



# ROTHBURY

## Traditional Music Festival

Music, dance and poetry for the whole family

TRIP . SAM CARTER . ESKO JÄRVELÄ (FIN)  
KATIE MACNALLY & NEIL PEARLMAN (USA)  
NATHAN ARMSTRONG BAND . APE HOUSE  
THE BREMERS (SWE) . GRAHAM PIRT  
CHRIS & STEVE WILSON . DI HENDERSON  
THE ROTHBURY HIGHLAND PIPE BAND

**14 – 16 JULY 2023**

**ROTHBURY | NORTHUMBERLAND**

[www.rothburymusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.rothburymusicfestival.co.uk)

**2023 SOUVENIR PROGRAMME £4**



# Welcome to Rothbury Traditional Music Festival



Whey it's grand tu see al ya faces again  
Be they new ones or the same  
To our little corner of shangri la  
With it's rolling hills an well lit spar  
We've brught the gether some of the finest acts  
Tu soak the beer in ya hand and sun on ya backs

From far and wide come these performers  
And this year we have some stormers  
From England, Scotland and Isle of Man Manx  
Sweden, Finland and even some Yanks  
Saturated with quality and passion alike  
Mixed with local talent from back o' the dyke

Gan watch or enter the competitions of al types  
Or try ya hand at the Northumbrian pipes  
Dance at the Ceilidh till inside ya elbo's red ra  
Or entranced at the mart till the floor hits ya ja  
We welcome performers and watchers al  
'Please ya bloody sel' and a canny festival

**John Pringle, Chair of the Festival Committee**



# A message from our pal Alistair!



## **Welcome to Rothbury Traditional Music Festival 2023**

As I hit my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, I think back on all the musicians and singers who have inspired me. From Billy Pigg, who I met while I was just 15, to Will Taylor, Joe Hutton and Will Atkinson who riveted the audience at Rothbury Mart for many years – not to mention the Jackson brothers and festival visitors from over the border like Willy Scott, Tom Hughes and Bob Hobkirk.

Over the years the festival has managed to both celebrate the rich reservoir of tradition found in this corner of the country and provide a platform for the next generation to develop their talents. From Kathryn Tickell and Lynn Tocker, to Tristan Seldon and Charlotte Kennedy, the festival has been part of the musical life of many musicians. It's great to see the festival introducing school children to the fun to be found within our traditions – I'm delighted that the North East Endowment for Musical Tradition has been able to help the festival as it strives to enliven the lives of those in the Coquet valley and beyond, through the medium of poetry, music, song and dance.

**Alistair Anderson**

# At-a-Glance Guide to What's On

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

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

4-8pm	<b>Festival Office</b> open in Parish Hall
8-11pm	<b>Ceilidh Dance</b> in Jubilee Hall
8-Late	<b>Sing-Along Session</b> in The Turks Head

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

9am-5pm	<b>Festival Office</b> open in Parish Hall
9am-12.30pm	<b>Children's Competitions</b> in the United Reformed Church
10-11am	<b>Northumbrian Pipes Workshop</b> in the Catholic Church
10.30-11.30am	<b>Tunes Band Workshop with Joey Oliver</b> in Jubilee Hall
10.30am-3pm	<b>Café by T's Cakes &amp; Bakes</b> in Jubilee Hall Simonside Room
11.30-5.30pm	<b>Adult Open Competitions</b> - further details inside
12-7.30pm	<b>Sessions</b> in various venues - further details inside
12.30-1pm	<b>Rothbury Pipe Band Parade</b> in the village centre
1.00-4.45pm	<b>Free Outdoor Stage</b> in the village centre
2.20pm(ish)	<b>Pop-up Maypole Workshop</b> near the outdoor stage
2.30-3.30pm	<b>Try the Northumbrian Pipes</b> in the United Reformed Church
2.30-4pm	<b>Graham Pirt: The Miners' Union</b> Cheviot Room Jubilee Hall
6.30-8pm	<b>Acoustic Concert</b> in All Saints Church
8.30-Late	<b>Festival Concert in The Mart</b> with all headline acts
9pm-Late	<b>Mighty Festival Session</b> in The Queen's Head

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July

11am-12.30pm	<b>Final Fling Ceilidh</b> with Scratch Band in Jubilee Hall
3.00-4.00pm	<b>Welcome to Scandinavia Concert</b> in All Saints Church

## Ticket Outlets & Festival Office

To **purchase tickets in advance** of the festival, visit [tinyurl.com/rtmf-tickets](https://tinyurl.com/rtmf-tickets), scan the **QR Code** or drop in to **Tully's Village Store on Rothbury High Street**. Tickets sell out fast, especially for the Mart Concert!

During the festival itself, drop in to the **office in the Parish Hall** (see opening times above) to purchase last minute tickets, find out more, browse merchandise, enter competitions or just to say hello!



# Performers 2023

## TRIP

Performing at Tunes Session & Mart Concert



Glasgow-based TRIP are a six-piece band whose music unites the kindred Celtic traditions of Scotland, Ireland, Northumbria and the Isle of Man; a reflection of where the members hail from. The impressive line-up features Newcastle accordionist Michael Biggins (BBC Young Traditional Musician of the year 2021), Sligo flautist Tiernan Courell (All-Ireland champion) and Manx fiddler Isla Callister, along with fellow Scots Alasdair MacKenzie (guitar and voice), Rory Matheson (piano) and Craig Baxter (bodhran).

Their powerful and compelling sound celebrates the band's roots in traditional music, whilst showcasing cross-genre influences and has captivated audiences across the UK and around the world (Celtic Connections, Orkney Folk Festival, HebCelt, Sligo Live, Viljandi Folk Festival, Festival Interceltique de Lorient). In 2018, they were semi-finalists in the BBC 2 Young Folk Awards and in 2022 they released their debut album '*A Drop for Neptune*.'



# Sam Carter

## Performing at Outdoor Stage & Mart Concert

Midlands-born songwriter and guitarist Sam Carter is a highly-regarded instrumentalist and BBC Folk Award winner. His vivid songwriting and captivating live performances have garnered great acclaim. His most recent album *"Home Waters"* was recorded in nearby Thropton before lockdown and we're delighted to welcome him back to the area for the festival! Head to the outdoor stage or the Mart to hear Sam performing an enthralling live set.



# Esko Järvelä

## Performing at Outdoor Stage, Scandi Session, Mart Concert & Welcome to Scandinavia



Renowned Finnish fiddle player Esko Järvelä is a fine example of what makes Rothbury Traditional Music Festival so special. Recognised as a master of improvising and different styles, Esko is always eager to develop traditional music from wider sources and has played with Baltic Crossing and Frigg, among others. *"I like to take traditional music, Celtic, Finnish, or Nordic, and twist it into different forms."*

He has been playing the fiddle since he was four; *"Like so many, I'm part of a musical family here in Kaustinen, fourth generation in fact, my father is a musician and my mother taught music at school. I have four sisters who also play violin professionally."*

Kaustinen, a small community 400km north of Helsinki, is known in Finland as 'The Home of Folk' – you might say it has much in common with Rothbury. *"I love to play the music of different cultures,"* Esko says, *"That's why I'm coming to Rothbury. I will bring music from the Nordic region and look to blend it to what I hear and learn from the other performers."*

# Katie MacNally & Neil Pearlman

Performing at Outdoor Stage, Acoustic Concert, Mart Concert & Final Fling



The vibrant musical traditions of Scotland and Cape Breton take on new life in the hands of Katie McNally (*"Exhilarating musicianship...electrifying" Songlines*) and Neil Pearlman (*"a tremendous pianist" BBC Radio Scotland*). Based in Portland, USA, this duo is making waves internationally with their fresh approach to

traditional forms. Katie McNally has made her mark on Scottish music in North America with her 2020 release *"Now More Than Ever"* praised as ground-breaking on both sides of the Atlantic. *"A force to be reckoned with"* (WGBH's Brian O'Donovan), Neil is recognized in Celtic music circles for his unique approach to piano. Rooted in traditional Cape Breton styles, he incorporates ideas from other genres and the result is an exciting new sound that remains true to its roots. An accomplished Cape Breton step dancer as well, Neil grew up in the family band Highland Soles, led by his father Ed Pearlman and mother Laura Scott, both influential Scottish music and dance figures in the US.

## Ape House

Performing at Acoustic Concert & Mart Concert

Hailing variously from Ireland, Northumberland and the Knyrdart Peninsula, Ape House were brought together as students by trad sessions in Glasgow. Craig Harrison (fiddle), Lachie Robinson (guitar) and Wallace Calvert (concertina, cello and more besides) form a contemporary, traditional trio with a passion for entertaining and vibrant music. Always striving to be expressive and curious with their musical arrangements, they are fast becoming festival 'stalwarts'.



# The Bremers

Performing at Outdoor Stage, Scandi Session, Mart Concert & Welcome to Scandinavia



"We are a family from Sweden who all perform music in different constellations. Cecilia and Edith play strings whilst Johan and Elias perform on winds. We all have roots in different genres and instruments but singing is something we all do, as well as living and breathing Swedish folk music."

"The defining attributes of Swedish traditional music are about how music together with dance coalesce into something that can not exist without the other, as well as how music was used as a function to tell stories, herd animals and send messages. We want to show the breadth and diversity as well as the details of our rhythm, tonality and maybe some dance."

"We are all excited to come to Rothbury and show our culture as well as take part in yours."

# Di Henderson

Performing a song or two at The Mart

Originally from Tyneside but now hailing from Teesside, Di picked the hardest part of the folk scene to break into: the male bastion of the traditional unaccompanied folk song. She has a rich and powerful voice, putting passion and commitment into her singing. She made her first visit to Rothbury Traditional Music Festival a number of years ago and has sung at the Mart many times. What keeps her coming back? *"At heart it's the tradition. If you love the song then you learn the song easily, and the song loves you back."*





# Graham Pirt

Performing his special event 'The Miners' Union' & a song or two at The Mart

Long-time stalwart of the festival, we are delighted to welcome Graham Pirt back to sing his wonderful North East songs. As a founder member of the famous Cockersdale vocal harmony group, he is a well respected and fine exponent of traditional song. Don't miss a rare opportunity to see Graham present his multi-media event "The Miners' Union" on Saturday afternoon - more details can be found elsewhere in the programme. Graham can also be heard at the Mart.



# Chris & Steve Wilson

Performing at the Singaround, Acoustic Concert & Mart Concert



Chris and Steve Wilson's latest release 'Fifty Years On' hints at the influence of singers that powered the folk revival of seventy years ago: Martin Carthy, The Copper Family, Swan Arcade, Jim Mageean & Johnny Collins, to name a few. *"And that's as well as the many traditional source singers,"* Chris adds. *"These were the people who so powerfully and generously influenced me and Steve when, as young men, teenagers really, we first set foot in*

*the Black Horse folk club in Billingham."* Where would the folk tradition be without pubs? Chris goes on to say: *"The pubs and the Mart in Rothbury are exceptionally different, not like a typical festival under canvas, and Rothbury is just a beautiful place to be."*

We can only agree! The two young men went on to become part of North East acapella group, and force of nature, 'The Wilson Family', who recently recorded "Sibling Revivalry" at Simpson Street Studios, Thropton, under the guiding ears of festival musical director, Ian Stephenson. 'Sibling Revivalry' - read that second word carefully - is a gentle wordplay and curiously apt way to think about this famous family steeped in folk history. Chris & Steve's Rothbury Festival performance, though spiced with 50 years' experience, will in many ways be a return to their roots.

# The Festival for Families

With a strand of **family-friendly events** running through its heart, Rothbury Traditional Music Festival is the perfect place to **share a fun weekend of traditional culture**. Events especially suitable for families are summarised below with more detail elsewhere in the programme.



## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

### 8pm Ceilidh Dance in Jubilee Hall

Kick off your festival in fun and energetic style.

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

### 9am Children's Competitions in the URC

Get up bright and early to sign up for our informal competitions – more info opposite.

### 10.30am–3pm T's Cakes & Bakes in Jubilee Hall

Savoury sustenance and sweet treats.

### 12.30pm Highland Pipe Band Parade in the Village

### 1pm–4.45pm Free Outdoor Stage in the Village

Entertaining schedule of music, dance & poetry

### 2.20pm Pop-up Maypole by the Outdoor Stage

A maypole will appear... kids and their parents will be shown what to do... *Approximate time!!!*

### 2.30–3.30pm Try-the-Pipes in the URC

Pop in and have a go on the Nothumbrian pipes – no experience required and all ages welcome!

### 6.30pm Acoustic Concert in All Saints Church

The perfect intro to live music for your family.

**All afternoon** on Saturday seek out **storyteller** Ian Douglas, the **facepainter** or look out for **Morwicks Ice-cream** and veggie street food from SnackWallah on Church Street.



## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July

### 11am Final Fling Ceilidh in Jubilee Hall

A morning of musical fun and dancing with refreshments...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: **12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

# Children's Competitions

Sign up from 9.00am on Saturday 15th July in the United Reformed Church behind the Outdoor Stage

Every year, Rothbury Traditional Music Festival runs informal competitions for aspiring young performance poets, musicians and singers. **Entry is free** and open to anyone aged 4-13, whether a complete beginner or next-big-thing. Performers aged 14+ will be made very welcome in the novice categories of the adult competitions.



**FREE  
EVENT!**

There is no need to register in advance - just turn up between 9:00 and 9:30am on Saturday at the United Reformed Church behind the outdoor stage to sign up your child on a first-come, first-served basis. The competitions will follow from 9.45 with **free gifts** for entrants as well as **trophies and prizes** to be won!

Find out more, including entry categories and guidelines at [tinyurl.com/rtmfkidscomps](https://tinyurl.com/rtmfkidscomps). Even if you are not competing, come along to hear the talent of the future... All are welcome!

## Storyteller Ian Douglas



Ian's storytelling is steeped in street theatre traditions and draws upon a rich vein of British folk tales and world myths, captivating audiences of all ages. His work has been described as 'truly inspirational' and you can find him in the village centre throughout Saturday afternoon - sit down, relax and be entertained.



# FRIDAY 14TH 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 Nathan Armstrong Band

Jubilee Hall at 8pm | Adults £7.50 | U18s £5 | Family £20



This year's festival opens with a treat; our traditional Friday night ceilidh will be hosted by Nathan Armstrong Band with caller Ruth Brown.

Local to the Coquet Valley, Nathan started playing accordion when just fifteen and was a regular at our festival competitions. A measure of his early success was his progression to Newcastle University to take a BA in Folk Music. "For a time I also tutored

accordion at The Sage and later around Northumberland."

He now teaches music to primary school students; "I've maintained an absolute love for ceilidh though now it is more a hobby as teaching occupies increasing amounts of my time."

"I'm delighted that we've managed to book Nathan and his band with ace caller Ruth Brown" said our festival Music Director, Ian Stephenson. "Their enthusiasm and energy are sure to get everybody up and dancing. Don't miss this one!"

## Sing–Along Session

With David Ainsworth & Friends

Turks Head from 8pm | Free



From 'Hotel California' to 'American Pie' and everything in-between. Bring your voice or an instrument, get involved or simply soak up the atmosphere!

# SATURDAY 15TH JULY

## Adult Competitions

Full entry guidelines at [rothburymusicfestival.co.uk](http://rothburymusicfestival.co.uk)

### Catholic Church:

Lowland Pipes	11.30am
Northumbrian Pipes	to
New Tune for Northumbrian Pipes	1.45pm
Piping Pairs	

### The Jubilee Hall:

Fiddle	12.00pm
Accordion	12.45pm
Duo or Band	1.30pm

### All Saints Church:

Traditional Singing	12.00pm
Original Composition Song	1.00pm
Miscellaneous Instrument	1.30pm
Original Composition Tune	2.15pm
Northumbrian Dialect Poetry	2.45pm

### Outdoor Stage:

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



**£1 Entry  
Forms at  
Festival  
Office**



**FREE TO WATCH!  
Please  
Consider  
Donating**

**The Sean McGuire Trophy will be awarded to the Most Innovative Performance in the adult competitions, and the Mary Bathgate Shield to the Best Overall Novice.**

**SATURDAY 15TH JULY**

## Sessions

**Northumbrian Tunes Session**

12-2pm | Turks Head Restaurant

**Northumbrian Piping Session**

2-4pm | Turks Head Restaurant

**Scandinavian Session** with Esko Järvelä and The Bremers

3-5pm | Queens Head

**Singaround** with Chris & Steve Wilson

4-6pm | Cheviot Room, Jubilee Hall

**Tunes Session** with TRIP

5.30-7.30pm | Queens Head



## Workshops for All Ages

**Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult**

**Northumbrian Pipes Workshop** with Anthony Robb

10-11am | Catholic Church | £5 (Accompanying parents free)

**Card or cash payment at Festival Office | Cash on the door**

Not suitable for absolute beginners. F piping pitch.

**Northumbrian Tunes Band Workshop** with Joey Oliver

10.30-11.30am | Jubilee Hall | £5 (Accompanying parents free)

**Card or cash payment at Festival Office | Cash on the door**

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

## Graham Pirt – The Miners' Union

2.30-4pm | Cheviot Room, Jubilee Hall | £8

Graham Pirt's multi-media show on the history of the Miners' Union features songs and readings from the earliest time of mining through to the death of the industry.

*"Through the medium of lecture and visual image, interspersed with the powerful songs that illustrate the plight of the coal miner, we were given an insight into the life of the miner from the early 12th century through to the demise of the pits in the 1980s. Graham captivated those present with an enlightening, interesting, as well as a personalised account of the region's coal mining legacy. It was an education, a pleasure and just wonderful to hear the songs in context."*

**TyneFolk review**

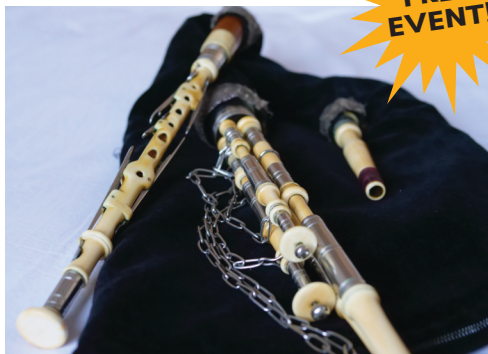
**SATURDAY 15TH JULY**

# Try the Northumbrian Pipes

**Pop-up Event in the United Reformed Church**

**2.30pm – 3.30pm Saturday | Free**

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 foremost exponents of our local bagpipes too, the Northumbrian smallpipes. You can hear this instrument expertly played in the piping session or by watching the piping competitions in the Catholic Church.



**FREE  
EVENT!**

If you'd like to have a go yourself, then do come along to the URC Church (directly behind the outdoor stage) where friendly Northumbrian pipers will be on hand to help you get started and answer any questions. Instruments are provided but please note, that time on an instrument will be divided between whomever shows up, so you may have to wait your turn!

This opportunity is supported by The Northumbrian Pipers' Society.

## The Mart & Acoustic Concerts

See this year's artists performing at the Festival Concert from 8:30pm on Saturday, in the uniquely atmospheric setting of The Mart, with MC Ruth Brown, and a bar by The Narrow Nick. Tickets cost £20, 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 are available in advance from Tully's on Rothbury High Street or online from [tinyurl.com/rtmf-tickets](https://tinyurl.com/rtmf-tickets)

During the festival itself, pop into the Festival Office for ticket purchases or try your luck 'on the door' (very unlikely for The Mart!).



# SATURDAY 15TH JULY

## Outdoor Stage

All times very approximate!



**1:00**

**Esko Järvelä**

Frenzied Finnish Fiddle Playing

**1:40**

**Combined Schools Folk Choir!**

Pupils from Rothbury, Thropton & Otterburn First Schools sing together. Includes a newly commissioned dialect song - composed and led by local legend James Tait!

**1:50**

**Star & Shadow**

Rapper & clog dance demonstration

**2:00**

**The Bremers**

Talented Swedish folk family band

**2:20**

**POP-UP MAYPOLE WORKSHOP!**

Have a look around, a maypole has appeared nearby! Great fun for kids and parents alike, and you'll be shown what to do

**2:50**

**Katie MacNally & Neil Pearlman**

Rockin' fiddle & piano duo from the USA

**3:25**

**Werca's Folk**

Sandra Kerr's hugely popular choir of women's voices

**3:50**

**Sam Carter**

Award-winning singer-guitarist who writes unforgettable & moving songs

**4:25**

**Glendale Ceilidh Band**

Groovy local community band from Wooler led by Susie Cochrane

# SUNDAY 16TH JULY

## Final Fling Ceilidh

11am–12.30pm | Jubilee Hall | FREE

GREAT  
FOR  
FAMILIES

FREE  
EVENT!

Come and dance at the **Final Fling Ceilidh** in Jubilee Hall with caller Catherine Beal & the Festival Scratch Band, featuring a stellar line up of Katie MacNally & Neil Pearlman, Rog Peppe, Sam Baxter, Sophie Lynch, Richard Cooper and more! This is a **free event** with bacon butties and other refreshments available to purchase from **T's Cakes and Bakes**. All ages welcome!

## Welcome to Scandinavia

3–4pm | All Saints Church | Adults £10 | U18s £5

**The Bremers (Swe)** | **Andy May (UK)** | **Esko Järvelä (Fin)**

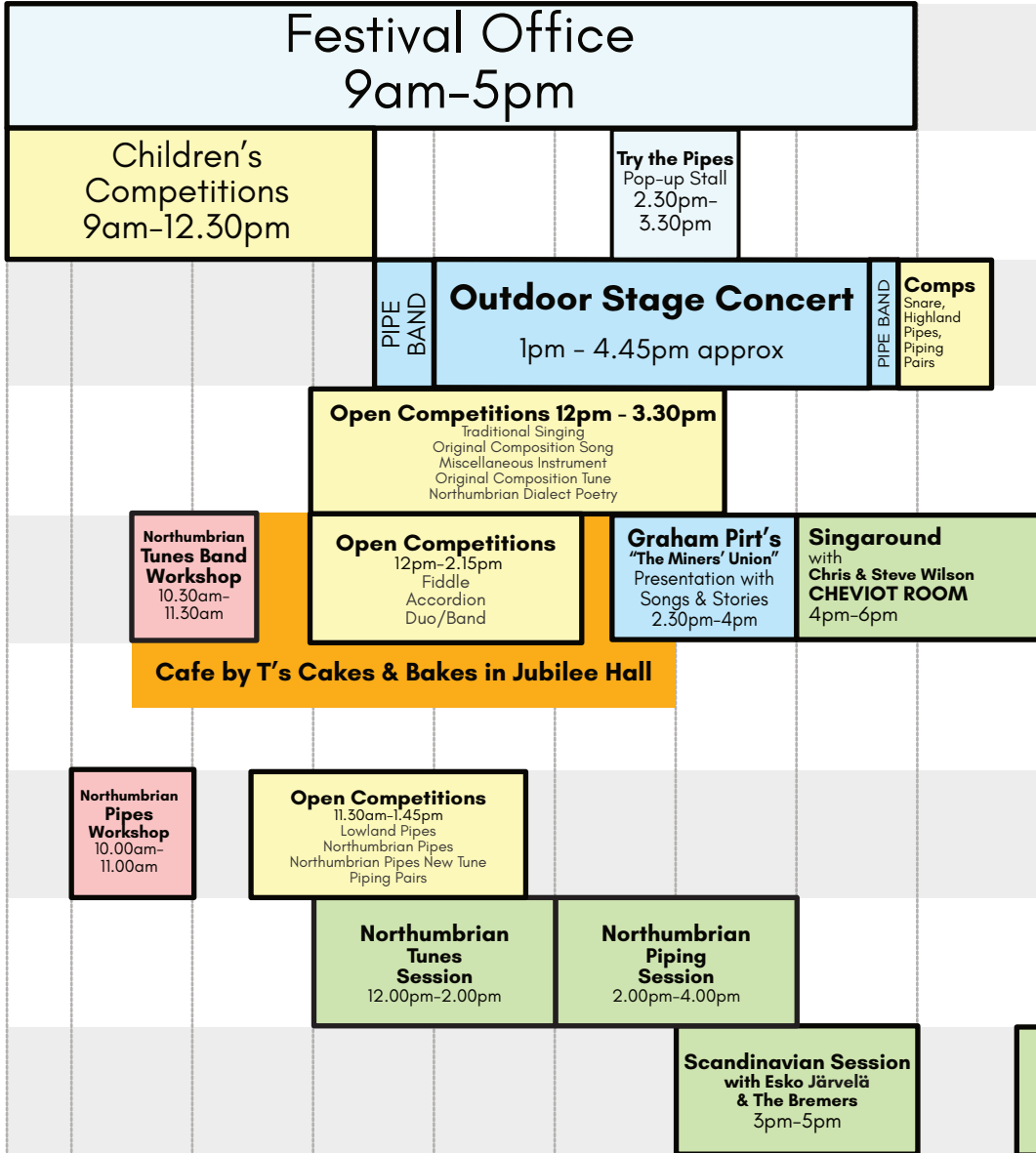


Back by popular demand, this year the Sunday afternoon concert will highlight our wonderful Scandinavian performers in the glorious acoustics of All Saints Church. Come along to hear swooping fiddles, flute, saxophone, Northumbrian pipes, piano and more as **The Bremers**, **Esko Järvelä** and Northumberland's very own **Andy May** present the stirring folk music of the Scandinavian countries.

Don't miss this one-off opportunity to end your festival with a northerly summer treat.

# SATURDAY

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

# PLANNER

18 19 20 21 22 23 00

Parish Hall

United  
Reformed  
Church

Village  
Green

All Saints  
Church

Jubilee Hall

**Festival Concert in the Mart**

Visiting Performers  
Local Acts & Pipe Band  
8.30pm-Midnightish

The Mart

Catholic  
Church

Turks Head  
(Restaurant)

Queens  
Head

**Acoustic  
Concert**

6.30pm-8pm

**Mighty Festival Session**

9pm-Late

Tunes  
Session  
**TRIP**  
with  
5.30pm-7.30pm

18 19 20 21 22 23 00



# Beers, Bakes, Butties & More



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.

Look out too for our special **tankards** and, new this year, limited edition festival **cocktail glasses** - equally comfortable holding a gin and tonic, a spritz or a whisky and perfect for that cold drink while listening to performances on the outdoor stage! These items and much more, including **T-shirts and hoodies**, are on sale throughout the weekend at the festival office and **merchandise stalls** (inside & outside the Parish Hall).



We are delighted to welcome back **T's Cakes and Bakes**, providing meals and snacks at the festival café in Jubilee Hall on Saturday, as well as much-needed **bacon butties** and other refreshments at the Final Fling on Sunday. Meanwhile, on Saturday, Church Street hosts **SnackWallah** serving **vegan street food** and the **Morwick Dairy Icecream** van for a sweet Northumbrian treat.



## Find Out More

Tickets: [tinyurl.com/rtmf-tickets](https://tinyurl.com/rtmf-tickets)  
Website: [rothburymusicfestival.co.uk](https://rothburymusicfestival.co.uk)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/musicfestival.rothbury](https://facebook.com/musicfestival.rothbury)  
Twitter: [@rothburymusic](https://twitter.com/rothburymusic)  
Email: [rothburymusicfest@gmail.com](mailto:rothburymusicfest@gmail.com)  
Phone: **07443 031 754**



## Save the Dates | July 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> 2024

We are delighted to announce July 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> 2024 as next year's Festival dates. Put them in your calendar now...and see you next year!

# Thank you to our sponsors!

In 2022 the music festival came back as strong as ever after the pandemic with two new events to promote the tradition of folk music in Northumberland, a children's workshop and concert event and a Sunday afternoon concert. The committee wanted to build on this in 2023 and we would like to thank the organisations who have helped us keep the tradition of folk music in Rothbury alive by funding our activities.

**The NE Endowment for Music Traditions**, administered by the Community Foundation, is committed to keeping the tradition of folk music alive so that future generations, adults and youngsters alike, can enjoy Northumbrian folk music. We hope that, with their help, our children's concert and competitions in music and poetry, as well as a fun weekend of making folk music in Rothbury help do just that.

**The Barbour Foundation, The Carr Ellison Family Charitable Trust and The Hedley Denton Charitable Trust** have all donated funds to help us run the festival. They are committed to supporting a range of charities in Northumberland and the North East and we are so grateful that they have helped us to run the festival this year.

**The Hadrian Trust** is dedicated to improving the lives of people in North East England with primary aims targeting youth and education. We are really grateful for their support in helping us to continue what was started last year with a whole afternoon dedicated to development of folk music in the local schools, through our children's concert, along with the well-established children's competitions.

**Northumberland County Council's Community Chest fund** has allowed us to purchase our own stage lighting for the festival which will be a useful asset for many years to come and reduces our reliance on renting equipment, helping us become more sustainable in the long term.

We would also like to acknowledge the continued support of our festival stalwarts: **Northumberland National Park Association, Rothbury Parish Council and Northumberland County Council**. Over the years, they have contributed to the success of the festival. Along with the pubs, traders and community of Rothbury, as well as individuals from further afield, we hope to continue to work together to provide many more festivals.



# Photos from The Archives













# *Kelso folk festival*

A weekend of traditional music in the Scottish Borders,  
1st-3rd September, 2023



**Chris Stout & Catriona McKay, Martin Simpson, Iona Fyfe,  
Ansley Hamill Band, Malin Makes Music,**  
plus Ragbag Morris, Riddell Fiddles, sessions and workshops

Visit [www.kelsofolkfest.org](http://www.kelsofolkfest.org) for full details

Tickets available online from [www.trybooking.co.uk/CHDF](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/CHDF)





In June 1920 the Rothbury Kilted Pipe Band was formed and began playing for community events in and around Coquetdale. It consisted of three pipers, two side drummers and a big drummer and they chose the McKenzie tartan worn by the Seaforth Highlanders who'd been stationed nearby during the First World War.

After a break caused by the Second World War, the newly named Rothbury Highland Pipe Band reformed in 1956. The band regularly plays at events in Rothbury and Upper Coquetdale and has represented our communities in places as far afield as Germany, Norway and the Czech Republic.

**The band has been a part of the Rothbury Traditional Music Festival since its inception and is delighted to be playing again in 2023.**



**We're always keen to welcome new players; if you already play either pipes or drums or if you've not played before but wondered if you could learn, then please get in touch.**

**Contact: 07896 869126**

**Email: [RothburyHighlandPipeBand@gmail.com](mailto:RothburyHighlandPipeBand@gmail.com)**

# ***Tully's of Rothbury***

**Award Winning Independent Grocers & Delicatessen**

*Supplying groceries in Upper Coquetdale  
since 1900 and a champion of local produce.*



**Long term supporters  
of the music festival**

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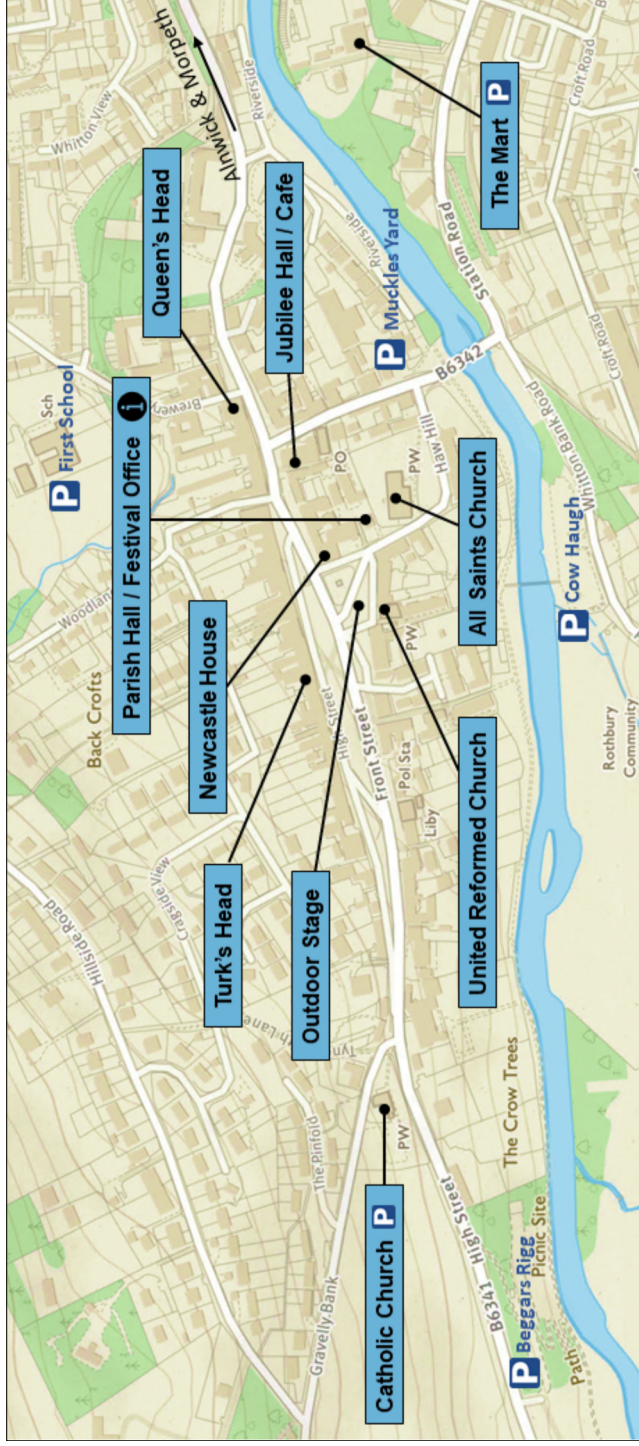
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**Thank-you for coming to the Festival...We hope to see you again next year!**

**Save the Dates! 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

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](mailto:rothburymusicfest@gmail.com)

## From the Festival Committee

**Chair: John Pringle | Secretary: Jamie Macaulay | Treasurer: Judith Ness | Musical Director: Ian Stephenson**

**Stephen Moles, Aifionn Evans, Elke Meiborg, Caroline Dawson**

**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.



# **ROTHBURY**

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**12 – 14 JULY 2024**

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