

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



**The Board of Trustees  
Annual Report and Accounts**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023  
to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023**

by Ian G Duncan, Chair.....*Ian G Duncan*.....  
and Chris M Duncan, Secretary.....*Chris M Duncan*.....

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I present this Annual Report outlining the various activities of the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust during 2023. It was a year of variations; some things getting better after Covid and others struggling.

2023 began with the wonderful Pipe Band Concert at Celtic



Connection 2023 being “Names and Places”; Lorne MacDougall’s wonderful interpretation of the fantastic music of Martin Hughes and Iain Kirkpatrick performed by some of the original musicians from the recording in 1990 and joined by some of the best musicians of current times.

A joy to play in and an even greater honour to be a central part of.



Enjoying ourselves playing music like that reinforces the Trustees of the GDMT to continue to promote the participation, study, performance and composition of piping, and other forms of our traditional music, so the future generations in Scotland can do the same in 2024 and beyond.

Ian Duncan, Chair.

DONATIONS received, with our thanks, in 2024 came to a total of £12,451.91. Special thanks to the Logan Trust, The Charities Trust and from the Copland family (in memory of Dodd who passed away in 2023 and was a great friend of Gordon) with donations of £9,500.00. More than half of the £2,488.76 donations via PayPal came from John Spivey with our thanks.

## OVERALL SPONSORSHIP 2023

The GDMT made eleven Awards in 2023 totalling £10,950.

Since the GDMT was set up in 2006 we have sponsored 184 groups and individuals to the total amount of £127,392.00!

MERCHANDISE SPONSORSHIP came to a total of £505.00 mostly as prizes for junior piping competitions.

## MAIN AWARDS & SPONSORSHIP made in 2023

1. **Arran Music School** was set up in 2017 and since then they have played at the SSPDT Championships and some of the Major Championships as well as at many local events in Arran. In 2022 they won the BBC Na Trads Community Project of the Year. This year they applied for an award to continue to teach 90+ pupils on Arran. This year they presented their first concert.

2. **Dundee City Council Pipes & Drums** were heading on a trip playing in Wurzburg, Germany. The young people



involved included their pipe band as well as other musicians from the Dundee Schools. All who took part had a wonderful and special time playing at events, making friends and learning so much of a different culture and how music breaks down

many barriers.

3. **Katherine Liley preserving Neil Gow Music Books.**

Katherine Liley found two original collections of Neil & Nathaniel Gow music books and a Simon Fraser Of Knockie Collection. All three books were in a sorry state, crumbling and impossible to use without risk of further damage. She

set up a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to repair these unique pieces of Scottish music history. The GDMT contributed to this to get these books cleaned, repaired then bound into three volumes. These volumes can now be viewed by all at Lovaig Music or contact [Lovaig.Music@gmail.com](mailto:Lovaig.Music@gmail.com)

4. **Bobby Allan** is continuing to receive tuition in piobaireachd and light music from his long-term teacher, Willie Morrison, and is now in his third year of study at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on the 'BMus Traditional Music Piping' Course with Honours. After gaining 15 places in competitions, including firsts, Bobby has gained promotions in the CPA individual gradings. He is also now teaching new learners in piping at his local Boys Brigade Hall.



5. **Dunkeld & Birnam Youth Music Group** was formed in Spring of 2023 with a view to run classes in fiddle and accordion as well as two trad bands for young people from approx. age 9 to 17 in Dunkeld, Birnam and surrounding areas. From this early beginning the group now has

approximately 80 children now playing in their trad bands and put on a wonderful concert later on in the year which several of the GDMT Trustees attended and were well impressed. The best part being these young musicians playing a well-known Neil Gow tune followed beautifully by a well-known Gordon Duncan composition. Onwards and Upwards for them all.



## **6. Gordon Duncan Memorial Solo Ping Competition 2023.**

Held on Sunday 20th August at the National Piping Centre this year the audience heard four wonderful pipers playing in very different styles. The overall winner and winner of the Irish section was Alastair Donaghy. Erora Morice won the Breton section and Austin Diepenhorst, from San Diego, won the Scottish section. Austin's guide dog, Newton, accompanied Austin on stage and chilled out beautifully through Austin's performance! Anna Smart was the Scottish



representative this year. All of them played well. Our vice-chair, Gary West, was faire an tìghe and the prizes, kindly donated by McCallum Bagpipes, were presented by our chair, Ian Duncan.



**7. Katie Robertson: The Wheeled Piper.** Since the GDMT sponsored Katie last year she has made huge leaps with her piping; playing with the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland, recording a set of tunes with Ross Ainslie,

competing in Pipe Idol 2023 at Piping Live! just some examples. Of course, the GDMT support Katie again for another year.

**8. SSDPT: Sponsorship of the Freestyle Event** The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust as well as providing grants for teaching piping and drumming in schools in Scotland and loaning out instruments to learn in schools free of charge, also hold the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships. They were looking for a sponsor for the “Freestyle Competition” and as this was exactly what Gordon himself loved the GDMT decided to sponsor this competition which will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Kilmarnock. We look forward to this one.

**9. The Trad Awards** have been supported by the GDMT for many years now to continue showcase and award the best in Scottish Traditional music in current times.



Hands Up for Trad  
We want to take a moment to thank our incredible sponsors & supporters of this year's MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards - with their help, we can celebrate those in the industry and the best of Scottish trad. 🙌🏻

#northwoodtrust Dundee City Council Binnam CD Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland (TMSA Aberdeen) Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland - TRACS PRS for Music VisitScotland #highlandsocietyoffendon Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust #CreativeScotlandYouthMusicInitiative UFF Musicians' Union National Association of Accordion & Fiddle Clubs Threads of Sound The National Piping Centre Glasgow Caledonian University Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Songlines Bòrd na Gàidhlig Creative Scotland

**10. MG ALBA “Event of the Year 2023”** which was won by “Trail West” in 2023.



**11. Chloe Taylor** applied to the GDMT to help her fly to New Zealand to play with Manawatu Pipe Band in New Zealand National Championships and to make new connections and new contacts, as a ‘fly in’ player.

## GDMT Website & Social Media

Thank you, Sian, for all your work with the social media. Is there anyone else who can contribute to the Social Media?

The website is updated as and when and has all the information that anyone may need about the GDMT. Details on all awards made and the feedback testimonials are there for all to see.

AGM will be held at The Salutation Hotel on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## TO THE FUTURE

Our first involvement with the SSPDT sponsoring the 'Freestyle Competition' this year to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The following week is the launch of a new book about Jock Duncan, "The Man and His Songs". written by Pete Shephard to celebrate the life and songs of Jock, at the Cowdry Hall at Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, with a great line up of Scotland's North-East singers

Early April is the "Donald MacLeod Memorial Competition" run by the Lewis & Harris Piping Society. We have been unable to attend since before 'lockdown' so looking forward to supporting this unique invitational competition of the top players of our time. Our chairman is adjudicating their Junior Competition which was started just last year to encourage the young pipers of the Outer Hebrides.

This year the Gordon Duncan Memorial Solo Piping Competition held at Piping Live! is planned to be moved from the Sunday afternoon after the World Pipe Band Championships to the Wednesday afternoon of Piping Live! week. This should make it more accessible to the piping world who are in Glasgow then.

So, the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust is busy and involved in many and varied aspects of our wonderful Traditional music, in particular with our young people.



This year, 2024, had things been different, Gordon Duncan would have been celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. He would be astounded and immensely proud of all his music has achieved in the last 18 years.

