



**Members' Newsletter**

**Number 110  
January 2020**

"Keepin Ahad O Wor Tung"

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# **Next Happnin**

## **Friday 14 February**

# **Fundraising**

# **Concert**

### **for the 2020 Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering**

### **at 7.30pm**

### **Morpeth Town Hall**

## **Happnins in 2020**

**Weekend 18 & 19 April** - Morpeth Northumbrian  
Gathering

**Thursday 30 April** - Annual General Meeting and Reed Neet

**Saturday 6 June** - Wor Dialect Day, South Shields Library

**Tuesday 9 June** - Richard Oliver Heslop lecture, Lit & Phil,  
Newcastle

**Saturday 10 October** - Roland Bibby Memorial Lecture,  
Morpeth Town Hall

**Weekend 16-18 October** - National Dialect Festival, venue  
uncertain at the moment, possibly in Blackpool again.

**Saturday 5 December** - Yule Meet, Morpeth Bagpipe  
Chantry Museum

## **NLS Contacts**

*Dialect -*

**Kim Bibby-Wilson**

phone: 01670 513308;

email:

[kim@northumbriana.org.uk](mailto:kim@northumbriana.org.uk)

*General -*

**Avril Common**

email:

[avril\\_common@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:avril_common@yahoo.co.uk)

*Merchandise -*

**John Davidson**

phone: 01668 281462

email:

[nlstreasurer@talktalk.net](mailto:nlstreasurer@talktalk.net)

*Newsletter -*

**Peter Arnold**

phone: 01434 608230;

email:

[pja13@phonecoop.coop](mailto:pja13@phonecoop.coop)

**or visit our website at -**  
[www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)

## **Divvent Forget!!!**

A reminder that the  
closing dates for the  
writing competitions  
in this year's  
Gathering are as  
follows -

adults:-

**Saturday 21 March,**  
children:-

**Saturday 4 April.**

# ***Northumbrian Concert***

A Valentine's evening of  
traditional music, songs  
and humour with  
performers including



***Alistair Anderson  
Border Directors  
John Davidson  
Glowan  
Sarah Tym and  
Iain Gelston***

***M.C. Alex Swailes MBE***

***Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm  
The Ballroom, The Town Hall,  
Market Place, Morpeth, NE61 1LZ***

**Tickets: Adult £12; OAP £11; Under 18 £5  
from Morpeth Chantry TIC 01670 623455  
or from Kim Bibby-Wilson 01670 513308**

**Interval refreshments available**



*A fund-raiser for 53<sup>rd</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
Festival of music, dance, craft, dialect, heritage including special events on  
this year's theme of Fairies, Faas\* and Folklore*

*\*Gypsies*

# 53<sup>rd</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Programme

details subject to confirmation : Edition 1

Annual festival celebrating Northumberland's traditional music, song, craft, dance, dialect, stories and heritage including events for this year's special theme of *Fairies, Faas and Folklore* (Faas = Border Gypsies)

Many free events. Prices: adult/unwaged/school age.  
Under 5s free.

### Before the Gathering: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

7.30 pm **NORTHUMBRIAN CONCERT** Alistair Anderson, Border Directors, John Davidson, Glowman, Sarah Tym, Iain Gelston. MC Alex Swailes MBE *Town Hall* £12, £11, £5

### Easter holiday: Dance and Craft Workshops

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April:

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** + refreshments; craft competition entries (rec'd Thur. 16<sup>th</sup> April 5.30 pm - 7 pm).

Displays/stalls: needlework, proggy mats, jewellery. CDs, books, photos, t-shirts on sale. *Town Hall* 50p at door/ accompanied under-12s free

#### 10.00– 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS & HERITAGE**

**CRAFT STALLS** Punch & Judy, Rent a Peasant, Ran Tanners, stories, craft demonstrations, heritage activities with Archaeosoup, *Market Place, Arcade* Free

10.00 **DANCE WORKSHOPS** Historic dance, maypole, clog (bring flat shoes), etc *Town Hall*; £2/£1 per session

10.30 – 4.00 **ART CAFÉ** art, family craft activities, stories. *Leisure Centre café* Free (to be confirmed)

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

2.00 **JIM ELDON & MOSSY CHRISTIAN** fiddle duets from the northern tradition *Bagpipe Museum* £5/£4

3.30 **JAMIE ALLAN** Chris Ormston & Matt Seattle on the life & music of legendary Gypsy piper *Bagp Mus'm* £5/£4

4.30 **BEDTIME STORIES** with Taffy Thomas MBE *Library*

7.30 – 10.00 **WERCA'S FOLK AND FRIENDS** Concert for choir's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday plus launch of In House Poets' new book *Carbon Coast* *Methodist Church* £12/£10/£8

8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** with Gathering regulars *Tap & Spile* Donations

#### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April: (9am – 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** *Library* Free

10.00– 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS & STALLS** Punch & Judy, produce & craft stalls, dance teams, Ran Tanners, Ellington Colliery Band, *Mkt Place, Park, Arcade*

10.00 – 4.00 **MORPETH CASTLE OPEN DAY** history, stories & music. Arranged with Landmark Trust Free

10.00 – 4.00 **STORYTELLERS' GARDEN** storytellers & musicians *Old Bakehouse Yd Millennium Green* Free

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

10.00 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Drop-in session – hear our local smallpipes *Bagpipe Mus* Free

10.00 - 10.45 **CLOG DANCE WORKSHOP** Anne Walton. Northumberland and Durham clog style. Bring flat hard-soled shoes *St Town Hall Ballroom* £2/£1

10.15 **RING O' BELLS**; Clock Tower tours from 12 approx

10.30 – 3.30 **ART CAFÉ** as Friday *Leisure Centre* (tbc)

11.00 **PAGEANT** Border piper, flags, Lord Greystoke's return from Otterburn, bands, dance teams, giant puppet of piper Jamie Allan, welcomed at *Town Hall\** by the Morpeth Gadgy and civic leaders. (\*If no road closure, event will centre on paved *Market Place*. If road closed (10.30-11.45am) from

*Chantry to Manchester St., traffic will be diverted via Dark Lane/Stanley Terrace/Wellway).*

**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** *Chantry Bagpipe Museum*

1.30 **SPEAKING AND WRITING:** dialect, stories, results of pre-judged writing classes (deadline 21<sup>st</sup> March for adult classes, children 4<sup>th</sup> April)

### St Robert's Church Hall

*This event is back in its usual venue!*

2.00 **BANDS, ACCORDIONS, FIDDLES, OTHER**

**INSTRUMENTS, DUETS** *St. George's Church (ground floor)*

3.30 **SINGING** *Town Hall*

12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** dedicated to the memory of Gathering stalwart Ken Meadows, with Andy Seagroatt, Pete James & Tom Hanson *Tap & Spile* Free

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

12.00 - 1.30 **YOUNG MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Black&Grey*

12.15 - 1.15 **MORPETH WAITES** early music concert

*St George's Church* £2/£1 at door (tbc)

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

2.00 – 3.00 **FAMILY SHOW** Folktales of Birds with Taffy Thomas and Paul Knox *Methodist Church* £2/£1

3.00 – 4.00 **MEDIEVAL COMBAT** Re-enactment display of medieval warfare and arms *Castle* Free

4.00  **DIALECT/STORIES** event *St Robert's Ch Hall* (tba)

6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** Special guests Windy Gyle plus 2019 winners *Town Hall Ballroom* £9/£8/£5

7.00 **TWILIGHT TALES** with Taffy Thomas MBE and Jim Grant *Old Bakehouse Yard Millennium Green* Free

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

8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SESSION** to be confirmed Free (donations)

8.30 **BARN DANCE** with The Hedgehog's Skin & guests. Bring own drinks; no stilettos! *St Geo's Ch Hall* £8/£6/£5

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April:

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

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

10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS & HERITAGE**

**CRAFT STALLS** Punch & Judy, Maypole dancing, stories, Ran Tanners, costumes, heritage craft demonstrations *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** with Gathering performers

including Taffy Thomas MBE *St George's UR Church*

10.30 – 3.30 **ART CAFÉ** as Friday *Leisure Centre* (tbc)

11.30 – 12.30 **PETE SHEPHEARD** on his work collecting the songs of Gypsy Traveller families *Town Hall* £4/£3

12.00 - 2.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Tap & Spile* Free

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

1.30 - 3.00 **FAMILY CONCERT** Storytelling, music, dance and 2019 junior winners *Town Hall* £2/£1 at door

3.00 – 4.00 **MEDIEVAL COMBAT** Re-enactment display of medieval warfare and arms *Castle* Free

*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 513308

[www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)

# Waad Yuh Beleev It?

Noo then! As some on yuh knaas, Aah's frae Hexham. Di yuh knaa Hexham? If'n yuh dee, yuh'll knaa yuh canna gan varry far afore yuh hev ti gan up a hill or doon a hill. It's that kind ov a plyec. Yous'll mind on as weel that wuh had a lot o snaa a couple o winters back. Moontins o thi stuff. Whey, this tyel's aboot whaat happened tiv is i thi snaa.

One neet, wor lass went ti see one ov hor freends whe lives in a hoos at thi top o thi hill abeun wor hoos. It wasn't snaain whan she left, like, but it started ti snaa syun eftor, an afore lang it waas canny deep.

Eftor haff an oor, she rings is up an she sez "Can yuh come'n get is pet, coz the snaa's geet deep up heor, an Aah divvent think Aah can waalk back hyem doon thi hill?"

Me bein a hero like, Aah sez ti hor "Whey aye hinny, nee bother! Aah'll be theor as syun as Aah can, coz Aah's just finishin off a bit stotty cyek an a mug o tea". So, eftor aboot thorty minits, coz yuh canna rush chowin a stotty, can yuh? Aah gets thi car oot, an sets off up thi hill.

Whey, Aah haddent gon varry far whan thi snaa got wors an wors. It waas blawin aall ower thi plyec, me wipers waas deen, an Aah thowt ti mesel "Bye, Aah's ganna be lucky ti git ti thi top like wiv aal yon snaa."

Sure enyuff, thi car started ti slaa doon. Theor waas nowt for it. Aah torned thi winda doon, lowped oot thi car while it waas still gannin, reached intiv it, got a hadda thi steerin wheel, an started ti push it up thi hill.

Bye, it waas hard wark! Thi wind waas blaain thi snaa ivorywheor, inti me fyec an doon me sark. Me fingers waas frozen, an Aah thowt Aah wuddent mek it ti thi top. It waas cumin on fer neet an aall, an ootbye theor's nee street leets ti show yuh thi way ti gan. Bye, Aah waas puffin an pantin like a reet tanky.

Aal ov a sudden, Aah heerd someone shoot "Div yuh want a bit hand like?" Aah keeked aal aroond, but Aah cuddent see nee-one, cept Aah cud just mek oot a black gallowa powkin its heed ower a dyke top, so Aah just started pushin me car agyen.

Then theor it waas agyen "Div yuh want a bit hand, like?" Aah still cudna see whe it waas, but Aah shooted back "Aye! Just giz a push ti thi top o thi hill, but. Aah cn manage aal reet frae theor."

Whey, yuh cud a dunchd is doon wiv a stotty like, coz thi gallowa lowped ower thi dyke, got ahint me car, an started ti push it up thi hill wiv its heed agin thi back winda. Aah waas that chuffed for thi bit help, Aah just steered thi car, an

Aah pushed a bit an aal like. Weel, yuh hev ti show willin, divvent yuh?

Eftor aboot ten minutes, wuh gets ti thi top, an Aah cud see thi hoos wor lass had gon ti, so Aah giv ower pushin ti tyek me pipe a bit afore Aah got back i thi car.

Noo, me mam had erlwis telt is ti say "Ta" ti them whaat helps yuh, so Aah torned ti thi gallowa ti thank it, but bugged me, it had fliggied!

Aah looked aal ower for it, but it waas nee-wheor ti be seen. Whaat gov is a reet gliff but, theor wor nee hoss tracks i thi snaa ahint thi car nowther!

Onyroad, Aah got back i thi car, an drove ti thi hoos, an eftor a few minutes, me an wor lass drove back hyem doon thi hill.

As wuh passed thi dyke wheor thi gallowa had been, Aah gov a toot on thi horn, like, ti say thank yuh ti thi bogle, coz Aah reckon that's whaat it waas, coz yous aall knaa that hosses canna taak, divvent yuh?

"What did yuh dee that for?" wor lass sayd, so Aah started tellin hor aall aboot me adventures i thi snaa like.

Aah cud tell frae thi look on hor fyec that she didn't beleev is, an aal she waad say waas "An Aah suppose yor ganna tell is that's wheor thi word hoss-pooer comes frae, are yuh?"

Peter Arnold

## NLS Yule Meet Saturday 7th December 2019

This was an enjoyable afternoon of Northumbrian music, poetry, words and buffet.

Seventeen people assembled in the upstairs room at The Chantry, Morpeth, with some welcome 'new' faces and new participants.

Kim opened proceedings with some Northumbrian small pipe tunes, followed by items from several members. Eileen Beers recited poems including several from her new book, and Paul Mein also gave a recitation.

The "Whee's Tellin Hoafies 'competition' between the audience and panel of three, who gave true and false descriptions of not very well known Northumbrian words, took place both before and after the buffet. The Treasurer, originally from Monkseaton, provided some amusing comments from the panel.

In partnership with Northumbrian Words and The Northumbrian Language Society, The Word (National Centre for the Written Word) is calling for short stories which celebrate the North East dialect

# LOST WORDS

## Dialect Writing Competition

Entrants are invited to use North East dialect words and phrases to create a story on any subject. Entries will be judged on the quality of the narrative as well as the way in which the writer includes dialect in speech, prose, or both.

The competition opens on Monday 28 October and the deadline for submission will be midnight on Friday February 28, 2020.

There are two categories, one for adults and one for youths aged between 12 and 19 years of age. Entry is free (one per person) and all submissions must abide by the terms and conditions to be found on the Word website shown below.

The winners will be announced on Saturday 6 June 2020 and the top 3 entries will receive prizes as follows:

Adult category - cash prize £100, £50 and £25 respectively

Youth category – vouchers £100, £50 and £25 respectively

For further information or to place an entry please visit the Word's website at  
<https://theworduk.org/writers>

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For additional resources on the North East dialect:

The Bank of Lost Words is a glossary of words collected by the Word during its Lost Words exhibition and available for download:

<https://theworduk.org/wp-content/uploads/Word-Bank-of-Lost-Dialects.pdf>

Northumbrian Words offers examples of modern and historic stories written in dialect:  
[www.northumbrian-words.com](http://www.northumbrian-words.com)

Dialect words and information about the dialect including grammar, can be viewed at the Northumbrian Language Society website:  
[www.northumbriana.org.uk/langsoc/](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk/langsoc/)

