

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society ('Society')
(Company Number: 07471625)

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society ('Meeting') will be held at The Shipley Art Gallery, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead, NE8 4JB at 1.30 pm on Saturday 10 August 2019 to transact the following business:

Ordinary Business

- 1 To receive and approve the reports of the Chairman and the Chairman of the Cleveland Branch (see p [5] and p [12])
- 2 To receive the Society's annual accounts for the financial year to 31 March 2019 (see p [13])
- 3 To re-appoint each member of the Committee subject to re-election and offering themselves to be re-elected for a further term, until the AGM of the Society in the year referred to against their name below:
 - 3.1 Alice Robinson 2021
 - 3.2 Andrew Lawrenson 2021
- 4 To elect and appoint additional members of the Committee (up to a maximum of 13 (unless a different number is set by the meeting)). Two nominations have been received as at the date of this notice but further nominations may be made at the AGM. If there are more candidates than vacancies, a ballot will be held. Please see the notes on the resolutions for further details (see page [13])
- 5 To reappoint Baroness Joyce Quin as President until the AGM held in 2022
- 6 To elect Mark Armstrong as a Vice president of the Society
- 7 To elect Mike Evans as a Vice President of the Society
- 8 To elect Nick Leeming as an Honorary Member of the Society

Special Business

- 9 To pass the following resolution as a Special Resolution (requiring the approval of 75% of the members attending the meeting, either in person or by proxy):

"That the Articles of Association of the Northumbrian Pipers' Society (**Society**) set out in the document produced to the meeting and, for the purposes of identification, signed by the Chair of the meeting be hereby adopted in substitution for all other articles of association of the Society with immediate effect."

By order of the Committee
Mike Evans, Company Secretary
1 July 2019

Notes: Appointment of proxies

1. As a member of the Society, you are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote at the Meeting and you should have received a proxy form with this notice of meeting. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes and the notes to the proxy form.
2. A proxy does not need to be a member of the Society but must attend the Meeting to represent you. Details of how to appoint your proxy are set out in the notes on the proxy form. If you wish your proxy to speak on your behalf at the Meeting you will need to appoint your own choice of proxy (not the Chairman) and give your instructions directly to them.

Changing proxy instructions

1. To change your proxy instructions simply submit a new proxy appointment using the method set out in the proxy form. Note that the cut-off time for receipt of proxy appointments as stated in the proxy form also applies in relation to amended instructions; any amended proxy appointment received after the relevant cut-off time will be disregarded.
2. Where you have appointed a proxy using the hard-copy proxy form and would like to change the instructions using another hard copy proxy form, please contact the Secretary.

Termination of proxy appointments

1. In order to revoke a proxy instruction you will need to inform the Society by sending a signed hard copy notice clearly stating your intention to revoke your proxy appointment to the address stated in the proxy form. Any power of attorney or any other authority under which the revocation notice is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the notice.
2. The revocation notice must be received by the Society no later than forty-eight hours before the time of the meeting (not taking account of any part of a day which is not a working day). If you attempt to revoke your proxy appointment but the revocation is received after the time specified then, subject to the paragraph directly below, your proxy appointment will remain valid.
3. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you from attending the Meeting and voting in person. If you have appointed a proxy and attend the Meeting in person, your proxy appointment will automatically be terminated.

Appointment of Committee Members and other Officers

The maximum number of Committee members is 13 (unless increased by Ordinary Resolution). As the constitution permits Committee members to be nominated at any time up to the consideration of the resolution(s) to appoint the Committee, there may be nominations that are not listed in the notice of this meeting. If there are more nominations than positions available, the election will take place by ballot and the successful candidates will be those who have secured most votes (whether from members present in person or by proxy).

Item 1a

Chairman's Report 2019

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.

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 left 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.

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. Normally attracts 1500 – 2000 children (They 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 of 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.

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. 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

Item 1b

Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report 2019

Summary

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.

Report

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 Edmunds church at the Sedgefield Medieval Fayre.

Other piping emanating from the branch includes – Anthony Robb playing at Sedgefield 'When the Battle's O'er', and Brian Fisher at 'Tommy' on the front at Seaham 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
June 2019.

Item 2 Accounts of the Society to 31 March 2018

These will be available one month before the AGM on the NPS website www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk or on request from the Treasurer, Mike Evans at treasurer@northumbrianpipers.org.uk

Item 3 To re-appoint each member of the Committee subject to re-election and offering themselves to be re-elected for a further term, until the AGM of the Society in the year referred to against their name

Item 4 To appoint additional members of the Committee up to the maximum number permitted (13 unless increased by Ordinary Resolution). Assuming that Alice Robinson and Andrew Lawrenson are re-elected, with Mark Armstrong and Anne Moore not standing for re-election, this leaves two ordinary members and the Secretary position to be filled.

Vincent Syson

Proposed: Nick Leeming

Seconded: Ann Sessoms

“I present myself for election being a relative newcomer to the world of Northumbrian small pipes. After fourteen years as a church organist having taken lessons at both Durham and Newcastle Cathedral, I felt in January 2017 that it was time to learn a new instrument... There was little doubt in my mind that my new instrument should be something portable (after all, you can't take a church organ to the pub!) and maybe even something a bit out of the ordinary. It wasn't long before I got my hands on a set of Northumbrian pipes and I was truly hooked from the first squeak of the chanter which sent the cat fleeing for the cat flap at warp speed!

The Northumbrian pipes are an instrument I've truly fallen in love with and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Robsons' choice (St Oswald's Hospice) and Dave Shaw's Beamish session who have welcomed and encouraged me from the very beginning. As fellow members will be aware, I've organised the very first society dinner which took place on Friday June 7th. I'm a firm believer that any society needs a social element and I hope, should I be elected to join the committee that I may be able to build on the current social calendar as well as supporting the values and aims of the society.

Outside of piping and church organ playing, I'm a butcher on an organic farm in County Durham specialising in pure breed Aberdeen Angus beef, Lleyn lamb and saddleback pork. Local food is something I'm passionate about as well as history and heritage.”

Louisa Squires

Proposed: Andrew Lawrenson

Seconded: Paul Knox

“I have played the pipes for many years although less so recently. I am very passionate about local music and culture and would be delighted to be involved further. I am actively involved in running the local female rapper team Star and Shadow and enjoy working as part of teams.

I do have a young child and another on the way so this could potentially impact how much time I have available but I can continue to communicate this as needed.”

Item 5 To re-appoint Baroness Joyce Quin as President. Joyce has been a fantastic supporter of the Society and we are delighted that she has agreed to stand for a further term of office

Item 6 To appoint Mark Armstrong as a Vice President of the Society

Item 7 To appoint Mike Evans as a Vice President of the Society

Item 8 To appoint Nick Leeming as an Honorary Member of the Society

Item 9 To adopt new Articles of Association.

Your Committee believes that the current Articles of Association (**Constitution**) of the Society need to be amended in a number of areas, as set out below. Resolution 6 of the Notice of Meeting will be proposed as a Special Resolution in order to adopt new Articles incorporating the relevant changes. A copy of the proposed new Articles is on the Society's website at

<http://www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Articles%20of%20Association%20-%20Amended%202013.pdf>] together with a copy showing the proposed changes, at [<http://www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk/index.php?page=nps-articles-and-society-rules>].

The changes are as follows:

Clause 11.1 currently requires the AGM to be convened on 28 days notice. This is longer than the legal requirement (21 days) and can put undue pressure on the team to complete the accounts and get them reviewed before they have to be published. It is proposed that the time period be brought in line with the legal requirement (21 days).

Clause 11.6.2 currently requires the laying of audited accounts before the AGM. A formal audit is very expensive and is not legally required for organisations the size of the Society. It is proposed that this requirement be dropped until the Society is large enough for a formal audit to be legally required. Until then, the Committee intends to continue its practice of having the accounts independently reviewed by a suitably qualified accountant.

Clause 11.6.5 currently requires the AGM to elect an honorary auditor each year. Again, as the Society is not currently large enough to require an audit, it is suggested that this clause be altered to apply only if required by law.

Clause 11.6.6 requires the AGM to elect the Newsletter Editor and the Journal Editor. It is suggested that this requirement be removed and that these appointments are made (where there is someone willing to take on the role) by the Committee.

Clause 12.2 sets the quorum for a members' meeting at 20. It is suggested that this be reduced to ten members present in person or by proxy so as to reduce the risk that the AGM, or other members' meeting, can not take place due to a lack of members attending.

Clause 14.3 sets the maximum number of Directors/Committee members at 13 (increased by the AGM in 2017), unless altered by Ordinary Resolution of the members. It is suggested that the power to alter the maximum number of Committee members be given to the Committee itself.

Clause 14.4 requires the appointment of a Secretary to the Committee. As it has proved not to be possible to secure anyone willing to fill this role, it is suggested that the requirement be removed. This will not prevent someone being appointed to the role by the Committee, should a volunteer be identified, but this will mean that the Society can remain compliant with its constitution if we continue to be unable to find someone to fill the role.

Clause 20.8 sets the quorum for Committee meetings. It is proposed that this be altered to remove reference to the Secretary and to reduce the need for there to be at least two of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer to only one of these officers. The total number required to be present would remain at 5 Directors/Committee members.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
Annual General Meeting 2019

Proxy Form – please detach and return once completed (see note 5 overleaf)

Before completing this form, please read the explanatory note overleaf

I / We (print name)

.....
 being a / member/s of the Society appoint the Chairman of the meeting or (see note 3)

as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on 10 August 2019 at 1.30 pm and at any adjournment of the meeting.

I/We direct my/our proxy to vote on the following resolutions as I/we have indicated by marking the appropriate box with an 'X'. If no indication is given, my/our proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion and I/we authorise my/our proxy to vote (or abstain from voting) as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter or resolution which is properly put before the meeting.

	Resolutions	For	Against
1	To receive and approve the reports of the Chairman and the Chairman of the Cleveland Branch.		
2	To receive and approve the Society's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.		
3	To re-appoint each member of the Committee subject to re-election and offering themselves to be re-elected: 3.1 Alice Robinson 3.2 Andrew Lawrenson		
4	To appoint new members of the Committee (subject to further nominations being received): 4.1 Vincent Syson 4.2 Louisa Squires		
5	To re-appoint Baroness Joyce Quin as President		
6	To elect Mark Armstrong as a Vice President		
7	To elect Mike Evans as a Vice President		
8	To elect Nick Leeming as an Honorary Member		
9	To adopt the new Articles of Association (Special Resolution)		
	Signature	Date	

Notes:

1. As a member of the Society, you are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote at a general meeting of the Society. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes and the Notice of the meeting.
2. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you from attending the meeting and voting in person. If you have appointed a proxy and attend the meeting in person, your proxy appointment will automatically be terminated.
3. A proxy does not need to be a member of the Society but must attend the meeting to represent you. To appoint as your proxy a person other than the Chairman of the meeting, insert their full name in the box. If you sign and return this proxy form with no name inserted in the box, the Chairman of the meeting will be deemed to be your proxy. Where you appoint as your proxy someone other than the Chairman, you are responsible for ensuring that they attend the meeting and are aware of your voting intentions. If you wish your proxy to make any comments on your behalf, you will need to appoint someone other than the Chairman and give them the relevant instructions directly.
4. To direct your proxy how to vote on the resolutions, mark the appropriate box with an 'X'. If no voting indication is given, your proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion. Your proxy will vote (or abstain from voting) as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter which is put before the meeting.
5. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be:
 - 5.1 completed and signed;
 - 5.2 sent or delivered to the NPS Administrator at Sandpipers, North Broomhill, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9UL, UK; and
 - 5.3 received by the Society no later than **Monday 5 August 2019**.
6. Any power of attorney or any other authority under which this proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power of authority) must be included with the proxy form.
7. As an alternative to completing this hard copy proxy form, you can appoint a proxy electronically by sending an email to **agm-voting@northumbrianpipers.org.uk**. For an electronic proxy appointment to be valid, your appointment must be received by the Society no later than **12 noon on Monday 5 August 2019**.
8. If you submit more than one valid proxy appointment, the appointment received last before the latest time for the receipt or proxies will take precedence.
9. For details of how to change your proxy instructions or revoke your proxy appointment see the notes to the notice of meeting.

You may not use any electronic address provided in this proxy form to communicate with the Society for any purposes concerning this meeting other than those expressly stated.