

Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108009

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2021-05-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	34 Fulmar Crescent Lisburn Bt28 3ht BT28 3HT
Phone	07816 994476
Email	info@downshirebrass.com
Website	www.downshirebrass.com

Activities

Purposes: The objectives of the Band shall be the advancement of the knowledge of music among the members for the public benefit through public performances in Northern Ireland. In furtherance of the above objectives the Band may: a) co-operate with bodies and organisations that may contribute either directly or indirectly towards the administration and operations of the Band. b) raise funds and invite or receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription, donation or otherwise. c) affiliate to other organisations with similar objectives. d) conduct such activities as may be deemed necessary in their attainment.

What the charity does: The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts,Community development,Cultural,Education/training,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),General public,Men,Older people,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£34,388	£21,654	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Deidre Mcivor		
Gerard McCartney		
Mr Chris Rollins		
Mr Gary Dodsworth		
Mr Roger Doherty		
Robert Mercer		

Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Accounts

Downshire brass



Charity Number NIC108009

Downshire brass



Accounts for the period 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025

Downshire brass



Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31/01/2025

Consolidated Accounts 2024-2025

Income

Total

Dues

Members donations	4927.5
Young members donations	<u>260</u>
	£5,187.5

Engagements

Full band

Engagements.

Brett Baker concert	835.17
Templepatrick	650
City council Ormeau	190
University of Ulster	500
Royal Palace	600
Ulster Orchestra	600
Half marathon	570
BBC Bandstand	300
City centre concert	600
Coleraine Concert	2216
Malone concert	1285.94
Downe Cathedral	1604
Snowman .	<u>3170.12</u>
Total	£ 13,121.23

10 Piece

Summer Markets	900
Airport .	
Maritime festival	400
Christmas	1525
Lets go hydro 2022	-----
Eats and beats	400.
Cruise ship	300
Traction rally	250
<u>Ulster rugby</u>	<u>200</u>

Total **£ 3,975**

Total engagements **£ 17,096.23**

Downshire brass



Consolidated Accounts

2024-2025

Income. (Continued)

Total

Youth

Christmas 207.31

Prize money

Fund raising

Quiz 1089.64

Donations 1085.82

Amazon --

CD sales. 170

Total £ 2,552.77

General

Internet 612.15

Trust gift 5000

BBNI solos catering 148.95

Refund + drum caseDrum case 102

HMRC Gift aid 1988.68

Transfer from account 2 1700

Total £ 9,551.78

Grand total	£ 34,388.28
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Downshire brass



Direct Charitable Costs

2024-2025
TOTAL

BBL and NIBA fees

Total £292

Conductors

Main 3755

Guest 400

TOTAL £4155

BBL solos 2024 and 2025

TOTAL £406

Snowman

Screen projector hire £360

Film. £ 816

Pianist, soprano, £ 260

Van hire £ 60.2

Total £1,496.20

Concert expenses

Choir 200

Brett Baker flights 225

Total £425

Instruments

Purchase

Roller blinds £84

Suitcases. £56

Conductors stand £22.4

Ikea chairs £110

Bass drum cradle. £31.2

Bass drum cradle rugby. £27.76

Pa speaker. £199

Flugal horn. £1895.0

Band Expenses. £ 156.9

Percussion bags £ 96

Total £ 2,678.10

Repairs

Total £ 229.8

Downshire brass



Direct Charitable Costs (Continued)

2024-2025
TOTAL

Accessories

Batteries	£ 16
Gift aid envelopes.	£ 49.04
Stationary	£ 305.1
Printer ink	£ 168.2
Total	538.31

Music

Total	£133.02
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Uniforms

Waistcoats.	£ 33.24
Blazers.	£ 453.00
Ties	£ 101.25
Total	£587.49

BBQS

Youth BBQ se4
Senior BBQ

Total	£160.42
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Expenses

Social Expenses	72.35
Total	£72.35

European costs

Europeans Flights	£ 4100.0
Members paid flight	£ 496.2
Airport transfer Stavanger	£ 603.18
Belfast Dublin Return	£ 50.00
Entry fee Europeans.	£ 429.00
Concert Tickets	£ 398.62
Total	£ 6,077

TOTAL

£17,250.69

Downshire brass



Administrative Expenses

	2024-2025
	TOTAL
Rental	
Hall main	2400
Other halls	500
	<hr/>
Total	2900
Hall expenses	
Gas	£ 33
Keys	£ 11.90
Shutter handle.	£ 30.50
	<hr/>
Total	£ 75.40
Insurance	£ 645.66
Bank charges.	£ 232.36
Technology	
Web site	£ 549.96
	<hr/>
Total	£ 4403.38

Grand Total. Expenses. £ 21654.1

Cash in Bank 31/01/2024. £5,785.55

Cash in bank 31/01/2025 £ 18,520.86

Profit £ 12,734.45

Total income £ 34388.28

Total Expenses. £ 21654.1

2nd Bank account. £2,867.16. 31/01/2025

Band assets. Instruments. £ 85,352

Band equipment, music, uniforms. £ 42,276

Total. £ 127,628

Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Accounts

Downshire Brass



DOWNSHIRE BRASS

Annual Statement of Accounts

For the financial year 1st February 2023 to 29th January 2024

Downshire Brass



1st February 2023 to 29th January 2024

<u>Note 1</u>	<u>Income</u>		<u>Note2</u>	<u>Direct Charitable Costs</u>		
	Members	2580		NIBA BBI fees	340.50	340.50
	Young members	380	2960	Conductors	Main 3360	
Shows					Guest 255	3615
	Engagements	6335.86				
	Snowman	3099.45		Snowman expenses	1753.75	1753.75
	Christmas concert	1592.67		Concert expenses	391.65	391.65
			11027.98	Instrument		
Fund raising					Purchase 1441.81	1441.81
	prize money	150			Repairs 175	175
	Donations	485		Music	244.22	244.22
	Amazon	18.5	653.5	Uniforms	30	30
General				youth BBQ	97.75	97.75
	Hall hire	50	50	NIBAMEDALS	89	89
				flowers	10	10
	money found	10	10	cake NIBA	40	40
				Petty cash	8.75	8.75
TOTAL	INCOME		<u>£14701.48</u>	TOTAL	Costs	£8237.43

Note 3 Administrative Expenses

Rental	<u>Total</u>	
Hall (main)	2400	
Other halls	300	
Hall expense	462.45	
Insurance	645.66	
Bank charges	133.39	
Technology		
Web site	225	
TOTAL	£4,166.5	<u> </u> <u> </u>

Downshire Brass



Total Income (note 1)	£14,701.48.	
Total expenses (notes 2 and 3)	£12,403.93	Difference £2,297.55
Cash in Bank	01/02/2023 £3,477.50.	
	29/01/2024 £5,773.73	Difference £2,296.23
Band assets. Instruments.		£85,352
Band equipment, music, uniforms.		£42,276
Total.		£127,628

Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Annual report

downshire brass



DOWNSHIRE BRASS

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the financial year February 1st 2023 to January 31st 2024





Downshire Brass Charity no. 108009

Date registered. 17/05/2021

Trustee's report for Charity Commission February 2023 - January 2024

Introduction

Downshire Brass are based in Belfast and are one of Northern Ireland's leading championship section brass bands. Formed more than 30 years ago from two of the oldest established brass bands in Ireland, Downshire enjoys considerable success as a contesting and concert brass band. The Band has a vibrant youth band and a number of smaller ensembles.

The Band strives to include something for everyone in a repertoire which ranges from traditional brass band marches, through 'big band' numbers, to the classics and popular music.

Downshire Brass, rehearse on Monday and Thursday evenings 8:00pm – 10:00pm, our Youth Band and learner classes rehearse on Monday evenings 6:30pm – 7:45pm at our band hall located at the BB Playing Fields, Belvoir Drive Belfast BT8 7DH

Downshire Brass is governed by its Constitution and is managed by a Band Committee elected at the band's Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM there is also the election/re-election of Honorary Vice President/President

In **January** the band held its AGM, where we discussed the previous year's activities, heard reports from our Chair, Treasurer and Musical Director and held our Election of Officers for the incoming year.

In **February** the band were represented by several members of our beginner's group, youth band members and senior band members at the annual NIBA Solos and Ensembles

In **March** the band competed in the annual Brass in Concert Contest in Fivemiletown where we were placed third in our section

In **April** our 10 piece ensemble played at Down Racecourse Downpatrick we travelled to the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh to participate in the BB League (NI) Spring Festival where we were placed fourth in our section.

In **May**, the full band played at the annual Big Lunch charity fundraiser event in Templepatrick, our 10 piece ensemble returned to Royal Hillsborough to play at the Farmers Market

In **June** we held our junior and youth band end of year Concert (supported by Senior Band Members) and family BBQ.



downshire brass



In **July** we returned to Hillsborough Castle to play to members of the public

In **August** our 10 piece ensemble played at the Moira Farmers Market and our full band were honoured to play at a private family event to celebrate the 100th Birthday of our Honorary President. We also returned to Larne to play at the Antrim Coast Half Marathon as participants awaited the start of the race

In **September** the full band played at the Slipways, Titanic Museum, Belfast as part of the Belfast Maritime Mile Festival

In **October** our 10 piece ensemble played at the George Best Belfast Airport to welcome participants from around the world attending the One Young World Summit in Belfast. Later in the month the band travelled to Armagh to compete in the North of Ireland Band Association, contest playing the set piece "A King's Lie". The band were delighted to win the contest which meant that the band qualified to represent Northern Ireland at the 2025 European championships in Stavanger, Norway.

November began with a Service of Remembrance at Malone Presbyterian Church. This was swiftly followed by our two annual engagements of bringing Santa into the Park Centre and the Kennedy Centre. Our 10 piece ensemble continued to bring Christmas cheer by playing Christmas Carols at the Carryduff Christmas Market

December began with our annual Christmas Concert with in Malone Presbyterian Church, we also played carols at Royal Hillsborough and Dundonald Christmas Markets and in Malone Presbyterian Church, Belvoir Methodist Church, St Johns Parish Church Tyrella, Killowen Parish Church, Coleraine and Moneyreagh Community Church. Highlight of the year was again performing the showing of The Snowman with two sold out performances on one day.

Public Benefit Statement

We advance the knowledge of music among the members through rehearsal and public performance of widely varied musical repertoire. We promote the musical and social benefits including wellbeing of our organisation through attendance at regular rehearsals and through the running of various social events which aren't directly music related. Our benefits can be demonstrated through rehearsal attendance and through performances at various events such as competitions and public concerts. Our increasing membership along with the friendship and camaraderie that we develop between members, other bands, friends & family and the public through our performances demonstrates the social benefits of playing in a band. There is no harm arising from our purposes. Our beneficiaries are our members and members of the general public who attend our performances. There is no private benefit flowing from any of our purposes.





Charity Purposes

The objectives of the Band shall be the advancement of the knowledge of music among the members and the promotion of both musical and social benefits for members and the public. In furtherance of the above objectives the Band may:

- co-operate with bodies and organisations that may contribute either directly or indirectly towards the administration and operations of the Band. raise funds and invite or receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription, donation or otherwise.
- affiliate to other organisations with similar objectives.
- conduct such business as may be deemed necessary in their attainment.
- provision of a youth band for young members, to include, instruments, uniforms, music tuition regular practice facilities to enable them to deliver private and public musical engagements and where applicable take part in contests
- To foster good relationships and participation with other musical organisations across the region

Declaration

The Trustees and Band Committee declare that they have approved the Trustee's Report. Our accounts have been prepared in accordance with the band's constitution and have been scrutinised by a qualified person in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Mercer', is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Mercer
Chairman of Trustees
04 October 2024

Charity Trustees

Robert Mercer
Roger Doherty
Gerard McCartney
Gary Dodsworth
Deirdre McIvor
Chris Rollins
Ryan Parks





Public Benefits

To promote the awareness, understanding and appreciation of brass band music by advancing the education of the public with its varied repertoire to those interested within the local community by participating in the playing of musical instruments. Offering those who are interested in becoming playing members the opportunity of learning to play a musical instrument through learner classes. To offer those who do not wish to become learners or playing members the opportunity to become associate non-playing members of the band and in so doing create a greater awareness of music in general. By undertaking concerts, social events and providing musical entertainment on behalf of churches, schools, charities, councils, local communities and public bodies in a common effort to advance education, with the object of improving the conditions of life to a wide audience. As well as these public events which includes concerts and recitals, the benefits to study and play music as part of a band.

The benefits of developing musicians which flow from Downshire Brass largely depends on age. Downshire Brass has three groups a Senior band, a youth band and a learner's class.

We provide an affordable extended music education for beginning musicians of any age. Downshire brass provides instruments and music lessons for our youth and learners bands for less than £1 per week which is better value than the education board prices.

The band family provides a healthy community support network for both new participants and existing participants, local schools, youth groups and organisations. Playing a musical instrument according to scientific papers has many health benefits. Reducing stress, enhancing creative thought/creative problem solving, enhancing memory and focus, possibly relating to symptoms of old age and dementia.

Benefiting sufferers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) and other breathing-related conditions such as Asthma to learn helpful breathing techniques through instrumental performance. Music making can experience beneficial effects relating to health issues like depression and anxiety; making music enhances self-confidence, energy and self-esteem as well as general wellbeing and happiness. The senior band consists of a membership of 30 players, the junior band consists of approximately 12 students and the learner's class 12 students.

Downshire brass has started a partnership with a local school to provide musical assistance and is negotiations with another school.

The benefit that flows from banding promotes enjoyment, better understanding and general advancement of the arts and sciences of music. This benefits band members and the general public. Further exposure of the band can be found on social media such as the website and YouTube where there are individual and group recordings, allowing the band to be heard and seen.

There is no history of harm throughout our 34 year history. We do our best to provide a safe space for people of any age to make music. Our community educators who lead rehearsals/lessons are vetted through ACCESS NI; Our Child Protection Policy and Equality Statement has been widely circulated throughout the band and participants; We have five Designated Child Protection Officers in the band who have been trained to deal with any issues or concerns that may arise; We have a



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band committee that meets on a regular basis and oversees all business in regards to all groups associated with Downshire Brass.

We also have in place Public Liability Insurance. As a band we do not discriminate in any form, so every member of the public of Northern Ireland can be a beneficiary of our music.

We have had temporary members from other countries such as the USA, New Zealand, France as well as our friends in the South of Ireland. The band has played many times in England, Wales and Scotland and in Germany and in 2025 we can add Norway to our list.

Band accounts can be inserted below

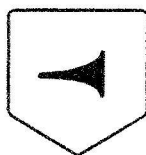


Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Annual return

Downshire brass



DOWNSHIRE BRASS

Downshire Brass Charity no. 108009

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Downshire Brass

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31st January 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- **examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act**
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- **state whether particular matters have come to my attention.**

Basis of examiner's statement

*I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of **any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.***

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me **cause to believe:**

- 1. That accounting records were not kept as required by section 63 of the Charities Act**
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- 4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.**

Downshire brass



Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Amy A. J. Herdman. Independent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy A. J. Herdman', written in a cursive style.

78 Old Holywood Road,
Belfast, BT4 2HP

01/11/24

Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Accounts

downshire brass



DOWNSHIRE BRASS

Annual Statement of Accounts

For the financial year February 1st 2022 to January 31st 2023





Downshire Brass Charity no. 108009

Charity Name

Charity No.

Downshire Brass

ni 108009



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/02/2022

To

31/01/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
income. Note 1	21,470	-	-	21,470	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	21,470	-	-	21,470	-
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
		-	-	-	-



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		-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,470	-	-	21,470	-
A3 Payments					
Direct charitable costs. Note 2	17,925	-	-	17,925	-
Administrative costs. Note 3	3,899	-	-	3,899	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A3 Sub total	21,824	-	-	21,824	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,824	-	-	21,824	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 354	-	-	- 354	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-



downshire brass



A6 Cash funds last year end	3,903	-	-	3,903	-
Cash funds this year end	3,549	-	-	3,549	-

Downshire Brass - ni 108009

Period end date: 31/01/2023

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Accounts no 1	3,485	-	-	3,485	-
	bank account no 2	54	-	-	54	-
	cash on hand	10	-	-	10	-
	Total cash funds	3,549	-	-	3,549	-



downshire brass



(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

OK

OK

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

Restricted funds
to nearest £

Endowment funds
to nearest £

Total funds
to nearest £

Last year
to nearest £

Details

B2 Other monetary assets

Instruments
Band equipment, music ,uniforms

85,352
42,276
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-

Total

85,352
42,276
-
-
-
127,628

-
-
-
-
-
-





Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31 January 2023

<u>Note 1</u>	<u>Income</u>		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Note2</u>	<u>Direct Charitable Costs</u>		<u>Totals</u>
Dues				BBL & NIBA fees			265
	Members		2203	Conductors			
	Young members		260		Main	2782	
Shows			2463		Guest	225	3007
	Engagements		6155	Europeans			
	Snowman		3051		Guest travel	596	
	Christmas concert		1561		Entry fee	186	
	Tickets(2021)		200		Sundries	204	
Fund raising			10967		Europeans	10022	11008
	General		328	BBL Solos			98
	Donations		390	Showman expenses			1606
	Bus (2020)		210	Concert programmes			125
	C.D.sales		60	Concert expenses			250
	Amazon		20	Instrument			
General			1008		Purchase	411	
	Hoodies		548		Repairs	290	701
	Music download		918	Music			147
	Palanga Refund		469	Uniforms			718
	Members Euro contributions		5097				17925
			7032				
			21470				



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Note 3

Administration Expenses

Rental

Hall (main)	2400	
Other halls	340	
Hall expense	<u>67</u>	2807

Insurance

612

Bank charges

79

Technology

Web site	189	
Router & broadband	<u>212</u>	401
		<u>3899</u>



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Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Roger Doherty

Total

-

Print Name

Roger Doherty

Date of approval

01/11/23



Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Annual report

downshire brass



DOWNSHIRE BRASS

Annual Report & Statement

For the financial year February 1st 2022 to January 31st 2023

Downshire Brass Charity no. 108009





Trustee's report for Charity Commission February 2022 - January 2023

Introduction

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The Band strives to include something for everyone in a repertoire which ranges from traditional brass band marches, through 'big band' numbers, to the classics and popular music.

Downshire Brass, rehearse on Monday and Thursday evenings 8:00pm – 10:00pm, our Youth Band and learner classes rehearse on Monday evenings 6:30pm – 7:45pm at our band hall located at the BB Playing Fields, Belvoir Drive Belfast BT8 7DH

Downshire Brass is governed by its Constitution and is managed by a Band Committee elected at the band's Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM there is also the election/re-election of Honorary Vice President/President

January due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic guidance our AGM was held on 31st January via zoom where we discussed the previous year's activities, heard reports from our Chair, Treasurer and Musical Director and held our Election of Officers for the incoming year.

In **February** the NIBA Solos and Ensemble were held with an online zoom session for youth section and a player/ensembles and adjudicator only basis for seniors with no audience permitted.

In **April** roads lead to the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh, where we competed in the Brass Band League, Spring Festival coming a creditable 2nd playing "Soul Trap", a new piece composed by one of our own players.

In **May**, we made a memory that will stay with us for a long time as we represented Northern Ireland at the European Brass Band Championship in the Symphony Hall, Birmingham playing Soul Trap and Variation for Brass Band

June started our summer season, playing on the quayside beside the SS Nomadic at the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon, our annual return to Templepatrick playing at the Jubilee Big Lunch ending with our end of year Summer Concert with guest soloist Misa Mead followed by a special occasion as our 10-piece ensemble playing at the wedding of Hannah and Ian and afterwards the full band playing at their reception.



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August our 10-piece took part in A Music Marathon at Kilbroney Parish Church Rostrevor and our full band played at the beginning of the 2022 Antrim Half Marathon

In **October** the band competed in the North of Ireland Band Association, contest in Armagh playing the set piece “Royal Parks”

November began with a Service of Remembrance at Malone Presbyterian Church. This was swiftly followed by our two annual engagements of bringing Santa into the Park Centre and the Kennedy Centre. We also took part in Belfast “Feeling Festive” to mark the beginning of the Belfast City Centre Christmas Season

December began with our annual Christmas Concert with Grosvenor Chorale in Malone Presbyterian Church, we also played at carol services in Belvoir Methodist Church and Killowen Parish Church, Coleraine. Highlight of the year was the showing of The Snowman – Two sold out performance on one day. We also undertook five carolling engagements at Let’s Go Hydro.

Public Benefit Statement

To promote the awareness, understanding and appreciation of brass band music by advancing the education of the public with its varied repertoire to those interested within the local community by participating in the playing of musical instruments. Offering those who are interested in becoming playing members the opportunity of learning to play a musical instrument through learner classes. To offer those who do not wish to become learners or playing members the opportunity to become associate non-playing members of the band and in so doing create a greater awareness of music in general. By undertaking concerts, social events and providing musical entertainment on behalf of churches, schools, charities, councils, local communities and public bodies in a common effort to advance education, with the object of improving the Conditions of life to a wide audience. As well as these public events which includes concerts and recitals, the benefits to study and play music as part of a band.

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Benefiting sufferers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) and other breathing-related conditions such as Asthma to learn helpful breathing techniques through instrumental performance. Music making can experience beneficial effects relating to health issues like depression and anxiety; making music enhances self-confidence, energy and self-esteem as well as general wellbeing and happiness. Downshire brass has started a partnership with a local school to provide musical assistance and is negotiations with another school.

The benefit that flows from banding promotes enjoyment, better understanding and general advancement of the arts and sciences of music. This benefits band members and the general public. Further exposure of the band can be found on Social media such as the website and Utube where there is individual and group recordings, allowing the band can be heard and seen from households. .

There is no history of harm throughout our 23 year history. We do our best to provide a safe space for people of any age to make music. Our community educators who lead rehearsals/lessons are vetted through ACCESS NI; Our Child Protection Policy and Equality Statement has been widely circulated throughout the band and participants; We have five Designated Child Protection Officers in the band who have been trained to deal with any issues or concerns that may arise; We have a band committee that meets on a regular basis and oversees all business in regards to all groups associated with Downshire Brass.

We also have in place Public Liability Insurance. As a band we do don't discriminate in any form, so every member of the public of Northern Ireland can be a beneficiary of our music.

We have had temporary members from other countries such as the USA, New Zealand, France as well as our friends in the South of Ireland. The band has had the opportunity to play overseas including England, Wales Scotland and Germany. Downshire brass has earned the right to represent Northern Ireland in Norway at the European brass band championships in 2025. Our increasing membership along with the friendship and camaraderie that we develop between members, other bands, friends & family and the public through our performances demonstrates the social benefits of playing in a band. There is no harm arising from our purposes. Our beneficiaries are our members and members of the general public who attend our performances. There is no private benefit flowing from any of our purposes.

Charity Purposes

The objectives of the Band shall be the advancement of the knowledge of music among the members and the promotion of both musical and social benefits for members and the public. In furtherance of the above objectives the Band may:

- co-operate with bodies and organisations that may contribute either directly or indirectly towards the administration and operations of the Band. raise funds and invite or receive contributions from any person or organisation by way of subscription, donation or otherwise.
- affiliate to other organisations with similar objectives.
- conduct such business as may be deemed necessary in their attainment.



downshire brass



- provision of a youth band for young members, to include, instruments, uniforms, music tuition regular practice facilities to enable them to deliver private and public musical engagements and where applicable take part in contests
- To foster good relationships and participation with other musical organisations across the region

Declaration

The Trustees and Band Committee declare that they have approved the Trustee's Report. Our accounts have been prepared in accordance with the band's constitution and have been scrutinised by a qualified person in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Mercer".

Robert Mercer
Chairman of Trustees
20 October 2023



Downshire Brass

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108009

Annual return



DOWNSHIRE BRASS

Downshire Brass Charity no. 108009

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Downshire Brass

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31st January 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept as required by section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act



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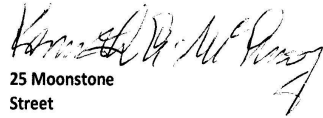
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Kenneth A. McAnoy

Independent Examiner



25 Moonstone
Street
Belfast BT9, 7HL

Date: 01/11/2023

