

ARMAGH PIPERS CLUB

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

The trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law), present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2024.

The trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is operated as a Company Limited by Guarantee under Articles of Association adopted on 27 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 nine serving directors (Bernadette Campbell, Brian Vallely, David Flanagan, Eithne Vallely, Judith McClenahan, Philip Rea, Ruth Acheson, Siobhan Scowcroft and Thomas Smyth) were all re-elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 19 October 2023.

Objectives and activities

To further the charities purposes for the public benefit, 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 Program 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;

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(b) an Artistic Program 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

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

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

The charity made a net inflow of funds during the year ended 31 July 2024 of £21,885.

In the year under review the charity saw a further recovery in enrollment in the education program, to over 216 at the highest point, and some 946 hours of teaching were delivered.

The William Kennedy Piping Festival returned in November 2023, with over 41 musicians taking part.

During the year, four Fonn Friday concerts were organised featuring visiting artists, along with a carols concert, a Burns Night celebration, the Club's Annual Concert, six family sessions and events marking International Uilleann Piping Day and National Harp Day.

Financial Review

The balance on the general fund at 31 July 2024 was £42,826.

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 2024 was £NIL.

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.

Of the Lottery Project Funding award of £46,500, £2,325 was still outstanding as at 31 July 2024.

An annual Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council expired in April 2024 and a new open-ended SLA took effect from this date.

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Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and several private sponsors provided grant aid for the 2023 Piping Festival, and an American foundation offered sponsorship for the 2024 event. Although the Arts Council declined to fund the 2023 Festival, it awarded grant aid of £13,962 to enable the Club to renew its stock of loan instruments. A further grant of £8,000 was paid by consortium of UK arts councils towards a planned project to involve young musicians from Armagh, Skye and Portugal.

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

Going Concern

The trustees have reasonable expectations that the charity can continue its operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern principle in preparing the financial statements.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, to those relating to the operations and finances of the company and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors and the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on ...17 April 2025... and signed on their behalf by:


John B Vallely
Trustee

Date: 17 April 2025