



Third Carrickfergus Band

Secretary: Morris Cameron
14, Hillview Gardens
Carrickfergus
BT38 8YE

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Trustees Annual Report for period ending 31st January 2023

Registered Charity NIC 107508

The Third Carrickfergus Band incorporates the activities of two bands, the Third Carrickfergus Band, and the Third Carrickfergus Youth Band. Both bands are governed by the Third Carrickfergus Band Constitution/Rules and other critical governance documentation and managed by committees/trustees containing band members elected at Annual General Meetings.

Thankfully over the last year we have started to see a return to pre-Covid activity levels although it has been more challenging from a Youth Band perspective than our Senior Band, as there has been some player attrition within the younger cohort. To counter this we have attracted more adults (parents primarily) into the Youth Band which has changed the dynamic somewhat but has enabled us to improve musically and the younger members have benefited from the experience and ability of the new members. Consequently, both bands are now in a very strong position and continue to grow both in numbers and musically.

The Senior Band has now had a full cycle of contesting culminating in our best result of 2nd place in our annual NIBA Championship Brass contest last October. We managed to be competitive throughout the year in all contests and have established ourselves at the very top of N. Ireland banding. We have also completed a very full and engaging calendar of public concerts including a wonderful collaboration at Christmas with the immensely popular local choir Cappella Caeciliana in First Church Belfast. Furthermore, we had a very successful joint concert with Carrickfergus Grammar School which attracted a large audience of new and existing supporters and hopefully managed to inspire some of the musicians of the future from our local community.

We are very proud of the fact we had a record number of members from both bands who attended the annual Fodens Summer School in Armagh in August. This is an annual event that has been running now for 20 years where the conductor and several soloists from one of the premier bands in the world come across to N. Ireland for a week of intensive rehearsals and workshops, followed by a public performance in Armagh on the Saturday night. Incredibly rewarding for all involved!

During the year we welcomed a Ukrainian Refugee to the band for several months. Pavlo was a professional trumpet player back in his native Kyiv before being displaced with his family to Newtownards because of the conflict. Although speaking very little English Pavlo integrated very well with the group and brought so much to us from a cultural and musical perspective. We found the experience very rewarding and were very proud to make him feel at home with the band and to have helped him integrate into our community in N. Ireland.

Finally, we again would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors and supporters as we had another fantastic year financially managing to reduce the outstanding loan to purchase our new band hall from £40000 to £15000 leaving us well on track to clear our debt within a five-year period after purchase!

Public Benefit Statement

The direct benefit that flows from the purpose is that by playing and learning brass band music the cultural lives of our members and the general community across N. Ireland who hear us will be enhanced due to participating or listening to high quality live musical performance. The direct benefit that flows from the purpose is the consistent and continuous education and development of our members to achieve a high level of musical attainment with the promotion of high levels of self-esteem and in particular the targeted and accelerated development of our newer, younger, and less experienced members. We pride ourselves on being an integral part of the local community and the direct benefit that flows from the purpose is the promotion of Carrickfergus as an area that cherishes the Arts and produces high class musicians and ensembles with performances and events of artistic value. As part of our community spirit the direct benefit that flows from the purpose is with the sharing of players, music, instruments, and facilities with other bands in the locale and to reach out, connect and build relationships with other types of musical groups and organisations (choirs, schools, churches etc.) in the community. The direct benefit that flows from the purpose is the enrichment of the lives of our members with camaraderie, education and entertainment whilst supporting their physical and mental health needs. Furthermore, community life is enriched through our members being part of the local community and our many public performances. The benefits of the purpose are demonstrated by the high levels of attendance at rehearsals and the attraction of new players to the group. Feedback from the general public, audience numbers at public performances are further indicators of the public benefit. The benefits of the purpose can be evidenced by our progression within the local brass band grading system to the highest level. Individual progression can be demonstrated with internal promotion within and between the sections of both bands. The benefits of the purpose are demonstrated with the number of concerts we perform throughout the province and the regular participation in contests. The Purpose is demonstrated with the inclusive nature of our organisation and our policy not to discriminate on any basis. The joint concerts we have with other local groups. The Purpose is demonstrated by the number of members who have graduated as music teachers or gone on to a professional career in music. There is no harm arising from any of our purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are the firstly the members of the band (both Youth and Senior), the families who indirectly benefit from their development and finally the general public who follow and listen to the band in public performances. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are firstly the payment of expenses to our musical director and occasionally travel and professional fees to a professional band trainer. We also offer a small bursary to Youth members going on to pursue a career as a professional musician. These costs are incidental and necessary to ensure the full benefit of our purposes are derived.

Summary of Public Benefits

We bring together members of the community from all levels of society for a collective musical experience. Our purpose is to provide a facility for any person to play or learn to play a brass or percussion instrument to the best of their abilities and to pass on our knowledge and experience to the next generations of musicians to keep the tradition of brass bands alive in our community. We offer support from a group of volunteers who give their time freely on either a one-to-one basis or as part of a group.

Administrative Details

Governing Document

Third Carrickfergus Band Constitution and Rules adopted in January 2016

Charity Address

70, Woodburn Rd,
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 8PS

Charity Trustees

Chairperson:	Will Johnston
Vice Chairperson:	Niamh Burgess
Secretary:	Morris Cameron
Treasurer:	Roy Bennett
Librarian:	Peter Graham
Equipment Officer:	David Hoppner
Committee Member:	Colin Watson

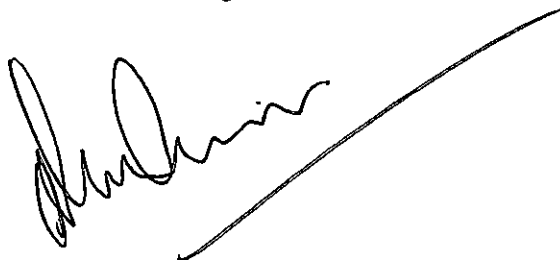
Summary

The band comprises of Trustees as indicated in detail on the Charities Commission NI website and summarised above and are the Executive Committee of the band as elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Declaration

The Trustees of the Third Carrickfergus Band declare that they have approved the Trustees Report. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the bands constitution and have been independently reviewed by a qualified person in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Commission NI and are available to view on the Charities Commission NI website.

Morris Cameron
Secretary, Third Carrickfergus Band

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Cameron', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.