

Govan Schools and Community Pipe Band Annual Report 2019-2020

In May 2013, a Piping Initiative was launched with the objective of providing Piping & Drumming lessons to school pupils in Central Govan Schools. In July 2014, the Govan Schools Piping Association, (GSPA) was formed and in 2015 this was renamed to the Govan Schools Pipes & Drums Association, (GSPDA). The objectives of GSPDA are to provide free tuition to learn to play bagpipes and drums and free use of instruments; to give the opportunity of gaining a life skill to the children of Govan; to establish a local youth pipe band; to increase local community spirit and to provide a confidence, team spirit and health benefit to local young people in Govan.

2019 saw the GSPDA band continue to be a regular part of many local community events such as The Govan Fair, The Govan Christmas Lights Switching on, remembrance services each November, and participating in school concerts at both Pirie Park and Govan High schools. The band was also invited to participate in a local project which saw the newly refurbished Govan & Linthouse Parish church building at Govan Cross hosting a production called a History of Govan by Cran Theatre Group. Through activities like this the band is now firmly becoming a part of the future of Govan, as more arts based activities are being hosted there. As such, the board agreed that the band should become more of a community organisation, rather than being restricted to school children and the decision was made to change the name to **Govan Schools and Community Pipe Band**. We are actively encouraging interest and membership from the wider community not only for playing members but also for organisational support.

Funding restrictions has meant that 2019/20 tuition had to be concentrated at weekly band practice sessions rather than our previous method of sending tutors into every school for both group and individual lessons. This has saved a significant amount of money as we work towards balancing the finances without compromising the ethos that tuition is free to all children with a desire to learn. In addition we have been fortunate enough to benefit from the Matt Brown Scholarship with three young pupils attending the National Piping Centre for a full week of summer school this year.

Fundraising during 2019/20 has again been challenging, continuing with the strategy of diversifying from two or three significant sponsors to approaching a wide range of Trusts and Foundations for smaller grants. There is intense competition for funding at this level, so grant funding has been much harder to find. The previous year's use of a large amount of financial reserves led us to acknowledge the need to reduce our most significant costs whilst keeping our primary objective of free tuition to all.

A brief financial summary for 2019/20 budget year is as follows:

1. Donations & Grants – £6.2k
2. Tuition, equipment and admin expenses - £10.5k

Tuition continues to be the principal spend amounting to 97% of total expenditure, and again we relied on reserve funds to cover the £4.3k loss for this year. However this funding shortfall is substantially down on last year due to our restructuring. The usual requirements of Public Liability Insurance, Software Licences, Professional Fees (Accounting), Bank Charges, Hall Rental for Practice, Coach Hire to Competitions and Fund Raising Expenses applied.

Sponsored by:

WM Mann Foundation
AMW Charitable Trust
Cruden Foundation Ltd
Erskine Cunningham Hill Trust, Edinburgh

Sylvia Aitken Charitable Trust
James Wood Bequest Fund
Dr Guthrie Association



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GSPDA is a Limited Company (SC446827) formally registered with Companies House and is also a formally registered Charity (SC044971). The GSPDA Board of Directors meet monthly and Board Papers are published each month prior to the meeting and Minutes published after the meeting. The Board Review Tuition Progress and Financial status as mandatory agenda items each month. A financial budget is set each year and tuition targets are set each year with actuals reviewed against this budget and these targets published each month to the Board consisting of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary & Treasurer and three Directors managing the Association.

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