



**Members' Newsletter**

**Number 109  
Winter 2019**

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

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## **Next Happnin**

**Saturday 7 December**

# **Yule Meet**

**2pm**

**Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum**

(By kind permission of Museums Northumberland)

The Meet will be in the first floor meeting room.  
A lift is available for those who need it.

Join us for our traditional seasonal event,  
with dialect contributions from the audience,  
a shared meal brought by those present,  
"Whe's Tellin Hoafies",  
the singing of our own Yuletide Carol,  
the grand raffle!  
and there may be a surprise guest!!!

## **Happnins in 2020**

**Weekend 18 & 19 April** - Morpeth Northumbrian  
Gathering

**Thursday 30 April** - Annual General Meeting and Reed Neet

**Saturday 6 June** - Wor Dialect Day, South Shields Library

**Tuesday 9 June** - Richard Oliver Heslop lecture, Lit & Phil,  
Newcastle

**Saturday 10 October** - Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture,  
Morpeth Town Hall

**Friday to Sunday 16-18 October** - National Dialect  
Festival, Black Country Museum, Wolverhampton

**Saturday 5 December** - Yule Meet, Morpeth Bagpipe  
Chantry Museum

## **NLS Contacts**

*Dialect -*

**Kim Bibby-Wilson**

phone: 01670 513308;

email:

[kim@northumbriana.org.uk](mailto:kim@northumbriana.org.uk)

*General -*

**Avril Common**

email:

[avril\\_common@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:avril_common@yahoo.co.uk)

*Merchandise -*

**John Davidson**

phone: 01668 281462

email:

[nlstreasurer@talktalk.net](mailto:nlstreasurer@talktalk.net)

*Newsletter -*

**Peter Arnold**

phone: 01434 608230;

email:

[pja13@phonecoop.coop](mailto:pja13@phonecoop.coop)

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

## **The Worm**

bi Maistor Fred Reed

Noo tyek a garden worm - ye'd not  
agree,

In sum ways it's lots clivvorer than ye.  
Ye howk it up n cut the thing in two,  
But divvent think that puts it in a stew.  
A thing like that wad fettle ye, Aa doot;  
Each haaf of ye cud nivvor get about.  
But such bisection gives the worm nee  
bother;

One haaf gans one way, n one the  
tother.

An when they meet they'll mutter as  
they stare,

"Aa'm sure Aa've seen that fyess afore  
sumwheor".

# NLS News

# Dialect Event

## The 2019 National Dialect Festival

was held in The Savoy Hotel Blackpool, the second year at this venue, which is an excellent facility, and it proved to be a very good event with excellent entertainment.

Sid Calderbank and the Lancashire Society provided an entertaining Friday evening concert with more than 50 attendees. Two interesting talks were given on Saturday morning by **Catherine Harvey** of the BBC's 'Tongue & Talk' and **Dr. Paul Salvesson**. Dialect Competitions followed in the afternoon with entries well up on last year and the evening concert was put on by the various Societies and several individuals with over 60 people in the audience.

Six people from The Northumbrian Language Society attended. Stuart Lawson entered the Bill o' Bowes writing and performing dialect competition and was placed joint second with two others. John Davidson and Stuart Lawson also took part in the Saturday evening competitions, and no attendees were harmed in this performance! Sue and Val were the Northumberland supporters.

In the absence of the Lancashire technical sound man, Iain Elliott from Northumberland provided all the sound equipment, set it up and monitored it throughout Friday evening and all of Saturday. He deserves a special thank you for this as does his wife Liz for her able support. In addition they were both rewarded by being asked to judge the Saturday evening performances!!

For some it was straight home on the Sunday, but quite a few made the short trip to the Little Marton Windmill, being rewarded by an intriguing structure built a couple of hundred years ago and recently restored. It is now also a memorial to local author, poet, historian and leading dialect writer **Allen Clarke**.

The next National Dialect Festival will be held in the Black Country Museum, near Wolverhampton, from 16-18th October 2020.

On **Sunday 6 December**, at The Sage, Gateshead, **NLS President, Katrina Porteous**, will be one of three writers talking about the value of retaining our regional dialects. She will be reading from her own dialect writings, as well as taking part in the discussions.

Tickets cost £8.20 each, and you can order them online at [sagegateshead.com](http://sagegateshead.com), or by phone on 0191 443 4661.

## Sad News

We were saddened to hear of the recent deaths of two long-standing members of the Society, Meg Stephenson and John Stenhouse.

Both Meg Stephenson of North Shields and John Stenhouse of Blyth were long-standing members who successfully entered the Northumbrian language writing competitions over the years.

Meg, along with her husband Bill, will be remembered fondly for her entertaining turns during the dialect recitals at the Morpeth Gathering and Rothbury Festival and NLS get-togethers. Meg actually began writing poetry at a young age and it was relatively recently that she came to writing in dialect.

Our commiserations to Bill and both members' families.

## NLS Yuletide Cards

Some years ago, we produced two Yuletide cards written in our wonderful Northumbrian dialect. They were very popular, and we sold out of the first printing very quickly!

We are pleased to announce that these two designs of our Yuletide card are available again - so bring your purses to the Yule Meet, or purchase at the Chantry, or through our treasurer, John Davidson. The cards are £1 to members, but £1.75 at the Chantry shop.

