



Registered Charity CCNI: 103803

Lord Londonderry's Own CLB Flute Band Registered Charity CCNI: 103803

Trustees' Annual Report for 01 December 2023 – 30 November 2024

Purpose

The purpose of the charity is to promote the playing, understanding and appreciation of flute band music in its various forms; to provide training for band members by way of regular practise, private and public musical engagements and taking part in contests; to provide constructive social interaction for young people in a safe environment; and to foster good relationships and participation with other musical organisations within the surrounding area.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes include:

- The enrichment of the cultural lives of the public of Northern Ireland through high quality musical performances.
- The accelerated development of novice/younger players and the increasing standard of musicianship attained by our members.
- The provision of an opportunity for any member of the public to participate in art through music on a weekly basis, at little cost, within an area of social deprivation, lacking in facilities for social development and interaction of young people.
- Good relationships being fostered with other musical organisations.

These benefits can be evidenced through feedback from the public and audience members who have listened to our performances. The high standard of musicianship was evidenced through success in group contest and solo & small ensemble competitions. Young members regularly achieved higher musical grade examinations than peers who had not studied music within a group environment. Good relationships were evidenced through inclusion of all elements of the community and our policy not to discriminate against age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or beliefs, political opinion, marriage and civil partnerships.

Co-operation with other musical groups could be evidenced through the inclusion of guest players from local bands, and many of our concerts were joint ventures with other organisations.

The charity's beneficiaries are the members of the band and more widely the public who have the opportunity to attend public performances of the ensemble.

There were no detriments flowing from the purposes and only one private benefit was generated from these activities in the form of payment of expenses to a musical director. This was an incidental expense and necessary to ensure a prominent level of training was provided. No harm was incurred.

Constitution

The band is governed and managed by the Committee of Lord Londonderry's Own CLB Flute Band in accordance with the band's constitution.

Trustees

The four trustees at the time of this report were Mr Ian McGimpsey, Mr John Boyce, Mrs Janet Elliott and Mrs Dorothy McGrath.

Main Activities of the year from 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024

The first event for this financial year was the Band's performance at the Church Fair on Saturday 2 December 2023 in Donaghadee Parish Church followed by two Christmas fund-raising concert events in support of both the band and Chest, Heart and Stroke on 14 December at Bloomfields Shopping Centre, Bangor and on 21 December 2023 in Tesco at Castlebawn, Newtownards at which customers were entertained with a fine medley of Christmas Carols and festive music.

The new year, as always, began with our AGM held on 20 January 2024 which was to take on a new format by being combined with the band's Christmas Dinner night out at Cloud 9 Restaurant, Newtownards to review the financial year's business of the band from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, and to elect Officers and Committee members for the incoming year. All Officers and committee were re-elected with no change in an en-bloc proposal. However, with the sad passing of our President of over 30 years, Billy Thompson, in June 2023 one of our most loyal band members and a Vice President, John Boyce, was elected to this prestigious position as Billy's replacement.

The first major competition of the year was the Flute Band Association's (FBA) Own Choice Contest, held on 25 February 2024. The band performed *March Slave* (Tchaikovsky) and *Flight of the Bumblebee* (Rimsky-Korsakov), securing 1st Place along with the Conductor's, Interpretation, and Percussion prizes

The FBA Solo and Small Ensembles were held on Saturday, 27 April 2024 in Streaton Presbyterian Church at which Maisie Canmore was placed 3rd in the U10 Concert Flute Section with her older sister Lucie Canmore, not only winning the Under 16 Concert section but winning the Donald Sloan Memorial Trophy for Overall Performance of the day.

In April and May our focus shifted to rehearsals for the FBA Entertainment Contest, which took place on Saturday 15 June 2024 in the Rifleman's Service Club, Ballymena at which we won the Grade 2 section and were placed third overall having delivered an exciting programme which featured the March – *Crown Imperial* (William Walton), *Heyken's Serenade* (Jonny Heyken), *Finale from Jazz Suite No 2* (Dmitri Shostakovich) and *Ashokan Farewell* (Jay Ungar).

During the summer the band participated in three parades, accompanying LOL 1919 to their annual Divine Church Service on 7 July 2024, followed by the 12 July Parade in Newtownards. The band accompanied Broomhedge RBP to Killyleagh for the annual 'last Saturday' parade on 31 August. Thankfully, the weather had been kind to Northern Ireland during this parading season which was not to be the case for concert engagements.

The band had been eagerly looking forward to performing at both Donaghadee Harbour on Sunday 4 August and Comber Square on Sunday 25 August 2024. Regretfully, due to the horrendous inclement weather which hit Northern Ireland over this period both concerts had to be cancelled.

With the arrival of September came a marked improvement in weather conditions allowing the band to enjoy a glorious day on Sunday 8 September 2024 in Botanic Gardens, Belfast. This event showcased the winning bands from the October 2023 NIBA Championship Contest and featured not only our own band, winners of the Grade 2 Section, but also Ballygowan Concert Flute Band, whose Solo Concert Flautist is our conductor, Darren Canmore.

The competition season came to a close with the annual North of Ireland Bands Association's competition in Armagh on Saturday, 19 October 2024 where we performed *The March from 1941* (John Williams) and *Tall Ships* (Ron Goodwin), achieving second place.

Our financial year concluded with our last performance within this accounting period on 30 November 2024 when we took on our first Christmas engagement by performing at the Christmas Tree in Donaghadee on behalf of the Donaghadee Traders Association.

Adherence to Charities Commission NI Statutory Guidance

In the conduct of activities, the band had regard for the public benefit requirements as set out in the Charities Commission Statutory guidance.

Annual Accounts and Financial Review

The Annual General Meeting held on 18 January 2025 reviewed the financial year's business of the band from 1 December 2023-30 November 2024 and to elect the Committee and Officers for the incoming year.

The band had chosen to present annual accounts in an Income and Expenditure format, as permitted by the Charities Commission regulations.

A set of independently reviewed accounts were presented to the Annual General Meeting which demonstrated the funds of the band to be sufficiently in surplus to allow for the activities of the band to continue without interruption.

The report showed annual running expenses continued to be effectively managed and due to the close monitoring of income, which included the successful application of grant funding, sizeable donations and expenditure, the band was able to invest in:

- Concert uniforms (deposit)
- Photocopier
- Drum and harness


At the end of the period (30/11/2024) the surplus funds of the band stood at £14,907.

The Auditor of the band's accounts, Keith Irvine, presented his report confirming his examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

His inspection included a review of the charity's accounting records and a comparison with the presented accounts. His findings indicated no concerns regarding the management of the accounts and confirmed their compliance with generally accepted accounting standards.

We the undersigned, have pleasure in presenting the Trustees Report for year ended 30 November 2024.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian McGimpsey', written over a horizontal line.

IAN MCGIMPSEY
Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Boyce', written over a horizontal line.

JOHN BOYCE
Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Elliott', written over a horizontal line.

JANET ELLIOTT
Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy McGrath', written over a horizontal line.

DOROTHY McGRATH
Trustee

24 September 2025