

Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee



Continuing Northumberland's Traditions

A Standing Committee of Morpeth Antiquarian Society

Registered Charity No. 507640

www.northumbriana.org.uk

A member of the Association of Independent Festivals

Treasurer: Mrs S. Hine, 74 Church Walk, Morpeth. NE61 2LX

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APPEAL FOR PATRONS

PLEASE support us - help fund the 57th Gathering 25th to 27th April 2025

Can you help us to keep the Gathering going now and in the future?

We face growing challenges this year in planning and delivering our well-regarded regional festival of traditional music and culture. Costs continue to rise, and we've had new problems over our venues, not least the loss of the Town Hall for our events and admin hub on the Sunday (we are still seeking to have this reversed for the future, but have had to alter much of the usual pattern across the three days in order not to disappoint our audiences). To save some expenditure we are adapting the style of winners' plaques, but in other cases we cannot make savings – for instance, to ensure crowd safety we cannot shrink our Saturday showcase procession by avoiding the now-hugely-expensive road closure or relocating its route. Yet again we are hoping that the generosity of the public will help us to stage the type of events that people have come to expect at the Morpeth Gathering. This year includes some amazing events - we have secured the coup of a special reunion concert by NE folk legends Bob Fox and Stu Luckley, and are marking the 25th anniversaries of those Morpeth institutions, the Old Bakehouse Yard Millennium Green, Voice Male choir, and the revamp of Carlisle Park with the return of the park's storyteller in residence, Shonaleigh.

We dedicate this 57th Gathering to Alex Swailes MBE, long-serving Morpeth Gadgy and face of the Gathering. Alex handed over the Gadgy Staff to Ron Forster only last year, but sadly died very recently. By becoming our Patron you'll enable us to continue our celebration of the Northumbrian culture that Alex so ably personified. Ticket prices have forced up Event Patron costs, but we've lowered the Plaque Patron fee.

Events Patron: for a minimum advance donation of **£70 (or £100 per couple)** you can receive a free pass to all the weekend's events (though seats are not guaranteed at the Chantry after an event starts thanks to size limits).

Plaque Patron: for a minimum donation of **£20** you can support the Northumbrian competitions by paying towards the cost of one of the many winners' shields and certificates that we provide each year.

Please complete the form below; either request our BACs details or please make cheques payable to "M.N.G.C." and post to the Treasurer with s.a.e. at the address above. **(If you wish to donate using Gift Aid, please contact us before sending any money as this requires a different application process.)** *Thank you!*

Alternatively, if you simply wish to donate online towards the Gathering, with no event ticket rewards, please do this through **gofundme.com/f/morpeth-northumbrian-gathering** *Thank you!*

PATRONS – 57th MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING 2025

Please delete where not applicable

I / We would like to support the Gathering by becoming an Event Patron / Plaque Patron this year.

Name(s) (please print)

Address.....

E-mail.....Telephone.....

..... **I / We** enclose cheque made payable to "M.N.G.C." for **£20 / £70 / £100 / other £.....**

..... **I / We** wish to pay by BACs – please send the Gathering BACs details

..... **I / We** enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for acknowledgement and pass

.....**EVENTS PATRONS ONLY:** **I / We** wish to order **one / two** Event Patron's Pass/es / **NO** pass needed

Individual event tickets will not be issued*; you will receive one special pass per person

*(unless you ask us for a specific Chantry event where seats are limited)