



55th Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering



14th – 16th April 2023 Programme -details subj to confirmation-current 2 Mar

We're back! After 3 lockdown/online years, our celebration of Northumberland's traditional music, song, dialect, craft, dance, stories and heritage is back on the usual weekend after Easter with great activities for all the family. With leading entertainers including Werca's Folk, Voice Male, Sandra Kerr, The Hedgehog's Skin, The Ran Tanners, Steve Turner, Ken Patterson, Richard Scott, Jim Eldon, Jim Grant, Graham Bell, Ellington Colliery Band, Taffy Thomas, Megan Wisdom & Mossy Christian, Storytellers Street Band, Auckland Shanty singers, Ashington Male Voice Choir, John Sadler's Time Bandits, morris and rapper teams. *Many free events. Prices: adult / school age. Under 5s free.*

Before the Gathering: Dance Workshops Learn the Morpeth Rant for Sunday's massed dance. Contact Elizabeth Lawson by email: havemaypolewilltravel@outlook.com

Before the Gathering: Pop-Up Folk Ensemble Music
Download scores/audio in advance from Phoenix Folk for Saturday's events: website www.phoenixfolk.co.uk/morpeth

See [website](#) / [Facebook](#) for all updates!

Friday 14th April

During today performers will visit local care homes
9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** + refreshments; craft competition entries (rec'd Thur. 13th April 5.30 pm - 7 pm), craft demos & stalls, CDs, books, posters, festival archive photos 50p at door/ accomp'd under-12s free **Town Hall**
10.00- 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, music, stories *Free* **Market Place, Arcade**
10.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN SMALL PIPES TASTER DAY** (instruments provided) *Bagpipe Museum* - advance booking & payment required - contact Gathering office
10.00 onwards **DANCE WORKSHOPS** incl. historic, clog, barn dancing for everyone £2/£1 per session **Town Hall**
2.00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Gathering by Mayor **Town Hall**
3.30 **FRIDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT** Steve Turner (songs & concertina) and Ken & Sandie Hudson (songs, dulcimer & guitar) £4/£3 child **Chantry Bagpipe Museum**
4.30 **STORYTELLING FOR FAMILIES** *Free* **Library**
7.30 - 10.00 **WERCA'S FOLK WITH VOICE MALE** The two choirs mark Werca's Folk's 25th birthday - postponed from 2020! £12/£6 child **Methodist Church**
8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Free* **Tap & Spile**

Saturday 15th April: (9am - 4pm Park & Ride at County Hall)
9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday **Town Hall**
9.45 **CHILDREN'S STORIES** *Free* **Library**
10.00- 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, Ellington Colliery Band, music, choirs, morris and rapper teams *Free* **Market Place, Park, Arcade**
10.00 - 4.00 **MORPETH CASTLE OPEN DAY** history, stories & music. Arranged with Landmark Trust *Free*
10.00 **STORYTELLING FOR FAMILIES** *Free* **Library**
10.00 - 10.50 **POP-UP FOLK ENSEMBLE** Prepare for spot in tonight's concert (see above) *Donation* **St Robert's Church Hall**
10.00 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Drop-in session - hear our local smallpipes *Free* **Bagpipe Mus**
10.30 - 10.55 **RING O' BELLS** from Clock Tower followed by Tower opening - see event starting at 1.00
11.00 **PAGEANT** to be confirmed **Town Centre**
11.30 - 4.00 **STORYTELLERS' GARDEN** Hear stories in the secret garden *Free* **Old Bakehouse Yard, Millennium Green**
11.45 - 12.45 **NON SUCH DULCIMER CLUB** Come and try plucked and hammered dulcimers *Free* **Bagpipe Mus**

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 18th March for adult and junior classes) **St Robert's Church Hall**
2.00 **BANDS, ACCORDIONS, FIDDLES, OTHER INSTRUMENTS, DUETS** **St George's Church (ground floor)**
3.30 **SINGING** **Town Hall Ballroom**
12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** led by Andy Seagroat & Pete James in memory of Ken Meadows **Tap & Spile**
12.00 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** Venue to be fixed *Free*
1.00 - 3.00 **CLOCK TOWER** open: try your hand at chiming with Morpeth Clock Tower Bellringers
2.00 - 3.00 **FAMILY SHOW** including Silly Sangs from Ken Patterson & Richard Scott and Ashington & District Male Voice Choir £2/£1 at door **Methodist Church (to be confirmed)**
c.4.00 - 4.45 **SESSION** for pipers & dulcimers **Bagpipe Museum**
6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** Special guest singer & songwriter Graham Bell, Pop-up Folk Ensemble & 2019's open class winners £9/£5 child **Town Hall Ballroom**
8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Free* **Tap & Spile**
8.30 **BARN DANCE** with The Hedgehog's Skin & guests. Bring own drinks; no stilettos! £9/£5 **St George's Church Hall**

Sunday 16th April

9.30 - 4.30 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday including special family art activities **Town Hall**
10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, music, stories, including Massed Morpeth Rant & Maypole dance **Market Place, Park, Sanderson Arcade**
10.00 - 4.00 **MORPETH CASTLE OPEN DAY** history, stories & music. Arranged with Landmark Trust *Free*
11.15 **CHURCH SERVICE** with dialect readings and hymns, and Gathering performers **St James the Great, Newgate Street**
12.00 - 2.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Free* **Tap & Spile**
1.00 - 3.00 **TOURS OF COUNCIL CHAMBER**, Mayor's Parlour, civic silver, portraits & artefacts *Free* **Town Hall**
1.30 **THE SONGS OF BAGPUSS** with Sandra Kerr £2/£1 at door **Town Hall Ballroom**
3.30 **FROM MOROCCO TO MORPETH** Stories & music with Taffy Thomas MBE, Megan Wisdom & Mossy Christian, following their recent visit to the Marrakech Storytelling Festival £2/£1 at door **Town Hall Ballroom**
7.30 **THE ELSIE MONOLOGUES** Pat Dunn (Coronation Street, Vera) returns in Tom Kelly's play as the little old lady with a secret - by popular demand after her dramatic online Gathering appearances £6/£4 **Town Hall Ballroom**

FUND-RAISING POSTER designed by the amazing artist Jonny Hannah specially for the Gathering - contact us for details or buy one during the weekend at the Town Hall ! £12.50 by post/£10 in person

M.N.G. Committee, part of Morpeth Antiquarian Society, Reg. Charity no. 507640, reserves the right to alter event details.

DETAILS: www.northumbriana.org.uk
GATHERING QUERIES: 01670 513308

TICKETS: Morpeth Tourist Information Centre 01670 623455