

TYRONE'S DITCHES PIPE BAND

Charity No: 103463

TRUSTEE REPORT

2022-2023

Address: 33 Corrinare Road, Loughgilly, Armagh, BT60 2DW

Trustees: David McKee (Chairperson); Winifred Meredith; Robert Turner; Francis Henry; Wilbert McKee; George Bingham.

The purpose of the charity is to build confidence and improve musical knowledge and understanding enabling all to take a more active role in the community in which they live. It should enable people of all ages to engage in musical and social activity, thereby learning new skills and affording them the opportunity to further develop interaction within the community. The main beneficiaries of this purpose are the people living in the Poyntzpass/Markethill area of County Armagh although the work of the band impacts throughout Northern Ireland.

In 2022-2023 the band's activities increased with a number of young people joining the band for the first time.

The trustees are encouraged by the progress they are making in not only their musical knowledge but also their social interaction with all other members of the band.

The band continues to develop its partnership arrangement with Altnaveigh Memorial Pipe Band from Newry. Altnaveigh Pipe Band has supported us in a number of areas, including tuition and at social events. The co-operation between the two bands has been an inspiration to all members of the Tyrone's Ditches Band and afforded them the opportunity to develop new skills as well as developing social interaction.

The band was successful in obtaining funding from DAERA for additional instruments.

The band was represented at a total of 22 events during the year including:

Remembrance Services (2)

Twelfth of July and RBP services and events

4 Church Services

The band organises a Church service in Cremore Presbyterian Church annually, with a collection being taken up for charity. A cheque for £700 was presented to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

The band organised two major fund raising events, namely a Bingo night and a Treasure Hunt.

The activities of the band have impacted on a wide variety of people within the wider area. The band received correspondence from a number of benefactors thanking them for their contribution to local cultural and social events. All of this work is undertaken without remuneration and it is important to note the contribution being made by the many volunteers within the organisation.

The trustees are pleased that the band has been able to demonstrate increased learning of the skills involved in highland piping and drumming while at the same time developing social and communication skills of all members, especially those who have joined recently.

One band member undertook child protection courses, two members undertook marshalling training and three members completed food hygiene training. Thus members have gained skills which can be transferred to other settings. While these are private benefits they are incidental to the public benefit.

The trustees are content that the finances of the band are maintained and reported in a satisfactory manner. There are regular updates at the committee meetings, which are held monthly (September to June). Minutes of these meetings are recorded and duly signed by the Chairperson. The Annual General Meeting is held in accordance with the regulations documented in the Constitution.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

David McKee

Chairperson