

Garnock Valley Pipes and Drums SCIO



Chair Trustee Report for the Annual General Meeting

15 June 2026

Overview

It is my pleasure to present this Chair Trustee Report for Garnock Valley Pipes and Drums. Over the past year, the organisation has continued to provide free, high-quality tuition, widen participation across the Garnock Valley, and create valuable opportunities for young people to perform and develop their skills.

Governance

GVP&D's office bearers also serve as Trustees. Together, we work to protect the charity's best interests and ensure that funds are allocated in line with the agreed application criteria.

Background and Growth

Founded by Mae [REDACTED], GVP&D was established to give young people across the Garnock Valley the opportunity to learn pipes and drums free of charge, ensuring the project remains inclusive and accessible to all.

- Before Covid, nearly 100 young people were receiving free tuition.
- Following the pandemic, numbers dropped significantly.
- Thanks to the continued support of Beith Trust and our funders, participation has now grown again, with nearly 90 young people currently learning across the Garnock Valley.

Leadership and Governance

At the previous AGM, our Treasurer, [REDACTED], and Vice-Chair, [REDACTED], stepped down from their roles. We record our sincere thanks for their many years of commitment and service, which have played an important part in securing the future of the project.

Elected Office Bearers and Trustees

- Ian Broughton – Chair
- Sheena Scott – Vice-Chair
- Lee Donachy – Treasurer
- Irene Broughton – Secretary
- Kenneth Gibson – Trustee

Committee

- Aileen [REDACTED]
- Robert [REDACTED]
- Shona [REDACTED]
- Steven [REDACTED]
- Lindsay [REDACTED]
- Lisa [REDACTED]
- Taylor [REDACTED], young person representative

Tutors

Piping: Scott [REDACTED] and Keeva [REDACTED] (Trainee)

Drumming: Graham [REDACTED] and Taylor [REDACTED] (Trainee)

After 10 years with the project, our lead drummer recently stepped down. We extend our sincere thanks for his dedication, support, and enthusiasm over that period.

Tuition and Development

In-school tuition is funded by Dalry Parish Boundary Trust, Miller Homes, and the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust.

Our tutors have delivered lessons in Dalry, St Palladius, Beith, St Bridget's, and Garnock Primary Schools. This free tuition has been warmly welcomed and gives children the opportunity to learn pipes and drums in an accessible setting.

After-school tuition

Funding from the Mary Janet King Fund, Creative Scotland's YMI Fund, and the Beith Trust partnership has enabled free tuition at Geilsland to grow significantly. This has become the backbone of the project.

Tuition takes place on Monday afternoons from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Sessions begin with beginner and intermediate groups, followed by a more advanced group for learners playing bagpipes and drums or progressing from chanters and drum pads.

Equipment

Thanks to funding from North Ayrshire Council, Dalry Parish Boundary Trust, the Eilidh MacLeod Trust, and the Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust, we have been able to purchase drum pads, sticks, and chanters for the children to use. The Aria Fund also supported the supply of computer equipment.

Annual Highlights

The following highlights summarise key activities, performances, workshops, and events delivered throughout the year.

August

We ran a highly successful summer school, *Wee Pipers in the Park*, part-funded by the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust and Beith Charity Thrift Shop. The event was fully booked, with 30 children taking part. Across four days, participants enjoyed learning sessions, games, and crafts before presenting a final showcase of what they had learned.

September

We were invited to perform at the Garnock Valley Carves event in Dalry, where our pipers led the carvers into the arena at 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. Despite poor weather, the group performed extremely well on what was their first public outing and first experience of marching while playing.

Some of our advanced players also performed alongside Irvine and District Pipe Band at the Beith Food and Beer Festival at Geilsland Estate.

October

With funding from Creative Scotland and support from Beith Trust, we hosted *Traditional Tunes for Tiny People*, organised by Live Music Now Scotland. The event was warmly received, and musicians Eleanor [REDACTED] and Gregor [REDACTED] delivered an excellent interactive session for children and parents alike.

A weekend workshop was also held during the month.

November

Our trainee tutors attended an SSPDT/NPC development day.

Traditional Tunes for Tiny People and Teens, featuring Mairi [REDACTED] and Katie [REDACTED], was another enjoyable event with strong participation overall. The teens session was not well attended, and we should review our approach to encourage more participation in the next financial year

We also held a weekend workshop at Beith Parish Church.

Our tutors performed at the annual Fit Ayrshire Dads (FADS) event in Irvine.

At the Kilbirnie Lights Switch-On, our advanced group performed in front of Radio City. It was their first time playing together in public, and they excelled.

December

At the Beith Lights Switch-On, our advanced group led the parade from Day Today to the Auld Kirk. They performed exceptionally well, especially as it was the first time they had marched together.

Our advanced group also played at the Craft Fair to help raise funds for the band and received very positive feedback from the organisers.

A further weekend workshop was held with support from the Mary Janet King Fund.

At our Christmas Show, all groups performed to a large audience and demonstrated the progress they had made in their playing.

We were also invited to perform at Asda Linwood. Although it was a cold day, the young players who attended gave their all and warmly welcomed shoppers with festive performances and Christmas greetings.

At Geilsland, learners showcased their skills across chanter, drum pads and sticks, bagpipes, and snare and bass drums.

January

Traditional Tunes for Tiny People continued in January, with Joise [REDACTED] and Heather [REDACTED] leading another engaging interactive session for children and families.

A weekend workshop also took place in January.

February

Weekend workshops continued throughout February.

Young players also took part in the Sanquhar Solo and Burns Federation competitions.

Our annual ceilidh in Geilsland Hall was a sell-out. The evening opened with performances by Garnock Valley Pipes and Drums and Irvine and District Pipe Band, followed by Highland dancing from the Aileen Robertson School of Highland Dancing. [REDACTED] Ceilidh Band led a lively and enjoyable evening, and the craft corner was especially popular with children. Thanks to all the people, local businesses and organisations who supported the event ensuring it was a huge success.

March

At the SSPDT Championships, some of our advanced players took part in the annual event at the William McIlvanney Campus. The band finished equal 8th, which was a remarkable achievement.

A further weekend workshop took place in March.

April

During the Easter holidays, we ran a series of after-school workshops.

Weekend workshops also continued in April.

Our advanced group was invited to perform during the interval at the Glasgow Phoenix Choir concert in Beith Parish Church, where they received highly complementary feedback.

Child protection training

May

Weekend workshops continued in May.

Some of our advanced group performed at the CWP Energy ltd Wind Farm Open Day, where Gavin [REDACTED] of Radio Clyde also interacted with them on stage.

June

At the Next Generation Concert at Garnock Campus, the advanced group opened the event, followed by the intermediate group, before both groups closed the set together.

First Aid Training (EFAW) by Highfield

Project Leadership and Thanks

December 2025, our Project Coordinator left the project to whom we are hugely grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment she brought to the role, including securing significant funding during her tenure. We wish her every success for the future.

The new Project Coordinator started with Beith Trust at the end of April and welcome her to the project.

Funders

We would be unable to deliver our project without the unwavering support of Beith Trust, its staff, and our funders, to whom we express our sincere thanks.

- Creative Scotland YMI Fund
- Foundation Scotland Mary Janet King Fund
- Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust
- Dalry Parish Boundary Trust

- Scottish Children's Lottery
- Miller Homes
- North Ayrshire Council Participatory Budget
- Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust
- Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust
- Eilidh MacLeod Trust
- Beith Christian Aid Thrift Shop
- The Community Lottery Fund

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supports GVP&D.

The project's success depends on the commitment and generosity of many people, including our volunteers, tutors, board and committee members, parents, funders, advisers, and the staff of Beith Trust. Above all, we thank the young people whose enthusiasm and dedication make the project so worthwhile.

Supporting Young People

Our aim is to give young people the opportunity to learn, build confidence, develop friendships, and gain a stronger sense of self-esteem, teamwork, discipline, and achievement. These qualities will support them throughout their education, employment, and future lives.

We hope many of them will become the next generation of pipe band players and help ensure that the Scottish tradition of pipes and drums continues to thrive across the Garnock Valley.

Ian Broughton

Chair