

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

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@phonecoop.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.