



The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

(a company limited by guarantee)

Company Number: 07471625

Charity Registration Number: 1142471

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
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Reference and Administrative Information

Name: The Northumbrian Pipers' Society

Company Number: 07471625

Charity Number: 1142471

Registered Address: c/o Muckle LLP
Time Central 32 Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

President: Rt Hon The Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead

Trustees/ Directors: Andrew Davison OBE (Chairman)
Andy May (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Evans (Treasurer)
Helen Capes
Tom Fairfax
Iain Gelston
Paul Knox
Andrew Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Alice Robinson
Louisa Squires
Vincent Syson

Company Secretary: Michael Evans

Society Secretary: Ann Sessoms

Website: Ian Gelston

Pipe Hire: Nick Leeming

Journal Editor: John Gibbons

Independent Examiner: Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE
4 Brandon Close Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne NE21 6PN

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Virgin Money plc

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

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Chairman's Statement

Dear Member,

I have no need to tell any member, anywhere in the world, what a strange year it has been for the Society, for piping and for everyone. Repeated lock downs and varying levels of restriction required to slow the ravages of COVID 19 have hugely impacted on all our lives and, very sadly, some lives have been lost. At the time of writing (July 2021), there appears to be more hope than at any time in the last 16 months, that restrictions are going to start to ease. However, we have all learned that it is futile to rely on this expectation!

Whilst most of our community's usual activities had to stop, it was lovely to see innovation and ingenuity kick in, as people craved the opportunity to play music. Many of the regular piping groups went online, using ZOOM, or similar meetings software to keep the regular sessions going. In doing so, they were delighted to find that people who would never before have been able to join them were now able to do so and many local groups suddenly became international.

Your Committee gave a lot of thought to how the Society might help to keep piping going in these difficult times and I am pleased to report that we managed to keep all our activities going – in one way or another.

Susan did a great job keeping the monthly newsletter going, communicating with members and letting everyone know what was happening.

The Society took its own ZOOM subscription, which it used for committee meetings, events and also made available to playing groups, where they did not already have access to such software. Please note that this is still available. If anyone would like to use it, please contact Tom Fairfax.

The Society shop, although it had to close for a short period, then re-opened, thanks to Julia Say, and has remained open for members and others to buy music, pipemaking materials etc.

Perhaps the most exciting developments were in the way we held our key annual events – the competitions, concert, AGM and President's Day. With the wonderful and generous help of Rob Say on the technical side, not only were all able to take place but all attracted participants from a much wider section of the membership than ever before.

The competitions were all conducted by competitors submitting entries in advance on video, with these being judged before the "event". The presentation on the night involved streaming clips of each entry, followed by a report by the relevant judge on the playing and then the announcement of the winner. Because all competitors had to enter remotely, the event became the first genuine world piping competitions for Northumbrian pipes. It was really wonderful to see people from all over having a go, with a superb standard being achieved.

The concert followed a week later. Here, we combined a mix of professional performances, recorded live by Ian Stephenson at his studio in Thropton, by the Andy May Trio and by Alice Robinson, with short contributions from invited guests. These included some brilliant performances from some of our young pipers, Alex Barras, Kay Adamson and Phoebe De'Ath, Pauline Cato playing from home, sitting at the bottom of her stairs, Helen Capes in New Zealand, Arlo Quilley and his father from Canada, Bill Wakefield from the USA, a recitation from Don Clegg, Iain Gelston on the Half Longs/Border pipes, and a group of six musicians (the maximum allowed to gather at that time) playing in a huge farm shed in the middle of Northumberland.

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Those who watched it were extremely kind in their comments afterwards, so it certainly seemed to hit the right spot in a time where there was little to look forward to.

The AGM and President's Day combined as usual but again all virtually. It was brilliant to see how use of the technology allowed around 120 members to attend from sectors of the Society that are usually unable to take part in this essential democratic opportunity to set the agenda and appoint the officers. The formal part of the meeting was followed by President's Day, involving all the different groups who get together around the world to play each leading the rest of us in a set of tunes of their choice. A truly amazing experience. In addition, we had some fascinating presentations by Richard Heard on the Reid family, Chris Ormston on Clough style and Richard Butler, the present official piper to His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, on the history of the Ducal Pipers. Thank you all ever so much for your respective contributions to what was a wonderful afternoon.

The Committee was also very aware during the pandemic that many of our professional pipers would be hit by not being able to work. This knowledge drove us on in terms of being determined to provide at least some work through the annual concert and also be inviting people to record "at home" performances on their phones that we will be able to present on our website. Watch this space for some of these to be published.

Our pipe hire service continued to operate well during lockdown the expert hands of Nick Leeming. At the time of writing, the past 12 months saw two very different halves. The second half of 2020 was very active, with 16 sets out and 19 returned, whereas the first half of 2021 was quieter, with 6 sets out and 9 back.

Both periods probably reflect the different stages of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The number of sets out on hire (39) is the lowest it has been since 2016. There is no cause for concern. As we come to terms with Covid-19, I have no doubt interests will rekindle.

We had two extremely kind donations during the period. Honor Hill donated a superb 14-key Ross F set. Too complex for a beginner, it has been hired out to a young member of the Society who has shown promise with a 7-key hire set. Secondly, Rob Taylerson donated his very nice 7-key Burleigh set. This brings us to a total of 56 traditional sets in the pipe hire system. We are tremendously grateful to our generous members who have donated their sets. Pipe hire continues to be an excellent route for beginners to try the pipes, and it is always a delight when someone returns their hire set and announces that they have bought their own.

The "Hire to Buy" programme has also continued, with a lovely set being acquired by the Society in May 2021 from Philip Guar and also another of our Hire to Buy hirers finally paying off their agreement and becoming the proud owner of a really beautiful set of pipes.

The work has also continued to try to find an easy entry level for aspiring pipers and this year saw us collaborating with Hungarian pipemaker, Jozsef Kozak, in the development of his "membrane" pipes, which use a piece of cling film instead of a reed to create a mouth blown NSP practice chanter in the key of "G". The idea is that these will be available for sale to members who want a simple way to practice their fingering and also for group teaching of beginners. The initiative is still in its infancy but the prototype ten practice chanters show much promise.

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The only major event in the last year that we were not able to continue with was our Newcastle Piping Festival. Sadly, this just proved a step too far. However, we do have some very exciting plans for it next year. Do look out for the announcement but keep the dates 11-13 March 2022 free.

I am pleased to note that membership subscriptions were up during the year. I sincerely hope that we can all encourage other pipers who we know and who are not yet members to join. The Society cannot do everything and, indeed, it does not try to. The Committee take the view that we are here as a Society to provide the forum for piping community to share things and to do those things that are necessary but which nobody else is, for whatever reason, doing. We always welcome not only ideas from members about what they would like from the Society, but also volunteers to help to implement those ideas.

Looking forward, your Committee is actively planning the annual events that take place in the autumn in the hope that we will be able to run them in person again. However, we are also looking at how we can learn from the last 16 months. We have been so pleased with the way we were able to connect with more of the membership that we plan to hold the AGM virtually again and also to stream the live annual concert, although we are still working on how we are going to do this!

As always, I would like to pay enormous tribute to the small but very dedicated group that make up your Committee. Each gives up a considerable amount of their time to help to make sure that the Society runs effectively and smoothly. I would also like to pay special tribute to Mike Evans, our Treasurer, who has put in enormous effort on behalf of the Society, converting its accounts from an unincorporated society to those of a company and a registered charity as well as converting us to a computerised accounting package during his time in the role. He has given us notice of his desire to stand down if we can find a replacement. He will be a very hard act to follow but we are actively seeking a new volunteer to take on the role. Please do think whether you might be able to do this. Now that we hold committee meetings either virtually or with some members attending by video link, it does not have to be someone based in the North East. If you think you might be interested, do please get in touch.

Finally, I would again like to pay tribute to the invaluable support and encouragement that we (and I, personally) receive from our President, Baroness Joyce Quin.

I look forward to "meeting" as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman, July 2021

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Cleveland Branch Chairman's Report

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland Branch Report July 2020 – July 2021

1. All physical meetings of the Branch have been suspended due to COVID-19, up to May 2021. Zoom meetings have taken place instead on the same date and time for the normal monthly meeting normally held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Hall. The monthly practice on 4th Wednesday has been suspended entirely.
2. Arrangements have been made with the Sedgefield Community Association and the Sedgefield Town Council for a playing session in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall for the afternoons of the 3rd Tuesday and these started in May and are scheduled to end in September.
3. The Branch AGM was held in October 2020 by Zoom.
4. The Branch's public playing group has performed at two National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens and plans to play at two more later in the summer. This program is less than normal due to the pandemic, but it is welcome.
5. There are no plans to return to indoor meetings, and a decision on whether to resume these after the summer season has ended is yet to be made. The Zoom meetings will continue as long as there is demand for them.

David Cook
Cleveland Branch Chair and Secretary
25 July 2021

Trustees' Report incorporating Directors' Report

Structure, governance and management

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society (the "Society") is a registered charity operating as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which were adopted on 24 November 2010. Reference and legal information is set out on page 3.

The Society includes Cleveland Branch which meets at Ceddesfeld Hall, 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 on the unpaid voluntary services of members. In early 2017 the Society engaged the services of a part-time self-employed administrator.

The affairs of the Society are managed by a committee elected by members of the Society. Members of the committee are trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Trustees/directors who served during the year were:

Andrew Davison
Helen Capes (appointed 7 November 2020)
David Creese (retired 7 November 2020)
Michael Evans
Tom Fairfax
Iain Gelston
Paul Knox
Andrew Lawrenson
Nick Leeming
Andy May
Alice Robinson
Louisa Squires
Vincent Syson

Louisa Squires and Vincent Syson were appointed and Andrew Lawrenson and Alice Robinson were re-appointed at the 2019 AGM for a two-year term expiring at the 2021 AGM to be held on 30 October 2021 and are offering themselves for re-election for a further term expiring at the 2023 AGM.

Helen Capes was appointed and Andrew Davison, Michael Evans, Tom Fairfax, Iain Gleston, Paul Knox, Nick Leeming and Andy May were re-elected at the 2020 AGM for a two-year period expiring at the 2022 AGM.

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Formal committee meetings are held physically or by video conference every two months and are supplemented by informal ad hoc meetings and discussions by telephone and email as considered necessary.

The Society endeavours to recruit committee members with a wide variety of musical, technical, professional and organisational skills in order to meet the Society's aims and objectives. Vacancies are advertised to all members through the Newsletter and personal contact networks are also used to identify potential candidates.

Cleveland Branch is managed by a committee elected by branch members. Branch committee members are not trustees of the charity or directors of the company and during the year comprised Dave Cook (Chair and Secretary), Anne Catchpole, Anne Gale, Margaret Moyes, Peter Manning and Timothy Jones (Treasurer). Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 will be put forward for approval at the branch annual general meeting and are included in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The objectives of the Society are:

- to advance art, culture and heritage through encouraging the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes and their music,
- to raise awareness of the Northumbrian pipes and their music, and
- to advance the education of the public in relation to the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes.

The trustees/directors have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described in detail in the Chairman's Statement.

Financial review

The financial results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA '). The charity had a net operating surplus of £514. Net assets at 31 March 2021 totalled £109,329.

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 2021 were £33,179 excluding reserves funding fixed assets.

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Directors' responsibilities:

For the year ended 31 March 2021 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
23 September 2021

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors of The Northumbrian Pipers ' Society on Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages 12 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the 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 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; 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 AATQB

Date 25th October 2021

Signed K. A. Tully

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

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Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating the income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	15,388	-	15,388	16,725	-	16,725
Charitable activities		9,993	-	9,993	9,365	1,874	11,239
Investments		187	-	187	232	-	232
Total		25,568	-	25,568	26,322	1,874	28,196
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities		21,799	-	21,799	20,510	1,139	21,649
Other	3	3,255	-	3,255	3,429	-	3,429
Total		25,054	-	25,054	23,939	1,139	25,078
Net movement in funds		514	-	514	2,383	735	3,118
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		108,080	735	108,815	105,697	-	105,697
Total funds carried forward	5	108,594	735	109,329	108,080	735	108,815

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Fixed assets			
Total tangible assets	6	76,150	74,950
Current assets			
Stocks	7	8,253	15,215
Debtors	8	4,369	3,402
Cash at bank and in hand	9	48,983	44,781
Total current assets		61,605	63,398
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	6,826	6,533
Net current assets		54,779	56,865
Total assets less current liabilities		130,929	131,815
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11	21,600	23,000
Total net assets		109,329	108,815
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	5	108,594	108,080
Restricted funds	5	735	735
Total		109,329	108,815

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the members of the board of trustees/directors and signed on their behalf

Andrew Davison OBE, Chairman

Michael Evans, Treasurer

23 September 2021

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) - Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources: and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Resources expended and liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fixed assets

Pipes held for hire and medal dies are valued by the directors based on the Society's own expertise. Trophies are valued by the directors based on independent professional valuations.

Trophies, medal dies and pipes held for hire are not depreciated as they do not have finite lives provided that they are correctly made and properly maintained. Costs of maintenance are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of other fixed assets over their expected useful lives.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (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 income over a period of 25 years from 1 April 2012, when the company assumed the assets and liabilities of the former Northumbrian Pipers' Society, or the date the life membership came into existence, whichever is the later.

2 Donations and legacies

	2021	2020
	£	£
Subscriptions and donations	12,660	13,881
Life memberships (Note 11)	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	<u>1,328</u>	<u>1,444</u>
	<u>15,388</u>	<u>16,725</u>

3 Other Expenditure

Other expenditure includes independent examiner's fees of £150 (2020: £150) and part-time self-employed administrator's fees of £1,033 (2020: £1,056). The balance of administrator's fees of £3,098 (2020: £3,167) is included in expenditure on charitable activities.

4 Gains on revaluation of fixed assets

During 2012/13, The Sage Gateshead donated a stock of parts for plastic pipes which was initially valued by the directors at £1,000 and that valuation was included in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 as exceptional voluntary income. These parts needed to be repaired and certain manufacturing faults corrected, and then supplemented and assembled into complete sets of pipes for use principally for hire to schools.

During 2013/14, significant technical challenges were overcome 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.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

During the year ended 31 March 2017 the directors revalued a number of donated sets of pipes which have been refurbished where necessary and brought into use in the hire pool. The revaluation surplus was £3,950.

5 Funds

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2021 (2020: £23,910) as described in Note 4. The restricted fund represents the surplus arising from the 2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross which will be used to produce a book on his pipemaking techniques.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Trophies £	Medal Dies £	Pipes for Hire £	Total £
Cost:				
At 31 March 2020	25,400	5,000	44,550	74,950
Additions	-	-	2,000	2,000
Disposal	-	-	(800)	(800)
At 31 March 2021 - Cost and net book amount:	<u>25,400</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>45,750</u>	<u>76,150</u>

There was no accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £nil).

7 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Pipemaking materials, books, cds and competition medals	7,798	13,171
Pipes Purchase Scheme	<u>455</u>	<u>2,044</u>
	<u>8,253</u>	<u>15,215</u>

Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £4,750 (2020: £4,750) less amounts received of £4,295 (2020: £2,706). The interest element of amounts received is not material.

8 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Charitable activities	1,969	1,052
Prepayments	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,350</u>
	<u>4,369</u>	<u>3,402</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

9 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest-free bank current account deposits	3,636	5,621
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	<u>45,347</u>	<u>39,160</u>
	<u>48,983</u>	<u>44,781</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Charitable activity creditors	2,797	2,722
Accruals	1,074	1,051
Deferred income	<u>2,955</u>	<u>2,760</u>
	<u>6,826</u>	<u>6,533</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2020	24,400	25,800
Released to income for the year (note 2)	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
Total life memberships as at 31 March 2021	23,000	24,400
Less amount included in deferred income due within one year	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2021	<u>21,600</u>	<u>23,000</u>