



The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

(a company limited by guarantee)

Company Number: 07471625

Charity Registration Number: 1142471

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended

31 March 2016

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

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The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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Legal 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 (Chairman)
Andy May (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Evans (Treasurer)
Mark Armstrong
Pam Horne (Secretary)
Tom Fairfax
Tom Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Anne Moore
Julia Say
Richard Taylor
Ednie Wilson

Company Secretary: Michael Evans

Secretary: Pam Horne

Website: Mark Armstrong

Pipe Hire: Nick Leeming

Journal Editor: Julia Say (interim)

Newsletter Editor: Richard Taylor

Independent Examiner: Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE
21 Peartree Bungalows
Blackhall Mill
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE17 7TW

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Virgin Money plc

Solicitors: Muckle LLP
Time Central
32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BF

Chairman's Statement

It is my pleasure, as Chairman of the Society and on behalf of your Committee, to present my report on the year ended 31 March 2016.

I make no apology for starting my report this year with a call to arms, resulting from circumstances that arose during the year.

It was with enormous frustration that I read the "Case for Culture" created by the region's twelve local authorities as a way to seek to convince central Government to fund the arts in the region.

Having taken part in the consultation process that led to the publication of this major initiative, I was appalled to see that it contains hardly any reference to our unique culture and heritage that includes the Northumbrian Pipes, traditional music, rapper sword dancing, Northumberland and Durham clog dancing, the Border Ballad tradition etc.

To see for yourself, visit <http://www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk/north-east-culture-partnership/a-case-for-culture-for-the-north-east>. Not even a photograph of any traditional music or dance!

The frustration grew when I discovered that Northumberland County Council had commissioned consultants (in London!) to produce a case for culture in the county to fit in with the regional initiative referred to above.

I spoke to the people producing this, just before they launched it. I was amazed to learn that they were completely unaware of the existence of any of the cultural gems referred to above – or even the fact that we have a bagpipe museum in Morpeth.

Another example of this ignorance, or deliberate dismissal of our local heritage can (or at least could when I last visited it) be found at the Woodhorn museum. As the museum that likes to think of itself as the "Museum of Northumberland", it has a video at the end of the main introductory display. Would you believe that the sound track to that video is of a set of Irish pipes?

As a Society, we must think hard about this. Either the people who are in positions of authority in the region are ignorant of our local traditions and heritage, or they are actively ignoring them because they do not think that they represent the image they wish to portray of the region. Either way, this Society, and every member of it, needs to do everything it can to reverse this failure.

I have had personal experience of asking a very senior representative of one of the bodies responsible for promoting the Region internationally why they do not routinely use a piper to welcome visiting dignitaries to the area. The response I received was that the organisation did not want to promote the region as being "backward looking" and wanted to be seen as being more modern! How big an opportunity are we missing here?

Why is the Northumbrian musical and cultural heritage not as prominent and as respected as those in Scotland, the Shetlands, Ireland and Wales? What are we doing wrong, as those at the centre of continuing these rich traditions, that our fellow North Easterners think of us in such a negative way?

We have been criticised in the past for "wallowing in sentimentalism". I see no harm in this but we must also look on our rich heritage as our roots and our foundations, not only to be preserved and promoted but also to be the base to give us confidence to approach the future.

When asked, the following statement may help to explain our situation:

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- The region has a unique heritage of traditional music, song and dance that remains vibrant today
- Our rich heritage captures the feeling of the different landscapes, people, events and communities across the whole region
- We are the only region in England to have an unbroken tradition involving our:
 - unique instrument – the Northumbrian Smallpipes
 - unique team display dance – the rapper sword dance from the mining communities
 - unique social dance – the rant
 - unique solo display dance – the Northumberland and Durham clog dance
 - unique song form – the Border Ballad – reflecting our more turbulent times
 - unique unbroken line of Ducal pipers since at least 1752
- This continues to be part of daily life in community dances, pubs, ceremonial events, concerts, etc and attracts interest from all round the world.

Whilst honouring and preserving our heritage, we are not just about the past. Being part of a LIVING tradition, that awareness of where we come from gives us the confidence to be able to try new things, to explore, to be fearless... responding to contemporary society and pushing the boundaries of what we do.

Please can I urge every member of the Society to do everything you can to promote the positive aspects of our rich traditions and heritage? Look out for ridiculous examples like that at the Woodhorn museum and, when you spot them, raise them with those responsible.

The remainder of my report is again structured so as to report on each of the key objectives for the Society set by the Members in 2010.

1 Promote a sense of community and identity amongst the members of the Society.

As at 31 March 2016, membership of the Society stood at 833, again a rise from the number reported in my last report, when there were 809 members on the list. We know there are more pipers out there! Please do encourage anyone you know is not a member to join. Remember that junior membership is free.

I am delighted to see the list of playing groups around the world remains strong (and I know there are many more small groups that meet to play than are actually listed). The Society's own monthly meetings have continued throughout the last year and we have hopes of other meetings starting in the near future.

Thanks to Andy May for taking on the job of securing a leader for each Saturday meeting, and to all those who have agreed to lead meetings. Over the course of the year, these have included Julia Say, Chris Ormston, Colin Ross, Ian Stephenson, Andy Lawrenson, Andy Watchorn and Andy May.

The Society continues to publicise any piping events that are taking place (whether courses, sessions, concerts etc) that we are aware of. The website and email alerts are great ways to do this and a huge "thank you" to Pam Horne

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and Mark Armstrong for their work in pulling these together. Please let them know if you are doing anything that others would be welcome to join in with. Due to technical difficulties and lack of time, the monthly email alerts have not always been possible but it is the Committee's intent that these should be a regular feature – keeping members informed of what is going on.

The Society's Annual Pipers' Day took place at the Society's offices in Newbiggin and was attended by only a few pipers, although those who were there had the usual enjoyable, sunny day at the seaside. Due to low attendance, it has been decided not to hold a tuition day in 2016 and to move the AGM to 17 September, the same day as the regular Saturday meeting, at the Chantry Bagpipe Museum.

Thanks to Richard Taylor for his work as Newsletter editor. I am sure that you will agree that the newsletters have continued to provide an invaluable service to members during the year, with information on events, technical tips and interesting articles. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these.

The Annual Competitions were held again in the Chantry in Morpeth in October with the help of Anne Moore and Ann Sessoms, and there were competitors across 15 classes. Thank you to Rob Say for judging the playing classes, Brian Fisher for compering and Maureen Davison for help with the paperwork on the day, and to all others who helped to organise the event.

An exciting development was the inclusion, for the first time, of a new competition class for the composition of a "Funky" tune. This was at the request of the young pipers' group that meets monthly in Morpeth, run by Richard and Fiona Johnstone and known as YPG4Tips! Not only did that group invent the competition but three of their members judged it – and have agreed to play the winning entry at the Society's Annual Concert in 2016, which is due to be held on Saturday 8 October. Do come along to hear them!

The Annual Concert, held again in St Mary's Visitor Centre in Gateshead, thanks to Ednie Wilson, included Ian Gelston on border pipes, aspiring piper Gina D'Oyley, the accordion and guitar duo Birze, and the fantastic Pauline Cato.

Our sincere thanks go to our President, Joyce Quin, for again hosting her President's Day in Warkworth Memorial Hall. It was a lovely afternoon of piping and good company, attended by a very good turnout of pipers.

2 Promote the availability of pipes in playing condition.

This continues to be one of your Committee's key objectives. Nick Leeming has continued his fantastic work in managing the Society's collection of hire pipes. The pipe hire initiative has expanded considerably in the past two years, and now has around 30 sets out on loan to members. The hire allows members to see if they have an aptitude for playing the pipes without making the commitment to buy a set.

The increase in availability of sets is due partly to the repair of stored sets, and also to the donation of sets by families of deceased members. Recently we have received sets from the families of the late Ivan Heron, Ted English and Dick Grindley, as well as donations from Martin Gardner and Max Emmons. The Society is very grateful for these gifts: the generosity is much appreciated. Anyone wishing to donate a set of pipes can contact the Committee (although please be aware that we will need to be cautious about accepting sets with ivory dating from after 1947, as these will not be able to be used for hire without securing the relevant CITES licence).

We continue to find ways to deploy the plastic Northumbrian Pipes, and Music Partnership North have been instrumental in exploring ways to use these tremendous instruments as part of the schools programme. They have proved very effective as an entry level instrument. We are also beginning to deploy them into the wider community, where a number of adults have been using them. We are understanding them better as we go on, and are exploring

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a number of ways in which they can help new players of all ages get a foothold before moving on to a traditionally-made long term set either hired or of their own.

Andy May, Stan May and Nigel Barlow have continued their self-help pipemakers group, which meets on the first Saturday of the month at St Mary's Heritage Centre in Gateshead (thanks to Ednie Wilson for facilitating this) to share ideas and to help each other overcome pipemaking challenges.

The Society can provide, or point people in the direction of a supplier of, all the materials needed to make a set of pipes. If you have ever thought about having a go – do! It is a wonderfully rewarding (even if frustrating along the way) experience to play a set of pipes that you have made with your own hands.

In 2014, the Committee considered the fact that it is helping people to make pipes and, through the hire system, is helping people to get started. However, it has not been providing help to those who have been hiring sets but have decided they want now to own their own. Given the cost to buy a set of pipes and the risks in buying second hand, the Committee thought that it should try an experiment to see what it can do to help people with this transition.

In particular we remembered that there had been arrangements run both by the Society and by Alnwick Pipers' Society where the societies had sets made, hired them out and allowed the hirer to buy the set if they got away with them.

As most of the Society hire sets have been donated or bequeathed to the Society for the purpose of hiring out to support learners, they would never be available for sale. Accordingly, the Committee invited all the current professional makers to tender for the supply of some pipes to the Society to be used on this basis.

The outcome is that the Committee has commissioned a set from each of Colin Ross, Dave Shaw and Philip Gruar. Each set is to be a "standard" seven key set with drones capable of being tuned to "G", "D", "A minor" and "E minor" and all being in "piping F" pitch. The first set that became available was made by Colin Ross and was handed over to the Society at the President's Day. It has now been taken up by a young piper under our Pipes Purchase Scheme arrangement and I understand that he is greatly enjoying playing it.

We now also have the set made by Dave Shaw and soon hope to receive that made by Philip Gruar. If you are interested in the idea of buying one of these wonderful instruments on monthly payments with the aim of owning it at the end of the term, please get in contact with the Committee. At present, the Committee is not commissioning any further sets until the current three are all taken on by their new owners under the Pipes Purchase Agreement. The lack of a waiting list for the initial sets perhaps indicates that there are enough sets available, new or second hand, at present to satisfy the demand, but do tell us if you know otherwise!

3 Promote the teaching, playing and enjoyment of the pipes and their music.

In addition to its own events referred to elsewhere in this report, The Committee continues to be delighted to help to promote the work that anyone does (whether commercially or in a voluntary capacity), where this helps towards achieving the Society's objectives. For example, we have continued to advertise and then publish reports on courses and concerts, as well as promoting or printing reviews of new publications. We are also keen to advertise the availability of teachers and those willing to perform in public and to promote any event or session. Please just let us know about events in time for inclusion in the newsletter and/or the monthly email alert, or provide details to go on the website.

The Committee has continued its efforts to find ways to help to encourage young pipers and to help young people to start to play the pipes. I am grateful to Tom Fairfax (whose son is a keen player) for his new energy in trying to drive

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this initiative forward. Ideally, we would love some young pipers to help us to reach out to more. If there is anyone who would like to get involved, please let us know.

We have sponsored the Young Pipers group YPG4Tips! which is run by Music Partnership North in Morpeth. This is a group of keen young pipers which meets monthly and enables a range of young players of all abilities to come together and play. The group has performed at a number of public events through the year, and hosted the NPS for a playing session before the competitions in October. The Society plans to continue to take an active role in sponsoring and supporting the group in the coming year.

We co-ordinated a piping tent at the Glendale Agricultural Society Children's Day in Wooler in June. This is an event designed to introduce young children from across the region to the countryside and rural economy. Attended by between 1,500 and 2,000 young people from schools all over the North East, the event was a great hit. Coincidentally, the neighbouring stand to the Northumbrian Pipers was occupied by Archie Dagg's son Charlie, with his vintage tractor. The piping tent was supported by a range of pipers from various societies and piping groups across the area, and was a great success judging by the return visits to the piping tent to hear the pipers at this year's event! Thanks to Tom Fairfax for co-ordinating the piping presence at the event and getting the pipes into the public and into the local newspapers too.

During the year, we received a request for a bursary from Ian Stephenson for the production of archive quality recordings of current pipers, partly to celebrate the work of Foster Charlton in collecting recordings of the then piping and musical community. This application was approved by the Committee and we are looking forward to hearing the material that he produces.

4 Promote the pipes and music to the wider community.

It is Society policy to keep all our tunebooks in print, wherever possible, as a service to our members, and to the wider musical community. Stocks of the Charlton Memorial tunebook got critically low last year, and a new edition has been produced in updated format, emphasising its position as a memorial to GVB Charlton, the Society's first president. The opportunity was also taken to check the music and tune titles, and to add a few notes about the tunes and some of the people mentioned.

Society members had also been enquiring about the possibility of a reprint of the Yellow and Green Pipers' Pocket Books, originally published by Dragonfly Music in 1993. Negotiations with Matt Seattle have allowed the Society to take these over, and to publish a new edition of these out of print books. All are now available through the online shop which the Society runs, with the great support and dedication of Julia Say in managing book sales and Mark Armstrong who maintains the website and online shop behind the scenes. Over time, it is hoped that we can make more products available for online purchase.

I have already mentioned the Annual Concert and the President's Day, both of which help us to achieve this objective. Piping Awareness Month in October saw a number of events, including the Concert, the Competitions and the Whitley Bay Piping week. Ednie Wilson succeeded in getting a wonderful article on some of our historic pipers published as a main article in the principal newspaper in the North East, The Journal, which helped significantly to raise awareness. If you want to get involved this year – please do! It does not matter where you are, you can still take part by doing something in your own area to raise the profile of the pipes, and we will be glad to put information or pictures on the website.

Whilst not being Society initiatives, I believe we should pay tribute to those who continue to promote the pipes worldwide through their performances and through taking advantage of every opportunity to mention the pipes. This includes not only our many talented professional pipers but also those of us who agree to play at a village or private event etc.

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5 Preserve and make available our heritage.

Thanks continue to be due to those members who devote time and effort to preserving, understanding and publishing material in our archives. Every contribution to the newsletter, the Journal etc helps to achieve this objective, so please do keep them coming. If you have any information, technical tip or anything else, please let us know!

As always in my report, it is sad to note the loss of members of our community during the year. Of particular note over the last 12 months has been the sad loss of Lance Robson, one of the larger than life characters of the piping world for many decades, of Neil Smith who took our pipes to overseas audiences, and of David Geddes who whilst Vice Chairman ran the competitions for several years, conducted a thorough review of the archives held by the Society, and expertly edited several issues of the magazine (now Journal).

We made good but slow progress during the year towards improving our accounting and record keeping systems. A small group of us (Mark Armstrong, Mike Evans, Pam Horne and me) went to see Sage Software for a demonstration of their systems. Sage have very kindly offered this to us at specially discounted rates. Those concerned are working on the best way to convert our current practices to this system. I sincerely hope that this exercise can be completed before the next Chairman's Report is written.

Other advances have included engaging two new firms of printers, following the sad closure of Northumbria University's printing department with whom we had worked for many years. We are pleased to have found other printers both for tune books and for newsletters and journals etc. The newsletter printer is also able to pack and post the Society's mailings, which has had the added benefit of saving us postage costs, although with the loss of the social events organised by Maureen and known as 'packing parties' enjoyed by stalwart participants over many years!

Sadly, we still do not have any solution to the supply of reliable reeds, other than relying on a very small group of expert reedmakers and setters. We continue to work on this challenge. Nor do we have a solution to the challenge that the Society relies entirely on volunteer support for everything we do.

Whilst, without hesitation, wishing to praise every member of your Committee and all the other members of the Society who have given so much of their time over the last year to helping achieve its objectives, we desperately need more time and help if we are to make a real difference.

Particular skills needed include those relating to public relations – helping us to publicise our events and to raise the profile of our wonderful heritage. If there is anyone who thinks they can help us with this, please contact a member of the Committee.

Having said this, it is with even greater sadness that I report that Ednie Wilson has decided not to seek re-election at the next AGM of the Society. Ednie is starting a study course and will not be able to do this and continue on the Committee at the same time. Her skills, knowledge and contacts will be greatly missed.

In closing, I would again like to pay tribute to my fellow Committee members, and to thank our President, Joyce Quin, for her continuing and invaluable support.

Finally, I would like to thank every single member who has done something over the last year to help us to achieve the objectives of the Society. Without your contributions, none of the above would have happened.

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, Chairman.

Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report

The past year has been another good one for the Cleveland branch. Our meetings at Ceddesfeld Hall continue to attract ten to fifteen members and we have two new beginners attending the earlier session. We have been pleased to welcome six new or returning members since the last report. Meetings are always convivial with good piping and a friendly atmosphere.

David Cook, our secretary, has, as usual, kept a list of tunes played at meetings. This year "The Old Drove Road" is no longer the most popular tune but must share the top spot with "Friendly Visit". The next most popular is "Glen Aln Hornpipe". Tunes played for the first time this year include "Balquidder Lasses", "Major Mackie's Jig" and "Sheffield Hornpipe".

The playing Group continues to promote the pipes to the public. However we could do with more pipers in the group to cover all the playing opportunities that are available. This last year we have performed mainly for charity at NGS Open Gardens and have received encouraging feedback. We also continue to sell copies of our CD "The Old Drove Road". The playing group's repertoire has grown considerably with the added variety provided by duets from Brian Fisher and Tim Jones and the accompaniment of Jo Jones' guitar.

"Piping for Prizes" was again a great success at our April meeting. The three cups and three shields were distributed fairly so that almost every participant went home with a trophy. The Open section was won by Chris Almond with a beautiful rendition Kathryn Tickell's "Air Moving", a well-deserved result. A lighter note was struck in the Yorkshire section. Bill Kay played the theme from "Last of the Summer Wine" followed by Tim and Brian playing the Dvorak theme from the Hovis advert complete with props - a teapot, Yorkshire teabags and a Hovis loaf! Thank you to Anthony Robb for his judging and encouraging words.

Sadly this year has seen the demise of the Preston Park Piping Festival. The first Festival was organised by Dave McQuade and Liz Law in 1982 and was so successful that it became an annual event. A change of circumstances meant that there was no Festival for a few years until it was revived ten years ago by the Cleveland Branch, the main organisers being Brian Fisher and Ann Catchpole. Thank you to the many pipers and instrumentalists who have supported the Festival over the years. This year it is called a Food and Folk Festival and is reduced to the Marske Fishermen's choir, four acoustic folk groups and our Cleveland playing group.

Finally I would like to thank Brian Fisher for maintaining our hire sets in good order, introducing our public performances, and for all his work in producing our Tune Book, Anne Gale for looking after our finances so efficiently, David Cook for his never ending work as secretary and for keeping us all on track, the Playing group for turning up regularly for practices and events, and all our members for their continued support.

Margaret Moyes, June 2016.

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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.

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 entirely on the unpaid voluntary services of members.

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

Michael Evans

Tom Fairfax

Pamela Horne

Tom Lawrenson

Nick Leeming

Andy May

Anne Moore

Julia Say

Richard Taylor

Ednie Wilson

There have been no changes since 31 March 2016.

Andrew Davison, Michael Evans, Tom Fairfax, Tom Lawrenson, Nick Leeming, Andy May, Julia Say and Richard Taylor were appointed or re-appointed at the 2014 AGM for a two year period expiring at the 2016 AGM to be held on 17 September 2016. All are offering themselves for re-election for a further term expiring at the 2018 AGM.

Ednie Wilson has indicated her wish to retire from the Committee at the 2016 AGM.

Society members also elect a Journal Editor and a Newsletter Editor, who are not necessarily committee members. The position of Journal Editor is vacant. Julia Say has acted as interim editor.

Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report (continued)

Structure, governance and management (continued)

The committee invites other members of the Society to perform specific tasks as required. Maureen Davison continued to support the Society in the production of newsletters, and we thank her for her valuable input over many years.

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 comprise Margaret Moyes (Chairperson), Anne Catchpole, David Cook (Secretary), Brian Fisher (Vice Chairperson), Anne Gale (Treasurer) and Timothy Jones. Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 were approved at the branch annual general meeting held on 8 June 2016 and are incorporated in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

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.

Achievements, performance and future plans

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.

The financial results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA'). The charity had net operating income of £1,032. Net assets at 31 March 2016 totalled £95,591.

Reserves

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 2016 were £32,641 excluding reserves funding fixed assets.

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Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report (continued)

Directors' responsibilities:

For the year ended 31 March 2016 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 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 28 July 2016

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of The Northumbrian Pipers' Society on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 set out on pages 15 to 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE

1 August 2016



Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

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Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating the income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2016

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2016 Total Funds £ | 2015 Total Funds £ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Incoming resources | | | | | |
| From generated funds: | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 2 | 11,612 | - | 11,612 | 10,411 |
| From charitable activities | | 8,655 | - | 8,655 | 8,082 |
| Total incoming resources | | 20,267 | - | 20,267 | 18,493 |
| Resources expended | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | 17,877 | - | 17,877 | 15,421 |
| Governance costs | | 1,358 | - | 1,358 | 899 |
| Total resources expended | | 19,235 | - | 19,235 | 16,320 |
| Net operating income for the year | | 1,032 | - | 1,032 | 2,173 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 94,559 | - | 94,559 | 92,386 |
| Total funds carried forward | 5 | 95,591 | - | 95,591 | 94,559 |

The notes on pages 17 - 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2016

| | Note | 31 March 2016 £ | 31 March 2015 £ |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 6 | <u>62,950</u> | <u>62,550</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Stocks | 7 | 28,385 | 25,162 |
| Debtors | 8 | 3,673 | 2,770 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 9 | 32,543 | 37,075 |
| | | <u>64,601</u> | <u>65,007</u> |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 10 | 3,760 | 3,798 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after one year | 11 | 28,200 | 29,200 |
| | | <u>31,960</u> | <u>32,998</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>95,591</u> | <u>94,559</u> |
| Funds | | | |
| Unrestricted income funds | 5 | 95,591 | 94,559 |
| Restricted income funds | 5 | - | - |
| Total funds | 5 | <u>95,591</u> | <u>94,559</u> |

The notes on pages 17 - 20 form an integral part of these financial statements

For the year ending 31 March 2016 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 Chairman
Michael Evans Treasurer

Dated 28 July 2016

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with:

- Part 2 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 (s.27)
- The Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (effective from April 2008) of the Companies Act 2006
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005)
- Accounting Standards, and
- The Charities Act 2011.

The trustees/directors have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the company is small.

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.

Liabilities

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.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

1 Accounting Policies (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 Voluntary income

Voluntary income comprises subscriptions and donations, together with any related Gift Aid. No Gift Aid in respect of the year ended 31 March 2015 has been received or recognised as income in these financial statements. The Gift Aid claim for the year ended 31 March 2016 has not been finalised and is not recognised as income in these financial statements. Gift Aid of £716 was recognised in the 2015 accounts in respect of subscriptions received for the year ended 31 March 2014.

3 Acquisition

Until 31 March 2012 the Northumbrian Pipers' Society was unincorporated and did not have charitable status. On 1 April 2012 the unincorporated body was dissolved and the assets were transferred to the Northumbrian Pipers' Society, a company limited by guarantee. In consideration the company agreed to take on the related liabilities at that date. The company has operated as a registered charity since 1 April 2012.

The net assets acquired on 1 April 2012 are set out below at fair value.

| | £ |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | 40,400 |
| Stocks | 14,746 |
| Debtors | 122 |
| Cash at bank | 44,282 |
| Creditors due within one year | (1,470) |
| Creditors due after one year | (33,000) |
| Net assets | <u>65,080</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | 64,080 |
| Restricted funds | 1,000 |
| Total funds | <u>65,080</u> |

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

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.

5 Funds

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £19,960 at 31 March 2016 (2015: £19,960) as described in Note 4. All funds are unrestricted, the restricted fund of £1,000 having been utilized in the year ended 31 March 2015 to produce a book on Bill Hedworth and his pipemaking techniques.

6 Tangible fixed assets

| | Trophies £ | Medal dies £ | Pipes for hire £ | Total £ |
|--|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| Cost: | | | | |
| At 1 April 2015 | 25,000 | 5,000 | 32,550 | 62,550 |
| Additions | 400 | - | - | 400 |
| Revaluation surplus | - | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2016 - Cost and net book amount: | 25,400 | 5,000 | 32,550 | 62,950 |

There was no accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2016 (2015: £nil).

7 Stocks

| | 2016 £ | 2015 £ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Pipemaking materials, books and cds | 25,199 | 24,767 |
| Competition medals | 360 | 395 |
| Pipes Purchase Scheme | 2,826 | - |
| | 28,385 | 25,162 |

8 Debtors

| | 2016 £ | 2015 £ |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Charitable activities | 1,254 | 400 |
| Prepayments | 2,419 | 2,370 |
| | 3,673 | 2,770 |

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

9 Cash at bank and in hand

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Interest-free bank current account deposits | 13,234 | 8,993 |
| Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts | 19,309 | 28,082 |
| | <u>32,543</u> | <u>37,075</u> |

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Charitable activity creditors | - | 107 |
| Accruals | 1,875 | 1,450 |
| Deferred income | 1,885 | 2,241 |
| | <u>3,760</u> | <u>3,798</u> |

11 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income | <u>28,200</u> | <u>29,200</u> |
| Comprising life memberships: | | |
| As at 1 April 2015 | 30,600 | 32,000 |
| Addition | 400 | - |
| | <u>31,000</u> | <u>32,000</u> |
| Released to income for the year | <u>(1,400)</u> | <u>(1,400)</u> |
| Total life memberships as at 31 March 2016 | 29,600 | 30,600 |
| Less amount included in deferred income due within one year | (1,400) | (1,400) |
| Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2016 | <u>28,200</u> | <u>29,200</u> |