



CAITHNESS YOUTH PIPE BAND
TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR END
30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name	Caithness Youth Pipe Band
Registered Charity Number	SCO32879
Principal Address	Millwell Clayock Halkirk Caithness KW12 6UZ

[illegible][illegible]

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is governed by a Constitution, which sets out the charity's purposes, powers and the rules under which it operates.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

Trustees are appointed and elected in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting and are responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the charity. New trustees receive information on the charity's activities, governance arrangements and their responsibilities as charity trustees.

Governance and Management

The charity is managed by a voluntary Board of Trustees, which meets regularly throughout the year to oversee the charity's activities, finances and strategic development. Day-to-day operational matters, including rehearsals, performances, fundraising and events, are supported by volunteers and delegated committee members, with significant decisions being made collectively by the Board in accordance with the Constitution.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable purpose

The charity exists to advance the education and appreciation of traditional Scottish pipe band music and culture by providing high-quality tuition and development opportunities for young people aged 8 to 21.

This is achieved through structured instruction in piping and drumming, supporting members to develop their musical ability, encouraging participation in performances and competitions, and promoting Scottish musical heritage through community engagement and public events.

The charity is committed to providing an inclusive, supportive and positive environment where young people can develop confidence, teamwork, discipline and leadership skills while representing Caithness with pride at local, national and international events.

Summary of main activities in relation to objectives

Throughout the year, the band continued to provide regular tuition and rehearsals for young people aged 8 to 21 in piping and drumming, supporting members to develop their musical skills in a structured and encouraging environment.

Members represented the band at performances, competitions and community events across Caithness and further afield, promoting traditional Scottish pipe band music while gaining valuable performance experience.

The band continued to invest in the development of its members through access to qualified instructors and performance opportunities. Alongside musical education, the charity promoted teamwork, discipline, confidence and leadership, helping young people to develop valuable life skills.

Fundraising activities and community support played an important role in enabling the charity to deliver its objectives, helping to provide equipment, uniforms, tuition and opportunities for members to participate and travel to competitions and events.

Achievements and Performance

The past year has been one of significant growth and achievement for the band, both musically and within the wider community.

Our members enjoyed success at both the Caithness Music Festival achieving excellent individual results that reflected their hard work, commitment and the high standard of tuition provided throughout the year.

The band was honoured to represent Caithness at the Edinburgh Tartan Parade May 2025, performing alongside bands from across Scotland and showcasing the talent of our young musicians to a national audience.

We continued our valued partnership with Scrabster Harbour Trust, providing performances to welcome cruise ship visitors to Caithness. These performances help promote the county's culture and heritage while giving members valuable public performance experience.

Throughout the year, the band performed at a variety of local events and shows, continuing to play an active role within the community and promoting traditional Scottish pipe band music across the region.

The band continued to invest in its long-term sustainability by enhancing the resources available to its members. This included the purchase of equipment to support musical development and performance standards, alongside ongoing investment in uniforms, equipment and essential resources. These investments ensure that members have access to high-quality instruments and presentation, remove barriers to participation where possible, and help the band maintain the professional standards expected at performances, competitions and public events.

Membership continued to grow during the year, with new young people joining the organisation and existing members progressing through the band. This growth reflects the increasing interest in the opportunities the band provides and strengthens the charity's ability to fulfil its objectives for years to come.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ending 30 September show that the organisation remains in a stable financial position.

During the year, total income amounted to £26,613.68, generated through a combination of performance fees, sponsorship, donations, fundraising activities and successful funding applications. The continued support of members, volunteers, supporters and funding bodies has been invaluable in enabling the organisation to deliver its activities and achieve its objectives.

Total expenditure for the year was £31,216.09. The principal areas of expenditure related to the band's participation in the inaugural Tartan Day Parade in Edinburgh in May and the purchase of new drums in August. Expenditure was carefully managed throughout the year to ensure that resources were used effectively and in line with the organisation's priorities.

Overall, the organisation recorded a deficit of £4,602.41, resulting in a closing balance of £9,900.55 at the year end. Despite this planned investment in the band's activities and equipment, the organisation remains in a sound financial position, providing a solid foundation for future activities and planned projects.

Looking ahead, the organisation will continue to focus on maintaining financial sustainability and securing additional funding opportunities to support its long-term ambition of attending New York Tartan Week in the future.

The trustees would like to thank everyone who has contributed through fundraising, volunteering, donations and ongoing support throughout the year.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure the continued delivery of its charitable activities and to meet its ongoing financial commitments. Reserves provide stability for the organisation, allowing it to respond to unexpected costs, maintain essential equipment and uniforms, support tuition and member development, and plan for future performances, competitions and projects. The Trustees review the level of reserves regularly to ensure they remain appropriate for the charity's needs.

Risk Management

The Trustees recognise their responsibility to identify and manage risks that may affect the charity. Regular consideration is given to financial management, safeguarding, health and safety, volunteer capacity and the maintenance of instruments and equipment. Appropriate policies and procedures are in place where required, and risks are reviewed throughout the year to help ensure the continued safe and effective operation of the charity.

Future Plans

The charity remains committed to providing high-quality tuition and development opportunities for young people across Caithness. During the coming year, the Trustees aim to continue growing membership, support members in achieving their musical potential, and increase opportunities for performances, competitions and community engagement.

A key focus for the coming years is fundraising towards an ambition to take the band to participate in the New York Tartan Day Parade in either 2027 or 2028. This opportunity would provide members with a unique cultural and musical experience while showcasing the talent of young people from Caithness on an international stage.

To support this ambition, the charity hope to invest in branded gazebo, enabling the band to maximise fundraising opportunities while attending events and performances. This will provide a base for selling merchandise, operating a small tuck shop and hosting children's games, helping to increase fundraising while engaging with local communities.

A varied programme of fundraising activities is planned, including a concert in November 2025 in collaboration with a local Highland Dance School to bring something really special to the local community, a ceilidh in January 2026.

The Trustees will continue to invest in equipment, uniforms and resources where required, while developing partnerships and seeking further sponsorship and grant funding to support the long-term sustainability of the charity.

The Trustees remain focused on ensuring the band continues to provide an inclusive, supportive and inspiring environment where young people can develop both musically and personally.

Other Optional Information

The Trustees have no additional matters to report for the period covered by the report

Declaration

Signature



Full Name

Clare Miller

Position

Chairperson

Date

18/06/26