



**GORDON DUNCAN**  
**MEMORIAL TRUST**



**The Board of Trustees**  
**Annual Report and Accounts**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I present this Annual Report on the activities of the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust for 2020 which was a very difficult year for many. It started off in fine form up to our AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Then later that same month our lives changed because of the coronavirus



pandemic. Musicians could no longer play in public, all concerts and gigs were cancelled and even teaching of musical instruments was banned. At this point the GDMT decided to support the many professional Scottish traditional musicians who have played and shared Gordon's music these last years. We set up the 2020 Performance Awards and the wonderful results of these 2020 Performance Award videos are available to view on our website. Later in the year we began to support online junior piping competitions, which included young pipers from all over the World, to encourage the youngsters to continue piping. We also supported teachers to be able to teach online.

Another effect of the pandemic seemed to be musicians learning new tunes and so our overseas sales of Gordon's music books increased thanks to our new website. It has been a unique year indeed. My thanks to all the Trustees and all who have supported the Trust in 2020.

Ian Duncan,  
Chair



**DONATIONS** gratefully received in 2020 came to £7,676.60 in total. Special thanks to The Logan Trust, The Charities Aid Foundation, Andrew Munro and The Kiltwalk totalling £7100.00  
The remaining £576 came from online donations via PayPal  
Of all of the donations £1,755 was donated for the 2020 Performance Awards, £5,140 for the Sponsorship Fund and the remaining amount to the General Fund.

**OVERALL SPONSORSHIP TO DATE:** The GDMT was set up in 2006 and since 2008 we have sponsored 152 groups and individuals to the total amount of £97,792.60 by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. In just over 15 years we are about to donate £100,000.00 to promote the Scottish traditional music which Gordon Duncan loved and mainly from the appreciation of his compositions. Gordon would have been amazed and delighted.

**MAIN AWARDS & SPONSORSHIPS** made by the GDMT in 2020  
A total of 11 awards were made in 2020 to a value of £6,320.00

1. **PIPE MAJOR DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL COMPETITION 2020.** This competition had to be cancelled. It was rescheduled for the end of November 2020 and again replanned as an online competition in April 2021. We wait to see how things go in 2021.
2. **BUCHAN PIPE BAND** had just formed a development band and the GDMT made an award to help with teaching materials and tuition.



3. BOBBY ALLEN. We have sponsored Bobby before and each year he progresses on to achieve so much more. He has won 57 first places in junior solo competitions and became the “Highlands and Islands Champion” at Benbecula. Bobby plays with the “National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland” and “Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band”. He was invited to New York to play at the “Tartan Day Parade” too. We made Bobby another award as he has made good use of the previous awards.



4. FINN MACPHERSON was made an award to help him continue with his studies for an HNC in Traditional Music Performance.
5. COUPAR ANGUS PIPE BAND. This pipe band needed some financial assistance to continue to involve and teach local youngsters in the band as the Pipe Band was unable to perform at local fundraising activities because of ‘lockdown’. With some ‘up and coming’ young players they wanted to keep their momentum going.



6. NORTH AYRSHIRE PIPING & DRUMMING ACADEMY is a mainly tuition-based venture with experienced tutors offering affordable tuition in piping and drumming to anyone in their area. The end goal is to have skilled players who would then feed in to the local band scene and strengthening the local pipe bands and the Traditional Music scene in Ayrshire.
7. BLACKFORD FIDDLE GROUP contacted us to ask if we could help them to procure audio hardware so the adult tutors could continue to teach the young players online during 'lockdown'. Once again, the usual income from playing at concerts and gigs ceased to exist and by teaching effectively online will keep the junior players playing and learning more. Necessity became the 'mother of invention'.
8. VALE OF ATHOLL PIPERS ASSOCIATION also made application for assistance to continue to teach online using social platforms and to keep the young learners interested and learning.
9. HANDS UP FOR TRAD was also moved to an online celebration this year, so we all missed our own get together there. As there were no Pipe Band competitions this year there was no Pipe Band of the Year award, so the GDMT sponsored a new, unique "Online Performance of 2020" award which was won by 'Duncan Chisolm's Covid Ceilidh'.



*"The Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust is delighted to sponsor the 'Online Performance of 2020', a new and until now, a unique award, made to those musicians who presented many and various online performances to cheer up all those who listened to their music and pater during the*

*difficult days of Covid 19 lockdown in 2020. Thank you to all of you who had the ingenuity, capability and good humour to share your talents with us all.*

*The GDMT support tuition and this year has been a challenge for tuition of the Great Highland Bagpipe and a challenge which has been met by many of our Bagpipe tutors. Online solo piping Competitions have helped youngsters compete and progress and learn more about presentation, lighting and sound recording than they thought possible.*

*The GDMT also hope that next year we will all be hearing Pipe Bands once more in all their unique glory playing for us all.”*

A suitable connection with the GDMT 2020 Performance Awards. Thank you to Gary for being our GDMT online presenter.

10. PIPE MAJOR CHRIS ARMSTRONG.

This same ingenuity created online junior solo piping and drumming competitions, which the GDMT sponsored with prizes of Online Tuition by Pipe Major Chris Armstrong. Our thanks to Chris for providing the tuition.

- *This started with Burntisland Pipe Band holding an International Junior Online Competition (one of the winners of our prize was from South Africa so that has spread the word of the GDMT further) Then*
- *Lewis & Harris Virtual Piping Competition for the Western Isles (from Butt to Barra!)*
- *Shotts & Dykehead Solo Online Championships 2020*
- *South West Scotland Piping & Drumming Online Competition*
- *Turriff & District Online Solo Piping & Drumming Competition 2020*
- *Vale of Atholl 2021 Online Solo Piping & Drumming Competition.*

Sadly, the Gordon Duncan Memorial Solo Competition, usually held during ‘Piping Live!’ in Glasgow, was also cancelled due to the pandemic.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE AT [www.gordonduncan.co.uk](http://www.gordonduncan.co.uk) FOR THE FEEDBACK AND TESTIMONIALS OF THE RECIPIENTS.

## **THE 2020 PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

We had fewer applications for sponsorship after March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic and 'lockdown' which started then. This sudden change in life meant the professional, Scottish traditional musicians, who have promoted so much of Gordon's music had most, if not all, their live performances cancelled and consequently their income abruptly halted. The GDMT set up *2020 Performance Awards* in April 2020 to give a small help through this time. As a small charity we had to go cannily until we knew how this would be taken up. There was also a steep learning curve (involving WeTransfer, Dropbox, YouTube for starters!) for those administering it. The GDMT made 16 Awards this year (three applications were not made an award). The cost of the *2020 Performance Awards* was £4,000 However we also received a total of £1,755 in donations specifically for the *2020 Performance Awards*, which we had not anticipated and was most welcome to reduce the overall cost. The wonderful videos made 'in lockdown' in their own homes by these musicians are all on our website to be viewed and enjoyed by all.

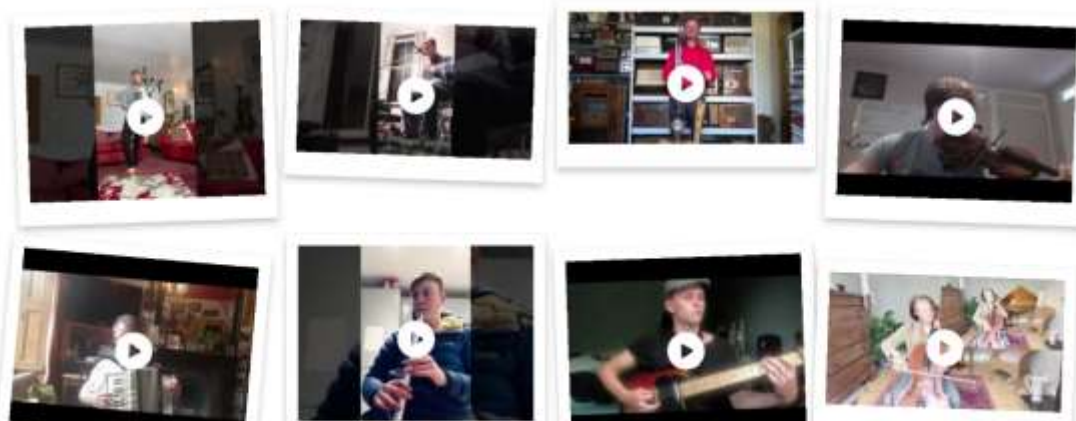


### **2020 PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

During the Covid-19 World pandemic we all became "locked down" in Scotland and all concerts, ceilidhs and live musical performances were abruptly cancelled. These videos, submitted for the [2020 Performance Awards](#), show some of our musicians playing great music, from their homes, on their own at this strange time.

We asked them to include one of Gordon's tunes in their '5 minute performance' and the results are both varied and wonderful!

Please enjoy these videos, share widely, and seek out these musicians to enjoy their live performances when we get back to 'normal'!





**MERCHANDISE SPONSORSHIP** was also made to various junior competitions with tune books etc. to the value of £656 in 2020. An African Blackwood chanter was also given as sponsorship to the Lewis & Harris Piping Society Online Solo Piping Competition.

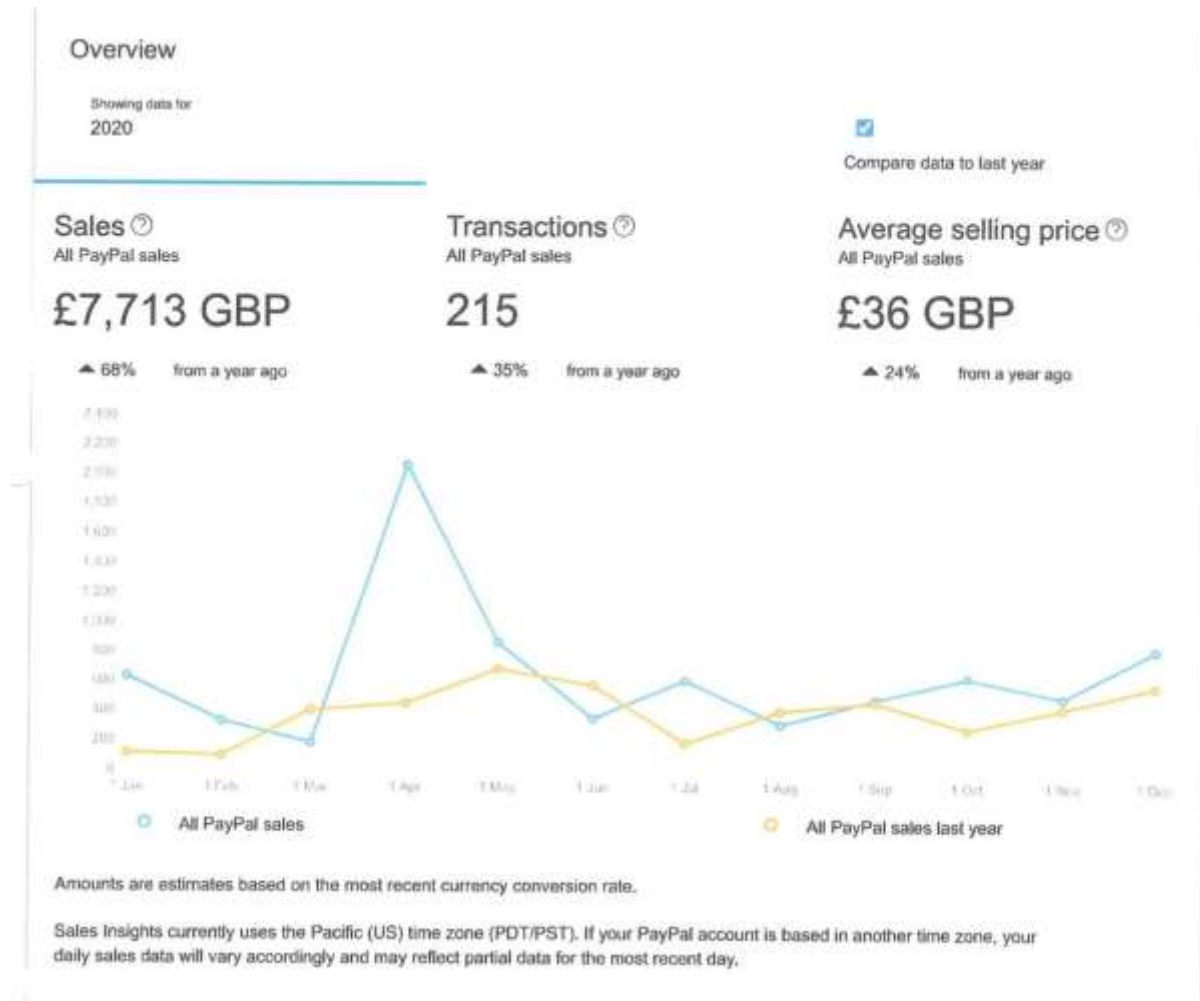
### **GDMT WEBSITE**

Recent developments on our website included adding IBAN & BIC account details, making online payments from overseas easier. Also adding payment of donations by PayPal in the shop (which resulted in £207 in small donation along with orders). Both have increased orders and donations online.

From the analytics our total sales from the website for 2020 was £6,244.95, however the postage costs (paid with orders) were £1,392.85 giving a net total of £4,852.10. (Compared with £3,469.50 in 2019). *Our postage costs have increased this last year and the postal service has been taking much longer than before, due to the pandemic, especially to the USA and Australia. We are looking at updating our postage costs now as one third of our costs are in postage.*



(The total under 'Sales' below includes donations paid by PayPal via the shop)



Our website has increased our sales of Gordon's tune books across the globe, and even more so during this last year.

Special thanks to Siân and Lesley keeping the GDMT in the public eye with many and varied posts currently promoting the 2021 Performance Awards, and using these to share the 2020 Performance Award videos and promote links to the website for sale of books etc. and for donations. At appropriate times they review some of the great videos of Gordon himself playing too; like this video of Gordon getting ready to compete at The Atholl Gathering, taken by his father, Jock.



## TUNE BOOKS

This year we ordered the third re-print of *Gordon Duncan's Tunes*. Also, we added two new tune books to our online sales. First was Kyle Warren's tune book *Eat, Sleep, Pipe, Repeat*. We knew Kyle from his youthful days in 'The National Youth Pipe band of Scotland' when he was already composing some good tunes. Our second addition is Ali Hutton's *At Home* tune book. Ali, along with Ross, have done more to promote Gordon and his tunes than anyone else, plus he has written some great tunes which are in this book. Sales of our other books continue well with *Gordon Duncan's Tunes* still selling the most, with *Gordon Duncan's Tunes Book 2* next.



## INSTRUMENTS

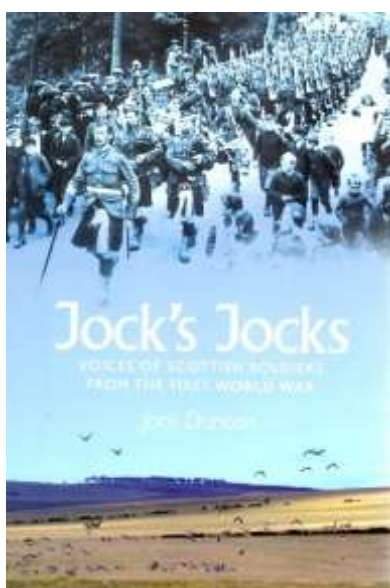
The Great Highland Bagpipe set kindly donated to the GDMT by John Smith last year have been set up ready for use, but because of Coronavirus we have been unable to get them into use as yet. They are all ready now though. Also, Gordon's uilleann pipes have now been checked and set up. They are a good set for beginners to learn on so we plan to contact The National Piping Centre to see how we can perhaps 'loan' them to young people who wish to try playing the uilleann bagpipe.



## JOCK'S JOCKS

We sold 9 'Jock's Jocks' books in 2020 and we continue to have orders for them. A fantastic and unique book. We await the return to normality to promote further with live performances of "Jock's Jocks".

A very sad announcement is that Jock Duncan passed away peacefully but suddenly in March 2021.



## **SO, TO THE FUTURE**

We are still confined by the effects of the coronavirus. Our Scottish Traditional musicians are still not permitted to play live so we have moved on with the new *2021 Performance Awards* for those who need a little help again. We are promoting these with social media viewings of the 2020 Performance Award videos. Please help us help these fantastic musicians.

The Royal National Mod, which the GDMT was going to assist with the Piping Competitions, was cancelled in 2020 and currently the plans are for The National Mod 2021 to be held in Inverness again where it should have been in 2020. Perhaps it will take place in Perthshire in 2022.

Finally, the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust will continue to promote the participation, study, performance and composition of piping and other forms of traditional music amongst the young people in Scotland. We especially look forward to seeing and hearing them all playing **live!**

