

Members' Newsletter

Number 107

Summer 2019

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

Next Happnin

Saturday 12 October

Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture

Morpeth Town Hall at 2pm
(Doors open at 1.30pm)

Karen Lowing

"Recent Developments in Northumbrian
and Scots Language in the Classroom"

*Full details of this event are on the
final page of this Newsletter*

Mair Happnins in 2019

Friday-Sunday 18-20 October

National Dialect Festival

Savoy Hotel. Blackpool, Lancashire

Saturday 7 December

Yule Meet at 2pm

Morpeth Chantry Museum

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Northumbrian Wordlist

In this edition of the Newsletter we've included a basic Northumbrian dialect wordlist of 140 words from the 1500+ words in our forthcoming Northumbrian dialect dictionary.

It contains enough everyday words to get you started on speaking wor tung to anyone who is willing to listen.

The important thing is to use these words as often as you can and impress your friends and neighbours. Have fun!!

52nd Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering
DIALECT COMPETITION RESULTS

B3a Novice Northumbrian Verse: 1, "The Ballad of the Blue-Grey Bullock" Graham Bell; 2, "Hymn to Northumberland" Charlie Chomse (Corbridge)

B3b Open Northumbrian Verse: 1, "Breedwinner" Maggie Davison (Hexham); 2, "The Battle of Homildon" Carol Dixon (Pegswood); 3, "Enough and a Little to Spare" Robert Deacon (Cheshire)

B5 Northumbrian Prose: 1, "The Queen Mother's Trees" Carl Stiansen (Holy Island)

C18 Northumbrian Speech: 1, Eileen Beers (Morpeth); 2, Maggie Davison (Hexham); 3, Carl Stiansen; HC, Carol Dixon (Pegswood)

C22 Story Telling: 1, Gregory McCormick ((Birtley)) 2, Chris Jones

C26 Hoafy Trophy: 1, Stuart Lawson (Choppington); 2, Gregory McCormick; 3, Carolyn Marshall (Newbiggin)

*FOR FULL RESULTS OF ALL THE GATHERING'S ART & CRAFT, WRITING & COMPOSING AND PERFORMING COMPETITIONS PLEASE SEE
www.northumbriana.org.uk*

We are also very pleased to announce that long-serving member of the Society, Nick Short of Hexham, won the Cuddy Butterfield trophy at this year's Gathering for the best male costume. Nick was wearing his father's 99 year old shepherd's plaid.



**2019 Annual General Meeting,
held at Morpeth Golf Club
on Monday 11 May**

The following members were elected :

President : Katrina Porteous (FNLS)
Vice-Presidents : Janet Brown;
Kim Bibby-Wilson (FNLS)
Chair : Stuart Lawson
Vice-Chair : Liz Elliott
Secretary : Avril Common
Minute Secretary : Liz Elliott
Treasurer : John Davidson
Bibliographer : George Wallace
Newsletter Editor : Peter Arnold
Audio-Visual : Iain Elliott
Honorary Auditor : Tom Horne

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee :

Hazel Dickson (FNLS)
Ron Forster
Alex Swailes (FNLS) MBE
Richard Wilson

The AGM was followed by the annual **Reed Neet** celebration, an effort thi **Pie an Peas Supper**, thi **Address ti the Muckle Greet Stotty** was med bi Maistor Stuart Lawson frae Stakeford; thi **Repley on eets bihaaf** waas med bi Maistor John Davidson frae Wooler; the **Address ti the Baard** waas med bi Maistor Peter Arnold frae Hexham; an thi **Repley on ees behaaf** waas med bi Mistruss Eileen Beers frae Morpeth. **Bits an Pieces** frae those present wor hoyed in bi them that wor theor, an a gud time waas had bi aall.



A Charity fundraiser with all
proceeds going to :

THE JACKIE FIELDING FUND

www.jackiefieldingfund.com



WHO
KILLED
CUSHIE?

TICKETS
£12

An interactive
murder-mystery
with a delicious
three course
Geordie supper!

Friday 26th July
2019 - 7:00PM

South Shields
Westoe RFC

35 Dean Road,
South Shields
NE33 4EA

PRIZES

She's a big lass and a bonny lass and she's ... DEAD!

A MURDER MYSTERY CHARITY DINNER WITH PRIZES

FRIDAY 26TH JULY 2019, 7:00PM

South Shields Westoe RFC, 35 Dean Rd, South Shields NE33 4EA, UK
TICKETS ONLY £12

BOOK ONLINE: www.jackiefieldingfund.com/events

BOX OFFICE: 0191 682 4647

WHO KILLED CUSHIE?

The event of the year, it's the **WHEY AYE AWARDS 2019** - honouring extraordinary Geordie cannybodies with a glorious, golden gong! Any Geordie who's any Geordie will be there and probably quite a few Mackems and Sandancers too!

Legendary-lobster-lover, Cushie Butterfield is set to host the momentous occasion but as the crowd swells with song, it seems not only is Cushie a big lass and a bonny lass...she's a **DEAD** lass! And that's just for starters!

Floods of fake tears will flow and the stage will soon be awash with secrets, lies and scandal...fuelled by wannabes, hasbeens and couldabeens - all wanting their time in the spotlight!

Join Detective Victor Stanhope in the race to uncover the Westoe Whacker in an evening of abject lunacy and comic buffoonery! Enjoy a delicious **3-course Geordie supper with soup, stotties, pies & peas** and the chance to win some fantastic prizes for super sleuthing skills!

PLUS RAFFLE
and
AMAZING
PRIZES

TICKETS TO 'SUNDAY FOR SAMMY' 2020
TICKETS TO JASON COOK'S COMEDY CLUB
UNIQUE 'ALFIE ART' FROM ALFIE JOEY
TICKETS TO 'BOOK OF MORMON' SUNDERLAND EMPIRE
VODKA, SCOTCH, PROSECCO, SAKS HAIR & BEAUTY GIFTS
AND MANY MANY MORE!

A Basic Northumbrian Wordlist

There are about 1,250 Northumbrian dialect words in the first section of the main wordlist. That's a lot of new words to remember and use if you want to talk in Northumbrian. The list on the next two pages is a more manageable number, about 140, which contains what most of us would recognise as the most used words you will need to know to be able to talk fluently in Northumbrian. We hope this shorter list helps you to get started *taalkin proper!*

aad-farrened - old fashioned :

"Ee's aad-farrened, him"

ahint - behind : *"look ahint thi telly, will yuh"*

ax - ask : *"Aah axed him whaat ee waas deein"*

aye - yes : *"Aye, Aah's gannin ti thi match"*

ayont - beyond : *"Me mam's ayont yon gallowa"*

bagies - turnips : *"Yon bagies'll syun be howked"*

bairn - child : *"Wor Jimmy's a reet impittent bairn"*

bait - food, lunch : *"Whaat's in yor bait, marra?"*

blashy - poor quality, weak and watery :

"Aah's proper blashy thi day"

blether - talk, chatter : *"Ees blether is full o nowt!"*

borstin - desperate for the toilet :

"Aah's fair borstin!"

bray - hit, thrash : *"Aah's ganna bray ye"*

bullets - sweets :

"Mam, can Aah hev sum bullets?"

canny - nice, friendly :

"She's a reet canny wifie, yuh knaa"

chare - narrow alleyway or street :

"Divvent gan doon yon chare"

claggy - sticky :

"Whey, pet, yor aall claggy wi yon glue"

clarts - mud, mess :

"Hev yous all been plodging i thi clarts?"

cloffy - feckless, useless : *"Yor a reet cloffy bairn"*

cloot - clout, hit :

"Mam, ee gov is a cloot roond me heed"

coggle - shaky, wobbly :

"Aye, me dad's awfu coggly just noo"

cowp - fall over, overbalance :

"Yon bucket's cowped ower"

cracket - three-legged stool :

"Thi cracket's lost a leg, dad"

cree - a pen for animals :

"Gan an shut the gyet in thi cree, will yuh"

cuddy - donkey : *"Tek a deek o yon cuddy"*

divvent - do not, don't : *"Divvent dee yon, man"*

dowly - miserable, doleful :

"Whaat for are yuh se dowly, hinny?"

duds - smart clothes :

"Di yuh like me new duds, then?"

dunch - collide with, crash into :

"Divvent dunch is, hinny"

dut - hat : *"Whe's pinched me dut?"*

een - eyes : *"Yor een's aall black an blue"*

ee's - his : *"Ee's lost ees penka!"*

fadge - flat-bread cake :

"Mam, wheor's thi fadge gon ti?"

fash - bother, trouble : *"Divvent fash theesel, pet"*

femmor - weak, fragile :

"Yon chair's geet femmor, yuh knaa"

fettle - make, sort out, health :

"Hoo's yor fettle thi day?"

fligarishon - celebration :

"Yon disarves a reet fligarishon"

forbye - also : *"Wor bairns is gannin forbye"*

fornenst - opposite : *"Thi hoos is fornenst thi park"*

gadgy - old man, any man :

"Ee's a reet radgy gadgy, him"

gallowa - horse : *"Yon's a canny gallowa"*

galluses - braces :

"Me galluses is brokken!"

gan, gannin - go, going :

"Aah's gannin ti thi toon thi morra"

ganzie - pullover, jumper :

"Mam, wheor's me ganzie at?"

gee - huff, sulk : *"Ee's tekken thi gee agyen"*

glaikit - clumsy, inattentive :

"Wor kid's a reet glaiky gowk!"

glaur - foul-smelling liquid manure :

"Mam, me dad's sittin i thi glaur!"

gliff - fright, scare : *"Ee, yuh gov is a reet gliff!"*

gob - mouth :

"Yon bairn's got a reet big gob on im"

gog - berry : *"Mista, hev yuh ony gogs on yuh?"*

gonniel - fool, weakling : *"Yor a reet gonniel, ye!"*

gowk - apple core, fool :

"Aah divvent like eatin gowks"

hacky - dirty : *"Wor bairn's aall hacky dorty"*

hadaway - get away! I don't believe you! :

"Hadaway an tittle!"

hap - cover, wrap-up :

"Jacky, hap thi bairn will yuh"

hikey - carrying someone :

"Dad, Aah's knackered. Giz a hikey"

hinny - term of endearment :

"Is yuh alreet, hinny?"

hoppins - a fun fair :

"Mam, can wuh gan ti thi Hoppins?"

howk - dig up :

"Ee! Lukka whaat Aah howked up just noo!"

hoy - throw : *"Giv ower hoyin styens"*

hyem - home : *"Aah's gannin hyem"*

impittent - cheeky, rude, impudent :

"Yon's an impittent bairn!"

in-bye - close by, near by :

"Thi hoos is in-bye, Aah reckon"

jaloose - work out, discover :

"Aah canna jaloose whaat it'll cost wuh"

jarp - hit at an angle :
"Haway, man! Let is jarp yor conker!"

keek - look at : *"Tek a keek at yon!"*

ket - rubbish, sweets : *"Hev yuh ony ket on yuh?"*

kizzen - dry up, over cook, shrivel :
"Mam! Thi tetties is aall kizzened!"

larn - teach : *"Aah's ganna larn yuh ti taalk proper"*

liggies - game of marbles :
"Haway, man, let's play liggies"

lowp, lowpin - jump, jumping :
"Them lambs is lowpin aall ower"

lowse - loosen, release :
"It's lowsen time at thi skyul"

mair - more : *"Aah's got a lot mair ti dee noo!"*

marra - friend :
"Hey, marra, lend is a pund will yuh?"

mask - brew tea : *"Whe's maskin thi tea thi day?"*

mazer - amazing, unbelievable :
"Wor Nanny's a mazer!"

mell - a big hammer or mallet :
"Ee waas brayin it wiv a mell"

mowdiewarp - mole :
"Yon field's full o mowdiewarps"

muckle - big, great, enormous :
"Let's hev a muckle fligarishon!"

mun, ma'an - must :
"Yuh mun larn ti say nowt when ee's about"

myek - make :
"Whe's mekkin thi tea thi day, then?"

na - no : *"Divvent ye say Na ti me, bonny lad"*

netty - toilet : *"Aah's gannin ti thi netty"*

nigh-hand - nearby :
"Thi Store's nigh-hand thi Club"

nooled - dispirited, defeated, downcast :
"Aah's fair nooled thi day"

nowt - nothing :
"But Aah's dyun nowt wrang, mista!"

nyen - none : *"Nyen o them waad lend a hand"*

oot-bye - over there, some distance away :
"Thi yowes is oot-bye"

oozly - miserable, knackered, worn out :
"Aah's fair oozly thi noo"

ower - over : *"Giv ower bubblin!"*

owt - anything : *"Is yuh gannin ti giz is owt?"*

oxter - arm pit :
"Me oxters is aall sweaty an stinky noo"

palatic - completely drunk :
"Wor Tom waas palatic agyen last Satda"

penka - a marble, usually made of glass :
"Hev yuh seen me penka?"

pet - term of endearment : *"Is yuh alreet, pet?"*

(playin thi) wag - playing truant :
"Wor Billy's playin thi wag agyen"

plodge - walk in water :
"Thi bairns is plodgin i thi wettor"

pollis - police : *"Hey up, heor's thi pollis"*

pund - pound (money, weight) :
"Aah hatta pay fowerty pund for yon!"

raa - a row of terraced houses :
"Ee lives at tother end o thi raa"

reet - right : *"She's a reet bobby-dazzler, isn't she?"*

rive - tear, wreck, break :
"Divvent rive yor ganzie, man!"

sark - shirt :
"Ee waas wearin ees Sunda sark, an all"

scranshums - bits of fried batter :
"Div yuh want scranshums as weel?"

scrunty - poor, barren, poverty-stricken :
"Yon derg's a scrunty thing"

scumfished - smothered, unable to breathe :
"Aah's reet scumfished!"

sic - such : *"It was sic a champion weddin"*

siddle - slope down : *"See the siddle o yon roof"*

skelp - hit, beat, slap :
"Aah's ganna skelp yor lug!"

skep - basket : *"Billy! Hev yuh seen me skep?"*

smit - illness, infection : *"Thi bairn's got thi smit"*

spelk - splinter, weak child :
"Mam! Aah's got a spelk in me finga"

spuggie - sparrow : *"Thi gardin's full o spuggies"*

stot - bounce : *"Giv ower stottin thi baal!"*

stotty-cyek - oven-bottom bread :
"Heor, pet, hev sum stotty-cyek"

stumer - an outrageous plan :
"Yon's a reet stumer"

styen - stone :
"Hev yuh seen thi size o yon styen?"

sweir - unruly, difficult, obstinate, awkward :
"Ee's a sweir bairn, yon"

syun - soon : *"Aah'll cum as syun as Aah can"*

tab - cigarette : *"Hev yuh ony tabs, marra?"*

teem - pour : *"Can yuh teem thi tea, pet?"*

tettie - potato :
"Aah' ll gan an howk up sum tetties"

thor - their : *"Thor hoos is geet massive!"*

tret - treated : *"Wor Bella tret is tiv an ice-cream"*

tyek - take : *"Can yuh tyek is ti thi bus, pet?"*

upahite - up there : *"Aah's not gannin upahite!"*

varnigh - nearly : *"It's varnigh fower o'clock"*

varry - very : *"Bye! It's varry caad thi day!"*

vine - pencil : *"Please Miss, Aah's lost me vine"*

waddent - would not :
"Aah waddent dee yon if Aah waas ye"

wettor - water : *"Thi beor ower heor's better than thi wettor i thi Wear!"*

wark - work : *"Aah canna wark thi day, mista"*

whaat cheor? - how are you? :
"Whaat cheor thi day, hinny?"

whisht - be quiet! : *"Whisht lads, had yor gobs"*

wick - dirty, untidy, smelly : *"Hor hoos is gey wick!"*

wifie - woman : *"Yon wifie's a reet bonny lass"*

yammer - talk incessantly :
"Ee yammers on thi yell day"

yorsel - yourself : *"Gi yorsel a pat o thi back"*

yowl - cry, howl : *"Yon derg's yowlin agyen"*

Northumbrian Language Society Annual General Meeting 2019

Executive Committee Report

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's Reed Neet celebration was the best attended for several years, and we hope that this trend continues. Our new venue, Morpeth Golf Club, has proved to be a good place for us to meet and have our AGM and Reed Neet.

We also took part in the National Dialect Festival in Lancashire last October. The event was held in Blackpool, in a hotel on the sea front, and it was well attended. There was a good turnout from Northumbria, and even though Stuart Lawson and Peter Arnold's performances were very well received by a very appreciative audience, we failed to win any trophies for the first time ever! This year's event is being held in Blackpool again, but if other dialect societies don't volunteer to host the event in the future, this year may be the last.

We continue to speak to local community groups who invite us to share our dialect with them, and we've had the usual requests from people wanting information about the language. The highlight during the past year was a request from a university student in Florence, Italy. She was doing her dissertation on the Geordie dialect and was hoping we might be able to help her! We were able to send her some books and other general information about wor tung, and when she sent us a copy of her dissertation, we discovered that her tutor was British, but we still don't know why an Italian student was interested in our dialect.

Merchandise

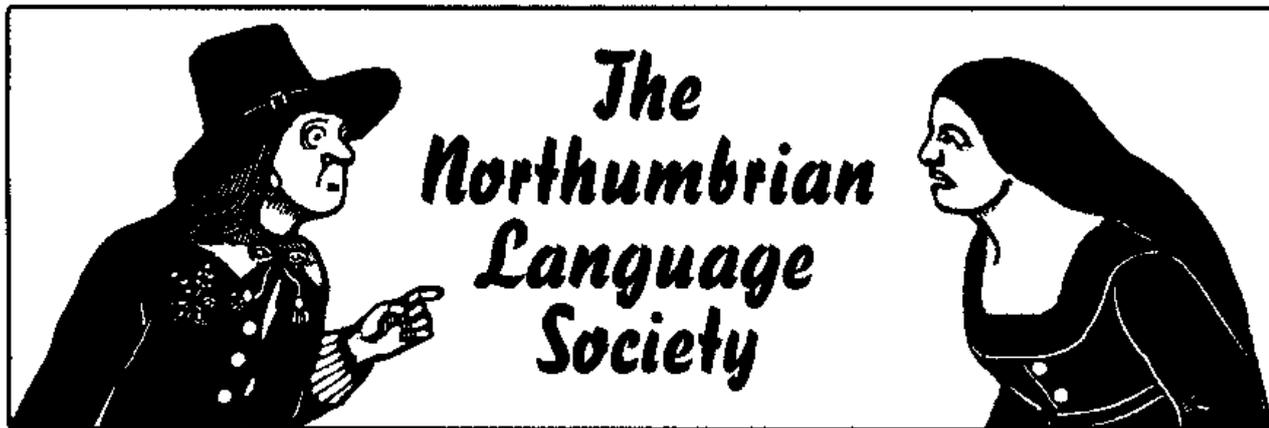
Last year we produced dialect T-shirts and they have been very popular. We quickly ran out of our initial batch, and we've had to order some more. Encouraged by this outcome, we've decided to get some mugs printed with the same design by member Claire Arnold, and they should be available soon. We still have a stall in the Chantry Museum, but sales have not been as good as we had hoped, so we will review the situation later. We are also interested in any other ideas and suggestions, so, if you have a good idea, why not let us know, and we will consider it!

Situation Vacant (*Update to this item - Stuart Lawson is our new Chairman*)

Despite giving plenty of notice of his intention to retire as Chairman of the Society this year, no-one has come forward to volunteer to accept the role that Peter Arnold has fulfilled for the last twenty-five years. Consequently, there will be a gap in the list of our Officers after this AGM. Peter has made it clear he will not be able to carry on, even in a temporary capacity, but he is happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in the role. He can be contacted by email on pja13@phoncoop.coop or by phone on 01434 608230.

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.



Keepin ahad o wor tung

**The 2019 Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture
Saturday 12th October at 2.00 pm**

The Northumbrian Language Society presents

Karen Lowing

on

**Recent Developments in Northumbrian and
Scots Language in the classroom**

in

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

FREE admission. Full disabled access.

Doors open and free drinks 1.30 pm

Further details: Mrs Kim Bibby-Wilson, Westgate House, Dogger Bank,
Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1RE. Tel. 01670 513308

Website: www.northumbriana.org.uk