



# **The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**

**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Company Number: 07471625**

**Charity Registration Number: 1142471**

**Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended**

**31 March 2015**

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

**Contents**

	Page
Legal and Administrative Information	3
Chairman's Statement	4
Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report	9
Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report	10
Independent Examiner's Report	13
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Notes to the Accounts	16

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

**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)  
Tom Fairfax  
Pam Horne (Secretary)  
Tom Lawrenson  
Nick Leeming  
Gill Lyons  
Andy May (Vice-Chairman)  
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 last year. It is a good opportunity both to look back on what has happened in the last year but also to step back and to reflect. First of all, it is worth noting that it has been wonderful to have a full Committee since the AGM last summer and also to have had all the offices (including Newsletter Editor and Journal Editor) filled. I am extremely grateful, on behalf of all our members, to those (both on and off the Committee), who have given their time to the Society. As a membership organisation with no employees, we continue to be able to do only those things that someone is willing to give their time to achieve. If any member would like to get involved, you would be most welcome! Given the importance of the headings agreed by the members in 2010 as being the key objectives of the Society, I propose again to structure my report in the same way.

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

One of the most important roles of the Society is to help pipers to link up with other pipers. During the year, the Society published its latest Members' Handbook. Producing this is a huge task and our thanks go to Pam Horne and her team for pulling it all together. It really is an invaluable resource, helping members to locate and contact makers, teachers, groups and individuals. A major challenge that Pam has had in compiling this Handbook (and generally) is the fact that so many members have not kept their membership payments up to date. A plea from me is that all members reading this report go and check that you have a standing order in place to make sure that your subscription is paid annually. It really is not a good use of volunteer time having to chase people who have not paid! As at the date of writing, membership of the Society stands at 804, a rise from the number reported on in my last report, when there were 780 members on the list. As always, we know there are more pipers out there. Please do encourage anyone you know who is not a member to join. Remember that membership is free to junior pipers.

Whilst I am delighted to see the list of playing groups around the world remains strong and is growing (and I know there are many more small groups that meet to play than are actually listed), I am sorry to report that the Society's own Saturday and Monday meetings have struggled. The main challenge is identifying someone who has the time and is willing to organise them on a regular basis. If there is no volunteer willing to do this, there is a real risk that they will come to an end, at least in their current form. One thing the Society can do is to publicise any piping events that are taking place (whether courses, sessions, concerts etc). The website and email alerts are great ways to do this and thanks are due to Pam Horne 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.

The Society's Annual Pipers' Day took place at the Society's offices in Newbiggin and was attended by 18 pipers of a wide range of experience who received expert and inspirational teaching from tutors Alice Burn, Philip Gruar and Julia Say. Thank you to Julia and Pam for helping to organise this event, which saw people travel from as far away as Hampshire to take part. 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 Northumbrian Pipers' Gathering at Wallington Hall on the Sunday, all over a single weekend in August.

Thanks to Richard Taylor for taking on the role of 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 and many congratulations to Richard for the success of his first publications. We are also extremely grateful to Maureen Davison for her continuing support in the facilitation and printing of the newsletter and our other publications.

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

The Annual Competitions, held again in the Chantry, Morpeth in October with the help of Alan Bailey, Anne Moore and Ann Sessoms attracted 10 competitors across 15 classes, some playing in more than one class. 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 would be wonderful to see these competitions regain their former popularity! Thank you to my fellow judges Andy May and Julia Say, and to all who helped to organise the event.

Two events that stand out for me in the last year were the Annual Concert and the House of Lords President's Day. The Concert, held again in St Mary's Heritage Centre in Gateshead thanks to Ednie Wilson, included recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of James Reid. To mark the event, Richard Heard produced a brilliant display, including all the information currently available about James Reid. We then had the rare pleasure of hearing a fantastic collection of pipes made by Robert and/or James Reid, all played together. The 9 sets ranged from very early 6 key sets made whilst Jimmy Allan was still alive, through to an example of the ultimate expression of their work, a 17 key set in silver and ivory. The historical significance of the event was added to by recognising some of the previous owners of the sets being played including Bill Stafford, Tom Matthews, Tom Clough and Patricia Jennings. The fantastic sound can be heard (and the video can be seen) by following the link on the Society website.

Our sincere thanks go to our President, Joyce Quin, for again hosting two President's days. The first took place in the Memorial Hall in Warkworth and was attended by around 20 pipers who enjoyed a friendly afternoon. The second was again held, with the kind permission of the Lord Speaker, in The House of Lords. I was really fortunate to be able to get to this and it was just the most wonderful occasion. There was something quite extraordinary about being in the Lord Speaker's chambers overlooking the Thames, as part of a group of 31 pipers and their 16 guests from all parts of the country, playing tunes that date back and commemorate people involved in the great events of our Parliamentary History, such as the renowned Northumbrian Jacobites, who sought to overthrow the throne, and the Gunpowder Plot! In front of Big Ben stood a tree from Kielder Forest, beautifully decorated for Christmas. The audience included several MPs and Members of the Lords. As an event to bring pipers together, to celebrate our traditions and to promote our music and pipes to those who had not previously had the opportunity to hear them, it was just superb and being a part of it is a memory that I will treasure.

## **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, 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). Thanks to the donation of four sets of pipes in the past year, from the late Dick Grindley, the late Ted English, Max Emmons and Peter Ainslie, the Society now has 43 traditional sets of pipes potentially available for hire to members, plus 20 sets of plastic 'school' pipes for use by the Northumberland County Music Service in schools. There are typically 25-28 traditional sets out on hire at any one time. We encourage beginners to hire unkeyed or 7-keyed sets to start with. Beginners can exchange their unkeyed set for a keyed set as they make progress. Several donated sets have ivory fittings, and we are working to try to obtain licences for these so that they can be hired out (ivory legislation prohibits sale or hire of sets with ivory parts without appropriate documentation). Looking after the hire sets is an enormous task and we are hugely indebted to Nick for the work he does on this. Not only does it involve the management of so many sets but also keeping them all in good playing order. There is no point sending a set of pipes to a complete beginner if they do not work!

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. There were also two recent workshops in the region, given by the principal commercial maker of pipe bags, Jackie Boyce. A total of 20 people had the rare opportunity to see the making of a bag and to hear all about the techniques used,

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

and a mailing list has been started for those who wish to continue the discussion. 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 experience (even if frustrating along the way) to play a set of pipes that you have made with your own hands.

During the last year, the Committee considered the fact that although it is helping people to make pipes and through the hire system is helping people to get started, 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 of buying 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. It was particularly impressed with the old arrangement run by the Alnwick Pipers' Society (and the Society itself before that) where the Society had sets made, hired them out but allowed the hirer to buy the set if they got away with them. As most of the Society hire sets have been donated to the Society for the express purpose of hiring out to starters to help with their learning, they would never be available for sale. Accordingly, the Committee invited all the current listed 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. They will all be available over the next few months. If you are interested in the idea of hiring one of these wonderful instruments with the ability to own it in the longer term, please get in contact with the Committee. If the experiment works, the Committee will consider extending it with the commissioning of further new sets.

**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/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 it in time for its 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 own son is a keen player) for his new energy in trying to drive 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.

Whilst there are a still number of barriers to entry for new pipers (of all ages) – things that new pipers and their families are all too familiar with - we have inherited this amazing 300 year old culture of ongoing innovation and experimentation. This is still strong throughout the piping, reedmaking and pipemaking community. Examples range from the production and ongoing evolution of the schoolpipes project, through fascinating projects involving reeds, tuning beads, drones, bellows valves and practice chanters. Anyone interested can see some fascinating discussions developing on the pipemaking section of the NPS bulletin board. NPS are also involved with a range of individual projects associated with making pipes available for new players - from the new Hire to Buy project and the existing hire schemes to projects to ease the release of pipes that are no longer needed back into the community. We are keen that where barriers to entry exist, these are linked to solutions that might be developing organically within the community.

There is a range of exciting new initiatives focusing on supporting younger members. The NPS is increasing its efforts to support individual projects and seeks to co-ordinate the wider effort where possible. We are co-ordinating a young pipers working group involving NPS, Music Partnership North (MPN), the Alnwick Pipers, a young piper and the Woodhorn Trust. This group is trying to match challenges with solutions and to make it easier for young players to get involved.

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

The NPS has also sponsored the excellent YPG4Tips! group, which is run by the Woodhorn Trust and Music Partnership North. This group is focused on the needs of the children and provides an encouraging environment for young pipers of all abilities to play with their peers, and to learn about pipes and the piping environment.

NPS members have also supported a range of piping groups, concerts and projects, and co-ordinated a strong piping presence at the Glendale Agricultural Society Children's day where a dozen pipers from across the community brought the piping tradition to over 1500 8-10 year old children (and their teachers) from schools across the North East of England.

Taking up piping remains a challenge – perhaps this is a good thing – but there is a growing spectrum of initiatives that might ease the way for those prepared to seize them. The NPS continues to work hard to try to make these initiatives easier to find and to grasp.

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

The Society continues (with the great support and dedication of Julia Say) to provide an online shop, run through the website, selling books etc. Over time, it is hoped that we can add more things available to buy on it.

I have already mentioned the Annual Concert and the President's Day in the House of Lords, both of which significantly help us to achieve this objective. During the year the Committee, led by Ednie Wilson, experimented with the idea of a Piping Awareness Month. October was the month selected, as a number of events already take place then (the Concert, the competitions, the Whitley Bay Piping Week). We were really pleased with the response we got and the innovative way a number of people approached the challenge. Stand-out contributions included Andy May succeeding in persuading the Wylam Brewery to produce a special brew called the "Northumbrian Piper", which went on sale in a number of pubs across the region and was, I understand, very well received. We are going to do the same again this year – again in October – so if you want to get involved – 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 letting us have a picture and information for the website.

Another event this year was that the Society was contacted by professional photographer Simon Hill. He is a member of Gamma Photos and is producing a touring exhibition and publication of photographs inspired by the book England in Particular, written by Sue Clifford and Angela King of the charity Common Ground. The book is a celebration of what has come to be known as local distinctiveness and lists over 500 themes that are distinctive, even if not unique, to England. The book lists themes alphabetically and Simon wanted to take a picture of a Northumbrian Piper to represent the letter N. In the absence of any other volunteer, I agreed to work with him. The result, and further information about the exhibition, will be on the website or in a newsletter or Journal shortly, and I hope you will think that this presents the pipes in a good light.

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 event etc. I do not believe that it is unfair to make particular mention of Kathryn Tickell for the superb work she continues to do to promote the pipes, and in particular her recent appointment as Deputy Lieutenant for Northumberland and her role in the musical by Sting, The Last Ship, both of which will bring the pipes to the attention of a wide range of people who would otherwise be unlikely to hear them. I am delighted to see that she has been further recognised for the work she does to promote traditional music with the award of the OBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list. During the year, Sage Gateshead (the region's largest music centre and the home of Folkworks) carried out a strategic review. This included a Consultation to which the Society was invited. My thanks go to

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**  
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Richard Heard and Pam Horne, who very helpfully attended in order to make sure that the interests of the piping community were included in the discussions. Although not strictly within the year under review, I cannot miss the opportunity to mention the wonderful concert held in Stamfordham recently to celebrate the work of William Dixon, a review of which is in the Summer newsletter. I have heard wonderful feedback from both the piping community and from the local residents who, because of this event, are now so much more aware – and proud – of their former resident and of the tradition he contributed to.

**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. Particular mention is due this year to Richard Heard for his work in relation to the Reid celebration at the Annual Concert and to Julia Say for taking on the task of producing the Society's Journal (not to forget all those who produced material to be included in it!). 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. Among others we note the sad loss of Vice President Bill Bohill, Honorary Member Ron Angel and particularly of Dick Grindley and Ted English whose families have been so generous in donating their pipes to the NPS for use in our hire scheme; and of course of Neil Smith. My first memory of Neil is nothing to do with pipes! I remember being completely overwhelmed by the sound of Neil and Robin Dunn playing in the Morpeth 'Duet for other instruments' competition back in about the late 1970s, when they played mandolin (Robin) and recorder (Neil). Neil went on to be a composer of wonderful tunes and seconds, to produce a brilliant recording Big Men, Small Pipes with Keith Davidson, take the relationship with the Czech pipers started by Forster Charlton to new heights and to be a regular contributor to concerts and courses. He was also to be seen regularly busking in places like Northumberland Street in Newcastle, in the market places in Hexham and Durham and as far away as York.

Although it does not neatly fit any other heading in this report, I would like to mention an initiative that is in hand to help to improve the administration of the Society. As we do more and different things, it places an increasing burden on those who try to keep a record of what we do! We are not only spread out (Committee members living in all corners of the region) but the things we do are also very varied (membership management, an online shop, pipe hire, publications, concerts etc). During the year, we created a small task force to explore whether we could manage all of this better and more efficiently by using one of the accounting software systems available on the market. We are enormously indebted to Mike Evans, Mark Armstrong and Pam Horne for their work on this. We are hopeful that it will prove to make the task of those concerned easier in time, as well as providing better and more up to date information to the Committee and to members.

Taking a step back from all that has been going on, I think the Society faces two key challenges over the next few years. The first is the availability of good quality reeds and access to someone who is able and willing to set them. I do not need to highlight the importance of a good supply of reeds to the piping world, yet I fear that delivering it is going to be an increasing challenge. I hope I am wrong. The second is the same issue that is being faced by many membership organisations at present, which is the availability of sufficient people who have the time and inclination to devote to the running of the organisation and its activities.

Although I am delighted that we have had a full Committee all year, everyone has multiple calls on their time and this can make it extremely difficult to keep everything running. The Saturday and Monday meetings in Morpeth are a prime example of this. If you are concerned that something is not happening that you believe should be, please do not criticise the members of the Committee, who are all already devoting huge amounts of time to the Society. It would be immensely helpful if you could either volunteer yourself, or help to find someone who is willing to volunteer to help out. Many of the tasks are



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

not, in themselves, difficult but they do need time. If you can devote any time to the Society, please let us know. You do not have to join the Committee to help!

In closing, and particularly in the light of my comment above, 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 Cleveland branch has enjoyed a successful year since my last report. As ever, Ceddesfeld Hall provides an ideal venue for our monthly meetings which are attended by an average of twelve to fourteen members plus the occasional visitor. Last month a piper from the Oxford group introduced us to some new Morris tunes. At present we have no absolute beginners but the beginners session before the main meeting gives anyone an opportunity to practise a tune they may be learning or finding difficult. The meetings are very friendly with a cosy bar next door and everyone is welcome to drop in.

David Cook, our secretary, has as usual kept a record of the tunes played at meetings. "The Old Drove Road" is still the most popular, closely followed by "Proudlock's Hornpipe" and "Farewell to the Creeks", a surprising outsider which I think several players have been learning.

The Playing Group has performed at Sedgefield Fayre, various National Garden open days, Bowes Museum Christmas carols, a retirement party and Preston Park Folk Festival – in all seventeen events since last June. Thank you to Brian Fisher for introducing the tunes and talking about the pipes when we play in public. The group continues to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month to practise the sets in our Tune Book which is updated regularly by Brian. Anyone is welcome at these sessions as long as they are happy to play the sets in the Tune Book.

The cd which we produced a year ago to mark our thirtieth anniversary has sold quite well with about twenty four copies remaining from the original one hundred. We will have covered the cost of production as well as promoting the pipes to members of the public who had not heard them before.

The Branch was represented at the House of Lords by five members including Maisie and Lily Cunningham, our youngest members, who presented copies of "The Omnibus" and our cd "The Old Drove Road" to several dignitaries.

The "Piping for Prizes", which was introduced last year by Peter French as a fun way of distributing our assorted cups and shields, was repeated this year but with the addition of a proper competition. For the first five categories the prize went to anyone brave enough to enter or whose name was picked out of a hat if there was more than one entry. This year the sixth category was an open solo competition for Branch members judged by Anthony Robb. There were four entries and the winner was Brian Fisher with a tuneful rendition of "The Banks of Allan Water" and "Tom Hacket's Dream". Hopefully some members might be inspired to enter the Society competitions. Thank you to Peter French for organising and introducing a most successful "Piping for Prizes" and to Anthony Robb for his judging and feedback.

My thanks also to Dave Cook for his excellent work as Secretary, to Anne Gale for keeping our funds in good order, and to all the Committee for their continuing support. Finally thank you to all the Branch members who bring to our meetings such a friendly atmosphere and good piping.

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

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

## **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 (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014)

Pamela Horne

Tom Lawrenson (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014)

Nick Leeming

Gill Lyons

Andy May

Anne Moore

Julia Say (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014)

Richard Taylor (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014)

Ednie Wilson

There have been no changes since 31 March 2015.

Society members also elect a Journal Editor and a Newsletter Editor, who are not necessarily committee members. During the year Richard Taylor replaced Kiri Sheppard as Newsletter Editor. The position of permanent Journal Editor is currently vacant and Julia Say is 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, 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 before returning to the committee at the AGM in August 2014. Anthony Robb recorded and produced the cd 'The Omnibus' and the Cleveland Branch cd 'The Old Drove Road'. Anthony Robb and David McQuade co-wrote 'Bill Hedworth: The Well-Tempered Master Craftsman', which was published 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 2015 were approved at the branch annual general meeting held on 10 June 2015 and are incorporated in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2015.

### **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 £2,173. Net assets at 31 March 2015 totalled £94,559. The restricted fund of £1,000 at 31 March 2014 was utilised during the year to part-fund the production costs of 'Bill Hedworth: The Well-Tempered Master Craftsman'.

## **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 2015 were £32,009 excluding reserves funding fixed assets.

### **Directors' responsibilities:**

For the year ended 31 March 2015 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**

29 June 2015

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/members of The Northumbrian Pipers' Society on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 set out on pages 14 to 19.

### **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**

29 June 2015



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 2015**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2015 Total Funds £	2014 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
From generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	10,411	-	10,411	10,117
From charitable activities		8,082	-	8,082	9,903
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>18,493</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,493</b>	<b>20,020</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities		14,421	1,000	15,421	14,888
Governance costs		899	-	899	776
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>15,320</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>16,320</b>	<b>15,664</b>
<b>Net operating income for the year</b>		<b>3,173</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>4,356</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets:					
Trophies		-	-	-	14,700
Plastic pipes for hire		-	-	-	5,260
		-	-	-	<b>19,960</b>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>3,173</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>24,316</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		91,386	1,000	92,386	68,070
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	5	<b>94,559</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,559</b>	<b>92,386</b>

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

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

**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2015**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>31 March 2015 £</b>	<b>31 March 2014 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	6	62,550	62,550
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	7	25,162	24,231
Debtors	8	2,770	1,442
Cash at bank and in hand	9	37,075	37,274
		<u>65,007</u>	<u>62,947</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	3,798	2,511
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	11	29,200	30,600
		<u>32,998</u>	<u>33,111</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><b>94,559</b></u>	<u><b>92,386</b></u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted income funds	5	94,559	91,386
Restricted income funds	5	-	1,000
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><b>94,559</b></u>	<u><b>92,386</b></u>

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

For the year ending 31 March 2015 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

29 June 2015

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2015**

### **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 2015 (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 £716 in respect of the year ended 31 March 2014 has been received and recognised as income in these financial statements. The Gift Aid claim for the year ended 31 March 2015 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 2015 (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**

There are two funds, an unrestricted general fund and a restricted fund used for expenditure specified by the funder. The restricted fund at 31 March 2014 represented a donation towards the costs of producing a book on Bill Hedworth and his pipemaking techniques, which was published during the year 2014/15.

The unrestricted fund includes a revaluation reserve of £19,960 at 31 March 2015 (2014 : £19,960).

**6 Tangible fixed assets**

	Trophies £	Medal dies £	Pipes for hire £	Total £
<b>Cost:</b>				
At 1 April 2014	25,000	5,000	32,550	62,550
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluation surplus	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2015 - Cost and net book amount:	25,000	5,000	32,550	62,550

There was no accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2015 (2014: £nil).

**7 Stocks**

	2015 £	2014 £
Pipemaking materials, books and cds	24,767	23,801
Competition medals	395	430
	25,162	24,231

**8 Debtors**

	2015 £	2014 £
Charitable activities	400	472
Prepayments	2,370	970
	2,770	1,442

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society**  
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**9 Cash at bank and in hand**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	£	£
Interest-free bank current account deposits	8,993	2,561
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	28,082	34,513
Cash	-	200
	37,075	37,274

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

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	£	£
Charitable activity creditors	107	235
Accruals	1,450	200
Deferred income	2,241	2,076
	3,798	2,511

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

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	£	£
Deferred income	29,200	30,600
Comprising life memberships: As at 1 April 2014	32,000	33,400
		-
Released to income for the year	(1,400)	(1,400)
Total as at 31 March 2015	30,600	32,000
Less amount included in creditors due within one year	(1,400)	(1,400)
As at 31 March 2015	29,200	30,600