

**The Northumbrian Pipers' Society ('Society')
(Company Number: 07471625)**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As a member of the Northumbrian Pipers' Society, you are entitled to attend, ask questions and vote on various matters at the AGM.

Following the recent success of holding our AGMs virtually, your Committee has decided to hold the AGM this year in the same way, giving all members an equal opportunity to attend.

The Society's AGM for 2024 will, therefore, be held by video conference on ZOOM.

The Notice of Meeting is set out on the pages that follow.

If you wish to vote on any resolution to be discussed at the meeting, please return your proxy form in accordance with the instructions provided.

If you are able to do so, please also join the meeting itself by video conference. To do this, you will need to contact the Society at agm-voting@northumbrianpipers.org.uk to request the access details.

Given that it is now possible for all our members to attend the AGM, wherever you are in the world, I would urge you to do so. It would be wonderful to have the whole piping community represented again, not just those who have been able to get to the physical meeting in the past.

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman
The Northumbrian Pipers' Society
Tel: 07802 558693

<https://www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk>

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with number 7471625.

Charity registration number 1142471. Registered office: c/o Muckle LLP, Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF.

The Northumbrian Pipers' Society ('Society')
(Company Number: 07471625)

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society ('Meeting') will be held by video conference call, commencing at 6.00pm on Saturday 16 November 2024 (UK time) to transact the following business:

Ordinary Business

- 1 To receive and approve the reports of the Chairman and the Chairman of the Cleveland Branch (see page 6 and page 13).
- 2 To receive the Society's annual accounts for the financial year to 31 March 2024 (see page 14).
- 3 To appoint Norman Douglas as Treasurer
- 4 To re-appoint each member of the Committee subject to re-election and offering themselves to be re-elected for a further term, until the AGM of the Society in the year referred to against their name below:
 - 4.1 Andy May 2026
 - 4.2 Helen Capes 2026
 - 4.3 Iain Gelston 2026
 - 4.4 Greg McCormick 2026
 - 4.5 Michael Ratliff 2026

- 5 To elect and appoint additional members of the Committee (up to a maximum of 13 (unless a different number is set by the meeting). Nominations may be made at the AGM. If there are more candidates than vacancies, a ballot will be held. Please see the notes on the resolutions for further details (see pages 14-15).

- 6 To increase the membership subscription to £25 per year for all adult members with effect from 1 April 2025. Please see the notes on the resolution for further details (see pages 15-16).

By order of the Committee
Norman Douglas RD
NPS Treasurer 17 October 2024

Notes: Appointment of proxies

1. As a member of the Society, you are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote at the Meeting and a proxy form is included on page 17 of this Notice of Meeting. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes and the notes to the proxy form.
2. A proxy does not need to be a member of the Society but must attend the Meeting to represent you. Details of how to appoint your proxy are set out in the notes on the proxy form. If you wish your proxy to speak on your behalf at the Meeting you will need to appoint your own choice of proxy (not the Chairman) and give your instructions directly to them.

Changing proxy instructions

1. To change your proxy instructions simply submit a new proxy appointment using the method set out in the proxy form. Note that the cut-off time for receipt of proxy appointments as stated in the proxy form also applies in relation to amended instructions; any amended proxy appointment received after the relevant cut-off time will be disregarded.
2. Where you have appointed a proxy using the hard-copy proxy form and would like to change the instructions using another hard copy proxy form, please contact the Secretary.

Termination of proxy appointments

1. In order to revoke a proxy instruction, you will need to inform the Society by sending a signed hard copy notice clearly stating your intention to revoke your proxy appointment to the address stated in the proxy form. Any power of attorney or any other authority under which the revocation notice is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the notice.
2. The revocation notice must be received by the Society no later than forty-eight hours before the time of the meeting (not taking account of any part of a day which is not a working day). If you attempt to revoke your proxy appointment but the revocation is received after the time specified then, subject to the paragraph directly below, your proxy appointment will remain valid.
3. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you from attending the Meeting and voting in person. If you have appointed a proxy and attend the Meeting in person, your proxy appointment will automatically be terminated.

Appointment of Committee Members and other Officers

The maximum number of Committee members is 13 (unless increased by Ordinary Resolution). As the constitution permits Committee members to be nominated at any time up to the consideration of the resolution(s) to appoint the Committee, there may be nominations that are not listed in this Notice of Meeting. If there are more nominations than positions available, the election will take place by ballot and the successful candidates will be those who have secured most votes (whether from members present in person or by proxy).

Item 1a

Chairman's Report 2024

Dear Member,

It hardly seems a year ago that I was last reporting to you on the activities of the Society. How time flies!

Looking back over the last year, it feels like some really good progress has been made in some areas of the Society's work, whilst we still face some major challenges looking forward.

Starting with the positives, it was with huge delight (and relief) that, following our last AGM, Norman Douglas stepped forward to offer his services as Treasurer. Norman brings a wealth of experience in looking after the finances of a variety of organisations and also of project management, so your Committee were delighted to co-opt him as our Treasurer for the period up to our next AGM, when he will stand for formal appointment / re-appointment by the membership.

Our pipe hire system has gone from strength to strength over the year, due in no small part to the dedication of the small group of wonderful volunteers around the country, led by Hilary Richardson. Together, the team makes a massive contribution to one of the Society's key objectives, namely making pipes available to those who want to try to learn before committing to the cost of a set of their own, as well as to the Society's finances. The pool of available pipes has been increased over the year with kind donations from Paul Blackburn and Andrew Bibby and by the purchase from the Alnwick Pipers' Society of three sets of their former hire pipes. We now have 61 sets available for hire and for much of the year we have had a waiting list of people wanting to give them a try.

Of course, hiring (or buying) a set of pipes is just the beginning. The pipe hire team also do a great job in supporting those who hire sets. In addition, one of our Committee members, Melanie Rothman, offered to take on the management of the new "Buddy" scheme that we have established. With characteristic enthusiasm and efficiency, Melanie has created a list of those existing pipers who are willing to act as a buddy to a new piper, helping and supporting them through the early stages. You do not need to be an expert. Any experience and a willingness to help someone to get going is all that is needed. Already, the scheme is supporting 14 new pipers and I have heard some wonderful stories of buddies not only helping to get someone playing but also going to great lengths to help the new learner to find and to buy the right set of pipes of their own. I am sure we all recognise

how helpful such support was/would have been when we first started. A huge thank you to Melanie and to all of you who have so kindly offered to be a buddy.

“Try the Pipes” sessions continue to be a brilliant way to introduce people to our traditions. There is nothing better than getting your hands on a set of pipes (however basic) and making your first noise!. To my immediate knowledge, sessions have been run at places like Cambridge Folk Festival, Rothbury Traditional Music Festival, Hofheim Interceltic Music Festival in Germany and the Glendale Children’s Day (where hundreds of school children gather from across the region to learn about country life), thanks to various groups of enthusiastic volunteers. Quite apart from the few potential pipers who emerge from each of these sessions, they are brilliant at communicating the existence of our instrument to a wider audience.

Most of us took up playing the pipes because we heard them somewhere and fell in love with the sound. Finding ways to let people hear them for the first time is, therefore, critical to continuing the health of our tradition. The “Let’s Play Out” initiative is really great for this. Again, you do not have to be a professional piper to be able to play nicely and to let people hear the instrument. It is really satisfying when people come to ask about them and show interest and we can now tell people that, if they become members of the Society, they can tap into not only the hire scheme but also the Buddy scheme to help them to get started. If you have not yet played at a village show, local concert, a WI or scout group etc, please do. I am sure they would be delighted to hear you play and to learn about our pipes. In the meantime, it was great that Radio 3 brought its breakfast show to the NE this year and both started and ended their week-long tour of the region with the pipes. A huge thank you to our various professional players for spreading the word every time you perform somewhere. If any of you have connections or influence with any national or regional media, please do see whether you can interest them in doing something about the pipes.

On the same general topic, I am delighted that the Society again put on a wonderful annual concert during the year. Focused on the William Vickers manuscript, it included stunning performances by Andy Lawrenson; Matt Seattle with Morag Brown and Lewis Powell-Reid as Threepence Wet Threepence Dry; and Andrew Cadie. The performances on small pipes and half longs were held in the glorious surroundings of Kings Hall in Newcastle, as well as being live streamed around the world. We also put on a more intimate concert in the Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle, with performances from Alex Barrass, Andrew and Margaret Watchorn and Paul Martin. A huge thank you to all those who helped to organise these events, which do not happen without a vast amount of effort in the background.

The Society's competitions are another opportunity for people to hear the pipes, as well as for pipers to gather to listen to up-and-coming performers showing what they and the instrument can do. This year, the event was held in St Andrew's church in Newcastle. Given that bagpipes are historically linked to being the music of the devil, this is an interesting collaboration but there was no thunderbolt and the acoustics in the church were superb. Again, thank you to all those who worked so hard in the background to sort the venue, the rules, find judges, manage entries etc. Without you (and the wonderful pipers who are willing to take the plunge and enter!), the competitions simply could not happen.

The Society again held an annual dinner in the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle, ably arranged and managed by Vincent Syson and with special guest speaker Alistair Anderson. Those who attended had a wonderful evening of piping, great food and entertainment.

Opportunities for pipers to gather and to play with each other are always welcome and, for me, are probably the most enjoyable aspect of piping. Thank you to everyone who has organised these over the last year, whether for your local group or for wider participation. I am sorry that I have not managed to get to more – maybe next year! I did thoroughly enjoy my visit to the Durham and Cleveland branch meeting to talk about the role of the Duke's Piper. My thanks to everyone there who made me so welcome. To name just a few of the events going on, (there is a good list of local groups in the newsletter), Vincent Syson has organised a new monthly session at Station East in Newcastle as well as a lovely gathering in the cathedral refectory at Christmas, the Annual Dinner and also a playing and promotional stall at the Glendale Show. Andy May and Lynn Nicholson have organised the Society's monthly gathering in Morpeth, there was the Wallington Pipers' Gathering – and many more. One Chantry meeting that deserves special mention was when it was run by Richard Johnstone and his team of young pipers (sponsored by the Society). There was a fantastic turn out and we very much look forward to another session run by them soon.

No mention of pipers' gatherings would be complete without thanking our President, Joyce Quin for arranging an extremely enjoyable evening in The Lord Speaker's chambers in The House of Lords earlier this summer. Unfortunately, the date ended up being one selected for a rail strike, so not everyone who planned to managed to get there, but it was an extraordinary opportunity, much enjoyed by all those who did. The evening also generated a further invitation for a small group to go to play at an event in Number 10 Downing Street but, much to everyone's disappointment, this had to be cancelled owing to the calling of the General Election.

The Society has started to build a relationship with The Northumbrian Piper pub on the outskirts of Newcastle, having been contacted by the new owners who are really keen to

host events and to make the most of the name they have inherited. Looking back through the archives, it turns out that the pub was originally named after Jack Armstrong, who officially opened it. We have, so far, held a Committee meeting and a piping session there and were made extremely welcome on both occasions. If anyone would like to go there to play, please contact Michael Ratliff, who is leading on the relationship between the Society and the pub.

I apologise if I have not mentioned your particular event in the last year. I am delighted that there are so many taking place!

One of the great assets the Society maintains is its insurance cover. Increasingly, event organisers insist on performers and groups producing evidence of public liability insurance before they will let you play at village shows, stately homes etc. For those who are not aware, if the piping at such an event is under the banner of the Society, it is often possible to use the Society's insurance to cover you. If you want to know more, or to have a copy of the cover certificate to show event organisers, please contact Norman, our Treasurer. This has proved useful in another area as well, including helping the Pipemakers Forum (led by Stan May) to continue its meetings in council owned premises in Gateshead.

Another new initiative during the year has been the great work done by Committee member, Greg McCormick, in devising a way to share and to catalogue those of the Charlton collection of archive tape recordings that have been digitised. Greg has devised a web access forum for members to go in and listen to the recordings and to help to catalogue what is on them. This is invaluable work. With the output, it is hoped that we might gain a reliable index of the material and also sufficient evidence of its importance to help us to get support for digitising the remaining tapes. If anyone would like to help with this project, please do get in contact with Greg.

On the subject of the archives, I am delighted that Richard Heard has accepted the role as formal Archivist to the Society. We have a lot of important material and Richard, supported by a team of interested members, has been giving some good thought to how best to manage the archives so as not only to preserve what we have but also to make it available to anyone interested in researching the history of our tradition.

I would also like again to thank Hannah Wiggins for the excellent work she is doing to make our monthly electronic newsletter so informative and a way to keep everyone in touch with what is going on. I know she would love to hear from you with any information about what you are doing/or propose to do. Please do share; and John Gibbons for the huge effort he puts into pulling together and editing the Journal, an important publication to

record the important events in the life of the Society and also to share research and interesting articles produced by members.

With so many great things going on, it feels a bit churlish to talk about some of the challenges facing the Society, but it is right that Members be kept fully informed.

As I have mentioned in my previous reports, the Society is facing the need to look at alternative premises for its office within the next few years. This raises the issue of where we should run our online shop from as well as where we should store our items kept for sale and our archive materials. In addition, as you will see from the accounts, the Society made a loss in the last financial year, a situation that we cannot allow to continue if the Society is to remain sustainable.

To discuss these hugely important challenges, the Committee held a special meeting during the year. At this meeting, we went right back to basics to try to set out what it is that we feel the Society should be doing, and how. In brief, some of the conclusions we reached are as follows:

1. The Society has a really important role to play in promoting the pipes and our music. The objects set out in our constitution continue to state what we should be here to do, namely:

“to advance art, culture and heritage through:

- ***encouraging the playing, study, making and development of the Northumbrian Pipes and their music and***
- ***raising awareness 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.”***

2. The Society should continue to focus on those areas the Committee considers important in achieving the above which are NOT being done adequately by others. In other words, the Society should not compete or duplicate, focusing instead on filling important gaps.
3. It is imperative that we find a way to balance our books, otherwise the Society will not be able to continue its work
4. Engagement is an essential focus for the Society, putting on events, providing the Newsletter, the website and generally doing all we can to foster the sense of community that exists amongst pipers, as well as engaging the general public to

help them to become aware of and, hopefully, to get involved in our tradition. The Newsletter could potentially be developed to include more sections (eg Q&A, publicising the dates of Committee meetings, so that members can send us items to consider and maybe also be used to provide support, as well as information).

5. We really do need to find a better solution for the management of our website and IT generally. Ideally, we should have someone on the Committee who understands these areas and can manage our strategy around them.
6. Our shop is an important service to members and to the general public, as well as a good source of income and a way to disseminate our music, but we may have to re-think the way we operate it after Julia steps down
7. Our archives are hugely valuable to our tradition but are we the best people to be looking after them physically? We are not experts in conservation and cataloguing. We may need to consider whether there is a better way to manage these, whilst still making sure that they are available for research etc
8. If we could resolve the shop and the archive questions, it may be that we don't currently need a physical office, given the ease of communicating electronically and the availability of venues to meet in to play.
9. Getting the pipes heard is critical to the continuation of our tradition, as it is usually what inspires people to play, so we should be looking at more ways to support this.
10. The pipe hire scheme is superb in every respect but the "Hire to Buy" scheme may have run its course.
11. The Journal still serves an important function, but we need to think carefully about how we circulate it, given the significant increases in the cost of printing and postage.

Following the special meeting, the Committee has produced an action list, which we are gradually working through. Probably the most important item on the list is the question of the membership subscription. This is covered elsewhere in far more detail, so for the purposes of this report, I will simply note that subscriptions have not risen at all since 2010. We have managed costs as tightly as we can, for example, by moving the newsletter to email format, but with the ever decreasing availability of volunteers and the increasing scope of the activities the Society is delivering, our costs have increased substantially.

There is nothing we feel we should stop doing (other than the “Hire to Buy” scheme), so we need to raise more funds from our activities and from our membership. I hope that you will support the proposals at the AGM.

Each year, we very sadly lose members through age and illness and this year has been no exception. Every loss is significant, but I would like to make particular mention of Jim Hall, one of the High Level Ranters, and Anne Gale, who made the badges of office of the President and the Chairman. Both will be very sadly missed. More detailed and fitting tributes will appear in the next edition of the Journal.

Also, each year we sadly lose some members of the Committee and I would like to pay tribute to three who are retiring this year, Paul Knox, Tom Fairfax and Carolyn Soakell. All have given an enormous amount of their time to supporting the work of the Committee and also have brought real strategic input to our discussions. I will personally miss them hugely and can only thank them for providing such superb support during their time on the Committee.

Finally, my most sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to the work of the Society. Without you, we could not do any of the things mentioned in this report, or the many other activities that there is not the space here to mention. Susan Craven and Hannah Wiggins who provide paid support; Ann Sessoms, our Secretary; Andy May, as Vice-Chairman, who is great at keeping me right; Norman Douglas as our new Treasurer; Mike Evans, our former Treasurer, who has been so generous with his time in helping Norman to get up to speed; all my fellow Committee members, whose input in discussions and whose help in making things happen is invaluable; all of you who give your time and skills to undertake such a wide range of activities in support of our objectives; and finally to our wonderful President, Joyce Quin for her unwavering support and for her representation of the Society in circles that we otherwise could not possibly hope to reach.

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

Keep piping!

Andrew Davison, OBE
Chairman, 17 October 2024

Item 1b

Northumbrian Pipers' Society, Cleveland and Co. Durham Branch Report September 2023 – August 2024

- 1) The Branch AGM was held in October 2023. The Branch changed its name to include Co. Durham to try to attract more pipers.
- 2) Two new committee members were elected to replace two who were stepping down. The meeting thanked Margaret Moyes and Ann Catchpole for serving on the committee and welcomed Julia Goudge and Philippa Sinclair in their place.
- 3) Former Branch Treasurer and V.P. of the NPS, Anne Gale, sadly passed away in February. Pipers from the Branch and one or two from beyond played at her funeral reception in Hartlepool.
- 4) Physical meetings of the Branch held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in Ceddesfeld Hall have continued successfully.
- 5) The monthly practice on 4th Wednesday has also continued successfully for the last year.
- 6) The Branch Hon. Treasurer organised a special meeting for March 2024 which featured the piping and description of the role of the Duke's piper from Andrew Davison. This was an entertaining and informative event, and we thank Andrew for.
- 7) The Branch's public playing group completed its performances at the National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens in 2023 and the summer of 2024. We have five pipers now in the playing group.
- 8) The Branch held a successful Christmas meal event at the Dun Cow in Sedgelyield before the December meeting
- 9) There have been no requests for pipe hire.
- 10) The Chair thanks the Branch committee and members for their work and support.

David Cook

Cleveland and Co. Durham Branch Chair and Secretary August 2024

Item 2 Accounts of the Society to 31 March 2024

These will be available before the AGM on the NPS website www.northumbrianpipers.org.uk or on request from treasurer@northumbrianpipers.org.uk

Item 3 To appoint Norman Douglas as our new Treasurer

Item 4 To re-appoint each member of the Committee subject to re-election and offering themselves to be re-elected for a further term until the AGM of the Society in the year referred to against their name below:

Andy May	2026
Helen Capes	2026
Iain Gelston	2026
Greg McCormick	2026
Michael Ratliff	2026

Item 5 To appoint additional members of the Committee up to the maximum number permitted (13 unless increased by Ordinary Resolution). Assuming that those members standing for re-election are re-elected, this leaves 3 Committee positions to be filled.

As at the date of posting this Notice of Meeting, 3 nominations have been received, as follows:

Alex Barrass - Proposed Andy Lawrenson, Seconded Melanie Rothman

Alex took up the pipes in 2018, under the guidance of Andy Lawrenson, whilst studying at high school in Hexham. Alex has been a regular (and often successful!) entrant in piping competitions over the past 5 years, and has also performed for several concerts in a variety of settings. In addition to Northumbrian pipes, Alex also plays Border pipes and Scottish smallpipes, and is a keen reedmaker and amateur pipemaker. Outside of piping, Alex is a recent university graduate, having studied History at the University of Leeds.

Alan Douglass - Proposed Greg McCormick, Seconded Michael Ratliff

I have been piping since collecting a set from Longframlington on New Year's Eve 1999 (they still sound great) and have been an active member of the London Group since then. I have a broad taste in tunes from the old to the new but particularly like old variation sets and 3/2 hornpipes. Professionally, I am a co-owner / director of a software development company specialising in business compliance and risk. When I'm not working or piping I might be gardening, cooking, walking or cycling (sometimes even reed making). I hope to

represent the views of the members of the society, to ensure that the objectives of the society continue to be met and that my IT experience can add value.

The Very Rev'd Geoff Miller DL - Proposed Michael Ratliff, Seconded Greg McCormick
I am new to the piping world and very much a beginner but really enjoying both the learning (well most of the time) and the craic. I have lived in the North East for some 40 years, though I also married a Geordie. We have one son who lives in Edinburgh. For many years I was the Archdeacon of Northumberland which encouraged a huge affection for the area and I spent the last five years of working life as the Dean of Newcastle, managing the complete refurbishment of St Nicholas Cathedral. In retirement, apart from the Pipes I have accepted an appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, which is fascinating but not too onerous and I try to write a bit - not sermons! I am passionate about social justice and over the years have held numerous positions in the Voluntary Sector.

Item 6 To increase the full membership subscription to £25 per year (with no additional charge for overseas members).

Background

Over recent years the cost of running the society has steadily increased. This is in part because of inflation, which increases the cost of our regular spend on items such as insurance, postage, printing, premises for shop and archives, accountant fees etc. The other part of increasing expenditure results from having to pay for essential administrative tasks in the absence of volunteers to take on these roles. Some of these points were highlighted last year in the Chairman's report.

The cost of subscriptions has not risen for the past 14 years, despite the above spending pressures and, despite your Committee looking at every option to keep costs under control (for example, moving from a quarterly paper newsletter to a monthly electronic newsletter), we have reached the situation where in the financial year ending March 2024 the closing balance was £3,722 less than the opening balance

The situation is not sustainable at the current levels of income and spend, however, in addition to further inflation, we have other headwinds to consider such as the following:

- The contract for the shop and archive premises expires within the next year and whether we renegotiate at the same premises or move to an alternative the cost will undoubtedly increase
- Our volunteer who runs the shop will retire next year and, with no replacement yet identified, we may need to pay for someone to continue running this facility
- The web site desperately needs to be updated and future maintenance secured, this is likely to cost around £4000 plus future annual maintenance fees.

Future of Society Fees

Going forward, to bring the society to a financial state that is sustainable and allow us to continue to deliver our core activities it is proposed that changes are made to subscriptions.

The current annual membership fee was last set in 2010 at £15. The current annual income, assuming 500 (mainly UK) paying members, is £7,500. Applying the increase in RPI since 2010 (which is 74.7%) the fees should now be £26, this equates to approximately £5,500 per year in lost income.

To bring the fees into line with RPI increases, it is proposed that the annual fee for full adult membership be increased to £25 per year with effect from 1 April 2025. It is not planned to introduce annual increases but costs and inflation will be monitored and when necessary increases will be proposed through future AGMs.

Full membership to include:

- Voting rights/attendance at AGM
- Email copy of newsletter
- Email link for online journal access
- Free first tune book and hard copy Journal on joining
- Access to the members' area of the website
- Discount on book sales
- Free access to our online archive material

For reference, comparison of membership fees for other similar organisations:

- *Scottish Piping Society of London - £25 year*
- *The Bagpipe Society - £25 year*
- *Na Píobairí Uilleann - £65 year (concessions students and retired £35)*
- *The Eagle Pipers' Society, Edinburgh - £35 joining, £30 renewal*

Proxy Form – please detach and return once completed (see notes 5 and 6 overleaf)

Before completing this form, please read the explanatory note overleaf

I / We (print name)

.....
 being a / member/s of the Society appoint the Chairman of the meeting or (see note 3) appoint

--

as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on Saturday 16 November 2024 at 6.00pm (UK time) and at any adjournment of the meeting.

I/We direct my/our proxy to vote on the following resolutions as I/we have indicated by marking the appropriate box with an 'X'. If no indication is given, my/our proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion and I/we authorise my/our proxy to vote (or abstain from voting) as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter or resolution which is properly put before the meeting.

	Resolutions	For	Against
1	To receive and approve the reports of the Chairman and the Chairman of the Cleveland Branch.		
2	To receive and approve the Society's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2024		
3	To appoint Norman Douglas as Treasurer		
4	To re-appoint the following as members of the Committee:		
	Andy May		
	Helen Capes		
	Iain Gelston		
	Greg McCormick		
	Michael Ratliff		
5	To appoint additional members to the committee		
	Alex Barrass		
	Alan Douglass		
	The Very Rev'd Geoff Miller DL		
6	To approve the proposed changes in membership fees		
	Signature	Date	

Notes:

1. As a member of the Society, you are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote at a general meeting of the Society. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes and the Notice of the meeting.
2. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you from attending the meeting and voting in person. If you have appointed a proxy and attend the meeting in person, your proxy appointment will automatically be terminated.
3. A proxy does not need to be a member of the Society but must attend the meeting to represent you. To appoint as your proxy a person other than the Chairman of the meeting, insert their full name in the box. If you sign and return this proxy form with no name inserted in the box, the Chairman of the meeting will be deemed to be your proxy. Where you appoint as your proxy someone other than the Chairman, you are responsible for ensuring that they attend the meeting and are aware of your voting intentions. If you wish your proxy to make any comments on your behalf, you will need to appoint someone other than the Chairman and give them the relevant instructions directly.
4. To direct your proxy how to vote on the resolutions, mark the appropriate box with an 'X'. If no voting indication is given, your proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion. Your proxy will vote (or abstain from voting) as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter which is put before the meeting.
5. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be:
 - 5.1 completed and signed;
 - 5.2 sent or delivered to the NPS Chairman at Fir Trees farm, Lowgate, NE46 2NS, UK; and
 - 5.3 received by the Society no later than **6.00pm on 14 November 2024 (UK time)**

As an alternative to completing this hard copy proxy form, you can appoint a proxy electronically by sending an email to agm-voting@northumbrianpipers.org.uk. For an electronic proxy appointment to be valid, your appointment must be received by the Society no later than **6.00 pm on 14 November 2024 (UK time)**.

6. Any power of attorney or any other authority under which this proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power of authority) must be included with the proxy form.
7. If you submit more than one valid proxy appointment, the appointment received last before the latest time for the receipt or proxies will take precedence.
8. For details of how to change your proxy instructions or revoke your proxy appointment see the notes to the notice of meeting.

You may not use any electronic address provided in this proxy form to communicate with the Society for any purposes concerning this meeting other than those expressly stated.