

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID SUPPORT**  
**GILSTRAP CHARITY**

<b>1. About Your Organisation</b>			
<b>Organisation Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Contact Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Postcode:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Telephone No.</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>2. Project Description</b>			
<b>Please describe the nature of your project and its objectives:</b>			
<b>Nature of Project:</b>	Gathering of the North is a vibrant historical re-enactment event set in the iconic Sherwood Forest, celebrating the heritage of medieval England. The programme features jousting tournaments, a buhurt combat arena, traditional games, archery, and immersive experiences for all ages. Launched in 2025 to great acclaim, the event is free to attend, ensuring accessibility while promoting the Newark and Sherwood district as the heart of historic England. Our goal is to preserve and share this rich cultural tradition with the community and visitors alike.		
<b>Objectives:</b>	Celebrate Heritage: Showcase medieval history through authentic re-enactments and immersive experiences. Strengthen Community: Provide a free, inclusive event that fosters local pride and engagement. Promote Partnerships: Work with the RSPB and local organisations to combine cultural and environmental stewardship. Support Local Craft: Highlight traditional skills and crafts to sustain heritage trades.		
<b>Expected Start Date:</b>	23/05/2025	<b>Expected Finish Date:</b>	25/05/2025
<b>Where will your project/event take place?</b>			
Sherwood Forest, Edwinstowe			
<b>3. People who will Benefit from this Project/Event</b>			
<b>Please provide details of who will benefit from this event and which area of Newark the project/event will cover.</b>			
Last year we had over 9000 attendee's over the three days and we intend to double this number in 2026. It comprised of locals and travelling tourists alike. Its navigatable via bus, car and foot opening it to the whole district to enjoy. It does not exclude nor ticket access.			
<b>How many people will participate in the project?</b>			
9000+			
<b>What links does the project have to existing arts or cultural related events and programmes both locally and nationally?</b>			
Our project is deeply connected to existing arts and cultural programmes both locally and nationally. We work with traditional craftspeople from across the UK, many of whom regularly feature at major heritage events such as Lincoln Christmas Market, Tewkesbury Medieval Festival, and The Battle of Bosworth, among others. Our performers and traders also engage with UK film and media, having appeared on programmes like Time Team and supplied authentic, locally crafted goods for popular productions including Poldark and Game of Thrones. In 2025, one of our local traders was even commissioned to create bespoke woodwork for the Newark Gateway Castle Project, demonstrating the strong link between our event and wider cultural initiatives.			
<b>Why is the project needed?</b>			
The project is needed to preserve and celebrate our shared heritage while enriching the local community. Sherwood Forest is an iconic cultural landmark, yet opportunities for immersive historical experiences in this region are limited. Gathering of the North provides a free, accessible event that brings history to life through authentic re-enactments, traditional crafts, and educational activities. By keeping the event ticket-free, we ensure inclusivity for all, but this model requires external support to sustain high-quality programming. The project also strengthens local identity, supports artisans and performers, and attracts visitors, boosting cultural tourism and economic activity. Without funding, this unique celebration risks being lost, along with the benefits it brings to heritage, education, and community engagement.			
<b>How will you promote and publicise your project?</b>			
We will promote and publicise the event through a comprehensive marketing strategy. A managed Facebook account will share regular updates and engage with local community groups to maximise reach. The event will also benefit from partner promotion via the Visit Sherwood page managed by the RSPB. In addition, we will advertise in key local publications, including the Newark Advertiser, The Chad, The Bramley Apple, and Sherwood Life. To attract heritage enthusiasts and families, we will incorporate historical themes and imagery across all channels. We will also collaborate with local and regional tourism influencers to extend our reach and generate authentic engagement. A dedicated budget of £1,000 has been allocated to ensure effective marketing and visibility though we would like to grow this to ensure we can gain paid placements in local papers.			
<b>What longer term benefits will be derived from the project?</b>			
The project will create lasting impact by raising the profile of traditional craft traders and positioning Newark and Sherwood as a leading destination for heritage events. It will strengthen local identity, boost cultural tourism, and support the preservation of arts and crafts. Long term, we aim to build on this success by bidding to host events at Newark Castle after its relaunch, ensuring continued growth for immersive history experiences.			

#### 4. Project/Event Budget

Please provide details of the project/event budget, including the amount requested from the Gilstrap Charity. If the total cost is more than the grant requested, where will the rest of the funding come from?

The total estimated cost of the event is £24,420 (excluding VAT). We are requesting £9,000 from the Gilstrap Charity, which will specifically cover the cost of the joust for three days – a central feature of the event that draws visitors and creates an authentic medieval experience. Additional expenses include marketing, site coordination, safety provisions, facilities, signage, insurance, and entertainment to ensure a high-quality, immersive event. Projected income includes £3,500 from the RSPB, £1,500 in sponsorship, and £4,000 from pitch fees, bringing confirmed and expected income to £18,000. This leaves a funding gap of £6,420, which will be met through personal contributions from the event team and in-kind support. This funding structure ensures the event remains free and accessible to the public while maintaining the high standards that make it a flagship heritage celebration.

Is your organisation VAT registered? **Yes/No**  
If yes, please provide your VAT Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Will there be any income generated from the project/event? If yes, please provide estimates.  
The RSPB will obtain revenue from the carpark of which they will be providing £2 per parking space back to the event team to cover costs incurred from the event. This funding will be put back into the event team to allow for more future events.

#### 5. Have applications been made for other sources of third party funding?

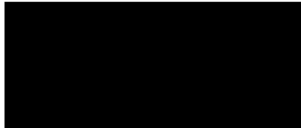
The RSPB will be a partner contributor and a mead company will sponsor the sword fighting arena.

#### 6. Other Supporting Comments and Information



We are dedicated to curating historically inspired events celebrating local crafts people and keeping NSDC on the map as a tourism location. We work closely with key partners like the RSPB and are dedicated to safe events. Please call if you would like to discuss further in any detail.

**BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS** (If your application is successful, we will pay the award through a BACS transfer).  
TBC

**DECLARATION**

I confirm that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of 

I undertake that any grant awarded will be used solely for the purpose outlined in this application. I also understand that the Gilstrap Charity reserves the right to withhold the payment of the whole or any part of the grant or to require repayment if any information contained herein is false or misleading.

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name  \_\_\_\_\_

Date 31/12/2025

#### CONDITIONS OF GRANT FUNDING

1. Approval must be sought for any subsequent changes to the submitted project outline.
2. If any grant awarded is surplus to requirements this should be returned to the Charity.
3. If funding is awarded the applicant will be required to provide progress reports to the Charity and a post event/project evaluation report.
4. The applicant will ensure that all necessary licences and consents are obtained.
5. The grant must be spent within 12 months of being awarded.
6. Proof of expenditure will be required.

7. Any publicity/marketing material associated with the grant funded event/initiative must acknowledge the Charity's grant funding contribution and include the Charity's logo and website address.

Please return this form to:

Clerk to the Gilstrap Charity  
Castle House  
Great North Road  
Newark  
Notts. NG24 1BY