



Newsletter

Issue 6
January 2021

Welcome to the 6th issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's 6 monthly Newsletter.

The Trustees hope that you and your families are all well, and have managed to stay clear of this global virus. We hope that you were able to enjoy Christmas, and send our best wishes to you and your loved ones for a safe and healthy 2021.

This issue brings you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months, and also gives you advance notice of what is currently planned over the next 6 months subject to the continued adherence to COVID restrictions.

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

Well the answer to that question is "not a lot" if you think about fundraising. Our planned participation in the joint sponsored cycle ride with members of Perthshire Brass, our annual Quiz Night, and the planned Sunday afternoon concert by Instrumental Music Service tutors all had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. The cancellation of the annual Childline concert in December 2020 will also impact on the Foundation as we get a donation towards our funds from NSPCC from the proceeds of that evening. This is in lieu of staff tutors providing their services that evening free of charge.

However, we have been busy making grant applications for funds, and thus far have been successful in securing grants from The Gannochy Trust, The William Syson Foundation, The Thomson Trust, The Forteviot Trust, and Perth & Kinross Council. We have also been awarded £300 from the ASDA Foundation in lieu of not being able to participate in the Green Token Scheme as it has been temporarily suspended during the pandemic.

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

Whilst we are continuing to plan ahead with fundraising events, these will obviously be subject to constant review given the frequent changes to COVID restrictions by the Scottish Government as it battles to steer the country through the pandemic.

We were still planning to have **Wednesday 3 March 2021** for our **annual concert** at North Inch Community Campus, but at a recent Trustees' meeting took the decision to also cancel this event. This was on the basis that to date, Central Groups/Orchestras, many of whom perform in this concert, have not yet restarted after pupils returned to schools in August 2020. This is due to the IMS Service following Scottish Government guidance on such activities. When such groups will restart is still under discussion within the Council.

We have rescheduled our annual **Quiz Night** to Thursday 25 May 2021 in the Civil Service Club in St Leonard's Bank. We are also in discussion with Perthshire Brass colleagues about a revised date for the **sponsored cycle ride** in memory of the late George Annan. Finally, we are also discussing with IMS staff tutors the possibility of rescheduling the **Sunday afternoon concert** for early Autumn.

Following our 2019 and 2020 successes in securing no fee increases until after the next Council elections in 2022, we are expecting to have to again embark on a joint campaign with PYO players and Committee members, to lobby Perth & Kinross Council to ensure that they honour their previous pledge of no further increases in music tuition fees during the lifetime of the current Administration of the Council. The finances of Perth & Kinross Council have undoubtedly been impacted on by their need to respond to the COVID pandemic, and to continue to provide services to local communities. With that in mind, it is anticipated that the Council may have to revisit the possibility of fee increases for IMS services in the next financial year.

All charities are always looking at new ways to raise funds to support their objectives, and supplement their funds. If you have any fundraising ideas for us to try, do let us know, and we will consider such an event in the future.

Our Finances

In the current financial year we have thus far been successful in securing £15,300 grant funding awards from local Charitable Trusts, Perth & Kinross Council, and the ASDA Foundation. None of us can predict what impact the Covid19 pandemic situation will have on the number of applications we receive this year, but early indications are that the level of applications for support coming to us is much reduced compared to previous years. However, we do know that as yet, there have only been limited “new start” pupils accessing music tuition due to the model of teaching being undertaken at the moment. Hopefully, more new starts will be permitted to begin their music careers and access music lessons in the near future, so that young people are not further disadvantaged by being denied the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. The Foundation's Trustees are being very flexible and pragmatic this year in assessing applications that we do get by giving consideration to the possible implications of parents being placed on furlough, or worse still, losing their job, during the pandemic, and therefore having financial difficulties.

We now have 22 individual “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.

The Trustees hope that you have found this Newsletter informative, and will want to continue to support us so that we can continue **“letting our children play”**.

With apologies to those of you who do not have internet access, attached are some links to recent collaborative activities undertaken during the pandemic by both IMS staff tutors and young musicians. This shows the level of commitment from both young people and their tutors to try to keep going with their musical activities during these difficult times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeRQASfc4Pg&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwfbUQsEjdE>