



**Members' Newsletter**

**Number 112  
Spring 2020**

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

## Keep Safe, Stay Healthy

This is a very difficult time for all of us. We hope you are all following the guidelines. Hopefully, none of our members and their families have contracted the virus. Our best wishes go out to all who may be unwell, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

This special edition of our Newsletter is to let you know what we are doing in the meantime, and to give you some dialect ideas to help you pass the time.

As far as we know, some of the following events are still scheduled to happen, but we will let you know if there are any further changes to the programme.

## Mair Happnins in 2020

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

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

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

**Weekend 23-24 October** - National Dialect Festival - this has been changed to the Lake District, but no venue has been agreed yet.

It is also possible that the date may change.

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

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**Please Remember - Don't Forget** to renew your subscription to the Northumbrian Language Society as soon as possible. All the details are on the forms included in our last Newsletter - No 111 - and it will help a lot if you could spare a few minutes to complete the forms and send them back to our Treasurer, John Davidson.

# NLS News Update

**Events** - Like many other organisations, we have had to cancel events that we're involved in, so that we can do our bit to help the whole nation cope with the coronavirus. That is why the Morpeth Gathering has been cancelled, and our AGM and Reed Neet as well.

We have no more events planned before the annual Roland Bibby Lecture in October, and the Yule Meet in December. We're hoping that it will be possible to hold both of these events, but we just don't know what the situation will be by then.

The other events listed on the "Mair Happnins" section of the front page are not organised by us, and we don't know yet whether they will be going ahead or not. We will let you know about them as soon as we have some definite information.

**NLS Annual General Meeting** - We are a charity, and we have to follow the rules and regulations set down by the Charity Commission about how we carry out our responsibilities to them, and to our members.

Our AGM is the major meeting that we must hold every year to receive the financial accounts, and to elect a new Executive Committee, as laid down in our Constitution.

Clearly, this year is an exceptional year, and we are seeking advice from the Charity Commission about what we should do. We will follow their advice, and also keep you informed.

**Merchandise** - Our NLS Treasurer, John Davidson, now holds most of our merchandise - books, CDs, T-shirts, pens - so if you wish to buy anything for yourself, or for family and friends, please contact John. His contact details are on the front page of this Newsletter.

**Reed Neet** - Fred Reed's birthday is on Thursday 30th April. We normally celebrate this date at the same time that we hold our AGM. We can't do that this year, so why not celebrate the date by having a pie and peas supper, and a stotty cyek, at home instead? Here's "The Stotty Cyek Weesh" written by Roland Bibby, which you can recite as well, just to make it authentic!

May aal whee shaior this muckle cyek  
Be blessed wi health an forchin,  
Lang life, true luv an booncin bairns;  
Faior findins wi'oot sorchin;  
Gud will and gud companyins ay,  
Aal canny foauk an braa,  
Wi wisdum, hyummor, wit an hairt  
Northumbrians, ye knaa!

**Meanwhile** - During the virus lockdown, we obviously can't hold face to face meetings, but the NLS Executive Committee is still working hard to let everybody know that we're still around! Chairman Stuart Lawson is organising a system of e-mail meetings to carry on the business of the Society, and we will try to publish more regular Newsletters to keep you up to date.

**Ideas To Keep You Busy** - Now that we're all in relative isolation, and can't get out very much, it seems like a good time to start doing something new. As we're all members of the Northumbrian Language Society, it seems to us that we should be using our spare time on the dialect. What do you think?

- ▶ For example, why not try your hand at writing something in dialect - a poem, perhaps, or a short story, or a memory from your childhood?
- ▶ If you've got a copy of Fred Reed's "Northumborman" or Robert Allen's "Canny Bit Verse", or Katrina Porteous' "The Wund an the Wetter" there are lots of examples there that you could use as a starting point for something of your own. Fred Reed liked limericks, and maybe you could try your hand at some of those.
- ▶ If you're feeling really creative, perhaps you could make a dialect crossword or wordsearch?
- ▶ How about inventing new dialect words? Here is a list of some modern things that really do need a dialect word created for them:

<i>television</i>	<i>twitter</i>
<i>washing machine</i>	<i>laser</i>
<i>tumbledryer</i>	<i>parking meter</i>
<i>mobile phone</i>	<i>cash machine</i>
<i>satnav</i>	<i>call centre</i>
<i>dishwasher</i>	<i>microwave oven</i>
<i>helicopter</i>	<i>wheely-bin</i>
<i>Facebook</i>	<i>social media</i>
<i>ramp-up</i>	

Can you think of any other modern gadget that could do with being translated into Northumbrian? If you're feeling really brave, how about talking in the best dialect voice you've got, for a day, at home, with your family. That'll make them sit up and take notice, won't it? There's nothing like talking Northumbrian to frighten the bairns and anyone else that dissent knaa hoo ti taalk proper!!!

Just remember - there is no standard way of spelling or sounding our dialect words, so don't worry if you don't think you can write or speak correctly. Haway, man! Just give it a go! We'll publish a selection of your work in future Newsletters. Send your work to Peter Arnold, our Newsletter editor. His contact details are on the front page.