

Editor's Note.

Welcome to the second issue of *The Bangor Linguist*, the bi-monthly newsletter for those with an interest in linguistics and the English language. Within each issue, we shall be discussing and exploring many aspects of linguistics and the English language, looking at pieces of research that occurs around us and keeping you up to date with what is happening in the department. We will also be giving you reviews on "popular linguistics", such as media reviews, puzzles and crosswords. We will also be talking to the Linguistics and English Language staff about what they think of Bangor, why they have chosen to study or teach here and what they (hope to) do. In this issue, you will find an article on Welsh Linguistics, a look at what the Bangor Linguistics Society did at Halloween and Christmas, a review on the events that you can look forward to and a crossword for you to enjoy. We hope that you enjoy this issue and have found what we have included useful. If you have any comments, requests, critiques or offers of help, then please email Kathryn Barlow (the editor) via linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk.

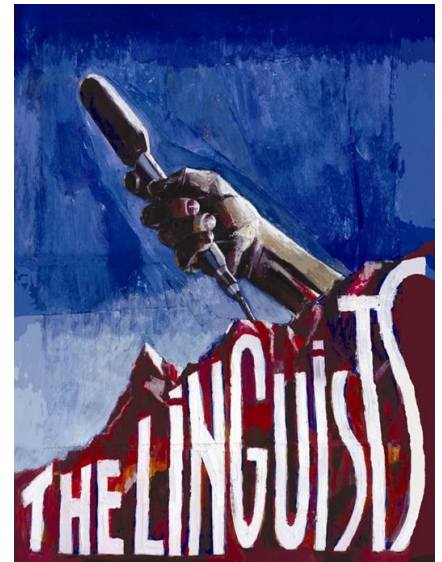
Kathryn Barlow

Review of "The Linguists"

"Half of the world's languages are on the verge of extinction" is the shocking statistic that the film "The Linguists" deals with. Greg Anderson and David Harrison are "The Linguists", as they travel Siberia, India, and Bolivia doing what they can to record and document the languages of these areas before their unfortunate yet inevitable death.

The languages in question are, respectfully, Chulym spoken in Siberia, Sora in India and Kallawayaya in Bolivia. Their demises, as well as so many other endangered languages, are put down to global languages, such as Russian, English and Spanish, as they render these native and traditional languages defunct.

The recording and documenting of these languages did not come easy; many miles had to be travelled to reach these somewhat remote regions. Furthermore, speaker populations are understandably very low, and therefore were hard to come by. One such instance occurs as they try to track down a speaker of Kallawayaya; a language associated with medicinal healing. Their search becomes frustrating and almost proves to be fruitless. After a great deal of time and effort, they encounter a man whom they are told speaks Kallawayaya, unfortunately this turns out not to



"The Linguists" poster

be true. Thankfully, a speaker of Kallawayaya is found in the end, and despite arriving much later than initially agreed, they finally get to record one of the last speakers of this language performing one of the medicinal healing rituals passed down from father to son. One of the most poignant aspects of the film comes towards the end, as one of the speakers of Chulym talks about his relationship with the language. He starts to cry, as he recounts that he used to feel embarrassed when he spoke the language, as it and its speakers were looked down on, mainly by those who spoke Russian. This truly delivers the point that all languages do matter. Speakers have a relationship with their mother tongue and to be told by a(nother) community that your language is not important can be a horrible ordeal for many people. For everyone, a person's language makes up a great part of their identity and to take that away is to almost rid them of their identity. Overall, the film is a great insight into the world of these endangered languages, and shows the emotion displayed for these languages by its own people and in addition the care shown by such linguists as Greg and David. Greg and David are the ideal people to front this journey providing both a fun and interesting look at the communities to which these languages belong, all the while with the underlying message that one day these languages will likely not be spoken.

Callum Robson

Halloween with the BLS

It was a cold and miserable Saturday night, but that didn't stop the Bangor Linguistic Society from spending the night out and about in Bangor to celebrate the most horrifying night of the year – Halloween. Students from all years joined us and came in fancy dress – witch-

Lexical Lunacy

How often is it that you open a book with the pure intention to read only a single paragraph, sentence or even just one word? The Oxford English dictionary must be one of the most commonly used books that is never truly read. Yet it portrays a fascinating journey



es, devils, clowns and many other characters were just some of the many faces that appeared throughout the night. Our night first started off in Bar Uno, where we started the pub crawl. The pub crawl continued in other establishments like the Greek, Rascals and Yellow. We also ventured down to Academi, where we danced the night away. Everyone who attended had a marvellous time, one student stated that the night was a “huge success and fun was had by all” and that there was a “great turnout with an array of scary faces and outfits”. But that isn't it for the events, as we have more to offer. Keep an eye out for more great events from the Bangor Linguistics Society.

Kathryn Barlow

of our ancestors through their use of words in writing and in speech. The OED is a lexical time capsule which preserves artifacts from our language's history. It is a treasured gift but it is rarely bought as a present.

The inspiration for this article comes from the world's most enthusiastic lexiconophile (dictionary collector), Ammon Shea. The man took one year to read the 21,730 pages which form the OED. He spent 8-10 hours each day (except Saturdays of course) reading the equivalent to the King James Bible in its entirety. During this time he rediscovered many long-forgotten rare, unusual, strange, wonderful and marvellous, or should I just say selcouth, words.

In his book, *Reading the Oxford English Dictionary*, Shea high-

lights some of these intriguingly beautiful and oddly humorous words and offers his own insights that complements in manner. Not only does he express his interpretation of the words that he discovers, their meaning and the story behind them, but he documents the extraordinary process of finding them.

Clearly a whole year of persistent headaches, note taking, squinting and coffee stains paid off. In the lead up to this process Shea worked as street musician in Paris, a gondolier in San Diego and a furniture mover in New York. Now he is a successful writer. In addition to his own increasingly wacky and original works he is a writer for the *New York Times* and is hired by the Oxford University Press as a consulting editor of *American Dictionaries*. A dream Job for any lexiconophile.

Here are a few of my favourite lexical treasures discovered from the depths of the pulveratricious chest of the OED.

Impluvious (adj.) Wet with rain.

Apricity (n.) The warmth of the sun in winter.

Computation (n.) An episode of drinking or carousing together.

Pulveratricious (adj.) Covered with Dust

And last but not least...

Natiform (adj.) Buttock shaped.

The English language really does have some useful words!

Ian Butcher

BLS Christmas Meal 2011

I hope you all had a great Christmas, and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.



The BLS at Christmas, Image: Stuart Smith

The highlight of our year soon arrived; this could only mean one thing – The BLS Christmas Meal! For those that were lucky enough to attend, I am sure you will all agree that a fantastic evening was enjoyed by everyone. It was great to see first, second, third and fourth year students as well as members of staff enjoying the night and socialising over a glass of wine or two! This year we decided to try out a new venue, the Management Centre and what a great decision it was. We all enjoyed a delicious three course meal including turkey with all the trimmings which was a good start to the Christmas festivities. The evening was made even more memorable by the special guests and friendly faces we had not seen in Bangor for a while. We were delighted to be joined by Zara Erliz and Megan Milton (both past linguistic students) who had made the effort to come and spend the night with the BLS, but also two other very special guests; David

and Hilary Crystal. They both thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very pleased to have been invited, it was a brilliant opportunity to talk to DC and he even promised us some books for the

New module is bendige-dig*! (*fantastic)

Welsh Linguistics is a new third year module, and it appears to have thrilled and captivated the respective class; in what can be described as increasing positive news for The School of English Language and Linguistics at Bangor. Doctor Peredur Davies, the school's Welsh medium teaching fellow, or if you prefer 'Welsh man', has been the man at the helm; and has certainly proved his worth. His teaching ability, his wide knowledge of, and passion for Wales, and the Welsh language are precisely what the module needed to succeed. The module focuses on different features of Welsh in relation to different facets and fields of linguistics, so the sounds, and syntax of Welsh; attitudes towards the Welsh language, even the mystery of those mutations! Through some positive group work leading on from the lectures, there has been much debate and discussion over the above and other issues relating to Welsh. And much has been learned from with all this considered. To demonstrate that this has been enjoyed by the class, the following were comments from students of the class, "A module which single-handedly reinvigorated my sense of Welsh identity", "Invites avenues for further personal exploration of the Welsh language, culture and people" (both from Simon Collier) and "A thoroughly inspiring choice, the Welsh Linguistics module has provided an essential component to my Linguistics degree at Bangor University. With an immediate wealth of potential research on our doorstep, it seems a shame that this module hadn't been available sooner. However, having to wait for this

BLS Library! During the evening we had a very profitable raffle with some great prizes, and a few speeches including entertainment from David Crystal. Afterwards, some of us continued partying in the Greek and then we went on to the student nightclub; Academi, where many linguists showed off several interesting dance moves, but we won't mention any names! Overall the night was a huge success which would not have happened without the continued support we receive from members of the BLS but most importantly Jo Sutton, our social secretary whose hard work and commitment is very much appreciated.

We also enjoyed the BLS Welcome Back Party for staff and students with Wine and Nibbles, on Monday 23rd January 2012, and we look forward to hosting similar events in the near future.

Stuart Smith

will no doubt prove an excellent dangling carrot for the next wave of Welsh-hungry Linguists” (Abigail Price). All in all, credit must be paid to everyone involved to make this module a unique, enjoyable experience; it’s certainly a great thing to see students take such an interest to the Welsh language. And hopefully the module will continue to run strong for years to come!

Callum Robson

Linguistic Crossword

This is the second instalment of the wonderful crosswords – this time one for you second years to delve into. If not all of the questions feel familiar to you have no fear, as we’ve used a selection of terms from all of the second year modules.

ACROSS

1. What do we call multiple meanings? (9)
4. A figure of speech that usually

- consists of a play on words? (5)
6. What do we call a preconceptual framework? (11)
9. Single meaning (8)
10. What does Fauconnier say can “proliferate when we think and talk”? (12)
11. What do we call the traditional meaning of a word? (10)

DOWN

1. Consonants can also be known as...? (8)
2. If we understand one thing in terms of another we are using? (19)
3. A waveform that doesn’t repeat along the time axis Postalveolar: when pronouncing a sound that uses the tongue tip/blade? (14)
5. If we substitute part of something for a whole what device are we using? (8)
7. If a definition gives us more than just the traditional meaning it is? (13)
8. When a speaker utters a sentence and they use two languages within or between sentences? (13)

Answers from issue one:

Across 1.Morphology 4.Bound
5.Grammar 6 Indefinite 8 Phoneme 9 Lexis 11 Syntax 12. Universal 13. Symbol

Down 1.Morpheme 2.Open
3.Noun 7. Function 10.Semantics

Check next time for the answers!

Matt Jackson

David Crystal

By now some of you will have heard that Professor David Crystal will be in Bangor on the 15th February to give a series of lectures, further details of the day will be available in the near future and these lectures were, last year, thoroughly enjoyable.

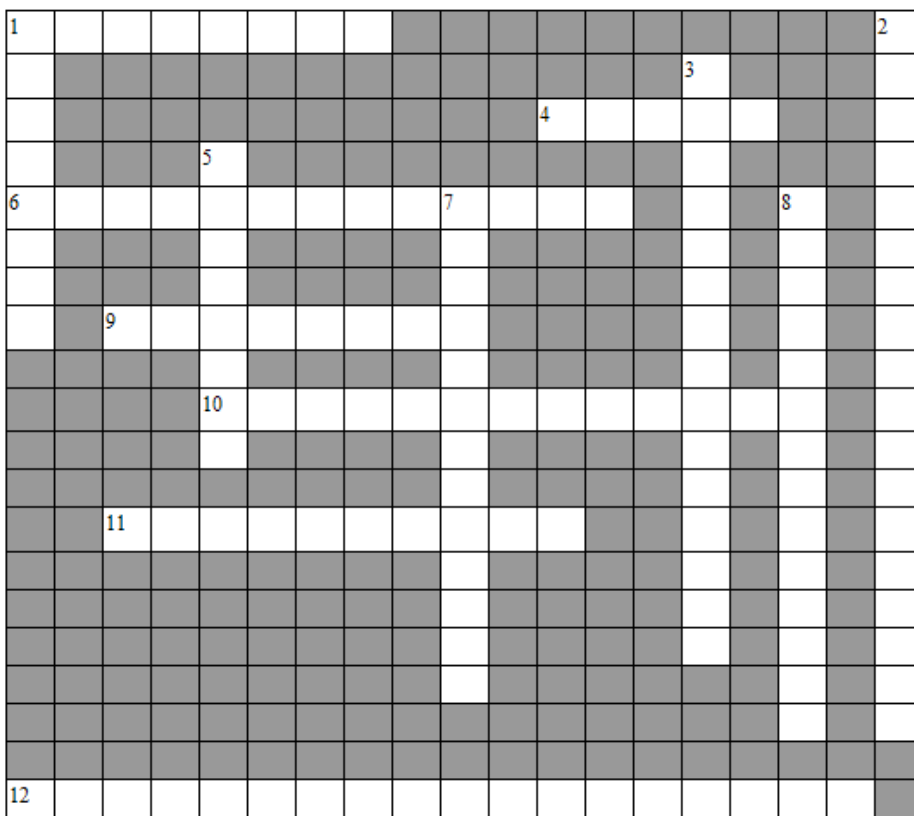
Alun Derwydd-Jones

Departmental Hoodies

For those of you who ordered a BLS hoodie they are now available from the BLS office. We had a great response from you and have ordered over 40 hoodies this year.

The office is open Monday to Friday between 11am and 3pm so you can collect your hoodie.

Matt Jackson



Upcoming Events for February/March

- Feb 7 Kepa Erdozia (Bilingualism)
ELEBILAB ‘Placing heads in phrases: when bilingual parameters clash’
- Feb 7 Dr Enlli Thomas (Education, Bangor)
“Acquiring complex structures under conditions of minimal exposure: bilingual acquisition of plural morphology in Welsh” 4pm Venue: 325
- Feb 13 Gwerfyl Roberts (Bilingualism), Bangor,
‘Enhancing rigour in the validation of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)’
- Feb 15 Prof. David Crystal, Bangor University
By hook or by crook: A journey in search of English (2:15pm)
Exploring Shakespeare’s language (4:00pm)
- Feb 20 Bonnie Schwartz (Bilingualism), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
- Feb 21 Dr Marco Tamburelli (Linguistics, Bangor)
Title: TBC, Venue: 325 4pm
- Feb 27 Alex Riemersma (Bilingualism)
Mercator Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning
- Mar 5 Bastien Boutonnet (Bilingualism), Bangor,
‘The Beauty and the Beast effect: Unconscious retrieval of grammatical gender during semantic decision on objects’
- Mar 6 Prof Guillaume Thierry (Psychology, Bangor)
“An electrifying approach to language: Event-related brain potentials” Venue: 325; 4pm
- Mar 7 Dr. Eirini Sanoudaki, Bangor University
The pronoun interpretation question(s): answers across tasks and populations
- Mar 12 Johanneke Caspers (Bilingualism), Leiden University
- Mar 19 Ros Temple (Bilingualism), University of Oxford
- Mar 21 Dr. Marija Omazic, Osijek University
Phraseology and Cognitive Linguistics: Mechanisms and constraints on idiom creation and modification.
- Mar 20 Prof Ineke Mennen (Linguistics, Bangor)
“Intonational Foreign Accent” Venue: 325 4pm
- Mar 26 Marilyn Martin-Jones (Bilingualism), University of Birmingham

Keep in touch with the BLS

We now have a new website which can be found at <http://www.bangorlinguists.org>.

We are now also on Facebook (new page!) and on Twitter:

<http://on.fb.me/BangorLinguists>.

<http://bit.ly/BLStweet> (English)

<http://bit.ly/CIBtweet> (Welsh)

There are also some year groups on Facebook, named “Linguistics & English Language ‘XX’”, where “XX” is the year of graduation (e.g. ‘12 for the current third years). Make sure to join!

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