

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month April	Year 2025		Day 31	Month March	Year 2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name NONSUCH DULCIMER CLUB

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1184249

Charity's principal address Flat 10 Holmwood House

6 Purshall Close

Redditch

Postcode B97 4PD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	CHRISTINE ANN FITT	CHAIR		Members
2	JAMES LOW CORMIE			Members
3	SANDRA HUDSON			Members
4	WILLIAM JAMES DUDDY			Members
5	GEOFFREY DAVID REEVE-BLACK		10/11/2025 –	Trustees
6	ANDREW ROBERT MCLAUCHLIN		10/11/2025 –	Trustees
7				
8				
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution dated 20/10/2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by members or appointed by charity trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity is run on a day-to-day basis by a Board of Trustees, assisted by other volunteers.

The charity is a member of the NCVO, Making Music as well as the Cimbalom World Association and is an affiliate member of EFDSS. The Cimbalom World Association and EFDSS provide networking and music specific opportunities. The NCVO and Making Music in particular are invaluable in providing advice, training, tools and self-assessments for the trustees and volunteers.

Following the adoption of a risk management policy, the trustees have continued to work on and update the risk register. We have developed a regular cycle of reviewing our policies and procedures.

We continue to review our progress using the NCVO "Trusted Charity Essentials" online tool to help target our ongoing policy development.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art, heritage and science of music in all its aspects, and in particular as they relate to the hammered, plucked and mountain dulcimer families of musical instruments (including international variants), primarily but not exclusively within the British Isles and by any means the trustees see fit; including through the presentation of public concerts, recitals, workshops, lectures, festivals, conferences, exhibitions and the provision of grants in support of these aims.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The activities in which Nonsuch is involved all carry the purpose of advancing musical knowledge, techniques and experience among anybody with an interest in music, particularly dulcimers in all their forms. All activities are open to all, not restricted to club members.

Online activities

- monthly music sessions, via Zoom, open to all musicians from any country, any playing ability
- dulcimer workshops, via Zoom, provided by professional musicians. Attended by mountain & hammered dulcimer players mainly from UK and US.
- Beginner tuition workshops, given by club members via Zoom, for both hammered dulcimer and mountain dulcimer players

In-person activities

- Nonsuch organises an annual residential weekend (3-day) event in October, open to non-members as well as members. This features dulcimer workshops for all playing levels with teaching delivered by professional tutors (from UK, US & Europe) as well as club members. The event also features concerts and plenty of opportunities for attendees to extend their musical repertoire.
- Another, smaller midweek event (Spring Fling), is held each April in Newcastle. this event features mountain dulcimer workshops & tuition given by attendees, plus HD tuition from a guest tutor. It also features a presentation given by a notable folk musician as guest speaker. This event has recently expanded to increase local community links by including a programmed visit to the well-known Bridge Folk Club in Newcastle, at which dulcimers are a major feature of the evening's entertainment.
 - The Spring Fling has also enabled Nonsuch to strengthen its relationship with the famous Morpeth Gathering, an event which takes place over the previous weekend. Club volunteers have held informal 'meet the dulcimer' events plus 'have a go' sessions and have received excellent interest & support from members of the public.
- On a partnership basis with the National Centre for the Folk Arts (Halsway Manor) Nonsuch works with Halsway to host & programme the annual Dulcimer Week.
- Club volunteers often attend (in a personal capacity) various festivals and community events throughout the UK at which they promote dulcimers to members of the public, often providing them with the opportunity to have a go at playing both mountain and hammered dulcimers. The Club supports these volunteers by providing promotional material, advertising via website and social media, occasionally finance to help with venue hire. Nonsuch can also assist, if required, with the provision of instruments from the Club loan collection: the club has a collection of 24 MDs that can be used for workshops, plus several loan HDs.

Other support

- Nonsuch operates a successful dulcimer loan scheme, in which people can hire a dulcimer initially for three months and 'try it out' at home. This is very popular as opportunities to gain initial

experience with a hammered dulcimer in particular are exceptionally limited.

- Nonsuch uses its website and communication & social media platforms to share music & news, to advertise and promote open events and activities arranged by both Nonsuch members & those organised by related musical groups and organisations in the UK and internationally. It also publishes four quarterly newsletters.
- The Nonsuch website provides contact info for many dulcimer teachers, in the UK, US, France and Germany.
- Nonsuch also offers reduced rates to students at the Annual Weekend

The charity trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have followed this in planning and undertaking our activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Club had approx. 40 volunteers helping with various aspects of organisation over the period (not including trustees).

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Nonsuch Annual Weekend October 2025, held at Malvern St James Girls School. This attracted about 70 dulcimer players. Professional tutors – 2 from the US, 3 from UK – taught hammered & mountain dulcimer workshops ranging from beginners through to advanced.

Spring Fling, held at the Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle 29th April-1st May 2025. Very successful (increased attendance): local folk singer, MD player & author Jez Lowe as guest speaker/performer. Also another successful dulcimer focus at the Bridge Folk Club in Newcastle.

Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering 25-26 April 2025. The organisers provided Nonsuch with timetabled slots during which club members ran a music session followed by well-attended 'Come & Try' sessions.

Online professional dulcimer workshops via Zoom. Organised as a 'taster' for the October 2025 Annual Weekend, featuring some of the invited professional dulcimer tutors. Attendees from UK, US & Europe

Monthly Zoom music sessions. Players mainly from UK & US. Enjoyable and popular, however numbers attending are gradually reducing, which is not unexpected.

Beginner online dulcimer tuition workshops. 2025-26 students = approx 40. Both hammered and mountain dulcimer beginners; approx every two months. Began in autumn 2024, increasingly popular. Potential students are signposted to these classes mainly via word of mouth or from the Nonsuch website.

Dulcimer Loan Scheme. A total of 18 people hired dulcimers over the year as part of the Dulcimer Loan Scheme.

Nonsuch membership has seen an increase of 24 to 395. *An increase in Nonsuch membership demonstrates the value of the organisation in being able to attract new players and introduce them to the networking and teaching opportunities available. New members often join having attended open beginners' workshops at festivals or community events.*

Festivals & Community Events.

- Club members offered MD introductory workshops at Shrewsbury Folk Festival (August 2025) and Glastonbury Abbey Frost Fayre (November 2025).
- General dulcimer 'come & try' sessions plus a music session were also featured at Edgworth Folk Festival (Oct 2025).
- Nonsuch provided a collection of MDs to enable a club member to visit and play for an organisation for refugees and asylum seekers in Sheffield (Feb 2026). Attendees from Kurdistan, Syria, Punjab, Afghanistan, Cameroon were able to have a go at playing the mountain dulcimer.
- This collection of MDs has also been utilised in schools – both primary & secondary – to introduce students to the instrument.

Plans for the future.

- The recent recruitment of additional Trustees & volunteers will enhance Nonsuch's skills base & enable a strengthened focus on the Club's public outreach and promotion capabilities throughout the UK. It is anticipated that such a move will help Nonsuch to become increasingly relevant and of interest to a wider age-range of the population.
- We continue to develop our policy documents and operating plan as a basis for a successful and well managed charity.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Nonsuch Dulcimer Club ensures it has sufficient cash reserves at any time to cover all its outstanding commitments.

For the reporting period we had a written reserves policy. This policy sets a reserve of £22,180 for 2025-26, based on potential commitments over the year, as well as cash flow for general expenses.

Maintaining these reserves will not impact our ability to implement club programmes.

The trustees review the level of reserves that are required at least annually to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

At the end of the period, we had 395 members. The membership fees (which have remained at £10 per annum for UK members for many years) covered our basic operating costs.

Additional variable income is generated by organising our workshop events throughout the year, which support our key objectives. These are designed generally to break even, but as they are popular we sometimes make a small surplus which is used to further the aims of the charity.

Our accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. This year our accounts show a surplus of £612 (not including refundable deposits). The income and expenditure for our events span more than one year but these generally break even. Most of the surplus is from general club activities and donations.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Sandra Hudson.

Full name(s)

Christine Ann Fitt

Sandra Hudson

Position (eg Secretary, Chair,
etc)

Chair

Trustee

Date

27th July 2026



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1/4/2025	To	Period end date 31/3/2026
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General Club (Trading Receipts)	5,194		-	5,194	5,632
Online Workshops 2024	-		-	-	260
Online Workshops 2025-26	2,220		-	2,220	-
Spring Fling 2024 (In Person)	-		-	-	130
Spring Fling 2025 (In Person)	90		-	90	1,870
Spring Fling 2026 (In Person)	1,875		-	1,875	-
Annual Weekend 2024	-		-	-	26,741
Annual Weekend 2025	25,087		-	25,087	-
Bank Interest Received	669		-	669	-
Loan Instrument Deposits (Received)	-	550	-	550	300
Gift Aid	-		-	-	-
General Donations	42	50	-	92	293
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,177	600	-	35,777	35,226
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Loan Instrument Sales	200	-	-	200	-
Sub total	200	-	-	200	-
Total receipts	35,377	600	-	35,977	35,226
A3 Payments					
General Club (Trading Costs)	2,141		-	2,141	2,635
General Admin/Governance Costs	1,313		-	1,313	1,311
Online Workshops 2024	-		-	-	-
Online Workshops 2025-26	2,178		-	2,178	418
Spring Fling 2024 (In Person)	-		-	-	301
Spring Fling 2025 (In Person)	1,145		-	1,145	703
Spring Fling 2026 (In Person)	1,555		-	1,555	-
Annual Weekend 2024	750		-	750	20,897
Annual Weekend 2025	25,212		-	25,212	-
Loan Instrument Deposits (Returned)	-	500	-	500	250
Charitable Grants (England & Wales)	-		-	-	-
Charitable Grants outside England & Wales	-		-	-	-
Sub total	34,295	500	-	34,795	26,515
A4 Asset and investment purchases,					
Loan Instrument Purchases	470	-	-	470	-
Sub total	470	-	-	470	-
Total payments	34,765	500	-	35,265	26,515
Net of receipts/(payments)	612	100	-	712	8,712
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,001	1,411	-	35,412	26,700
Cash funds this year end	34,613	1,511	-	36,124	35,412

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
	Bank	34,613	1,511	-
	Paypal	-	-	-
	Cash	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	34,613	1,511	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Loan Instrument Inventory	Unrestricted	-	12,065
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Instrument Deposits	Restricted	400	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Christine Ann Fitt	27/07/2026
Sandra Hudson.	Sandra Hudson	27/07/2026



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	NONSUCH DULCIMER CLUB		
On accounts for the year ended	31 MARCH 2026	Charity no (if any)	1184249
Set out on pages	1-2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2026

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 10/09/2026

Name:

Dorothy Margaret Leddy

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

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Address:

2 Station Hill
Hampstead Norreys
Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 0RS

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).