



# **The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**

**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Company Number: 07471625**

**Charity Registration Number: 1142471**

**Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended**

**31 March 2014**

**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)  
Mark Armstrong  
Michael Evans (Treasurer)  
Pamela Horne (Secretary)  
Nicholas Leeming  
Gill Lyons  
Andrew May (Vice-Chairman)  
Anne Moore  
Ednie Wilson

**Company Secretary:** Michael Evans

**Membership Secretary:** Pamela Horne

**Website:** Mark Armstrong

**Pipe Hire:** Nick Leeming

**Journal Editor:** Vacant

**Newsletter Editor:** Vacant

**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 report on progress made during the last year.

I usually end my reports with my thanks, on behalf of all members of the Society, to my fellow Committee members. This year, I want also to start with a very sincere "thank you" to you all for your dedication and support, during a year when almost every Committee member has had to cope with some major personal challenge in addition to continuing to help to achieve the aims of the Society. Three Committee members (Margaret Cato, Anthony Robb and Lindy Turner) decided that they needed to retire part way through the year. All deserve our sincere thanks for what they have done and achieved during their respective times on the Committee. We were, therefore, delighted when Gill Lyons offered her help and was co-opted onto the Committee. Gill will be standing for formal election at the AGM.

It is at times like these that it becomes even clearer just how dependent the Society is on the invaluable team of people (both on the Committee and beyond), who volunteer to help to make it work. It is a challenge faced by most societies. Like them, we face a choice. If we can not find volunteers to help with those things we must do as legal requirements, we will need to start to employ people to do them. Otherwise, the Society can only do those things for which we have volunteers. If any member values a particular activity provided by the Society and is able to help in some way to enable it to continue, or if you would like us to do something else, your support is always most welcome! You do not have to be a Committee member to volunteer.

Members will recall that, in 2010, the Committee and the membership of the Society as a whole agreed on the following statement.

### **Northumbrian Pipers' Society**

#### **Purpose:**

**"To promote, encourage and support the making/composing, playing and enjoyment of Northumbrian Pipes and Northumbrian music."**

#### **Vision:**

- **NPS will be an umbrella organisation, enabling, supporting and encouraging people to promote the Purpose.**
- **In doing so, we will seek to be authoritative, accessible and to promote excellence and the sharing of good practice at all times.**
- **We will use our resources to carry out the activities that we believe are necessary/desirable to promote the Purpose and where there is nobody better placed to do so.**

**Values:** The Committee will strive to:

**"act at all times, collectively and individually, in a way that is inclusive, transparent, balanced, fair, selfless and objective."**

The principal activities of the Society should be to:

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

This involves:

- a. Organising and promoting events where pipers can meet.

## **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

- b. Providing opportunities for pipers to communicate with each other and to share information, stories and advice (eg the newsletter and website).
- c. Recording important events and making the archives available.
- d. Producing a list of members and their contact details.

### **2. Promote the availability of pipes in playing condition.**

This involves:

- a. Promoting pipemaking through publishing books, DVDs and technical information as well as providing a forum for discussion.
- b. Promoting maintenance/fettling/repair with technical support, guidance notes, DVDs and contact information.
- c. Providing help and advice on reed making and adjustment.
- d. Promoting all makers - professional and amateur - by providing information to anyone interested.
- e. Helping buyers/sellers of pipes and pipemaking equipment to make contact with each other.
- f. Operating a hire system to enable people to "try before they buy".
- g. Providing guidance to potential buyers on what different types of instrument are available and how to select what is right for them.
- h. Providing assistance to executors of deceased owners of pipes or those who inherit pipes.
- i. Possibly running a pipe making event/convention.

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

This involves:

- a. Promoting teachers/classes and providing contact information.
- b. Promoting courses.
- c. Promoting sessions.
- d. Promoting groups.
- e. Putting pipers in contact with each other.
- f. Running a Society class/session - (possibly with visiting tutors to gain variety, like Rothbury?)
- g. Producing tutors/guidance notes/CDs/DVDs
- h. Possible priority of effort on supporting lessons for children.
- i. Holding competitions - including finding a way to make them more relevant and better attended.
- j. Publishing newsletters to keep people informed and to share useful information.
- k. Promoting the composition of new tunes suitable for the pipes, including tunes in "Northumbrian" style.

### **4. Promote the pipes and music to the wider community.**

This involves:

- a. Holding concerts.
- b. Acting as a point of contact for anyone wanting a piper.
- c. Encouraging civic and corporate events to use a piper.
- d. Promoting pipers who are capable and will represent the Society well.
- e. Writing press releases.
- f. Building relationships with all relevant media.
- g. Becoming the spokesman for anything to do with Northumbrian pipes/music.
- h. Commissioning and selling relevant books/CDs/DVDs.

## **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

- i. Publicising where people can hear the pipes/music.
- j. Attending events with a stall.
- k. Distributing handouts/information sheets.
- l. Spotting opportunities to get a piper seen.
- m. Publishing a calendar of events.

### **5. Preserve and make available our heritage.**

This involves:

- a. Collecting and cataloguing archive information.
- b. Providing access to it to anyone interested.
- c. Commissioning and publishing music/recordings of particular players/styles.
- d. Encouraging research.
- e. Publishing an annual magazine - to focus on disseminating archive material and articles of longer term interest than newsletter information.
- f. Seeking permission to re-release out of print recordings/publications.
- g. Acquiring valuable (from a heritage, not financial, perspective) instruments/materials to preserve them and make them available.
- h. Videoing/interviewing famous players/makers/composers.

### **In order to do all of this we will need:**

- a. A society that is "fit for purpose".
- b. An active and dedicated Committee.
- c. Active and engaged members, who want to get involved.
- d. Sound finances - for the running of the Society and for each "project"
- e. Sound governance
- f. A website that can link everything together and be a portal to all the information and services, always up to date and informative; easy to use.

It is against these objectives that I will report on what the Society has achieved over the last year:

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

Although all of the objectives are really important, this is possibly the most critical. If we achieve this, many other objectives will fall into place.

First, I am delighted to report that membership of the Society has risen from 719 at the end of the last financial year to 780 at the end of this financial year. Notwithstanding this increase, I am sure that there are still lots of pipers out there who are not members of the Society. Please could everyone encourage them to join? If you are met with reasons why people do not think it is worthwhile joining, do let a member of the Committee know, so we can see if we can do something about it.

The Society's monthly Monday evening playing sessions have been re-established at the Chantry in Morpeth, each led by an experienced player, and have become very popular. Margaret Cato and, more recently, Pam Horne have done a great job arranging for visiting session leaders to take these meetings and we are grateful to Nick Leeming, Susan Craven, Adrian Schofield, Chris Ormston, Andy Watchorn, Lynn Nicholson, Ann Sessoms, Kit Pumphrey, Colin Ross and Alice Burn for giving their time to do so.

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**Chairman's Statement (continued)**

We are also extremely grateful to Anne Moore for being willing to let us use the Chantry as a most enjoyable venue. During the year since they restarted, there will have been 12 such meetings, with a usual attendance of around 15 - 20. These included a very special evening, run by Colin Ross on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a very happy and wonderful evening for those 43 members and friends who were able to get here.

The Society's Saturday meetings at the Chantry have also continued. They now take a slightly different format, starting with a teaching session for beginners, which Ann Sessoms is leading, followed by some form of talk or themed playing session. Our thanks to Ann, and to Andy May, Dave Shaw, Mike Nelson and the Cleveland Branch for giving their time to take one of these Saturday sessions (again with usual attendance around 15 – 20) during the last year, which have included Andy May's 1850s theme, the new "plastic pipes" and also, of course, the annual competitions and Christmas party session. Again, a big "thank you" to Margaret Cato and Pam Horne for organising these meetings and to Anne Moore for allowing us to use the Chantry to hold them.

The Society's Annual Pipers' Day took place at the Society's offices in Newbiggin and was well attended by 19 pipers, who received expert and inspirational teaching from tutors Nick Leeming and Rob Say and also to Julia Say, who joined the tutors at the last minute. A number of friends and family members came along for the day at the seaside and to join us for dinner and the evening session in the bar. Thank you to Julia and Pam for the organisation and also to Maureen Davison and Richard Heard for helping out on the day. It certainly seems to be a popular arrangement to hold the Society AGM on the Friday evening, the Pipers' Day on the Saturday and then move on to the Wallington Pipers' Gathering on the Sunday, all over a single weekend in August.

Thanks to new Committee member, Mark Armstrong, our website administrator and IT professional/chartered engineer, the Society's website and use of electronic media has taken a giant leap forward. The introduction of an online shop has already proved to be really popular. There are plans to do much more, when time allows. For example, the Society often gets asked to recommend a piper to play at a wedding or other event. The intention is to create a web page where pipers who are willing/able to play in public can offer their services, saying what their experience is, where they are based, what sort of events they are willing to play at etc. We can also provide links to personal websites. If you would like to be included on that page, please could you let Mark know? We are also planning an update to the pipemaking section of the website to make it a reference point for anyone interested in making and/or fettling pipes. Articles and contributions to assist others will be most welcome – contact [website@northumbrianpipers.org.uk](mailto:website@northumbrianpipers.org.uk)

A new email alert, sent out monthly, to remind/inform members of events taking place in the month ahead has been introduced during the year. This has been really well received and now goes to about 650 members each month. If you are not on the list and would like to be – please drop an email to Mark or Pam. Thanks to Mark and to Pam for getting this up and for keeping it going. Thanks also to all those who provide details of events, so that these can be publicised.

Thanks to Kiri Sheppard for taking on the role of Newsletter editor during the year and to Maureen Davison (outgoing editor) for all the help and support she has given Kiri to ease her into her role. 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 and many congratulations to Kiri for the success of her first publications. Sadly, Kiri does not feel able to continue as Newsletter Editor and so the post remains vacant. Any volunteers?

We continue to struggle to work out what to do with the Annual Competitions. Held again in the chantry in Morpeth in October with the help of Anne Moore, Alan Bailey and Margaret Cato, there were

## **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

admittedly more entrants this year than there have been recently, but we all know this could be a much better experience if more pipers would take part. Although there was some lovely playing and these comments must not be taken as any criticism of those who were brave enough to stand up in front of the audience and the judges, it continues to be disappointing that there are so few entries. If anyone has a suggestion as to how to boost the number of entries, please do let the Committee know. Thank you to President Joyce Quin for presenting the prizes and certificates, Chris Calver for taking on the role of Master of Ceremonies, to our judges Andy May, Pauline Cato, Colin Bradford and Colin Ross and to all those who helped to organise the event.

We have been preparing an up to date edition of our Members' Handbook for publication and circulation again this year. This is an invaluable document to enable pipers to keep in contact and/or to find someone who lives close enough to see whether they can get together to play a tune or two. The updated list, which contains a great deal more useful information as well, will be circulated before the 2014 AGM, probably with this AGM notice.

This is probably a good point to pay tribute to all those pipers who organise meetings around the world. Although not "Society events" in terms of being organised by "The Society", they are, nevertheless, what the Society is all about - people getting together to enjoy playing and sharing a common interest. We will continue to do all we can to help to facilitate them. I really do wish that I could visit all of these groups at one time or another. Maybe over time this will be possible. If you are already organising or taking part in such a group – thank you! If you are having difficulty finding someone to play with, go on – see if you can get to one of these groups. If none of them suits you, or if they are too far away, start another! Do let us know where these groups are and when they meet, so we can let others know via the website and email updates, and help you to get new people to come along.

During the year, the Society has linked up with the former Northumbrian Musical Heritage Society to start a new playing session, run by Dave Shaw, in the farmhouse at Beamish open air museum. Do try to get along if you can. It is a most wonderful venue. It is also well worth mentioning the "all-comers" session that takes place four weekly at St Mary's Heritage Centre, organised by Ednie Wilson. Another opportunity for pipers to get together to play a few tunes and swap stories. I know that Ednie would make you most welcome if you get a chance to go along.

### **2. Promote the availability of pipes in playing condition.**

As I have reported before, the Committee sees as being one of its key objectives the challenge of making pipes available to help people to learn to play. This last year has seen some major developments in this field.

Mike Nelson's "plastic pipes" (a specially designed set, capable of mass production, initially created for The Sage Gateshead/Folkworks but later donated to the Society) are now really beginning to have an impact. The Sage has ten sets that it retained, which are being used in lessons. With help from Mike himself, Richard and Anita Evans (who have done some great work on developing a standard reed for "G" chanters) and Nick Leeming, the Society now has 30 sets in use. We started with a pilot scheme in Bellingham, where Kathryn Tickell arranged that the pilot could take place in the local school. Gwennie Fraser ran the pilot with ten children, learning a lot along the way and helping to get some new pipers going, one of whom has now moved on to a set of Society F pitch hire pipes and is making fantastic progress. Of these ten sets, Maureen Davison, Lynn Nicholson, Ann Sessoms and Gill Sergeant now have five that they are taking into schools to give demonstrations and allow children to have a go.

Twenty sets are now on hire to the (the Northumberland Music Service, responsible for teaching music - including traditional music - in schools), where Richard Johnstone is using them to give piping lessons to school children across the region.



## **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

The Society should be rightly proud of its intervention here, without which the vision that Mike Nelson, Alistair Anderson, David Oliver, Anthony Robb and others had many years ago would never have been realised. It is the Society's intention to build on this if it can, learning more about how to improve the existing sets (where keeping all the reeds working continues to be a challenge), adding to the number of sets available and, possibly, developing the range as well, to include keyed chanters and sets in "F".

Andy May, Stan May and Nigel Barlow have continued their "self-help" makers group, which meets on a regular basis 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. Following a suggestion at the last AGM, the Society did explore the possibility of funding an apprentice pipemaker. Thanks to Louise Woodman and others for their help on this. Unfortunately, it really proved too difficult to set up.

Nick Leeming has taken over the management of the Society's hire sets from Tom Swinney, helping countless pipers to get going before they are able to buy their own set (or are sure it is something they wanted to do). Nick now looks after a total of 41 traditional sets of pipes, plus the 30 sets of plastic pipes. This is an enormous task and we are hugely indebted to Nick for taking it on. Not only does it involve the management of so many sets but also keeping them all in good playing order!

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

Almost everything reported elsewhere in this report contributes to this objective, one way or another. We continue to be delighted to help promote the work that others do, where this contributes towards achieving our objectives. For example, we have continued to advertise and then publish reports on courses, such as the Rothbury Piping Course, the Manchester Piping Course, our own Pipers' Day, the Whitley Bay Piping Week, the Saugerties Piping weekend (USA), the Northwest Pacific NSP Group Weekend Workshop (USA), the Halsway Northumbrian Piping weekend, the Salisbury Piping Day, the Society of Antiquities "Northumbrian Minstrelsy" Concert, the Blankenheim Northumbrian Piping Course (Germany), East of England Pipeworks and the Wallington Pipers' Gathering, as well as promoting/printing reviews of new publications, such as Graham Dixon's new edition of "The Lads Like Beer", the "Omnibus" CD and Anthony Robb and Paul Knox's new "A Beginner's Guide for the Northumbrian Smallpipes".

Again, we are always delighted to promote any event or session if you let us know about it in time for its inclusion in the newsletter and/or the monthly email alert.

### **4. Promote the pipes and music to the wider community.**

I have mentioned the Society's new online shop, run through the website, above. The Society has, for many years, run a shop, selling books etc, but it is now far easier to access by members and the general public. Over time, it is hoped that we can add more things available to buy on it. What members may not appreciate, though, is that every time someone places an order (whether on line or otherwise), it has to be put together, packed, posted and deal with in the financial records. Although she stepped down from the Committee last year, we are enormously indebted to Julia Say for continuing to run this essential function for the Society. We hope that shop sales will grow in time, presenting us with a real challenge as to how to service the offering and maintain the relevant book keeping records.

The Society presented the Annual Concert at St Mary's Heritage Centre, Gateshead in October, with a tremendous line up of artists. The evening started with the Lawrenson family (or three of the four brothers/sisters, the fourth being in America) and continued with a duet by Matt Dean (flute) and Fiana na Chonaill (harp), a further duet by Andy and Margaret Watchorn and concluding with Chris Ormston.

## **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

We had an excellent audience of, all of whom seemed to have a great evening listening to some brilliant musicians. Thanks to Ednie Wilson for arranging and organising the venue, to the performers, to Maureen Davison for producing the publicity material and tickets, and her practical assistance on the night.

With enormous thanks to our President, Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead, President's Day was held in her home at Warkworth in September and was very much enjoyed by the 13 pipers who were able to be present. This year also saw an exceptional event with the holding of a second President's Day, this time in December in the House of Lords in London. Not only was this a wonderful setting to play/hear the pipes but it was a fantastic opportunity to promote the instrument, its music and the Society in such an important place and to such an influential audience. The event also provided an opportunity for a number of members of the House of Lords to meet and speak to our members and to receive a copy of the new NPS CD "The Omnibus". I do hope that this event can be repeated at some time in the future. Thank you Joyce – especially from those thirty six pipers together with fourteen of their family and friends who were able to gather in London from all round the country for this great occasion and to be given personal tours of both Houses of Parliament.

The Committee occasionally receives requests for grant support for individuals or groups wanting to do something special that will help to promote the aims of the Society. This year, the Committee was delighted to make a small contribution towards the costs of the "Ranthers" (a wonderful group of school children from Northumberland, taught by Richard Johnstone and who play traditional Northumbrian music on a range of instruments, including the pipes) to visit the USA and to present a series of concerts there.

Well done to Julia Say, Pam Horne, Richard Heard and Gill Sergeant for taking a stall at the Woodhorn Museum Local History Fair in October, and to the Longframlington Pipers for taking up the challenge of appearing on tv show "Ade in Britain"! Pipers' Fancy and Cleveland Branch continue their varied schedule of public performances that do so much to increase public awareness of Northumbrian pipes, along with other groups and individuals too numerous to mention here.

Looking forward, the Committee intends to name October as "Piping Awareness Month". The aim is to try to get as many piping related events going on in the month as possible, so as to expose the pipes to the general public/non-piping community. We already have our competitions and concert in that month and we are aware of a number of other events that people are organising. Please consider whether you can do something that would contribute. It may be playing in a school, giving a talk to the local WI, asking whether you can play in a local heritage site, such as a National Trust property, getting something in the press etc. if you do plan something, please let us know in advance so that we can help with publicity – and don't forget to take a picture and a short report to send to us afterwards for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website.

### **5. Preserve and make available our heritage.**

With thanks to Richard Leach, Barry Say and Mark Armstrong, the Society's website now includes scanned copies of the Society's Journal from the period 1980 to 1996. In time, it is hoped to add to this, so that all the wonderful information in these is more readily available to members.

Sadly, during the year, we lost our new Journal Editor (Colin Bradford), due to pressure of work, with the result that no Journal was published in 2013. I am delighted that Julia Say has offered to produce a Journal this coming year but the position of Journal Editor remains vacant, so if anyone would like to step up and take it on, please let us know.

## **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

Over 25 years ago, the Society produced a recording of a selection of the pipers playing at that time called "New Horizons". With enormous dedication and hard work, Anthony Robb and a long list of current pipers and other volunteers, the Society was delighted to release another recording along the same lines during the year. The CD "The Omnibus" is a wonderful demonstration of the different styles of piping today and is aimed at providing not only something that every current piper will enjoy but also allowing those thinking of taking up the pipes to hear how people play them. Thank you to everyone who took part in this major project. If you have not yet bought a copy, do please visit the online shop on the Society's website – registering for your members' discount first, of course!

The Society, with enormous contributions from Anthony Robb, Dave McQuade, Colin Bradford and others, has also produced a wonderful new book this year about the life and works of Bill Hedworth. The book is called "The Well-Tempered Craftsman" and has just been released as I write my report. It includes not only biographical information but also details and photographs of his making techniques, technical data, design drawings and even a CD of some of his pipes being played. The book is a great tribute to this innovative maker of so many sets of pipes. I am also delighted that, in publishing this book, the Society has at last honoured its commitment to Bill's family, who made a substantial donation towards the production of such a publication and through whose generosity the cost to buy it is so reasonable. Copies can again be obtained via the Society's website.

We continue to be indebted to Julia Say and to Richard Heard for their work on the Society's archives. It is a huge task, including research, recording, preserving, linking snippets of information and sometimes being able to pull things together for a publication.

The Society has donated sets of our tune books to the major traditional music archives at Halsway Manor and the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. 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!

It was with enormous sadness that we said a final farewell this year to Patricia Jennings, inspiration to so many of us to start to play the pipes and such a strong supporter of/enthusiast for piping. Much has been/will be written about her elsewhere but I could not miss this opportunity to pay a personal tribute to her astonishing contribution to piping. A full day of events, centred around Wallington on 14 June 2013 gave her, we hope, a suitable send off.

We also lost Jim Richmond, a member of the Society since 1950, having been Secretary 1994 – 2005 and having also run the Society hire pipes service, starting in 1989 (when there were only 4 sets!). For those who believe in an afterlife, there must be some fun sessions going on somewhere, given the list of pipers who will have gathered in one place or another (I would not dare to suggest who might have headed in which direction)!

In closing, I would again like to pay tribute to my fellow Committee members, both those retiring (Margaret Cato, Anthony Robb and Lindy Turner) and those continuing. I would particularly like to thank Pam Horne who, with Julia's assistance, has seamlessly stepped into her shoes as Secretary this year and to pay tribute to 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**

There has been no significant change at the Cleveland branch since my last report. We continue to attract between twelve and fifteen pipers to our monthly meetings where we enjoy a playaround and chat. Beginners or anyone who would like help with a particular tune or with fettling their pipes can come to the beginners session from 7.00pm upstairs. We continue to enjoy Ceddesfeld Hall as an excellent venue with good acoustics, a bar, and a new lift for the disabled. We now have a lockable cupboard in our upstairs room which is useful for storing publications and we have also started a small library of music books and other piping related publications for members to borrow. Our thanks go to the volunteers who keep the Hall running and particularly to the ladies who cooked our most enjoyable Christmas meal.

The Playing Group continues to meet for rehearsals on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our repertoire now extends to twenty sets. Jo Jones playing guitar accompaniment and Peter French who plays bodhran and fiddle add variety to the pipes. Last summer we played at several open garden events, two Fayres, a WI meeting, Bowes Museum Christmas tree lighting and Durham Craft Fayre among others. At the latter we had to compete against the cathedral bells! Again this summer we will be playing at several Open Garden events.

When taking the pipes out to the public we have been asked if we had a CD by people who have enjoyed listening to us. As we recently celebrated our thirtieth anniversary as a branch we decided to produce a CD to mark the occasion and have a CD available for the public. Thanks to the infinite patience and hours of time devoted to the project by Anthony Robb the CD "The Old Drove Road" is now finished. The title was suggested by Dave Cook, our secretary, because it is the tune most often played at meetings according to the record he keeps. The CD contains some of our favourite sets plus some duets and solos. The players are all Cleveland branch members varying in ability from beginners to experienced players. It is intended for members, their families and friends, and anyone who has heard us play and would like to have a copy.

Another innovation this year was our "Piping for Prizes" at the Christmas meeting. As a consequence of the Society being granted charitable status we had to list our assets and found we had six assorted cups and shields held by people who had won them in the past. Rather than them gathering dust in someone's attic we collected them together and awarded them to members who took part in a light hearted competition with a cup or shield as the prize in each of six categories. This was an enjoyable event and hopefully will lead to a more serious competition in the future. It also means the cups/shields will be looked after, polished etc!

Sadly this year we have lost a long standing member with the death of Lol Fisher, twin brother of Brian. Lol played the whistle and was a valued member of the playing group, both as soloist and accompanist. He will be greatly missed.

Finally I would like to thank Dave Cook, secretary, for his help throughout the year, Anne Gale, for so efficiently keeping our finances in order, Brian Fisher for his work on our Tunebook and for keeping our web pages up to date, and all the committee and members for their support and enthusiasm.

***Margaret Moyes***  
***Cleveland Branch Chairperson***

## **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, Sedgefield 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 (appointed 2 August 2013)

Margaret Cato (resigned 14 March 2014)

Maureen Davison (resigned 2 August 2013)

Michael Evans

Richard Heard (resigned 2 August 2013)

Pamela Horne

Nicholas Leeming

Gill Lyons (appointed 20 September 2013)

Andrew May

Anne Moore

Anthony Robb (resigned 14 March 2014)

Timothy Rolls (resigned 2 August 2013)

Julia Say (resigned 2 August 2013)

Lindy Turner (appointed 2 August 2013 and resigned 9 January 2014)

Ednie Wilson (appointed 2 August 2013)

There have been no changes since 31 March 2014.

Society members also elect a Journal Editor and a Newsletter Editor, who are not necessarily committee members. During the year, Maureen Davison and Kiri Sheppard have been Newsletter Editor and Colin Bradford was Journal Editor. Both positions are currently vacant.

## **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, eg Tom Swinney has administered and fettled the Society's hire pipes for many years, handing over this role to Nicholas Leeming in September 2013. Maureen Davison continued to support the Society in the production of newsletters, the printing of Society publications and concert and event organisation and assistance. Julia Say also continued her research activities, sales of the Society's books, compact discs and pipemaking materials, preparation of new publications and the planning of the annual NPS Piping Day. Anthony Robb recorded and produced the compact disc 'The Omnibus', and the Cleveland Branch compact disc 'The Old Drove Road'. Anthony Robb and David McQuade co-wrote 'Bill Hedworth: The Well-tempered Master Craftsman', which was produced with the assistance of Colin Bradford.

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), Peter French. Anne Gale (Treasurer) and Timothy Jones. Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 were approved at the branch annual general meeting held on 11 June 2014 and are incorporated in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2014.

### **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 £4,356 and gains on revaluation of fixed assets of £19,960 relating to the surplus arising on revaluation of trophies and plastic pipes for use in schools. Net assets at 31 March 2014 totalled £92,386, of which £1,000 relates to restricted funds arising from the Hedworth bequest as discussed in the Chairman's Statement. The balance of £91,386 relates to unrestricted funds.

## **Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report (continued)**

### **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 2014 were £28,836 excluding restricted reserves and reserves funding fixed assets.

### **Directors' responsibilities:**

For the year ended 31 March 2014 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

**30 June 2014**

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/members of The Northumbrian Pipers' Society on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 set out on pages [...] to [...].

### **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

Date

Signed



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



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

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
(incorporating the income and expenditure account)  
for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2014 Total Funds £	2013 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
From generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	10,117	-	10,117	11,269
Voluntary income - exceptional	4	-	-	-	1,000
From charitable activities		9,903	-	9,903	7,397
Other incoming resources:					
Acquisition of Northumbrian Pipers' Society net assets	3	-	-	-	65,080
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>20,020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,020</b>	<b>84,746</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities		14,888	-	14,888	15,125
Governance costs		776	-	776	1,551
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>15,664</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,664</b>	<b>16,676</b>
<b>Net operating income for the year</b>		<b>4,356</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>68,070</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets:					
Trophies	4	14,700	-	14,700	-
Plastic pipes for hire	4	5,260	-	5,260	-
		<b>19,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,960</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total income for the year</b>		<b>24,316</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,316</b>	<b>68,070</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		67,070	1,000	68,070	-
Total income for the year		24,316	-	24,316	68,070
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	5	<b>91,386</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>92,386</b>	<b>68,070</b>

The notes on pages 19 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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

**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2014**

	Note	31 March 2014 £	31 March 2013 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	6	62,550	42,350
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	7	24,231	22,317
Debtors	8	1,442	2,448
Cash at bank and in hand	9	37,274	36,458
		62,947	61,223
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	2,511	3,503
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	11	30,600	32,000
		33,111	35,503
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>92,386</b>	<b>68,070</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted income funds	5	91,386	67,070
Restricted income funds	5	1,000	1,000
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>92,386</b>	<b>68,070</b>

**The notes on pages 19 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements**

For the year ending 31 March 2014 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**  
**30 June 2014**

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 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); and
- In accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (effective from April 2008) of the Companies Act 2006; and in accordance with
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005)
- and with Accounting Standards;
- and with 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 2014 (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. Gift Aid amounting to £1,236 in respect of 2012/13, being the Society's first such claim, has been received and recognised as income in 2013/14 in these financial statements. The Gift Aid claim for 2013/14 has not been finalised and is not recognised as income in these financial statements.

**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 company. 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 2014 (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, the revaluation surplus was £5,260.

During the year, the directors obtained an independent professional valuation of trophies which resulted in a revaluation surplus of £14,700.

**5 Funds**

There are two funds, an unrestricted general fund and a restricted fund used for expenditure specified by the funder. The restricted fund at 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 represents a donation towards the cost of producing a book on Bill Hedworth and his pipemaking techniques, which was published shortly after the year end. The unrestricted fund includes a revaluation reserve of £19,960 as at 31 March 2014 (2013: £nil).

**6 Tangible fixed assets**

	Trophies £	Medal dies £	Pipes for hire £	Total £
<b>Cost:</b>				
At 1 April 2013	10,300	5,000	27,050	42,350
Additions	-	-	240	240
Revaluation surplus	14,700	-	5,260	19,960
At 31 March 2014 - Cost and net book amount:	25,000	5,000	32,550	62,550

There was no accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2014 (2013: £nil).

**7 Stocks**

	2014 £	2013 £
Pipemaking materials, books and cds	23,801	21,852
Competition medals	430	465
	24,231	22,317

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)**

**8 Debtors**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	£	£
Charitable activities	472	878
Prepayments	970	1,570
	<u>1,442</u>	<u>2,448</u>

**9 Cash at bank and in hand**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	£	£
Interest-free bank current account deposits	2,561	132
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	34,513	36,326
Cash	200	-
	<u>37,274</u>	<u>36,458</u>

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

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	£	£
Charitable activity creditors	235	540
Accruals	200	213
Deferred income	2,076	2,455
Other creditors	-	295
	<u>2,511</u>	<u>3,503</u>

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

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	£	£
Deferred income	<u>30,600</u>	<u>32,000</u>
Comprising life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2013	33,400	-
On acquisition	-	34,400
New life member in year	-	400
Released to income for the year	(1,400)	(1,400)
	<u>32,000</u>	<u>33,400</u>
Total as at 31 March 2014	32,000	33,400
Less amount included in creditors due within one year	(1,400)	(1,400)
	<u>30,600</u>	<u>32,000</u>