

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1142471

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [07471625](#)

Registered 2011-06-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Website <http://www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS (OBJECTS) ARE:1) TO ADVANCE ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE THROUGH ENCOURAGING THE PLAYING, STUDY, MAKING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES AND THEIR MUSIC AND RAISING AWARENESS OF THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES AND THEIR MUSIC; AND2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN RELATION TO THE STUDY, PLAYING, MAKING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES.

Activities: The NPS is a membership organisation encouraging and promoting the playing, study, making, raising awareness of and development of the Northumbrian Small Pipes and Half Long (or Border) Pipes and their music. We organise meetings, competitions, sessions, courses and events; publish newsletters, tune books and pipe making information; provide a discussion forum; and maintain archive material.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Caerphilly
- Northumberland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£27,088	£20,600	-	-
2024-03-31	£24,030	£26,402	-	-
2023-03-31	£30,029	£27,263	-	-
2022-03-31	£25,587	£27,573	-	-
2021-03-31	£25,568	£25,054	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW DAVISON	Chair	
Alan Douglass		2024-11-16
Alex Matthew Barrass		2024-11-16
Andrew James Lawrenson		2017-08-19
Elizabeth Helen Capes		2020-11-07
Gregory McCormick		2022-10-14
Iain Alexander Gelston		2018-08-18
Melanie Jessica Rothman		2023-11-18
Michael Ratliff		2022-10-14
Norman Douglas		2024-01-15
STANLEY ANDREW MAY		2012-03-27
The Very Rev'd Geoff Miller		2024-11-16
Vincent Owen Syson		2019-08-10

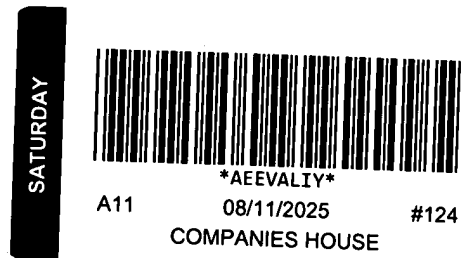
THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1142471

Accounts

Registered number: 07471625
Charity number: 1142471

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)
UNAUDITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



ArmstrongWatson[®]
Accountants, Business & Financial Advisers

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

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THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees	Andrew Davison OBE, Chairman Helen Capes Norman Douglas Tom Fairfax (resigned 16 November 2024) Iain Gelston Paul Knox (resigned 16 November 2024) Andrew Lawrenson Andy May, Vice Chairman Gregory McCormick Michael Ratliff Alex Matthew Barras (appointed 16 November 2024) Melanie Jessica Rothman Carolyn Soakell (resigned 16 November 2024) Vincent Syson Alan Douglass (appointed 16 November 2024) The Very Rev'D Geoff Miller (appointed 16 November 2024)
Company registered number	07471625
Charity registered number	1142471
Registered office	Time Central 32 Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF
Company secretary	Muckle Secretary Limited
Independent Examiner	David Gold Armstrong Watson LLP One Strawberry Lane Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BX
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP United Trust Bank Limited One Ropemaker Street London EC2Y 9AW

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Solicitors	Muckle LLP Time Central 32 Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF
Patron	His Grace the Duke of Northumberland
President	Rt Hon The Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead
Website	www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk
Society Secretary	Ann Sessoms
Pipe Hire	Hilary Richardson
Journal Editor	John Gibbons
Newsletter Editor	Hannah Wiggins

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The chairman presents his statement for the year.

Dear Member,

I often stop to think as I write my annual report to Members on behalf of the Committee – “What have we actually achieved in the last year?”

It is so easy just to do what we have always done and think it is enough, but the world continues to change around us and, as the old saying goes, “if you stand still, you go backwards”. Have we done what the membership would want us to? Have we achieved all that we reasonably can in order to promote the objects of the Society? I hope, when you have read this, that you will feel that your Society has been active, doing and achieving the right things. I hope you will also be pleased to see just how much is going on. However, if you think we have not, do please get in touch or, even better, volunteer to help.

During the year since I last wrote to you, the Society has (amongst other things and in no particular order):

- Organised
 - the Annual Concert
 - the annual competitions
 - the annual dinner with Johnny Handle as the guest speaker
 - the monthly Saturday afternoon sessions at The Chantry in Morpeth
 - the monthly Thursday evening session at The Northumbrian Piper pub
 - the monthly Thursday evening session at the Station East pub
 - the annual Wallington Pipers' Gathering
 - the Annual General Meeting
- Had a presence (often including a “try the pipes” opportunity) at:
 - Rothbury Traditional Music Festival
 - The Glendale Show
 - Ovingham Goose Fair
 - The Northumberland Show
 - Bellingham Show
 - Beamish Pipers' Picnic
- Operated an extremely effective pipe hire service, enabling new pipers to try the instrument before committing to buy a set. There are currently 30 sets of pipes out on hire as I write this report
- Provided financial support to the Young Pipers' Group run by Richard and Fiona Johnstone
- Provided the structure within which the Pipemakers' Forum can operate, supporting those who are interested in making/fettling pipes
- Provided sets of pipes for use in schools to support those willing to go into schools to teach young people to play
- Published the monthly electronic newsletter
- Operated the “Buddy Scheme” to provide support to new pipers around the world
- Maintained the Society website
- Managed the Society Archives
- Maintained the Society's office premises at Newbiggin and continued to search for the future physical presence of the Society
- Managed the Society's online shop, offering a wide range of products, including tune books, CDs and pipemaking materials
- Responded to all sorts of general enquiries received through the website and in correspondence
- Managed the finances of running the Society, providing management information and fulfilling annual compliance reporting obligations, and maintaining insurance cover for the Society's assets and activities

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- Monitored and responded to policy initiatives, including the implementation of the Ivory Act, the adoption of the UNESCO treaty on intangible cultural heritage, the future of the Chantry building (which houses the Bagpipe Museum and many Society events) in Morpeth and liaising with groups including The Bagpipe Society, The Lowland & Border Pipers' Society, The Heritage Crafts Association
- Acted as a point of support and information exchange between Members and regional playing groups, including the Society's Branch in Durham & Cleveland
- Produced a website where people can listen to archive recordings by Forster Charlton and catalogue the contents
- Started to develop a special initiative to support young people to get into piping (see below)
- Commenced a full review of our policies

I hope you will be impressed.

Of course, "The Society" does nothing. All of this activity is the result of hard work by a relatively small number of dedicated volunteers. I would like to pay tribute here to each and every one of you for making the time to support the aims of the Society in all the different ways you do. Without you, none of the above would happen. Thank you!

One really important development in the last year was the Committee's focus on trying to make sure that the Society continues to be financially sustainable. Like every organisation, we have faced increasing costs. This has required some difficult decisions, not least being the request to Members to approve an increase in subscription fees. Thank you for your support in this at the AGM. Thank you also to all of you who have subsequently agreed to pay your subscription by annual direct debit. This hugely reduces the administrative burden in chasing payments and also makes it easier for overseas members to maintain their membership. Thank you to Norman Douglas (our Treasurer) and Susan Craven (our Administrator) for guiding us through that process.

There is always a worry when you have to increase subscriptions that you lose members as a result. Inevitably, this has been the case. Last year, we had 740 members in total. This year we have a total of 606 of which 441 were paying members (the rest being Life, Honorary, or Junior members, who do not pay subscriptions). Some Members who still pay by standing order have not altered this for many years and are still (despite numerous reminders) paying at an old subscription rate. Rather than cancel their membership, we have created a separate category of "Supporter", so that these former members will continue to receive the monthly Newsletter but will not be full voting members of the Society. The overall result is that subscription income has increased in line with Norman's projections. Nevertheless, I strongly urge you all to encourage any pipers you know who are not members, to join. Even though most of the time spent on Society matters is volunteer time at no financial cost to the Society, the Society can only continue with the financial support of its Members.

The Journal remains an important publication by the Society, capturing information and sharing research in a more lasting format than the Newsletter, and I remain extremely grateful to John Gibbons for his work on this. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, it was not possible to publish an edition in 2024. However, it is hoped that it will return in 2025. With postage and printing costs having increased so much, with more people finding the convenience of receiving information electronically and also to help treat all members equally (with no higher subscription for overseas members as was previously needed to cover differential postage costs), the Committee has decided that, in future, the Journal will be circulated to every member in electronic format. A small number of copies will still be printed for archive purposes. Any Member who would still like to receive a hard copy will be able to purchase one at cost price from the Society's online shop, through the website.

The Society's website is becoming ever more important as a shop window, a source of information and many other essential services. The current underlying architecture that makes it all work is getting out of date and needs an overhaul. I am extremely grateful to our new Committee member, Alan Douglass, who understands how these things work. Alan is proving to be a hugely helpful addition to the Committee, leading on the project that will soon see us appoint an external company to carry out the necessary work.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Sometimes, the saddest of situations can lead to some really positive outcomes. In the last year, we lost one of our most active pipemakers/reedmakers with the untimely death of Dave Shaw. He is sorely missed by many and it is testament to his influence that The Northumberland Show instigated a new Northumbrian Piping Tent and new set of competitions in his memory and that Beamish Museum held a session in the farmhouse and also established the new Pipers' Picnic to honour his contribution, including bringing the sound of the pipes to this regional attraction. I sincerely hope that both events will now continue, on an annual basis, marking Dave's contribution and bringing the sound of the pipes to many more people. The first Northumbrian Piping Tent and Competitions at The Northumberland Show was a great example of people rallying round to put on a great show at short notice. Ednie Wilson ran her "try the pipes" sessions for anyone wanting to have a go, Andy Lawrenson put on a pipemaking display, Nick Leeming piped at the entrance to the Showfield, there was a session in the tent and Kathryn Tickell judged the competitions. All in all, a great day was had by all. My special thanks to Nicola Davison and Gill Lyons for organising everything.

Looking to the future, there are some initiatives that I believe are really rather exciting.

First is the renewed focus on helping young people to play the pipes. The Society now offers free membership to those still in full time education. This carries with it the free issue of the NPS First Tune Book. We have also started to build a separate stock of pipes for hire to/use by young people, distinct from the current Pipe Hire service we have run for many years. This special stock has recently been significantly increased with the donation to the Society of the pipes formerly owned by The Northumberland Music Service and some private donations. We now have around 20 sets available for this purpose and are working on bringing them all into full playing condition. A number of people have been teaching in schools or privately, and we plan to help these (and others) with some sharing of best practice and possibly by using the Society's charitable status to raise funds to support subsidised tuition/pipe hire. The objective is to remove as many barriers as possible and to open up the option of learning the pipes to as many young people as we can. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please do get in touch with me.

Second is the possible evolution of the great work that Greg McCormick has been doing to digitise and catalogue the Forster Charlton recordings archive. Greg has devised a web-based portal for people to sign up to in order to access the recordings as we try to work out what this archive contains, what copyright issues we may need to deal with and how we can make as much of it as possible more generally available. We still have box loads of tapes to digitise and I am sure that this is going to become an increasingly important archive as the programme expands.

Third, we have been considering what to do with our own archive materials (records, correspondence etc). We are not professional archivists and there is a risk that we do not have the skills or resource properly to look after and preserve what we have, especially if we have to move our offices from the current facility at Newbiggin. The current thinking is to try to digitise as much as possible to go onto our website and to deposit the original materials with either the Northumberland or the Tyne & Wear Archives services, where they would be professionally looked after and still be accessible to members and (in time) to the general public. My thanks to the small team, including Julia Say, Richard Heard and Alex Barrass who have been helping to shape and implement this.

Fourth, those of you who are more observant of these things will have noticed that 2028 will be the Centenary of the Society in its current form. This is surely something definitely worth celebrating. Your Committee has started to pull together a list of possible ways to mark the occasion. If you have any suggestions, please do let us know.

There are, of course, still challenges we need to overcome. One continues to be trying to find the right place to base the Society's "office", where we can store useful materials, shop stock etc, as well as potentially developing it as a base for lessons, sessions or whatever people would like to get together to do. We keep looking for the right place, but no formal solution has been found yet. We currently have less than a year to run on our lease of the premises in Newbiggin, so this is becoming more time critical.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

As ever, we are always looking for new volunteers. This year, both Julia Say will be retiring from running the Society's online shop and Ann Sessoms will be retiring as our Secretary. As many of you will know, both have been incredible supporters of the Society, having filled many roles over several decades. Both will be hugely missed. We have been fortunate enough to have Louise Woodman volunteer to take over the running of the online bookshop and she is working with Julia on the transition now. We are very keen to find a new person to take on the role of Secretary, if you think you might be able to help, do please get in touch.

Finally, my thanks not only to the people I have mentioned above but also to everyone else who in one way or another contributes to the work of the Society in promoting our wonderful instruments and their music. Do please keep playing out and letting us know through the Newsletter what you have been doing. I am always delighted to see all the groups who gather informally to enjoy playing together. To me, this is the best bit of piping – sharing a good tune with friends. A sincere thank you to all those who have made donations to the Society (either in cash or in the form of sets of pipes or of archive material), to my fellow Committee members for your tireless work and to Baroness Joyce Quin, or President, for your wonderful support.

I look forward to "meeting" as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman - October 2025

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

CLEVELAND AND COUNTY DURHAM BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland and Co. Durham Branch
Statement September 2024 – August 2025

- 1) The Branch AGM was held in November 2024.
- 2) The committee stood and was elected again, so there were no changes from the previous year.
- 3) Physical meetings of the Branch held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in Ceddesfeld Hall have continued successfully.
- 4) The monthly practice on 4th Wednesday has also continued though intermittently for the last year.
- 5) The Branch Hon. Treasurer organised a special meeting for March 2024 which featured the piping and many useful thoughts on piping matters by Nick Leeming. This was an entertaining and informative event, and we thank Nick for it.
- 6) The Branch's public playing group completed its performances at the National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens in the summer of 2025. We have four pipers now in the playing group.
- 7) The Branch held a successful Christmas meal event at the Dun Cow in Sedgfield before the December 2024 meeting
- 8) There have been no requests for pipe hire.
- 9) The Chair thanks the Branch committee and members for their work and support..

David Cook
Cleveland and Co. Durham Branch Chair and Secretary
August 2025

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the ended 31 March 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society (the "Society"), is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 16 December 2010 as amended by special resolutions dated 3 June 2011, 2 August 2013 and 10 August 2019. The Society was registered with the Charity Commission on 20 June 2011.

The Society includes Cleveland and County Durham Branch which meets at Ceddesheld Hall, Sedgefield and a number of less formally constituted groups which meet at various locations in Great Britain, mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada.

The charitable company was dormant until it acquired the assets and liabilities of the unincorporated Northumbrian Pipers' Society on 1 April 2012.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Members and trustees

The Society has no paid employees and relies on the unpaid voluntary services of members. In early 2017 the Society engaged the services of a part-time self-employed administrator.

The affairs of the Society are managed by a committee elected by members of the Society. Members of the committee are trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Trustees who served during the year are noted on page one.

At the AGM held on 16 Nov 2024 the following Trustees stood down: Tom Fairfax; Paul Knox and Carolyn Soakell.

Baroness Joyce Quin is offering to stand for re-appointment as President of the Society. Andrew John Davison is offering to stand for re-appointment as Chairman. Andrew James Lawrenson, Melanie Jessica Rothman and Vincent Owen Syson are offering themselves for re-election for further two-year terms, expiring at the 2027 AGM.

Formal committee meetings are held physically or by video conference every two months and are supplemented by informal ad hoc meetings and discussions by telephone and email as considered necessary.

The Society endeavours to recruit committee members with a wide variety of musical, technical, professional and organisational skills in order to meet the Society's aims and objectives. Vacancies are advertised to all members through the Newsletter and personal contact networks are also used to identify potential candidates.

Cleveland and County Durham Branch is managed by a committee elected by branch members. Branch committee members are not trustees of the charity or directors of the company and during the year comprised Dave Cook (Chair and Secretary), Peter Manning (Treasurer), Timothy Jones and Philippa Sinclair. Branch accounts for year ending 31 March 2024 were approved at the branch AGM in November 2024 and are included, along with provisional accounts for year ended 31 March 2025, in the accounts of the Society for year ending 31 March 2025.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The objectives of the Society are:

- to advance art, culture and heritage through encouraging the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes and their music, and
- to advance the education of the public in relation to the study, playing, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. They confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described in detail in the Chairman's Statement.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the level of reserves that should be held. Reserves are required to allow for any funding gaps that may arise because of the different timings of income and expenditure throughout the financial year, to cover future expenditure and to allow for contingencies such as emergency expenses or fleeting opportunities to further its charitable aims. The trustees consider that the level of unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets should not fall below £10,000. The reserves held at 31 March 2025 were £35,776 (2024: £30,689).

c. Financial review

The financial results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA'). The charity had a net operating surplus of £9,838 (2024: deficit of £3,722). Net assets at 31 March 2025 totalled £116,225 (2024: £106,387).

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the charity

The achievements and performance of the Society are set out in detail in the Chairman's Statement.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A J Davison

A J Davison (Nov 6, 2025 20:03:44 GMT)

Andrew Davison OBE

Chairman

Date: 5 November 2025

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Northumbrian Pipers' Society ('the charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my work or for this report.

D R Gold

D R Gold (Nov 7, 2025 08:32:31 GMT)

Signed:

Dated: 5 November 2025

D R Gold BA, FCA

David Gold
Armstrong Watson LLP
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	12,981	-	12,981	12,779
Charitable activities	4	12,329	-	12,329	10,900
Investments	5	1,778	-	1,778	351
Total income		27,088	-	27,088	24,030
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	20,600	-	20,600	26,402
Total expenditure		20,600	-	20,600	26,402
Net income/(expenditure)		6,488	-	6,488	(2,372)
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		6,488	-	6,488	(2,372)
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		3,350	-	3,350	(1,350)
Net movement in funds		9,838	-	9,838	(3,722)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		105,652	735	106,387	110,109
Net movement in funds		9,838	-	9,838	(3,722)
Total funds carried forward		115,490	735	116,225	106,387

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07471625

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	79,714	74,963
		<u>79,714</u>	<u>74,963</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	11	8,959	9,555
Debtors	12	4,275	4,041
Cash at bank and in hand		48,845	45,896
		<u>62,079</u>	<u>59,492</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,568)	(10,668)
Net current assets		<u>52,511</u>	<u>48,824</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>132,225</u>	<u>123,787</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(16,000)	(17,400)
Total net assets		<u><u>116,225</u></u>	<u><u>106,387</u></u>

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07471625

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	735	735
Unrestricted funds	15	115,490	105,652
Total funds		<u>116,225</u>	<u>106,387</u>

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A J Davison

A J Davison (Nov 6, 2025 20:03:44 GMT)

Andrew Davison OBE

Chairman

Date: 5 November 2025

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. General information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The address of the registered office is Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4BF. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional and presentation currency of the charity.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital grants received are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Income from other trading activities comprises income from fundraising events and is included when receivable.

Income from investments arises from interest-bearing deposit accounts and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income from concerts, festivals and pipe hire and is recognised when receivable.

Income from the sale of goods is recognised when substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred to the buyer.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives. Support costs comprise governance costs which are all costs incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Life memberships

Members of the Society may purchase an individual life membership at any time at a cost of £400. Amounts received in respect of life memberships are released to income over a period of 25 years from 1 April 2012, when the company assumed the assets and liabilities of the former Northumbrian Pipers' Society, or the date the life membership came into existence, whichever is the later.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, office equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Office equipment	- 4 years
------------------	-----------

Tangible fixed assets relating to trophies, medal dies and hire pipes are included in the financial statements under the revaluation model. Pipes held for hire and medal dies are valued by the trustees based on the Society's own expertise.

Trophies are valued by the trustees based on independent professional valuations.

Trophies, medal dies and pipes held for hire are not depreciated, as they do not have finite lives, provided that they are correctly made and properly maintained. The carrying values are assessed each year and an impairment provision is made if necessary. Costs of maintenance are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

2.7 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost of purchase and net realisable value. Cost comprises actual purchase price and, where applicable, associated direct costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present condition and location. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank consists of Barclays Bank current accounts, Barclays Bank premium accounts and a United Trust Bank deposit account.

2.10 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

2.11 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. They comprise donations, concert and festival income and other income receivable.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Grants and donations obtained for specific purposes are recognised in the financial statements as restricted funds.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Subscriptions and donations	10,268	10,268	10,163
Life memberships	1,400	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	1,313	1,313	1,216
	<u>12,981</u>	<u>12,981</u>	<u>12,779</u>

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Concert income	1,820	1,820	1,963
Pipe hire income	7,845	7,845	5,932
Sales of books and CDs	2,664	2,664	2,758
Other income	-	-	247
	<u>12,329</u>	<u>12,329</u>	<u>10,900</u>

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Interest receivable on cash deposits	1,778	1,778	351

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£</i>
Charitable activities	15,927	4,673	20,600	26,402
<i>Total 2024</i>	20,782	5,620	26,402	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£</i>
Depreciation	99	83
Concert costs	1,635	2,211
Pipe hire maintenance	1,701	1,519
Cost of sales: Books and CDs	509	1,391
Cleveland and County Durham branch costs	159	100
Printing, postage and stationery	422	4,493
Marketing	168	107
Music Partnership donation	400	400
Sundry expenses	221	106
Website costs	151	396
Bad debts	-	(113)
Bank charges	190	184
Office costs	6,224	5,364
Administration costs	4,048	4,541
	15,927	<i>20,782</i>

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Printing, postage and stationery	120	807
Administration costs	1,349	1,513
Accountancy and independent examination	3,204	3,300
	4,673	<i>5,620</i>

The above support costs are costs allocated to governance costs.

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	<i>2024 £</i>
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner in respect of:		
Independent examination	650	600
Accountancy services	2,230	2,040
	2,880	<i>2,640</i>

8. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

Average number of employees - nil (2024: nil).

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The trustees consider the key management personnel comprise the trustees.

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £	Trophies £	Medal dies £	Pipes for hire £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2024	504	25,400	5,000	49,300	80,204
Additions	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
Revaluations	-	-	-	3,350	3,350
At 31 March 2025	504	25,400	5,000	54,150	85,054
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	341	-	4,900	-	5,241
Charge for the year	99	-	-	-	99
At 31 March 2025	440	-	4,900	-	5,340
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	64	25,400	100	54,150	79,714
At 31 March 2024	163	25,400	100	49,300	74,963

During 2012/13, The Sage Gateshead donated a stock of parts for plastic pipes which was initially valued by the trustees at £1,000 and that valuation was included in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 as exceptional voluntary income. These parts needed to be repaired and certain manufacturing faults corrected, and then supplemented and assembled into complete sets of pipes for use principally for hire to schools.

During 2013/14, significant technical challenges were overcome and twenty sets of plastic pipes were completed and made available to Northumberland County Council for use in schools. The trustees have valued the twenty completed sets at £300 each, with the remaining parts being valued at £500 in total. After taking into account expenditure on the project during the year 2013/14, the revaluation surplus was £5,260.

During the year ended 31 March 2014, the trustees obtained an independent professional valuation of trophies which resulted in a revaluation surplus of £14,700.

During the year ended 31 March 2017 the trustees revalued a number of donated sets of pipes which had been refurbished where necessary and brought into use in the hire pool. The revaluation surplus was £3,950.

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the trustees revalued the existing sets of pipes in the hire pool and three sets of pipes that were purchased in the period. The revaluation deficit was £1,350.

During the year ended 31 March 2025 the trustees revalued the existing sets of pipes in the hire pool and three sets of pipes were purchased in the period. The revaluation surplus was £3,350.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11. Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Pipemaking materials, books, CDs and competition medals	8,959	9,146
Pipes Purchase Scheme	-	409
	8,959	9,555
	8,959	9,555

Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £1,750 (2024: £1,750) less cumulative amounts received of £1,750 (2024: £1,341). The interest element of amounts received is not material.

12. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors - charitable activities	102	101
Other debtors - Gift Aid	1,313	1,216
Prepayments	2,860	2,724
	4,275	4,041
	4,275	4,041

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors - charitable activities	3,810	4,849
Accruals and deferred income	5,758	5,819
	9,568	10,668
	9,568	10,668

Included within accrual and deferred income is deferred income of £2,416 (2024: £2,335). This consists of £1,400 (2024: £1,400) in relation to life memberships and £1,016 (2024: £935) in relation to subscriptions.

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income - Life memberships	16,000	17,400
	16,000	17,400
	16,000	17,400

Total life memberships as at 31 March 2025 were £17,400 (2024: £18,800). During the period £1,400 (2024: £1,400) was released to income for the year. £1,400 (2024: £1,400) is included within deferred income within creditors falling due with one year. The remainder of £16,000 (2024: £17,400) is included within creditors falling due after more than one year.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	105,652	27,088	(20,600)	3,350	115,490
Restricted funds					
2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross	735	-	-	-	735
Total of funds	106,387	27,088	(20,600)	3,350	116,225

The unrestricted income funds include a revaluation reserve of £25,910 at 31 March 2025 as described in note 10.

The restricted income fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	109,374	24,030	(26,402)	(1,350)	105,652
Restricted funds					
2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross	735	-	-	-	735
Total of funds	110,109	24,030	(26,402)	(1,350)	106,387

The unrestricted income funds include a revaluation reserve of £22,560 at 31 March 2024 as described in note 10.

The restricted income fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	79,714	-	79,714
Current assets	61,344	735	62,079
Creditors due within one year	(9,568)	-	(9,568)
Creditors due in more than one year	(16,000)	-	(16,000)
Total	115,490	735	116,225

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	74,963	-	74,963
Current assets	58,757	735	59,492
Creditors due within one year	(10,668)	-	(10,668)
Creditors due in more than one year	(17,400)	-	(17,400)
Total	105,652	735	106,387

17. Related party transactions

The charity has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the charity at 31 March 2025.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1142471

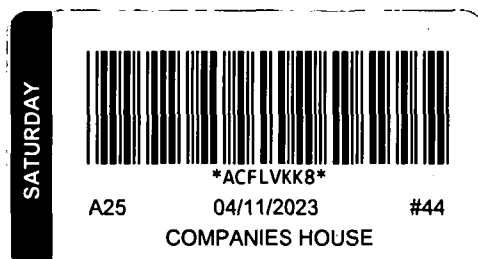
Accounts

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 MARCH 2023

Registered company number 07471625
Registered charity number 1142471



ARMSTRONG WATSON
Chartered Accountants
Newcastle upon Tyne

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 MARCH 2023

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12	Balance sheet
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THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

31 MARCH 2023

Charity number: 1142471 **Company number:** 07471625

Trustees

Andrew Davison OBE (Chairman)	Nick Leeming (resigned 14 October 2022)
Helen Capes	Andy May (Vice Chairman)
Michael Evans (resigned 14 October 2022)	Gregory McCormick (appointed 14 October 2022)
Tom Fairfax	Michael Ratliff (appointed 14 October 2022)
Iain Gelston	Alice Robinson
Paul Knox	Carolyn Soakell
Andrew Lawrenson	Vincent Syson

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

President: Rt Hon The Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead

Company secretary

Michael Evans (resigned 14 October 2022)
Muckle Secretary Limited (appointed 14 October 2022)

Website: www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk

Society secretary: Ann Sessoms

Pipe Hire: Hilary Richardson

Journal Editor: John Gibbons

Newsletter Editor: Hannah Wiggins

Registered office

Time Central
32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BF

Independent Examiner

D R Gold
Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX

Bankers

Barclays Bank UK Plc	Virgin Money UK Plc
1 Churchill Place	Jubilee House
London	Gosforth
E14 5HP	Newcastle upon Tyne
	NE3 4PL

Solicitors

Muckle LLP
Time Central
32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BF

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

Dear Member,

I write with a great sense of loss.

Since I last reported to you on the activities of the Society, there has been a huge generational shift. Not only at a National level, with the transition from our Queen of over 70 years to a new King, but also within the piping community. Amongst others, we have lost Richard Butler (the Duke's Piper for some 40 years and a great ambassador for the pipes), my father, John Davison, a Life Member of the Society and my piping companion since we learned to play together some 45 years ago, and just weeks after my father, the wonderful gentleman who taught my father and I (and so many others) to play, Roland Lofthouse (Honorary Life Member of the Society and a member of the Society for nearly 70 years), who has sadly just passed away at the age of 96, still playing, inspiring others, and with the most amazing memory for tunes right up to his death.

Such loss, combined with being afforded the incredible honour of being invited by The Duke of Northumberland to succeed Richard Butler, Tom Matthews and Jack Armstrong (who, together with Patricia Jennings, were the first pipers I ever heard and who inspired me to take up the pipes) to become the 13th recorded "Duke's Piper" in an unbroken line going back at least as far as the 1750s (and probably earlier), makes me reflect not only on the past, the wonderful times shared with such friends and giants in the piping world and what they have taught us, but also on the passing of the baton, of the sense of duty that it is now the turn of the next generation to take the tradition forward. To honour and respect all those who have gone before and to do our bit to try to ensure that future generations have the same opportunity that we have had to enjoy the beauty of our traditions, our instrument and its music.

So, despite such a sense of loss (or maybe because of it), it gives me great pleasure to write to you about some of the achievements of your Society since my last report.

With no apology, I again reflect on my own experience as to how I came to take up the pipes. As mentioned above, I remember being fascinated by seeing two sets of pipes in a glass case in the Clock Tower café at Wallington and then transfixed when these were taken out of the case and played by Patricia and Jack. That sound – the iconic sound of Northumbria – inspired me to ask my father whether I could learn to play. A question that led to us meeting David Burleigh, Roland Lofthouse and so many other pipers who have become wonderful friends over the years. The relevance of this is not just to indulge my reminiscences but because it reflects so well on the outcome of the brilliant work done by Ednie Wilson for the Society. The concept she developed of encouraging all pipers to "Play Out", no matter how proficient we are, so that the general public can hear the sound of the pipes, is so simple but so perfect as a way to inspire others to have a go. It just takes a nice tune (no need for anything fancy) to capture and inspire the next generation of pipers. So a huge thank you to those of you who have given it a go. To people like Vincent Syson, who organised the Society's outing on the Tanfield Railway, the piping in Newcastle Cathedral just before Christmas and who experimented so successfully at being the wandering minstrel at the Wooler Show; to Tom Fairfax, who organised a group of pipers to play at the Glendale Children's Day, enabling over a thousand young people to hear the pipes for the first time, to Nick Leeming, Louise Woodman (and others) who played at the entrance to the Northumberland Show and who volunteer to play inside the house at Wallington, to those who organise the "try it" sessions at the Cambridge Folk Festival. I could go on (and my apologies to the many others who I have not mentioned) but I hope you get the message. Please give it a try where you live. It is not only a brilliant way to promote the pipes but can also be great fun! And please do send pictures for publishing in the Newsletter. We love to see what you have been up to AND it encourages others to do the same.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

In focusing attention on this initiative, I in no way intend to diminish the importance of the other initiatives pursued by the Society. These are essential to capture and nurture any interest shown by someone wanting to hear more about the instrument or to have a go at playing it themselves. These encompass the work done in providing tutors and tune books, the fantastic pipes hire system that has so successfully transitioned from Nick Leeming to Ednie Wilson, Hilary Richardson, and the dedicated volunteers around the country who keep over 50 sets of pipes in the hands of people who want to try to play before buying their own instrument; the wonderful playing groups around the world who are the heart of the Society, welcoming new players and providing social and playing opportunities, encouragement and challenge to those who manage to get started; to the amazing concerts and competitions that the Society has organised over the last year to showcase the very best of what can be achieved, inspiring others to try harder and providing top level entertainment to all who come along to listen.

With these big events in mind, I really want to thank and congratulate the teams who put on the Society's Annual Concert and the 4th Newcastle Piping Festival during the last year. Both take a huge amount of work but are such a joy to attend and I am delighted that we continue to learn our way into how to make these available across the world, through live streaming over the internet. I know we do not always get it perfect all the time but please remember that we are a group of volunteer amateurs, learning as we go and trying our very best. We could (and sometimes do) pay professionals to do it for us but the price of the tickets needs to be higher, to cover the additional costs. If you have experience of running livestreamed events and could get involved to help us improve them, we would be delighted to hear from you.

As your Committee, we regularly beat ourselves up for not achieving enough and worrying that we cannot find people to do the key things. However, as Andy May so clearly observed recently, "we" really are pretty good at doing the things that matter most and in supporting people to do what they enjoy. There is a growing body of volunteers who are not on the Committee but who are doing invaluable work to promote the Society's objectives (the pipe-hire system, the self-help pipemaking group led by Stan May, the many self-organising groups around the country to mention just a few). Where the Committee struggles is in finding volunteers to help with the essential administrative tasks that an organisation must do in order to continue. Things like preparing the accounts, managing the insurances, membership renewals, website maintenance. Increasingly, we are having to pay people to carry out these roles in the absence of volunteers, which puts pressure on us to increase the membership subscription. If at all possible, I would prefer to increase the number of members and the efficiency of the systems (eg with all members paying by standing order instead of having to be chased to pay subscriptions and being able to send AGM notices and accounts by email instead of the excessively costly printing and posting we otherwise have to do) instead of raising subscriptions. Please do what you can to help with this.

I have been delighted to see our newsletter evolve so positively following the appointment of Hannah Wiggins as our new (paid) newsletter editor. She has brought new life and enthusiasm to it. I have the impression that it is being very well received and is creating a real sense of community across the Society. Certainly, the number and variety of contributions Hannah is receiving is really encouraging. It is a brilliant way for you all to tell each other what you have been doing, to share news and best practice in a more vibrant and instant way than the equally important but very different Journal that is produced by John Gibbons, providing a forum for the more thoughtful research articles and a formal record of key events.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

I was also delighted that Nicola and I were able to attend the Society's Annual Dinner at the Northern Counties Club earlier this summer – another event so ably organised by Vincent Syson. It was a really wonderful evening, not only for the excellent food but also because of the opportunity to hear Kathryn Tickell answer random questions from the floor about her experiences as a professional piper and to share the wonderful company of so many members. A special thank you to Kathryn for agreeing to speak and to those members who travelled very long distances to take part. I hope the event will build and that more of you will join us in future years.

A major decision facing the Society in coming years is in relation to our "office" and online shop. As most of you will know, Julia Say has managed both for many years on a voluntary basis and has done a truly staggering amount to support the Society in this way (as well as in many other ways). Julia has indicated that she would like to step back at some point in the next couple of years. So, what do we do next? The Office not only stores the materials for the shop (books, recordings, pipemaking materials etc) but also all the Society's archive material (both paper records and instruments, such as the Colin Ross materials). If we move this to a more central location, would more people visit it? Should we do more to promote the shop? We would very much welcome thoughts from members on how we might evolve this element of the Society's offering.

One of the roles of the Society is to lobby for things that are important and that nobody else would step up to do. An example of this arises from a chance conversation I had with Richard Johnstone, who assists in running the Music Service for schools in Northumberland and who has been teaching the pipes in schools for many years. He alerted me to the fact that the Northumberland Music Service is to be merged into a much larger service covering the whole of the North East and also that the teaching of traditional music is not currently a focus on any agenda for this new service. As a result, I am delighted that the cause has been taken up by our President, Baroness Joyce Quin, who has mentioned the issue to the Education Minister and written a formal letter to the relevant Ministers in both the Lords and the Commons. We are so lucky to have someone as our President who is able to make representations on our behalf at such a high level.

By way of an update also on the impact of the Ivory Act, which you will remember we were consulted on and again Joyce so ably represented our concerns to Ministers about as it was going through its parliamentary stages. I reported last year that I had successfully "self-declared" one set of pipes under the "made before 1975 and including less than 20% ivory" exemption. At the time of writing my last report, I had applied also for exemption for my 17 key ivory and silver Reid set under the "made before 1918 and being of outstandingly high artistic, cultural or historic value" exemption. This requires having to make the case for the item and this being considered by an "expert". I can now report that this application was successful. It may help members looking to sell or hire their own sets to know that, following research I have undertaken by asking people who knew him at the time, any set of pipes made by Jack Armstrong would have been made before 1975, as he is known to have ceased making himself by around 1970. Therefore, any set by Jack that has less than 20% ivory should be eligible for self-certified exemption.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

As always, I would like to close my report by expressing my sincere thanks to all those who have helped the Society to further its aims in the last year. None of it just happens. Somebody has to do a lot of work for the list of achievements referred to above to come about and I am extremely grateful to your Committee members and Ann Sessoms, our secretary, who devote so much of their time and energy to the Society's affairs. I am very sorry that we will be losing Alice Robinson from the Committee, when she steps down at the AGM, and wish her every happiness with her new baby (due about the same time as the AGM!). A special thank you this year to Andy May, who stepped in for me as Chair during a period of extended holiday, as well as all his work on the concert and the Piping Festival, and to Baroness Joyce Quin, our wonderful President, who is always there to help with any difficult issue and who so ably represents us in areas we could not reach without her support.

I look forward to "meeting" as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman, October 2023

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

CLEVELAND AND COUNTY DURHAM BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland and County Durham Branch Report,
July 2022 - September 2023

1. The Branch AGM was held in October 2022. Minutes of the meeting have been sent to NPS Admin.
2. Physical meetings of the Branch held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in Ceddesfeld Hall have continued successfully. Numbers declined in the aftermath of Covid-19, but are now recovering. We have two new attendees.
3. The monthly practice on 4th Wednesday have also continued successfully for the last year.
4. The Branch Hon. Treasurer organised a special meeting for February which featured the piping and history of the border pipes from Iain Gelston. This was an entertaining and informative event.
5. The Branch's public playing group completed its performances at the National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens in 2022 and the summer of 2023, though we played at fewer events this year because a couple of our requests to play were turned down. We have four pipers now in the playing group. Two members of the Branch played at Wallington in August.
6. The Branch held a successful Christmas meal event at the Dun Cow in Sedgfield before the December meeting
7. There have been no requests for pipe hire.
8. The Branch's 2023 AGM will be held during the October meeting.

David Cook
Cleveland and County Durham Branch Chair and Secretary
September 2023

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31 MARCH 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the unaudited financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

Reference and administrative details set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the memorandum and articles of association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland – Charities SORP FRS102 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Structure, governance and management

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society (the "Society"), is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 16 December 2010 as amended by special resolutions dated 3 June 2011, 2 August 2013 and 10 August 2019. The Society was registered with the Charity Commission on 20 June 2011.

The Society includes Cleveland and County Durham Branch which meets at Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield and a number of less formally constituted groups which meet at various locations in Great Britain, mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada.

The charitable company was dormant until it acquired the assets and liabilities of the unincorporated Northumbrian Pipers' Society on 1 April 2012.

The Society has no paid employees and relies on the unpaid voluntary services of members. In early 2017 the Society engaged the services of a part-time self-employed administrator.

The affairs of the Society are managed by a committee elected by members of the Society. Members of the committee are trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Trustees who served during the year are noted on page one.

Alice Robinson is retiring and is not offering herself for re-election.

Andrew Davison, Andy Lawrenson, Carolyn Soakell and Vincent Syson are offering themselves for re-election for further two-year terms, expiring at the 2025 AGM.

Michael Ratliff and Greg McCormick were appointed and Helen Capes, Tom Fairfax, Iain Gelston, Paul Knox and Andy May were re-appointed at the 2022 AGM for two-year terms expiring at the 2024 AGM.

Formal committee meetings are held physically or by video conference every two months and are supplemented by informal ad hoc meetings and discussions by telephone and email as considered necessary.

The Society endeavours to recruit committee members with a wide variety of musical, technical, professional and organisational skills in order to meet the Society's aims and objectives. Vacancies are advertised to all members through the Newsletter and personal contact networks are also used to identify potential candidates.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31 MARCH 2023

Cleveland and County Durham Branch is managed by a committee elected by branch members. Branch committee members are not trustees of the charity or directors of the company and during the year comprised Dave Cook (Chair and Secretary), Anne Catchpole, Julia Goudge, Margaret Moyes, Peter Manning (Treasurer) and Timothy Jones. Philippa Sinclair was elected to the committee at the AGM on 9 November 2022. Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 were approved at the branch annual general meeting on 11 October 2023 and are included in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Society are:

- to advance art, culture and heritage through encouraging the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes and their music, and
- to advance the education of the public in relation to the study, playing, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes.

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described in detail in the Chairman's Statement.

Financial review

The financial results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA'). The charity had a net operating surplus of £2,766 (2022: deficit of £1,986). Net assets at 31 March 2023 totalled £110,109 (2022: £107,343).

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the level of reserves that should be held. Reserves are required to allow for any funding gaps that may arise because of the different timings of income and expenditure throughout the financial year, to cover future expenditure and to allow for contingencies such as emergency expenses or fleeting opportunities to further its charitable aims. The trustees consider that the level of unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets should not fall below £10,000. The reserves held at 31 March 2023 were £34,477 (2022: £33,955).

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31 MARCH 2023

Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Northumbrian Pipers' Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the trustees



Andrew Davison OBE
Chairman
23 October 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act 2006').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D R GOLD BA, FCA
Independent Examiner
Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX
Date 25 October 2023

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	16,206	-	16,206	13,984
Charitable activities	5	13,704	-	13,704	11,543
Investments	6	119	-	119	60
Total income		30,029	-	30,029	25,587
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		27,263	-	27,263	27,573
Total expenditure	7	27,263	-	27,263	27,573
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds		2,766	-	2,766	(1,986)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		106,608	735	107,343	109,329
Total funds carried forward	18, 19	109,374	735	110,109	107,343

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Company number: 07471625

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023


	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		74,897		72,653
Current assets					
Stocks	12	11,318		7,515	
Debtors	13	3,999		3,278	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	50,155		53,213	
		65,472		64,006	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(11,460)		(9,116)	
Net current assets			54,012		54,890
Total assets less current liabilities			128,909		127,543
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(18,800)		(20,200)
Net assets			110,109		107,343
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds	18		109,374		106,608
Restricted income funds	19		735		735
Total charity funds	17		110,109		107,343

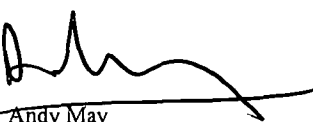
The trustees are satisfied that the charity is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 23 October 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:


Andrew Davison OBE
Chairman


Andy May
Vice Chairman

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The address of the registered office is Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4BF. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

2. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated. They have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102 - Charities SORP FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional and presentation currency of the charity.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties in the Society's ability to continue as a going concern

c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations, concert and festival income and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds

Grants and donations obtained for specific purposes are recognised in the financial statements as restricted funds.

d) Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets relating to office equipment are included in the financial statements at their historical cost.

Depreciation is provided on these tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of the assets over their expected useful lives. The rate used is as follows:-

Office equipment - straight line basis over four years

Tangible fixed assets relating to trophies, medal dies and hire pipes are included in the financial statements under the revaluation model. Pipes held for hire and medal dies are valued by the trustees based on the Society's own expertise. Trophies are valued by the trustees based on independent professional valuations.

Trophies, medal dies and pipes held for hire are not depreciated, as they do not have finite lives, provided that they are correctly made and properly maintained. The carrying values are assessed each year and an impairment provision is made if necessary. Costs of maintenance are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

e) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost of purchase and net realisable value. Cost comprises actual purchase price and, where applicable, associated direct costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present condition and location. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

f) Cash at bank

Cash at bank consists of Barclays Bank current accounts, a Barclays Bank premium account and Virgin Money deposit accounts.

g) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

h) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially measured at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

i) Income recognition

All income is included in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital grants received are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Income from other trading activities comprises income from fundraising events and is included when receivable.

Income from investments arises from interest-bearing deposit accounts and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income from concerts, festivals and pipe hire and is recognised when receivable.

Income from the sale of goods is recognised when substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred to the buyer.

j) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Charitable expenditure comprises all costs of activities in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Governance costs comprises all costs incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

k) Life memberships

Members of the Society may purchase an individual life membership at any time at a cost of £400. Amounts received in respect of life memberships are released to income over a period of 25 years from 1 April 2012, when the company assumed the assets and liabilities of the former Northumbrian Pipers' Society, or the date the life membership came into existence, whichever is the later.

3. Net income (expenditure)	2023	2022
	£	£

Net income (expenditure) for the year is stated after charging:

Independent examination	420	150
Accountancy services	1,800	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	85	172
	85	172

4. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions and donations	12,142	-	12,142	11,231
Life memberships (note 16)	1,400	-	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	2,664	-	2,664	1,353
	16,206	-	16,206	13,984

5. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Concert income	1,561	-	1,561	801
Festival income	4,705	-	4,705	2,998
Pipe hire income	4,845	-	4,845	3,770
Sales of books and CDs	2,267	-	2,267	3,262
Sale of pipemaking materials	-	-	-	198
Decrease in bad debt provision	-	-	-	19
Other income	326	-	326	495
	13,704	-	13,704	11,543

6. Income from investments	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable on cash deposits	119	-	119	60
	119	-	119	60

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. Total expenditure	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Concert costs	1,541	-	1,541	950
Festival costs	4,296	-	4,296	3,131
Pipe hire maintenance	143	-	143	499
Cost of sales:				
<i>Books and CDs</i>	583	-	583	(298)
<i>Pipe making materials</i>	-	-	-	2,065
Competition expenses - movement in medal stocks	150	-	150	117
At home recording fees	-	-	-	600
Cleveland and County Durham branch costs	151	-	151	130
Printing, postage and stationery	4,626	1,236	5,862	4,854
Marketing	27	-	27	-
Music Partnership donation	300	-	300	-
Travel	123	-	123	-
Sundry expenses	74	-	74	-
Website costs	139	-	139	238
Bad debts	58	-	58	-
Bank charges	234	-	234	97
Provisions against tangible assets	-	-	-	5,358
Depreciation	85	-	85	172
Office costs	5,860	-	5,860	5,862
Administration costs	4,100	1,367	5,467	3,648
Accountancy and independent examination	-	2,170	2,170	150
	22,490	4,773	27,263	27,573
Governance costs	4,773			
Total expenditure on charitable activities	27,263			

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

2023	2022
Nil	Nil

8. Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

The trustees consider the key management personnel comprise the trustees. No remuneration was paid to the trustees in the current or preceding year. During the current and previous year, no trustee expenses have been incurred.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. Revaluation of fixed assets

During 2012/13, The Sage Gateshead donated a stock of parts for plastic pipes which was initially valued by the trustees at £1,000 and that valuation was included in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 as exceptional voluntary income. These parts needed to be repaired and certain manufacturing faults corrected, and then supplemented and assembled into complete sets of pipes for use principally for hire to schools.

During 2013/14, significant technical challenges were overcome and twenty sets of plastic pipes were completed and made available to Northumberland County Council for use in schools. The trustees have valued the twenty completed sets at £300 each, with the remaining parts being valued at £500 in total. After taking into account expenditure on the project during the year 2013/14, the revaluation surplus was £5,260.

During the year ended 31 March 2014, the trustees obtained an independent professional valuation of trophies which resulted in a revaluation surplus of £14,700.

During the year ended 31 March 2017 the trustees revalued a number of donated sets of pipes which had been refurbished where necessary and brought into use in the hire pool. The revaluation surplus was £3,950.

10. Funds of the charity

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2023 (2022: £23,910) as described in note 9: The restricted fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £	Trophies £	Medal dies £	Pipes for hire £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2022	375	25,400	5,000	46,950	77,725
Additions	129	-	-	2,200	2,329
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	504	25,400	5,000	49,150	80,054
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	172	-	4,900	-	5,072
Charge for year	85	-	-	-	85
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Impairments	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	257	-	4,900	-	5,157
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	247	25,400	100	49,150	74,897
At 31 March 2022	203	25,400	100	46,950	72,653

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. Stocks	2023	2022
	£	£
Pipemaking materials, books, CDs and competition medals	10,354	5,996
Pipes Purchase Scheme	964	1,519
	<u>11,318</u>	<u>7,515</u>
<p>Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £1,750 (2022: £1,750) less cumulative amounts received of £786 (2022: £231). The interest element of amounts received is not material.</p>		
13. Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors - charitable activities	96	43
Other debtors - Gift Aid	1,414	-
Prepayments	2,489	3,235
	<u>3,999</u>	<u>3,278</u>
14. Cash at bank and in hand	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest-free bank current account deposits	4,629	7,806
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	45,526	45,407
	<u>50,155</u>	<u>53,213</u>
15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors - charitable activities	5,110	5,586
Accruals	3,505	1,455
Deferred income	2,845	2,075
	<u>11,460</u>	<u>9,116</u>
16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2022	21,600	23,000
Released to income for the year (note 2(k))	(1,400)	(1,400)
Total life memberships as at 31 March 2023	<u>20,200</u>	<u>21,600</u>
Less: amount included in deferred income due within one year	(1,400)	(1,400)
Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2023	<u>18,800</u>	<u>20,200</u>

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17. Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	74,897	53,277	(18,800)	109,374
Restricted income funds	-	735	-	735
	<u>74,897</u>	<u>54,012</u>	<u>(18,800)</u>	<u>110,109</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	72,653	54,155	(20,200)	106,608
Restricted income funds	-	735	-	735
	<u>72,653</u>	<u>54,890</u>	<u>(20,200)</u>	<u>107,343</u>

18. Unrestricted income funds	Balance 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	106,608	30,029	(27,263)	109,374
	<u>106,608</u>	<u>30,029</u>	<u>(27,263)</u>	<u>109,374</u>

The unrestricted income funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2023 as described in note 10.

<i>Unrestricted income funds - previous year</i>	Balance 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	108,594	25,587	(27,573)	106,608
	<u>108,594</u>	<u>25,587</u>	<u>(27,573)</u>	<u>106,608</u>

The unrestricted income funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2022 as described in note 10.

19. Restricted income funds	Balance 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2023
	£	£	£	£
2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross	735	-	-	735
	<u>735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>735</u>

The restricted income fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

<i>Restricted income funds - prior year</i>	Balance 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2022
	£	£	£	£
2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross	735	-	-	735
	<u>735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>735</u>

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1142471

Accounts



The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

(a company limited by guarantee)

Company Number: 07471625
Charity Registration Number: 1142471

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

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The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Information

Name: The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

Company Number: 07471625

Charity Number: 1142471

Registered Address: c/o Muckle LLP
Time Central 32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

President: Rt Hon The Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead

Trustees/ Directors: Andrew Davison OBE (Chairman)
Andy May (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Evans (Treasurer)
Helen Capes
Tom Fairfax
Iain Gelston
Paul Knox
Andrew Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Alice Robinson
Carolyn Soakell
Vincent Syson

Company Secretary: Michael Evans

Society Secretary: Ann Sessoms

Website: Ian Gelston

Pipe Hire: Nick Leeming

Journal Editor: John Gibbons

Independent Examiner: Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE
20 Ennerdale Crescent Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne NE21 6PS

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Virgin Money plc

Solicitors: Muckle LLP
Time Central 32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Chairman's Statement

Dear Member,

It gives me great pleasure to present my report on the activities of your Society over the last year.

The Society exists to encourage the playing, study, making, development and awareness of the Northumbrian Pipes and their music. Everything we do needs to be tested against those criteria.

I think it is fair to say that it has been an extremely busy year for the Committee and a wide range of dedicated volunteers, as we have emerged from Covid restrictions. Much of the Committee's time has been spent on re-examining how we operate, how we can better support the membership, promote our objectives and how we can be more relevant in today's society. As always, what we have been able to achieve has been limited not by a shortage of ideas, but by the availability of volunteer time to implement those ideas and the need to find alternative solutions when long standing volunteers rightly decide that it is time for them to step down from roles they have done with exceptional dedication over many years.

Some of the successes of the last year have included (in no particular order):

- Continuing to hold our AGM virtually, thereby allowing all members, and not just those within easy travelling distance of the North East, to attend in person and to contribute to the discussion. You will see that we will be doing this again this year, so please do join us and use this opportunity to have your say.
- Being able to hold our annual concert as a "real" event, with tremendous live performances by Iain Gelston, Chris Ormston, and the Windy Haugh band in front of a live audience. We had hoped to live stream this but the venue was not able to make this happen. Instead, we managed to record the event and make it available later on our website. Although this did not allow everyone to share in the live experience, it did pick up on some of the learnings from lock-down and make it possible for those who could not get there in person to experience the performances through the recording.
- Being able to hold our annual competitions as a live event again.
- Continuing our monthly electronic newsletter, bringing information and notification of events to all members. If you are not receiving this, please do contact us to provide an email address and the necessary consents, so we can include you in all the mailings.
- Publication and circulation of another copy of the Journal, including some fascinating articles on a wide range of piping related topics.
- Adding a further set of pipes – this time beautifully made by Philip Gruar – to our "Hire to Buy" scheme, helping people who might otherwise not be able to afford to buy a set of pipes to do so by spreading the cost over a number of years. The last year also saw three sets finally passing to the hirers, as they completed their payments under the scheme.
- Continuing to run the pipes hire scheme, under which those interested in learning the pipes can try them, at minimal cost, before deciding whether to acquire their own set. Over the last year, there have been up to 49 sets out on hire at times, also providing valuable income to the Society.
- We received a donation of a lovely set of pipes from Rob Simm that, instead of going directly into the hire system, we have provided for use in a school, where pupils can try to play a "real set" after initially learning the basics on the plastic school pipes.
- We made a donation to support Music Partnership North East in continuing their brilliant work teaching pipes to children in Northumberland schools.
- We re-established the new tradition of holding an annual dinner, which took place in the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle, with our President, Baroness Joyce Quin, as the principal speaker.

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- We managed to get a team of pipers to perform at the Northumberland County Show.
- We have continued to act as a central point for people to contact if they want a piper, or information about the pipes.
- The online shop has continued to provide a forum for supplying books and pipe making materials to anyone around the world who shows interest. We have managed to extend this this year so that it includes not only our own stocks but also links to others who sell relevant materials that may be of interest and who we can support by promoting what they do.
- Our monthly meetings have continued in the Chantry in Morpeth, each being led by a different person and being open to anyone wanting either to come to have a play, or just to listen. This year, for the first time, we held one of these meetings virtually, led by a combination of the Oxford and Cambridge pipers. It was a great success and I hope we will be able to repeat this in the future. If any group would like to volunteer to lead one of the meetings, please let us know.
- The first of the "At Home" performances has been uploaded onto the website for anyone to listen to. More will follow as soon as we have a better solution for managing the website content.
- The pipes were represented at the Glendale Children's Country Fair, where children from around the region were bussed to the show field just outside Wooler in Northumberland to experience all aspects of country life. Right in the middle of the show field, we had a tent where children were able to hear the pipes being played and to have a go themselves, using the plastic school pipes. Who knows how many future pipers were inspired during the day!

I should probably highlight three particular successes during the year.

The first was our collaboration with The International Bagpipe Society when, in March 2022, we merged the 10-year anniversary International Bagpipe Convention with the Third Newcastle Piping Festival to hold a weekend of talks, concerts, sessions and events, based in Kings Hall at Newcastle University. This included the showpiece concert, which we were able to live stream, promoting our pipes and our music to those interested in bagpipes generally around the world. The facilities at Kings Hall were so good that we are planning to return there for this year's Society Annual Concert, so that this can be live streamed on 21 October 2022.

Second was the Society's participation in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, where we were able to join our Highland piping colleagues by individuals volunteering to play the tune specially written for the Jubilee at a set time across the world. All volunteers were listed in a special brochure that commemorated the occasion. Our inclusion will have hugely increased awareness of the pipes across the world. In addition, those organising the beacon lighting ceremony very cleverly included a requirement for a piper and a bugler. It took a while for event organisers to realise what they needed but we were flooded with requests for a Northumbrian Piper to attend beacon ceremonies across the North East, and I know a number of you played at ceremonies elsewhere as well. It was great to see so many people waking up to the existence of our tradition.

Finally, but by no means least, was Ednie Wilson approaching the Committee to offer to carry out a survey of the membership to help us to identify ways in which we can collectively raise the profile of the pipes, get them heard more and better achieve our objectives. It was a brilliant example of a member thinking about what might be needed and then offering to do something about it, rather than just saying "the committee should do something about.....". Thank you Ednie and to everyone who responded to that survey. With further help from Ednie, we have narrowed down the opportunities to something we feel is manageable and impactful and a small group has been formed to take this forward.

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I would very much like to take this opportunity to congratulate Keith Davidson on being awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Newcastle University, in recognition of his 17-year service to the University by piping in the top table for their graduation ceremonies, honorary degree ceremonies and other special events, such as the inauguration of the new Chancellor. He has played at over 100 graduation ceremonies, exposing countless graduates and their families to the captivating sound of the pipes.

Of course, not everything is going as well as we would, ideally, like! We have had our challenges as well as our successes. As usual, these mainly come down to a lack of volunteer resource and a very small group trying to do too much!

The main challenges we have faced during the year have been in finding a good solution to managing the website content, finding a way to live stream our events and finding replacements for individuals who have decided that the time has come for them to step down from their roles.

I flagged last year that Mike Evans, who has been our treasurer now for 10 years and has seen us through the change to charity status, was wanting to step down. Despite repeated requests, no new volunteer has stepped forward. This has left us in a difficult position. Clearly the duty to keep proper accounts is one we must observe. Susan Craven does a great job maintaining the accounting records on the Sage accounting software system that we installed a few years ago, but these records need to be turned into statutory accounts for filing and there are several additional roles that Mike has filled, such as managing our insurances and the relationship with the landlord of our office. Your Committee has concluded that the only way forward is to engage external accountants, which will cost the Society in the region of £1,500-£2,000 a year, in addition to needing to ask Susan to take on more paid work, which I am delighted she has agreed to do. I think this all just goes to show how much we owe Mike for his dedication and service over so many years. He has done a fantastic job!

The second major challenge we have faced has been Nick Leeming finally deciding (after several years of warnings) that he is going to step down from running the pipe hire service. When Nick took this on in 2013, there were 18 sets out on hire. Nick has taken this up to 49 at times, currently about 40. He estimates that between 2013 and 2022, around 165 people have been given the chance to learn to play the pipes at minimal cost and with a number progressing from simple chanter sets to keyed sets and several moving on to buy their own. Nick also estimates that he has fettled and re-issued around 180 sets in that time. This has also led him to have a vast understanding of what people can do to a set of pipes and producing a series of videos (available online and via the Society's website) on basic fettling and on first steps to take when wanting to learn to play. Having been unable to find a single person willing to take on the pipe hire role from Nick, I am delighted that a call around the regional playing groups has resulted in a number of volunteers coming forward to see if they can establish a new way to run the hire service. At the time of writing, this is just getting going, so I sincerely hope that this will produce a good solution and take Nick's work to the next level.

I am sure you will agree that we cannot thank Nick and Mike enough for their contributions to the Society and to piping generally.

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After several years of threat and of the Society making representations to government, the Ivory Act finally came into force on 6 June 2022, making it an offence to sell or to hire any ivory object unless it falls within a very narrow list of exemptions. The penalties are severe for those who ignore the new rules, so I urge you to take notice. The main exemptions that are likely to help pipers are:

- A musical instrument made before 1975 and having less than 20% ivory by volume. Here, you can go online and fill in an exemption registration yourself; and
- Items made before 1918 that are of outstandingly high artistic, cultural or historic value. Here you have to apply and await a decision as to whether your claim is approved or not.

I have tried both systems and they are relatively user-friendly. I am currently waiting for a decision as to whether a Reid 17key ivory and silver set is considered to qualify under the second heading.

The business of the AGM, in addition to electing Committee members, approving the accounts, etc, is also to set the membership fees. These have remained unchanged since before I became Chairman. Your Committee has discussed whether the time has come to propose an increase to reflect the increasing costs the Society is facing. On balance, however, we felt that it would be better to run the Society for a year to get a better understanding of what these costs will actually be and whether there is any impact on income resulting from the new pipe hire arrangements. It is only fair of me, however, to warn members of a likely proposal to increase membership fees next year.

As always, I would like to close my report by expressing my sincere thanks to all those who have helped the Society to further its aims in the last year. None of it just happens. Somebody has to do a lot of work for the list of achievements referred to above to come about and I am extremely grateful to your Committee members who devote so much of their time and energy to the Society's affairs. Much of this work is carried out unseen but with real devotion and we are always keen to hear from anyone who might be willing and able to give some time to support us. My personal thanks also to Joyce, our President, who is always there to help with any difficult issue and who so ably represents us in areas we could not reach without her support. I am delighted that she has kindly agreed to stand for a further term of office and urge you all to join me in voting in favour of that proposal, and the other resolutions, at the AGM.

I look forward to "meeting" as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman, July 2022

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland Branch Report August 2021 – June 2022

1. All physical meetings of the Branch held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Ceddesfeld Hall were suspended due to COVID-19, up to February 2022. Zoom meetings have taken place instead on the same date and time. The monthly practice on the 4th Wednesday was also suspended.
2. A playing session in the grounds of the Ceddesfeld Hall for the afternoons of the 3rd Tuesday ended in September 2021 for seasonal reasons.
3. The Branch AGM was held in October 2021 by Zoom. Minutes of the meeting have been sent to NPS Admin.
4. The Branch's public playing group completed its performances at the National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens in 2021. We are also booked to play at five of these events in the summer of 2022.
5. Numbers are declining for both normal meetings and the playing group. The impact on the latter is that we have had to cancel some appearances when one or two players have not been able to attend. We have perhaps only four or five players in the playing group.
6. The call from the NPS for regional distribution of resource for pipe hire was received and understood. The Branch has several sets of unkeyed pipes in stock for hire, but all of these bar one need maintenance, and there have been no requests to hire pipes for over two years.
7. A couple of the Branch's pipers played for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

David Cook
Cleveland Branch Chair and Secretary
June 2022

Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report

Structure, governance and management

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society (the "Society") is a registered charity operating as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which were adopted on 24 November 2010. Reference and legal information is set out on page 3.

The Society includes Cleveland Branch which meets at Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield and a number of less formally constituted groups which meet at various locations in Great Britain, mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada.

The company was dormant until it acquired the assets and liabilities of the unincorporated Northumbrian Pipers' Society on 1 April 2012.

The Society has no paid employees and relies on the unpaid voluntary services of members. In early 2017 the Society engaged the services of a part-time self-employed administrator.

The affairs of the Society are managed by a committee elected by members of the Society. Members of the committee are trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Trustees/directors who served during the year were:

Andrew Davison
Helen Capes
Michael Evans
Tom Fairfax
Iain Gelston
Paul Knox
Andrew Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Andy May
Alice Robinson
Carolyn Soakell (appointed 30 October 2021)
Louisa Squires (retired 30 October 2021)
Vincent Syson

Helen Capes was appointed and Andrew Davison, Michael Evans, Tom Fairfax, Iain Gelston, Paul Knox, Nick Leeming and Andy May were re-elected at the 2020 AGM for a two-year period expiring at the 2022 AGM.

Michael Evans and Nick Leeming are retiring and are not offering themselves for re-election.

Andrew Davison offers himself for re-election for a one-year period expiring at the 2023 AGM.

Helen Capes, Tom Fairfax, Iain Gelston, Paul Knox and Andy May are offering themselves for re-election for further two-year terms, expiring at the 2024 AGM.

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Michael Ratliff and Greg McCormick offer themselves for election for a two-year term expiring at the 2024 AGM.

Carolyn Soakell was appointed and Andrew Lawrenson, Vincent Syson and Alice Robinson were re-appointed at the 2021 AGM for a two-year term expiring at the 2023 AGM.

Formal committee meetings are held physically or by video conference every two months and are supplemented by informal ad hoc meetings and discussions by telephone and email as considered necessary.

The Society endeavours to recruit committee members with a wide variety of musical, technical, professional and organisational skills in order to meet the Society's aims and objectives. Vacancies are advertised to all members through the Newsletter and personal contact networks are also used to identify potential candidates.

Cleveland Branch is managed by a committee elected by branch members. Branch committee members are not trustees of the charity or directors of the company and during the year comprised Dave Cook (Chair and Secretary), Anne Catchpole, Anne Gale, Margaret Moyes, Peter Manning (Treasurer) and Timothy Jones. Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 will be put forward for approval at the branch annual general meeting and are included in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The objectives of the Society are:

- to advance art, culture and heritage through encouraging the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes and their music,
- to raise awareness of the Northumbrian pipes and their music, and
- to advance the education of the public in relation to the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes.

The trustees/directors have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described in detail in the Chairman's Statement.

Financial review

The financial results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA'). The charity had a net operating deficit of £1,986. Net assets at 31 March 2022 totalled £107,343.

The trustees/directors have considered the level of reserves that should be held. Reserves are required to allow for any funding gaps that may arise because of the different timings of income and expenditure throughout the financial year, to cover future expenditure and to allow for contingencies such as emergency expenses or fleeting opportunities to further its charitable aims. The trustees/directors consider that the level of reserves should not fall below £10,000. The reserves held at 31 March 2022 were £34,690 excluding reserves funding fixed assets.

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Directors' responsibilities:

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board and signed on their behalf:



Michael Evans

Trustee, Director and Company Secretary
16 September 2022

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

DRAFT

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors of The Northumbrian Pipers ' Society on Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 set out on pages 13 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view ' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB

Date . . . 14th October 2022

Signed . . . K.A. Tully

Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating the income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	13,984	-	13,984	15,388	-	15,388
Charitable activities		11,543	-	11,543	9,993	-	9,993
Investments		60	-	60	187	-	187
Total		25,587	-	25,587	25,568	-	25,568
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities		25,119	-	25,119	21,799	-	21,799
Other	3	2,454	-	2,454	3,255	-	3,255
Total		27,573	-	27,573	25,054	-	25,054
Net movement in funds		(1,986)	-	(1,986)	514	-	514
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		108,594	735	109,329	108,080	735	108,815
Total funds carried forward	5	106,608	735	107,343	108,594	735	109,329

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Fixed assets			
Total tangible assets	6	72,653	76,150
Current assets			
Stocks	7	7,515	8,253
Debtors	8	3,278	4,369
Cash at bank and in hand	9	53,213	48,983
Total current assets		64,006	61,605
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	9,116	6,826
Net current assets		54,890	54,779
Total assets less current liabilities		127,543	130,929
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11	20,200	21,600
Total net assets		107,343	109,329
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	5	106,608	108,594
Restricted funds	5	735	735
Total		107,343	109,329

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the members of the board of trustees/directors and signed on their behalf



Andrew Davison OBE, Chairman



Michael Evans, Treasurer

16 September 2022

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting Policies Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) - Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources: and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Resources expended and liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fixed assets

Pipes held for hire and medal dies are valued by the directors based on the Society's own expertise. Trophies are valued by the directors based on independent professional valuations.

Trophies, medal dies and pipes held for hire are not depreciated as they do not have finite lives provided that they are correctly made and properly maintained. The carrying values are assessed each year and an impairment provision is made if necessary. Costs of maintenance are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of other fixed assets over their expected useful lives.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost of purchase and net realisable value. Cost comprises actual purchase price and where applicable associated direct costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present condition and location. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

Life Memberships

Members of the Society may purchase an individual life membership at any time at a cost of £400. Amounts received in respect of life memberships are released to income over a period of 25 years from 1 April 2012, when the company assumed the assets and liabilities of the former Northumbrian Pipers' Society, or the date the life membership came into existence, whichever is the later.

2 Donations and legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Subscriptions and donations	11,231	12,660
Life memberships (Note 11)	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	<u>1,353</u>	<u>1,328</u>
	<u>13,984</u>	<u>15,388</u>

3 Other Expenditure

Other expenditure includes independent examiner's fees of £150 (2021: £150) and part-time self-employed administrator's fees of £912 (2021: £1,033). The balance of administrator's fees of £2,736 (2021: £3,098) is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

4 Revaluation of fixed assets

During 2012/13, The Sage Gateshead donated a stock of parts for plastic pipes which was initially valued by the directors at £1,000 and that valuation was included in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 as exceptional voluntary income. These parts needed to be repaired and certain manufacturing faults corrected, and then supplemented and assembled into complete sets of pipes for use principally for hire to schools.

During 2013/14, significant technical challenges were overcome and twenty sets of plastic pipes were completed and hired out to Northumberland County Council for use in schools. The directors have valued the twenty completed sets at £300 each, with the remaining parts being valued at £500 in total. After taking into account expenditure on the project during the year 2013/14, the revaluation surplus was £5,260.

During the year ended 31 March 2014, the directors obtained an independent professional valuation of trophies which resulted in a revaluation surplus of £14,700.

During the year ended 31 March 2017 the directors revalued a number of donated sets of pipes which have been refurbished where necessary and brought into use in the hire pool. The revaluation surplus was £3,950.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5 Funds

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2022 (2021: £23,910) as described in Note 4. The restricted fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment £	Trophies £	Medal Dies £	Pipes for Hire £	Total £
Cost:					
At 31 March 2021	-	25,400	5,000	45,750	76,150
	375				
Additions		-		1,200	1,575
At 31 March 2022	375	25,400	5,000	46,950	77,725
Depreciation:					
At 31 March 2021	-	-	-	-	-
During the year	172	-	4,900	-	5,072
At 31 March 2022	172	-	4,900	-	5,072
Net book amount:					
At 31 March 2022	203	25,400	100	46,950	72,653
At 31 March 2021	-	25,400	5,000	45,750	76,150

The directors have reassessed the usefulness to the Society of the medal dies and an impairment provision of £4,900 has been made as at 31 March 2022.

7 Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Pipemaking materials, books, cds and competition medals	5,996	7,798
Pipes Purchase Scheme	<u>1,519</u>	<u>455</u>
	<u>7,515</u>	<u>8,253</u>

Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £1,750 (2021: £4,750) less amounts received of £231 (2021: £4,295). The interest element of amounts received is not material.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

8 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Charitable activities	43	1,969
Prepayments	<u>3,235</u>	<u>2,400</u>
	<u>3,278</u>	<u>4,369</u>

9 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest-free bank current account deposits	7,806	3,636
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	<u>45,407</u>	<u>45,347</u>
	<u>53,213</u>	<u>48,983</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Charitable activity creditors	5,586	2,797
Accruals	1,455	1,074
Deferred income	<u>2,075</u>	<u>2,955</u>
	<u>9,116</u>	<u>6,826</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2021	23,000	24,400
Released to income for the year (note 2)	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
Total life memberships as at 31 March 2022	21,600	23,000
Less amount included in deferred income due within one year	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2022	<u>20,200</u>	<u>21,600</u>

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1142471

Accounts



The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

(a company limited by guarantee)

Company Number: 07471625

Charity Registration Number: 1142471

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

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**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Reference and Administrative Information

Name: The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

Company Number: 07471625

Charity Number: 1142471

Registered Address: c/o Muckle LLP
Time Central 32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

President: Rt Hon The Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead

Trustees/ Directors: Andrew Davison OBE (Chairman)
Andy May (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Evans (Treasurer)
Helen Capes
Tom Fairfax
Iain Gelston
Paul Knox
Andrew Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Alice Robinson
Louisa Squires
Vincent Syson

Company Secretary: Michael Evans

Society Secretary: Ann Sessoms

Website: Ian Gelston

Pipe Hire: Nick Leeming

Journal Editor: John Gibbons

Independent Examiner: Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE
4 Brandon Close Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne NE21 6PN

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Virgin Money plc

Solicitors: Muckle LLP
Time Central 32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Chairman's Statement

Dear Member,

I have no need to tell any member, anywhere in the world, what a strange year it has been for the Society, for piping and for everyone. Repeated lock downs and varying levels of restriction required to slow the ravages of COVID 19 have hugely impacted on all our lives and, very sadly, some lives have been lost. At the time of writing (July 2021), there appears to be more hope than at any time in the last 16 months, that restrictions are going to start to ease. However, we have all learned that it is futile to rely on this expectation!

Whilst most of our community's usual activities had to stop, it was lovely to see innovation and ingenuity kick in, as people craved the opportunity to play music. Many of the regular piping groups went online, using ZOOM, or similar meetings software to keep the regular sessions going. In doing so, they were delighted to find that people who would never before have been able to join them were now able to do so and many local groups suddenly became international.

Your Committee gave a lot of thought to how the Society might help to keep piping going in these difficult times and I am pleased to report that we managed to keep all our activities going – in one way or another.

Susan did a great job keeping the monthly newsletter going, communicating with members and letting everyone know what was happening.

The Society took its own ZOOM subscription, which it used for committee meetings, events and also made available to playing groups, where they did not already have access to such software. Please note that this is still available. If anyone would like to use it, please contact Tom Fairfax.

The Society shop, although it had to close for a short period, then re-opened, thanks to Julia Say, and has remained open for members and others to buy music, pipemaking materials etc.

Perhaps the most exciting developments were in the way we held our key annual events – the competitions, concert, AGM and President's Day. With the wonderful and generous help of Rob Say on the technical side, not only were all able to take place but all attracted participants from a much wider section of the membership than ever before.

The competitions were all conducted by competitors submitting entries in advance on video, with these being judged before the "event". The presentation on the night involved streaming clips of each entry, followed by a report by the relevant judge on the playing and then the announcement of the winner. Because all competitors had to enter remotely, the event became the first genuine world piping competitions for Northumbrian pipes. It was really wonderful to see people from all over having a go, with a superb standard being achieved.

The concert followed a week later. Here, we combined a mix of professional performances, recorded live by Ian Stephenson at his studio in Thropton, by the Andy May Trio and by Alice Robinson, with short contributions from invited guests. These included some brilliant performances from some of our young pipers, Alex Barras, Kay Adamson and Phoebe De'Ath, Pauline Cato playing from home, sitting at the bottom of her stairs, Helen Capes in New Zealand, Arlo Quilley and his father from Canada, Bill Wakefield from the USA, a recitation from Don Clegg, Iain Gelston on the Half Longs/Border pipes, and a group of six musicians (the maximum allowed to gather at that time) playing in a huge farm shed in the middle of Northumberland.

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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Those who watched it were extremely kind in their comments afterwards, so it certainly seemed to hit the right spot in a time where there was little to look forward to.

The AGM and President's Day combined as usual but again all virtually. It was brilliant to see how use of the technology allowed around 120 members to attend from sectors of the Society that are usually unable to take part in this essential democratic opportunity to set the agenda and appoint the officers. The formal part of the meeting was followed by President's Day, involving all the different groups who get together around the world to play each leading the rest of us in a set of tunes of their choice. A truly amazing experience. In addition, we had some fascinating presentations by Richard Heard on the Reid family, Chris Ormston on Clough style and Richard Butler, the present official piper to His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, on the history of the Ducal Pipers. Thank you all ever so much for your respective contributions to what was a wonderful afternoon.

The Committee was also very aware during the pandemic that many of our professional pipers would be hit by not being able to work. This knowledge drove us on in terms of being determined to provide at least some work through the annual concert and also be inviting people to record "at home" performances on their phones that we will be able to present on our website. Watch this space for some of these to be published.

Our pipe hire service continued to operate well during lockdown the expert hands of Nick Leeming. At the time of writing, the past 12 months saw two very different halves. The second half of 2020 was very active, with 16 sets out and 19 returned, whereas the first half of 2021 was quieter, with 6 sets out and 9 back.

Both periods probably reflect the different stages of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The number of sets out on hire (39) is the lowest it has been since 2016. There is no cause for concern. As we come to terms with Covid-19, I have no doubt interests will rekindle.

We had two extremely kind donations during the period. Honor Hill donated a superb 14-key Ross F set. Too complex for a beginner, it has been hired out to a young member of the Society who has shown promise with a 7-key hire set. Secondly, Rob Taylerson donated his very nice 7-key Burleigh set. This brings us to a total of 56 traditional sets in the pipe hire system. We are tremendously grateful to our generous members who have donated their sets. Pipe hire continues to be an excellent route for beginners to try the pipes, and it is always a delight when someone returns their hire set and announces that they have bought their own.

The "Hire to Buy" programme has also continued, with a lovely set being acquired by the Society in May 2021 from Philip Gruar and also another of our Hire to Buy hirers finally paying off their agreement and becoming the proud owner of a really beautiful set of pipes.

The work has also continued to try to find an easy entry level for aspiring pipers and this year saw us collaborating with Hungarian pipemaker, Jozsef Kozak, in the development of his "membrane" pipes, which use a piece of cling film instead of a reed to create a mouth blown NSP practice chanter in the key of "G". The idea is that these will be available for sale to members who want a simple way to practice their fingering and also for group teaching of beginners. The initiative is still in its infancy but the prototype ten practice chanters show much promise.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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The only major event in the last year that we were not able to continue with was our Newcastle Piping Festival. Sadly, this just proved a step too far. However, we do have some very exciting plans for it next year. Do look out for the announcement but keep the dates 11-13 March 2022 free.

I am pleased to note that membership subscriptions were up during the year. I sincerely hope that we can all encourage other pipers who we know and who are not yet members to join. The Society cannot do everything and, indeed, it does not try to. The Committee take the view that we are here as a Society to provide the forum for piping community to share things and to do those things that are necessary but which nobody else is, for whatever reason, doing. We always welcome not only ideas from members about what they would like from the Society, but also volunteers to help to implement those ideas.

Looking forward, your Committee is actively planning the annual events that take place in the autumn in the hope that we will be able to run them in person again. However, we are also looking at how we can learn from the last 16 months. We have been so pleased with the way we were able to connect with more of the membership that we plan to hold the AGM virtually again and also to stream the live annual concert, although we are still working on how we are going to do this!

As always, I would like to pay enormous tribute to the small but very dedicated group that make up your Committee. Each gives up a considerable amount of their time to help to make sure that the Society runs effectively and smoothly. I would also like to pay special tribute to Mike Evans, our Treasurer, who has put in enormous effort on behalf of the Society, converting its accounts from an unincorporated society to those of a company and a registered charity as well as converting us to a computerised accounting package during his time in the role. He has given us notice of his desire to stand down if we can find a replacement. He will be a very hard act to follow but we are actively seeking a new volunteer to take on the role. Please do think whether you might be able to do this. Now that we hold committee meetings either virtually or with some members attending by video link, it does not have to be someone based in the North East. If you think you might be interested, do please get in touch.

Finally, I would again like to pay tribute to the invaluable support and encouragement that we (and I, personally) receive from our President, Baroness Joyce Quin.

I look forward to "meeting" as many of you as possible at the AGM.

DocuSigned by:
Keep piping!
Andrew Davison
9741B3604438408...

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman, July 2021

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland Branch Report July 2020 – July 2021

1. All physical meetings of the Branch have been suspended due to COVID-19, up to May 2021. Zoom meetings have taken place instead on the same date and time for the normal monthly meeting normally held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Hall. The monthly practice on 4th Wednesday has been suspended entirely.
2. Arrangements have been made with the Sedgefield Community Association and the Sedgefield Town Council for a playing session in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall for the afternoons of the 3rd Tuesday and these started in May and are scheduled to end in September.
3. The Branch AGM was held in October 2020 by Zoom.
4. The Branch's public playing group has performed at two National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens and plans to play at two more later in the summer. This program is less than normal due to the pandemic, but it is welcome.
5. There are no plans to return to indoor meetings, and a decision on whether to resume these after the summer season has ended is yet to be made. The Zoom meetings will continue aslong as there is demand for them.

David Cook
Cleveland Branch Chair and Secretary
25 July 2021

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report

Structure, governance and management

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society (the "Society") is a registered charity operating as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which were adopted on 24 November 2010. Reference and legal information is set out on page 3.

The Society includes Cleveland Branch which meets at Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgfield and a number of less formally constituted groups which meet at various locations in Great Britain, mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada.

The company was dormant until it acquired the assets and liabilities of the unincorporated Northumbrian Pipers' Society on 1 April 2012.

The Society has no paid employees and relies on the unpaid voluntary services of members. In early 2017 the Society engaged the services of a part-time self-employed administrator.

The affairs of the Society are managed by a committee elected by members of the Society. Members of the committee are trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Trustees/directors who served during the year were:

Andrew Davison
Helen Capes (appointed 7 November 2020)
David Creese (retired 7 November 2020)
Michael Evans
Tom Fairfax
Iain Gelston
Paul Knox
Andrew Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Andy May
Alice Robinson
Louisa Squires
Vincent Syson

Louisa Squires and Vincent Syson were appointed and Andrew Lawrenson and Alice Robinson were re-appointed at the 2019 AGM for a two-year term expiring at the 2021 AGM to be held on 30 October 2021 and are offering themselves for re-election for a further term expiring at the 2023 AGM.

Helen Capes was appointed and Andrew Davison, Michael Evans, Tom Fairfax, Iain Gleston, Paul Knox, Nick Leeming and Andy May were re-elected at the 2020 AGM for a two-year period expiring at the 2022 AGM.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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Formal committee meetings are held physically or by video conference every two months and are supplemented by informal ad hoc meetings and discussions by telephone and email as considered necessary.

The Society endeavours to recruit committee members with a wide variety of musical, technical, professional and organisational skills in order to meet the Society's aims and objectives. Vacancies are advertised to all members through the Newsletter and personal contact networks are also used to identify potential candidates.

Cleveland Branch is managed by a committee elected by branch members. Branch committee members are not trustees of the charity or directors of the company and during the year comprised Dave Cook (Chair and Secretary), Anne Catchpole, Anne Gale, Margaret Moyes, Peter Manning and Timothy Jones (Treasurer). Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 will be put forward for approval at the branch annual general meeting and are included in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The objectives of the Society are:

- to advance art, culture and heritage through encouraging the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes and their music,
- to raise awareness of the Northumbrian pipes and their music, and
- to advance the education of the public in relation to the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes.

The trustees/directors have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described in detail in the Chairman's Statement.

Financial review

The financial results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA '). The charity had a net operating surplus of £514. Net assets at 31 March 2021 totalled £109,329.

The trustees/directors have considered the level of reserves that should be held. Reserves are required to allow for any funding gaps that may arise because of the different timings of income and expenditure throughout the financial year, to cover future expenditure and to allow for contingencies such as emergency expenses or fleeting opportunities to further its charitable aims. The trustees/directors consider that the level of reserves should not fall below £10,000. The reserves held at 31 March 2021 were £33,179 excluding reserves funding fixed assets.

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Directors' responsibilities:

For the year ended 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board and signed on their behalf:



Michael Evans

Trustee, Director and Company Secretary
23 September 2021

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors of The Northumbrian Pipers ' Society on Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages 12 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view ' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB

Date 25th October 2021

Signed K. A. Tully

Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating the income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	15,388	-	15,388	16,725	-	16,725
Charitable activities		9,993	-	9,993	9,365	1,874	11,239
Investments		187	-	187	232	-	232
Total		25,568	-	25,568	26,322	1,874	28,196
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities		21,799	-	21,799	20,510	1,139	21,649
Other	3	3,255	-	3,255	3,429	-	3,429
Total		25,054	-	25,054	23,939	1,139	25,078
Net movement in funds		514	-	514	2,383	735	3,118
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		108,080	735	108,815	105,697	-	105,697
Total funds carried forward	5	108,594	735	109,329	108,080	735	108,815

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Total tangible assets	6	76,150	74,950
Current assets			
Stocks	7	8,253	15,215
Debtors	8	4,369	3,402
Cash at bank and in hand	9	48,983	44,781
Total current assets		61,605	63,398
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	6,826	6,533
Net current assets		54,779	56,865
Total assets less current liabilities		130,929	131,815
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11	21,600	23,000
Total net assets		109,329	108,815
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	5	108,594	108,080
Restricted funds	5	735	735
Total		109,329	108,815

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the members of the board of trustees/directors and signed on their behalf

Andrew Davison OBE, Chairman

DocuSigned by:

Andrew Davison

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Michael Evans, Treasurer
23 September 2021

Michael Evans

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)**

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) - Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources: and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Resources expended and liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fixed assets

Pipes held for hire and medal dies are valued by the directors based on the Society's own expertise. Trophies are valued by the directors based on independent professional valuations.

Trophies, medal dies and pipes held for hire are not depreciated as they do not have finite lives provided that they are correctly made and properly maintained. Costs of maintenance are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of other fixed assets over their expected useful lives.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost of purchase and net realisable value. Cost comprises actual purchase price and where applicable associated direct costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present condition and location. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

Life Memberships

Members of the Society may purchase an individual life membership at any time at a cost of £400. Amounts received in respect of life memberships are released to income over a period of 25 years from 1 April 2012, when the company assumed the assets and liabilities of the former Northumbrian Pipers' Society, or the date the life membership came into existence, whichever is the later.

2 Donations and legacies

	2021	2020
	£	£
Subscriptions and donations	12,660	13,881
Life memberships (Note 11)	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	<u>1,328</u>	<u>1,444</u>
	<u>15,388</u>	<u>16,725</u>

3 Other Expenditure

Other expenditure includes independent examiner's fees of £150 (2020: £150) and part-time self-employed administrator's fees of £1,033 (2020: £1,056). The balance of administrator's fees of £3,098 (2020: £3,167) is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

4 Gains on revaluation of fixed assets

During 2012/13, The Sage Gateshead donated a stock of parts for plastic pipes which was initially valued by the directors at £1,000 and that valuation was included in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 as exceptional voluntary income. These parts needed to be repaired and certain manufacturing faults corrected, and then supplemented and assembled into complete sets of pipes for use principally for hire to schools.

During 2013/14, significant technical challenges were overcome and twenty sets of plastic pipes were completed and hired out to Northumberland County Council for use in schools. The directors have valued the twenty completed sets at £300 each, with the remaining parts being valued at £500 in total. After taking into account expenditure on the project during the year 2013/14, the revaluation surplus was £5,260.

During the year ended 31 March 2014, the directors obtained an independent professional valuation of trophies which resulted in a revaluation surplus of £14,700.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

During the year ended 31 March 2017 the directors revalued a number of donated sets of pipes which have been refurbished where necessary and brought into use in the hire pool. The revaluation surplus was £3,950.

5 Funds

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2021 (2020: £23,910) as described in Note 4. The restricted fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Trophies £	Medal Dies £	Pipes for Hire £	Total £
Cost:				
At 31 March 2020	25,400	5,000	44,550	74,950
Additions	-	-	2,000	2,000
Disposal	-	-	(800)	(800)
At 31 March 2021 - Cost and net book amount:	<u>25,400</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>45,750</u>	<u>76,150</u>

There was no accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £nil).

7 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Pipemaking materials, books, cds and competition medals	7,798	13,171
Pipes Purchase Scheme	<u>455</u>	<u>2,044</u>
	<u>8,253</u>	<u>15,215</u>

Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £4,750 (2020: £4,750) less amounts received of £4,295 (2020: £2,706). The interest element of amounts received is not material.

8 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Charitable activities	1,969	1,052
Prepayments	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,350</u>
	<u>4,369</u>	<u>3,402</u>

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
(a company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

9 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest-free bank current account deposits	3,636	5,621
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	<u>45,347</u>	<u>39,160</u>
	<u>48,983</u>	<u>44,781</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Charitable activity creditors	2,797	2,722
Accruals	1,074	1,051
Deferred income	<u>2,955</u>	<u>2,760</u>
	<u>6,826</u>	<u>6,533</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2020	24,400	25,800
Released to income for the year (note 2)	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
Total life memberships as at 31 March 2021	23,000	24,400
Less amount included in deferred income due within one year	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2021	<u>21,600</u>	<u>23,000</u>