



Activity 1 Matchbox Memories

For Northumberland Day 2019, we are running 'Matchbox Memories' - an initiative with which we would like to get schools involved.

We are inviting schoolchildren to write their favourite memory of Northumberland, so far in their lives, on a plain white matchbox. Alternatively, they could write it on a piece of paper and a teacher could then write on the boxes, as these are quite small.

Another option is for children to take a matchbox home and collect a matchbox memory from a parent, or elderly family member. In this way, they can take part in an oral history exercise.

We then wish to collect the memory boxes and put as many as possible on display.

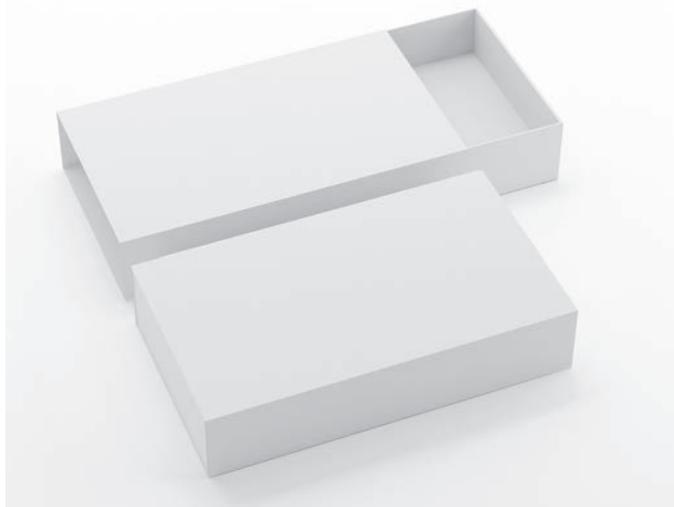
The children can add their name, or the name of the person who has given them their special memory, if they wish.

We have a limited number of matchbox memory boxes available, but they can be bought at Amazon, if needs be. We could also possibly partner a school with a local sponsor, if we can find one for you.

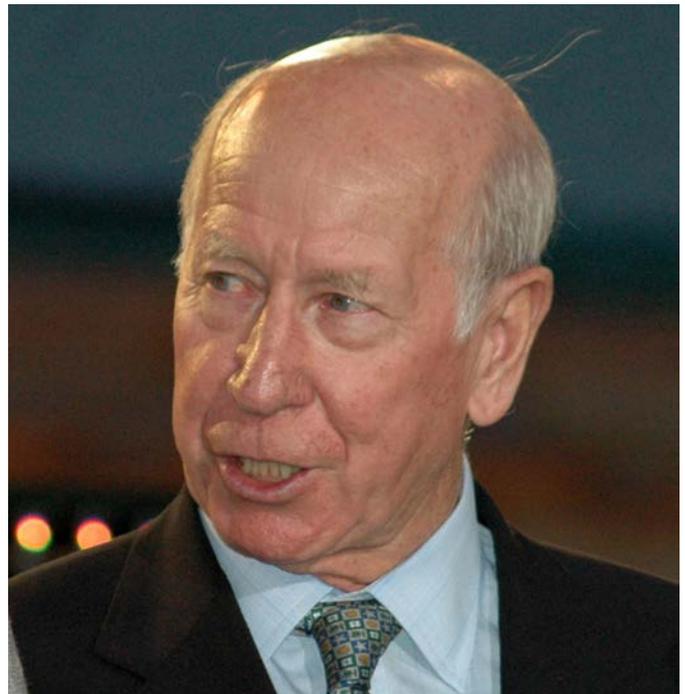
We'd love to have pictures of children working on their matchbox memories, or all holding one aloft for a photo.

We will try to arrange for certain collection points, if you take part.

This is a very special way to being generations together and find out what people have found special about Northumberland, past and present. We hope you have fun with it.



Activity 2 A Living Northumbrian Legend – Sir Bobby Charlton



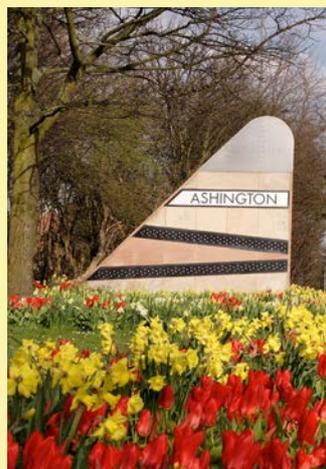
One of the most famous Northumbrians alive today is a footballing legend and one of the few Englishmen to have won the World Cup football trophy. This is Sir Bobby Charlton, who was born in Ashington on October 11, 1937 and who signed for the club with which he will forever be associated – Manchester United – on New Year's Day 1953, when aged just 15.

Bobby came from a footballing family. His brother Jack is another World Cup winner, who played for Leeds United and in the same England team as his brother in 1966, when England lifted the Jules Rimet trophy, as the World Cup was then known. Bobby and Jack's mother was also sister to four English soccer players and the cousin of Jackie Milburn, who played for Newcastle United in the 1940s and 1950s. It was his mother's passion for football that drove Bobby on.

Bobby became one of Manchester United's famous 'Busby Babes' – young players managed by Sir Matt Busby. He made his debut for the club in October 1956, but nobody knew what lay ahead.

Activity 2

Sir Bobby Charlton... continued



In February 1958, the Manchester United team, and manager Sir Matt Busby, travelled to Belgrade, to play in the European Cup's semi-finals. On February 6, the plane bringing the team home had to land in Munich to take on board more fuel. It was snowing, which left slippery slush on the runway. The plane tried to take off twice and failed. As it tried a third time, it crashed into a fence, slid across a frozen field and burst into flames, killing 21 of those on board, including eight talented players.

Bobby was nearly killed, but saved by his teammate, goalkeeper Harry Gregg, who at first thought him dead, but pulled him, and another player, 20 yards away from the burning plane. Harry was a true hero, bringing several players out of the plane and wreckage, as flames spread everywhere in what was a real-life horror scene. Harry also found his manager in a field and propped him up with some of the debris.

After their recovery, Sir Matt Busby rebuilt his team around young Bobby. At the age of 20, Charlton got his first England cap when playing against Scotland. He even scored a goal. He went to the World Cups in 1958 and 1962.

At the World Cup in 1966, he played in every game and went on to be named the European Footballer of the Year. In 1968, he and his Manchester United team won the European Cup. Then, in 1970, he became the first English player in history to play in four World Cup tournaments. In total, he won 106 international caps.

Bobby retired from playing in 1973. In 1994, he was knighted and in 2008 he was honoured when he was announced as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards' "Lifetime Achievement Award" winner. He has a stand named after him at Manchester United's ground, Old Trafford.



Activities based on this story

1. Reading the story again and thinking about a few things as you do, see if you can answer these questions.
 - a) Bobby is often not the name that men are given at birth, but an abbreviation of another name. Do you know what that is?
 - b) Bobby was born on New Year's Day, but what date is that?
 - c) On what date did Bobby play his first game for Manchester United?
 - d) If 21 people died and 8 of these were players, how many of those who died were not players?
 - e) Read carefully. What was the name of the person that Harry Gregg propped up in the field?
 - f) How many times did the plane try to take off?
 - g) In which year did Bobby stop playing for Manchester United?
 - h) Can you name two cups or awards that Bobby has won?
 - i) How old is Bobby now?
2. Two European cities are mentioned in the story. Can you work with your teacher and find out about Munich and Belgrade? Where are these cities? Of which country is Belgrade the capital?
3. What does it mean to "win a cap"? When did this tradition start? Can you find out how many caps David Beckham, Alan Shearer, Wayne Rooney and Stephen Gerrard won? If you add all these caps together, what is the total number of caps?
4. What does it mean when it says that Bobby was "knighted"? How did his name change as a result? Can you make a list of other knights that you know, both living and from the past?
5. How do you think Harry Gregg felt when the plane crashed and he found himself the only person able to rescue those who were still alive? Describe all of the feelings you think he experienced. How would you have reacted?
6. Bobby went to World Cups in 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970, but where were these held? Can you find out something about the foreign countries in which the finals were held?
7. Can you design a newspaper headline and short news story about one of the following:
 1. Bobby Charlton signing for Manchester United
 2. The tragedy of the Munich crash

Activity 3

Northumbrian Myths and Legends

Northumberland is a county rich in myths and legend, but how much do your pupils know about them? We are rounding up some of the county's most famous myths and legends, so that you can perhaps base some activities around them, such as:

- **Art** – drawings, paintings, modelling or collage perhaps, bringing one of the myths to life
- **Geography** – learning about the places in which the myths or legends are based
- **Creative writing** – how would you feel if ...? What happened next? A haiku about a myth, perhaps?
- **History** – why might people in the past have thought this?
- **Theorising** – What other explanations could there be for these occurrences?



So here we go, on a jaunt through the county's myths and legends.

The Brown Man of the Muirs

The Brown Man of the Muirs was a brown-coloured dwarf with bright red hair and a ferocious looking face, who ate only whortle-berries or nuts. He lived near Elsdon and guarded the moorlands and their creatures. One story tells of two young men, hunting and killing animals on the moors. They stopped by a stream, where one went for water. Suddenly, he saw the Brown Man, coloured like the moorland bracken and exceedingly angry. His eyes were popping out, as if on stalks, and he raged about the creatures killed. He asked the man if he knew who he was and the man replied, "Lord of the Moors". The Brown Man spoke of his anger at losing his animals and explained how he himself only ate berries and nuts. The hunter offered him the dead animals as food, making the Brown Man even angrier. The Brown Man tried to lure the hunter home to kill him, but his friend stepped in and the dwarf disappeared. However, the Brown Man got his revenge. The hunter died within a year.

The Lady Worm (origin 1270: published 1778)

The Lady Worm (or Laidley Worm of Spindleston Heugh) was a beautiful princess called Margaret, turned into a dragon by the jealous Queen of Bamburgh, her evil witch of a stepmother. The spell she put

on Margaret said she would only become human again, if her brother kissed the dragon three times. The dragon left Bamburgh to live in a cave near the Spindleston – a stone standing out from a crag in Easington parish – where she terrorised Bamburgh and Budle Bay. Margaret's brother, Childe Wynd, had sailed to Norway, but returned home, to kill the dragon. The dragon met Childe Wynd's boat at Budle Bay and urged the prince not to fight it, but instead deliver kisses, to break the spell. Nervously, the prince did as the dragon asked. Suddenly, Margaret turned back into a princess. Childe Wynd then turned his stepmother into a toad, before becoming King himself.

Hobthrushes

Hobthrushes were helpful little spirits, who loved to help Northumbrian farmers. They often did all the horrible jobs nobody else wanted and worked very hard. The Hobthrush of Elsdon Moat, wore a tattered hat and loved tackling all the drudgery on the farm. The thing about Hobthrushes was that they expected no payment for their work and, if a gift were left as a 'thank you', would vanish forever. When a farmer wanted the Hobthrush of Elsdon Moat to move on, they left a new hat for him and his visits would end.

Activity 3

Northumbrian Myths and Legends ...continued



Bargyests

Bargyests (gyests and ghests), and the Duergers of Simonside, were truly evil creatures, taking pleasure in frightening travellers and leading them to somewhere dangerous, such as a marshy bog or cliff face. Bargyests could turn themselves into other creatures like horses, huge dogs, pigs and even haystacks! They were found in the Cheviots' hills – a dangerous place for those travelling centuries ago.

Changelings

Changelings were troll or elf babies, swapped for human babies because trolls believed humans made better parents. Sometimes, older elves, wanting good care, would become the changeling themselves. Parents feared changelings, so would have their baby baptised swiftly, and ward off evil spirits, by putting garlic or iron in their cot or cradle, or even hanging scissors above it, believing the spirits allergic to iron. Changelings did not grow like human babies and were often ugly. When a parent suspected they had a changeling, they would place the cradle by a fire, to try to force it up the chimney and get their own child back.

Fairies

Fairies were believed to live in many places, including Whitton Dean in the forest of Rothbury, Old Fawdon Hill, Netherwitton and Wooler. Their diet was said to be porridge and their final resting place believed to be Brinkburn Priory.

Fairies supposedly played sweet music in the Cheviots, to lure unsuspecting hunters and trap them. One story, from 1835, says hunters and hounds were chasing a roe deer, when they heard enchanting music coming from Hen Hole, a chasm so devoid of sunlight that an unmelted snow egg is often seen at midsummer. The hunters let the notes lure them into the hollow, where they and their hounds were put under a sleep charm. They are said to be there, to this day, in this hard-to-reach place. Legend has it they will only be reawakened if someone as brave as Northumberland's 'Sir Harry Hotspur' blows a hunting horn.

The Shilbottle Bluecap (Blue Bonnet) and Cutty Soams

Northumbrian miners believed there were goblins living in their mines. One of the most spiteful was Cutty Soams, named because he liked to cut the ropes (soams) used to carry men up and down the mine. Some believed him to be the ghost of a man killed in the mines.

Bluecap was a spirit. A light blue flame would often appear whilst the miners were working, flickering and flitting around the mine until it settled on a tub of coal and moved it along. To keep this spirit happy, the miners left wages for Bluecap, every fortnight.

Activity 4

Bees and Northumbrian Honey!



Have you ever been to Lindisfarne – or Holy Island, as it is also known?

If so, you may know that Saint Aidan founded a monastery there, around 634 AD. But did you know that the monks who lived there thought it important to drink something called mead, so they could fortify their soul?

Mead is still drunk today, centuries later, all thanks to the honey bees you can see in gardens and fields around Northumberland, as mead is made from honey. It is not the only thing. Even soap, lip balm and mustard can be made from honey, or honey and beeswax together.

As Northumberland Day has amazing awards called the Northumbries, we thought it time to get a buzz from 'Northumbees', especially as many bees are dying and we must protect them.

If it weren't for bees, many of our plants and flowers would not grow and we would not have many types of food. That is because bees 'pollinate' flowers, moving pollen grains between the male and female parts of the flower or plant, to allow them to produce seeds. Without these seeds, the plant could not continue to live. Do you know about pollination?

There are two honey farms in Northumberland - the Northumberland Honey farm, Haltwhistle and the Chain Bridge Honey Farm, Berwick. But how do bees make honey?

Colony

Honeybees live in a colony – a large group with three types of honeybee – female worker bees, male drones and one queen bee. The drones mate with the queen, to keep producing new baby bees. In the autumn, however, the females drive the male drones out of the hive. The queen does not leave the hive at all and, in spring and summer, the only bees around the hive will be female workers.

Worker Bees

The female worker bees are the ones who go out to collect pollen and nectar. They fly miles each day, seeking out the best plants and flowers and carry the nectar they gather in a special pollen pouch in their stomach. This part of the bee's stomach has a special enzyme that mixes with the nectar. When she gets back to her colony, the worker bee transfers nectar from her tongue to another worker bee's tongues. The liquid in the nectar evaporates and turns into honey.

Worker bees only live for 5-6 weeks and spend 10-20 days of their short lifetime collecting nectar. This is used to feed the hive, but the bees make 2-3 times more than they need, which is why beekeepers can take some honey out of a hive, for us to eat and enjoy.

Honeycombs

Worker bees turn the sugary part of honey into tiny bits of wax, which they then chew until it is soft and able to be shaped and bent. They bring lots of pieces of wax together, to create a honeycomb that is made up of hexagonal (seven-sided) cells.

Nectar, honey and pollen are stored in the honeycomb.

Interesting Facts

- Bees fly at a speed of around 25km per hour
- When they fly, bees beat their wings at a rate of around 200 beats per second
- Worker bees perform a dance when they get back to the hive with their nectar. This dance helps tell the other bees where she found a great source of food
- Only female bees can sting you
- Colonies/hives can contain thousands of bees – up to about 80,000 in fact, in summertime
- Bees love lavender, but also like to gather nectar from springtime bluebells
- Bees have a fantastic sense of smell, which allows them to identify different types of flowers from which they love to collect nectar
- If an old queen bee dies, a newly hatched female baby is fed with what is called royal jelly, so that it can grow into a new queen

If you want to find out more about bees, why not pay a visit to a bee farm? More details can be found here:

www.northumberlandhoney.co.uk
www.chainbridgehoney.com

COMPETITION 1

Can you draw or paint us a honey bee that celebrates Northumberland because she is red and yellow, or just loves red and yellow flowers, or even does something unusual such as wearing a red and yellow scarf?

Send us your very best Northumbees pictures to: Northumberland Day Office, Metro House, 14-17 Metropolitan Business Park, Preston New Road, Blackpool, FY3 9LT

We will pick a winner who will win a voucher worth £30. Alternatively, email the best entries to: 2019@northumberlandday.co.uk by the closing date of June 1, 2019.

Win A
Voucher
worth £30

Activity 5

Northumberland Place Names



Do you know what some of Northumberland's place names actually mean? Take a look at the ten we have here and then see if you can discover what your village's name means, if it is not on the list.

Ashington

In 1205, Ashington was called Essendun, which came from Old English and meant 'the valley of ash trees'.

Blyth

Blyth takes its name from the River Blyth, which means 'the gentle one'. The town was known as Blida back in 1130.

Cramlington

Did you know tuna was once to be found in Cramlington? Well, in the place name at least, as it was known as Cramlingtuna in the 12th century. Its name meant 'the farmstead of people living by the stream of herons/cranes'.

Haydon Bridge

Back in the 13th century, Haydon Bridge was just known as Hayden, which meant that it was a valley of haymakers.

Hexham

In 685, this town was known as Hagustaldes – the 'homestead of the warrior'.

Langley

This name comes from lang leah, which meant 'a long woodland clearing'.

Longhorsley

'Long' was only added to this name after many centuries of it just being known as hors leah. This meant 'the clearing in the woods where horses are kept'.

Morpeth

This is a little sinister, as Morpeth comes from morth paeth – a site where a murder took place.

Warkworth

In the 11th century, there are records of a place named Werceworthe. This means that it was the enclosure of a Saxon man called Weoca.

Wylam

In the 12th century, this was a place called Wylum – the place of the fish traps!

There is a fascinating and in-depth book by Anthony Poulton-Smith, which details many place names, district names and even street names around Northumberland and the origins of those names. The book is called 'Northumberland Place Names'.



Competition 2

We are delighted to have teamed up with Ancient Britain (formerly Wild Dog Outdoors), to offer a prize of a school visit by Ancient Britain's superb historical interpreter and early-Briton knowledge bank, Kevin Robson.

The prize will see Kevin coming to your school, to either work with one class on a couple of sessions, or a few classes running the same session.

Kevin focuses on four different types of early Briton – the Palaeolithic Hunter-Gatherer, the Neolithic Farmer, the Iron Age Warrior and the Roman Soldier. Depending what you choose, your pupils could be indulging in cave art, hunting techniques and fire by friction. They could be making clay beakers, or grinding wheat using a quern stone. Designing their own Celtic or Roman shield could keep them occupied, or maybe a shield drill will use up a bit of energy.

This is a super prize, worth £200, so do NOT miss out on the opportunity to enter. To do that, head to www.ancientbritain.org 'and then the schools page' and find the answer to this question:

From which tribe does Venutius come?

Email your answer, along with your name, your school's name, email address and telephone number, to:

2019@northumberlandday.co.uk

The competition will close on June 1, 2019, so do not delay!



Northumbrie Awards



Our very special Northumbrie Awards, designed by glass artist, Helen Grierson, are much-loved trophies amongst our winners. One of our categories is the Jill Bradbury Award for the Most Passionate School and it goes to a school that throws itself into Northumberland Day and teaches children about their county, in a dynamic and special way.

Our very first winner was Newsham Primary in Blyth. In 2018, it was Allendale Primary. Could it be your school this year? Head to www.northumberlandday.co.uk to find out more, or email 2019@northumberlandday.co.uk You can also visit our Facebook page to see what's happening right now.

