

**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**  
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 MARCH 2023**

Registered company number 07471625  
Registered charity number 1142471

**ARMSTRONG WATSON**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Newcastle upon Tyne**

**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**31 MARCH 2023**

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# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

31 MARCH 2023

**Charity number:** 1142471      **Company number:** 07471625

### **Trustees**

Andrew Davison OBE (Chairman)	Nick Leeming (resigned 14 October 2022)
Helen Capes	Andy May (Vice Chairman)
Michael Evans (resigned 14 October 2022)	Gregory McCormick (appointed 14 October 2022)
Tom Fairfax	Michael Ratliff (appointed 14 October 2022)
Iain Gelston	Alice Robinson
Paul Knox	Carolyn Soakell
Andrew Lawrenson	Vincent Syson

**Patron:** His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

**President:** Rt Hon The Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead

### **Company secretary**

Michael Evans (resigned 14 October 2022)  
Muckle Secretary Limited (appointed 14 October 2022)

**Website:** [www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk](http://www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk)

**Society secretary:** Ann Sessoms

**Pipe Hire:** Hilary Richardson

**Journal Editor:** John Gibbons

**Newsletter Editor:** Hannah Wiggins

### **Registered office**

Time Central  
32 Gallowgate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4BF

### **Independent Examiner**

D R Gold  
Armstrong Watson Audit Limited  
One Strawberry Lane  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4BX

### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank UK Plc	Virgin Money UK Plc
1 Churchill Place	Jubilee House
London	Gosforth
E14 5HP	Newcastle upon Tyne
	NE3 4PL

### **Solicitors**

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

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

Dear Member,

I write with a great sense of loss.

Since I last reported to you on the activities of the Society, there has been a huge generational shift. Not only at a National level, with the transition from our Queen of over 70 years to a new King, but also within the piping community. Amongst others, we have lost Richard Butler (the Duke's Piper for some 40 years and a great ambassador for the pipes), my father, John Davison, a Life Member of the Society and my piping companion since we learned to play together some 45 years ago, and just weeks after my father, the wonderful gentleman who taught my father and I (and so many others) to play, Roland Lofthouse (Honorary Life Member of the Society and a member of the Society for nearly 70 years), who has sadly just passed away at the age of 96, still playing, inspiring others, and with the most amazing memory for tunes right up to his death.

Such loss, combined with being afforded the incredible honour of being invited by The Duke of Northumberland to succeed Richard Butler, Tom Matthews and Jack Armstrong (who, together with Patricia Jennings, were the first pipers I ever heard and who inspired me to take up the pipes) to become the 13<sup>th</sup> recorded "Duke's Piper" in an unbroken line going back at least as far as the 1750s (and probably earlier), makes me reflect not only on the past, the wonderful times shared with such friends and giants in the piping world and what they have taught us, but also on the passing of the baton, of the sense of duty that it is now the turn of the next generation to take the tradition forward. To honour and respect all those who have gone before and to do our bit to try to ensure that future generations have the same opportunity that we have had to enjoy the beauty of our traditions, our instrument and its music.

So, despite such a sense of loss (or maybe because of it), it gives me great pleasure to write to you about some of the achievements of your Society since my last report.

With no apology, I again reflect on my own experience as to how I came to take up the pipes. As mentioned above, I remember being fascinated by seeing two sets of pipes in a glass case in the Clock Tower café at Wallington and then transfixed when these were taken out of the case and played by Patricia and Jack. That sound – the iconic sound of Northumbria – inspired me to ask my father whether I could learn to play. A question that led to us meeting David Burleigh, Roland Lofthouse and so many other pipers who have become wonderful friends over the years. The relevance of this is not just to indulge my reminiscences but because it reflects so well on the outcome of the brilliant work done by Ednie Wilson for the Society. The concept she developed of encouraging all pipers to "Play Out", no matter how proficient we are, so that the general public can hear the sound of the pipes, is so simple but so perfect as a way to inspire others to have a go. It just takes a nice tune (no need for anything fancy) to capture and inspire the next generation of pipers. So a huge thank you to those of you who have given it a go. To people like Vincent Syson, who organised the Society's outing on the Tanfield Railway, the piping in Newcastle Cathedral just before Christmas and who experimented so successfully at being the wandering minstrel at the Wooler Show; to Tom Fairfax, who organised a group of pipers to play at the Glendale Children's Day, enabling over a thousand young people to hear the pipes for the first time, to Nick Leeming, Louise Woodman (and others) who played at the entrance to the Northumberland Show and who volunteer to play inside the house at Wallington, to those who organise the "try it" sessions at the Cambridge Folk Festival. I could go on (and my apologies to the many others who I have not mentioned) but I hope you get the message. Please give it a try where you live. It is not only a brilliant way to promote the pipes but can also be great fun! And please do send pictures for publishing in the Newsletter. We love to see what you have been up to AND it encourages others to do the same.

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

In focusing attention on this initiative, I in no way intend to diminish the importance of the other initiatives pursued by the Society. These are essential to capture and nurture any interest shown by someone wanting to hear more about the instrument or to have a go at playing it themselves. These encompass the work done in providing tutors and tune books, the fantastic pipes hire system that has so successfully transitioned from Nick Leeming to Ednie Wilson, Hilary Richardson, and the dedicated volunteers around the country who keep over 50 sets of pipes in the hands of people who want to try to play before buying their own instrument; the wonderful playing groups around the world who are the heart of the Society, welcoming new players and providing social and playing opportunities, encouragement and challenge to those who manage to get started; to the amazing concerts and competitions that the Society has organised over the last year to showcase the very best of what can be achieved, inspiring others to try harder and providing top level entertainment to all who come along to listen.

With these big events in mind, I really want to thank and congratulate the teams who put on the Society's Annual Concert and the 4th Newcastle Piping Festival during the last year. Both take a huge amount of work but are such a joy to attend and I am delighted that we continue to learn our way into how to make these available across the world, through live streaming over the internet. I know we do not always get it perfect all the time but please remember that we are a group of volunteer amateurs, learning as we go and trying our very best. We could (and sometimes do) pay professionals to do it for us but the price of the tickets needs to be higher, to cover the additional costs. If you have experience of running livestreamed events and could get involved to help us improve them, we would be delighted to hear from you.

As your Committee, we regularly beat ourselves up for not achieving enough and worrying that we cannot find people to do the key things. However, as Andy May so clearly observed recently, "we" really are pretty good at doing the things that matter most and in supporting people to do what they enjoy. There is a growing body of volunteers who are not on the Committee but who are doing invaluable work to promote the Society's objectives (the pipe-hire system, the self-help pipemaking group led by Stan May, the many self-organising groups around the country to mention just a few). Where the Committee struggles is in finding volunteers to help with the essential administrative tasks that an organisation must do in order to continue. Things like preparing the accounts, managing the insurances, membership renewals, website maintenance. Increasingly, we are having to pay people to carry out these roles in the absence of volunteers, which puts pressure on us to increase the membership subscription. If at all possible, I would prefer to increase the number of members and the efficiency of the systems (eg with all members paying by standing order instead of having to be chased to pay subscriptions and being able to send AGM notices and accounts by email instead of the excessively costly printing and posting we otherwise have to do) instead of raising subscriptions. Please do what you can to help with this.

I have been delighted to see our newsletter evolve so positively following the appointment of Hannah Wiggins as our new (paid) newsletter editor. She has brought new life and enthusiasm to it. I have the impression that it is being very well received and is creating a real sense of community across the Society. Certainly, the number and variety of contributions Hannah is receiving is really encouraging. It is a brilliant way for you all to tell each other what you have been doing, to share news and best practice in a more vibrant and instant way than the equally important but very different Journal that is produced by John Gibbons, providing a forum for the more thoughtful research articles and a formal record of key events.

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

I was also delighted that Nicola and I were able to attend the Society's Annual Dinner at the Northern Counties Club earlier this summer – another event so ably organised by Vincent Syson. It was a really wonderful evening, not only for the excellent food but also because of the opportunity to hear Kathryn Tickell answer random questions from the floor about her experiences as a professional piper and to share the wonderful company of so many members. A special thank you to Kathryn for agreeing to speak and to those members who travelled very long distances to take part. I hope the event will build and that more of you will join us in future years.

A major decision facing the Society in coming years is in relation to our "office" and online shop. As most of you will know, Julia Say has managed both for many years on a voluntary basis and has done a truly staggering amount to support the Society in this way (as well as in many other ways). Julia has indicated that she would like to step back at some point in the next couple of years. So, what do we do next? The Office not only stores the materials for the shop (books, recordings, pipemaking materials etc) but also all the Society's archive material (both paper records and instruments, such as the Colin Ross materials). If we move this to a more central location, would more people visit it? Should we do more to promote the shop? We would very much welcome thoughts from members on how we might evolve this element of the Society's offering.

One of the roles of the Society is to lobby for things that are important and that nobody else would step up to do. An example of this arises from a chance conversation I had with Richard Johnstone, who assists in running the Music Service for schools in Northumberland and who has been teaching the pipes in schools for many years. He alerted me to the fact that the Northumberland Music Service is to be merged into a much larger service covering the whole of the North East and also that the teaching of traditional music is not currently a focus on any agenda for this new service. As a result, I am delighted that the cause has been taken up by our President, Baroness Joyce Quin, who has mentioned the issue to the Education Minister and written a formal letter to the relevant Ministers in both the Lords and the Commons. We are so lucky to have someone as our President who is able to make representations on our behalf at such a high level.

By way of an update also on the impact of the Ivory Act, which you will remember we were consulted on and again Joyce so ably represented our concerns to Ministers about as it was going through its parliamentary stages. I reported last year that I had successfully "self-declared" one set of pipes under the "made before 1975 and including less than 20% ivory" exemption. At the time of writing my last report, I had applied also for exemption for my 17 key ivory and silver Reid set under the "made before 1918 and being of outstandingly high artistic, cultural or historic value" exemption. This requires having to make the case for the item and this being considered by an "expert". I can now report that this application was successful. It may help members looking to sell or hire their own sets to know that, following research I have undertaken by asking people who knew him at the time, any set of pipes made by Jack Armstrong would have been made before 1975, as he is known to have ceased making himself by around 1970. Therefore, any set by Jack that has less than 20% ivory should be eligible for self-certified exemption.

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

As always, I would like to close my report by expressing my sincere thanks to all those who have helped the Society to further its aims in the last year. None of it just happens. Somebody has to do a lot of work for the list of achievements referred to above to come about and I am extremely grateful to your Committee members and Ann Sessoms, our secretary, who devote so much of their time and energy to the Society's affairs. I am very sorry that we will be losing Alice Robinson from the Committee, when she steps down at the AGM, and wish her every happiness with her new baby (due about the same time as the AGM!). A special thank you this year to Andy May, who stepped in for me as Chair during a period of extended holiday, as well as all his work on the concert and the Piping Festival, and to Baroness Joyce Quin, our wonderful President, who is always there to help with any difficult issue and who so ably represents us in areas we could not reach without her support.

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

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, OBE  
Chairman, October 2023

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## CLEVELAND AND COUNTY DURHAM BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

31 MARCH 2023

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland and County Durham Branch Report,  
July 2022 - September 2023

1. The Branch AGM was held in October 2022. Minutes of the meeting have been sent to NPS Admin.
2. Physical meetings of the Branch held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in Ceddesfeld Hall have continued successfully. Numbers declined in the aftermath of Covid-19, but are now recovering . We have two new attendees.
3. The monthly practice on 4th Wednesday have also continued successfully for the last year.
4. The Branch Hon. Treasurer organised a special meeting for February which featured the piping and history of the border pipes from Iain Gelston. This was an entertaining and informative event.
5. The Branch's public playing group completed its performances at the National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens in 2022 and the summer of 2023, though we played at fewer events this year because a couple of our requests to play were turned down. We have four pipers now in the playing group. Two members of the Branch played at Wallington in August.
6. The Branch held a successful Christmas meal event at the Dun Cow in Sedgfield before the December meeting
7. There have been no requests for pipe hire.
8. The Branch's 2023 AGM will be held during the October meeting.

David Cook  
Cleveland and County Durham Branch Chair and Secretary  
September 2023



# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31 MARCH 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the unaudited financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

Reference and administrative details set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the memorandum and articles of association and 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 – Charities SORP FRS102 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society (the "Society"), is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 16 December 2010 as amended by special resolutions dated 3 June 2011, 2 August 2013 and 10 August 2019. The Society was registered with the Charity Commission on 20 June 2011.

The Society includes Cleveland and County Durham 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 charitable 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 who served during the year are noted on page one.

Alice Robinson is retiring and is not offering herself for re-election.

Andrew Davison, Andy Lawrenson, Carolyn Soakell and Vincent Syson are offering themselves for re-election for further two-year terms, expiring at the 2025 AGM.

Michael Ratliff and Greg McCormick were appointed and Helen Capes, Tom Fairfax, Iain Gelston, Paul Knox and Andy May were re-appointed at the 2022 AGM for two-year terms expiring at the 2024 AGM.

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.

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31 MARCH 2023

Cleveland and County Durham 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, Julia Goudge, Margaret Moyes, Peter Manning (Treasurer) and Timothy Jones. Philippa Sinclair was elected to the committee at the AGM on 9 November 2022. Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 were approved at the branch annual general meeting on 11 October 2023 and are included in the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### Objectives and activities

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, and
- to advance the education of the public in relation to the study, playing, making and development of the Northumbrian pipes.

The trustees 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 £2,766 (2022: deficit of £1,986). Net assets at 31 March 2023 totalled £110,109 (2022: £107,343).

### Reserves policy

The trustees 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 consider that the level of unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets should not fall below £10,000. The reserves held at 31 March 2023 were £34,477 (2022: £33,955).

# THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31 MARCH 2023

### Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Northumbrian Pipers' Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the trustees

Andrew Davison OBE  
Chairman  
23 October 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act 2006').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's report**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D R GOLD BA, FCA  
Independent Examiner  
Armstrong Watson Audit Limited  
One Strawberry Lane  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4BX  
Date 25 October 2023

**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	16,206	-	16,206	13,984
Charitable activities	5	13,704	-	13,704	11,543
Investments	6	119	-	119	60
<b>Total income</b>		30,029	-	30,029	25,587
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities		27,263	-	27,263	27,573
<b>Total expenditure</b>	7	27,263	-	27,263	27,573
<b>Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>		2,766	-	2,766	(1,986)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		106,608	735	107,343	109,329
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	18, 19	109,374	735	110,109	107,343

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements

**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Company number: 07471625

**BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	11		74,897		72,653
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	11,318		7,515	
Debtors	13	3,999		3,278	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	50,155		53,213	
		<u>65,472</u>		<u>64,006</u>	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(11,460)</u>		<u>(9,116)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			54,012		54,890
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>128,909</u>		<u>127,543</u>
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(18,800)		(20,200)
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>110,109</u>		<u>107,343</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted income funds	18		109,374		106,608
Restricted income funds	19		735		735
<b>Total charity funds</b>	17		<u>110,109</u>		<u>107,343</u>

The trustees are satisfied that the charity is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 23 October 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Davison OBE  
Chairman

Andy May  
Vice Chairman

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements

**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The address of the registered office is Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4BF. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

**2. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated. They have been prepared 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 - Charities SORP FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional and presentation currency of the charity.

**b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties in the Society's ability to continue as a going concern

**c) Fund accounting**

**Unrestricted funds**

Unrestricted funds are donations, concert and festival income and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

**Restricted funds**

Grants and donations obtained for specific purposes are recognised in the financial statements as restricted funds.

**d) Fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets relating to office equipment are included in the financial statements at their historical cost. Depreciation is provided on these tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of the assets over their expected useful lives. The rate used is as follows:-

Office equipment            - straight line basis over four years

Tangible fixed assets relating to trophies, medal dies and hire pipes are included in the financial statements under the revaluation model. Pipes held for hire and medal dies are valued by the trustees based on the Society's own expertise. Trophies are valued by the trustees 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. The carrying values are assessed each year and an impairment provision is made if necessary. Costs of maintenance are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

**THE NORTHUMBRIAN PIPERS' SOCIETY**  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**2. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**e) 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.

**f) Cash at bank**

Cash at bank consists of Barclays Bank current accounts, a Barclays Bank premium account and Virgin Money deposit accounts.

**g) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

**h) Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially measured at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**i) Income recognition**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

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

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

Income from other trading activities comprises income from fundraising events and is included when receivable.

Income from investments arises from interest-bearing deposit accounts and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income from concerts, festivals and pipe hire and is recognised when receivable.

Income from the sale of goods is recognised when substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred to the buyer.

**j) Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Charitable expenditure comprises all costs of activities in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Governance costs comprises all costs incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.



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**2. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**k) 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.

<b>3. Net income (expenditure)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income (expenditure) for the year is stated after charging:		
Independent examination	420	150
Accountancy services	1,800	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	85	172
	85	172

<b>4. Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions and donations	12,142	-	12,142	11,231
Life memberships (note 16)	1,400	-	1,400	1,400
Gift Aid	2,664	-	2,664	1,353
	16,206	-	16,206	13,984

<b>5. Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Concert income	1,561	-	1,561	801
Festival income	4,705	-	4,705	2,998
Pipe hire income	4,845	-	4,845	3,770
Sales of books and CDs	2,267	-	2,267	3,262
Sale of pipemaking materials	-	-	-	198
Decrease in bad debt provision	-	-	-	19
Other income	326	-	326	495
	13,704	-	13,704	11,543

<b>6. Income from investments</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest receivable on cash deposits	119	-	119	60
	119	-	119	60

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7. Total expenditure	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Concert costs	1,541	-	1,541	950
Festival costs	4,296	-	4,296	3,131
Pipe hire maintenance	143	-	143	499
Cost of sales:				
<i>Books and CDs</i>	583	-	583	(298)
<i>Pipe making materials</i>	-	-	-	2,065
Competition expenses - movement in medal stocks	150	-	150	117
At home recording fees	-	-	-	600
Cleveland and County Durham branch costs	151	-	151	130
Printing, postage and stationery	4,626	1,236	5,862	4,854
Marketing	27	-	27	-
Music Partnership donation	300	-	300	-
Travel	123	-	123	-
Sundry expenses	74	-	74	-
Website costs	139	-	139	238
Bad debts	58	-	58	-
Bank charges	234	-	234	97
Provisions against tangible assets	-	-	-	5,358
Depreciation	85	-	85	172
Office costs	5,860	-	5,860	5,862
Administration costs	4,100	1,367	5,467	3,648
Accountancy and independent examination	-	2,170	2,170	150
	22,490	4,773	27,263	27,573
Governance costs		4,773		
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>27,263</b>			

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

2023	2022
Nil	Nil

**8. Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions**

The trustees consider the key management personnel comprise the trustees. No remuneration was paid to the trustees in the current or preceding year. During the current and previous year, no trustee expenses have been incurred.

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**9. Revaluation of fixed assets**

During 2012/13, The Sage Gateshead donated a stock of parts for plastic pipes which was initially valued by the trustees 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 made available to Northumberland County Council for use in schools. The trustees 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 trustees obtained an independent professional valuation of trophies which resulted in a revaluation surplus of £14,700.

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

**10. Funds of the charity**

The funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2023 (2022: £23,910) as described in note 9. 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.

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	Office equipment £	Trophies £	Medal dies £	Pipes for hire £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 April 2022	375	25,400	5,000	46,950	77,725
Additions	129	-	-	2,200	2,329
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	504	25,400	5,000	49,150	80,054
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2022	172	-	4,900	-	5,072
Charge for year	85	-	-	-	85
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Impairments	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	257	-	4,900	-	5,157
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 March 2023	247	25,400	100	49,150	74,897
At 31 March 2022	203	25,400	100	46,950	72,653

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<b>12. Stocks</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pipemaking materials, books, CDs and competition medals	10,354	5,996
Pipes Purchase Scheme	964	1,519
	<u>11,318</u>	<u>7,515</u>
<p>Stocks of pipes held under the Pipes Purchase Scheme are shown at cost of £1,750 (2022: £1,750) less cumulative amounts received of £786 (2022: £231). The interest element of amounts received is not material.</p>		
<b>13. Debtors</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors - charitable activities	96	43
Other debtors - Gift Aid	1,414	-
Prepayments	2,489	3,235
	<u>3,999</u>	<u>3,278</u>
<b>14. Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest-free bank current account deposits	4,629	7,806
Instant access interest-bearing deposit accounts	45,526	45,407
	<u>50,155</u>	<u>53,213</u>
<b>15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors - charitable activities	5,110	5,586
Accruals	3,505	1,455
Deferred income	2,845	2,075
	<u>11,460</u>	<u>9,116</u>
<b>16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Life memberships:		
As at 1 April 2022	21,600	23,000
Released to income for the year (note 2(k))	(1,400)	(1,400)
Total life memberships as at 31 March 2023	<u>20,200</u>	<u>21,600</u>
Less: amount included in deferred income due within one year	(1,400)	(1,400)
Deferred income falling due after one year as at 31 March 2023	<u>18,800</u>	<u>20,200</u>

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17. Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	74,897	53,277	(18,800)	109,374
Restricted income funds	-	735	-	735
	<u>74,897</u>	<u>54,012</u>	<u>(18,800)</u>	<u>110,109</u>

*Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year*

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	72,653	54,155	(20,200)	106,608
Restricted income funds	-	735	-	735
	<u>72,653</u>	<u>54,890</u>	<u>(20,200)</u>	<u>107,343</u>

18. Unrestricted income funds	Balance 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	106,608	30,029	(27,263)	109,374
	<u>106,608</u>	<u>30,029</u>	<u>(27,263)</u>	<u>109,374</u>

The unrestricted income funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2023 as described in note 10.

<i>Unrestricted income funds - previous year</i>	Balance 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	108,594	25,587	(27,573)	106,608
	<u>108,594</u>	<u>25,587</u>	<u>(27,573)</u>	<u>106,608</u>

The unrestricted income funds include a revaluation reserve of £23,910 at 31 March 2022 as described in note 10.

19. Restricted income funds	Balance 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2023
	£	£	£	£
2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross	735	-	-	735
	<u>735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>735</u>

The restricted income 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.

<i>Restricted income funds - prior year</i>	Balance 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance 2022
	£	£	£	£
2019 annual concert held in memory of Colin Ross	735	-	-	735
	<u>735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>735</u>