary

**Monday 28th March - ITV 8pm - Robson Green's "Further Tales of Northumberland"**. In this episode, look out for Wor Gaffer trying to show Robson how to wear the Northumbrian Tartan Plaid. If you miss it, you can watch it later on the ITV Hub.

**Saturday 30th April - Annual General Meeting** at 7pm; **Reed Neet** at 8pm; both events in Winton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth. See enclosed sheet to order tickets for the Reed Neet, which this year falls on Fred Reed's actual birthday.

**Thursday 6th October - National Poetry Day**. Events and venues to be confirmed.

**Saturday 8th October - Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture** at 2pm in Morpeth Town Hall. Details of Lecture and speaker to be confirmed.

**21st-23rd October - National Dialect Festival**. This year's event will be in Yorkshire at a venue to be confirmed.

**Saturday 3rd December - Yule Meet** in Morpeth's Chantry Museum, starting at 2pm

### Subscriptions and Annual General Meeting

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a renewal/application form for membership of the Society. Subs are due on the 1st of April. Please renew your membership promptly.

The announcement in the Dates For The Diary section of this Newsletter of the AGM for 7pm on Saturday 30th April is the official calling notice for this meeting.

Please come along and support the Society; and then, why not stay on for the Reed Neet, which starts at 8pm?

*Last autumn, the BBC History Magazine ran a national competition asking people to write a piece, in no more than 400 words, describing a historical place which meant something special to them. Wor Gaffer, Peter Arnold, decided to have a go, and this was his entry about .....*

## **Bamburgh**

Stand on the ramparts of Bamburgh Castle. What can you see?

The grey North Sea stretching eastwards to a distant horizon, the sea that brought Ida to the Whin Sill as he searched for a place to found a dynasty that would satisfy his ambition.

The same sea that brought the Viking raiders to Lindisfarne in search of easy plunder.

Lindisfarne, the holy island, the Iona of the east, the powerhouse of the Irish mission to convert the pagan Northumbrians, the home of Aidan and Cuthbert, of the Lindisfarne Gospels. You can see the island on the northern horizon as you turn slowly from the sea to the land.

Stretching away in front of you to the west are the rolling hills of the coastal plain, today patterned by the patchwork of fields and trees that hint at the reason why Ida chose this place. Rich land to farm, to feed the growing numbers attracted by a warrior lord, a giver of rings.

And in the distance, the Cheviots, hills of mystery, of an ancient people who built the forts that looked down on all who moved through the landscape, watching, waiting.

Keep turning south, and on the far horizon, see the castle seeming to rise out of the waves - Dunstanburgh, a ruin now, but once the seat of proud men who battled for mastery against kings.

Turn back to the sea and close your eyes.

Listen to the sound of the waves breaking on the shore below you, of the birds calling to each other as they ride the wind that never stops blowing.

Imagine the sounds and smells of the ancient Anglian settlement built on this windswept rock towering above the land.

Hear the lowing of cattle, the screams of children, the barking and growling of dogs, the whinnying of horses being made ready for the king and his lords to mount and ride, to see, and to be seen.

Smell the smoke of fires, of roasting meat, of excrement, of animals, and people.

Now open your eyes. Remember .....

This place was the centre of an ancient kingdom, old in years centuries before Scotland or England appeared, famed throughout Europe for its learning, for its art, and for its missionary zeal.

Northumbria was once "the Star in the North", and Bamburgh was its beating heart.

This is where my cultural heritage began. This is where I belong.



*There were a lot of entries, and Peter was one of four runners up. He had to write it in Standard English, for which he apologises to members of the NLS, but maybe, if he'd written it in Northumbrian, it might have won! What do you think?*

*Anyway, what's your favourite place in the North-East? Why not write about it, in dialect if you can, and send it to Peter Arnold at the address on the front page of this Newsletter, and we'll try to publish it in a future edition. Mind on, but - nee mair than 400 words!*



# Northumbrian Language Society

## Subscription Renewal/Application Form

Subscriptions are due on 1st of April

Individual Members: £10

Joint members: £15

Concessions: £5

(unwaged adults, and young people under 18)

Name: .....

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 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 30th April 2016 at 8pm**  
**Masonic Lodge, Witton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth**

**Tickets: £8** (including stotty cyek, pie&peas supper, tea or coffee)

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Phone: .....

(in case we need to contact you urgently about this event)

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 26th April**  
(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)

Number of suppers ordered: **Meat: .....** **Vegetarian: .....**

**Saturday 30th April 2016 at 8pm**  
**Masonic Lodge, Witton House, Howard Terrace, Morpeth**  
(Preceded by the NLS AGM at 7pm in the same venue)