

**51<sup>st</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering  
continuing Northumberland's traditions  
6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**PROGRAMME**

**Back to the Roots!**

Events for all the family celebrating the area's traditional music and folk arts which have inspired the festival's first 50 years.

All details subject to change - see noticeboards at the Town Hall and around the town, Gathering website, Facebook or Twitter for any last minute cancellations or alterations. **WET WEATHER** - any changes or cancellations may have to be decided at very short notice, so please bear with us!

Look out for shop window displays and costumed characters.

Venues fully accessible except Bin 21, Tap and Spile, Clock Tower.

**Ticket prices and door charges:**

If 2 prices are given, 2<sup>nd</sup> is unwaged rate; any 3<sup>rd</sup> price is for school-age child; under 5s are free. At some free events donation boxes may be passed around

*NB: this year's Castle open days take place on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> April with Gathering performers on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

9.30 am - 5.00 pm

**Crafts Exhibition** with refreshments; (craft entries received Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April between 5.30 pm and 7pm). Displays/ stalls including needlecrafts, shepherds' sticks, proggy mats, leatherwork. Photos, cards, books, CDs, mugs, t-shirts on sale **Town Hall Corn Exchange – 50p at door – accompanied under-12s free**

10.00 am - 4.00 pm

**Outdoor Entertainment and Stalls** Time Bandits (WWI living history), The Ran Tanners (Victorian music), stories from Jim Grant and David Silk, Archaeosoup, Professor Grunermensch's Punch & Judy, Rent a Peasant (Viking life), Lesley Bentham (costumes), Jim Eldon (fiddle) plus craft activity **Market Place, Sanderson Arcade – Free**

10.30 am – 4.00 pm

**Family Exhibition** With model rail displays, art, stories, family craft activities and at 11.15 am stories from Chris Brock **Morpeth Leisure Centre Café - Free**

10.00 am -11.00 am

**Historic Dance Workshop** With Elizabeth Lawson **Town Hall Ballroom - £2/£1 at door**

10.30 am – 4.30 pm

**Northumbrian Pipes: Play In a Day ALL PLACES NOW BOOKED!** For adults (over 16) with Dave Shaw. Limited numbers; pipes provided – £20 fee - book in advance through Gathering Office **Chantry Bagpipe Museum**

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

**Clog Dance Workshop** NE clog hornpipe with Lynette Eldon and Sue Jenkinson. Bring flat hard-soled shoes. **Town Hall Ballroom - £2/£1 at door**

12.45 pm – 1.45 pm

**Maypole Dance Workshop** With Elizabeth Lawson **Town Hall Ballroom - £2/£1 at door**

1.00 pm – 3.00 pm **Young Musicians Session** Led by Paul Knox (all instruments) **Bin 21 coffee lounge - Free**

2.00 pm

**Official Opening** of the Gathering by The Mayor of Morpeth, Councillor Nic Best **Town Hall Exhibition**

2.15 pm - 3.00 pm

**Book Launch** De Merlay Dynasty - the family who ruled Morpeth 1085-1265. Selected mini-dramas with author Bridget Gubbins and friends. **Town Hall Ballroom - free**

3.30 pm – 4.30 pm

**Breton Dance Workshop** With Suzanne and Alpin McGregor **Town Hall Ballroom £2/£1 at door**

4.30 pm

**Storytime** Northumbrian fairy stories and folk tales with David Silk **Library - Free**

6.00 pm

**Morpeth Poetry Group** An evening of poetry on a Northumbrian theme with some dialect. All welcome to listen or contribute **Café des Amis – Donations**

7.30 pm

**Joe Wilson Concert** Johnny Handle, Benny Graham, Bob Bolam, Sarah Boulter, Micky Cochrane and Phil Corbitt celebrate Tyneside's songster **Methodist Church - £10 adult/ £9 unwaged/ £5 school age**

8.00 pm

**Musicians' Session** With Keith Besford, Alasdair Turnbull & friends **Tap & Spile - Free (donations)**

## **SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

(9.00 am – 4.00 pm Free Vintage Bus Park & Ride between County Hall and bus station)

9.30 am - 6.00 pm

**Crafts Exhibition** with refreshments. Displays/ stalls including needlecrafts, shepherds' sticks, proggy mats, leatherwork. Photos, cards, books, CDs, mugs, t-shirts on sale **Town Hall Corn Exchange – 50p at door – accompanied under-12s free**

9.45 am – 10.30 am

**Children's Stories** with David Silk **Library - Free**

10.00 am - 3.30 pm

**Farmers' Market and Outdoor Entertainment** including Punch & Judy, dance teams, historic characters, musicians, Ellington Colliery Band, Sheffield City Giants, Time Bandits, Astral Circus, Jim Eldon, The Ran Tanners. **Market Place, Park (near paddling pool), Sanderson Arcade – Free**

10.00 am – 4.00 approx.

**Storytellers' Garden** with Jim Grant and David Silk **Old Bakehouse Yard Millennium Green - Free**

10.00 am – 3.00 pm

**Living History** Costumes, food, fun family archaeology activities with Rent a Peasant and Archaeosoup **William Turner Herb Garden in Park - Free**

10.00 am - 10.45 am

**Meet the Northumbrian Pipers** A chance to hear our sweet-toned local instrument with members of the Northumbrian Pipers' Society **Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum – Free**

10.00 am - 10.45 am

**Clog Dance Workshop** with Anne Walton. Bring flat hard-soled shoes **Town Hall Ballroom - £2/£1 at door**

10.15 am

**Ring o' Bells** by Morpeth Clock Tower Bellringers. Clock Tower tours from 12.00 noon - **Donations**

10.30 am - 3.30 pm

**Family Exhibition** With model rail displays, art, stories, family craft activities and at 1.30 pm stories from Chris Brock **Morpeth Leisure Centre Café - Free**

11.00 am

**Border Cavalcade and Community Pageant** Led by Border piper, Lord Greystoke and soldiers return from 1388 Battle of Otterburn. Pageant of costumed groups, musicians, banners, giants, Ellington Colliery Band, dance teams, performers. The parade is welcomed outside the Town Hall by the Morpeth Gadgy (Alex Swailes MBE portraying the Town Bailiff) and civic leaders.

*During this time (10.30 - 11.45 am) the Market Place & town centre from Chantry roundabout to Manchester Street will be closed to traffic. Alternative route via Dark Lane, Stanley Terrace or Dacre Street, and Manchester Street.*

12.00 noon

**Musicians' Session** With Keith Besford, Alasdair Turnbull & friends **Tap & Spile - Free (donations)**

12.00 noon - 3.00 pm

**Singaround** with Beeswing **Joiners Arms – Donations**

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm

**Ned Corvan** Dave Harker delves into the life of the early music hall star **St Robert's Church Hall, Oldgate (behind Collingwood House) - £2/£1 at door or with competition passport ticket**

**Saturday Afternoon Competitions:** Passport ticket for entrants & audience £2.00/£1.50 includes free entry to Exhibition. Doors open 30 mins before times below to allow entrants to register.

12.00 noon **Clog Dancing** solo and groups **Town Hall**

1.30 pm **Northumbrian Pipes** and Other Bellows Pipes **Bagpipe Museum**

1.30 pm **Speaking and Writing:** dialect, stories, hoafies (tall tales) plus results of pre-Gathering competitions and update from Karen Lowing on her study into dialect in schools **St Robert's Church Hall**

2.00 pm **Bands, Accordions, Fiddles, Other Instruments, Duets** **St. George's Church (ground floor)**

3.30 pm **Singing** including new Emily Inspires! trophy **Town Hall**

12.15 pm - 1.15 pm

**Morpeth Waites** early music concert **St George's Church - £2/£1 at door**

12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

**Concertina workshop** Steve Turner on techniques for accompanying songs **Bin 21 coffee lounge - £2/£1 at door**

1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

**Let's Bee Potty** Plantpot making and seed-sowing workshop **Old Bakehouse Yard Millennium Green - Free (donation for materials)**

2.00 pm - 2.45 pm

**Family Show** including storytelling and Bedlington Ukelele Band - with a chance to join in **St James' Centre - £2/£1 at door**

3.00 pm approx. – 4.30 pm - **competitions may delay start**

**The Great Joe Wilson** Ed Waugh on his new play about the legendary Tyneside songwriter **St Robert's Church Hall - £2/£1 at door or with competition passport ticket**

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm

**WWI Recruitment and Drill** The Time Bandits present a WWI re-enactment **Park bandstand area - Free**

4.00 pm – 5.00 pm

**William Shield: A Life in Tunes** Amélie Addison on the great composer with Poppy Holden (voice) & Niles Krieger (violin) **Chantry Bagpipe Museum - £4/£3**

5.00 pm

**Teatime Tales** With David Silk **Peppermint Café – Free (donations) – venue confirmed**

5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

**Young People's Music Session** with David Oliver (all instruments welcome) **Bin 21 coffee lounge - Free (donations)**

6.30 pm - 8.45 pm

**Winners' Concert** Special guest group Lowp, with last year's song, music and dialect winners including Tyneside Fiddle Alliance, Ali Say, Ian Stephenson, Stuart Lawson, Mike Carney, Ian Abernethy, Tom Patterson, Abbey Louise Tilley **Town Hall Ballroom - £9/£8/£5**

8.00 pm

**Musicians' Session** with Keith Besford, Alasdair Turnbull & friends **Tap & Spile - Free (donations)**

8.00 pm

**Northumbrian Pipers' Session** with Keith Davidson. Players and listeners welcome **Riverside Lodge bar area, High Stanners Free (donations) - change of venue from earlier publicity**

8.30 pm

**Fire Eating Event** Circus skills display with Astral Circus **Market Place - Free**

8.30 pm – 11.30 pm

**Barn Dance** with The Hedgehog's Skin (caller David Oliver) and guest artist spots. Bring own drinks; no stilettos! **St George's Church Hall - £8/£6/£5**

## **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

9.30 am - 4.30 pm

**Crafts Exhibition** with refreshments. Displays/ stalls including needlecrafts, shepherds' sticks, proggy mats, leatherwork. Photos, cards, books, CDs, mugs, t-shirts on sale **Town Hall Corn Exchange – 50p at door – accompanied under-12s free**

9.30 am - 11.00 am

**Orienteering Event** (prize-giving by Mayor at 12 noon) **Park - Free**

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

**Outdoor Entertainment and Stalls**

Punch & Judy, Maypole, Jim Grant, The Ran Tanners, Lesley Bentham **Market Place, Park, Sanderson Arcade - Free**

10.00 am – 3.00 pm

**Living History** Costumes, food, fun family archaeology activities with Rent a Peasant and Archaeosoup **William Turner Herb Garden in Park - Free**

10.00 am – 11.00 am

**Handbell Ringing Workshop** with Morpeth Clock Tower Bellringers Society **Clock Tower (stepped access)**

10.30 am - 3.30 pm

**Family Exhibition** with model rail displays, art, stories, family craft activities **Morpeth Leisure Centre Café - Free**

10.30 am

**Church Service** with Gathering theme **St George's UR Church - Donations**

11.30 am – 12.45 pm

**Songs of Napoleonic Times** with leading singer & instrumentalist Steve Turner **Town Hall Ballroom - £4/£3**

12.00 noon - 2.00 pm

**Musicians' Session** with Keith Besford, Alasdair Turnbull & friends **Tap & Spile - Free (donations)**

1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

**Tours of Council Chamber**, Mayor's Parlour, civic silver and historic Morpeth artefacts. With former mayors Frank Harrington and Ian Hunter and the current Mayor Cllr Nic Best **Town Hall - Free**

1.30 pm - 3.15 pm

**Family Concert** with music from young supergroup Folkestra under their director Ian Stephenson, with songs from Ann Wilkinson and storytelling **Town Hall Ballroom - £2 /£1 at door**

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm

**WWI Recruitment and Drill** The Time Bandits present a WWI re-enactment **Park bandstand area – Free**

3.30 pm – 4.30 pm - **change of time from some earlier publicity**

**The Tanning Trade** Presentation by expert Andy Bates on the work of the medieval tanners and leatherwork guild craftsmen **Town Hall £2/£1 at door**

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

**Tickets and accommodation Information** are available from Morpeth Tourist Information Centre, The Chantry, Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1PD. Tel: 01670 623455.

Tickets and programmes are also available during Gathering weekend at Town Hall Exhibition and other venues.

**Patrons' Scheme** - there are no weekend or family tickets, but you can receive free entry by becoming a Golden Patron. See website for application forms or ask at Exhibition.

**Gathering Office - all competition, general and administrative queries** on the Gathering, its fellow organisation the Northumbrian Language Society and mail-order details of the Gathering's CD "Morpeth's Music": contact: 01670 513308.

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

**Free Park and Ride** - vintage buses (Saturday only, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm) will operate between County Hall and the town centre. Thanks to Northumberland County Council and NE Vintage Buses.

**Beware** of the hour-long road closure for the Pageant on Saturday morning!

**First Aid** – St John Ambulance will be located in the Newmarket car park behind the Town Hall on Saturday.

**Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee** is a standing committee of Morpeth Antiquarian Society (Reg. Charity No. 507640) and a member of the Association of Festival Organisers. MNGC reserves the right to alter programme details.

**Morpeth Gathering is aided** by individuals and organisations including in recent years: Anonymous, Brumell & Sample, Catholic Women's League, P Crook, J Dean, Emily Inspires!, Friends of Morpeth Museum, D Girard, Greater Morpeth Development Trust, FH Hardy, Heighleygate Garden Centre, J Homer, I Hunter, Landmark Trust, Longhorsley Parish Council, A MacDonald, Morpeth Art Group, Morpeth & District Chamber of Trade, Morpeth Antiquarian Society, Morpeth Boundary Ride Trustees, Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum, Morpeth Clock Tower Bellringers, Morpeth Herald, Morpeth Lions, MorpethNet, Morpeth Rotary Club, Morpeth Town Council, Morrisons, Northumberland and Tyneside Orienteering, Northumberland County Council, Northumbrian Language Society, Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Old Bakehouse Millennium Green Trust, Pegswood Parish Council, The Pen Shop, Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland Freemasons, Robson and Prescott Veterinary Surgeons, Sanderson Arcade, Stait Photography, R Stewart, A Swailes, C Telford, A Turnbull, J A Turnbull, Tyneside Fiddle Alliance, Ulgham Parish Council, Widdrington and Stobswood Parish Council, Woodhorn Trust.

A full list of patrons and others will be displayed in the Crafts Exhibition.