



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

**Company Number: 07471625**

**Charity Registration Number: 1142471**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended**  
**31 March 2019**

**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)  
Mark Armstrong  
David Creese  
Tom Fairfax  
Iain Gelston  
Paul Knox  
Andrew Lawrenson  
Nick Leeming  
Anne Moore  
Alice Robinson

**Company Secretary:** Michael Evans

**Society Secretary:** Vacant

**Website:** Mark Armstrong

**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  
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**Chairman's Statement**

Dear Member,

Last year has been a significant one for the Society and for piping generally.

As we go to press, we have learned of the sad loss of Colin Ross. There will be better opportunities in the future to pay full tribute to his enormous contribution to the Society and to piping generally but I am sure that we all join in passing our very best wishes to his family at this difficult time.

During the last year, we faced the continuing challenge to the sale and purchase of pipes containing ivory, as the Ivory Bill made its way through both Houses of Parliament. I would like to pay special tribute to our President, Baroness Joyce Quin, for the huge amount of effort she put into this for us and for her invaluable advice on parliamentary procedure. I have no doubt that we made our case to government in the best way possible for including a special exemption from the Bill for Northumbrian Pipes. As you will know from the information circulated during the year, we were eventually unsuccessful, and the Bill passed through both Houses of Parliament and received Royal Assent without "our" exemption. Although now formally an Act of Parliament, it has not yet taken effect. As I write, we have been promised further consultation on certain aspects of the new legislation, such as who will assess whether an instrument over 100 years old is of significant merit to justify being given an exemption certificate. Your Committee will continue to monitor the situation and do our very best to advise anybody with a set of pipes that includes ivory, on what the position is at any particular point in time. Needless to say, most civil servants and ministers are fully engaged with trying to work out what to do with Brexit at the moment. Therefore, I suspect that this particular item has slipped down their agenda.

Having mentioned the word Brexit, I think it only fair to say that, at present, the various potential outcomes of the debate are unlikely to have a significant impact on the Society. However, if the UK were to leave the EU without a deal, movement of pipes across the UK border will potentially be treated in a different way. At present, a set of pipes including ivory can move freely between countries in the EU. These rules may no longer apply after Brexit.

Another significant event for the Society over the last year has been the loss of our regular hard copy newsletter. In the absence of anybody being willing to edit the newsletter, the Committee has had to accept that we can no longer produce this. Instead, we have decided to produce an electronic version, circulated by email. This does, of course, present some new opportunities. First, we are now able to circulate something monthly, meaning that the news is more up to date when received. The e-news can include links to videos, sound clips and websites and there is, in theory, no limit to the content of each edition. In addition, the Society is able to save the ever-increasing postage and printing costs associated with the newsletter and devote this money to other projects. We are still in the process of learning how to make the most of the electronic newsletter and I would urge any member with something that they would like to communicate to the membership, to send contributions to Susan Craven who pulls everything together for circulation each month. Please do contribute information on events, sessions, concerts, technical tips, points of interest etc. Please also let us know if you have any ideas of things that might be included?

Because the newsletter is now being circulated by email, it is increasingly important that members let us have an email address that can be used for this and other communications. We are aware of a handful of members who still do not have access to a computer or email address and have made special arrangements to help them, but the vast majority of members do now have the ability to receive emails. If you are not receiving the electronic monthly newsletter, this is probably because we do not have an email address for you, or the necessary permission to use it. Please get in touch so that we can add you to the mailing list.

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Another significant development during the year has been the publication of the Fourth Pipers' Society tune book. This is a project that Julia Say has been working on for some years and we were delighted that she was able to complete the task earlier this year in time for the book to be launched at the second Newcastle Piping Festival (about which please see more below). As with our other tune books, this is a fantastic resource, full of tunes that pipers typically play. If you have not yet bought your copy, please visit the Society's website or get in touch.

On the subject of the website, your Committee has decided this year to commission an entirely new website. Electronic communications are becoming ever more important and many people turn to internet searches to find out about anything that interests them. Over the years, the Society's website has become tired compared to modern standards and is also difficult to maintain. It has proved very hard to keep the site up to date, with a result that there has been confusion at times. Tom Fairfax and Iain Gelston have taken on the task of producing the new website, with external professional support, and we hope to have this up and running during the current year. The intention is that it will not only include the current resources (including the Society's shop), but that it will also have a private members' area where we can replicate the old members' handbook. We are also enhancing our online profile and seizing the amazing opportunities offered by the internet to deliver more exciting services over a range of digital and social media.

On a positive note, last year saw the revival of the Society's Journal, with John Gibbons producing a fantastic first edition. I am sure that he will welcome contributions, so, if there is anything you would like to include, please do get in touch with John. Several members continue to do fantastic research into the history of the pipes and our traditions. This work is invaluable in helping to put pieces of the jigsaw together and increase our understanding of the people who have contributed so much to our tradition.

A major ongoing archive project is the digitisation and assessment of the wealth of tape recordings given to the Society by Foster Charlton's family. Having unsuccessfully sought grant support for this from several sources, the Society has itself funded the digitisation of sample tapes from the collection and some of this material is now becoming available. We hope that this will be accessible through the new website. It is already producing some wonderful new discoveries. Our thanks particularly to Richard Heard, Julia Say and Louise Woodman for the work that they have done in this area. As always, if anybody would like to get involved (for example with listening to the tapes, when digitised, to find out and to catalogue what is on them) please do let us know.

An item that has been much on the minds of the Committee over the year is where best to locate the Society's office. Over recent years, this has been in the sailing club building in Newbiggin. It has been very convenient whilst Julia Say was secretary, being close to where she lives. However, when the lease came up for renewal recently, the Committee considered whether it is still the best location for the Society's office. We have not reached any final view on this but are continuing to look at options. These have included premises in central Newcastle and at the Shipley Art Gallery in Gateshead. Starting to look at this raised several interesting questions concerning whether a relocation of the office might result in more people getting involved in activities related to the pipes and piping? If you have any views on this, please do send them to the Committee. We would love to hear your thoughts.

During the year the Society organised several key events for members. Our significant thanks go to Andy May for organising not only a fantastic concert last Autumn, but also the Second Newcastle Piping Festival towards the end of March this year. These have both provided a wonderful platform for the Society to show the world what the Northumbrian Pipes are and the wonderful nature of our music, as well as putting them in the context of other piping traditions. We benefit hugely from Andy's network as a professional musician and are extremely grateful to him, not only for organising these events, but also for introducing us to some wonderful music from around the world. It was particularly fascinating, for example, to see and hear a Musette being played at the Second Newcastle Piping Festival. Links between the Musette and the Northumbrian Pipes have always been intriguing and it was fascinating to see/hear the similarities close up.

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The Society's competitions were also well attended, and I would like to thank Ann Sessoms and Brian Fisher for all of the work that they do to organise these so successfully. In addition, the Society's AGM, combined with President's Day in Warkworth, was a wonderful social and piping occasion, generously hosted by our President, Baroness Joyce Quin. She and her husband Guy made everybody feel extremely welcome and we had a lovely afternoon of music and conversation. If anybody hasn't been to one of these occasions, please do make the effort to come along this year, when it will be held in the Shipley Art Gallery in Gateshead. Again, the intention is that we will hold our AGM and then follow with a communal playing session in the beautiful surroundings of the gallery.

Your Committee always welcomes new ideas on ways in which members can gather to play music. Many sessions are listed in the monthly e-news and any piper is always welcome to attend any of the listed events.

Your Committee continues to do everything we can to promote the pipes. Over the last year, we have again provided financial support to the group of young pipers organised by the Northumberland Music Service. This helps young pipers learning to play at school to get together outside of school hours and play. It brings together children from several different schools and it was lovely to meet many of them at the Second Newcastle Piping Festival, where they held one of their regular meetings.

The Society is also represented at the Glendale Children's Day. This is an open day run by Glendale Agricultural Society at Wooler to introduce young children from schools round the North East to rural businesses and activities. This event normally attracts 1500 – 2000 children, who come accompanied by their teachers. We normally have a loyal team of pipers from NPS, APS, and a number of the local piping groups... it's a great day and aims to expose as many children as possible to the Northumbrian Smallpipes, so that when they are making choices about instruments, they are informed. Whilst there is rarely an opportunity to spend much time with anyone, it does give lots of children a chance to see the pipes and get involved; Bobby Shaftoe normally gets a bit of a pasting (as they normally know the words). In most previous years, there have been a small number of children who "light up" when they see the pipes; it's a feeling everyone reading this will recognise. The event also (significantly), introduces the pipes and tradition to teachers, and ensures that they know how and where to find us!

Last year saw the North East host the "Great Exhibition of the North". As usual, it was incredibly disappointing how this almost entirely ignored our local instrument and traditional heritage. One good thing that it did do was to provoke other parts of the region to hold events to try to prevent all the interest in the region being focused on Newcastle. As a result, for example, Alnwick Gardens hosted three Northumbrian music days and Berwick Maltings hosted an event at which Alice Robinson and myself gave an illustrated talk on the history of the pipes and their music. There is a soundtrack of this which can be heard at <http://www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk/index.php?page=andrew-and-alice-berwick-maltings> . The presentation was great fun to do and seemed to be very well received.

You will not have been able to escape the fact that last year was also the centenary of the ending of World War I. The Society joined forces with the Highland Piping Community to engage in remembering those who fell in the war by having as many pipers as possible play the tune "The Battle's Over" at the time of signing of the Armistice Treaty in as many locations as possible. This moving tribute saw Northumbrian Pipers playing in many churches, cathedrals, war memorials etc around the country in a mixture of formal piping uniform, warm clothing and pyjamas! I would like to thank Tom Fairfax for introducing us to the event and to everybody who got involved in such a moving tribute. We will also be supporting the next Battle's Over event in 2020 to commemorate VE day.

One thing that the Society is very keen to do is to raise the profile not only of the small pipes, but also the rather forgotten half long pipes. It is wonderful to have Iain Gelston on the committee. As you will know, Iain is a tremendous exponent of this instrument and he is giving a lot of thought to how the Society can help to revive interest in it.

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I am sorry to say that our membership numbers have fallen this year to around 750. In many respects this fall is not as significant as it may at first seem. Our administrator Susan Craven has done a fantastic job working out which of the people on our old membership list are actually still paid up members. It has been a huge task correlating the membership list with receipts of subscriptions through our bank account. The net result is that it turns out that we have been sending newsletters etc to well over 120 people who have not paid, their subscriptions for many years! At least we now know that the membership numbers are genuine. Nevertheless, I would ideally love to see the number of members increased. I am aware that there are many pipers out there who are not members of the Society. Please could you encourage them to join? In comparison to other organisations, the subscription fee (which has not increase for 9 years) is relatively modest and it does help the Society to do all of the things that need to be done to keep our tradition alive and thriving. Equally, if you have any ideas of things you would like the Society to do, then please let us know - especially if you would like to volunteer to do it!

Of course, encouraging people to play is one thing, but having access to pipes is a critical element. Here again, the Society has continued to do everything that it can and I would like to pay specific tribute to Nick Leeming, who runs the pipe hire service for the Society. He has managed to maintain some 50 sets of pipes out on hire throughout the year, which is a phenomenal achievement. More on this below. I would also like to thank Paul Knox, who has taken on running the "hire to buy" service for those who wish to move on a step but can't afford to buy their own instrument. The Society has continued to buy new sets from makers and hire them out to pipers who would like to own their set and are, through this service, able to buy them over an extended period of time.

The Society continues to try to develop the entry-level plastic/school pipes that are the fantastic design of Mike Nelson. This continues to be a challenge, principally because of the need to gain access to reeds which, so far, have proved singularly difficult to mass-produce!

Given our challenge to find a source of reliable good reeds, it was with astonishment that one of our members from Switzerland, Beat Weber (an excellent Northumbrian Piper in his own right), recently found a set of pipes that plays perfectly - with no reeds! I hope by the time you read this you will have seen the report on this in the monthly e-news. It is truly astonishing in the way that it produces a sound incredibly close to a reeded bagpipe, using no more than a piece of cooking cling film! Our challenge is how to use this technology? At present, the thinking is that it might be very helpful in enabling the production of a mouth blown practice chanter. This could be particularly useful in allowing classes of school children to try out the fingering and play some simple tunes as an introduction to the instrument, before then potentially moving on to an entry level set of plastic pipes, or hiring a set of "real" pipes from the Society – watch this space!

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 have mentioned many Committee members already in this report, but would like to add a special mention to Mike Evans for his masterly management of our accounts and for continuing his never ending battle with Barclays Bank, who seem to have it as their mission to make his life as difficult as possible.

Sadly, this year we are losing two members of the committee who have decided not to seek re-election. The first is Anne Moore, who has been an invaluable link with the Bagpipe Museum and the Chantry in Morpeth. Pressures of work and the location of her work have made it increasingly difficult for her to attend Committee meetings, so she has decided to step down to make way for somebody new to join the Committee. Nevertheless, she has renewed her commitment to helping the Society in any way that she can, for which we are extremely grateful.

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The second is Mark Armstrong. Mark has been a member of the Committee since 2013. He has brought his computing skills and has helped us enormously over that period, not only to move forward with web trading through the shop, email and other communications but also, very significantly, by helping us to select and establish our Sage accounting system, which has begun to show real benefits, linking membership lists, accounts and mailings on a single system that can be accessed by relevant Committee members from home, rather than having to attend the office. These are enormously significant benefits and I cannot thank Mark enough for the effort that he has put in to helping the Society to take these steps during his period on the Committee. You will see that the Committee has recommended Mark's appointment as an honorary Vice-President of the Society in recognition of his service.

Also recommended for appointment to honorary positions for exceptional service to the Society are Mike Evans and Nick Leeming. Mike has been Treasurer of the Society through the really challenging period of conversion from an ordinary society to being a charity and a corporate entity. This has meant huge changes to the accounting requirements. In addition, he has worked with Mark and others to help convert our accounts onto the Sage accounting software and has made sure that everyone gets paid. As mentioned above, Nick has been running the Society's pipe hire function. Through his efforts, which have involved fettling, restoring, tuning and maintaining our increasing stock of instruments, he has managed to increase our service so that we now have in the region of 50 sets of pipes out on hire, also supporting the hirers with invaluable advice. Nick has also produced a number of YouTube videos that help people to get going – invaluable if you do not have another piper living nearby.

I hope you will support these appointments at the AGM, each of which reflects exceptional service to the Society and to Piping.

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. She has very generously agreed to stand for reappointment at the AGM and I would urge you all to support this.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the AGM and President's Day on 10 August 2019 at the Shipley Art Gallery.

Keep piping!

**Andrew Davison, OBE**  
Chairman



## **Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report 2019**

I'm pleased to report that the Cleveland Branch had a successful year providing a range of playing opportunities in the region for players of varying abilities, and also raising the sound and visibility of the pipes in our area. Our major challenges remain though, and these are i) to engage younger people with the music and instrument ii) to broaden areas of expertise – for example encourage more duet-playing, pipe maintenance expertise and tuition/training skills, and public performance, particularly to encourage more pipers to join the performing group and iii) to fill the posts of Vice-Chair and Secretary on our committee

The branch has continued to hold its monthly meetings in Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield. The playaround format (including occasional solo spots) is well established. This format caters well for beginners through to expert. Numbers attending are steady but with some churn of newer attendees.

To widen the range of our monthly meeting the committee agreed to introduce different attractions and the first of these was Anthony Robb who kindly gave his presentation on the North Northumberland tradition at our March meeting. We also tried to do something different by taking the pipes outdoors to play on Sedgefield Green for the first part of the June meeting. The purpose was to let people in the town who are passing by hear the pipes, but also to give people in the meeting who don't normally play in public or out doors to experience this in a safe setting. Sadly, the weather intervened and we had to cancel.

Absolute beginners and people who are learning to play can join our monthly 7pm session, and we have a couple of people who are regularly attending this and are improving. Thanks to Margaret Moyes, Brian Fisher and Tim Jones for running this.

For those who would like to play in public and those who already enjoy doing so, the branch's performing group is active and holding monthly practice sessions in Ceddesfeld Hall. Over the last 12 months, the group has played at eight NGS Open Gardens, with seven more in 2019 planned. The group also played in St Edmund's Church at the Sedgefield Medieval Fayre.

Other piping emanating from the branch includes Anthony Robb playing at Sedgefield and Brian Fisher at 'Tommy' on the front at Seaham playing 'When the Battle's Over' as part of the Armistice commemorations in November 2018. Brian and Tim play regularly at St Hilda's Church in Hartlepool Headland.

The branch continues to provide a small number of sets for hire thanks to Brian Fisher, and also Brian ran a pipes workshop at the Sedgefield Music Festival in September.

Our regular special events were held again: 'Piping for Prizes' in November and the Christmas party in December.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee and all our members for their continued support.

**David Cook**  
Cleveland Branch Chairman  
June 2019

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society  
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**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

Mark Armstrong

David Creese (appointed 18 August 2018)

Michael Evans

Tom Fairfax

Iain Gelston (appointed 18 August 2018)

Paul Knox

Andrew Lawrenson

Nick Leeming

Andy May

Anne Moore

Alice Robinson

Julia Say (resigned 18 August 2018)

Richard Taylor (resigned 18 August 2018)

David Creese and Iain Gelston were appointed and Andrew Davison, Michael Evans, Tom Fairfax, Andrew Lawrenson, Andy May and Paul Knox were re-appointed at the 2018 AGM for a two-year term expiring at the 2020 AGM.

Andrew Lawrenson and Alice Robinson were elected at the 2017 AGM for a two year period expiring at the 2019 AGM to be held on 19 August 2019 and are offering themselves for re-election for a further term expiring at the 2021 AGM.

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Mark Armstrong and Anne Moore were re-elected at the 2017 AGM for a two year period expiring at the 2019 AGM and are not standing for re-election.

Formal committee meetings are held 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; Brian Fisher, Vice Chair and Treasurer; Anne Catchpole and Timothy Jones. Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 will be put forward for approval at the branch annual general meeting to be held on 10 July 2019 and are incorporated in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2019.

### **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 net operating surplus of £309. Net assets at 31 March 2019 totalled £105,697.

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 2019 were £31,547 excluding reserves funding fixed assets.

### **Directors' responsibilities:**

For the year ended 31 March 2019 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.

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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

Dated 8 July 2019

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society  
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**DRAFT**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**  
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**Statement of Financial Activities**  
(incorporating the income and expenditure account)  
for the year ended 31 March 2019

	Note	2019 Total Unrestricted Funds £	2018 Total Unrestricted Funds £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	2	13,619	12,328
Charitable activities		12,177	8369
Investments		129	168
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,925</b>	<b>20,865</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities		23,649	20,999
Other	3	1,967	1,770
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,616</b>	<b>22,769</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>309</b>	<b>(1,904)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Total funds brought forward		105,388	107,292
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	5	<b>105,697</b>	<b>105,388</b>

The notes on pages 16 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**  
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**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2019**

	Note	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2018 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Total tangible assets	6	74,150	73,550
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	8	20,771	23,527
Debtors	9	3,850	2,980
Cash at bank and in hand	10	40,472	36,066
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>65,093</b>	<b>62,573</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	9,146	5,335
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>55,947</b>	<b>57,238</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	24,400	25,400
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>105,697</b>	<b>105,388</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Unrestricted funds	5	<b>105,697</b>	<b>105,388</b>

**The notes on pages 16 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements**

For the year ending 31 March 2019 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**

Dated 8 July 2019

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019**

**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.



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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 (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 voluntary 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**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions and donations	10,767	10,928
Life memberships (note 12)	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	1,452	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,619	12,328

**3 Other Expenditure**

Other expenditure includes independent examiner's fees of £150 (2018: £150) and part-time self-employed administrator's fees of £1,100 (2018: £632). The balance of administrator's fees of £3,301 (2018: £1,897) 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 by highly skilled volunteers 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 2019 (continued)**

**5 Funds**

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2019 (2018: £23,910) as described in Note 4. All funds are unrestricted.

**6 Tangible fixed assets**

	Trophies £	Medal dies £	Pipes for hire £	Total £
<b>Cost:</b>				
At 1 April 2018	25,400	5,000	43,150	73,550
Additions	-	-	600	600
At 31 March 2019 - Cost and net book amount:	25,400	5,000	43,750	74,150

There was no accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2019 (2018: £nil).

**7 Intangible fixed assets and post balance-sheet events**

Over 500 cassettes and reel to reel tape recordings made by Forster Charlton in the mid-twentieth century have been donated to the Society. It is thought that these fragile records contain many unique and culturally valuable performances of historical and heritage interest. The Society is exploring ways in which a digital archive of significant performances can be created and made available to the public. Significant, but currently unquantifiable, costs may be incurred if this projected becomes viable.

**8 Stocks**

	2019 £	2018 £
Pipemaking materials, books and cds	16,712	19,471
Competition medals	255	290
Pipes Purchase Scheme	3,804	3,766
	20,771	23,527

Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £6,200 (2018: £4,550) less amounts received of £2,396 (2018: £784). The interest element of amounts received is not material.

**9 Debtors**

	2019 £	2018 £
Charitable activities	1,500	580
Prepayments	2,350	2,400
	3,850	2,980

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)**

**10 Cash at bank and in hand**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest-free bank current account deposits	8,544	4,317
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	31,928	31,749
	40,472	36,066

**11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charitable activity creditors	2,644	1,959
Accruals	4,555	640
Deferred income	1,947	2,736
	9,146	5,335

**12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income	24,400	25,400
Comprising life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2018	26,800	28,200
Addition	400	-
	27,200	28,200
Released to income for the year (note 2)	(1,400)	(1,400)
	25,800	26,800
Less amount included in deferred income due within one year	(1,400)	(1,400)
	24,400	25,400
Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2019		