

Northumbrian Language Society

AGM 2017 - Executive Committee Report for 2016-17

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.

We also took part in the National Dialect Festival last October again, and came away with two more trophies, won by Johnnie Handle for the best dialect recital, and by Johnnie and Kim Bibby-Wilson for the best entertainment act.

We also continue to speak to local community groups who invite us to share our dialect with them. In all of these ways we aim to keep our activities in the public eye, so that people know who we are and what we do.

Publications

The past twelve months have not seen any new publications being produced, but we are drawing up a programme of what we think we will need in the future. This includes the dictionary, which is an on-going piece of work; and we have printed more copies of Fred Reed's "The Northumbrian" and "Canny Bit Verse" by Robert Allen. We have also found some copies of other publications which we had forgotten about!

Charity Commission

The issue with the reporting of our accounts, which was mentioned in last Year's report, has been resolved satisfactorily.

Challenges

In last year's report, we mentioned the difficulties we have had in recruiting new members. This difficulty continues. New members do join from time to time, but they do not make up for those we have lost through old age, illness, or moving house.

During this last year, for the first time, our Treasurer has told us that we have had to cancel the Reed Neet because so few people wanted to attend. He has also told us that we have begun to eat into our reserves just to pay our regular bills.

This cannot go on. Our reserves are there to fund our publications programme, and if we fritter them away on everyday expenses, we will soon have to stop publishing dialect books and CDs.

This stark reality is the reason why, later on today's AGM agenda (item 8), our Treasurer will be bringing forward some proposals to address this issue. Please take part in this discussion, because it is vital to the survival of the Society.

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.