



Dictionaries of the Scots Language
<https://dsl.ac.uk>

30 November 2021

**The Spikk o the Nor East Leid
Sheena Blackhall**

The Romans focht at Bennachie gainst Calcagus chief o a clan
His name hid reets in Celtic lore, a legendary brave swordsman
Eumenius in the third century, caad North East tribesmen the Picti
Bit verra sune the leid cheenged ower tae Gaelic, roon the Don an Dee

Lothian's Northumbrian dialect, entered the touns o the Nor East
Wi Scots an Gaelic, side bi side, an Latin spukken bi the priest
Syne Barbour screived his poem, The Brus, a braw langamachie
An Dunbar, telt o Aiberdeen an Margaret Tudor veesitin

John Skinner he penned Tullochgorum, Doric wis fand in mony's a buik
Whyle Willie Alexander screived his Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk
A heeze o bards in Doric follaed: Charles Murray, Flora Garry, Rorie
Violet Jacob, J.C. Milne, aa in the auld wirds, couthie, bonnie

Spukken bi fermer, fisher, baillie, orra loun, an traivellin cyaard
Jack Aitken gaed a heist tae Scots editin DOST, a mighty darg
An Dauvit Murison, Brocher born, he drave the gaitherin o wirds on
Researchin place nemmes, fairs an marts, fur scholar, reader, learnèd don

A Doric Dictionar Kynoch penned. Ye'll see wirds on First Bus gaun by
Buchan Claik bi Buchan an Toulmin- hoards o wirds baith gleg an spry
An RGU pit online lists o wirds like hornygollach jist fur fowk tae savour
Ah Doric is a feisty tongue: an here are wirds tae shaw its flavour:

Knapdarlach, contermaschious, smarrach, clyack, strushil, braa
Hudderie-heidit, maasie, baggerel, barritchfu, hoodie craa
As lang as I've a tongue tae spikk, I'll praise the wirds o my kintrie
The leid that Burns's faither spakk, an Fergusson's: sae swete tae pree

Commissioned by Dictionaries of the Scots Language in celebration of Scots and its extensive history
as a lasting tribute to *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* and all those involved in its making.
For further background, see <https://dsl.ac.uk/aitken100/>.