

THE HOPPINGS NAME

THE HOPPINGS, which has been known over the years as the *North of England Temperance Festival*, the *Town Moor Fair*, and the *Race Week Festival*, takes its name from an old word meaning 'to dance', however it was not until the 1950s that the Hoppings became the universally recognised title of this Tyneside institution.



Some have suggested that the origins lie with the lice-covered clothing worn by travellers (the itching made you hop or jump), but this is known to be very much untrue, particularly as showpeople are renowned for their unique and exquisite dress sense, even in the old days, as vintage photographs are testament to.

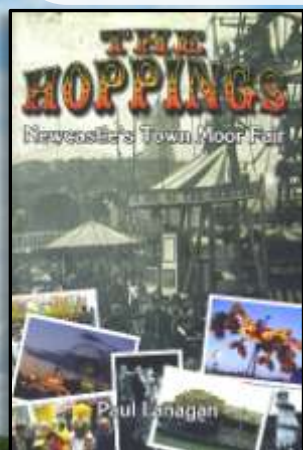


In 2007, I discussed with Albert Austin, who was the then Hoppings Surveyor and former Fairground Manager, whether the word 'HOPPINGS' was singular or plural. For example:

The Hoppings were very successful in 1951.

The Hoppings was blighted with inclement weather at the 100th anniversary in 1982.

We agreed that as the word refers to a single event and therefore must be singular, however the word is still often used as a plural. It should be noted that it is not unique to the Town Moor event; other fairs in the area, including the Big Market and Swalwell, have been known as the Hoppings.



FIND OUT MORE IN THIS NEW BOOK!

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