



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



5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Programme – all details subject to change Edition 3

Annual festival of Northumberland's traditional music, song, craft, dance, dialect, folklore and heritage  
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 5<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. 4<sup>th</sup> April 5.30 pm – 7 pm), craft displays, stalls, CDs, books, posters, archive photos  
*Town Hall 50p at door/ accompanied under-12s free*

10.00– 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, music, song, history *Market Place, Arcade Free*

10.00 **DANCE WORKSHOPS** 10.00–11.00 Circle dance; 11.30–12.30 Clog (bring flat shoes); 1.00–2.30 Historic/ Maypole; 3.30-4.30 Longsword; *Town Hall Ballroom £3/£1 at door per session*

11.00–12.00 **FIND YOUR SEA LEGS** Shanty workshop with Christopher Miller *Bagpipe Museum £3/£1 at door*

12.30 – 1.30 **QUIET INSTRUMENTS** session in G/D/C for allcomers with Roy Hugman (mouthie) *Bagpipe Mus Free*

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

2.00 – 3.00 **DULCIMER WORKSHOP** Ken and Sandie Hudson with tune arrangements for guitar and hammered dulcimer *Chantry Bagpipe Museum £3/£1 at door*

3.30 **JAMIE ALLAN** Chris Ormston & Matt Seattle on the life & music of piping legend *Bagpipe Mus £5/£2 ticket*

4.30 **STORIES FOR FAMILIES** Taffy Thomas *Library Free*

7.30 – 10.00 **GALA CONCERT** Folkestra, piper Andy May, singers Anne Lamb & Graham Bell, Young Pipers Group MC David Wilson *Methodist Church £12/£6 ticket*

8.00 **SINGAROUND** with Ed and Sam *Black & Grey Coach House Free (donations welcome)*

8.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** with Gathering regulars *Tap & Spile Free (donations welcome)*

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April: (9am – 4pm Park & Ride from County Hall)  
*St. John Ambulance at Town Hall.*

9.30 – 5.00 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday *Town Hall*

9.45 **CHILDREN'S STORIES** Taffy Thomas *Library Free*

9.30 – 3.00 **FARMERS' MARKET** stalls *Market Place*

10.00– 4.00 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, music, stories, Ellington Colliery Band, local morris and rapper teams *Market Place, Park, Sanderson Arcade*

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

10.00 **STORIES FOR FAMILIES** Taffy Thomas *Library*

10.00 – 10.45 **MEET THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS** Drop-in to hear the smallpipes *Bagpipe Museum Free*

10.00 – 10.50 **POP-UP FOLK ENSEMBLE** Prepare for tonight's concert spot (see above) *St Robt's Hall (donations)*

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

11.00 **PROCESSION** to be confirmed *Town Centre*

12.00– 4.00 **STORYTELLER'S GARDEN** Taffy Thomas MBE & guests *Old Bakehse Yd Millennium Green Free*

12.00 – 1.00 **MARY'S MUSIC HALL MEMORIES** Mary Hollins with her "Desert Island Discs" of music hall stars – bring your own 78s too! *St Robert's Church Hall £3/£1*

12.00 **MUSICIANS' SESSION** *Tap & Spile (donations)*

12.00 - 3.00 **SINGAROUND** *Joiners Arms (donations)*

12.00 **CLOG DANCE GET-TOGETHER** workshop and chat led by Lynette Eldon and Sue Jenkinson *Town Hall Ballroom £2/£1.50 at door or entry by competition ticket*

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.

**N.B. NO CLOG DANCE COMPETITIONS** - postponed to 2025 – see 12.00 slot for a get-together of dancers and public

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)*

3.00\* **SINGING** *Town Hall (\*NB change to earlier publicity)*

1.30\* – 2.30 **FAMILY SHOW** including Silly Sangs with Cath and Paddy, Phil Hogg, Storytellers Street Band *Town Hall Ballrm £3/£1 (\*NB change to earlier publicity)*

4.00 - 6.00 **SLOW & STEADY** session led by BITS NE for beginners & intermediate players *White Swan (donations)*

4.00 **WILLIAM SHIELD:** Northumbrian Fiddler and Piper?? Presentation by Amélie Addison with Stewart Hardy (fiddle) *Bagpipe Museum £5/£2 ticket*

6.30 - 8.30 **WINNERS' CONCERT** Special guest singer Benny Graham, Pop-up Folk Ensemble & 2023 open class music and reciting winners; MC Peter Armstrong *Town Hall Ballroom £9 adult/£5 child ticket*

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

8.00 **NORTHUMBRIAN PIPING SESSION** led by Rob Say *Conservative Club, Newgate Street Free (donations)*

8.30 **BARN DANCE** Blue Hat Ceilidh Band; guests. Bring own drinks; no stilettos! *St Geo's Church Hall £9/£5 ticket*

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April:

9.30 - 4.30 **CRAFTS EXHIBITION** as Friday including family art activity *Town Hall 50p at door/under-12s free*

10.30 – 2.30 **OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS** Punch & Judy, musicians, shanties *Market Place, Park, Arcade*

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

10.30 – 11.30 **PETE SHEPHEARD** on his work collecting songs of Gypsy Traveller families *Town Hall £3/£1 at door*

11.15 – 12.30 **CHURCH SERVICE** with dialect hymns & readings from Gathering performers *St James Church*

11.30 – 12.30 **FIND YOUR SEA LEGS** Shanty workshop with Auckland Shanty Singers *Bagpipe Mus £3/£1 at door*

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

12.30 – 1.30 **WHERE IS MY BOY TONIGHT?** Megan Wisdom and Mossy Christian's show on the East Coast Fishing Industry *Town Hall Ballroom £3/£1 at door*

1.00 - 3.00 **TOURS OF COUNCIL CHAMBER**, Mayor's Parlour, civic silver, portraits & artefacts, with the Mayor of Morpeth and councillors as your guides *Town Hall Free*

1.30 – 2.30 **NONSUCH DULCIMER CLUB** showcasing plucked & hammered dulcimers *Bagp Mus £3/£1 at door*

2.00 – 3.00 **FAIRY GOLD** Fairy stories and folktales with Taffy Thomas MBE *Town Hall Ballroom £3/£1 at door*

3.30 – 4.45 **FAMILY CEILDH** with Storytellers Street Band and storytelling spots *Town Hall £3/£1 at door*

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