



# Friends of Durham Miners Gala

*The Past We Inherit – The Future We Build*

21/03/2023

Mick Lynch  
General Secretary, RMT  
By email

## The 137<sup>th</sup> Durham Miners Gala – Saturday 8 July 2023

Dear Mick,

As you know last year's Gala – dedicated to front-line workers – was a huge success. Over 200,000 people attended, accompanied by more than 60 brass bands and over 100 trades union banners.

This year the Gala will be even bigger as Durham on the second Saturday in July is the natural rallying point for all those in struggle. It will send a defiant and robust message to this cruel Government.

Those who in the past have made the journey to Durham often talk of “having their batteries recharged”, of “rejuvenation” and the “joy of comradeship”. Others attend for the first time, join a union and get involved.

The Friends of Durham Miners' Gala (FODMG) is ten years old this year and it has raised £1M to improve and meet the escalating cost of the Gala – well over half has been donated in small amounts from individual supporters who are now struggling to heat their homes and put food on the table.

The Gala is an enjoyable experience for all who attend, but it is much more than that; it embodies the whole history of trade unionism which makes the spirit of the Gala a material force in the struggles of today and the challenges of the future.

This year we are making a special appeal to trades union branches to help.

We have created a page on our website for branches to invest in the Gala. It includes an appeal video, and instructions on how to support the oldest trade union demonstration, first held in 1871.

Please could you help by circulating this link to all your branches, and recommend that they give their support to the Durham Miners Gala.

The link is: <https://www.friendsofdurhamminersgala.org/invest>

Many thanks in anticipation,

Dave Anderson  
Chair, Friends of Durham Miners Gala



[www.friendsofdurhamminersgala.org](https://www.friendsofdurhamminersgala.org)