

# NOVEMBER CLUB

Previous Work 2017 - 2020

Artistic Director Cinzia Hardy

  
Northumberland  
County Council

  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Beyond the End of the Road**  
June 2017  
Northumberland

Image (c) The Image Farm

November Club creative team travelled the county, listening to local residents and collecting their stories and anecdotes to create this new site-specific musical exploring rural life. Working with seven villages and a cattle auction mart and taking their material as inspiration, **Beyond the End of the Road** returned to each village to perform through June 2017.

Our storytelling rabble weave their midsummer tale about the residents of their village **P L A C E**, their loves, their losses and their deepest secrets.

Inspired by folk and traditional music, performed by a professional cast of 10 actors and musicians, with special appearances from local talent at each venue.

## Cast

Narrator (takes on many guises) - Peter Peverley  
Grace Lockart - Jane Holman  
Alec Lockart - Micky Cochrane  
Bobby Lockart - Michael Blair  
Thomas Lockart - Lawrence Neale  
  
Evie Clark - Alice Blundell  
Sula Clark - Christina Berriman-Dawson  
Musicians - Katie Doherty, Shona Mooney, Dave Gray and  
Rachael McShane  
Ceilidh Callers - Alistair Anderson and David Oliver

Produced by November Club in collaboration with  
Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Music and Lyrics by Katie Doherty

Written by Laura Lindow  
Directed by Cinzia Hardy  
Designed by Imogen Cloët  
Participation Producer Sarah Hudson  
Photography The Image Farm, Imogen Cloët.



**Provocations and Revelations!  
9 June 2018  
National Trust Wallington**

Image (c) The Image Farm

**November Club were commissioned by National Trust, Wallington to create a series of pop up theatre performances across the house and grounds in June 2018.**

**The purpose; to mark the 50th anniversary of Sir Charles Phillips Trevelyan gifting the entire Wallington Estate to the National Trust. In 1936 this caused quite a stir, as he was one of the very first to bequeath an entire country house estate to the Trust. His generous gift resulted in numerous press articles about the scandal and this coverage formed the inspiration for the piece.**

**In June 2018, a group of timeless journalists descended on Wallington, each with their own angles and in search of details to write their special features. During three weekends in June, visitors to Wallington encountered the journalists both in the Hall and around the grounds. They also had the opportunity to visit the Press Station to review the original articles from the 1930s.**

**November Club created a series of playlets would take place around the grounds and in the Hall. Each lasting around 5 minutes the pop up performances took place throughout the day, with a musical finale in the Central Hall at the end of the day.**

**Written by Fiona Ellis | Directed by Cinzia Hardy | Designed by Imogen Cloët | Musical arrangements by Phil Corbitt and the ensemble**

**Cast: Jane Holman | Laura Rea | Pete Peverley | Calum Howard | Phil Corbitt | Zoe Lambert.**

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**The Imaginary Museum of the North**  
**23 June 2018**  
**Lit & Phil Newcastle**

Image (c) The Image Farm

**The Imaginary Museum of the North was a collaboration between the Lit & Phil, November Club, Museums Northumberland and Newcastle Bridges School.**

**The exhibition ran for three months as part of the Inspired By programme for Great Exhibition of the North. It celebrated Newcastle's first Museum which was in the Lit & Phil. The Lit & Phil was established 225 years ago and soon became the place to send interesting artefacts from all over the world. The collection continued to expand, first into the Newcastle Museum, purpose built behind the Lit & Phil, and in 1884 into what we now know as The Great North Museum: Hancock.**

**It's hard to imagine how exciting this must have been for the people of the North East; seeing objects that they may never have heard of before. Visitors to the Lit & Phil could follow a trail and discover the stories behind the Museum's weird and wonderful objects, from a giant octopus, some cloth used to wrap a Mummy, to burnt toast!**



**Beyond the End of the Road (2018 tour)**  
**14 July 2018**  
**County Durham**

Image (c) Barry Pells

**In July 2018 November Club collaborated with County Durham's Northern Heartlands project to take Beyond the End of the Road to rural venues in Teesdale and Weardale including Binchester, Evenwood, Stanhope, Crook, Mickleton and Barnard Castle. The tour culminated in a return to Hexham Auction Mart.**

**Set in a remote imaginary village called PLACE, our cast of 10 actors and musicians told a story infused with anecdotes and memories gathered from rural communities in Northumberland, creating a unique musical exploring rural life.**





**The Remarkable Doctor McCavity  
and his Travelling Surgery  
21 July 2018  
Morpeth**

Image (c) Jason Thompson

Dr McCavity, November Club's very own Quack Dentist, made his way through the streets of Morpeth with his remarkable mobile surgery. Accompanied by his glamorous assistant Ginger Vitis, Dr McCavity takes us back to the nineteenth century when quackery of all kinds was commonplace.

Audiences experienced his tooth-drawing skills, whilst he regales you with details from his travels across North East England. If you're fortunate you'll be given a very special prescription, in rhyme, to mark the 50th birthday of the Northern Poetry Library.

Written by Fiona Ellis | Directed by Cinzia Hardy | Designed by Imogen Cloet

Part of Great Northumberland 2018 - 56 days of free arts, culture and heritage events in Northumberland. Supported by Northumberland County Council.



**Gifted to a Grateful Nation?  
5 October 2018  
Newcastle University**

Image (c) Cinzia Hardy

Wallington was the Northumberland home of Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan and the first estate of its scale to be given to the National Trust. The gift of this 13,000 acre estate was made back in 1941 on the understanding that Sir Charles and his family could continue to live here – this proved to be a challenging arrangement for all concerned! The property was eventually opened to visitors in April 1968.

In collaboration with Newcastle University, National Trust Wallington and November Club, this event celebrated and challenged Sir Charles' vision. The first part of the evening took the form of a short performance by Cliff Burnett and Matt Jamie, capturing a moment in time when Sir Charles came to Newcastle to make his announcement on the BBC.

**Credits: Artistic Direction by Cinzia Hardy | Written by Fiona Ellis | Costumes Designed by Imogen Cloet**

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**GeNERosity Festival 2018  
7 November 2018**

Image (c) Cinzia Hardy

**November Club talked to groups of young people to produce something new and exciting for the GeNERosity Festival, a festival of philanthropy and giving.**

**The performance captured the voice of young people from Barnabus Safe and Sound Youth Groups, Northbourne Youth Initiative and Hirst Welfare Youth Group.**

**Working alongside theatre practitioners Jane Holman, Calum Howard and Laura Rea, students from Longbenton High School delivered a playful and inspiring pop-up performance at a number of the events during the festival.**

**Lyrics by Fiona Ellis. Original music performed by Katie Doherty.**

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**Foods and Feuds: Two Cooks of Hexham**  
**21 – 23 May 2019**  
**Queens Hall Arts Hexham**

Image (c) Becky Madeley

The writer Fiona Ellis was commissioned to research the life of Hannah Glasse, including her cookery books and the Allgood letters housed at the Woodhorn Archives.

Few people have heard of Hannah Glasse, the 18th century author of the best-selling cookbook of all time. *The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy*, 1747, ran to 33 editions and was treasured across continents. We wanted to celebrate this little-known author and her Hexham connections. The book was reprinted within its first year of publication, appeared in 20 editions in the 18th century, and continued to be published until 1846.

Using a timeless approach we created a show that imagined a gathering of Glasse, Ann Cooke (her sworn enemy and rival) and Isabella Beeton, in a kitchen, to cook a meal whilst talking about their hopes and dreams from conflict to sisterhood. We explored this little-remembered author and her Hexham connections. Through the metaphor of food and cooking, the characters explored class differences and a woman's place in the society of their time, their struggles and challenges as well as their personal rivalries and jealousies.

Four performances took place in the café at Hexham's Queen's Hall and the cookery school at Blackfriars restaurant allowing us to experiment with delivering the shows in unexpected places.

**Credits:**

**Writer - Fiona Ellis**

**Director - Cinzia Hardy**

**Designer - Imogen Cloët**

**Food Historian Ivan Day acted as an advisor**

**Cast:**

**Hannah Glasse - Judi Earl**

**Ann Cook - Jackie Phillips**

**Isabella Beeton - Kathryn Beaumont**

Presented in association with Queen's Hall Arts, Hexham and Blackfriars Restaurant, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Supported by: Arts Council England | Northumberland County Council | The Leche Trust | The Catherine Cookson Trust.



**A Night of New Fairytales for Northumberland**  
**18 – 20 October 2019**  
**Blyth and Lanehead**

Image (c) Jason Thompson

**A new collection of local stories inspired by traditional fairytales.**

**We invited families across Northumberland to join us for an exclusive showcase of A Night of New Fairytales for Northumberland. We asked audiences to sit back and experience the magic of our county, its people and challenges brought to life through puppetry and performance, music and wonder.**

**Inspired by traditional fairytales we created three new stories drawing on the rich heritage, landscape and tradition of Northumberland. The stories were How Kielder Forest Came To Be, Kindness to Strangers and Why is the Coast so Craggy?**

**We worked with actors, musicians, traditional dancers and puppeteers to develop the fairytales.**

**Credits:**

**Co Artistic Director - Cinzia Hardy**  
**Co Artistic Director and Artist - Hannah Fox**  
**Writer - Fiona Ellis**

**Supported by:**

**Northumberland County Council**  
**Arts Council England**  
**Northumberland National Park Authority**

**Cast:**

**Zoe Lambert**  
**Jane Holman**  
**Pete Peverley**  
**Lawrence Neale**  
**Elijah Young**  
**Khalil Abdulrahman**

**Additional artists involved in planning work:**

**Laura Connelly**  
**Shane Connelly**  
**Laura Rea**  
**Joe Fleming**

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**A Lit And Phil Carol  
(with a nod to Mr Dickens)  
A tale told by November Club  
7 – 8 December 2019  
Lit and Phil, Newcastle**

Image (c) Jason Thompson

**The Lit & Phil's Head Librarian, Ebenezer Compendium, wants to sell all the books in the library. He just wants to make money. Only science and rational thinking exist in his world. What use is imagination and creativity anyway? His two assistants, George and Frank, are very worried for the future of the library and do everything they can to stop him...but can they convince Compendium to change his mind?**

**Inspired by the themes of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol, Frank and George call upon the Ghost of Christmas Past and the Ghost of Past Libraries to try to convince Compendium of the error of his choices. They are ably assisted by two characters from Compendium's past: the love of his life, Lavender Parenthesis and arch rival, Sir Casper Grasper.**

**This was a family-friendly production - produced in partnership with the Lit & Phil - that used to full effect the atmosphere of the Lit & Phil library on a cold and dark December day.**

**Credits:**

**Writer - Fiona Ellis  
Director - Cinzia Hardy  
Designer - Imogen Cloët  
Image and paper sculpture - Bethan Maddocks  
BSL Interpreter - Jenna Johnson  
Production Volunteer - Helen Nesbitt**

**Cast:**

**Narrator - Alice Byrne  
Georgina Plumpton (known as George) - Zoe Lambert  
Frank Purslane - Jake Jarratt  
Ebenezer Compendium - Matt Jamie  
Lavender Parenthesis - Clare Forsythe  
The Ghost of the Lost Libraries - Grace Kirby  
Sir Casper Grasper - Chris Gotts**

**Supported by:**

**Arts Council England, the Foyle Foundation, Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation, Newcastle College**



**Lost Found and Told:  
New Audio Tales for Northumberland  
November 2020**



Image (c) Cinzia Hardy

**Lost Found and Told is a collection of seven original short stories written by Fiona Ellis, set in the border county of Northumberland in North East England.**

**With original music and traditional tunes woven throughout, they are tales of losing and finding, of courage - the false and the true kinds, of love and kindness in unexpected places, and of the strength and resilience of Northumberland.**

**Lost, Found and Told is inspired by traditional fairy tales and draws on the rich heritage and landscape of Northumberland. Suitable for ages 8+. Originally conceived as a live performance, Covid-19 restrictions has transformed it into an audio production.**

**You can purchase your copy of Lost Found and Told on Bandcamp for a RRP of £10**

**Writer: Fiona Ellis  
Composer: Katie Doherty  
Director: Cinzia Hardy  
Sound Designer: Matthew Tuckey  
Assistant Sound Designer: Corrie Livesey  
Production Manager: Simon Henderson  
Graphics: Hannah Fox**

**Narrators: Janine Birkett, Phil Corbitt, Zoe Lambert, Jane Wade**

**A special thanks to Adam Forster (The Old Church Studio, Thropton) and Amanda Drago (Green Croft on the Wall) for their help during the recording process.**

**Music:  
Jane Wade sings She is  
Ella Smith sings The Boy in the Tower  
Khalil Abdulrahman (Tambur in Kindness to Strangers )  
Lawrence Neale (Drums and Bodhran in Kindness to Strangers)  
Andy May (Northumbrian Pipes in She is)**

**Recorded at The Old Church Studio, Thropton**

**She is and The Boy in the Tower: Original songs composed by Katie Doherty  
PRS/MCPS and supported by the PRS Foundation's The Open Fund for Organisations**

**Greenland Whale Fishery Trad. Arr. By The Company  
Felton Lonnen Trad. Arr. By The Company  
The Collier's Rant Trad. Arr. By The Company  
Traditional Kurdish melodies arranged by Khalil Abdulrahman**