



1913 *Emily* 2013

**INSPIRES!**

HER PAST, OUR PRESENT, YOUR FUTURE





## Northumberland to remember

*2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison who was fatally injured when she stepped on to the track during the 1913 Epsom Derby and fell under the flying hooves of King George V's horse Anmer. Although born in Greenwich in 1872 to parents Charles and Margaret Caisley Davison, Emily considered herself a 'daughter' of Northumberland.*

It was after joining the Women's Social and Political Union in 1906 that Emily was drawn to the increasingly active fight for women's rights and within a year had given up her teaching job to devote more time to campaigning. Prison sentences, hunger strikes and force-feeding followed arrest after arrest and her increasingly militant actions drew attention to her extreme militancy but no change of policy within the Government.

By June 1913 Emily's plans to commit one outrageous act to gain maximum publicity for the movement came to a head at the Derby that year when she slipped under the rails and into the path of on-rushing field. She was thought to be trying to grab Anmer's bridle to pin on the suffragette colours but was hit by the horse and

received serious injuries from which she died four days later.

Her funeral procession drew huge crowds both in London and back 'home' in Morpeth as the procession made its way from the railway station to St Mary's Church for her burial service. In 2008 Greater Morpeth Development Trust secured a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to restore Emily's grave and monument.

In this Centennial year of her death Emily has inspired a programme of events to mark the anniversary such as the premier of a new play by Kate Willoughby, a Creative Writing competition, book launches, plaque unveilings locally and at Epsom and a full weekend of activities in Morpeth including a commemorative



procession from the town railway station to St Mary's Churchyard.

During 2013 there will be a number of key Emily Inspires! events (see back cover for dates) as well as other highlights including:

- The publication of a book by local genealogist Maureen Howes, written in collaboration with members of Emily's family and containing many treasured photographs never previously published
- The publication of a book 'In the Thick of the Fight' by American author and researcher Carolyn Collette which is a collation of, analysis and editing of Emily's extensive writings
- Exhibitions including one by Morpeth Antiquarians featuring the loaning to Morpeth by its owner Barbara Gorna of the scarf worn by Emily on the fateful day at Epsom. The scarf is generally on permanent display at the Place of Westminster
- A bed of summer flowers in Morpeth's Carlisle Park planted in suffragette colours
- A cycle ride by 100 women and girls from Emily's home at Longhorsley into Morpeth to commemorate her passion for riding her bicycle.

# Emily Inspires! 2013 Main Events

## International Women's Day Friday 8 March

Annual service at St Mary's Church Morpeth followed by laying of flowers at Emily's grave.

Service begins at 12 Noon.

All welcome to attend.

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## Creative Writing Competition Launched 11 March

National and local writing competitions inviting a diary entry in prose or poetry reflecting on how issues of equality have affected the lives of everyday people. Winning entries will be read during the Centennial Weekend in June.

Details from [listenupnorth.com](http://listenupnorth.com) and Northumberland libraries

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## Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Friday 5 - Sunday 6 April

Emily Inspires! will be the central theme of this year's annual Gathering notably the event's procession through Morpeth. There will also be A Women in Song concert featuring the award-winning Werca's Folk choir, suffragette Morris Dancing, exhibition and lecture by Sheila Hanlon, curator of the 2012 Women's Library exhibition. [www.northumbriana.org.uk](http://www.northumbriana.org.uk)

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## Morpeth Town Fayre Sunday 9 June

Annual family fun day out in Morpeth with this year an Emily exhibition including the display of a scarf she wore to the Epsom Derby that is now on permanent loan from its owner to the House of Commons. Full details from organisers Morpeth Chamber of Trade ???

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## Centennial Weekend Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 June

Four Emily Inspires! days beginning with a Werca's Folk Concert, the premier of the play To Freedom's Cause by Kate Willoughby, commemorative cycle procession from Longhorsley into Morpeth, church service and procession to her grave.

Updated details can be found on the website ???

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**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

**Greater Morpeth  
Development Trust**  
Regeneration of town & countryside  
[www.gmdt.co.uk](http://www.gmdt.co.uk)



**Morpeth  
Town  
Council**

\* Emily Inspires! has been devised to commemorate the Centennial of her death by a Working Group of local organisations and individuals supported by Northumberland County Council, Greater Morpeth Development Trust and Morpeth Town Council