



# 55<sup>th</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering



14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 *Programme* – details subject to confirmation **Edition 7**

**We're back!** After 3 lockdown/online years, our celebration of Northumberland's traditional music, song, dialect, craft, dance, stories & heritage returns the weekend after Easter with great activities for all the family plus special Silly Sangs for Bairns events.

Artists include Werca's Folk, Sandra Kerr, Jim Grant, Voice Male, The Hedgehog's Skin, The Ran Tanners, Ellington Colliery Band, Taffy Thomas MBE, Steve Turner, Megan Wisdom & Mossy Christian, John Sadler's Time Bandits, Anna Fancett, Graham Bell, Robson's Choice, Jim Eldon, Bakewell Brothers, Storytellers Street Band, Auckland Shanty Singers, Ashington District Male Voice Choir, Archaeosoup, local morris & rapper teams, etc. **Many free events. Prices: adult / school age. Under 5s free.**

## **Before the Gathering: Pop-Up Folk Ensemble Music**

For advance details/scores: [www.phoenixfolk.co.uk/morpeth](http://www.phoenixfolk.co.uk/morpeth)

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April:**

*During today performers will visit local care homes*

9.30 - 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** + refreshments; craft competition entries (rec'd Thur. 13<sup>th</sup> April 5.30 pm - 7 pm), craft demos & stalls, CDs, books, posters, festival archive photos *Town Hall 50p at door/ accomp'd under-12s free*  
10.00– 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, music, heritage, stories *Market Place, Sanderson Arcade*  
10.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN SMALL PIPES TASTER DAY** (age 15+; instruments provided) *Bagpipe Museum - £28 advance booking via Gathering Office or £35 on the day*  
10.00 **DANCE WORKSHOPS** 10.00 - 11.00 Historic; 11.30 – 12.30 Clog; 1.00 – 2.00 Longsword; 2.30 - 3.30 Barn dancing (all tbc) *Town Hall; £2/£1 per session at door*  
2.00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** of Gathering by Mayor *Town Hall*  
3.30 **FRI. AFTERNOON CONCERT** Steve Turner (silly & sensible songs, concertina), Ken & Sandie Hudson (songs, dulcimer, guitar) *Chantry Bagpipe Museum £4/£3 child*  
4.30 **STORYTELLING FOR FAMILIES** with Anna Fancett *Library (at new Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane) Free*  
7.30 – 10.00 **WERCA'S FOLK WITH VOICE MALE** The two choirs mark Werca's Folk's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday - postponed from 2020! *Methodist Church £12/£6 child*  
8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Tap & Spile Free*

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April:** (9am – 4pm Park & Ride at County Hall)

9.30 – 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday *Town Hall*  
9.45 – 10.30 **CHILDREN'S STORIES** with Taffy Thomas MBE *Library (new Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane) Free*  
10.00– 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, Ellington Colliery Band, shanty group, music, morris and rapper teams, Makers' Market stalls *Market Place, Park, (bandstand area and near pavilion), Sanderson Arcade*  
10.00 – 4.00 **MORPETH CASTLE OPEN DAY** history, stories & music. Arranged with Landmark Trust *Free*  
10.00 – 10.50 **POP-UP FOLK ENSEMBLE** Prepare for spot in tonight's concert (see above) *St Robt's Hall Donation*  
10.00 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Drop-in session – hear our local smallpipes *Bagpipe Mus Free*  
10.30 – 10.55 **RING O' BELLS** from Clock Tower followed by Tower opening – see event starting at 1.00  
11.00 **PROCESSION** Welcomed at Town Hall by Morpeth Gadgy (10.30-11.45am *Market Place/town centre from Chantry to Manchester St closed to traffic, with diversion*)

11.30 – 3.00 **STORYTELLERS' GARDEN** Hear stories in the secret garden *Old Bakehouse Yd Millenn Green Free*  
11.45 – 12.45 **NONSUCH DULCIMER CLUB** Come and try plucked and hammered dulcimers *Bagpipe Mus Free*

**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** with Andy Seagroatt, Pete James & Tom Hanson in memory of Ken Meadows *Tap&Spile*

12.00 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** led by Sam Dodds of Tyne Folk *Joiners Arms Free - donations*

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 The Bakewell Brothers and Ashington & District MV Choir in memory of Olly Wilson *Methodist Church £2/£1 at door*  
c.4.00 – 4.45 **SESSION** for pipers & dulcimers *Bagp Mus*

6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** Special guest dialect singer & songwriter Graham Bell, Pop-up Folk Ensemble & 2019's open class music and reciting winners; MC Peter Armstrong *Town Hall Ballroom £9/£5 child*

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

8.30 **BARN DANCE** with The Hedgehog's Skin & guests. Bring own drinks; no stilettos! *St George's Ch Hall £9/£5*

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April:**

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

10.00 - 3.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, music, songs, including Massed Morpeth Rant & Maypole dance *Market Place, Park, Sanderson Arcade*  
10.00 – 4.00 **MORPETH CASTLE OPEN DAY** as Sat'day  
10.00 – 12.30 **FAMILY ART ACTIVITIES** Make dragon & fairy items with artist Elaine Porter *Town Hall Free – donations requested towards materials*  
11.15 – 12.30 **CHURCH SERVICE** with dialect hymns & readings with Gathering performers *St James Church*

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 **THE SONGS OF BAGPUSS** with Sandra Kerr from the original series *Town Hall Ballroom £2/£1 at door*

3.30 **FROM MOROCCO TO MORPETH:** Ancestral Voices - stories & music from Taffy Thomas MBE, Megan Wisdom & Mossy Christian, after their recent visit to the Marrakech Storytelling Festival *Town Hall Ballroom £2/£1 at door*

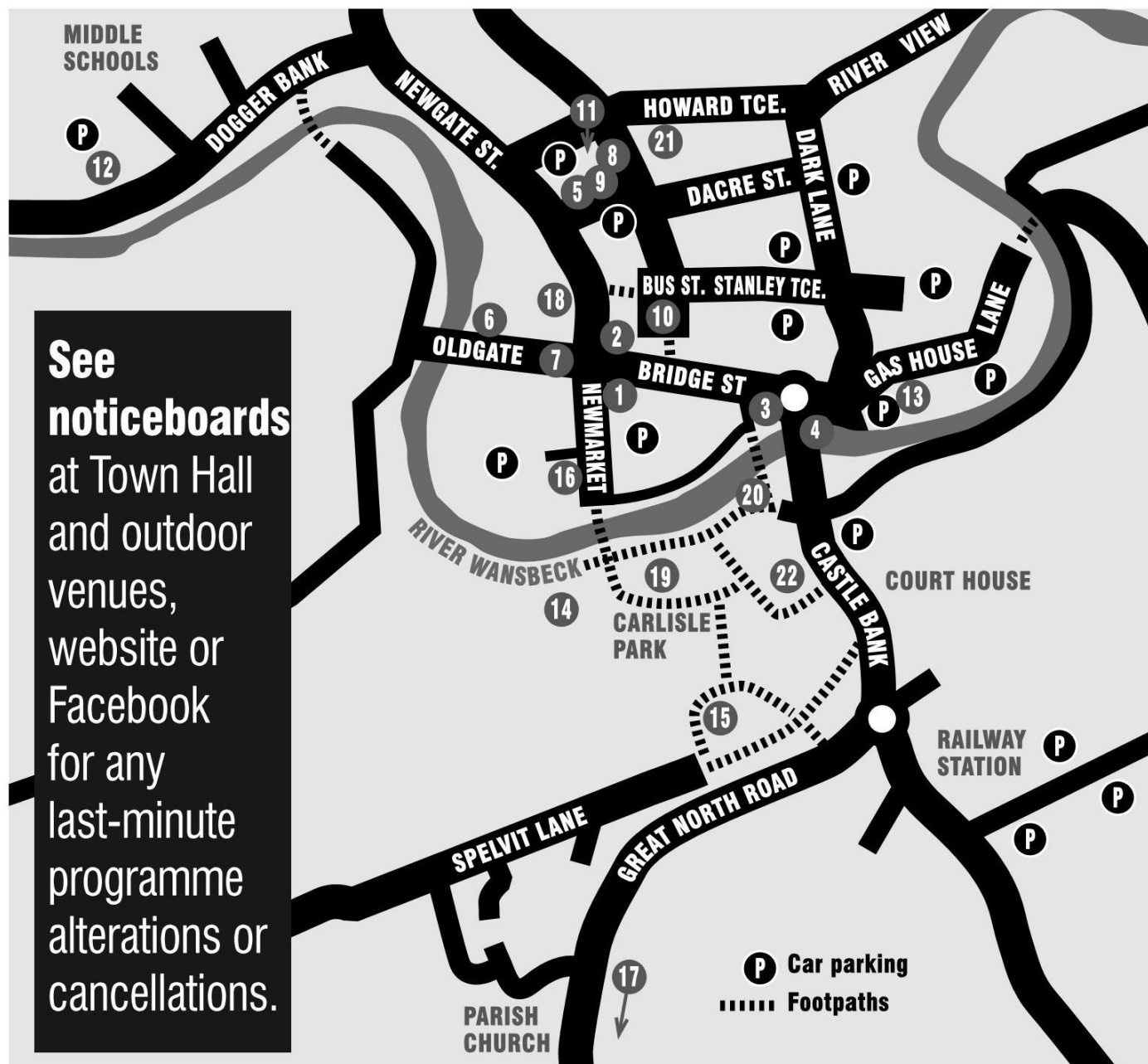
7.30 **THE ELSIE MONOLOGUES** Pat Dunn (Coronation Street, Vera) returns on the big screen in Tom Kelly's play as the little old lady with a secret – by popular demand!

**NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE:** *St James Centre £6/£4*

**See website/Facebook for all updates!**

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](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk) **GATHERING QUERIES:** 01670 513308 **TICKETS:** Morpeth TIC 01670 623455



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|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 TOWN HALL  | 7 CLOCK TOWER                      | 16 OLD LEISURE CENTRE<br>(Closed, now at 13) |
| 2 MARKET PLACE   | 8 ST. JAMES' CENTRE                | 17 COUNTY HALL                               |
| 3 CHANTRY TIC AND<br>BAGPIPE MUSEUM                          | 9 TAP & SPILE                      | 18 OLD BAKEHOUSE                             |
| 4 ST. GEORGE'S<br>CHURCH AND HALL                            | 10 SANDERSON ARCADE                | MILLENNIUM GREEN                             |
| 5 OLD LIBRARY (Closed,<br>now at 13)                         | 11 ST. JAMES'S CHURCH              | 19 PAVILION                                  |
| 6 ST. ROBERT'S<br>CHURCH HALL (Rear<br>of Collingwood House) | 12 RUGBY FIELD                     | 20 JOINERS ARMS                              |
|  | 13 NEW LEISURE<br>CENTRE & LIBRARY | 21 METHODIST CHURCH                          |
|  | 14 CARLISLE PARK<br>(Bandstand)    | 22 WILLIAM TURNER<br>HERB GARDEN             |
|  | 15 MORPETH CASTLE                  |  |