

JOHN HUNTER ACCORDION BAND – NIC103046

Trustees Annual Report for the period November 2022 to October 2023.

The information contained below was presented to the John Hunter Accordion Band AGM on 28 November 2023.

The information below will demonstrate the band objectives and planning of activities based on the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

1. Purpose Of Charity

Increase participation and awareness of all aspects of the Ulster Scots tradition and advance the musical ability of young people and their leaders in the Mountnorris area and its environs through education, training and membership of a marching band.

2. Engagement List

During the year, the band was involved in the following events which were advertised and open to public:

- Attended and performed 17 x Band Parades in Counties Armagh, Down and Londonderry.
- Provide services for a Hall Opening Ceremony on Co Armagh.
- Held a Celebration Service for the bands 70th year on the road.
- Provide services for 2 x Junior Group Church Services in Co Armagh.
- Provide services for 2 x Remembrance Services in Co Armagh.
- Provide services for 2 x Co Armagh Orange Lodge parades.
- Provide services for 2 x Co Armagh Royal Black Lodge parades.

In addition, some members represented the band at a Group Accordion Band Session arranged by Ulster Accordion Bands and hosted a further one in Mountnorris.

3. Fundraising

The band held a Big Breakfast Event in March 2023 which was well attended and agreed that it would be become an annual event during February or March.

The annual own band parade was held in Mountnorris in June 2023 with an authorised street collection.

Monies from these events were used to carry out repairs to existing instruments and purchase new equipment for Learners.

4. Funding Applications

Applications were submitted for grants during the year to improve condition of band instruments and hall environment.

- Arts Council NI - Musical Instruments for Bands October 2023
£10,000 for new instruments
Status: Recommended but unsuccessful due to amount of applications received.
Feedback given to improve application if trying again.
- Awards for All – National Lottery October 2023
£20,000 for hall accessibility upgrades and ceiling mounted projectors along with sundry items intended to extend life of instruments.
Status: Unsuccessful due to the amount of applications received. Feedback given to improve application if trying again.
- British Heart Foundation – AED Device for practice hall October 2023
Status: Unsuccessful

5. Policies

The following Group policies were reviewed and updated.

- Band Constitution
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

A membership agreement was created to keep track of instruments and uniform and to advise members what is expected from them.

A training list is being developed by the Committee to ensure voluntary training courses are up to date and availability sought for any new members who would be interested.

6. Trustees

No change required to the current Trustees list held.

Julie Beattie

Julie Beattie – Trustee

29/8/2024

Date

Honor Hawthorne

Honor Hawthorne – Trustee

29/8/2024

Date