

2022 SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME

£4

ROTHBURY TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

A festival of traditional music, dance and poetry
for the whole family

DAMIEN MULLANE TRIO
ANDY MAY • KEN WILSON
CAMERON NIXON • 422
ERYN RAE & SCOTT TURNBULL
JOHNNY HANDLE & CHRIS HENDRY
ROTHBURY HIGHLAND PIPE BAND
NORTHUMBRIAN RANTERS • GLOWAN

15 - 17 JULY 2022
ROTHBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND

 [musicfestival.rothbury](https://www.facebook.com/musicfestival.rothbury)
WWW.ROTHBURYMUSICFESTIVAL.CO.UK

Welcome to Rothbury Traditional Music Festival 2022

We are pleased to welcome you once again for a full weekend of some of the very best that the traditional folk scene has to offer in music, dance and the spoken 'ward'. We have a fantastic line up of both renowned veterans and up and coming artists from near and far for your entertainment...and surely there can be no better setting than Coquetdale. Our focus this year has been on competitions - we are now one of the only festivals to still hold them - as well as music sessions in the pubs and on the village greens - they have always been the beating heart of the festival. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the entire committee for their continued efforts, without which none of this would be possible. We are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers so please approach a member of the committee if you wish to help this wonderful event in any way. Have a canny festival.

John Pringle, Chair of the Festival Committee

A Word from our Patron

"I am deeply proud to become patron of the Rothbury Traditional Music Festival. My father and grandfather were doctors in Rothbury, both were presidents of the pipe band, it is where I was born and grew up and it is the place I will always call home.

"My fondest and earliest memories of live music and poetry are all from Rothbury Music Festivals of old.

"Northumberland has a madly rich folk music scene - a history that goes back seamlessly to the border minstrels and beyond. Rothbury's role in keeping that history alive can not be overstated. This is an amazing honour."

The feeling from the Festival committee is very much mutual. Ian Stephenson, the Festival's musical director said: "We're absolutely over the moon to have Alexander become patron. We couldn't think of a better person to do it."



Alexander Armstrong

At-a-Glance Guide to What's On

See inside for more event details, a Saturday-planner & map

Friday 15th July

16:00-20:00 **Festival Office** open in the Parish Hall for tickets, merch & info

20:00-23:00 **Ceilidh Dance** with 422 with bar in Jubilee Hall - ticketed event

Saturday 16th July

See individual events pages for more detailed info, the centre spread for a day-planner and inside the back cover for a map

09:00-17:00 **Festival Office** open in the Parish Hall for tickets, merch & info

09:00-12:00 **Children's Competitions** in United Reformed Church

10:30-15:00 **Pop-Up Café** by T's Cakes & Bakes in Jubilee Hall

10:30-11:30 **All-Age Pipes Workshop** in Catholic Church

11:30-12:30 **All-Age Tunes Workshop with Alistair Anderson** in Jubilee Hall

12:30-17:00 **Adult Open Competitions** - more detail inside

12:30-13:00 **Rothbury Pipe Band Parade** through village

13:00-16:45 **Outdoor Stage** performances & competitions

13:30-18:00 **Sessions** in Pubs: **Tunes** 1:30pm; **Piping** 4pm, **Singing** 4pm

14:30-15:30 **Try the Northumbrian Pipes** Workshop in URC Church

18:00-20:00 **Tunes Session with Damien Mullane Trio** in the Queen's Head

18:30-20:00 **Acoustic Concert** in All Saints Church - ticketed event

20:30-00:00 **Festival Concert** in The Mart with headline acts - ticketed event

21:00 - Late **Mighty Festival Session with Ape House** in the Queen's Head

Sunday 17th July

11:00-12:30 **Final Fling Ceilidh** with Stalwarts Band in Jubilee Hall

15:00-16:00 **Welcome to Coquetdale** premiere in All Saints Church

Ticket Outlets & Festival Office



To purchase tickets in advance of the festival, visit **Tully's on Rothbury High Street** or rtmf.brownpapertickets.com

During the festival, drop in to the office in the Parish Hall to find out more, browse merchandise, purchase last minute tickets, enter competitions or just to say hello!

Performers 2022

Damien Mullane Trio

Performing at Outdoor Stage, Session & Mart Concert



The Damien Mullane Trio are a fine distillation of all that is exciting about traditional music from Ireland, while at the same time bringing a refreshing contemporary flavour that defies criticism or restrictive labelling.

Mullane himself began learning traditional Irish music from the concertina player Marian Gill while he was growing up in London. Conor Broderick started piano lessons at the age of five after his mam and dad spotted him playing songs by ear on a toy piano. And, while his exact start is lost in the jumble of childhood, the third member of the trio, guitarist Seán O'Meara, had embarked on his first tour by the age of sixteen.

The credentials of all three speak of outstanding talent. Collectively and individually they have played with such luminaries as James Taylor, Sting, David Gray and violinist Martin Hayes, and toured the world. Not just the well trodden path of countries such as the USA or Australia, but such unlikely destinations as Zimbabwe and India, to which Rothbury can now be added.



Mullane spoke plainly of their reason to play RTMF: "for the opportunity to jam with other musicians". For all who come to this year's festival, be prepared to be swept along by the trio's enthusiasm and virtuosity - and for some magical musical surprises.



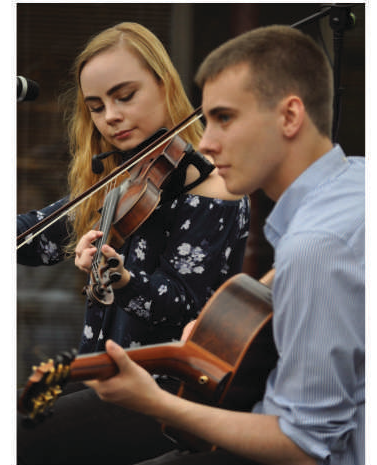
Eryn Rae & Scott Turnbull

Performing at Outdoor Stage & Mart Concert

Eryn and Scott have played at the festival a number of times with Northern Company. They specialise in music from around the Borders and Northumberland and both share a love of music developed in their youth.

"I've been coming to the Rothbury Traditional Music Festival for as long as I can remember," said Rae. "Living and growing up in nearby Jedburgh, Rothbury is one of my favourite local festivals. It has always been a highlight of the year for me."

Scott Turnbull began playing aged eight and is a recognised multi-instrumentalist, while Eryn first picked up a fiddle when just seven years old. We hope you'll join us in congratulating her for winning the Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2022 award in the BBC Scotland competition.



Andy May

Performing at Church Concert, Mart Concert & Welcome to Coquetdale



Andy May has played the Northumbrian pipes for over thirty years, performing in more than twenty countries around the world, either solo or as part of bands such as Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies, Baltic Crossing, and the Andy May Trio. His playing is rooted in the traditional piping style of the North East, but he is never afraid to explore new musical contexts and possibilities. Andy has been a frequent visitor to Rothbury festival over the years and is very much looking forward to this July!

Ken Wilson

Performing at Singing Session & Mart Concert



Ken is a talented singer, born in Billingham, Teesside in 1960 - one of eight: five brothers and three sisters. He became involved in the folk scene in the mid 1970s and along with his siblings, The Wilson Family, frequented folk clubs and festivals throughout Great Britain and Europe, producing several albums on the way. He has collaborated with Sting, performed at the Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms and released two solo albums, most recently 'Portraits' in 2018.

The Northumbrian Ranters

Performing at Outdoor Stage

The Northumbrian Ranters are into traditional tunes and songs in a big way - and they make no apology for it! They are a group of young musicians drawn from across Northumberland and Newcastle, playing folk with a dash of classical. Their unique sound paints a musical landscape of Northumberland and has captured the imaginations of audiences at home and abroad with successful tours to America and regular visits to Scotland.



At present there are around thirty players in the ensemble, aged between 11 and 18, under the musical direction of Richard Johnstone, but with self-direction strongly encouraged and facilitated. Fiddle and flute, cello and harp, accordion and Northumbrian pipes, guitars and drums are just some of the instruments they play - with occasional vocal interludes!



Cameron Nixon

Performing at Outdoor Stage, Acoustic Church Concert & Mart Concert



Born in Aberdeen, Cameron is a 22 year old Scots singer and fiddle player. Growing up in a family surrounded by folk and classical music, Cameron decided to embrace both genres and started singing and playing the fiddle when in primary school. His love for presenting on stage has led him to explore the world of radio and he now hosts his own show on Celtic Music Radio at 8pm on Monday evenings.

Johnny Handle & Chris Hendry

Performing at Mart Concert

Johnny Handle is an English folk musician and singer-songwriter. Starting as a skiffle player in 1957, he soon crossed into folk music both as a soloist and as a member of The High Level Ranters. His repertoire is heavily influenced by the traditional music of North East England and, in particular, songs about the coal mines of that region.



Chris Hendry is a Scottish singer who learnt many of her songs first-hand from such important source singers as Jeannie Robertson, Norman Kennedy and the Stewart family. As a teenager in the early 1960s she became part of the Fife folk club scene, based in St. Andrews, and was recorded by Hamish Henderson for the School of Scottish Studies at Edinburgh. Later moving to North East England to study and teach, Chris joined the team of residents at the prestigious Folksong and Ballad Club in Newcastle.

Rothbury Highland Pipe Band

Performing at Outdoor Stage & Mart Concert

Rothbury Highland Pipe Band was formed in 1920 as Rothbury Kilted Pipe Band and they, like many institutions, have had - how shall we say - fluctuations in their numbers over the years. The current band has members from all walks of life and from as far afield as Newcastle-upon-Tyne. They are 22 in number and have youngsters learning the ropes, ensuring the band will continue well into the future.



Glowan

Performing at Church Concert & Mart Concert

Glowan are an Anglo-Canadian family band with roots in Newcastle. Their line-up includes Cape-Breton style piano, pipes and whistles (Arlo), fiddles (Jem, Romy), and accordion (Tuuli). The band plays a mixture of Northumbrian, Canadian and self-penned tunes, accompanied by Ottawa Valley step-dancing.

The Mart Concert & Church Concert

Expect to see these artists performing at the Festival Concert from 8:30pm on Saturday, in the uniquely atmospheric setting of The Mart, with MC Dave Lowson (Ropey!) and a bar by The Narrow Nick. Tickets cost £15, sell out *very fast* and those in the know bring a cushion! For an earlier evening showcase of unplugged sets from special guests and local favourites, come along to the Acoustic Concert in All Saints Church from 6:30pm on Saturday. Tickets are £6 or free for under 18s.

Tickets for all ticketed events are available in advance from Tully's on Rothbury High Street or online from www.rtmf.brownpapertickets.com. During the festival itself, pop into the Festival Office for ticket purchases or try your luck 'on the door' (very unlikely for The Mart!).

Festival Stalwarts

In Memory of Mary Bathgate & Eric Charleton

Since our last full Festival we've sadly had to say goodbye to two friends and great stalwarts of Rothbury Festival, Mary Bathgate and Eric Charleton.

Mary was of course our secretary for many years and together with husband Thomson led much of the behind the scenes work so necessary for a successful event. Her immense energy and enthusiasm was infectious as she welcomed everyone to the festival. At times literally putting folk up in her own home or garden! Never a one to mince her words, she kept Thomson and the rest of the committee focused, ensuring everything went smoothly! Mary loved the festival and loved life, she was a dancer in her younger days with the pipe band and after all of the hard work was done simply enjoyed the craic.

Eric (Dougal or Whiskers) was another vital member of the team from the early days. Eric and his cousin Gordon became a fixture at the door of the Mart Ceilidh, welcoming back friends from far and wide with a smile and a cheeky comment. He too enjoyed the craic and became as well-known as many of the famous artists who graced our stages. This "front of house" role was just one of the many ways Eric contributed to ensuring all went well. A man of many talents, he could build or fix anything, he and Gordon erecting the stages and marquees, then after a couple of late nights and the occasional beer, would be there bright and early the next morning to take everything down and safely pack it away until the following year with that same smile and cheeky comment.

Rothbury Festival has always been more than just the music, song and dance, it's about the warmth of the welcome and the kind heartedness of the local folk. This year we'll all be missing two of our best.



Focus on Sessions

Rothbury festival has always been a great attraction for musicians and singers, with all its wonderful welcoming pubs being a hotbed for informal music across the weekend. These spontaneous gatherings will happen as always, but this year we are also hosting some official festival sessions where you can make music with some of our brilliant performers and friends. Head to the pubs to join in...or simply to relish the atmosphere and enjoy listening.

Saturday Sessions:

Tunes Session

With Cross the Wannies

1.30pm - 3.30pm Turks Head

Singing Session

With Ken Wilson

4pm - 6pm Newcastle House Hotel

Piping Session

In Northumbrian Pipes F pitch

4pm - 6pm Turks Head

Tunes Session

With Damien Mullane Trio

6pm - 8pm Queen's Head Back Room

The Mighty Festival Session

With Ape House

9pm - Late at the Queen's Head



Try the Northumbrian Pipes

United Reformed Church

2.30pm - 3.30pm Saturday

This region has a long history of piping - not only do we have the splendid Rothbury Highland Pipe Band, but there have also been some of the world's most famous exponents of our local bagpipes too, the Northumbrian Smallpipes.

You can hear the sweet sounds of this instrument in the piping session on Saturday, or by watching the always popular piping competitions in the Catholic Church.

If you're curious about picking up and trying this wonderful local instrument, do come along to the URC Church (entrance just behind the outdoor stage) on Saturday afternoon, and have a go yourself!

This special opportunity to try the pipes is supported by The Northumbrian Pipers' Society. Instruments will be provided and friendly pipers will be on hand to help you get started and answer any questions you may have.



The Festival for Families



With a strand of family-friendly events running through its heart, the festival is the perfect place for a musical day out in beautiful Coquetdale. Kick off your weekend of traditional Northumbrian culture in energetic style at the **Ceilidh Dance on Friday evening**. Family tickets cost £20 and tunes will be provided by 422, who know exactly how to make folk of all ages want to get up and dance!

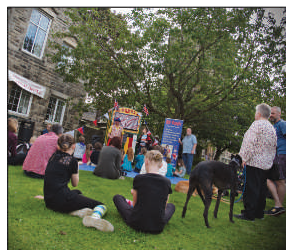
Get up bright and early on **Saturday** to sign up for our informal children's competitions or join an all-age workshop (more info opposite). Then at 12:30, **Rothbury Highland Pipe Band** lead a parade through the village with highland dancers trailing in their wake, heralding the beginning of an afternoon of performances on the **free outdoor stage**. Sit and listen while picnicking on the green, seek out award-winning **storyteller Marion**



Kenny and **face-painter Sue Parker**, or visit **T's Cakes & Bakes** pop-up cafe in the Jubilee Hall. If you've never tried playing Northumberland's very own instrument, the Northumbrian small-pipes, pop in to the United Reformed Church at 2:30pm on Saturday and join the **Try-the-Pipes Workshop**. Absolutely no experience necessary and all ages welcome!



Children go free to the **Acoustic Concert** in All Saints at 6:30pm on Saturday, showcasing unplugged sets from headline acts and local favourites - the perfect intro to live music for your family. For those with older children (or babysitters!), don't miss the legendary **Festival Concert in the Mart** from 8:30pm - top quality traditional music in the unique atmosphere of Rothbury's old livestock market.



On **Sunday** don't miss the **Final Fling**, a morning of family-friendly musical fun and dancing with refreshments in Jubilee Hall from 11am...then maybe catch an impromptu live session over a meal in one of the pubs before heading home to put next year's festival dates in your diary: **14th-16th July '23**

Children's Competitions

Sign-up from 9:00 on Saturday 16th July in the United Reformed Church behind the outdoor stage

FREE EVENT!

Every year Rothbury Traditional Music Festival runs informal competitions for aspiring young singers, musicians and performance poets. Entry is free and open to anyone aged 4-13, whether complete beginner or next-big-thing. There is no need to register in advance - just turn up between 9:00 and 9:30 on Saturday at the United Reformed Church behind the outdoor stage to sign up on a first come, first served basis - the competitions will then follow from 9:45. Find out more including categories and entry guidelines at tinyurl.com/rtmfkidscomps. Performers aged 14+ will be made very welcome in the novice categories of the adult competitions. Even if not competing, come along to hear the young talent of the future... All are welcome! **The Festival Committee gratefully acknowledge Rothbury Parish Council's support of this event.**



Marion Kenny | Storyteller | Saturday



Marion is one of Scotland's leading storytellers. A charismatic multi-instrumentalist, you will find her **captivating audiences of all ages with musical tales** throughout the day on Saturday - in the centre of the village.

Workshops for All Ages on Saturday

Northumbrian Pipes

10:30-11:30am | Catholic Church

£5 entry on the door (accompanying parents free)

Not suitable for absolute beginners. F piping pitch.

Northumbrian Tunes with Alistair Anderson

11:30-12:30pm | Jubilee Hall Downstairs

£5 entry on the door (accompanying parents free)

Mixed instrument workshop led by Alistair Anderson. Learn a Northumbrian folk tune and create an arrangement as a group. All experience levels welcome but best suited to Intermediate level upwards.

Beers, Bakes & Butties

£8



Our bars at the Ceilidh on Friday and the Mart Concert on Saturday evening will be provided by Rothbury's very own micro-pub **The Narrow Nick**, serving quality ales, beers, wines and spirits. And look out for our limited edition **Rothbury Traditional Music Festival tankards** - new this year and on sale throughout the weekend at the festival office and merchandise stalls. We are also delighted to announce that **T's Cakes and Bakes**

will be providing savoury sustenance and sweet treats at the pop-up festival café in the Jubilee Hall between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday, as well as much-needed refreshment at the Final Fling on Sunday.



Ticket Sales

In advance from rtmf.brownpapertickets.com or **Tully's** on the High Street in Rothbury; during the festival from the **Festival Office** in the Parish Hall or **limited numbers available on the door**.

Find Out More

Website: www.rothburymusicfestival.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/musicfestival.rothbury
Twitter: @rothburymusic
Email: rothburymusicfest@gmail.com
Phone: Caroline on 01669 621417

Save the Dates | July 14th-16th 2023

We are delighted to announce the dates for next year's Festival as July 14th-16th 2023. Put them in your diary now to guarantee another brilliant weekend of traditional music, song, dance and poetry in the beautiful setting of Coquetdale, the heart of Northumberland.

FRIDAY 15th JULY

Festival Office in the Parish Hall 4-8pm

Drop in to the festival office to find out more, browse merchandise, purchase last minute tickets, enter competitions or just to say hello!

Ceilidh Dance With 422

Jubilee Hall at 8pm | £7.50 Adult | £5 U18 | £20 Family

Kick off your festival weekend in fun and energetic style at the ceilidh dance with 422 with bar provided by Rothbury's very own micro-pub, The Narrow Nick. All are welcome and no ceilidh-dancing experience is necessary as a 'caller' will guide you through the dances. **422** are a folk and ceilidh band based in the North East of England. They play high energy music with a northern English bias and first played at Rothbury Traditional Music Festival as teenagers in 2000. Since winning the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award in 1999, they have released four



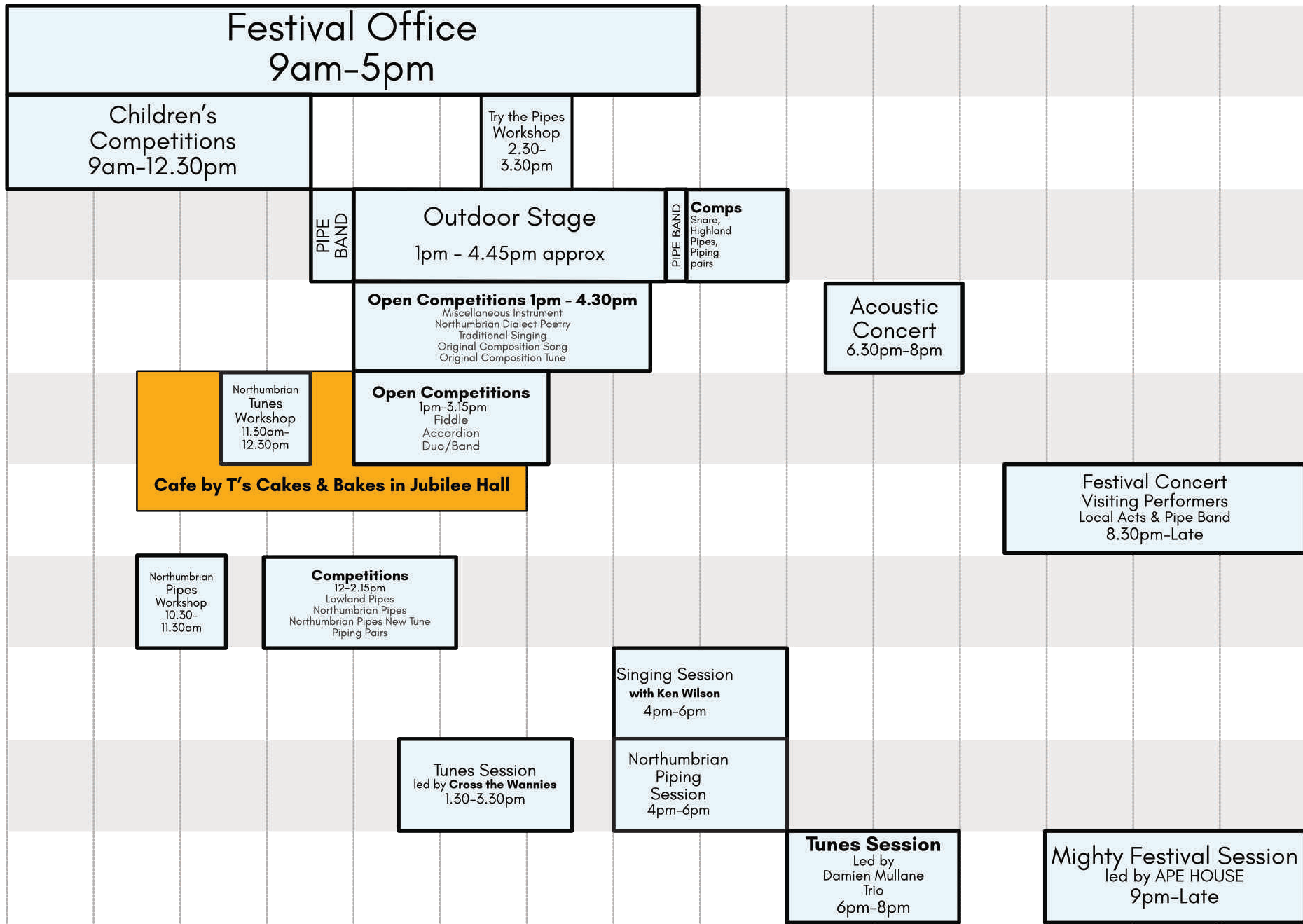
albums and have a wealth of experience of playing for dancing. They know exactly how to give the tunes that extra 'swing' to make you want to dance! **Tickets on the door or in advance from Tully's on Rothbury High Street or rtmf.brownpapertickets.com**



SATURDAY

SCHEDULE

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 00



9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 00

Adult Competitions | Saturday

Full rules and requirements on festival website

Catholic Church:

Lowland Pipes	12.00pm
Northumbrian Pipes	to
New Tune for Northumbrian Pipes	2.15pm
Piping Pairs	

The Jubilee Hall:

Fiddle	1.00pm
Accordion	1.45pm
Duo or Band	2.30pm

All Saints Church:

Miscellaneous Instrument	1.00pm
Northumbrian Dialect Poetry	1.45pm
Traditional Singing	2.30pm
Original Composition Song	3.30pm
Original Composition Tune	4.00pm

Outdoor Stage:

Snare Drumming	Approx 4.45pm start
Highland Pipes	At end of outdoor stage concert!
Piping Pairs	

The Sean McGuire Trophy will be awarded to the most innovative performance in the adult competitions. Presented at the Festival Concert in the Mart.



SUNDAY 17th JULY



Final Fling Ceilidh

Jubilee Hall 11am-12.30pm **FREE**

Come and dance at the **Final Fling Ceilidh** in Jubilee Hall with the Festival Stalwarts Band. This is a **free event** with bacon butties and more available to purchase from **T's Cakes and Bakes**. All ages welcome.

Welcome to Coquetdale

All Saints Church 3pm-4pm **£10 / £5 U18s**

Finish off your festival in style with this *exclusive opportunity* to hear the **premiere of new music** composed by the festival's music director, **Ian Stephenson**, for the Out Of Town museum project (ootmuseum.co.uk).

Featuring:
Ian Stephenson
Andy May
Coquet Concert Ban
Rothbury Highland Pipe Band
plus All Saints' fabulous pipe organ



This music is inspired by the rural heritage of Coquetdale and will become part of a film featuring the voices of local residents and their stories to form an aural history of this unique place.



Photos from The Archives





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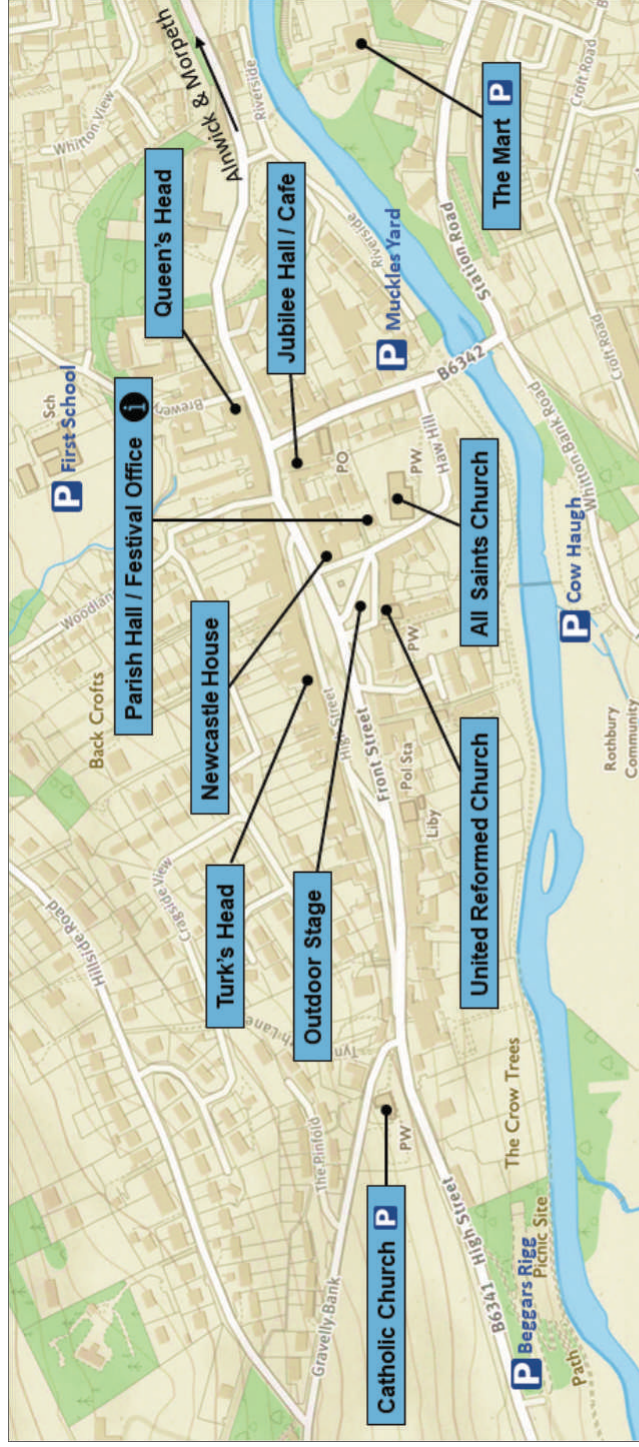
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billytoc@live.co.uk
Billy 07768 707972
James 07875 023681



Thank-you for coming to the Festival...We hope to see you again next year!

Save the Dates! 14th - 16th July 2023

And massive thanks to all the many **volunteers**...we couldn't do it without you!

If you are interested in getting involved next year get in touch rothburymusicfest@gmail.com

From the Festival Committee

**Chair: John Pringle | Secretary: Caroline Dawson | Treasurer: Judith Ness | Musical Director: Ian Stephenson
Linda Hubbucks, Stephen Moles, Malcolm Ness, Jamie Macaulay, Aifionn Evans, Elke Meiborg, Mick Davison**

All events are subject to change, especially in the case of inclement weather.

Official photographers will be on site throughout the weekend. Please inform them if you would prefer not to be photographed as any images may be used in future publicity.

**SUPPORTED
BY**



**Northumberland
National Park**

**The festival committee gratefully
acknowledge financial support from
Northumberland National Park,
Northumberland County Council,
Rothbury Parish Council
and Bells of Rothbury**



**Northumberland
County Council**

WWW.ROTHBURYMUSICFESTIVAL.CO.UK