

Members' Newsletter

**Number 108
Autumn 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)

"Gan Canny"

The place of Northumbrian language in England's
Education Policy and Practice
by

Dr Karen Lowing

(Lecturer in English Education, University of Stirling)

**Full details of this event are on the back 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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www.northumbriana.org.uk

**A Limorick bi wor ain
Bard, Fred Reed:**

An ower-fat lad of
Monkseaton
Once proposed tiv a thin
lass at Heaton.
She says, "Wheor's the
harm?
Aa canna keep warm,
Ye'll de fine for t'put me
caad feet on."

It meks yuh smile, dissent it?

NLS News

At our recent AGM, there were a number of changes to the NLS Committee.

Following Peter Arnold's retirement, Stuart Lawson agreed to take on the role of Chairman. After the AGM, Janet Brown decided it was also time for her to retire from the Committee, but she will be staying as one of our Vice-Presidents; and we welcome Richard Wilson who agreed to join us as an ordinary Committee member.

We thank Peter and Janet for their considerable achievements on our behalf, and we look forward to Stuart's and Richard's input to our work on behalf of the dialect.



Janet Brown's Retirement

Peter Arnold writes about Janet's decision to retire from the NLS Committee:

"Janet's decision to retire from the Committee is a momentous one, because she has been a member of it from the very beginning of the Society. She will be sorely missed.

Her contributions to the Society include -

- * typing out all of Fred Reed's poems for the "Northumborman" book;
- * helping dry the dishes at a Cullercoats café when we had a meeting with Peter Mortimer about the book, and the café owner was understaffed (we had paid the bill, honest!);
- * compiling the index for the 50 issues of the Northumbriana magazine;
- * presiding as Vice President at the odd AGM in the absence of the President;
- * making the "Use it or Lose It" dialect word cards;
- * supporting the Gathering as long-term treasurer, and in lots of other ways;
- * writing her own pieces in Northumbrian despite her origins outside the region;
- * running raffles; and ...
- * always having a pun or anecdote to entertain us!

Well done, Janet, and please enjoy your retirement, which is thoroughly deserved!"

Peter Arnold Retires as Chairman of the Society

Kim Bibby-Wilson writes:

"Peter has been our chairman for 22 years, stepping boldly into the breach at the 1997 AGM following the death that January of the NLS founding chairman, Roland Bibby.

The Committee and Society were greatly relieved - not least myself, as the commitment of running the Morpeth Gathering was quite enough for one person.

Peter has steered us through our joint efforts at running events and producing publications and merchandise, including the memorial lecture, church services, the Yule Meet and Reed Neet, appearances at places including Alnwick, Wooler, Hexham and further afield across the UK for National Dialect Day weekends.

He has taken on the role of MC, especially at the Gathering dialect competitions and activities, and after the early years when much of his time was also taken up with local politics, he has now blossomed as a writer and dialect reciter, entering and winning local and national competitions, while also speaking to the media on all matters Northumbrian.

We are delighted that Peter is not leaving the fold on retiring as Chairman, and he will continue to be involved in the Society as the Editor of our Newsletter."



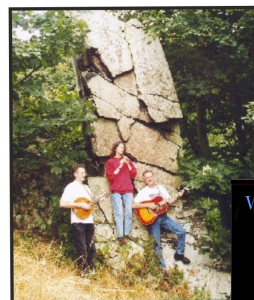
The Bonny Fisher-lad

"O the bonny fisher-lad,
That brings the fishes frae the sea,
O the bonny fisher-lad,
The fisher-lad gat had o me.
On Bamboroughshire's rocky shore,
Just as you enter Boumer-Raa,
There lives the bonny fisher-lad,
The fisher-lad that bangs them aa."

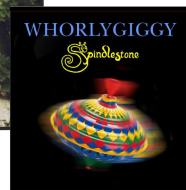
An example of a Northumbrian ballad as described by Thomas Moody in his book "The Mid-Northumberland Dialect" published by us in 2007.



Ray Leonard revisits
from Canada to rejoin
John Bibby &
Kim Bibby-Wilson



+ new CD launch



Reunion Concert

Thursday 17th October 7.30pm

Morpeth Chantry

Bagpipe Museum NE61 1PD

£8 / £7 50-ish years on

**Traditional music & songs
from Northumberland
and Tyneside**



**THE LAIDLEY WORM
WRITHES AGAIN
AGAIN!**

JTB 19



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NORTHUMBRLAND
Morpeth Chantry
Bagpipe Museum

Tickets: Chantry TIC, Bridge St, Morpeth NE61 1PD 01670 623455

Queries 01670 513308 e-mail: john@bibbymorpeth.plus.com

THE UNDERSTANDING

The Shepherd, the Poacher, the Molecatcher

Rural Tales of Northumberland

Roger Robson



BOOK LAUNCH

Celebrating

Roger Robson's

THE UNDERSTANDING

Thursday 10th October 2019, 7.30pm

Netherwitton Reading Room

Northumberland NE61

Tickets £4 (includes one free drink from the bar)
reserve tickets with Roger on 016974 73559
roger.robson@btinternet.com

Reserved tickets should be picked up and paid for
at the door. Only those who have ordered tickets are
guaranteed entrance. Capacity 60 people.

Copies of 'The Understanding' may be purchased from Bookcase, 17-19 Castle Street, Carlisle CA3 8SY tel: 01228 544560

The following article has been sent to us by this year's Roland Bibby Memorial Lecturer, Dr Karen Lowing, from the University of Stirling, outlining the issues she will be talking about in the lecture.

‘Gan Canny’: The place of Northumbrian language in England’s Education Policy and Practice

Case studies conducted by the author during 2010-2014 in two North East of England schools, suggested that some children are able to recognise, read and speak Northumbrian (Lowing, 2014). Scots is now gaining some status in Scottish education policy and practice, yet Northumbrian, a precursor to Scots, remains peripheral in North East England schools (Lowing, 2014).

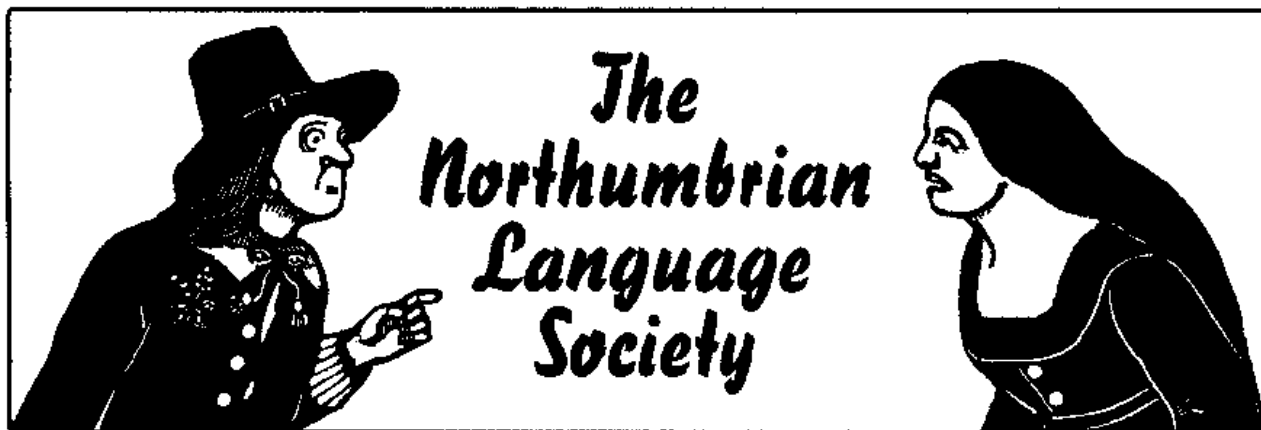
Linguistic varieties in North East England (Beal, 1993; Corrigan, 2012; Fehringer et. al., 2015; Moody, 2007; Pearce, 2009; Simmelbauer, 2000), and specifically Northumbrian, derive from Anglian and Norse invaders during the 6th and 7th centuries. Northumbrian influenced linguistic communities from the Humber to the Forth and can be located in the work of Bede (circa AD 700) and Rolle (14th century). By the 13th century Northumbrian had displaced Gaelic in much of lowland Scotland and was the forerunner to the modern Scots language (McColl-Millar, 2018; Moody, 2007). Geographically isolated, Northumbrian language remained largely immune to the linguistic impact of the Geneva Bible, the anglicising effect of the printing press and the Union of Crowns (1603) and Parliaments (1707) (Moody, 2007).¹ However Northumbrian, as with Scots, was eventually marginalised by anglicisation in Britain during the 19th and 20th centuries.

‘From above’ (Wolfgang-Unger, 2013) the ‘positioning’ of indigenous minority languages within England’s school curriculum, with specific reference to Northumbrian, is explored in this paper. ‘From below’ (ibid.), case study results examine the place of Northumbrian in two North East England schools. A content and critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2015) of the data suggests that minority languages, and specifically Northumbrian, are still not fully recognised in England’s schools. Policy recommendations are made for the inclusion of Northumbrian in North East English classrooms.

Key words: Northumbrian, minority languages, education

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¹ https://www.scotslanguage.com/The_Languages_Our_Neighbours_Speak/Germanic_and_Other_Languages (Accessed 10/10/18)



Keepin ahad o wor tung

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

The Northumbrian Language Society presents

Dr Karen Lowing

(Lecturer in English Education, University of Stirling)

"Gan Canny":

The place of Northumbrian language in England's
Education Policy and Practice

**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,
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