

Armagh Pipers Club

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Armagh Pipers Club
Charity registration number	NIC101109
Company registration number	NI620647
Principal office and registered office	12-14 Victoria Street Armagh BT61 9DT

The trustees

Bernadette Campbell
David Flanagan
Eithne Vallely
Philip Rea
Ruth Acheson
Siobhan Scowcroft
Thomas Smyth
John B. Vallely
Judith McClenahan

Company secretary Ciarán Ó Maoláin

Accountants Business Accounts Services
Chartered accountants
11 Abbey Street
Armagh
BT61 7DX

Structure, governance and management

The charity is operated as a Company Limited by Guarantee under Articles of Association adopted on 23 September 2013.

Its Board of between five and eleven Trustees, who are also the directors of the Company, is elected by and from the membership of the charity.

The Trustees and other volunteers are assisted by remunerated administrative support including a Company Secretary.

The current members of the Board of Trustees were elected or re-elected at the most recent General Meeting on 18 May 2022.

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Year ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities

The Charity will apply its resources for the advancement of arts and culture, in particular the promotion of Irish traditional music and song, including the related music of Scotland, England, Wales, Brittany, Cape Breton and Asturias.

This will be achieved by delivering:

(a) an Educational Programme that will include all or any of the following:

- (i) weekly classes for the teaching of traditional music and song;
- (ii) publishing and making available books, recordings and other forms of educational media to support weekly classes;
- (iii) an Annual Concert and monthly Family Sessions to develop members' confidence, performance skills and promote intergenerational learning;
- (iv) acoustic performances, recitals, master-class workshops and cultural exchanges to develop members' skills, technique and repertoire;
- (v) providing training and mentorship for tutors and students and prepare students for and facilitates formal music examinations;

(b) an Artistic Programme that will include all or any of the following:

- (i) the annual William Kennedy Piping Festival;
- (ii) uilleann pipe making workshops, providing education and tuition in pipe making and maintenance;
- (iii) promoting and presenting concerts, master-classes, sessions and other events;
- (iv) providing local musicians with work experience, career enhancement and professional engagement opportunities;
- (v) developing links and working in partnership with other cultural organisations.

Achievements and performance

This is the seventh year of trading for Armagh Pipers Club as a company limited under guarantee.

The charity made a net outflow of funds during the year ended 31 July 2023 of £19,343.77.

In the year under review the charity saw a further recovery in enrollment in the education programme, to over 180, and some 951 hours of teaching were delivered.

The William Kennedy Piping Festival, which had been tentatively revived in 2021, returned in November 2022 on a more ambitious scale, with over 40 musicians.

During the year five other events were organised featuring visiting artists, along with a carols concert, a Burns Night celebration, the Club's Annual Concert and numerous family sessions.

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Year ended 31 July 2023

Financial review

The balance on the general fund at 31 July 2023 was £20,447.

General Funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The balance on the restricted fund at 31 July 2023 was £325.

In addition to income generated from tuition fees, the principal funding in the year under review was derived from grant aid from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Lottery funding.

However, due to a missed application deadline, the Charity did not receive its usual Lottery Project Funding award of £46,500, but a series of smaller Arts Council grants totalling £28,500. The Charity was obliged to draw on its reserves in order to maintain full services through the year, and will seek to rebuild the reserves in 2023-24.

A Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council expired in April and a new SLA took effect.

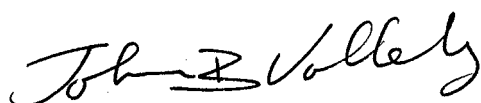
Both the Borough Council and the Arts Council provided grant aid for the Piping Festival, and Culture Ireland provided a travel grant to enable musicians to take part in a music festival.

Details of all restricted funds are stated separately in these accounts.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 29 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



John B. Vallely
Trustee