



Newsletter

Issue 3
July 2019

Welcome to the 3rd Issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's Newsletter.

In this issue, we bring you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months, and also give you advance notice of what we are planning over the next 6 months.

We can also confirm that, at our January 2019 meeting, the Trustees agreed to appoint Andrew Mitchell as our new Vice Chairman to succeed one of the founding Trustees, Henry Neil, who retired last summer. Andrew has been a Trustee of the Foundation for a number of years, and his knowledge of what is going on within the youth music arena across Perth & Kinross will be very useful to us in this new role. Andrew is well known in youth music circles through his involvement with Perth Youth Orchestra for which he has been the Tour Organiser, and a Committee member for many, many years.

What have we been up to over the last 6 months:

Since the last edition of our Newsletter, the Trustees have been very busy in continuing to raise funds to support our objectives.

First up, on Wednesday **6 March 2019** we held our **annual concert** at the North Inch Community Campus, in North Muirton, Perth. This year the evening showcased the musical talents of the Perth & Kinross Elementary String Orchestra, the Perth & Kinross Central Groups Choir, individual pupils from Kinross and Perth High Schools, the Perth & Kinross Percussion Ensemble, and Perthshire Youth Brass. The aim of this evening each year is to give young people (some of whom will be receiving financial support from the Foundation) an opportunity to perform in front of a keen listening audience of parents, relatives, family, and friends. For some of the youngest, this was their first experience of playing in public, and they certainly rose to the occasion. We had an almost "full house" audience, and all the feedback we have received has been very positive about both the quality of performances, and the mixture of content for the concert. Financially it was also a huge success, raising £880. The Trustees had also taken a decision back in January 2019 to donate the raffle proceeds at this concert to Perthshire Brass, in memory of our late founding Trustee, and Perthshire Brass founder, George Annan, who passed away in November 2018. We were delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for £206 to help support the activities of Perthshire Brass, as they have been very supportive to the Foundation's fundraising ventures over many years thanks to George's involvement in both groups.

On **11 May 2019**, 13 members of the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) staff team plus some Trustees and friends of the Foundation, took part in the **Gung Ho Challenge** in Edinburgh. This was a 5km long race around an inflatable obstacle course! It promised to be a fun event for the competitors and the audience, as there were some very messy obstacles which ended up in mud baths, water baths, and foam baths! Our intrepid gang was very active in seeking sponsors via a dedicated online Crowd Funding page, and via hard copy "traditional" sponsor forms. The final result was a fantastic £2,596 raised (plus Gift Aid still to be reclaimed from HMRC). Everyone had a great day out and lots of fun, with no-one picking up any injuries!

We have also signed a **partnership agreement with NSPCC** which assures us of a donation of 10% of the net proceeds from the annual Childline concert held in Perth Concert Hall in December each year. This agreement is initially for a 3 year period, and is the result of considerable discussions between our Chairperson and NSPCC Fundraising managers. It reflects that the IMS tutors on duty on the evening give up their time free in support of the Music Foundation as well as Childline. This is always a sell out concert so we hope that this new partnership will help boost our funds considerably in the years ahead.

Over the last 6 months, we have also been very active in engaging with Perth & Kinross Council (along with colleagues on other youth music committees) to secure a commitment to **no further IMS fee increases** for the at least the lifetime of the current Council Administration. So, we should not see any fee increases before the next Council elections in 2022 unless there is a U-turn by the current political leaders on the Council. We have also been working closely with Councillors and Senior Officers of the Education & Childrens Services Department to **promote greater inclusion** in the participation of IMS tuition across Perth & Kinross Schools. This work will hopefully continue in the coming months alongside the work of the IMS staff group, to promote awareness of the IMS Service, and the existence of the Foundation to support applications from financially challenged households with the cost of fees associated with their childrens' music tuition.

What are our plans for the next 6 months and beyond?

Following the success of our first ever **Quiz Night** fundraising venture in June 2018, we have decided to hold another one on Tuesday 17 September 2019 in the Civil Service Club in St Leonard's Bank, Perth. Please keep your eyes on the Foundation's website for more details www.pmkf.org.uk. We look forward to seeing many of you enter teams of friends and family to help support us raise funds for the next academic year.

As a Charity, we are always looking at new ways to raise funds to support our objectives, and supplement the generous contributions received from local Charitable Trusts, other Groups, and individuals who are sympathetic to our aims and objectives of "letting our children play". If you have any fundraising ideas for us to try, do let us know and we will consider such an event.

Our Finances

In the financial year to 30 June 2019 we were successful in securing grant funding awards from The Guildry Incorporation of Perth, The Cross Trust, The Gannochy Trust, The Jimmie Cairncross Trust, The Souter Charitable Foundation, TESCO Bags of Help Scheme, The Ross & Liddell Community Bursary Scheme, The Thomson Charitable Trust, and Perth & Kinross Council. During these 12 months we received almost £27,000 in grant awards.

As well as being successful with our grant funding applications, we have also received donations from Perth based choir Encore, NSPCC Childline, St John's Episcopal Church Fellowship Group, the Perth University of the 3rd Age Ukulele Group, the RSCDS Wednesday night class, Ardoch Kulture Vultures Group, St Fillans Music Club, Perth St Johns Rotary Club, as well as a number of individuals.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported us, as due to all the grants and donations received, plus our own fundraising efforts, we have been able to once again meet 100% of the applications received from young people seeking financial support. During year 2018/19 we have paid out £21,000 in music tuition/central music group fees to Perth & Kinross Council supporting 111 applicants (last year it was 83). This represents an increase of 34% in the number of applicants supported compared to 2017/18.

As you can see, the grant awards, our fundraising efforts, and other personal donations received from our sponsors, friends, and supporters, are very much welcomed, and indeed necessary.

We now have 14 "Friends of the Foundation". These are people who have invested in the work of the Foundation by signing up to an annual/monthly subscription.

The Trustees would like to say a huge thank you to all our funders, sponsors, and supporters. If you know of anyone else who might be interested in becoming a "Friend", or simply make a one-off donation, please ask them to get in touch with either the Secretary or Treasurer via our website.