

## **Aldbrough Feast Committee 2024**

The following people have served on the Aldbrough Feast Committee for 2024

**Chairperson:** Kirstie Thornton, **Treasurer:** Roman Pronyszyn, **Secretary:** Lynn Riley Fox

Mark Thornton, Peter Fenwick, David Banks, Sarah Lewis, Ruth Richmond, Simon Cherry, Jess Young, Carol & Mike Hardy, Ann Lees, Claire Rowett, Chloe Straker, Paul Tate, Elaine Lumley, Sue Martin, Pauline Shone, Andrew Parker, Paul and Barbara Owen and Elaine Rushton.

### **Thanks**

Aldbrough Feast Committee would like to thank the following for their support during the Feast:

- **Oaklea Service Station** for sponsoring the Treasure Hunt
- **The Stanwick Arms** for hosting events
- **Peter Fenwick** for Mithril Ales Brewery for providing beer and snacks
- **Evergreen Pallet Solutions (UK) Limited** for providing the stages and equipment for the Feast Festival
- **Genhire** for providing the lighting and generators for the music festival
- **Everyone** who has kindly donated a raffle prize or sponsored an event

**Thank you all very much. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

We would also like to thank everyone who attends, helps and takes part in the Aldbrough Feast, as without you the Feast would not continue and that would be a shame, particularly as it has been running since 1281.

### **The History of Aldbrough Feast**

In 1281, Edward I granted John of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair on the Feast of St Michael (Michaelmas Day, 29<sup>th</sup> September) at Aldbrough. This was the start of the Feast.

Over the years, because of the harvest, the date was brought forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in August. The Feast has had its ups and downs over the years. In the late 1800s, it became known as a week's booze-up, and in the early 1930s it nearly closed from lack of funds but the village blacksmith, Mr Joe Robinson, who was secretary of the Feast, managed to keep it going. He was secretary from 1919 to the 1950s when he retired. He was so successful that in 1939 there were over 6,000 spectators. There was pony racing and showjumping on the Monday and no doubt there was some illegal gambling, as busloads of miners used to come from South West Durham.

In the 1970s it nearly closed again when one person had to erect the arena on his own. At the threatened closing down meeting the village rallied round and it has gone from strength to strength ever since.

### **Use of Feast Money Raised**

The money raised during the Feast is for the benefit of the village. We will be giving 10% of the annual Feast surplus to local charity, this year the chosen charity is St Teresa's Hospice. If people want to nominate a charity for next year, they should send details to Kirstie Thornton [Kirstie.thornton@googlemail.com](mailto:Kirstie.thornton@googlemail.com). If you have a suggestion on the use of funds do mention it to a member of the committee or email it to the Secretary.

### **Health and Safety**

We take all reasonable precautions to ensure Aldbrough Feast is a safe and enjoyable event, but you may wish to note the following: Doctors Lane Surgery is open from 08:30 – 19:00.

**Please inform the Feast Chairman Kirstie Thornton of any incidents.**

To help keep things safe we ask you to adhere to the following:

- Watch children in your care at all times. Aldbrough Feast accepts no responsibility for them.
- Take extra care when bringing vehicles to Aldbrough Feast events.
- Take care with glasses/glass bottles at the Feast Festival.

**Do not leave litter.** There will be bags or bins provided, if not, please take litter home.