



Third Carrickfergus Band

Secretary: Morris Cameron
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Carrickfergus
BT38 8YE

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Trustees Annual Report for period ending 31st January 2025

Registered Charity NIC 107508

The Third Carrickfergus Band incorporates the activities of two bands, the Third Carrickfergus Band, and the Third Carrickfergus Youth/Training 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.

Despite a very challenging environment locally in terms of brass bands we have managed to improve our playing strength personnel wise and maintain a very good attendance at rehearsals and engagements. It has, however, been more challenging from a Youth Band perspective, as attracting younger players has been particularly difficult, but we have continued to attract older and more experienced players to counter this, which continues to change the dynamic of the group. Paradoxically this has enabled us to improve musically with the younger members benefiting from the experience and ability of these new members. Consequently, both bands are now in a very strong position and continue to grow both in numbers and musically. We no longer use the term Youth Band however and now refer to this band as the Third Carrickfergus Training Band to more accurately reflect the spread of ages and abilities. This has not detracted from our efforts on youth development, and we continue to look for opportunities to generate interest amongst the younger cohort. We have already started an outreach project to local primary schools in the area with a view to relaunching our Youth Development to ensure the future of the organisation and brass banding in general in our community.

As always, the Senior Band managed to be consistent and competitive throughout the year in all contests and are now firmly established as one of the top bands in the Championship Section in N. Ireland. There has been continuous improvement and progression over the last 5-10 years with the same core of players, a key objective of the band. We have also completed a very full and engaging calendar of public concerts and civic events, the highlight performing as part of the inaugural Around the Town Festival in Carrickfergus. We have been involved with Positive Carrickfergus since the start and were part of the organising team establishing a local arts/music festival with local artists from the area, a major achievement for the town. We also continued our collaboration with the wonderful vocal group Concordia from Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church and this Christmas we had the great honour of sharing the stage with The Three Priests in one of their last public performances! There was also another joint concert with the excellent Carrickfergus Grammar School Music Society in early October to cement the fine relationship between band and school that has evolved over many years. Such collaborations fit perfectly with our desire to build relationships with other local arts/music groups and support our local community going forward and to reach new audiences.

Members from both our Senior and Youth Bands continue to support the Summer Schools in both Armagh and Fermanagh as they strive to develop brass playing throughout the province. Both these events have been vital in providing a pipeline of young brass players for the movement and the organizers are to be commended for their efforts in such a challenging environment creatively and financially.

Finally, we again would like to thank all our wonderful members, sponsors and supporters as we had another incredible year financially managing to pay off the balance of the loan to purchase our new band hall. This exceeded all our expectations and is a testament to the strength of our organization that we are now the proud owners of our band hall and surrounding land, debt free and have already started on an instrument replenishment fund to ensure we continue to grow and serve the public.

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 elevated levels of attendance at rehearsals and the attraction of fresh players to the group. Feedback from the 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 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 McFaul
Secretary:	Morris Cameron
Treasurer:	Roy Bennett
Librarian:	Peter Graham
Equipment Officer:	Ryan McFaul
Committee Member:	Suzanne Alexander

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 band's 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Morris Cameron', with a long horizontal line underneath it.