

The Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee warmly thanks all who supported the 58th Gathering earlier this month, through displaying posters, buying tickets, singing shanties, staffing doors or in any other vital way taking part.

Our annual three-day community celebration of NE folk music and traditions saw visitors from Aberdeen to Hastings and as far afield as Colorado and Cologne to enjoy the town's many venues and a traditional friendly welcome.

For the 300th anniversary of its architect Sir John Vanbrugh, Morpeth Town Hall was the festival hub, its public spaces filled with dancing, music, crafts, and a pop-up café - a lively centre for friends old and new to mingle. The event organisers are proud to remind people of this fine historic building, the heart and soul of our town, and a place to be used and cherished.

Particular thanks go to Dave Pope, who steered our website from its early days until now handing over the baton, and the Lions Club of Morpeth, who conducted the licensed street collection on 11th April, raising £305 at the costumed procession.

Despite our working closely with other agencies and groups there were a few unexpected hitches now being investigated, with apologies to anyone inconvenienced.

On a sad note, the Gathering recently lost four special friends, singer Malcolm Bennett, dancer and caller Elaine Carter, photographer Davy Bolam and puppeteer Deborah Bell, to whose families and friends we extend heartfelt condolences.