



**Members’
Newsletter No 102
Spring 2018**

“Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung”

Next Happnin

51st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Friday 6th to Sunday 8th April

This year’s Festival has a “Back to the Roots” focus on Northumberland’s traditional music, song, dance, craft and dialect, with concerts, workshops, sessions, barn dance, stories, street shows, stalls, living history, dance displays, competitions, bells, tours and talks.

See the latest draft of the programme on another page of this newsletter.

Events in 2018

Friday-Sunday 6-8 April :

51st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

Monday 30 April :

**AGM at 7pm & Reed Neet Supper at 8pm
Morpeth Golf Club (See details on other pages)**

Saturday 6 October :

**Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture at 1.30pm
Morpeth Town Hall (Note the earlier start time)
Lecture - “A Voyage Around My Father”
Michael Chaplin on Sid Chaplin**

Friday & Saturday 20 & 21 October :

**National Dialect Festival in Blackpool,
Lancashire, in the Savoy Hotel**

Saturday 8 December :

Yule Meet at 2pm in Morpeth Chantry

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

33 Hackwood Glade, Hexham,
Northumberland, NE46 1AL;
phone: 01434 608230;
email: pja13@phonecoop.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**



Dissent ee luk happy? A print of Joe Wilson’s music hall song “Cum Geordie, haud the bairn!” See Gathering programme for details of this talk

NLS NEWS

AGM and Reed Neet Supper

This is your official notification that our Annual General Meeting, and the traditional Reed Neet Supper, will both take place on Monday 30th April, the birthday of Fred Reed! The venue is Morpeth Golf Club on the A197 main road on the way to County Hall. There is a booking form for the Reed Neet attached to this newsletter, so please fill it in and send it back as soon as possible so we can book the food.

Subscriptions

These are due on the 1st of April (No, it's not an April Fool!) so please renew your membership as soon as possible. You will remember from previous newsletters that the subscription rates have been changed, so please also remember to send the correct amount. A subscription renewal form is attached to this newsletter.

This year, for the first time, we are able to claim Gift Aid on your subscriptions. There is a Gift Aid form included on the subscriptions page. Please fill this in if it applies to you (you must be a taxpayer in the UK), and send it back with your subscription.

New Merchandise

Our new NLS T-shirts have proved to be very popular, and they are selling well. They are black with white lettering, and they are available in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes.

Each T-shirt has a square of our wonderful dialect words on the front, and our name is on the back. The design was by member Claire Arnold. If you would like one, please contact Kim Bibby-Wilson as soon as possible on (01670 513308).

Situations Vacant

Wor Gaffer, Peter Arnold, has given notice that he will be retiring as Chairman of the Society in 2019. He will be 75 in 2019 and he says it's time to move on and let someone else have a go.

Peter stepped into the breach after our Founder, Roland Bibby, died, and he's been the Gaffer ever since, for more than twenty years would you believe! So, if you would like to consider becoming our next chairman, or if you know of someone who you think could do the job, then please get in touch with Peter on 01434 608230, or email him at pja13@phonecoop.coop for an informal chat about what's involved.

The Land Of Three Rivers

We mentioned this new book about the North-East in the last newsletter. The poems and songs are from the whole area between the Tweed and the Tees. Many are written by local poets, like our own Fred Reed and President Katrina Porteous, but there are also a lot from poets from other areas who are fascinated by the culture, heritage and landscapes of our region.

There was a special launch event by the publisher, Bloodaxe Books, in Newcastle on the 8th February, which was well-attended and very popular. About twenty of the poets featured in the book read some of their work, and Kim Bibby-Wilson and Claire and Peter Arnold thoroughly enjoyed the event.

The book is a big one - more than 500 pages! - but it is well worth the £14.99 asking price. It is unlikely that a book of this kind will ever be published again, and we urge as many of you as possible to buy it if you can. It will also make a wonderful present for any exiled Northumbrians no matter where in the world they now live. This book is a chance in a lifetime - don't miss it!

Caa Hawkie

We were contacted recently by a musical friend of Kim's, who now lives in north-east Scotland, who was intrigued by the word "hawkie" which is the local word there for a cow. He wanted to know if it had a Northumbrian connection. Well, it does, as anyone who is familiar with the Northumbrian song "Caa Hawkie" will know.

The Scots spoken up in the Aberdeen area is basically the same as that spoken in the borders. Scots began as a Northumbrian dialect, even though it is now a language in its own right.

Set out below are two versions of the chorus of the song, the first from north-east Scotland, the second from Northumberland :

*Pbroo, pbroo! My bonnie cow!
Pbroo, hawkie! Go hawkie!
Ye ken the hand that's kind to you,
Sae let the drappie go, hawkie.*

*Ca Hawkie, Ca Hawkie,
Ca Hawkie through the wattor,
Hawkie is a sweir beast,
An Hawkie winna wade the wattor.*

Any further thoughts, anyone?

Dialect Poems by Fred Reed

Northumborland

For scenery sum seek a foreign land,
The highor 'n the caador, the mair grand!
But soft-curved hills 'n trees 'n leas for me -
The signs of luv's artistic husbandry;
Corn, coos, cool streams, a lamb that's gyen
astray
An ye can heor its baa a mile away.
Corlews 'n herons ower sumpy sedges,
An fussy little spuggies in the hedges.
Nature a mottled luvliness attains
Wheor trees in majesty arch ower the lanes,
And as ye gan along the regal arch
Raised spirits move in a triumphal march
Inta the green expanses fresh 'n fair
That heal the mind noo shaken free of care.
Theor's fells wheor infant streams cum oot t' play
An romp 'n giggle on theor tumblin way
In escapades of liquid ecstasy
That mek wor Coquet full of coquetry.

The Worm

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".

Abeun Chollerford

Gan look doon from the Military Road
Which Roman officers se lang sin strode,
Forivvor scheming, but for little worth,
Hoo t subdue the wild barbaric North;
An theer ye'll see whaat words cud not define,
The beauty o the tree-waaed Northern Tyne,
Nee mair reddened wi claymore an sword,
Glintin i the sun, frum Chollerford.
The wettor movin wit a stately gait
T gan n join its Alston Common mate,
As luvly as itsel, the Sooth Tyne Wettor.

A Northumberick

Aa once bowt two plump hens at Ulgham
An sum sage n reed onions t stulgham.
Five sat at the tyeble,
So hoo was Aa yeble
T give each a leg n not hulgham?

Dialect Poems by Robert Allen

A Poem's A Sang

We start these vorses wit a bang,
An shoot oot lood - "A poem's a sang!"
Whee says it's matorless ti scan,
Is oot thor mind,
An folks that think yon way is wrang,
For'ts nowt the kind.

Just let them argy as they like,
An erl thor fancy poesies strike
Wi vorse that aye gans hump an hike -
An what ye got?
Some stuff ye'd hoy ahint a dyke
Ti lay an rot.

But gi'e us lines wi pulse an beat,
I rhyme an meetor, liltin sweet,
What gets folk gan wi tappin feet
That ferl an rise;
Aah'll reckon at the Judgement Seat
Yon taks the prize!

Them Northumbrian Hills

Me heort's adrift among them hills
That roll below Northumbrian skies
Thor noble tumult heaves an fills
The farmost keekin o me eyes;

Ti crags wheor heathor cowps an spills
An windy bentlands ferl an rise,
Me varry bein lowps an thrills,
Me sowl wi teors o pleasure cries.

Yon music floatin sweet forlorn,
The matin whaup-bord's corlee cry,
Theor echoes thro the springin morn,
The overture o fell an sky.

Bi time an weather kindly worn,
The hills gi'e back me whispord sigh -
"God, bi whase will Aah heor wes born,
Grant heor Aah end me days forbye."

Off The Mark

When Aah heor that owld sayin, man,
Aah nivvor tak nee heed,
Boot Southornors an Foreignors
Beginnin at Gatesheid;

Aah just torn roond an smile an say -
"Y'ore gey far off the mark;
For them that lives i Bellingham
The beggors starts at Wark!"



5th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering



6th – 8th April 2018 Programme - details subject to confirmation Edition 6

Many free events. Prices: adult/unwaged/school age. Under 5s free. At some free events donation boxes will be passed around. During the Gathering performers will visit local care homes. NB: this year's Castle open days take place on 21st & 22nd April.

Friday 6th April:

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** + refreshments; craft competition entries (rec'd Thur 5th April 5.30 pm - 7 pm). Displays/stalls: needlework, shepherds' sticks, proggy mats, leatherwork, CDs, books, photos, t-shirts on sale. *Town Hall 50p at door/accompanied under-12s free*

10.00- 4.30 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT & STALLS** Punch & Judy, Rent a Peasant, Ran Tanners, Jim Grant, Archaeosoup, Time Bandits, craft activities *Market Place*

10.00-4.30 **FAMILY EXHIBITION** at i, model rail displays, family craft activities, etc. *Leisure Centre café Free*

10.00 **DANCE WORKSHOPS** 10.00 historic, 11.15 clog, 12.45 maypole, 3.30 Breton *Town Hall; £2/£1 per session*

10.30 - 4.30 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES: PLAY IN A DAY** for adults (over16) with Dave Shaw. Smallpipes provided. *Bagpipe Museum: £20 - contact Gathering to book place*

1.00 **YOUNG MUSICIANS' SESSION** Paul Knox *Bin 21*

2.00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Gallering by Mayor *Town Hall*

2.15 **BOOK LAUNCH** de Merlay dynasty. Mini dramas with author Bridget Gubbins *Town Hall Ealroom Free*

4.30 **STORYTIME** with Sedayne Library *Free*

6.00 **MORPETH POETRY GROUP** An evening of poetry on a Northumbrian theme with some dialect. All welcome to listen or contribute. *Café des Amis Donations*

7.30 **JOE WILSON CONCERT** Johnny Handle, Benny Graham, Bob Bolan, Micky Cochrane and Phil Corbitt celebrate Tyneside's songster. *Methodist Ch £10/£9/£5*

8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** with Keith Besford, Alasdair Turnbull & friends. *Tap & Spile Donations*

Saturday 7th April: (5am - 4pm Park & Ride at County Hall) *St. John Ambulance at rear of Town Hall*

9.30 - 6.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday *Town Hall*

9.45 **CHILDREN'S STORIES** with Sedayne Library *Free*

10.00 - 3.15 **FAMILY EXHIBITION** *Leisure Centre café*

10.00 - 3.00 **FARMERS' MARKET & ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, Ellington Colliery Band, Time Bandits, Sheffield City Giants, Ran Tanners, Astral Circus, local dance teams, etc. *Market Place, Park, Sanderson Arcade*

10.00 - 4.00 **STORYTELLERS' GARDEN** with Jim Grant, Sedayne and Rapunzel, *Bakehouse Yd Millennium Green*

LIVING HISTORY activities with Archaeosoup and Rent a Peasant *William Turner Herb Garden (Park) Free*

10.00 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Hear the 'soft-link'd notes' of the smallpipes *Bagpipe Museum: Free*

10.00 - 10.45 **CLOG DANCE WORKSHOP** with Anne Walton. Bring flat hard-soled shoes *Town Hall £2/£1*

10.15 **RING O' BELLS**; Clock Tower tour from 12 appr.

11.00 **PAGEANT** Border pipar flags, Lord Greystoke's return from Otterburn, costumed groups, bands, welcomed at Town Hall by the Morpeth Gadge and civic leaders. *During this time (10.30 - 11.45 am) Market Place & town centre from Chantry to Manchester Street closed to traffic. Alternative route Dark Lane/Stansley Terrace/Westway.*

12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSIONS** *Tap & Spile Free*

12.00 - 1.00 **NED CORVAN** Dave Harker delves into the life of the music hall star. *St Robert's Church Hall £2/£1*

Saturday Competitions: Passport ticket for entrants/audience £2.00/£1.50 includes free entry to Exhibition. Doors open 30 minutes before times stated below to allow entrants to register.

12.00 **CLOG DANCING** *Town Hall*

1.30 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES & LOWLAND/BORDER HALF-LONG PIPES** *Bagpipe Museum*

1.30 **SPEAKING AND WRITING:** dialect, stories, 'rafies (tall tales) plus results of pre-judged writing classes and update from Karen Lowing on dialect in schools *St Robert's Ch Hall*

2.00 **BANDS, ACCORIONS, FIDDLE'S, OTHER INSTRUMENTS, DUETS** *St. George's Church (ground floor)*

3.30 **SINGING** incl. new Emily Inspires! trophy *Town Hall*

12.00 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** with Besswing Joiners Arms

12.15 - 1.15 **MORPETH WAITES** early music concert *St George's Church £2/£1 at door*

12.30 - 2.00 **CONCERTINA WORKSHOP** Steve Turner on techniques for accompanying songs. *Bin 21 £2/£1*

1.00 - 3.00 **LET'S BEE POTTY** seed-sowing workshop *Bakehouse Millenn.Green Free (donation for materials)*

2.00 - 2.45 **FAMILY SHOW** including Bedington Ukulele Band and a chance to join in. *St James' Centre £2/£1*

3.00 - 4.00 **THE GREAT JOE WILSON** Ed Waugh on his new play about the songwriter. *St Robert's Ch Hall £2/£1*

3.00 - 3.30 **WWI RECRUITMENT AND DRILL** with Time Bandits. *Park near the bands' stand Free*

4.00 - 5.00 **WILLIAM SHIELD A Life in Tunes** Amélie Addison on the great composer with Poppy Holden (voice) & Niles Krieger (violin) *Bagpipe Museum £4/£3*

5.30 **YOUNG MUSICIANS' SESSION** David Oliver *Bin 21*

6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** Special guest group Lowp plus 2017 winners *Town Hall Ballroom: £9/£8/£5*

5.00 **TEATIME TALES** Sedayne *Peppermint Café Free*

6.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Tap & Spile Free*

8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SESSION** with Keith Davidson *Black and Grey Coach House (venue tbc) Free*

6.30 **FIRE-EATING EVENT** Astral Circus *Mk Place Free*

8.30 **BARN DANCE** with The Hedgehog's Skin & guests. Bring own drinks; no stilettos! *St Geo's Ch Hall £8/£5/£5*

Sunday 8th April:

9.30 - 4.30 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday *Town Hall*

9.30 - 11.00 **ORIENTEERING** event (prizes at 12) *Park*

10.00 - 4.00 **FAMILY EXHIBITION** *Leisure Centre café*

10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT & STALLS** Punch & Judy, Sheffield City Giants, Sedayne & Rapunzel, Ran Tanners, *Market Place, Park, Sanderson Arcade*

LIVING HISTORY activities with Archaeosoup and Rent a Peasant *William Turner Herb Garden (Park) Free*

10.00 - 11.00 **HANDBELLS WORKSHOP** *Clock Tower*

10.30 **CHURCH SERVICE** *St George's UR Church*

11.30 - 12.30 **SONGS OF NAPOLEONIC TIMES** with singer & instrumentalist Steve Turner. *Town Hall £4/£3*

12.00 - 2.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** as Friday.

1.00 - 3.00 **TOURS OF COUNCIL CHAMBER**, Mayor's Parlour, civic silver and artefacts *Town Hall Free*

1.30 - 3.00 **FAMILY CONCERT** including Folkestra, Ann Wilkinson, stories *Town Hall £2/£1 at door*

3.00 - 3.30 **WWI RECRUITMENT AND DRILL** *Park*

3.30 - 4.30 **THE TANNING TRADE** (note revised time) Presentation on the work of the medieval leatherwork guild craftsmen by Andy Bates. *Town Hall £2/£1 at door*

M.N.G. Committee, part of Morpeth Antiquarian Society, Reg. Charity no. 507640, reserves the right to alter event details.

TICKETS: Morpeth TIC 01670 623455 **GATHERING OFFICE/QUERIES: 01670 513305** www.northumbriaaa.org.uk

