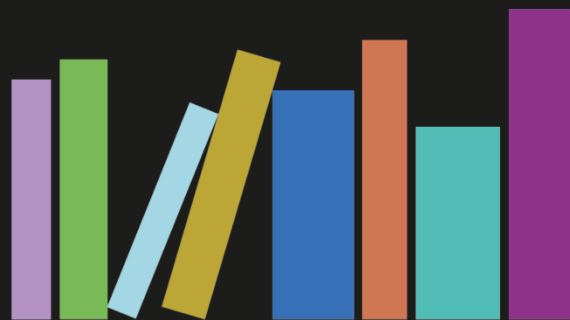


MORPETH



BOOK FESTIVAL

POST EVENT REPORT, JUNE 2024

AUTHOR: JULIE WHITEMAN



Introduction and Background

The second Morpeth Book Festival was held on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March 2024. The inaugural event was held in April 2022 with a second planned for 2023 which unfortunately was cancelled due to key author illness and rail strikes.

The Festival was organised by Greater Morpeth Development Trust with the support of partners: Collingwood School and Media Arts College, Northumberland Library Service and Ian Leech of Inside Morpeth.

A small working group was involved in the planning and delivery of the Festival:

- Frank Rescigno GMDT Director, Arts & Culture
- Julie Whiteman – Office Administrator (Part time)
- Sarah Jayne Kennedy Robson - Morpeth Library Supervisor
- Jean Laurie (volunteer) co-ordinator for the poetry program

We also had support from:

- Ian Leech, *Inside Morpeth*
- Brian Cosgrove, Collingwood School and Media Arts College
- Ethan Curry, Collingwood School and Media Arts College

This year's event was held at three venues: Morpeth Leisure Centre & Library, Morpeth Chantry and the Ballroom at Morpeth Town Hall. The Town Hall was added as a third venue due to some challenges with the planned use of the sports hall in the leisure centre. The programme included events for adults and children.

Just over 300 visitors attended the event across the two day festival. Thirteen authors took part in the event along with 14 poets.

Authors and Poets – the programme

Morpeth Book Festival patron, Mari Hannah, opened the two day Festival in the Ballroom of Morpeth Town Hall which was the start of the programme of authors and poets events across the weekend. The programme showcased authors of a variety of genres, such as M W Craven, Dan Jackson and Alistair Moffet, Meriel Schindler and Bridget Gubbins and Jo Lyons, with some 'in conversation'. The 'In Conversation' style with the key authors involved interviewers such as Gerry Fowley, a regular festival chair and interviewer, Jackie Kaines Lang and local authors Miles Hewitt and Mark Iveson which provided engaging and informal sessions with opportunities for questions. The programme also provided sessions for tots and young children with the sessions by Kjartan Poskitt and Ashleigh Dale noisy but fun and engaging for the children and families attending.

A full day of poetry was on offer in Morpeth Chantry, home of the Northern Poetry Library, such as those read by the Delaval writers - Hefted- poems from the Deepa-Mann Kler installation of 40 illuminated sheep, readings by Carte Blanche and John Challis. An audio visual display and reading by Katrina Porteous entitled *Under the Ice*, an audio-visual collaboration between poet Katrina, electronic composer Peter Zinovieff and scientists from Northumbria University, which took the listeners on a journey to an unseen world, exploring the vast mountains, valleys, lakes and volcanoes which lie beneath Antarctica's frozen surface.

MBF SCHEDULE 2024

Morpeth Leisure Centre & Library

SATURDAY 23 March

Room - Sports Hall	Time
Mari Hannah	10.30-11.30
Phaedra Patrick (cancelled due to low bookings)	12.15-13.15
M W Craven	13.45-14.45
Marrisse Whittaker	15.30-16.30
Room - Research Library	
BIPC –workshop – How to get published	11.00-12.00
Bridget Gubbins	12.30- 13.30
Jo Lyons	14.00-15.00
Sarah Elliott (cancelled due to low bookings)	15.30-16.30
Room - Library Children's area	
Adventure Babies	10.30-11.15
Lisette Auton (cancelled due to low bookings)	13.00-14.00
Kjartan Poskitt	14.30-15.30

Morpeth Chantry

SATURDAY 23 March

The Chantry	Time
Poems from Northumberland Libraries 'Illuminated Sheep' Poetry Workshop	10.00 -10.45
Carte Blanche	10.45 -11.30
John Challis	11.30-12.30
New Delaval Writers	12.30 -13.30
Katrina Porteous	14.00 - 15.00
Carte Blanche	15.00 - 16.00
SUNDAY 24 March	
Room - Sports Hall	Time
Meriel Schindler	11.00 -12.00
Alastair Moffat	12.30- 13.30
Dan Jackson	14.00-15.00
Colin Youngman	15.30-16.30
Room - Research Library	Time
Barbara Slade – Workshop – Writing for the Television industry	11.00 - 13.00

Two workshops were held with a focus on enabling new writers to get published or to see their work on screen. Barbara Slade held a two hour session as outlined in this publicity paragraph:

In this fun, yet intensive two-hour session, Barbara will delve into what it means to be a writer in today's creative and exciting Television Industry. With extensive experience (both in the U.S. and the U.K.) first as a 'new writer' and years later, as an experienced Series Creator/Showrunner and Lead writer, Barbara will discuss the two important stages that a screenwriter must learn to master – Series Development and Scripts. From concept and character development to plot points, three-act structure, action and dialogue, Barbara will provide participants with a solid understanding and overview of the craft, pass on some important 'tricks of the trade', and hopefully inspire people to give it a try! [Barbara Slade]

Despite the range of publicity and promotion of this workshop uptake was very low (5 participants) but the feedback from both Barbara Slade and the participants was very positive.

Also held was the BIPC North East free workshop on *How to Get Published* by Stephen Hawley, with an attendance of 23 people, and which looked at how to self-publish and guidance on the copyright.

Budget

The budget was set based on venue requirements, author fees and expenses along with those associated with publicity, printing, marketing and equipment hire or purchase. When choosing the venues we were keen to utilise the new Morpeth Leisure Centre and Library along with the Chantry, home to the poetry

library and set the budget to reflect this. It became clear that we would need to 'dress' the sports hall for the main author event with screening/partitioning and to provide extra seating if numbers reached our target of 100 per session.

This year it was decided to take on the challenge of book sales with the plan to generate some income from these and so engaged with Gardners Books Ltd for the supply of the author publications.

In order to be as accurate as possible with our budget setting we sent out author agreement forms to request information on their fees, travel costs and any requirement for accommodation. This worked well with good response from authors. Appendix A.

Ticket pricing presented a bit of a challenge, especially for the poetry programme where there were groups of poets participating in each session. Each session was priced individually with a range of prices of £11, £7, or £5 plus the TicketSource admin fee charged. Tickets for the children's events were £3.50 with accompanying adults free. Of the two workshops one, BIPC North East, was free but required booking, and the Barbara Slade workshop, priced at £11 for the two hour sessions had a 50% reduction for students. On the day ticket sales were offered at half price.

To help finance the festival we submitted grant applications to the following organisations: Catherine Cookson Foundation, NCC Community Chest, Heritage Lottery Community Fund (Awards for All). We were unsuccessful with this last one.

Publicity & Marketing

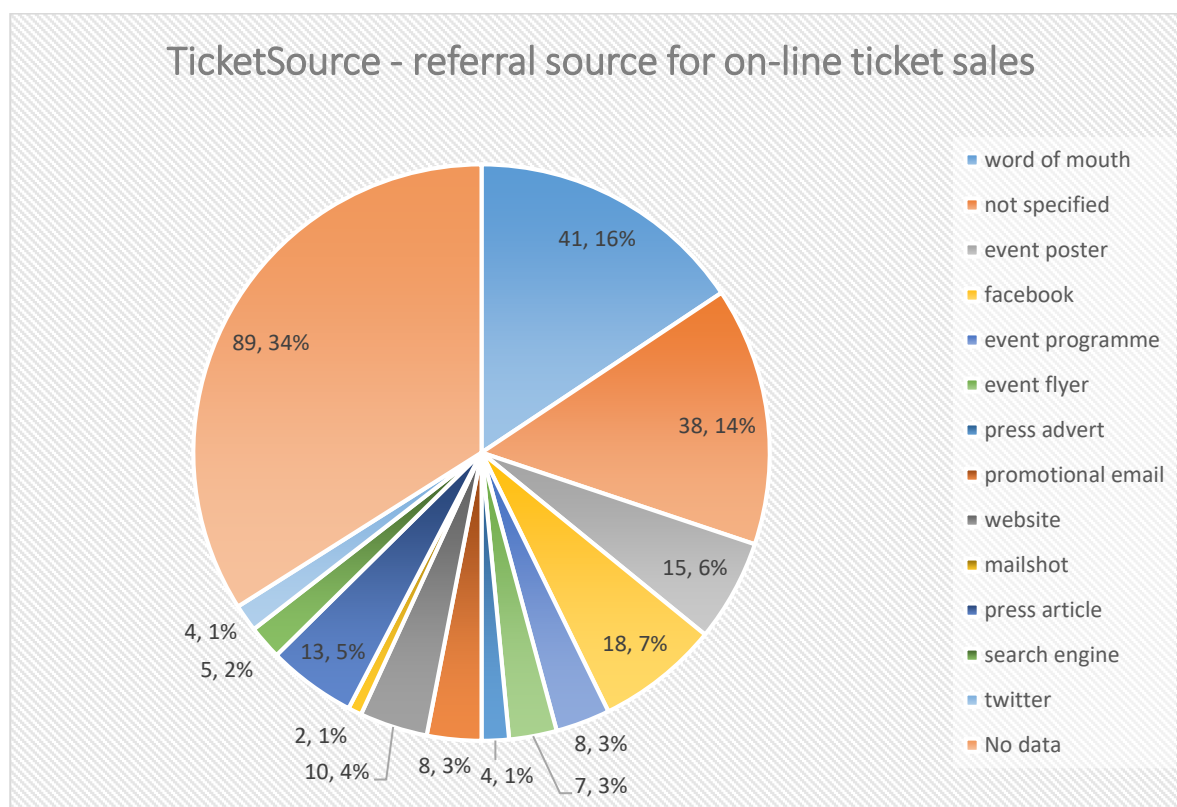
Publicity and promotion of the event took various forms with the help and support of Collingwood School and Media Arts College and *Inside Morpeth* owner Ian Leech. A series of articles about the Festival were programmed into the *Inside Morpeth* schedule which included the full program and articles about the authors attending. Ian also prepared and submitted press releases to the local press.

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/people/morpeth-book-festival-writing-masterclass-with-successful-writer-creator-and-producer-barbara-slade-4533819> Also see Appendix C

The partnership with Collingwood School and Media Arts College was invaluable with the development of the web pages on their community links site, author interviews and the design and production of leaflet and posters. <https://collingwood.link/morpeth-book-festival/>

TicketSource was the platform used for the sale of tickets along with The Chantry, Tourism and Information Centre. Social media accounts for Facebook and X were used at the later stages of promotion.

TicketSource - referral source for on-line ticket sales



Volunteers

We had the assistance of both GMDT and Library volunteers to help with admin and stewarding the event. In excess of 500 hours of volunteer time was given to the festival. Volunteers were involved with meet and greet of attendees, ticket checking and book selling, set up and clearing away at the venues. A key volunteer role was with the preparation and printing of tickets, distributing posters and flyers. We were also pleased to have the opportunity for volunteers from the Morpeth Camera Club to capture a photographic record of the festival. The poetry program was devised and co-ordinated by Jean Laurie who took on the role of liaising with poets and managing the event on the day.

Feedback:

A feedback form was provided at the festival with the hope of gathering some valuable feedback to inform future events. See appendix B for data from the 94 forms returned. We sought to gather, where people were willing to provide, emails from the individuals returning the form to allow us to offer a prize of four publications from some of the authors attending. This generated over 50 names for our contact list.

Conclusion

Based on the feedback forms, and comments from attendees and authors on the day and subsequently, the two day festival was a great success. Taking on board recommendations from the 2022 evaluation report helped to give clarity in the planning particularly with reference to an agreement with authors to understand costs at a relatively early stage. Going forward, having a clear idea of author fees before committing to the author's attendance might be required to ensure the event can be financed.

The choice of venue did present some initial challenges but the desire to keep the event in the centre of Morpeth and easily accessible with local parking, cafes and restaurants dictated to some extent the choice of venue as well as capacity for seating. Whilst the MBF working group will need to look at suitable and

accessible venues for the future festivals a decision needs to be made on the audience numbers that the invited authors are likely to attract and identify appropriate venues and budget accordingly.

Whilst ticket sales were slow until a week or two before the festival the numbers sold were comparable with the 2022 event. Consideration should be given to future ticketing model with regards to pricing perhaps with early bird discounts for a limited period, group discounts etc. Dedicated sessions for selling tickets should be identified to capture people's attention and for promotion of the event e.g. in Morpeth Library.

Numerous posters and flyers were circulated throughout the Town with postings on websites and some social media platforms. However, more needs to be done on the social media front with a dedicated campaign throughout the year to spark the interest of potential festival attendees and to boost ticket sales. This should be done under the control of a dedicated person, or team, for consistency and to avoid duplication. It is important, also, to maintain consistency of brand in all design and printing of material to ensure that it becomes recognisable throughout the community and a marker for future festivals.

The partnership with Collingwood School and Media Arts College was invaluable particularly with the development of the website along with print and design support. The author interviews helped to cement the relationship with the authors and are a great marketing tool for future events. Having a dedicated Morpeth Book Festival website would be beneficial for engaging with the wider community and a focus for communication.

The event could not have happened without the support of our funders – NCC Community Chest, Hadrian Trust, Catherine Cookson Foundation, Maseco, and Morpeth Lions.

Thanks must also go to GMDT and library volunteers; Brian Morris, John Thompson and John Barnes of Morpeth Camera Club; Miles Hewitt; Jean Laurie, and all the authors and poets who made the event such a success.

Appendices

- A. Template Author Agreement Form**
- B. Overview of visitor feedback forms**
- C. *Inside Morpeth* feature articles**
- D. A selection of event images**
- E. Festival flyer**
- F. Festival poster**

Appendix A – Author Agreement Form



Author Agreement

Date of Festival: Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 March 2024 to be held at Morpeth Leisure Centre and Morpeth Chantry

Please complete and sign this agreement regarding your appearance at the Morpeth Book Festival, returning it by email to: julie.whiteman@gmdt.org by

Contact Information:

Author Name:	
Name of main contact:	
Email:	
Mobile:	

Venue.....:

Date of appearance :	
Time of appearance: Book signing to follow on	

Event Admin:

Appearance Fee:	I will/will not be charging an appearance fee	My fee will be: £
Expenses: Morpeth Book Festival will cover reasonable travel expenses	Please indicate travel costs if known	Travel costs: £
Equipment:	Do you require use of: Laptop: yes/no Projector & screen: yes/no Microphone: yes/no Anything else? (please provide info)	

Book Sales:

We will be engaging Gardners Books Ltd to supply publications for sale at the Festival. Please indicate the publication(s) you would like to have on sale. Please note due to space and time allocation it is not possible to provide a wide range of titles.

Book title	ISBN	Publisher

Travel

Travel	I will be travelling by car ☐ I will be travelling by train ☐ I would like to be met at Morpeth Railway station ☐ I will make my own way to the venue ☐
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Further information:

Refreshments and light buffet lunch will be available during the Festival. Please let us know of any dietary requirements and allergens:

Dietary Requirements	Allergens

Do you have any access requirements that you would like us to be aware of?

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Detailed information and directions to follow early in the New Year.

If you need to cancel your appearance, please do so as far in advance as possible by emailing the festival director at morpethbookfestival@gmdt.org

Signed..... (by or on behalf of author)

Name.....

Appendix B - Feedback

As well as verbal comments during the two days and following the festival we had 94 feedback forms returned.

How did you find out about the event? (Some selected more than one option)	Flyer/poster 20	Word of mouth 15	Email 7	Social media 22	Library 8	Website 20	Local press 3 <i>Inside Morpeth</i> 2 <i>Morpeth Herald</i>
What did you like about the event?	Some very positive comments were received about the quality of the speakers, 'very engaging speaker, 'fluent, amusing, inspiring speakers'; 'everything...it was superb'; 'hearing how [author's] ideas come together'						
Is there anything that could have been done better?	The main issue was the difficulty for some with hearing the speakers – handheld microphones were used – suggestion for lapel microphones to be used at future events. Better publicity about the event. Some found the library venue a bit noisy making it difficult to hear. Split venues – not easy for those who booked consecutive events as had to go between the library and town hall.						
Postcodes	Visitors from 24 post codes attended the event. NE post codes accounted for the majority of visitors – 84 with 48 of those from NE61 postcode. Other postcodes included DH3, SR7, TS26, BD22 & BD17						
Comments	Over all the feedback was positive with it being a very enjoyable event.						

Some comments: Fascinating subject; wonderful engaging speaker...I could have listened for another hour; My first one, made me want to read more of her books; Interviewer was good in managing the dialogue; maybe more publicity around the event on TV; sound system could be better; better publicity around the town; Mari was fab, Gerry was a great interviewer; Interesting story & delivery, animated author; good visuals; very informative, useful handouts, ample opportunity for questions and answers; real, accessible, confidence building; easy to book, good choice of local talks.

From our Patron, Mari Hannah:

'Before this week runs away from me, I just wanted to say congrats for getting Morpeth Book Festival up and running for 2024. It was lovely to see you all.

Everyone I spoke to at the festival seemed to be having a wonderful time. I know Gerry and I did. What an impressive chair he is - and it was great to have a full house. I hope the public feedback is good and you all have a little time to relax now that the festival is finally over'

Morpeth
Book Festival

Meet the wordsmiths to hear the stories they tell

MORPETH
BOOK
FESTIVAL

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 years 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 Daniel's book The Longest Goodbye has just been published this month.

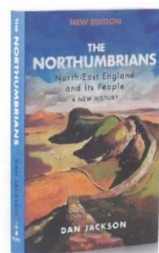
Former journalist, Edinburgh Fringe Festival Director, programme director and chairman of Scottish Television Alistair Moffat, knows all about book festivals because he was one of the founders of the hugely successful Borders Book Festival. A life-long Borderer born in Kelso where



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

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.

Marrise 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. Marrise 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 Hilt 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



Phaedra Patrick



M W Craven

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 website and <http://collingswood.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.

Alistair Moffatt pictured with his young Collingwood School interviewers



Pupils turn the tables on former top tv man!

Celebrated former journalist, television executive, book and cultural festival director turned author **Alistair Moffatt** found himself on the other end of the questions when he popped across the border to preview his appearance at next Spring's Morpeth Book Festival, writes **Ian Leech**.

His visit to the town was to record an interview with young students at Morpeth's Collingwood School and Media Arts College, and they have another lined up with local crime writer Marie Hannah who also happens to be the Patron of the Morpeth festival.

I also managed a chat with Alistair, who has enjoyed a stellar career as a writer, broadcaster, festivals' organiser and author. Born in Kelso he still lives in the Borders.

After graduating from St Andrews' University with an honour's degree in medieval history, Alistair launched on a career which would see him become the Director of Edinburgh's Fringe Festival, before joining Scottish television where he rose to become programme director and then STV chairman. After his television work he was one of the founders of the Borders Book Festival and the Lennoxlove Book Festival, and would later take on the role of Rector of the University.

Bearing in mind his vast experience of running and attending books festival, I wanted to talk with him about their importance to both authors and readers, as well as quizzing him on how the Morpeth festival can develop into a popular and well attended event.

Alistair is also a prolific author of more than 30 non-fiction books, many of which tell tales from his beloved Borders Country and indeed the history of the whole of Scotland, some of which have been adapted into television series and he will talk about his works when he comes to the 2024 Morpeth Book Festival.

As he told me: "Writing is a solitary business so festivals are a good way for authors to meet their readers and listen to them. Sessions should always include questions and answers and it is also good to meet other writers as well as journalists, agents, booksellers and people who come to the event."

"My advice to the organisers of the Morpeth event is – wherever possible – go

for the biggest and most famous names you can and build on that." When he was launching the festivals he was involved with, he did just that and managed to bring together a cast-list of such names as John Cleese, Germaine Greer, Sheila Hancock, Michael Palin and Joanne Lumley to credit a few.

"It is also important to remember that festivals are live and unrepeatable and there will be no other way to experience hearing and meeting the authors. The sessions are like parties and you need to go to them!"

"Younger people will also come to a festival event if it is starry enough, so it is always good to mix in show business if you can. But whatever you do, don't call it a literary festival because that will put people off."

Wise words from an experienced writer and broadcaster, who will be one of the 'Big Names' at the Morpeth Book Festival which will run over the weekend of March 23rd and 24th next year. The Festival will once again be organised by Greater Morpeth Development Trust in conjunction with Northumberland Library Service. Tickets will go on sale early next year and the Inside Morpeth February edition will publish the full programme of events.



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

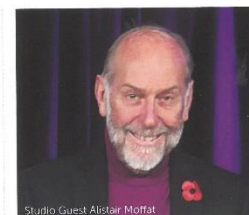
School and organisers join forces to promote Morpeth book festival

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 Cleveves 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 Moffatt, former journalist, university rector, Scottish Television executive, festival director and



Studio Guest Alistair Moffatt

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 Moffatt 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

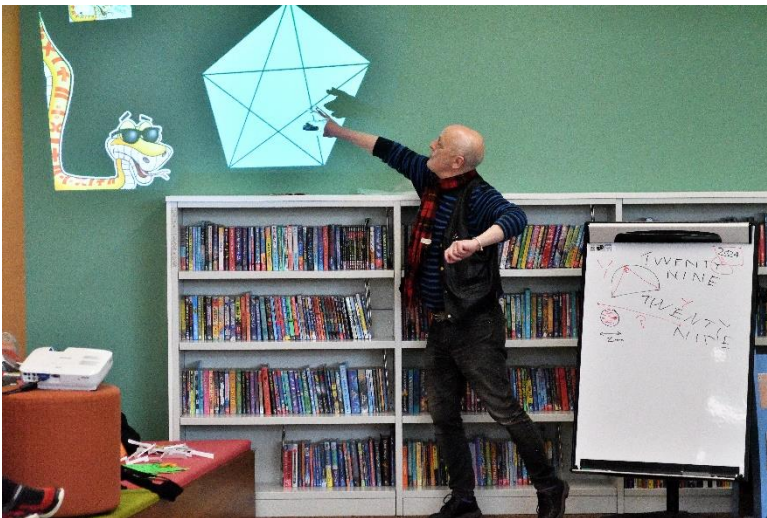
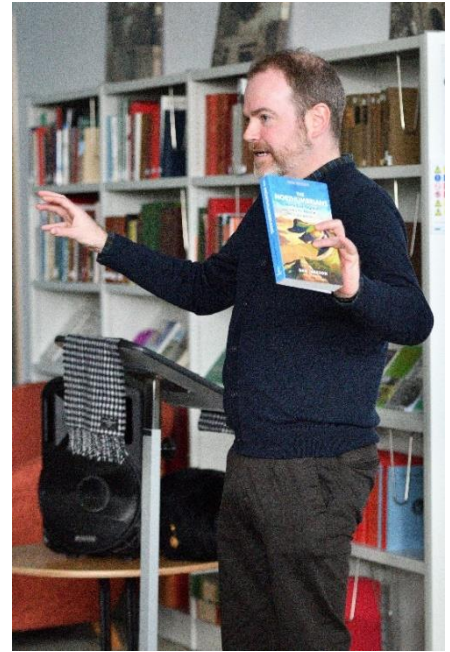
interview were 11-year-olds Lexie and Cameron and Josh who is 12. Supporting them behind the scenes were student operators of the cameras, sound and lighting equipment, and then the final edit before the video was uploaded along with Mari Hannah interview. As Lexie told me: "I was a little nervous but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

School Head Gillian Linklater 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 Moffatt 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 taken for us by Ethan, a former pupil who is now employed as a Media Apprentice at Collingwood School and Media Arts College.

Appendix D - a selection of event Images



From the top: Ashleigh Dale, Adventure Babies, Dan Jackson, Kjartan Poskitt, Bridget Gubbins, Mari Hannah and Katrina Porteous.

Images © John Thompson, Brian Morris, John Barnes, of Morpeth Camera Club



From the top: Jean Laurie & John Challis, Romi Jones, Meriel Schindler, M W Craven, Alistair Moffet, Stephen Hawley, Jo Lyons, Dan Jackson.

Images © Brian Morris, John Barnes, John Thompson, Morpeth Camera Club



Cover page

Venues

Morpeth Chantry
67a Bridge Street
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 1PQ
01670 623455

Morpeth Library
Gas House Lane
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 1SR
01670 620200

Programme 2024

**Morpeth Library
Saturday 23rd March**

Sports Hall	Time
Mari Hannah	10:30 - 11:30
Phaedra Patrick	12:15 - 13:15
M W Craven	13:45 - 14:45
Marrisse Whittaker	15:30 - 16:30

Research Library	Time
BIPC Northeast *	11:00 - 12:00
Bridget Gubbins	12:30 - 13:30
Jo Lyons	14:00 - 15:00
Sarah Elliott	15:30 - 16:30

Children's Area	Time
Adventure Babies	10:30 - 11:15
Lisette Auton	13:00 - 14:00
Kjartan Poskitt	14:30 - 15:30

Notes

- * BIPC Northeast are holding a How to Get Published workshop.
- * Inaudible as Dreams is poetry by New Delaval Writers.

**Morpeth Chantry
Saturday 23rd March**

The Chantry	Time
Illuminated Sheep	10:00 - 10:45
Carte Blanche	10:45 - 11:30
John Challis	11:30 - 12:30
Inaudible as Dreams *	12:30 - 13:30
Katrina Porteous	14:00 - 15:00
Carte Blanche	15:00 - 16:00

**Morpeth Library
Sunday 24th March**

Sports Hall	Time
Meriel Schindler	11:00 - 12:00
Alastair Moffat	12:30 - 13:30
Dan Jackson	14:00 - 15:00
Colin Youngman	15:30 - 16:30

Research Library	Time
Barbara Slade Writing for the Television Industry workshop	11:00 - 13:00

ILLUMINATED SHEEP
Poems from Northumberland Libraries 'Illuminated Sheep' Poetry Workshops are featured at The Chantry on Saturday 23rd of March at 10:00 am.

www.collingwood.link/morpeth-book-festival

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MORPETH BOOK FESTIVAL 2024

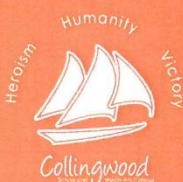


Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March
at Morpeth Leisure Centre, Library and Chantry

www.collingwood.link/morpeth-book-festival

Come along and join us at the Morpeth Book Festival
and hear from international, national and locally renowned
authors and poets talking about their writing, inspiration and
new projects.

Tickets available through TicketSource, Morpeth Chantry
and from the Greater Morpeth Development Trust.
www.ticketsource.co.uk/greater-morpeth-development-trust
Tel: 01670 503866



Greater Morpeth
Development Trust

Northumberland
County Council
Libraries



**Greater Morpeth
Development Trust**

Regeneration of town & countryside

www.gmdt.net

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