NORTH BERWICK PIPE BAND

A HISTORY OF ITS MANY FORMS 1901 – TO DATE

NORTH BERWICK PIPE BAND

A HISTORY

The Newly formed North Berwick Pipe Band outside the Marine Hotel, North Berwick circa 1957

Sir C Hepburn, Red Hackle Whisky – donation allowed band to adopt the Mackenzie Seaforth Tartan for the kilts.

Drum Major: Jack M. McGregor

Pipe Major: Ben Aikman

Pipers: Tom Fergusson, Ian Russell, Tony Patzchky, J Logan, Gordon Elliot, Andrew Seton, John Wilson, David Millar & Jim Runciman

Drummers: Brian McKenzie & Norman Weighand

Bass Drum: Willie Adams

TO THE PRESENT DAY

On Parade to the Lodge

Mid 2010's

THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Before 1957

Although piping in the North Berwick area was probably in effect from an earlier date it can be traced back to 1740. Records show that a Burgh Piper was employed at a salary of £5 Scots to play through the town to waken townspeople first thing in the morning and again at curfew in the evening. The last recorded appearance of the Burgh Piper in North Berwick was in 1744, just before the banning of kilts and bagpipes following the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden. The tradition was revived in 1979 when members of North Berwick Pipe Band played at the curfew hour of 8:00 p.m. on the harbour wall on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays during July and August. This continued for a period of three years.

It is perhaps a little surprising that North Berwick, situated at a distance from the centres of piping activity, can maintain an enthusiastic and active Pipe Band. While bagpipes have been with us for more than 2,000 years, it was only during Queen Victoria's reign that the pipes and drums joined forces to become one unit. It was in 1854 that authority was granted for the first time for the official employment of pipers in the army. There had been regimental drummers for a significant period prior to this, the drum being used to send signals over the battlefield. It is reported that it was at the battle of Waterloo, upon hearing the bagpipes of an approaching highland regiment, drummers of the Cheshire Regiment started to tap out the beat of the march. If this report is to be believed, then it was at this juncture that the modern pipe band has its foundation.

The Govan Burgh Police established the world's first civilian pipe band in 1880. Although no record of the formation of the original North Berwick Pipe Band has been found, it should be pointed out that it was one of the earliest civilian bands to be formed in the country. It is rumoured that the band was formed in 1884 when local apprentices played together.

It is generally held that the band formally came together in 1899. To celebrate the recapture of Pretoria during the Boer war a parade was held on 7th June 1900 at four o'clock and a band of musicians (pipe band?) lead the procession, followed by Provost John MacIntyre. John MacIntyre was Provost of North Berwick from 1899 to 1919 and he is reputed to be a founder member of the Pipe Band, which was officially instituted in 1901.

The following picture illustrates the Band with Band founder Alexander Campbell Hutchison.

North Berwick Pipe Band – 1901

The Pipe-Major was William Hume and the instruments and highland dress cost £121, raised by public subscription.

Some illustrations of this early Band:

In August 1902, the Pipe Band headed a procession from the railway station to the cross in Quality Street to welcome back two heroes of the Boer War. The whole town turned out to greet the gallant troopers James Kendall and Walter Gilholm of the Scottish Horse on their safe return.

Despite the lack of official documentation, the North Berwick band certainly took part in local parades for the relief of Mafeking.

In 1902, they participated in the coronation celebrations of King Edward VII who was to visit the town in October of that year.

Although the Pipe Band is not shown in the above photo it does demonstrate the Town's welcome and participation in the visit.

The nature of the King's visit was to convalesce from appendicitis and, while in North Berwick, three members of the original band were invited to play for him. Pipe Major William Hume and pipers Dave Slicer and Alex Laing performed before His Majesty at the house known as The Knoll, later to be renamed King's Knoll.

Further evidence was given by one of North Berwick's oldest residents, Mr William Laing, of Lochbridge Road, who remembers when two local soldiers returned home. Mr Laing, a retired master painter, recalls: "The first thing I remember about the Band was back in 1903 at the time of the Boer War. The Band met Jim Herries and Alex McLaren at the west end of Dirleton Avenue and played them home."

The Presidential Jewel that the Band currently uses was originally presented by Provost John MacIntyre as a medal for "Yearly Competition".

The pipes that Pipe Major Hume played remained in his family for a number of years until they were given to the present band. The pipes are still in use today. Pipe Major Hume was a well-known baker in the town and, together with President Andrew Aitken Senior, who ran a sweet shop, the Band continued playing at sports days and lifeboat processions until the Great War.

It was not until 14 years after the end of that war that the second generation of North Berwick Pipe Band emerged. It was about 1932 that the local Scout Troop, under Scout Master Rupert Chalmers- Watson, formed a pipe band for the forthcoming International Jamboree in Denmark. Members of the scout band included Bill Seaton, vice- president of the band in the early 1980's, and his brother Andrew who played as a piper from 1932 until 1981. The family connection has continued with the band through Bill's grandson Bruce Seaton who joined the band in 1981 and was tutored by his great uncle Andrew. Bruce left the Band around 1986.

The pipe tutor in 1932 was Captain J. B. Whitelaw of Nungate, North Berwick. A keen piper, he instructed the Rover Scouts for their trip to Denmark. The youngsters practised on chanters then graduated onto full pipes. But a scarlet fever scare almost scuppered the band's hopes of representing their country at the World Jamboree. Seven scouts played in turn one set of bagpipes only for one of them to be admitted to hospital the following day with scarlet fever. Fortunately, none of the others contracted the illness and the band and troop successfully

represented Scotland at Copenhagen in 1935.

The Scout Band continued to take part in local parades, including the King's Silver Jubilee in 1935

and the Coronation Parade in 1937, until the outbreak of World War Two.

Although the band as such disbanded piping and drumming tuition continued.

Tom Fergusson, a stalwart of the Band for many years, was involved with the Scout "Band" in 1941.

Tom was a founder member of the current incarnation of North Berwick Pipe Band in 1957 although he had been involved with the North Berwick Scout Pipe Band from around 1941 (aged 8). Tom continued to serve and support the Band as a piper, Pipe Sergeant, Pipe Major (1972-1980), a tutor, President (2005-2012) and a general supporter and helper. In recognition of his continuing involvement with the Band, Tom was made Honorary Life President in his passing in May 2021.

The opportunity of attending another World Scout Jamboree at Fredericia, Denmark, in 1950 saw the reformation of the scout band in the Mid 1940's.

This is the North Berwick Scout Band at the Infirmary Day Parade in 1949 under Pipe Major D.R. MacLennan

North Berwick Scout Pipe Band – 1950

The Danes gave an enthusiastic welcome to the pipes and drums. This Scout Band continued until about 1954.

One of the last appearances of this Scout Band was in the Coronation Parade in 1953.

It is rumoured that Lyle Crawford was a young Scout in this Parade. Lyle, a piper, has also served as secretary, tour organiser, President, and many other roles over his many years with the Band.

THE FOUNDING AND THE EARLY YEARS

It was in 1957 that the present North Berwick Pipe Band was formed, as an independent unit, from the remnants of the old Rover Scout band in order to lead the parade of North Berwick Scouts at their 50th anniversary celebrations.

In honour of their scout background and as it was the centenary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell, the new Band was styled "North Berwick B-P Pipe Band". The name was adopted at the suggestion of Rupert Chalmers-Watson and George Gray of Smeaton, both long serving scout officers who took an active interest in the newly formed band. The majority of the members were ex-members of the Scout Band and the troop donated all their equipment to the new Band. At that time the scout kilts were mainly of the Government tartan (Black Watch) and some members wore their own kilts when their sizes were not available.

A donation from Red Hackle whisky allowed the band to adopt the McKenzie (Seaforth) tartan as the standard tartan for the Band and has remained so ever since.

This picture (also on the lead page) shows the newly formed band outside the Marine Hotel with Sir C Hepburn of Red Hackle Whisky. Details of the members of the band at that time can be found on the lead page.

The "Seaforth" part of the tartan name comes from the fact that the pleating of the kilts is in the same style as that worn by the Seaforth Highlanders.

This was also appropriate as one of the founders of this generation of the Band was Captain Donald Ross MacLennan, one time Pipe Major of the 3rd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders, and winner of the Gold Medals for piping at Oban and Inverness in 1956.
The cap badge worn by the band at that time was the Caber Feidh, also a connection to the Seaforth highlanders.

The honorary president was Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple of Leuchie, North Berwick. Provost James Wishart was the first president. He contributed a great deal to the early development of the band until pressure of council work forced him to retire from the band after ten years.

New recruits for the band came from outwith the scout movement and one of the first was Peter Craig, tenor and bass drummer, who fulfilled that role until his death in 1997. At one time, Peter, his two sons, his son-in-law and his grandson all played in the same band.

The Band played at various concerts and parades throughout the following years:

At the Harbour Pavilion in 1962

A separate project is underway to identify, where possible, the members of the Band through the years. Thanks to those who have already contributed and if anyone is able to assist further please get in touch.

With Jimmy Shand in 1966

In 1967 North Berwick Pipe band was still being reported as East Lothian's only Pipe Band.

Playhouse Cinema in 1970

Under the leadership of Pipe Major Tony Patzchky, a former member of the Scout band, North Berwick B-P Pipe Band first entered competitions in 1966 in the Grade IV division. During the next six years the band took part regularly in competitions organised by the Scottish Pipe Band Association. The band won several prizes in Grade IV competitions, until in 1970 the Band gained 1st prize in the Scottish Championship (Grade IV), 1st prize in the Lothian and Borders Championship, 2nd prize in the British Championship and 3rd prize in the Commonwealth Championship at the newly opened Meadowbank Stadium.

These successes resulted in the Band being promoted to Grade III.

Having started on the competition circuit the natural progression was for the Pipe Band, together with non-playing members on its committees, to institute a contest in North Berwick.

This Contest was to run most successfully for eight years under the chairmanship of town councillor George Darling, with Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple as Chieftain. The contest started with an entry of 24 Bands in 1967 and, by its final year in 1974 had reached an entry of 54 bands. The grand parade through the town was a marvellous spectacle. This contest was somewhat unique in that it was organised totally by a competing Pipe Band. The North Berwick contest was responsible for a number of innovations in the pipe band world, including the fostering of medley selections that gradually replaced the previous March, Strathspey and Reel programme. Another innovation which proved most popular and resulted in lasting friendships was the Scotland v's Ireland international drum major's competition for the Aer Lingus Trophy.

The current North Berwick contest that started in 1996 is actually organised by the North Berwick Highland Games Association. Although there are four members of North Berwick Pipe Band on the Committee this Association is totally independent and has no link with the Pipe Band.

In 1969 the Band had the opportunity to host the French Bagad de Vannes Melinerion from Bretagne. Unfortunately plans for the Band to visit Vannes the following year did not come to pass. By shear coincidence Lyle Crawford received an email in 2017 from one of those original French bandsmen trying to renew the contact.

The year 1972 saw the fruition of several other Tony Patzchky ideas. First was the purchase of a new, full dress, pipe band uniform – substantially paid for by two local benefactors. When funds were exhausted, with feather bonnets still to buy, the Band members decided to buy their own, and thus the uniform was completed. The total value of the uniforms and equipment, at that time, was in excess of £4,000.

Direlton Castle 1972

The Band was delighted to receive the Grade III trophy for Marching and Discipline at the 1972 World Championship at Hawick. Winners in Grades I and II were Edinburgh City Police and the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards respectively.

1st in Grade 3 at Bathgate – 1972

Another of Tony's ideas was the formation of a juvenile band. Around this time Tony stepped down and Tom Fergusson took over as Pipe Major. William Adams continued as Drum Major.

North Berwick Pipe Band including some of its Juvenile members

In 1973, George Darling, who became pipe band president in 1967, as well as chairman of the contest committee, was made honorary vice-president of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Scottish Pipe Band Association. This year was also the president's 70th birthday and this was celebrated with a "This is Your Life" tribute paid to him by the band together with invited guests from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In 1974 the Band was given permission by the Town Council to wear the Burgh Coat-of-Arms. This shows a ferryboat, representing the principal activity o the town in the middle ages, when Christian pilgrims sailed from North Berwick to Earlsferry in Fife on their way to worship the relics at St. Andrews.

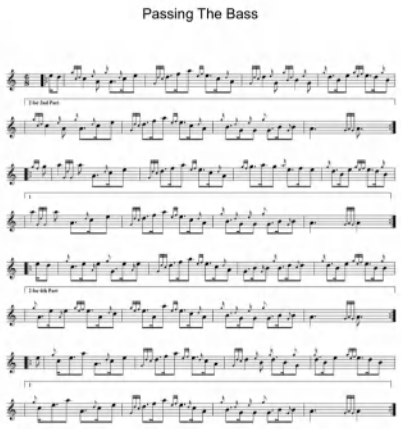
The badges were presented by the then Provost John B Macnair at a ceremony in North Berwick in May 1974. The cap badges were worn for the first time at the North Berwick Contest that same day.

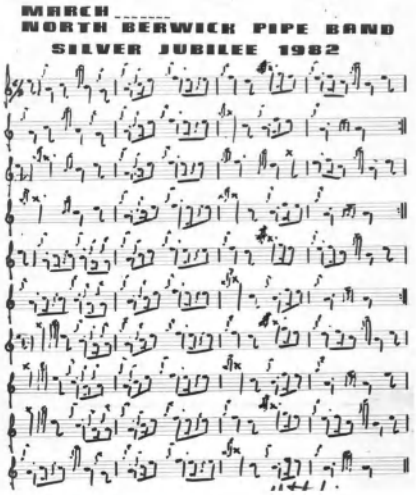
Throughout the 1970's the Band continued to provide entertainment in the summer months for visitors and local supporters. In following years these performances were augmented visiting bands from the south of Scotland.
The 1973 calendar for example comprised all the usual contests, gala days and parades. There were also visits from overseas bands that featured in the summer programme and this fostered much friendship and international goodwill. The Band appeared on BBC's "It's a Knockout", and played to welcome US oil executives on behalf of the Scottish Tourist Board. The Band regularly played at local hotels for visitors and conferences. The Band were pleased to give their services for local organisations and charities, but as they were (and still are) totally independent and without sponsorship they also played in North Berwick during the summer months to collect for their funds.

Other events in this period included:

The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh – 1975

The visit of Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone

There have also been a few tunes written that have links to the band. In 1978 the 6:8 March 'Passing the Bass' was written and played by the band at that time.

By 1980 another generation of youngsters were ready to join the playing members and they helped to welcome guests to the Community Council's party to celebrate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

The Band celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1982 with a formal dinner at the Marine Hotel. To commemorate this anniversary, Webster Craig, one of the pipers composed the following tune.

Cowal Games at Dunoon – 1983

When the Band started wearing the Full Dress No 1 uniform back in the 1970's it also added the Drum Major's Baldric. As can be seen in the photograph above this is being worn by Willie Adams as the Band paraded the Street at the Cowal Gathering in 1983 (it can also be seen in the earlier photograph of the Band at Dirleton Castle in 1972). In the image below you can see the baldric with the years of the three USA tours which are detailed in the next section of this history.

The geographical area of the Band is broadening all the time and has had members from Gifford, Dunbar, East Linton, Haddington, Kingstoun, Athelstaneford, Dirleton, Gullane, Longniddry, Macmerry, Tranent and even North Berwick.

THE MIDDLE YEARS AND THE USA

Following the Band's 25th Anniversary in 1982, and to boost enthusiasm within the Band, Willie Adams, then President of the Band, proposed a tour to the USA to visit the town's namesake – North Berwick, Maine.

Tantallon Castle - 1984

The Band did significant fund raising for the trip, including a concert in the Harbour Pavilion.

This was probably one of the last events held in the Pavilion before it fell into disuse and was eventually demolished in 1997 to make way for the new Scottish Seabird Centre.

The Tour Group at Kingstoun

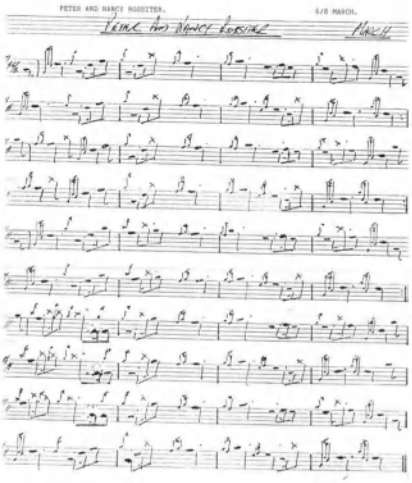
This trip took place in 1984 and covered Boston and North Andover in Massachusetts and North Berwick, Camden, Standish and Biddeford in Maine.

Colby College, Waterville

The band performed at concerts in each of these towns and even managed to take part in three 4th of July parades in the one day.

On returning to Scotland the band took part in the Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade

With 20 pipers on parade this has been the largest turn out to date.

On the return from this trip another tune with band links was composed, again by Webster Craig. This time the tune was named for Peter and Nancy Rossiter, two of the main hosts during the Band's stay in North Andover.

This trip was such a success that further trips followed in 1990 and 1994.

In the interim the band still carried out its normal duties, plus the occasional special event.

Glasgow Garden Festival – 1988

On the later USA trips the Band covered a fair distance playing in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York State and Vermont.

The Band has also played at Quincy Market, Boston, the Fort Ticonderoga Tattoo and many 4th of July Parades.

Our 1990 Logo

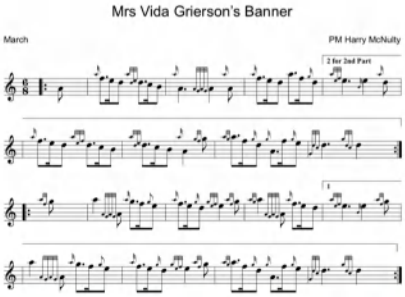
Tour Group at Kingstoun - 1990

Fenton Tower – 1990

And then back to normal

Game Fair at Gosford Estate - 1990

This was one of the last appearances of Drum Major Willie Adams with the pipe band.

In 1991 the Band had the opportunity to have a pipe banner made. The banner was hand-made by local resident Mrs Vida Grierson and to commemorate this, then piping tutor, Pipe Major Harry McNulty composed a 6:8 march name after Mrs Grierson.

Tantallon Castle – 1994

Fort Ticonderoga – 1994

Due to ill health, Willie Adams, the instigator of these American trips, was unable to travel with the band in 1994. Sadly he passed away while the band was away.

The following photograph was taken as a reminder.

Adams Hall, Castleton College, Vermont

THE MILLENNIUM AND ONWARDS

Into the Millennium and the Band continues from strength to strength.

Drum Major John Starr leads the Armistice parade in 2000. Although Paul McGinley was Pipe Major at the time, he was absent for that parade and the band is ably led by Pipe Sergeant Scott Turner.

2002 - 42nd Street - New York, USA. It was here, while taking part in Pipefest, that Lyle Crawford met Pat Murphy, Pipe Major of the De la Salle Scout Pipe Band from Waterford in Ireland. This was the start of a link that has seen visits both ways between North Berwick and Waterford that continue to this day.

In 2003 a contingent from the band represented East Lothian at the Folklore Festival in Cottbus, Germany. This was part of a district wide twinning between East Lothian and Landkreis Spree-Neiße in the Brandenburg area of Germany.

In association with the Dunedin Dance Academy the Band continues to represent East Lothian and Scotland at this Festival and to date have only missed one year.

In 2006, with the upcoming Centenary of the Scout movement, the Band formed links with the De la Salle Scout pipe band from Waterford, Eire.

With this as a nucleus the Scout Centenary Pipe Band was formed, performing at various Scout events during the 2007 Centenary year.

This band also included former Scouts, and representatives from Scout troops and Associations from all over Scotland.

The Leading Drummer at this time, Derek Easton, even played in the Boys' Brigade Centenary Pipe Band back in 1983.

Even after 2007 the Scout Centenary Pipe Band continued to play at various Scout events and to represent the Scout movement at other occasions such as the Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade, Garden Party at Holyrood House and the St. Ninians Festival when the Pope visited Edinburgh.

With an encouraging number of youngsters learning pipes and drums, 2006/2007 saw the formation of a Junior Band within the auspices of the main Band. This junior band started by playing at local Homes for the Elderly and by 2008 was starting to take part in competitions.

2009 saw the junior band merge in with the Adult band but in 2013 it reformed again under former North Berwick Pipe Band Pipe Major Gavin Black. With Gavin's son playing in the junior band and his father-in-law in the adult band there are three generations of this family playing with the band.

Gavin, Ruari and Lyle

Like the Craigs mentioned earlier in this history the Band continues to be a family orientated organisation.

2009 also saw the visit of HRH the Queen to the Seabird Centre in North Berwick and the Band had the honour of playing on that day.

And to finish off 2009 it was also the year of the Homecoming event at which the band, in the company of the majority of the other East Lothian bands, played in Haddington, Tranent, North Berwick and finally Athelstaneford, the home of the Saltire, on the one weekend.

Homecoming reflections Drumming up support for the big event

To celebrate this weekend the Council presented pipe banners to all the other participating bands. This gave us our 2nd banner, which is paraded by the Pipe Sergeant.

2010 and we were playing in the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle for the 20th Anniversary of the German re-unification.

While in 2011 we entertained the crowd "down the street" after the North Berwick Highland Games.

2011 was also the year of expansion of our foreign tours. In that year we set off for northern Portugal to take part in the Festival de Folclore Internacional Alto Minho in Viana do Castelo. A week in early September performing at various local venues and concerts in the evenings. Even producing a traditional Scottish meal – haggis and cranachan – for our hosts.

Not many photographs available from the trip but one of the group on the steps of the Santuário de Santa Luzia:

And a few drummers performing:

There are also a couple of video clips on YouTube.

In 2017 a small contingent of the Band, along with highland dancers, took part in the Festival Intercélticu de Avilés y Comarca in Asturias, Spain. The following year it was back to Asturias where a larger band, along with the Dunbar Highland Dancers, took part in the 10th Jornadas Celticas del Oriente de Asturias.
The following photos show the band and dancers posing and performing in Llanes, Asturias, Spain.

This has opened up many connections and there are hopes that these tours will continue, giving members targets to aim for so that they can join in.

To this day the North Berwick Pipe Band still plays at local Galas, Fetes and other events during all the months of the year. The Band has also taken part in massed band events at Floors Castle, SRU matches at Murrayfield, Hogmanay Torchlight Procession in Edinburgh and local Beating Retreats.

PuffinFest at the Seabird Centre

Burns Supper at National Museum for Scotland

Germany

North Berwick Highland Games

Gilmerton House

Also weddings, corporate events and concerts at Archerfield and Gosford House.

In 2017 a new logo was introduced for the band. This will be used alongside the official crest as a less formal identifier.

This design was selected to simplify printing and reduce costs and uses the Bass Rock that is synonymous with North Berwick.

2017 was also the 60th Anniversary of the band and to celebrate a formal dinner was held in Edinburgh Castle for members, former members, supporters and invited guests.

On Sunday 11 November 2018, at 6.00am, the Band had several pipers taking part in the "Battle's O'er" commemorative event at War memorials in and around North Berwick.

Pipe Major Keith Milligan and Calum & Sam Russell piped at Whitekirk.

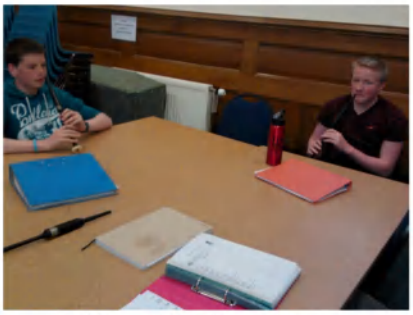
We also had 5 other pipers playing at the War Memorial and the RAF Coastal Command memorial in North Berwick. Not to be outdone, Leading Drummer Derek Easton was also up for 6.00am to allow Haddington pipers in to play at the memorial in Longniddry Church.

The younger members of the band are an important resource as they are the future adult players. We have been fortunate to have had a period of support in tutoring from the East Lothian Pipes and Drums Trust They moved on to become the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust.

Young Pipers

During the period of this support we managed to encourage many youngsters to take up and progress on the pipes and the various types of drums.

Sticks and Pads



Chanter Practice

With our own 'in house' tutors we also provide after school classes in piping and drumming in the local Primary School.

The "community" aspect is another important part of the Band.

Taking part in local events such as the Lifeboat Fete, the Raft Race, Remembrance Day parade and the Christmas Lights is integral to the community side of the Band.

The band can also be seen and heard in the Lodge Grounds on Wednesday evenings during July and August as part of the town's summer entertainment programme.

Playing for clients at Leuchie House, the Abbey, Fidra House and other local Care Homes is also part of the "community" side of the pipe band and it is well appreciated.

Local Care Homes for St Andrews Day

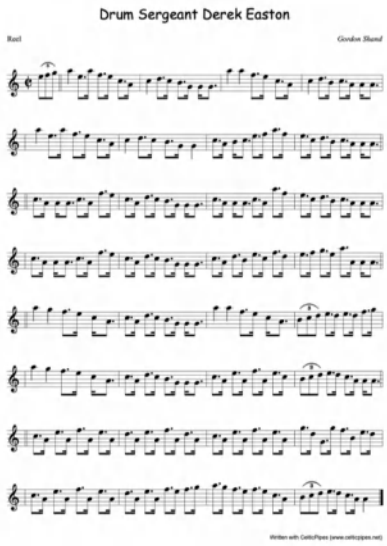
In a break with tradition a 4:4 march was composed to commemorate the retiral from Leuchie House of one of our supporters.

2020 was the year of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. This changed a lot of what we did and how we did it. Virtual lessons on Skype and Zoom. Meeting outside in fields for socially distanced drum or pipe practice. When we were able to get back to one-to-one tutoring, with the help of the Coop Community Fund, we were able to purchase electronic chanters, which made things a lot easier when laying with face masks.

Most of the year's engagements were cancelled but we still managed small performances at local care homes.

Praising the front line workers as well as celebrating the peace anniversaries of VE75 and VJ75 was also possible by individuals and duets and the occasional trio and quartet.

And physically distanced practising outdoors on Elcho Green.

Although the pandemic continued, the work of the band also continued. Every relaxation in guidance allowed us opportunities to get together and play and to continue the Band's work. Even the band related compositions continued. In this case as a thank you for his tuition one of the parent's had Gordon Shand (no relation to Jimmy) dedicate one of his Reels to the Leading Drummer at the time.

The band is always available to play at any event so whether you are looking for:

a solo piper:

Quartet and dancer

Mini Band

Or the whole thing

Just let us know

Although it is many years since the present band was

formed its objectives, as laid down in the 1957 constitution, still hold true today – namely:

To encourage and further piping and drumming in North Berwick and the surrounding district.

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE BAND

Honorary Life President: Currently vacant.

ADULT BAND:

President:	Derek Easton	*Vice-President*:	Ewen MacLean
Secretary:	Eddie Clark	*Treasurer*:	Terry Denton
Pipe Major:	Eddie McFadzean	*Leading Drummer*:	Derek Easton

JUNIOR BAND:

Pipe Major:	Vacant at present	*Leading Drummer*:	Vacant at present

HISTORICALLY:

Pipe Major:		**Leading Drummer:**	
William Hume	1899 - ??		
D.R. MacLennan	1950 - 1954		
Ben Aikman	1957 - ??	Jack McGregor	1957 - ??
Ian Russell	?? 1962		
Gordon Elliot	?? - ??		
George Darling	?? - ??		
Tony Patzschky	1966 - 1972		
Tom Fergusson	1972 - ??	Johnny Brown	?? - 1983
George MacNicoll	?? - 1984	Derek Easton	1983 - >
Jim Tait	1984 - 1986		
Richard Fairnie	1986 - 1990		
Gavin Black	1990 - 1994		
Paul McGinley	1994 - 2001		
Jamie Starr	2002 - 2002		
Allen Angus	2002 - 2013		
David Anderson	2013 - 2013		
Keith Milligan	2013 - 2018		
Eddie McFadzean	2018 - >		

Band Presidents:			
Alexander Campbell Hutchison	1901 - ??	Andrew Seton	?? - 1914
Jas. R Wishart	1957 - 1967	George E Darling	1967 - 1982
William S Adams	1982 - 1994	Bill Paxton	1994
Ian Wilson	1994 - 1999	Scott Turner	1999 - 2001
John Starr	2001 - 2005	Tom Fergusson	2005 - 2012
John Starr	2012 - 2015	Lyle Crawford	2015 - 2019
Derek Easton	2019 - >		

The Band takes part in many events during each year. Some are regular and occur each year and some are one off celebrations. All of them allow the band to further its objectives, be it locally, nationally or internationally.

TIME LINE

1884 to ??	- Local apprentices form a band (no official record)
1899	- The start of the first of the North Berwick Pipe Bands
1901 to 1914	- First official record of a North Berwick Pipe Band
1932 to 1939	- North Berwick Scouts Pipe Band
1950 to 1953	- North Berwick Rover Scouts Pipe Band
1957 to date	- North Berwick (Baden Powell) Pipe Band

(1884)
- Rumoured that local apprentices played together in North Berwick.

1899
- This is considered to be the start of the first North Berwick Pipe Band getting together as a unit.

1901
- Inauguration of the first (official) North Berwick Pipe Band.

1902
- Played at Coronation celebrations under Pipe Major William Hume.
- President was Andrew Aitken, proprietor of local sweet shop.
- P/M Hume, Dave Slicer and Alex Laing played for King Edward VII as he convalesced in North Berwick.

1935
- Scout Pipe Band took part in World Jamboree at Copenhagen, Denmark

1950
- Scout Pipe Band took part in World Jamboree at Fredericia, Denmark.

1953
- Scout Band took part in the Coronation Parade in North Berwick

1957
- Scout Band re-formed as North Berwick (Baden-Powell) Pipe Band. Capt. D.R. MacLennon was one of the founders.
- President: Provost JR Wishart (was President for 10 years).
- Hon President: Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple
- Bass Drummer: Willie Adams
- Lyle Crawford joined the Band at the age of 11
- Played at the Scouts Golden Jubilee Parade

1966
- Tony Patzchky became Pipe Major.
- Entered competitions for the first time: Grade IV – Edinburgh (Scottish) – 3rd., Lanark – 3rd., Ayr – 4th., Renfrew (British) – 6th.

1967
- President: George Darling
- Beat Group concert held to raise funds – Hits the papers when the Council bans the event then withdraws ban hours later.
- North Berwick Pipe Band Contest started – 24 Bands take part, 4,000 spectators. Chieftain Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple. This is the only contest run by a pipe band.
- A concert is held with Jimmy Shand to raise money for the Contest.
- Band takes part in the Burgh Regatta at the Harbour.
- North Berwick is reported in the papers as East Lothian's only pipe band.

1969
- Visit from the Bagad Pipe Band from Vannes, Bretagne, France.

1970
- North Berwick looking at starting a Juvenile Band.
- Competition Results: Grade IV – North Berwick – 1st., Edinburgh (Scottish) – 1st., Renfrew (British) – 2nd., Meadowbank – 3rd.

1972
- Win Marching and Discipline in Grade III at Hawick (Worlds)

1973
- George Darling made Honorary Vice President of the Northern Ireland Branch.
- Tartan Fair – guest band Bilston Glen Pipe Band
- Presentation to Denholm Craig on his 21st birthday.
- Sunday Lodge: Guest band - Fredrikstad Guther Musiktogs & Rivers and District Pipe Band

1974
- "This is Your Life" dinner for George Darling's 70th birthday.
- Tartan Fair - guest band Boghall and Bathgate Pipe Band.

1975
- Tartan Fair - guest band Dalkeith Pipe Band.

1979
- Revival of the Burgh piper playing curfew Mondays, Fridays & Saturdays on the Harbour wall during July & August. This continues for three years.

1982
- Band's 25th Anniversary
- George Darling dies
- Willie Adams becomes President

1984
- D.R. MacLennon dies – One of the founders of the Band in 1957.
- First trip to the USA – Boston, North Andover, North Berwick, Camden, Standish and Biddeford

1985
- Produce a joint recording with the North Berwick Junior Gaelic Choir.

1986
- Memorial plaque unveiled for D. R. MacLennon who was involved with the founding of North Berwick Pipe Band in 1957 and tutoring pipers for many years following.

1987
- 8th July – Start of the annual Wednesday evening performances in the Lodge Grounds during July and August. East Lothian Council, as part of their summer entertainment programme, initially gave financial support for this. Latterly it has been self-funded by the Band.

1988
- Glasgow Garden Festival

1990
- Second USA trip – Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and Fort Ticonderoga - New York State.

1993
- Game Fair, Gosford Estate

1994
- Drum Major Willie Adams passes away. Willie was the driving force behind the USA tours.
- Third trip to the USA– Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Fort Ticonderoga - New York State.
- Ian Wilson takes over as President.

1996
- Concert for Rabbie Burns 200th anniversary

1997
- Visit from the St Andrews Society of Vermont

1998
- Playing for the SGU at Gullane
- Beating Retreat at Gosford House

1999
- Ian Wilson retires as President and Scott Turner is elected to the position.
- Vagliano Trophy for the LGU

2001
- North Berwick Highland Games – 3rd in Grade 4 Confined, 6th in Grade 4 Open ▪ Paul McGinley retires as Pipe Major.
- John Starr takes over as President

2003
- Contingent representing East Lothian at the Internationale Folklorelawine, Forst, Germany
- Beating Retreat at Lennoxlove House, Haddington

2004
- Contingent representing East Lothian at the Folklore Festival, Cottbus, Germany along with members from the Dunedin Dance Academy. This continues to the present day.
- Edinburgh Marathon
- Beating Retreat at Lennoxlove House, Haddington
- Novice Juvenile Band formed

2005
- Pipefest with visiting De la Salle Scout band from Waterford, Eire
- Playing for American Fire Chiefs at the Fire Training School, Gullane
- Massed Band for Scotland International Rugby at Murrayfield – Autumn Tests

2006
- Massed Band for Scotland International Rugby at Murrayfield – Six Nations
- Performing at the Forst Cycle Club Centenary in Germany
- Festival Cavalcade as the Centenary Scout Pipe Band with visiting De la Salle Scout band from Waterford, Eire and representatives from other Scout bands, troops and Associations.

2007
- Scout Founder's Day, Dunfermline
- Derek Easton (Vice President & Leading Drummer) has now played in both the Centenary Boys' Brigade Pipe Band (1983) and the Centenary Scout Pipe Band (2006/07)
- Centenary Scout Pipe Band at Blair Atholl
- Parade for the Ashington Royal British Legion, Northumberland
- Festival Cavalcade as the Centenary Scout Pipe Band with visiting De la Salle Scout band from Waterford, Eire and representatives from other Scout bands, troops and Associations.

2008
- Contingent at Waterford for St Patrick's Day
- East Fortune Air Museum for WWII event
- Hopetoun House with Post Office and Stockbridge Pipe Bands
- Beating Retreating Haddington
- Centenary Scout Pipe Band at Blair Atholl for International Jambourette
- Festival Cavalcade as the Centenary Scout Pipe Band with visiting De la Salle Scout band from Waterford, Eire and representatives from other Scout bands, troops and Associations.
- Home International Golf Competition at Muirfield
- North Berwick Scouts Centenary Parade
- Beating Retreat in North Berwick

2009
- East Lothian Homecoming Parades
- East Lothian Massed Band in Longniddry
- Queen's visit to the Seabird Centre

2010
- Green Week Festival, Berlin, Germany
- 20th Anniversary of German Re-unification, Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle
- St Ninian's Parade for the Pope's visit to Edinburgh

2011
- Festival de Folclore Internacional Alto Minho – Viana do Castelo, Portugal

2015
- Playing at the foot of the Mound, Edinburgh with the Post Office band

2016
- Hops in the Garden, Archerfield with Barbara Dickson (for Leuchie House)

2017

- Band celebrates its 60th anniversary with a formal dinner in Edinburgh Castle
- Denholm Craig, a long-time member of the band, dies
- Festival Intercélticu de Avilés y Comarca, Spain
- Hops in the Garden, Archerfield with Fiona Kennedy (for Leuchie House)

2018

- Contingent visit Waterford for St Patrick's Day Parades
- Weddings at Dundas Castle, Gosford House, Fenton Tower and Archerfield House
- Continuing the visits to the Internationale Folklorelawine in Germany
- Jornadas Celticas del Oriente de Asturias, Spain
- Hops in the Garden, Archerfield with Fish (for Leuchie House)
- Pipers take part in the "Battle's O'er" event to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI.
- Tom Ferguson is made Life Honorary President
- Keith Milligan stands down as Pipe Major for health reasons. Eddie McFadzean steps into the gap

2019

- Contingent visit Waterford for St Patrick's Day Parades
- Continuing the visits to the Internationale Folklorelawine in Germany
- Lyle Crawford stands down as President and is succeeded by Derek Easton.

2020

- The 1st year of the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic. After the initial lockdown in March all events, competitions and performances were cancelled.
- Piping and drumming tuition continues online via various "conferencing" platforms.
- The Band is accepted as one of the local causes to be supported by the Coop Community Fund. This supports the purchase of electronic chanters to permit face to face practices to continue (when possible).
- Relaxation of restrictions allows outside practicing on Elcho Green (with appropriate physical distancing).

2021

- Year 2 of Covid. Restrictions on gatherings continue.
- Ongoing Zoom and Skype practicing and tuition. Playing on the Green as the weather improves and 'Lockdown' is eased.
- Tom Fergusson, former Pipe Major, President, Tutor and Hon. Life President passed away in May of this year.
- Highland Games cancelled for the 2nd year but North Berwick and Haddington Pipe Bands along with the Dunedin Dance Academy are able to put on a performance in Quality Street.
- Things start to return to normal with the Armistice Parade taking place as in previous years.

2022

- The band starts taking on engagements again with galas, weddings and parades.