



Guide to Fundraising

To help pipers raise funds to buy their own set of pipes,
and ideas to help bands fundraise
for their own stock of pipes and other activities

Fundraising for Bagpipes

Busking

Busking is a useful way of raising funds. You might want to consider major events locally or nationally. A good example is the Edinburgh Festival but there are many music festivals across the summer during which you could play, for example at HebCelt or Celtic Connections. Busking at popular tourist spots like ferry terminals or viewpoints or in a town centre on a busy day can also work well. You must always plan your busking with your family and with your tutor.

Playing solo

People often want a piper to play at a family event such as a birthday or wedding, and pipers are paid for this service. You could offer your service as a piper to family and friends and explain that you are raising funds to buy your own set of pipes.

Playing as a group

Community organisers often seek pipers or a pipe band to lead off an event such as a summer fete. There are also local clubs and associations that might want you to play for them.

Former players

Sometimes there might be a person in your community who used to play and has a set of un-used pipes who might lend them to your band or even donate them if they know that their pipes are going to a good home. Your local newspaper would be interested in publishing a photo of you and your band members and would let people know that you would like to receive donations either of cash or old pipes that you can refurbish.

Organise an event

You could raise funds by organising a fundraising or sponsored event. For example, you might organise a concert with your band and sell tickets, or you might ask people to sponsor you for doing something useful like a litter pick.

Crowd funding

This is where you let people know that you are raising funds to buy a set of pipes, and you ask them to make a contribution, by posting on a website like GoFundMe. Always do this with an adult, and follow the rules on the website.

Grants

Some charities support individual students studying music and may offer grants or interest free loans for instruments over a number of years. There are normally more applicants than there is available finance, however, an application costs you nothing to complete and, if you fill it in well, you might have success. Here are some websites you might want to look at:

[Youthlink Scotland](#)

[UMUK Sound Foundation](#)

[Musicians Union](#)

[Royal Celtic Society](#)

Saying 'Thank You'

Do not forget to say thank you to any helper or donors and make sure they can see how their donation was used. A letter of thanks can work wonders, and lets people know how you have progressed.



Photo: Kirsten, 10, practising for her first Burns Supper.

Photographer: Fraser Cameron

Fundraising for bands

Most band members and supporters will already be familiar with fundraising and these funding sources, but we hope that you might find one or two ideas here that are new to you.

Grants

[Foundation Scotland](#)

This organisation represents many grant funders and is worth exploring. If you would like someone at SSPDT to read your funding application and to suggest some additional supporting information before you submit it, we will try to help.

[Funding Scotland](#)

This is a free website that you can use to search for grants. There you will find local and regional funders, as well as major funders that have supported other youth bands including:

- [Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative](#)
- [The People's Postcode Lottery](#)
- [The Robertson Trust](#)
- [National Lottery Awards for All](#)

Large businesses often channel their donations through charitable foundations; these include high street banks and supermarkets such as Santander, Bank of Scotland, Co-op, and Scotmid. Some banks and other companies run schemes whereby they match funds raised by an employee. Of course, smaller local businesses will often make a donation, or sponsor a band too. It is always a useful exercise to find out what companies your supporters and parents work for and ask them to find out what community support is available.

Windfarms and coalfield regeneration trusts support local community projects.

Firms of solicitors are often entrusted to manage charitable Trusts that distribute grants for the benefit of the community. It is worthwhile approaching solicitors in your area to find out if there are any funds that could support your band. Councils also often manage Trusts that distribute grants on behalf of local people who have left money for the community in their Will.

Most regional Councils have Local Area Committees governed by your local councillors, that give grants to projects in their area.

Become a charity

Many funders will only support registered charities. If you would like to link with other band support committees that became charities, please get in touch with SSPDT.

Sponsorship

One of the best sources of support, because it can last for a long time, is annual sponsorship. In return for some publicity and performances, a sponsor can remain a loyal supporter over many years.

Events

Of course, paid gigs for events and organisations are one of the main ways that established bands raise funds.

More information

The Complete Fundraising Handbook by Nina Botting Herbst

[GoFundMe](#)

[Foundation Scotland – Grants by location](#)

The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) is a national charity that helps to provide piping and drumming tuition in state schools and supports schools pipe bands. The Trust awards grants, lends bagpipes and offers guidance. SSPDT also organises the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships. The Trust was formed in the belief that pipe bands encourage important skills for life, learning and work, such as teamwork, camaraderie, confidence, resilience and perseverance.

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www.thechampionships.org.uk

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