

Your **FREE** independent community magazine for Morpeth

**FREE**

FEB/MAR 24

# inside MORPETH



## Morpeth Book Festival's pupil partners

HENRY CHARITY  
FUND-RAISING  
MILESTONE...!

NEW SHOPS  
FOR ARCADE  
IN 15TH YEAR

TUTORS' INVEST  
IN FUTURE OF  
THEIR STUDENTS

SANDS OF TIME  
MAKE MEMORIES  
ON THE BEACHES





**castle  
carpets**

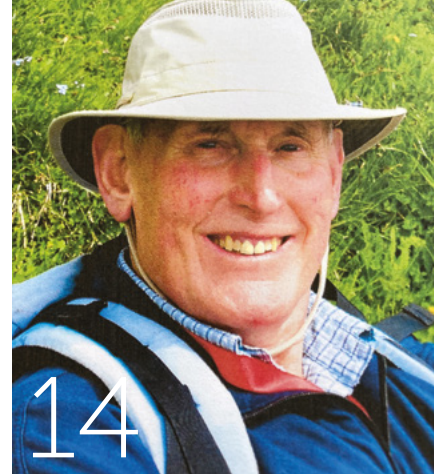
PROUDLY STOCKING AMTICO AND BRINTONS FLOORING

We have all your  
flooring needs covered

We offer free measure and design appointments on request

Call us on **01670 517881** or visit **[www.castlecarpets.co.uk](http://www.castlecarpets.co.uk)**





# inside MORPETH

**As I flicked through the stories in our first Inside Morpeth of 2024, it struck me that this magazine very much has a theme of people going that extra mile for the benefit and indeed enjoyment of others, in our community. Because some people we have talked to for our stories, are doing just that in a variety of ways.**

Take for instance, Jane Natrass who many readers will remember from the time she lived in Morpeth, is someone who somehow has been able to find something positive from the unimaginable tragedy of losing her young son Henry to cancer, by setting up a charity in his name to help other youngsters going through the same trauma. As she told our new young reporter Jack Brodie, it has now passed a quite remarkable fund-raising milestone.

We have also talked to Christine Jamieson who runs a private tuition company Maximize Education, in Morpeth. As she tells us she is voluntarily investing in the futures of young people whose families may not be able to afford to get them the extra assistance which might just help them improve their examination results and, ultimately their job prospects.

We look back at the life of an old friend Colin Harvey who willingly gave up so much of his time by working through Greater Morpeth Development Trust, to encourage people of all ages to share his love of our countryside and coastline, by getting out and about to walk or cycle the riverside footpaths and walks to be enjoyed on our doorsteps. Two other GMDT stalwarts Kim Bibby-Wilson and Frank Rescigno have been telling us about what they and fellow volunteers, have been doing behind the scenes to organise the marvellous Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering now in its 56th year, and the Morpeth Book Festival which will also very shortly give local readers the chance to meet some of our most favourite authors and writers.

None of those we have mentioned will thank me for doing so, because that is not what they are about. They don't seek the plaudits for what they are doing on behalf of others but, in their own ways, they have and are enriching and enhancing the lives of so many others. Every community like Morpeth, however, needs people like them in our midst.

*Ian Leech*

Editor of Inside Morpeth

4 CHARITY BREAKS FUNDING BARRIER

6 MORE NEW SHOPS IN ARCADE

10 PUPILS BACK BOOK FESTIVAL

12 MASTERPIECES IN THE SAND

14 TRIBUTE TO A TRUE MORPETHIAN

22 INVESTING IN PUPILS' FUTURES

24 CARE 'VILLAGE' IN TOWN CENTRE

33 GATHERING TOGETHER AGAIN

Front cover: The Collingwood interview team. Photo by Ethan.

Editor: Ian Leech, Tel: 07377 095 553 Email: [ian-leech@sky.com](mailto:ian-leech@sky.com) Advertising: [hello@insidemorpeth.co.uk](mailto:hello@insidemorpeth.co.uk) Distribution: Katherine Brodie (TYD) 07540 804 069

Inside Morpeth is a community magazine published by Ian Leech Publicity Services. All rights reserved. Every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of material published in Inside Morpeth. All information is accurate at time of going to press. The publisher does not endorse any advertising material published in INSIDE Morpeth. No parts of the publication can be reproduced without the prior written permission of the publisher.

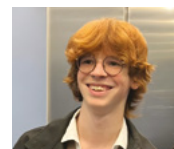
TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEXT ISSUE CALL US ON 07377 095 553 OR EMAIL [hello@insidemorpeth.co.uk](mailto:hello@insidemorpeth.co.uk)



Pottery in the Great North Children's Hospital - Mohammed and Jo Ratcliffe (ceramicist)

# Henry - one in a million!

A charity set up by his mother in memory of, and as a lasting tribute to, her young son who tragically lost his life to primary bone cancer, has just surpassed a remarkable fund-raising milestone as **Inside Morpeth reporter Jack Brodie** found out when he met **Jane Nattrass**.



Storyteller Carmel Page (Sheffield Children's Hospital) on invisible skis!

Everyone responds differently to grief, but some people like Jane channel their loss into something positive. Her son Henry Dancer sadly died at the age of just 12 years old, 348 days after being diagnosed with the bone cancer Osteosarcoma. However, after 12 years the charity his Mum set up in his name, has now passed the astonishing fund-raising milestone of £1 million.

In that time, Henry Dancer Days has done incredible work up and down the country, being there for children, young people and their families in a multitude of ways at such a devastating time in their lives. It now supports children being treated for cancer in 32 UK hospitals, via its Hardship Support scheme which in 2022 reached every single case diagnosed.

The scheme provides much-needed grants of up to £250 every six months, to help with transport costs, heating bills and general hardship or even a trip to a favourite place for a memory-making visit.

This is how the charity began after Jane saw so many parents struggling to make

ends meet during such a tough time in their lives.

Its other main work though, is providing practical and mental wellbeing support for children through activities such as one-to-one storytelling sessions. When Henry was unwell, a young film-maker went into hospital to make short films with him, sometimes using Lego bricks or teddy bears, and Jane told me how much Henry loved those moments.

As she said: "It was someone coming into his room who was not going to hurt him or bore him witless about cancer and it just gave him an escape."

As a result of this and also drawing on her own background of running arts' programmes, Jane initially set up the storytelling project in the Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle. Now, the scheme has spread to seven major UK paediatric centres with professional storytellers including two actresses who have appeared in the 'Soaps' Eastenders and Emmerdale.

What particularly stood out for me as we talked, was how the sessions are done



with professionals which allows the same people to read to the children week in and week out, and at the same time they also have the skills to improvise with the children to allow them to be transported away just for a moment or two, from their trauma.

As Jane said: "In that time they are not thinking about when they are going to have their next injection; or whether the pump is going to be set up for more chemotherapy; or if they are fasting for surgery they are not thinking about their grumbling tummy."

The wonderful success of the storytelling led to generous support from organisations such as the BBC Children in Need programme, the National Lottery Community Fund, local businesses, people simply making their own private donations or organising a variety of fund-raising events.

So, Jane and her team started looking at other ways to help the children. As Henry was treated in Newcastle this led to a pottery project at the Great North Children's Hospital which is actually run by his godmother. The children can make their own masterpieces, becoming so engrossed and totally absorbed in what they are doing. Amazingly, one young person who took part in the pottery sessions, subsequently went on to study ceramics at Gateshead College.

Twelve years on, Henry Dancer Days has been able to extend its storytelling sessions into Scotland, and has now supported more than 23,000 young children and their families through the Hardship Scheme and storytelling sessions.

During the current cost of living crisis, it is vitally important that people support and donate to charity if they are able to, helping them to carry on with the remarkable work they do across so many aspects of life. The vital work that Henry Dancer Days does in supporting children and their families coping with cancer, would be impossible without the public's on-going generosity.

The people of Morpeth where Jane grew up – some readers will remember her from when she was deputy Head Girl at King Edward's VI School in the early 1980s – have always been huge supporters of Henry Dancer Days, for which she is greatly appreciative.

The story of Henry Dancer Days is a truly inspirational one, demonstrating that good can be drawn out of even the most dreadful of tragedies. In Henry Dancer's case it also so vividly ensures that he continues to help and support children dealing with the traumas of cancer, all across the country. It's a legacy which those he has helped, will never forget.



Henry the young boy behind Henry Dancer Days

*"In that time they are not thinking about when they are going to have their next injection; or whether the pump is going to be set up for more chemotherapy; or if they are fasting for surgery they are not thinking about their grumbling tummy."* **Jane Natrass**



Storyteller Shelley O'Brien (Newcastle) with 2 boys undergoing chemo - you'd never guess!



Storyteller Tara Ellis in University College London Hospital



Riley totally absorbed in his pottery painting in the Great North Children's Hospital





# Arcade enjoys record year and welcomes three new retailers

Sanderson Arcade has just enjoyed a remarkable trading 12 months with footfall figures surpassing pre-pandemic levels... and now 2024 has got off to an even better start in what will be an anniversary year, with the announcement that three new retailers will be coming to Morpeth this summer, writes Editor **Ian Leech**.

Over the past 12 months the Arcade attracted an impressive number of shoppers recording footfall figures up 3.4 per cent on 2022 despite tough high street trading conditions and the economic uncertainty affecting the whole of the country at the moment.

Managed and owned by Yorkshire-based regeneration experts Dransfield Properties, the Arcade maintained full occupancy levels in its retail units, offices and hospitality spaces throughout 2023, and with growing interest from national retailers, plans are underway to expand its retail offer with further new brands opening this year.

This year will mark the 15th anniversary of the opening of Sanderson Arcade by showbusiness 'Royalty' Dame Joanna Lumley, and during that time it has maintained the highest standards of shopping, hospitality and socialising experiences as both a key local service provider at the same time as helping Morpeth retain its position at the very top of the North's visitor attraction destinations.

To be able to fulfil that interest from national retailers by welcoming new stores to add to the Arcade's retail mix, Dransfield Properties says it has taken the decision to close its own Sandersons

boutique department store which it opened four years ago at what was an incredibly uncertain trading time for businesses during the Covid pandemic.

The 8,895 sq ft of space that Sandersons occupied overlooking the main town centre car park, is to be reconfigured into three separate retail units with the first two occupants being named as the luxury lifestyle retailer The White Company and the independent lifestyle store Oliver Bonas. An as-yet-unnamed business will move into the third unit.

The Morpeth store will showcase The White Company's stylish and unique collection of lifestyle products for the home, clothing, luxury gifts and fragrances. Founded in 1994, the company is now one of the fastest-growing multi-channel retailers and lifestyle brands with more than 65 stores across the UK and Ireland including concessions in Harrods and Selfridges.

Director of Property Sarah King has been quoted as saying: "We are delighted to be opening a new store in Morpeth. We thrive in market towns so a store like this is a great fit for our business."

The second store new to Sanderson Arcade, will be Oliver Bonas founded in 1993 by entrepreneur Oliver Tress. The

company which specialises in homeware, fashions, jewellery and accessories, now has more than 80 stores located across the UK.

Dransfield Properties Managing Director James Shepherd said they are so thrilled for their customers at being able to announce the new stores for Sanderson Arcade. "We are home to a great range of retailers already which the new stores will complement very well, and that is something we know our customers have wanted to see more of at our centre," he told Inside Morpeth.

"Our success over the past 12 months is definitely attributable to our varied retail mix and the enhancement of our food and drink offer. Notable openings like the Martino Lounge alongside our independent gastro pub Barluga, have transformed Sanderson Arcade into a hub for shopping and socialising. We have also sought to offer a varied range of seasonal events throughout the year, adding to that great experience for our shoppers."

Arcade Manager Lottie Thompson added: "2023 was a great year for us and we are so excited for our customers to continue enjoying Sanderson Arcade throughout 2024."





**TMP** | WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT

# Leave a thoughtful legacy

**There are few more confusing – or unpopular – taxes than Inheritance Tax (IHT). If you're unsure of the details, or you'd like more of your inheritance to go to your family and less to the HMRC or on care fees, we can help.**

Leaving loved ones to incur up to a 40% reduction due to tax on their inheritance is a hard ask. Yet despite many children and grandchildren being ill-equipped to grapple with IHT, more and more families are having to deal with it.

It's a situation that is set to continue, with the Office of Budget Responsibility forecasting that IHT revenues will reach £8.4 billion by 2026/2027.

**Once thought of as a tax on the truly affluent, IHT now affects more families than ever**

In better news for your family, there's been a staged increase in the residence nil-rate band threshold, which is now set at £175,000 for those who qualify when passing their main residence to direct lineal dependants. This goes some way to reflect the growth in property prices, as well as other asset values, which together have dragged more households into the IHT net.

Nevertheless, it can come as a shock to discover that a large proportion of your wealth, which includes the family home, investments such as Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs), life assurance plans not in trust and even old family heirlooms, might have to be sold to meet tax bills when you die.

## Get in the know

So what exactly could your family be liable for? We've already discussed the residence nil-rate band threshold of £175,000. Then you can factor in that the first £325,000 of your estate is likely to be exempt from IHT. This means that, subject to various conditions, if you're married or in a civil partnership, you could have a tax-free estate worth £1,000,000.

Yet the simple fact is that IHT could be considered a voluntary tax. The Treasury relies on our inertia and reluctance to confront the issues of death and inheritance. To make things worse, the Treasury's coffers are boosted at the exact time your loved ones least need the added hassle.

## Help your family now

There are many perfectly legitimate ways to mitigate IHT through foresight and careful financial planning. You don't need high-powered tax planning, just a willingness to discuss the issue, act and make use of the many options available. These include establishing trusts and making use of annual exemptions such as gifting.

**With a little planning, more of your wealth can be passed on to future generations**

Bear in mind that if you're domiciled, or resident, in the UK, IHT rules are complex. Certain transfers are deemed exempt from the tax if they pass between a husband and wife or civil partners.

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time. The value of any tax relief depends on individual circumstances.

Trusts are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

## Get in touch

If you're after a little help to guide you through the IHT maze, give us a call. We're here to make a difference to your family's future.

[www.tmpwealthmanagement.co.uk](http://www.tmpwealthmanagement.co.uk)

Senior Partner Practice

**St  
James's  
Place**

TMP Wealth Management Ltd is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website [www.sjp.co.uk/products](http://www.sjp.co.uk/products). The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.



# Meet the wordsmiths to hear the stories they tell



SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
MARCH 23RD AND 24TH

An exciting line-up of big-name authors headed by North East crime writer Mari Hannah, former journalist, television executive and festival director Alistair Moffat and Dan Jackson who wrote what has become a definitive account of Northumbria and the people who made it great, will be taking part in this year's Morpeth Book Festival **writes Ian Leech.**

The venues for this year's festival which will also include talks by local authors and children's story-tellers, will be the Morpeth Leisure Centre which also houses the town's library, and The Chantry.

Launching the festival will be its patron Mari Hannah who has just published her 15th book, which also happens to be the ninth featuring her central character DCI Kate Daniels. Along with two other series of detective stories - Oliver & Stone and Ryan & O'Neil - the books have established Mari as one of the most-read crime-writers in the country. So much so, that her Kate Daniels' books are in development for a television series produced by Stephen Fry's Sprout Pictures company. Her latest Kate Daniels' book *The Longest Goodbye* has just been published this month.

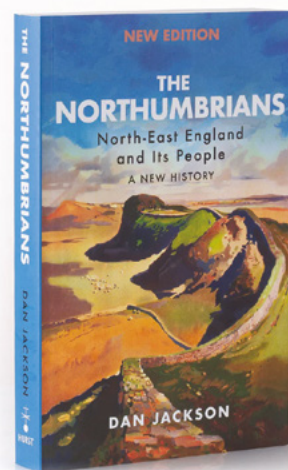
Former journalist, Edinburgh Fringe Festival Director, programme director and chairman of Scottish Television Alistair Moffat, knows all about book festivals because he was one of the founders of the hugely successful Borders Book Festival. A life-long Borderer born in Kelso where



Festival patron Mari Hannah

he still lives, Alistair is the prolific author of more than 30 books many of which tell the tale of his beloved Scotland. His latest book *Between Britain* has just been published, recounting the 100 miles he walked through the history of England and Scotland from the border town of Berwick upon Tweed to Gretna at the western border between the two countries.

Someone brought up closer to home in Northumberland, is Dan Jackson whose best-selling book about the county and its people has become almost the definitive work on the astonishing contribution generations of Northumbrians have made to British and global history from the days of the Venerable Bede and the prince-bishops of Durham, right up to the Viz comic and the television show *Geordie Shore!* In *The Northumbrians; North East England and its People*, Dan explores the deep roots of the area through centuries of border warfare and dangerous industry, its landscape and architecture, generations of hard work and heavy drinking, sociability and sentimentality, militarism and masculinity!



Appearing on the same festival programme will be a host of other celebrated authors including Phaedra Patrick who will be inviting her audience to spend an afternoon in Italy with her (well actually Morpeth!!) to talk about her latest book *The Little Italian Hotel*. An award-winning short-story writer, Phaedra is now a full-time writer living in Yorkshire. Her debut novel *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* was translated into 20 languages, while her second book *Rise and Shine*, Benedict Stone was made into a Hallmark Movie,

When Meriel Schindler's father Kurt died in 2017, she felt compelled to write about his extraordinary life and claims about the family history. Were they really related to Franz Kafka and Oliver Schindler of Schindler's List fame or Hitler's Jewish doctor? Starting with a tower of photographs and papers she found in his isolated cottage, she began a remarkable journey of discovery that enabled her to piece together a story spreading over two centuries, two world wars, and a family business running the infamous Café Schindler that became the





Meriel Schindler



Phaedra Patrick



M W Craven

social whirl of post-war Innsbruck – and then the Nazis arrived! The book *The Lost Café Schindler* Meriel will talk about at Morpeth, weaves together her remarkable family history and the untold story of the Jews of the Anglo-Hungarian Empire.

M W Craven who was born in Carlisle but grew up in Newcastle, joined the army aged 16, leaving after 10 years to complete a social worker degree before becoming a Cumbrian probation officer. Seventeen years later he became a full-time author and is best known for his Washington Poe and D I Avison Fluke series of books. Mike has won a Crime Writers' Association Golden Dagger award, the 2022 Ian Fleming Steel Dagger as well as the 2023 Theakston Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year accolades.

Marrisse Whittaker has been creating characters all her working life, first as a tv and film make-up artist then as a script-writer working on such popular series as *Byker Grove*, *Doctors* and *Hollyoaks*. She also joined forces with husband Bob Whittaker the former television journalist, in setting up Orion TV to produce fascinating factual programmes for major broadcasters. Marrisse then turned her attention to crime-writing and now, living by the sea in Northumberland, likes to invent murder and mayhem whilst travelling far and wide or walking through the surf and turf on her own doorstep.

Plenty of local writers and poets will be taking part in the festival including Morpeth's own Bridget Gubbins, who will launch her new book *Hit the Road, Gals* at the festival. In the book Bridget tells how she and her friends at their all-girls' college, learned to hitchhike the roads of Sixties Britain before moving on to France, North Africa and the musical roads of Ireland. All this under the nose of their stern college principal who is planning to attend the Morpeth festival

### A message from Morpeth Book Festival Patron Mari Hannah

*2024 promises to be a unique experience, an inclusive fun-filled weekend including story-telling for children. Come and meet national and regional authors, brought to you by our hard-working programming committee. Morpeth deserves a literary event celebrating books and readers. Whatever your tastes in books, the festival has you covered, delivering a packed and exciting line-up to be proud of. I can't wait to welcome you. Don't miss it!*

in person. Britain is best-known for her series of local history books, *The Hay Girls Trilogy*, *Cold War*, *Warm hearts* and *Hay Before the Bookshop* or the *Beeman's Family*.

Born within the sounds of the tugboats on the River Tyne, a neighbourhood which also produced footballer Paul Gascoigne and AC/DC frontman Brian Johnson, Colin Youngman re-located to a semi-rural village which became the 'home' of one of his fictional characters Ryan Jarrod. Most of his work is set within the area he knows and loves so well, and his Jarrod series has been described as a cross between L J Ross, Ian Rankin and Peter James.

As well as listening to the authors talk about their work, budding writers and Morpeth book festival-goers will be able to pick up some tips about how to self-publish their own work, with the help of Stephen Hawley from the Business and Intellectual Property Centre. This is a free workshop from the British Library Information Project for new and already published authors, but booking is required.

Also speaking at the festival will be Jo Lyons, the best-selling author of three romantic comedy novels, who spent many years working her way around Europe doing various jobs before remembering that her first ambition had been to write a book; while Saturday sessions at The Chantry will feature the New Delaval

Writers, *Carte Blanche*, John Challis and Katrina Porteous.

Keeping the children occupied at the festival will be Kjartan Poskitt who has spent more than 20 years travelling the country and appearing on television demonstrating mathematical tricks and curiosities from his books the most famous of which is *Murderous Maths*. Kjartan's other work includes historical stage musicals, mazes, codes, and funny novels including the *Agatha Parrot* series. Also at the festival will be disabled writer Lisette Auton author of *The Secret of Haven Point* and *The Stickleback Catchers*; and *Adventure Babies* who dive into storybooks to bring them alive for little ones in their audience. Their interactive stories use puppets, props and songs as well as messy play linked to a story theme.

Frank Rescigno, GMDT's Arts & Culture Director, one of the main organisers of the Morpeth Book Festival, said: "We have put together another exciting programme covering so many different aspects of writing, bringing top authors to Morpeth once again.

Details of the full 2024 Morpeth Book Festival programme can be found at the [gmdt.org](http://gmdt.org) website and <http://collingwood.link/morpeth-book-festival/> and tickets for all events are available from Ticketsource, Greater Morpeth Development Trust, Benjamin Green House, Morpeth (Tel: 01670 503866) or Morpeth Library.





The Media Arts College interview team - Cameron (11), Lexie (12), Finn (11) and Lexi (11)

# School and organisers join forces to promote Morpeth book festival

**The organisers of the forthcoming Morpeth Book Festival have struck up a special working partnership with the staff and pupils from one of the town's schools, to help them promote the event, reports Ian Leech.**

They have enlisted the help of Collingwood School & Media Arts College to produce online videos featuring two of the highest profile authors who will be speaking at the festival, as well as working on its website and social media, and designing posters and leaflets, to attract audiences to the event at the end of March.

The Stobhill-based school offers specialised learning environments across three sites, to its 279 pupils students aged from aged from two to 19 years old.

When the first Morpeth Book Festival was held two years ago, author Anne Cleeves of the 'Vera' and Shetland books, both of which have been adapted as run-away-success television series, was invited along to the state-of-the-art recording studio at Collingwood, to be interviewed and filmed by the students themselves. This Book Festival they have recorded two more interviews, this time with another North East crime-writing legend Mari Hannah, and Alistair Moffat, former journalist, university rector, Scottish Television executive, festival director and



Studio Guest Alistair Moffat

now author.

Far from being daunted, the way the young pupils researched their subjects, prepared and confidently asked their questions, filmed and edited the interviews, hugely impressed both of their studio guests.

As someone who has appeared so very many times on both sides of the camera as a news reporter, presenter and then programme , director, Alistair Moffat knows a thing or two about what makes good television views. As he exclusively told me: "When my interview at Collingwood School was arranged, I was told that the 'students' would be doing it, but I had no idea they would be so young. All three of them did so very well indeed, having thoroughly done their research and thought of such good questions to ask me. I only hope I did them justice!"

The three students who handled the

interview were 11-year-olds Lexie and Cameron and Josh who is 12. Supporting them behind the scenes were student operators of the cameras, sound and lighting equipment, and then the final edit before the video was uploaded along with Mari Hannah interview. As Lexie told me: "I was a little nervous but it as a great experience meeting someone like Alistair Moffat."

School Head Gillian Linkleter and Media lead Brian Cosgrove said the experience of doing something so outside their comfort zone by welcoming such high-profile guests to their studio, which was also something they never thought they would be able to do, had been a huge boost to their students' confidence and self-esteem.

In addition to the production of the videos, the school is also preparing a website and social media presence for Morpeth Book Festival as well as designing posters, leaflets and flyers to promote the event. Inside Morpeth readers can view the Mari Hannah and Alistair Moffat interviews by logging on to <https://collingwoodmediacollege.co.uk>

The photographs illustrating this article as well as the one on the front cover of this edition of Inside Morpeth, were take for us by Ethan, a former pupil who is now employed as a Media Apprentice at Collingwood School and Media Arts College.



# Morpeth Tandoori

Award Winning Indian Cuisine  
Original in Northumberland since 1983  
Chantry Takeaway

2023 was an amazing award-winning year from Morpeth Tandoori's Abdul Muhit and his family who between then also run restaurants in Cramlington and Alnwick.

Between them they won best take-away and curry house awards at national and regional levels and 2024 looks like being another great year with an exciting new venture about to be announced. Watch this space for all the details.

Morpeth Tandoori Chantry Place, Morpeth

**Tel: (01670) 517180 or 516444**

Abdul Muhit and his nephew Abdul Salam on the terrace at Westminster after collecting their English Curry Awards at the House of Lords



**AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF TV & DOMESTIC APPLIANCES**



☆ **euronics**

**SAMSUNG**

 **BOSCH**

**Blomberg®**

**beko**

 **Hotpoint**

Scots Gap, Morpeth, NE61 4DT - 01670 774205

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 8.30am - 5.00pm

[www.robsonandcowan.co.uk](http://www.robsonandcowan.co.uk)

**Robson  
& Cowan**



# When the tide began to turn...!

In the first of a new 2024 series bringing readers stories from 'Outside Morpeth', our reporter **Jack Brodie** has been to Beadnell to meet retired GP **Claire Eason** who is combining three of her passions for art, photography and Northumberland's magnificent beaches, to create the most unique, stunning artworks in the sand. This is his report.

One thing all of us Northumbrians can agree on is the majesty of our coastline which for some like Claire is also their workplace. Claire runs Sand2Soul, a business she established in 2017, creating bespoke sand art both for the community and her clients.

Born and brought up in South Shields, she has always had a keen interest in art, being raised in a household which shared a love of art and drawing. At the age of 10, one of her neighbours gave her an old 'Box Brownie' camera and from therein her love of photography was born.

Living in South Shields, Claire spent a lot of her time at the coast as a child. As she told me: "All these things were sort of mixing up as influences in the background."

Growing up in the 1970s, however, the opportunities to work artistically as a career, were perhaps more limited so Claire chose to go into medicine and for more than 30 years she worked as a GP in Worksop before deciding to take early retirement.







Family 'portrait' with a difference

As so many of us have often done. Claire loved doodling in the sand as a child using a stick or a kiddies' spade, and later did the same thing with her own children. As we talked she reflected fondly on this telling me that they did some really big sand art. "Then we would go and find a pier or a wall to look over because drones had not been invented then so standing higher up gave us more of a bird's eye view of what we had drawn," said told me. "How we would have loved a camera on a stick or a drone at the time."

It wasn't until 2017 though, that Claire was inspired to do her first sand art images after seeing Oscar-winning film producer and mastermind of the 2012 London Olympics' opening ceremony Danny Boyle's 'Pages of the Sea' project on Seahouses beach, where the faces of fallen soldiers were created in the sand along with templated soldier outlines people could rake over themselves, as part of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Claire explained how moving the experience was for her by telling me: "That really was a turning point for me, when I thought perhaps if I could use a drone I could create images like this and, at the same time, show people what a beautiful place Northumberland is as well."

Unlike her previous large-scale project, this time Claire did have a drone, and from there Soul2Sand was born – a true amalgamation of her inspirations of art, photography and Northumberland's glorious beaches.

As Claire told me those same beaches make the most fantastic blank canvases for her artworks, because of their firm



Bamburgh Castle an iconic setting for Claire's sand art

and clean sand. It normally takes around four hours to create an image depending on its complexity, and the only implement she uses for her drawings is a common-or-garden rake! Claire will first sketch out her design on paper before going on to the beach.

At first glance it might seem an inexpensive way of creating unique and lasting moments in someone's life, but these days Claire works with a least two expensive drones, still and video cameras and, of course, has to take out costly public liability insurance.

Since starting Soul2Sand, Claire has worked with companies, communities and individuals to create her drawings and make their memories, and recently she appeared on Robson Green's 'Weekends Away' BBC 2 programme when she met Robson and his Geordie acting pal Kevin

Whately on Beadnell Beach to show them her skills as a sand artist.

Claire has used those skills to develop a thriving business, and takes on commissioned work to record a whole array of occasions, events and life moments in such a unique way, be that for corporate clients, company events or family moments such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings or even a loved one's passing, and there's always the opportunity for clients to actually take part in creating their image as well. Using her photography skills Claire can supply her clients with still and video images of the drawings she creates for them.

- Claire Eason can be found at Soul2Sand on Instagram or Twitter and via her website at [www.soul2sand.co.uk](http://www.soul2sand.co.uk)



# Remembering Colin Harvey



Colin Harvey loved his adopted home town of Morpeth.

**A memorial service is to be held in March for an 'adopted' Northumbrian who did so much for Morpeth after moving to the town more than 40 year ago, writes Ian Leech.**

It was work that first brought Colin Harvey north from Middlesex where he was born and grew up. But it was his love of Morpeth and the surrounding Northumberland coast and countryside that captured his heart, and kept him in what became his 'adopted' home town for the rest of his life.

Colin was born in Hayes and worked in the chemical industry before National Service took him to Singapore with the RAF. When he returned he continued to work in the chemical and atomic energy industries before moving north to Morpeth.

As a young man he was passionate about exploring the countryside around him on his bicycle and so proficient a rider did he become that he almost took up the sport professionally. He joined the Middlesex road racing club before taking up the sport of orienteering when it was in its infancy. So good did he become at the sport that he won a national championship.

Perhaps not surprisingly when he moved to the town, Colin joined Morpeth Harriers. He regularly ran the New Year's Day Morpeth to Newcastle road race, and when Brendan Foster launched the Great North Run in 1981, Colin ran the first five runs.

His other great love was walking the countryside and Northumberland beaches, so again he was quick to join the Morpeth Footpath Society where he led walks along some of his most favourite trails, meticulously planning and checking the routes before

taking anyone on the walks.

So, again it was no surprise when the Greater Morpeth Development Trust was formed in 2006 to deliver the Government-funded Castle, Woods & Water initiative, that Colin with his great local knowledge, should be called upon to be part of the new team.

Colin was appointed as the Director of the Environment Group and in time would become the vice-chairman of GMDT which he enthusiastically supported from Day One. One its first initiatives was to launch a Morpeth Walking Festival and there was no one better placed than Colin to take the organising lead. Thanks to Colin there were walks for all ages and abilities to enjoy from little more than a stroll in the park for toddlers, Grandads and Grandmas, right up to 13 miles treks for the more-hardy walkers. One walk was even suitable for people using wheelchairs.

Later, the Trust published a series of walking maps which are still available to purchase and which have helped so many people to enjoy the floral, fauna and wildlife on their very own doorsteps.

Colin had not enjoyed the best of health for a few years and sadly passed away recently at the age of 87, leaving partner Margaret, daughter Jane, son Giles and seven grandchildren. As Margaret told me: "Colin was always someone whose glass was half full never half empty! He led a very full life; loved living in Morpeth; loved getting out into magnificent Northumberland countryside and coastline at every opportunity."

A memorial service for Colin Harvey will be held at 2pm on Friday March 22nd at the Morpeth Methodist Church in Howard Terrace. The family says anyone who knew Colin will be most welcome to attend.

## STAR BARBER



Traditional men's barbers for gentlemen of all ages from toddlers to grandads. All the latest styles and fashions catered for.

- Beards trimmed and shaped
- Wet shaves and hot towels

**14 Oldgate Morpeth Tel: 07979 791051**

Open 7 days a week - Late-nights Thursday to 7.30pm, Sundays 10am to 4pm

## THE CHEESE SHOP

Christmas hampers now available



Established in 1990 and voted one of the UK's best cheese shops with 160 local, national and European cheeses to choose from. Specialists in bespoke cheese celebration and wedding cakes.

**6 Oldgate Morpeth NE61 1LX  
01670 459579**

**[www.thecheeseshopmorpeth.co.uk](http://www.thecheeseshopmorpeth.co.uk)**



**Carter-Smith**  
Planning Consultants

[cartersmithplanning.co.uk](http://cartersmithplanning.co.uk)



# For all of your planning needs...

**Tony Carter has been joined by Nathan Miller, a Chartered Town Planner with a Master's Degree in Town and Regional Planning. Tony and Nathan have both held key posts in Local Authority and Private Sector planning. More than 20 years experience in these sectors, has given them the combined knowledge and expertise to assist and guide you with all of your planning and property needs.**

- Householder Planning Applications (Extensions & Conversions)
- New Build Applications (Domestic & Commercial)
- Appeals
- Change of Use Applications
- Lawful Development Certificates
- Barn Conversions
- Advertisement Consents
- Planning Conditions (Discharge, Removal of & Variations)
- Design and Access Statements/Planning Statements
- Listed Building Consents
- Prior Notification Applications

**FIRST CONSULTATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE FOR HOMEOWNERS SEEKING TO EXTEND THEIR HOMES**

Get in touch, we would be happy to help you with your project whatever the size!

T. 0771 896 7722 E. [tony@cartersmithplanning.com](mailto:tony@cartersmithplanning.com) or [nathan@cartersmithplanning.com](mailto:nathan@cartersmithplanning.com)

# TOWN CRYER!



The latest News from Morpeth Town Council

## 2024 looks set to be a busy and very exciting year for our lovely town



**Jade Crawford**  
Mayor of Morpeth

**I hope you all had a wonderful festive period and that the start of 2024 has been good to you and yours!**

I'm really looking forward to what 2024 has in store for Morpeth. Already we have seen many new businesses join the town and make their home in some of our favourite historic buildings, as well as businesses that are already well-established moving into bigger spaces! All very positive for our town and with many more set to join us in the spring.

The fact our town is thriving so well is testament to having so many wonderful residents who continue to use Morpeth town centre for their needs, rather than out of town alternatives. Without you all doing this as you are, we would not be so lucky!

Therefore, thank you all for allowing us to keep Morpeth the place to be.

In 2024 we hope to see many more community events and projects taking place, especially after such success with our Christmas Events in 2023.

If you are part of an organisation and have an idea for an event or project you would like to see take place in Morpeth that will benefit the community in some way, we have reviewed our Community Grants Policy and Procedures which may assist you. The new policy and further information will be available on the Town Council website from the 1st April.



Morpeth Town Council, Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth NE61 1LZ  
Call 01670 514314 email [joanne.wilson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.wilson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk) or [mayor@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@morpeth-tc.gov.uk) or visit [www.morpeth-tc.gov.uk](http://www.morpeth-tc.gov.uk)



# Deanna leads the Pavilion Cafe team

**The Pavilion Cafe had a busy run up to Christmas this year with the arrival of the Festive Tipi at the end of November. I'm sure you will agree it was a welcome addition to Morpeth and was enjoyed by many, not just residents of Morpeth, but those from further afield.**

We are now looking at the year ahead to see what other exciting events can be brought to the town to suit people of all ages. Watch this space for more information. Events organised by the Town Council will be advertised on the Town Council website and Facebook page, alongside the Pavilion Cafe Facebook and Instagram account, why not follow us to keep up with what's happening event-wise and for any food and drink offers.

It's now time to get to know our team! We will be having a chat with members of the team at the Pavilion Cafe and letting you know a little more about them over the coming months.

To start things off we have our lovely supervisor Deanna, who will no doubt need no introduction to some of you!

Deanna is a local lass, having lived and worked in Morpeth for the past 18 years. When she's not busy making all your favourite sweet treats, soups and pies she is kept equally as busy with her four gorgeous kids and her two dogs, Jess and Ombre. Even when she's cracking an egg, she's always full of craic and you'll no doubt hear her infectious laugh which is sure to bring a smile to your face!

Deanna takes pride in all her homemade sweet treats, heartwarming soups and comforting corned beef pie.

## Quick Fire round with Deanna!

Favourite Bake – Biscoff Cookie Pie

Go to staff food – Homemade soup of the day

Cats or Dogs – Dogs

Summer or Winter – Summer

Dream Holiday Destination – Cornwall

Why not pop down to the Pavilion and



Cafe supervisor Deanna

sample some of Deanna's delectable delights....

The Pavilion Cafe will be running some offers through to 17th March, so don't delay, come and grab it today!!!

**Offer 1 – Buy any breakfast bap and get any medium hot drink for an additional £1**

**Offer 2 – Buy soup with a roll and any medium hot drink for £5.50**

## Notice of Annual Assembly for Morpeth

**All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting or Annual Assembly which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June. This is an open meeting, chaired by the Mayor of Morpeth, for all local government electors of the Parish. It is not a meeting of the Town Council.**

The Annual Assembly gives all residents the opportunity to hear about what has been going on in the town, ask questions of the Council and discuss current issues. It also gives local residents the opportunity to meet their Town Councillor.

This year the Annual Assembly of Morpeth Town Council will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 6pm in Morpeth Town Hall.

The Annual Report of Morpeth Town Council will also be available, so come along and see what your Town Council has done for you in the past 12 months.

## Cleaner/Caretaker Vacancy

**Morpeth Town Council is currently seeking a cleaner/caretaker to carry out a range of tasks across several sites, all of which are centrally based in Morpeth.**

The job description and person specification are available on the Town Council website - [www.morpeth-tc.gov.uk/2024/01/vacancy-cleaner-caretaker/](http://www.morpeth-tc.gov.uk/2024/01/vacancy-cleaner-caretaker/)

**If you would like any further information on the requirements of the role, please contact Joanne on 01670 514314 or if you wish to apply submit your C.V to [joanne.wilson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.wilson@morpeth-tc.gov.uk).**

## COUNCIL MEETING TIMETABLE

### SEE NOTICEBOARDS AND WEBSITE

Meeting Timetable for March and April 2024. All meetings will be held in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall, unless otherwise stated on the agenda. All Committee meetings commence at 6:30 pm, unless otherwise stated on the posters or website.

**Planning and Transport Committee**  
13th March 2024 and 17th April 2024

**Finance and General Purposes Committee**  
6th March 2024 and 10th April 2024





# Signs of spring at Wallington

**One of the best things about this time of year is venturing outdoors on a crisp day to explore frosty landscapes and discover waking wildlife. And if you time it right, you'll be able to enjoy the beautiful displays of snowdrops (and other spring bulbs too) in the garden and woodland at Wallington.**

As the first bulbs to bloom each year, the delicate white flowers of the snowdrop transform the woodland floors and signal the beginning of spring.

So, if you're looking for fresh air and a brisk walk, take the opportunity to pull on your wellies, wrap up warm and stretch your legs with a snowdrop spotting stroll at Wallington.

As you walk around the Courtyard look out for drifts of the common snowdrop as well as a few special varieties such as 'Sandersii', which have sulphur yellow markings instead of the more usual green.

Then seek out the double snowdrop, 'Flore Pleno', which has double layers of petals, before crossing the road to soak up the tranquil atmosphere of the East Wood. Here an enchanting carpet of white stretches out before you, as thousands of snowdrops planted by the public start flowering.

## Lend a hand

Back in February 2015, visitors were invited to help the Wallington team plant 100,000 snowdrop bulbs and hundreds of people rallied round to help with the mammoth task - all 100,000 bulbs were planted in just nine days over the half-term holiday. Every February half-term since, a further 100,000 have been added with the help of our visitors, and the woodland is now an impressive sight with delicate drifts of white flowers covering the floor.

This year we're planting another 100,000 of these beautiful winter flowers taking us to an incredible 900,000 and we need your help to do so, so please come along during half-term, bring your wellies

and your own gloves (if you have them) and enjoy helping us to look after and enhance Wallington's garden. Free event 17-25 February, 11am to 3pm (normal admission charges apply).

## A spring spectacular

Another beautiful springtime show will soon be bursting into life. The stunning crocus lawn is a must-see moment in any garden lovers' calendar as the striking purple of this spring bulb stands out against the more reserved garden shades of the winter months.

You know that spring has arrived in all its glory when you head down to the Walled Garden in early March - a real treat awaits you. There you'll see tens of thousands of vibrant purple crocuses bursting into life, proving that the seasons are changing, and warmer days are on the way. It'll definitely leave you with a spring in your step. This crocus season, join one of the free walk and talk events hosted by the Wallington gardeners and learn more about the crocus lawn and springtime here in the gardens.

Visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington) to find out more and to plan your visit.





National  
Trust



© National Trust 2024. Registered charity no. 205846. © National Trust Images/Mark Selby.

Wellies on, spades at the ready,

let's get snowdrop planting!

**17 – 25 February, 11am-3pm, Wallington**

Help the gardeners plant 100,000 snowdrops this February half term – making 900,000 since we started planting in 2015! Come along and lend a hand. We'll provide all equipment but please bring your own gloves if you have them. Normal admission charges apply.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington)

For everyone, for ever



# Ensure you achieve your desired lifestyle



By **David Lamb**

**Many people think that financial planning is all about pensions, investment funds and life assurance. That is probably because that is what the financial services industry has led you to believe, so they can sell you more products.**

In this new series of articles in Inside Morpeth we will explain what financial planning is really about – when done properly.

The Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments describes financial planning as:

*'A professional service for individuals, their families and businesses, who need objective assistance in organising their finances afford to achieve their financial*

*and lifestyle objectives more readily.'*

Ultimately, financial planning is about ensuring that when you have one foot in the grave you do not look back over your life and have regrets.

These could include:

- not leaving enough money to ensure your loved ones can maintain their lifestyle
- leaving too much money, which could mean a life of wasted opportunities
- missing out on experiences on your 'bucket list'
- holding on to your wealth for too long, when you could have passed it to your children at the time they actually needed it.

I have seen websites promising to produce a financial plan after a

short initial meeting, but a properly constructed plan requires a lot of detail and reasoned and reasonable assumptions.

Over the coming issues we will highlight the essential questions you should be able to answer - and score yourself against - to ensure that your financial planning is on track to help you achieve you and your family's desired lifestyle.

**If you can't wait, take our free ScoreMy financial planning test now to see how you are progressing with your plan. Scan the QR code to access it or visit: [lambfinancial.co.uk](http://lambfinancial.co.uk)**



## the BathroomandTile.co.



ACTUAL INSTALLATION

Discover an extensive range  
of **beautiful bathrooms**  
and **stunning tiles** locally!

A truly inspirational showroom for  
creating the perfect bathroom.

the BathroomandTile.co.

Tel: **01670 522 066**

[www.bathroomandtileco.co.uk](http://www.bathroomandtileco.co.uk)

38 Woodhorn Road, Ashington, NE63 9AE

Trade enquiries welcome

**DESIGN - SUPPLY - INSTALL**





## A REAL FAMILY BUSINESS BELIEVING IN TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES YOU CAN RELY ON

Owner Scott Bousfield and his family provide professional top quality flooring services specialising in luxury vinyl floor tiles, carpets, safety flooring vinyl for residential and commercial premises.

From visiting Brooke in the showroom at Pegswood, to a free measure from Scott and expert fitting by Roan, every Wansbeck Carpet & Floor experience will be personal, friendly, easy and enjoyable.

**WANSBECK**  
CARPET & FLOOR 

For a no obligation  
free estimate  
call us on **01670 516815**

---

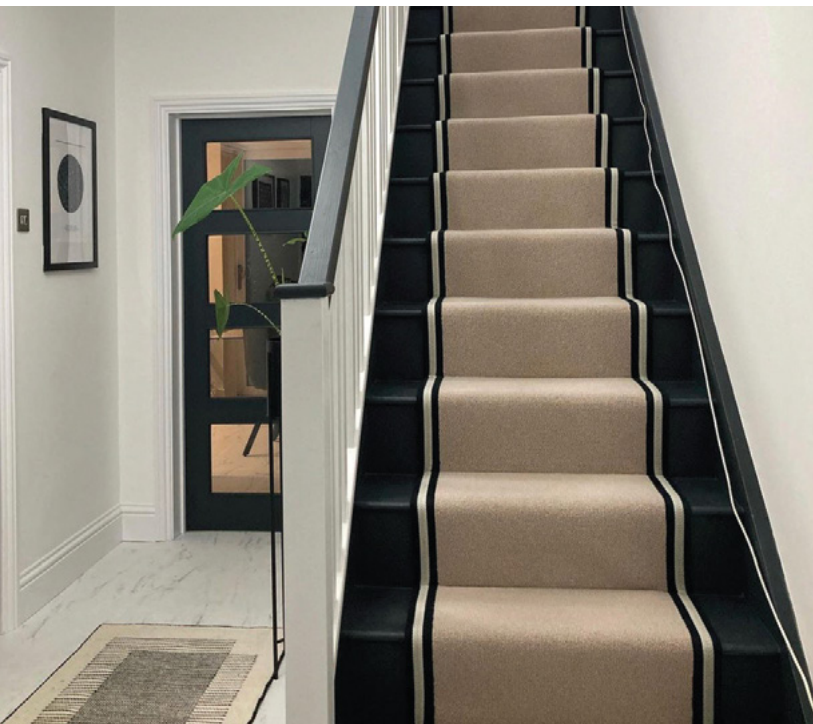
Come and visit our showroom at:

**Unit 2a Pegswood Industrial Estate,  
Morpeth NE61 6HZ**

---

**OPENING HOURS:**

Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm;  
Friday 9am to 4pm; Saturday 10am to 3pm  
Closed Sunday



# Swapping the classroom for the gym

Morpeth-based Maximize Education is funding two ground-breaking initiatives to give more young people the chance to boost their wellbeing as well as their academic prospects, with the help of some private tuition in their chosen subjects writes **Ian Leech**.

Firstly, it has teamed-up with staff Snap Fitness in Sanderson Arcade, to enable some of its day-time students to benefit from free work-outs at the town centre state-of-the-art gym as an incentive to complete their academic studies at the same time as building up their own self-esteem, general fitness and wellbeing.

Secondly, it is also offering youngsters who are known to congregate around Morpeth bus station after school hours, an opportunity to benefit from additional tuition to help them with their chosen subjects, that would otherwise not be open to them.

Both schemes are being funded through what Maximize Education calls its own 'Dreamchaser' levelling-up programme to give young people who would otherwise not be able to access private tuition in addition to their normal schoolwork, the chance to study one-to-one with highly-qualified professional tutors, to improve their examination prospects.

"Our aim is to build confidence in learning, take the stress out of examination preparation and encourage our students to be the best they can and we are proud to say we have a proven track record over many years, in doing just that," Maximize Education Chief Executive and founder Christine Jamieson, told Inside Morpeth. "Of course, not all young people and their families can afford private tuition lessons, so 'Dreamchaser' is our way of levelling up one student at a time, as well as giving something back to the community we are part of."

Christine contacted Snap Fitness in Owen House just behind the bus station, because of its professional approach to fitness training as well as the gym's locality to her own Newgate Street centre. Through the partnership Maximize Education daytime students aged from 14 and over, who for one reason or another, do not have access to mainstream schooling, can train at the gym under the safe supervision of its trainers, chaperoned by one of their tutors.

"I wanted somewhere that would give our students professional guidance in how to use gym equipment and develop training plans because it is important to myself that if Maximize was to be a partner in such a venture, our students would be getting the best support available. I hope the gym use will prove beneficial by enabling our students to access facilities they would otherwise not be able to afford including specialised instructors, as well



Scott Lyddon, Manager of Morpeth's Snap Fitness

as building up their self-esteem, general fitness and wellbeing. Going to the gym is also a great incentive for our students to complete their academic work."

Scott Lyddon, Manager of Morpeth's Snap Fitness which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, said they were delighted to have been given the opportunity to work with Maximize Education. Students, he said, had full access to all the training equipment in the gym which they use under the supervision of its trainers. "It is working very well," he said. "The boys and girls who are coming in are working hard and well. They are learning self-discipline, and at the end of their sessions are skipping out of the gym which we think shows how much they are enjoying training with us!"

As to the other initiative, Maximize Education is investing up to £735 per Year 11 student who might otherwise be 'hanging around' the bus station after coming out of school. "We are offering a limited number of students who would like to improve their grades but are financially unable to do so, an opportunity to spend time with us and our private tutors studying their chosen subjects to improve their exam results," said Christine.

Any young people and their families, interested in taking Christine up on her offer of free tuition support, should contact Maximize Education by calling (01670) 459283 or logging on to [www.maximizeeducation.com](http://www.maximizeeducation.com)



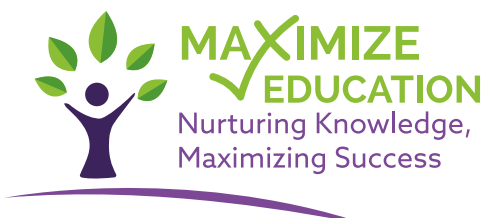
# It really is never too late to start tuition with us!

**Even at the time of the academic year when Year 11 students are feeling the pressure of having completed their mock examinations before moving on to prepare for further assessments then their final exams in May and June.**

At Maximize Education we can offer one-to-one tutorial support in their chosen subjects, to prepare for those exams, through our specialised and highly qualified professional tutors across the whole curriculum from Key Stage 1 to A Level.



Maximize Education has also released free tuition through our Dreamchaser Programme, for a limited number of students to give them our full support over the coming weeks.  
**Please contact our centre for further information**



To contact us for a free consultation call our Morpeth Centre on (01670) 459 283 or 07983 452115 weekdays between 9am and 6pm

**[www.maximizeeducation.com](http://www.maximizeeducation.com)**

32a Newgate Street, Morpeth, NE61 1BA

# Town centre 'care village' plans unveiled



Artist impression of the planned development



Looking down Wansbeck Street



A view from Castle Square

Plans to develop what is being described as a quality 'care village' in the very heart of Morpeth town centre, are under consideration by Northumberland County Council, **writes Editor Ian Leech.**

The bid to develop an 81-bed care home plus 24 luxury apartments on the site of a former motor dealership showroom and garage just off Castle Square, have been submitted by Roseville (Hillgate) Ltd. The site has stood empty and derelict for a number of years and has been described as an 'eyesore' on the main southern entrance road into the town.

Project Manager Tom Foster told Inside Morpeth that if planning permission is approved, demolition and remedial work on the site could start later this year with the first residents moving into their new homes by 2026.

David Nicholson, a director of the development company, said they believe the site offers a welcome opportunity for people looking at the next chapter of their lives, to move into quality, assisted living literally a stone's throw from the centre of the town

"Perhaps they would be people looking to downsize from a home that is now too large for their needs, or they need some help and assistance with their daily living" he said. "Perhaps their garden is too big for them to cope with, or they are worried about security and locking up their home to go away on holiday."

Thanks to the location, he said, residents would not have to travel by car or

public transport to get to local shops or to enjoy a meal, a cup of coffee or a drink in one of Morpeth's many and varied restaurants, bars, cafes or coffee shops, which would be literally on their own doorsteps.

Help would also be available on-site with cleaning or laundry.

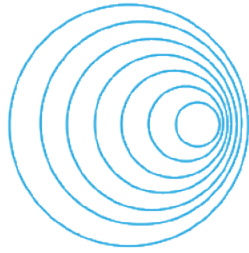
The plans include parking spaces for 22 vehicles; landscaped garden seating areas at both ground floor and roof top levels; a cinema, café, bar and activities room in the care home, which would also be available to the apartment residents.

Tom Foster added that great care had been taken to design a scheme that perfectly blends into the character and amenities of Morpeth.

"As designers and developers, we know the town very well," he said. Anyone familiar with the site, he said, knows that it is literally a two-minute walk into the very centre of town, to be able to access and enjoy all of its facilities and amenities.

"We have taken great care to ensure that our proposals for the care home and apartments, blend into and have been influenced by the character and heritage of Morpeth and style of the buildings around town, at the same time as being a modern, attractive and high quality development," he added.





# Direct Hearing Services



**1 WANSBECK STREET, MORPETH**  
**BY CHANTRY FOOTBRIDGE**

**INDEPENDENT SUPPLIER OF HEARING AIDS**

**FREE HEARING TESTS AND ADVICE**

**HEARING AID REPAIR SERVICE**

**EARWAX REMOVAL ONLY £50**

Microsuction or irrigation for maximum comfort  
(Local home visits plus £25)

**CALL 01670 504182 FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

To keep prices as low as possible we work without reception and mainly open the shop for appointments.

If the OPEN sign is lit please come in for a chat.

[directhearingsservices.com](http://directhearingsservices.com)



# Spring into summer at Rutherfords

**Spring Summer 2024 clothing trends are all about pastel colours, suiting, and femininity. Lightweight and airy fabrics like cotton, linen, and silk are perfect for the warmer months.**

Pastel hues, and flowy silhouettes are popular choices for women's wear this season. Here at Rutherfords you'll find beautifully designed pieces from much loved labels such as Soyaconcept, Fransa, Part Two and Foil.

Soyconcept focuses on sustainable and eco-friendly fashion. They use natural materials such as organic cotton and linen, and employ sustainable production methods to reduce waste and minimize their environmental impact. Soyconcept's

clothing is stylish, comfortable and versatile, making it the perfect choice for women who want to look good while also doing their part for the planet.

Fransa contributes to Rutherfords' spring-summer lineup with its distinctive designs. Known for its attention to detail and quality, Fransa offers a selection that resonates with the modern woman's desire for chic and versatile pieces. From casual wear to more formal ensembles, Fransa provides options that effortlessly transition from day to night.

Part Two is a Danish clothing brand that offers a range of contemporary and minimalist style clothing, as well as its use of high-quality materials and its commitment to sustainability. Part Two's clothing is perfect for those who value

quality, style and comfort, and who want to make a statement with their fashion choices.

Foil, with its unique approach to fashion, injects a sense of creativity into their clothing. The brand's eclectic designs and use of unconventional patterns and textures add a playful yet sophisticated dimension to the collection. Foil's pieces are for those who embrace individuality and are unafraid to make a statement with their fashion choices.

Comfort remains a top priority, with brands offering relaxed fits and breathable fabrics. Whether you prefer a bohemian vibe or a more polished look, there's something for everyone this spring summer season at Rutherfords.



# Spring Summer 24



RUTHERFORD & Co  
MORPETH

10-16 Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1NJ | Monday - Saturday 09:30 - 17:30



# Morpeth Carpet Cleaning

*Special Offer*

Get 2 carpets cleaned  
Get the 3rd  
**FREE OF CHARGE**

Free Antibacterial Deodoriser  
Free Spot Cleaning Solution

ALL FOR ONLY **£140**

FULLY INSURED CARPET CLEANING  
UPHOLSTERY CLEANING  
RUG CLEANING  
LEATHER CLEANING  
MATTRESS CLEANING  
HARD FLOOR CLEANING  
STAIN REMOVAL  
STAIN PROTECTION  
FLAME RETARDANT APPLICATION  
FLOOD WATER REMOVAL

**07506 622680**

[www.afr-carpetcleaning.co.uk](http://www.afr-carpetcleaning.co.uk)

**AFR**  
Deep Carpet Cleaning

Serving Morpeth and the surrounding area for over 50 years!

## THOMPSONS OF MORPETH

• TYRES • SERVICE • MOT • DIAGNOSTICS • EXHAUSTS • BATTERIES •

**MOT**

ONLY

**£40**

**SERVICE**

FROM

**£95** INC VAT

**01670 512651**

[www.morpethtyres.co.uk](http://www.morpethtyres.co.uk)

18B Coopies Haugh, Coopies Lane  
Industrial Estate, Morpeth, NE61 6JN



# They come from a land Down Under...

By Inside Morpeth's wine columnist **Mark Stephenson**

**At G&G the start of each year always brings a moment of reflection as we look back on the previous 12 months and identify the areas where the business is performing well, and what areas we could do better at.**

So, you can imagine my delight when looking back we found that wines that had performed very strongly for us were from our Aussie and New Zealand range.

You may ask why I was so pleased about that?

Well, firstly, some of you may know that Australia was the country that inspired me to come into the wine industry. It was my visits there that gave me the encouragement to take the jump (and the pay cut. There's no money in this game!) and seek a new career in an area that I was passionate about. Wines such as Torbreck's GSM (£21.00 at G&G), Vasse Felix Chardonnay (£30.00), and Yalumba Viognier (£18.50) are ever-presents in my wine rack. On special occasion I reach for

that bottle of what would be my Desert Island disc luxury item- a bottle of Tyrell's Vat 1 Semillon (£50.00...not cheap I know. But amazing!). Not only those, but the reasonable priced Corryton Burge Cab Sauv from South Australia (£14.25) is an excellent wine for the price. There's so many more and I could go on and on and on!

As for NZ, some of you who visit G&G may have noticed one of our team has a certain antipodean twang to their accent. Bryce is a very proud Kiwi who is incredibly enthusiastic about the wines of his homeland- and rightly so! There is nothing like NZ Sauvignon Blanc and it is one of the most popular white wines available at the moment (we recommend Esk Valley Hawke's Bay for £15.50). However, there is so much to NZ than the zingy, zippy, crisp whites of Marlborough. You've got the excellent Rieslings of North Canterbury, the complex Chardonnays of Hawke's Bay, and the increasingly popular Pinot Noirs of Central Otago. Not only that, but there is also nowhere, and I mean nowhere in the world, can create the velvety rich Syrah's

of the Gimblett Gravels. It is truly unique. Try Trinity Hill Syrah (£30.00) to see what we mean.

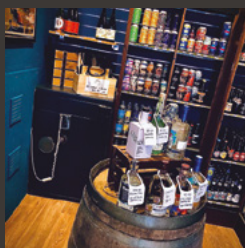
But, as well as their excellent plonk, it is the antipodean approach to wine which inspires us the most at G&G. Whether you claim to be an expert on wine or know nothing at all, the guys in the industry who we've come across from this part of the world always make you feel appreciated and welcome when talking to them. It is that non-judgemental and inclusive approach that I have looked for us to adopt at G&G. You can walk into our shop knowing nothing at all about wine, but we will do what we can to make you feel at ease and help you out. As far as we are concerned, the only daft question is the one not asked.

So what does the success of our Aussie and NZ range mean for the future? Well, more wines from Australia and NZ and tasting events featuring these two great nations! And believe me, there is so much for us to choose from!

G'day  
Mark

## GRAPE & GRAIN

SPECIALIST WINE MERCHANT



At Grape & Grain we are approachable, friendly, and welcoming. We believe there is a wine out there for everyone.

We love what we do. We are passionate about our products, and want to spread the word about the wonderful world of wine.

3 Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1NL | 01670 504 901 | [www.grapeandgrain.online](http://www.grapeandgrain.online)

# Adam's the new Morpeth Honda dealership manager

**Adam Brown** has been appointed as the new branch manager at the Vertu Honda Morpeth dealership on the town's Coopies Lane Industrial Estate.

Adam, from Whitley Bay, has spent virtually all his working life selling Honda cars, starting as a 20-year-old Sales Executive at a dealership on the Tyneside Silverlink estate.

From there he moved on to work for Vertu Honda at the company's main Newcastle dealership on Scotswood Road, first as a Business Manager and then Sales Manager.

Now, he has taken over responsibility for the Morpeth dealership and, as he says, he is "one hundred percent looking forward to the challenge" at a time when Honda has arguably the best range of vehicles to meet all customers' motoring needs, in the company's history.

As Adam says there really is a car for everyone in range of new vehicles, adding that the dealership has good accessibility and availability to new stock.

The dealership also has access to Vertu Honda's extensive stock of used cars for customers to select their new vehicle from.

He says he plans to build on the success of the dealership and its reputation for offering the friendliest of welcomes to new and existing customers.

"The dealership prides itself on looking after everyone who walks through our door, in the best possible way, whether they are looking for a new or pre-owned car, or wanting to book their own vehicle in for servicing or maintenance," he said.

"I also already know that Vertu Honda Morpeth has a strong core of loyal customers who have bought their cars from us and been totally satisfied with the way we have looked after them, so are happy to come back time and time again.

"Working for Vertu Honda has always felt like being part of a family whether that is with the staff at our dealerships, or our customer base and I am looking forward to very quickly getting to know the familiar faces who come into our Morpeth dealership."



New Branch Manager Adam Brown





All-New  
**ZR-V**  
**e:HEV**



**£5,000**  
Deposit Contribution<sup>†</sup>

**6.9% APR**  
Representative

**5 Years**

**Free servicing, Honda Care Warranty and Roadside Assistance.<sup>^</sup>**



**Vertu Honda Morpeth**  
Coopie's Lane, Morpeth NE61 6JN  
Call 01670 501444

[vertumotors.com/honda](https://vertumotors.com/honda)

(Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP)) - mpg: Low 57.6mpg, Medium 61.4mpg, High 53.3 mpg, Extra High 38.7mpg Combined 48.7mpg. Combined CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 132 CO<sub>2</sub> g/km. The fuel consumption you achieve under real life driving conditions and CO<sub>2</sub> produced will depend upon several factors including the accessories fitted after registration, variations in driving styles, weather conditions and vehicle load.

**We are a credit broker and not a lender.** Finance is subject to status and finance company acceptance. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders and their finance products. We will typically receive a commission from the lender, as either a fixed fee or a fixed percentage on the amount you borrow. The commission we earn does not change by the type of finance. A guarantee may be required. The finance rate will vary dependent of customer personal circumstances for in dealership purchases. Car shown is a Honda ZR-V e:HEV Hybrid Advance in Still Night Pearl at £43,545 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail ZR-V Hybrid ordered with Honda and finance approved by Honda Finance Europe from 1st January – 31st March for vehicles registered by 31st March. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers (excluding Channel Islands) and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. OTR may be subject to change due to actual or unexpected changes in tariffs, duties taxes or other costs which may affect importation or other costs of supply. <sup>†</sup>Paid by manufacturer. <sup>^</sup>5 years complimentary service package is applicable to all new retail ZR-V models ordered from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 and registered by 31 March 2024. It is only complimentary when your vehicle is financed through a Hire Purchase or Personal Contract Purchase agreement with Honda Finance Europe with a minimum balance to finance of £5,000. You can settle your finance agreement at any time, however you will need to make at least six regular monthly payments to ensure qualification for the 5 years complimentary service package. If you do not make six regular monthly payments, the 5 years complimentary service package will be cancelled. Visit [Honda.co.uk/cars/campaigns/five-servicing](https://Honda.co.uk/cars/campaigns/five-servicing) for more information. Vertu Honda is a trading name of Grantham Motor Company Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Company registration number 04722957. VAT Registration number 902737238. Registered office: Vertu House, Fifth Avenue Business Park, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0XA.

# What's on?



Sophie Fraser

## NORTHUMBRIAN CONCERT

**Fund-raising concert in aid of the 56 Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering, at Morpeth Town Hall on Friday March 8th at 7.30pm.**

Featuring Alistair Anderson, Werca's Folk, Graham Bell & Anne Lamb, the Border Directors, Sophie Fraser, Miggins Fiddle and James Tait. The MC for the evening will be Ron Forster.

Tickets are £13 (Children £6) and are available from The Chantry, Morpeth (Tel 01670) 623455; or Kim Biibby-Wilson (01670) 513308. More information from [kim@northumbriana.org.uk](mailto:kim@northumbriana.org.uk)



Florian Mitrea

## MUSIC SOCIETY

**The final concert of the society's current season features pianist Florian Mitrea and will be held at Morpeth Methodist Church in Howard Terrace, on Thursday April 11th at 7.30pm.**

Bucharest-born Florian is an award-winning pianist who has built an international career playing in concerts in the UK and all over Europe. One of his childhood dreams was to appear at New York's Carnegie Hall, something he was to achieve as young soloist. For his Morpeth programme Florian has chosen to play an early Beethoven Sonata in C major Op. 2 No 3; then Chopin's Two Nocturnes Op 27 No. 1 and Op. 55 No1, followed by his Scherzo in B minor Op. 20 No. 1, then concluding the evening with Schubert's monumental last piano sonata D 960.

Tickets for the concert are £18 (children free with an adult) and are available from Morpeth Methodist Church, The Chantry TIC or the website [www.morpeth-musoc.org.uk](http://www.morpeth-musoc.org.uk)

## ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

**The Morpeth Society's next meeting lecture on Friday February 23rd will be given by playwright Ed Waugh and is entitled 'The Cramlington Train Wreckers' about the local striking miners who derailed the Flying Scotsman as it steamed down the East Coast mainline during the 1926 national strike.**

Ed is turning the story which made national headlines at the time, into his latest play following the success of his earlier plays 'Alf Ramsey Knew My Grandfather', 'Amazing Grace; about Northumbrian heroin Grace Darling, and

'Wor Bella' Reay about the Blyth lady footballer who in post-war Britain was known as the Alan Shearer goalscoring sensation of her day.

At the talk Ed will reveal an amazing twist to the story centred around the Flying Scotsman which still travels the country today and which recently passed through Morpeth Station!

Then, on Friday March 22nd, the speaker at the next Society Meeting will be Dr Barbara Crosbie who will talk about 'The Remarkable Ann Fisher (1719 to 1178); Not Simply a Printer's Wife.'

Both talks begin at 7.15pm at the St James' Centre in Morpeth's Wellway. Donations at the door of £1 for Society members and £3 non-members who are welcome to attend, are suggested.

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

**The following events will be taking place at St George's United Reformed Church in the coming weeks.**

Wednesday February 14th 12.30pm to 1.30pm, a one-off Lunchtime Concert with KEVI musicians and Chamber Choir. Doors open at 12 Noon. Tea and coffee available. Admission £4 at the door.

Saturday March 2nd 10 am to Noon. Coffee morning supporting Breast Cancer Now. Home-made scones, tea and coffee, raffle, tombola and various stalls. Support welcome for an amazing charity providing world-class research life-changing care for those affected by breast cancer.

Beginning on Thursday March 21st for three nights. Morpeth St George's Community Players present the play 'Talking Heads' by Alan Bennett. Tickets available online and The Chantry, Morpeth.

Saturday March 30th 10am to Noon. Easter-themed Coffee Morning. Raffle and stalls. Free entry and lift.

Saturday May 18th 10am to Noon. Popular plant sale with plants and shrubs available at very competitive prices. Raffle, tombola, sale of garden-related goods, books and home-made cards. Also tea, coffee and home-baked scones.

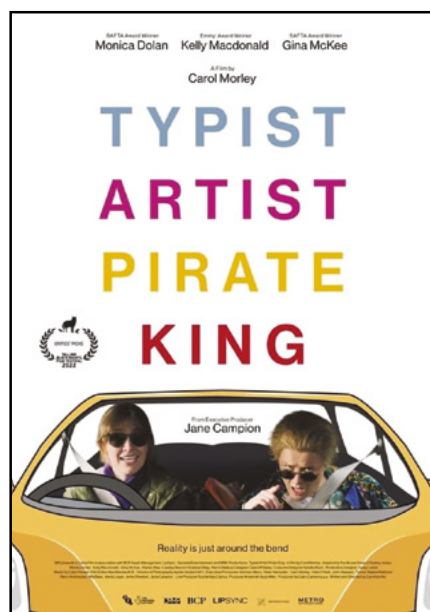
## MORPETH CINEMA

**Two more cinema screenings to tell you about starting with 'Typist Artist Pirate King' on Friday March 1st.**

It's a comedy drama about the life of a little-known artist from Sunderland, Audrey Amiss who died in 2013. Audrey studied art at the Royal Academy, but her



artistic potential was held back by mental health issues and she spent many years working as a shorthand-typist. Audrey is portrayed by Monica Dolan whose versatility was demonstrated by her role as postmistress Jo Hamilton in the recent ITV drama about the Post Office scandal 'Mr Bates v The Post Office', and as Anne Darwin in 'The Thief, his Wife and the Canoe.' In the Morpeth film Audrey Amiss goes on a road trip from London to an art exhibition in Sunderland with her psychiatric nurse played by Kelly Macdonald, where he is reconciled with her sister played by Gina McKee.



The second film 'One Life' that can be seen on Friday April 5th, is the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, a young London stockbroker, who just before the outbreak of World War II, rescued 669 mainly Jewish children from Nazi-occupied

Prague, in an operation that would become known as the Kindertransport. Fifty years later, haunted by the fate of the children he was not able to bring to England and looking for ways to tell the story, he appeared on Esther Rantzen's TV programme That's Life. The film stars Johnny Flynn as the younger and Anthony Hopkins as the older Winton, with a supporting cast including Helena Bonham Carter, Romola Garai and Jonathan Pryce.

Both films will be screened at St James' Centre in Wellway, Morpeth, starting at 7pm. Tickets costing £6.50 for each film, are available from Tickersource of The Chantry TIC (card only payment).

## RESTAURANT WEEK

**Morpeth Restaurant Week will be taking place between Monday 18th and Sunday March 24th with up to 20 restaurants, cafes and venues in the town joining in.**

Organised through More in Morpeth – a joint venture funded by Sanderson Arcade, Rutherford & Co, the Chamber of Trade, Morpeth Town Council and Sharp Media Group – the week will offer diners from far and wide, the chance to sample special deals from all the town's best eateries.

Keep an eye on the [moreinmorpeth.co.uk](http://moreinmorpeth.co.uk) website for updates.

## MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING

**There really is nothing to quite rival the annual Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering as a way of celebrating all that's best in the social and cultural traditions of the North. Every year on the first weekend after Easter, Morpeth comes alive to enjoy the rich traditions of music, song, dance, crafts, heritage, unique dialects and street entertainment so beloved by generations of Northumbrians.**

From the shepherds in the hills to the pitmen of the county's coalfields, the traditions from a way of life that have been handed down through those generations, are celebrated at the Gathering now in its 56th year!

Inspired by a modest concert of Northumbrian music and song, the first one-day Gathering was held in the spring of 1968, organised largely by Morpeth's Roland Bibby, a true advocate of Northumberland and its traditions.

More than half a century on, his daughter Kim Bibby-Wilson is one of the driving forces ensuring that his legacy lives on and that the Gathering continues to thrive, develop, entertain and retain its relevance in the 21st Century

Every year it brings the crowds into the town centre of Morpeth, with so many performances by professionals and amateurs alike, who come back time and time again because of the warm receptions they receive from people within and out-with the town. The original Gathering concept of competitions for singers, instrumentalists, composers, dialect writers, speakers, a concert and barn dance, has been steadily expanded over the years yet still forms the core of the weekend.

Over the weekend Gathering visitors will be able to enjoy Punch'n Judy shows in the Market Place, story-telling, music, Morris Dancing, Rapper Sword Dancing and Clog Dancing.

Morpeth Castle will be open to visitors on both Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm, when they will also be able to see and listen to local choir the Ran Tanners and see members of the Time Bandits re-enactors dressed in the days of the Civil War.

On the Friday evening there will be a Northumbrian concert beginning at 7pm in the Methodist Church followed by a Barn Dance on Saturday night starting at 8.30pm at St George's Church with dancing to the Blue Hat Ceilidh Band.

Also, on the Saturday vinyl record enthusiast Mary Hollins will be playing a selection of her old 78rpm records on a vintage wind-up gramophone in the Town Hall. Mary is also inviting anyone with records from that era, to take them along to the Town Hall for others to enjoy listening to them.

Kim told Inside Morpeth that the organisers are also hoping to stage the popular re-enactment procession recalling the return to Morpeth of Lord Greystoke following the Battle of Culloden in 1388. It is also hoped that 92-year-old Alex Swales, will also be able to take his place in the role of the Morpeth 'Gadgy' or Bailiff welcoming Lord Greystoke back to the town.

The dates for the 2024 Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering are Friday April 5th to Sunday April 7th and more information about the detailed programme will be available nearer the weekend by logging to the [www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk) website.

# In a changing world some things never really change

By **Ross Pearson** our Inside Morpeth gardening columnist

**I'm not sure if it's just as a result of getting older, but it seems as though life not only races by in a blur but in a sea of somewhat unsettling changes.**

AI has gone from the stuff of film fiction to everyday use, homes are 'smart', vehicles no longer rumble with fuel but silently hum with electricity, the high street shifts in feel and appearance as generations-old shops slowly disappear.

Our gardens and allotments are not immune from change either. They are in a constant state of change as seasons and life cycles slide to the next, temperatures and light levels ebb and flow, planting schemes are ripped up and designs made anew; change is after all key to its survival.

Yet at its core, gardening boils down to the same tasks, the same requirements, the same mood-boosting health benefits and the reassuring comfort of actually knowing what changes lie ahead and that fundamental changes will only happen if we make that choice.

That, I think, is why I love gardening so much. Gardening is the metaphorical 'cuddle' we need to stay grounded in the here and now. Gardening has always been and will always be an unchangeable in an ever-changing world. With that in mind, it's time to crack on with the comforting gardening tasks we all love doing in Spring.

## Bulk up stocks

Snowdrops look wonderful planted in drifts but will cost a fortune to create that instant effect or take an age to colonise



Ross Pearson preparing for spring and summer

naturally. To speed the process up, lift clumps of snowdrops after flowering, tease apart into smaller clumps and redistribute, replanting to the same depth.

## Early crop potatoes

Get a head start on potatoes by chitting first and second-early varieties as they won't be in the ground as long as maincrop potatoes. Locate the 'eyes'

on each tuber and rub off the weakest, leaving a maximum of three grouped together. Place the tubers in an egg box with the eyes pointing upward and place the box in a bright, frost-free spot. Plant out from mid-March onward, depending on the ground conditions.

## Seed sowing

Nowadays, heated propagators come in all shapes and sizes and are low-cost to run. Look for a thermostatically controlled propagator to help start your seed sowing early, ready for hardening off once frost is no longer a danger. Tomatoes, chillies, aubergines and globe artichokes can all be set to 20 degrees Celsius for best germination.

## Sweet pea success

Sweet peas can be both direct sown outdoors in March or grown indoors earlier. Pinch out the tips of autumn-sown sweet peas but don't throw the cuttings away! Place the stems of the cuttings in a glass of water and place somewhere warm and sunny. Once rooted, pot on in compost to increase your sweet pea stocks.

## House plants

House plants don't need repotting every year, but those that have outgrown their pot or are a mass of roots, can be. And very large house plants, such as Monstera, that cannot be moved to a bigger pot can be repotted in the same pot with fresh compost and have their roots pruned. Specialised house plant compost can be purchased, however John Innes No 3 is ideal for most.



# WOODY'S

HEDGE CUTTING & MAINTENANCE

QUALITY SERVICE GUARANTEED

E: [woodyshedgecutting@gmail.com](mailto:woodyshedgecutting@gmail.com) M: 07889 866 269

All green waste removed and recycled Find us on  /woodys hedge-cutting to view our latest work



# JULIE'S TILES AND BATHROOMS

**TWO GREAT BATHROOM DEALS**  
**NOW ON OFFER**

From  
**£3,995**



## BATHROOM DEAL

Full Bathroom Suite  
Supplied & Fitted

From  
**£1,995**



## SHOWER DEAL

Supplied & Fitted

Give us a call on **01670 520 030** or visit our website at  
**[www.julies-bathrooms.co.uk](http://www.julies-bathrooms.co.uk)**

Unit 13 Armstrong Court, North Seaton Ind. Est., Ashington, NE63 0YB

**Quote IM10 for 10% Discount**

Not including any other deals. Terms and conditions apply.

# MORPETH BOOK FESTIVAL

**Saturday March 23  
& Sunday March 24**

## Meet the authors

- Mari Hannah
- Alistair Moffatt
- Dan Jackson
- Jo Lyons
- Meriel Schindler
- Phaedra Patrick
- M W Craven
- Sarah Elliott
- Marris Whittaker
- Bridget Gubbins
- Colin Youngman
- Lisette Auton
- Karjatan Poskitt



**Northumberland**  
County Council

Tickets are now on sale from

**Greater Morpeth Development Trust**

Benjamin Green House, Morpeth Railway Station

Tel: 01670 503866 [www.gmdt.net](http://www.gmdt.net)  
Morpeth Library or [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)

## BOOK FESTIVAL THE FULL PROGRAMME

**Saturday March 23**  
**Morpeth Leisure Centre**  
**Main Sports Hall**

Mari Hannah 10.30am  
Phaedra Patrick 12.15pm  
M W Craven 1.45pm  
Marris Whittaker 3.30pm

### Research Library

Stephen Hawley  
(How to Get Published) 11am  
Bridget Gubbins 12.30pm  
Jo Lyons 2pm  
'Sarah Elliott 3.30pm

### Library Children's Area

Adventure Babies 10.30am  
Lisette Auton 1pm  
Karjatan Poskitt 2.30pm

### The Chantry

New Delaval Writers 10am  
Carte Blanche 10.45am  
John Challis 11.30am  
New Delaval Writers 12.30pm  
Katrina Porteous 2pm  
Carte Blanche 3pm

**Sunday March 24**  
**Morpeth Leisure Centre**  
**Main Sports Hall**

Meriel Schindler 11am  
Alistair Moffatt 12.30pm  
Dan Jackson 2pm  
Colin Youngman 3.30pm

### Reference Library

Barbara Slade 11am - 1pm