



***The Witch of
Edlingham***

*A play for voices
by Mike Lyons and
Paul Mein*

PRESS RELEASE

The return of the Witch!

An alleged local witch who was indicted in January 1683 will make a dramatic re-appearance at The Memorial Hall, Warkworth on Wednesday 23rd February 2022.

Margaret Stothard was summoned to appear before Henry Ogle J. P. with her life at risk, having been charged with ‘Maleficium’ or ‘harmful magic’. Find out if she is found guilty or not in the forthcoming production of ‘The Witch of Edlingham’.

This ‘play for voices’, created by local writers Paul Mein and Mike Lyons, is based upon the original depositions against Margaret, now held by Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn Colliery. Only four of the eleven featured characters are fictional, the remainder being actual participants in the proceedings, several of whom were the alleged witch’s main accusers.

To produce this and other dramatic works, a company of writers and performers called ‘Far Horizon Voices’ has been set up, with a substantial catalogue featuring Northumberland-based stories and incidents. At present, the group consists of fourteen members. Its plays for voices are essentially dramatised readings involving elements of theatre and building on the tradition of oral rendition of poems, ballads, stories and dramas. Extensive use of the Northumberland dialect in its creations has earned the group support from established organisations like *Northumbrian Words* and *The Northumberland Language Society*.

In order to maximise the use of the available space, this first showing in Warkworth is limited to an audience of fifty. Tickets may be purchased at £5 from Warkworth Post Office or reserved by email at farhorizonvoices@gmail.com

All proceeds will be donated to the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. It is highly likely that the production will be enacted at other venues in the County in the months to come, including in Edlingham itself!

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