



**Members'
Newsletter No 103
Autumn 2018**

“Keep Ahad O Wor Tung”

Next Happnin

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture

Saturday 6th October

Morpeth Town Hall

beginning at 1.30pm

(Please note this earlier starting time)

**“A Voyage Around My Father”
by Michael Chaplin**

Doors open at 1pm; Wine & soft drinks; Merchandise on sale

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

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Northumberland, NE46 1AL;
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email: pja13@phoncoop.coop

Kim Bibby-Wilson

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

or visit our website at:-

www.northumbriana.org.uk

Dates For The Diary

Friday & Saturday 20th & 21st October

National Dialect Festival, Savoy Hotel, Blackpool, Lancashire. See more details on another page.

Saturday 8th December

Yule Meet, The Chantry Museum, Morpeth, beginning at 2pm in the first floor meeting room, lift available, shared meal, entertainment, raffle, “Whe’s Tellin Hoafies?”

Friday-Sunday 26th-28th April 2019

Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

The History of the North in 100 Objects

This project celebrates the significant achievements of people from the north of England. The objects can be seen in museums and galleries across the region, but if you can't get along to see them, you can see them online.

The online version has an image and a spoken commentary for each object, and you can hear the voices of NLS members, Alex Swailes and Peter Arnold describing some of the objects. Contact : www.100objectsnorth.co.uk

NLS News

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM and then the traditional Reed Neet were both held at Morpeth Golf Club on Monday 30th April. This was a new venue which members decided was a good one for these events, so we will try to use it more regularly in the future.

The usual business was transacted.

The Executive report is on another page of this Newsletter.

The Treasurer presented the financial report which indicated that the measures taken to balance the budget had been moderately successful, and that we were in a slightly better position than last year.

The Officers and Committee members were re-elected en bloc :-

President - Katrina Porteous FNLS

Vice Presidents - Janet Brown and Kim Bibby-Wilson FNLS

Chairman - Peter Arnold

Vice-Chairman - Liz Elliott

Treasurer - John Davidson

Secretary - Avril Common

Minute Secretary - Liz Elliott

Bibliographer - George Wallace

Audio-Visual - Iain Elliott

Newsletter - Peter Arnold

Auditor - Mr T Horne

Committee - Hazel Dickson FNLS,

Ron Forster, Stuart Lawson,

Alex Swailes FNLS MBE

The AGM was followed by the **Reed Neet**

There was the usual ceremonial of piping in The Stotty, the Stotty-Cyek Weesh given by the Chairman, the Sarrimonial Forst Hack was made by the President, and the Pie and Peas Supper followed.

Stuart Lawson frae Choppington med thi Address ti thi Muckle Greet Stotty; thi Repley on eets bihaaf waas med bi Peter Arnold frae Hexham; thi Address ti thi Bard, Fred Reed (whes borthda is on April 30th) waas med bi Katrina Porteous frae Beadnell, an thi Repley on ees behalf waas given bi Alex Swailes frae Rothbury.

Obituary - Alistair MacDonald

It was with much sadness that we learnt earlier in the summer of the death of NLS member Alistair MacDonald. His funeral was held on Monday the 25th of June in Morpeth Methodist Church. Vice President Janet Brown and Chairman Peter Arnold were able to represent us at the event.

A private burial had taken place earlier in the day, and a packed church was able to remember his life, and to give thanks for it.

Members of his family spoke of their memories of their father's and grandfather's life, and the congregation was encouraged to stand and sing four hymns of special significance for them. "Hills of the North Rejoice!" was especially rousing.

His deep Christian faith was a prominent part of his life, as was his work as a medical missionary in Nigeria. It was there that he met his wife, and it was clear that their joint work in Africa was much appreciated for its unswerving dedication by the communities they served.

Alistair was a loyal member and supporter of the Northumbrian Language Society, and his jovial presence at our events will be sorely missed.

National Dialect Festival

This year's Festival is being hosted by the Lancashire Dialect Society in the Savoy Hotel on Blackpool's sea front.

Check out the details set out on another page of this Newsletter, and do get in touch with our friend Sid Calderbank, who is organising this event, if you want to know more, or to book accommodation in the hotel.

The Great Joe Wilson

Joe Wilson was a famous Tyneside performer and composer of songs in the local dialect, whose life and works are being celebrated by a brand new theatre production. Check out the details on the special page in this Newsletter highlighting this event, and make contact with the organisers if you want to go along to one of the performances.

Northumbrian Language Society

AGM 2018 - Executive Committee Report for 2017-18

Meetings

The Executive Committee meets every other month to deal with the Society's business. Most of the matters dealt with have to do with the planning of our regular programme of events, plus any other events that appear from time to time. We also look at how successful events have been, and discuss how to improve them.

Events

These continue to be the main way we invite the public to join us to celebrate our dialect. The Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering, the Reed Neet, the Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture and the Yule Meet are the principal events in our annual calendar.

Last year, you may remember, we had to cancel the Reed Neet celebration because not enough people were able to go to make it possible to do the catering. The Stotty was consumed by those who attended the AGM. This year we're holding the AGM and Reed Neet at Morpeth Golf Club, where the catering is not an issue, and believe it or not, the numbers coming are a big improvement on last year, so thank you to all of those coming on Saturday.

We also took part in the National Dialect Festival in Cornwall last October, and our Chairman Peter Arnold won the trophy for the best dialect recital. Seven members made the 1,000 mile round trip to make sure we were well represented. We are very grateful for this loyal support.

We continue to speak to local community groups who invite us to share our dialect with them, and we've had quite a few requests from all sorts of people wanting information about the language, some from as far away as the USA! In all of these ways we aim to keep our activities in the public eye, so that people know who we are and what we do. Do let us know if there is a group near you who would welcome a visit.

Merchandise

This year, in addition to the pens which we had bought to give away at events, we decided to test the market for T-shirts. One of our members, Claire Arnold, had done a design incorporating a selection of dialect words, and we had a consignment of 50 made. These have proved to be very popular, and so we have had a second batch printed, and these are on sale at £10 in a variety of sizes. We have also taken a stall in the Chantry Museum to try and sell some of our other merchandise such as books and CDs. This has proved to be reasonably successful, and we will be reviewing the long-term value of continuing with this outlet. We are also considering other ideas, such as mugs, but we are also interested in any other suggestions, so, if you have a good idea, why not let us know, and we will consider it!

Situation Vacant

After twenty years as Chair of the Society, Wor Gaffer, Peter Arnold, has decided to retire from the role next year, 2019. Consequently, we are looking for someone to volunteer to succeed Peter, who has made it clear he will not be able to carry on, even in a temporary capacity. The job is to be the public face of the Society, to chair the Executive Committee, and to host our public events. A reasonable knowledge and use of the dialect would be an advantage, but so would be the skills of working as part of a team of volunteers. Peter is happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in the role, and he can be contacted by phone on 01434 608230, or by email on pja13@phonecoop.coop

Thanks

Because we are a small charity, everyone who helps on the Executive Committee, or at events, is a volunteer, and without them, we can do nothing. So, once again, we would like to thank everyone who has helped to keep our dialect alive, either by attending events, or by taking part, or by being a member of the Executive Committee.

A Celebration of England's Regional Accents

The National Dialect Festival 2018

will be hosted by

The Lancashire Society

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st October 2018

at



The Savoy Hotel
Queen's Promenade
Blackpool
FY2 9SJ



Talks, Competitions, Entertainment

For details of registration & accommodation package please contact the Secretary on lancsocsecretary@gmail.com

Events are free of charge and open to non-residents



The Great Joe Wilson

The Great Joe Wilson is a co-production between Darlington Hippodrome and Wisecrack Productions about (arguably) the greatest-ever North East singer/songwriter.

This must-see comedy drama about *The Bard of Tyneside* has been written by Ed Waugh (*Mr Corvan's Music Hall, Hadaway Harry, Sunday for Sammy, Laffalang*). Joe Wilson died in 1875, aged only 33, but wrote 360 songs, many of which are still popular today: The Unthanks recorded *Gallowgate Lad* in 2011, *Keep Your Feet Still, Geordie Hinny* has been covered dozens of times and *Sally Wheatley* was an integral part of 'The Dubliner' set.

From the moment he made his professional debut at the famous Balmbra's in Newcastle's Bigg Market December 1864, Wilson became a North East superstar and topped the bill at every major concert hall in the region, all with a capacity of over 1,000, some of them with capacities of between 2,000 and 4,000. Based on Dave Harker's new book *The Gallowgate Lad*, *The Great Joe Wilson* features

Joe's words put to tunes by Pete Scott and Alex Glasgow. Starring top North East actors Micky Cochrane, Sarah Boulter, the multi-award winning Jamie Brown and musician Jordan Miller, who has just finished a European tour with top North East band The Lake Poets. *The Great Joe Wilson* is touring the region in September. For further details visit: www.wisecrackproductions.co.uk

DARLINGTON HIPPODROME
with
WISERACK PRODUCTIONS
presents

THE BARD OF TYNESIDE THE GREAT JOE WILSON

A BRILLIANT NEW PLAY WITH MUSIC ABOUT THE
GREATEST-EVER COEDIESINGER, SONGWRITER

**TOURING THE
NORTH EAST
6TH-15TH
SEPTEMBER
2018**

SEPTEMBER 6TH - 8TH* DARLINGTON HIPPODROME (01223 407 801)	SEPTEMBER 10TH* SAGE GATESHEAD (0191 641 4484)	SEPTEMBER 11TH* PLATHOUSE WHITLEY BAY (0161 348 700)	SEPTEMBER 12TH ALLAN ARMSTRONG THEATRE, STANLEY (01207 278 00)	SEPTEMBER 13TH & 14TH* WESTYAR THEATRE SOUTH SHIELDS (0191 451 0184)
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JOE WILSON'S BRILLIANT
LYRICS PUT TO TUNES BY
PETE SCOTT AND
ALEX GLASGOW

BASED ON THE BOOK
THE GALLOWGATE LAD:
JOE WILSON'S LIFE & SONGS
BY DAVE HARKER

WRITTEN BY ED WAUGH
WRITER OF HADAWAY HARRY,
MR CORVAN'S MUSIC HALL &
SUNDAY FOR SAMMY'S SKETCHES
CO-WRITER OF DIRTY DUSTING
& ALF KANSLEY KNEW
MT GRANDFATHER

STARRING
MICKY COCHRANE
SARAH BOULTER
JAMIE BROWN
JORDAN MILLER

DH
YONFOX
WISERACK PRODUCTIONS
www.wisecrackproductions.co.uk