



Chair's Report 2022-2023, 2 December 2023

Trustees and Associates

As always, I wish to begin with my thanks to the other Trustees and to all the Associates and other volunteers. Without their commitment the Society could not function. They give their time freely and enthusiastically and I am very grateful for their support.

The Trustees were pleased to welcome Helen Young onto the Board of Trustees. Helen is an active member of the Teachers Sub-Committee and involved in many of our activities, including the Summer School.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us with our activities so please get in touch if you are interested in becoming more involved.

The Trustees met four times on Zoom during the year and there were regular meetings of our sub-committees, including the Teachers Sub-Committee and Publications Sub-Committee.

In particular, I would like to thank Anne Daye, Lizzie Abusch, Jan and Derek Guyatt,

David Parsons, Gill Plant, Anne and Richard Smithies, for their support, hard work and commitment to HDS.

Publications

The Publications Sub-Committee, chaired by Anne Daye, is one of our most active groups and this year has been no exception.

I particularly wish to thank Jan and Derek Guyatt for their dedication, commitment

and hard work in managing publications and our online shop. This can be complex

as we receive a significant number of international enquiries.

HDS published Dances of Fashionable Society: Cotillons, Quadrilles, Country Dances, Couple Dances and a Solo, 1762-1887, by Ellis and Christine Rogers. The publication is available as a book and 2 CD set or as a download. Ellis and Christine

re-visited dances they previously researched for HDS summer schools and selected

Ellis's favourite dances. Ellis hopes that these will enthuse dancers to follow in his

footsteps and pass the dances on to others. The publication was launched at an event in September and we were delighted that Ellis and Christine were able to attend.

Work continues on future publications, Dances of the French Court, a collection of dances for Queen Victoria's balls by Joseph Lowe and a Playford dances collection.

Our other publications continue to sell steadily from the HDS online shop.

Work on digitising older publications and preparing them for sale as digital

downloads has been completed. Thank you to David Parsons for his work behind the

scenes in scanning and preparing items for digital release.

Events and Activities

The theme of our annual Summer School was Dances of the Italian Renaissance: exploring fifteenth and sixteenth century dance. It was held at Bromsgrove School in

the West Midlands, 14-21 July 2023. As usual there was a short weekend course and a full week's course running concurrently. Tuition from Letizia Dradi, Anne Daye

and Robert Huggett was excellent and there was a good range of evening activities.

Bromsgrove School has superb dance and drama facilities and helpful staff. The campus is large with attractive grounds. Although feedback was generally very positive there were concerns about the choice of food particularly for people who have vegetarian/vegan diets. We are raising this with Bromsgrove School. Special thanks to Gill Plant, Summer School Administrator, for her cheerful and tireless work and support.

Preparations are well advanced for the 2024 Summer School which will be held at

Bromsgrove School, 12-19 July 2024. The topic is Strictly Victorian and the tutors are Birte Hoffmann-Cabenda, Sasza Zargowski and Libby Curzon.

For many years Anne Daye has been managing and planning the Summer School.

She has now decided to stand down from this role and we are grateful to Helen Young who has taken this over. Many thanks to Anne for all her hard work.

We ran the following weekend and one-day courses:

Dancing Well, Dancing Longer, 3-5 February 2023, at Benslow Music. Kath Waters was the tutor and she explored dances from Renaissance and Baroque periods with

a focus on the development and application of technical skills and safe dance practice.

Dances of Fashionable Society, 23 September 2023, at St Pancras Church Hall, London. This was a celebratory day, launching the new HDS publication of the same

name by Ellis and Christine Rogers (who attended) with a day workshop run by Libby Curzon.

For all our events there is always a team of people working quietly in the background, planning, commissioning tutors, managing bookings and payments, and

organising practical arrangements, to ensure that things run smoothly on the day.

Some of our recent events have not attracted as many bookings as we would wish

which is disappointing. The Trustees will be looking at ways of maximising

attendance, marketing events to a wider audience, collaboration with others on events and the possibilities of combining online elements.

HDS Website

We are extremely grateful to David Parsons for his work on keeping the website up to date and introducing improvements. David has now taken on the role of webmaster.

HDS Journal

Thank you to David Parsons, Editor of the Journal and to the Editorial Committee. David maintains the Journal pages on the website. This provides an invaluable resource for historical dance researchers and students. David adds new articles on-line and when there are a sufficient number they are compiled into a printed edition and sent to members. Historical Dance Volume 4, No 4, 2022 was printed and posted to members.

The latest articles in Volume 4, Number 5 of Historical Dance are now available online. These articles reflect the importance we place on our legacy. A short piece

entitled Music and Movement – Music and Dancing – Dancing, Movement and Music by Nathalie Dolmetsch (founder of the Historical Dance Society) was recently

passed on to the society by Louise Bailey, her daughter. We have published this online in Historical Dance, a transcription by Anne Daye. Although clearly a first draft, as suggested by the titles, the topic remains relevant to historical dancers today. To accompany this, we have a biography of Nathalie Dolmetsch (1905-1989) by Anne Daye. It paints a picture of a talented musician, dancer, teacher and

organiser (she was also instrumental in founding the Viola da Gamba Society and began the historical dance summer schools) from a remarkable family. The article is

based on written sources, on conversations of Anne and Ann Hinchliffe with Marie-

Louise Bailey and Marie-Thérèse Budd, Nathalie's daughters, and on Anne's recollections of Nathalie from summer schools and the early years of the Historical

Dance Society.

HDS Newsletter

We are still seeking a new Editor for the printed HDS Newsletter. As an interim measure myself and Talitha MacKenzie are currently preparing the Winter 2023-24

edition for printing and this should be with you soon.

The Members Email News goes out fortnightly to members and is a compilation of

events, activities and news items about historical dance, music, costume and related

activities. Contributions are always welcome and I rely on you to keep me informed.

External Contacts and Collaboration

Several members of HDS ran workshops and dance/music performances at Medieval Music in the Dales, 8-10 July 2023, at Bolton Castle, near Leyburn in the Yorkshire Dales. This is an annual music festival attracting many early musicians and other interested people. This year the theme was Transitions: the fifteenth century and the focus was on dance. All the dance workshops were fully booked from an early stage. HDS gave a contribution of £400 towards the festival. In March I gave an informal illustrated talk on Medieval Dance at the Medieval Music in the

Dales online festival as a 'taster' for the main festival.

We were delighted to be able to send a group of dancers to perform Renaissance dances at the Early Dance Circle 40 th Anniversary Festival, held at Hereford Town

Hall, 20-22 October 2023. The group included a couple of dancers who had represented (D)HDS at the first Festival, and another one who had danced for the society at the second Festival. Our programme included *Dolce Amoroso Fuoco* also danced at the second Festival and two balletti from our published and recorded collections.

The proceedings of *Stepping On: A conference on Stepping in Dance* held at Cecil Sharp House, London on 16-17 November 2019, edited by Toby Bennett) have been

published. The conference was organised jointly by the Historical Dance Society, English Folk Dance and Song Society, Instep Research Team and the Dance Department of the University of Roehampton. A printed copy has been deposited in

the HDS Archive.

HDS was represented at the EDC Annual Lecture and the Oxford Symposium.

During the year, HDS has received numerous enquiries from students, researchers,

the media and the general public, mainly through the website. We try to provide helpful answers to all enquirers.

Organisation

We very much appreciate the support of you, our members. We rely on you to maintain a dynamic and thriving organisation. Thank you for your continued support.

Lynne Spicer

November 2023



**Secretary's Report for the Year 2022-2023
November 2023**

Richard Smithies

Membership

The Society currently has 92 members including 10 international members.

Web Collect continues to work well thanks entirely to the hard work of our Membership Secretary, Anne Smithies, which has enabled The Society to keep its members informed of the many things it is doing.

Web Collect has greatly simplified the booking and administration of Events.

Membership continues to support the activities of HDS so I would encourage everyone to continue their membership.

Website

Our thanks go to David Parsons for continuing to administer the Website.

Workshops and Events

Summer School

July 14th - 21st 2023

Dances of the Italian Renaissance - Exploring Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century Dance

Venue: Bromsgrove School.

Tutors:

Letizia Dradi

Anne Daye

Robert Huggett

Medieval Music in the Dales

September 7th - 10th 2023

HDS sponsored this event and awareness of the Society was raised by participating dancers from Herts Early Dance and Grantham Danseyre.

Dances of Fashionable Society

September 23rd 2023.

An event held at St Pancras Church Hall to launch the publication of *Dances of Fashionable Society* by Ellis and Christine Rogers together with an accompanying CD.

A workshop was led by Libby Curzon of Mrs Bennet's Ballroom.

Early Dance Circle 40th Anniversary Festival

21st October 2023 in Hereford.

HDS was represented at the Festival by the following dancers:

Anne Daye

Carol Wallman

Peter Greener

Hazel Dennison

Steve Young

Helen Young

Elaine Corke

They did the following dances:

Spagnioletta

Dolce Amoroso Fuoco

La Barriera Nuova

America's Dance Revolution 1876-1900

November 25th - 26th 2023 at Sadler's Wells

Tutor: Susan de Guardiola.

The Global Reach of HDS

1. Face Book

1,900 Followers

1,700 Likes

Gender of Followers:

Female 76.9%

Male 23.1%

These are virtually unaltered from 2022.

The majority of "likes" are from the UK 876

Then from the USA 372

Then from Italy 106

Which age groups view?

Only 4% are aged 18-24

After that followers are fairly evenly spread at 14-16% of each group.

The older age groups look at FaceBook.

2. Twitter

421 Followers = virtually the same as 2022.

3. YouTube

HDS Channels

A. The Historical Dance Society = the dance videos (lifetime statistics)

Subscribers 2,827 = an increase of 422 this year.

Views 743,000 = an increase of 124,000 this year

Watch Time 14,300 hours = an increase of 2,300 hours this year.

Most watched videos

The Galliard 169,000 views = an increase of 25,000.

La Volta 120,000 “ = an increase of 15,000.

Branle de l'Official 115,000 “ = an increase of 24,000.

Branle des Lavandieres 89,000 “ = an increase of 14,000.

Which age groups view?

18-24 years 33.8%

25-34 31.0%

35-44 10.6%

45-54 16.2%

55-64 1.9%

65+ 6.6%

The top three viewers are from : USA
 UK
 France

The younger age groups watch YouTube.

B. HDS Lectures Channel (Lockdown Lectures Channel) (lifetime statistics)

Which age groups view?

In 2022 65+ 100%

In 2023 A Third are 18-24
 A Third are 25-34
 A Third are 65+

Quite a shift in interest.

The top three viewers are from USA
 UK
 Germany

Trustees Meetings

Your Trustees have met on Zoom at regular intervals throughout the year.

The Journal

David Parsons Journal Editor's Report :

Historical Dance Volume 4 Number 4 was distributed to members shortly after the last AGM. It is too soon to say when the next issue will be published, as it depends on the number of articles received. So far we have published on-line a note by Nathalie Dolmetsch that was recently passed on to the Society by her daughter Louise Bailey. To accompany this, we have published a biographical article about Nathalie Dolmetsch written by Anne Daye.

We thank David for his continuing diligence and hard work in editing The Journal as well as the work of the Editorial Advisory Committee.

Richard Smithies

Secretary



The Historical Dance Society
Charity Number: 1178919

1st October 2022- 30 September 2023

The accounts included at the end of this report summarise the Society's

financial situation over the past two years.

Our total income for the year was £25,174 and our total payments £25,842.

It is noted that this year, the Society's funds decreased by £668

No long-term liabilities were recorded at the end of the year. Additionally, the Society operates solely with the help of volunteers and does not engage in any fundraising activities.

TRUSTEE FEES AND EXPENSES:

In the current year, Trustees were paid a total of £593.37 for the services they provided. These payments covered fees for speakers and tutors, including travel expenses. It should be noted that all these payments were reviewed and deemed appropriate according to the Society's guidelines and constitution.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Revenue from subscriptions experienced a decline of £502 compared to the previous year. This decrease can be attributed to a significant number of 5-year membership renewals that occurred last year. As a result, we anticipated a decline in membership income this year (but not in members), as reflected in the accounts, with fewer couples renewing their annual or 5-year memberships, but an increase in individual annual members.

DONATIONS:

We are grateful to report that this year we received donations from the Early Dance Circle, which were the proceeds from the sale of Velma Pursehouse's costumes. Additionally, we received £661 through Gift Aid. These donations contributed to an increase in our overall voluntary income this year.

BOOKS AND RECORDINGS:

Net sales of books and recordings amounted to £3,293, which is consistent with the previous year's sales.

EVENTS:

Throughout the year, the Society organized a total of five events. While three events (Dance in the Spanish Golden Age, Dancing Well, Dancing Longer, and Dances of the Italian Renaissance Summer School) incurred a deficit, the Shakespeare Online Festival and the launch workshop for Dances of Fashionable Society generated surpluses. Overall, the events program broke even, with a surplus of £191. However, it is worth noting that our events suffered from low attendance, and it is this that has impacted our income for the year.

PROJECTS:

The Society spent £250 to complete an ongoing project. No new projects were initiated during this period.

FUNDING SUPPORT:

We received an application for funding support from Medieval Music in the Dales, which was granted. The Society allocated £400 from its funds to support the Festival.

JOURNAL:

Volume 4 of our Journal was successfully published during this year.

CORE COSTS:

As our accounting method follows a cash basis, certain costs may appear in years where they do not belong, potentially distorting the overall picture. However, core costs, which reflect the necessary expenses to operate the Society, should remain relatively stable. This year, spending on core costs increased by £405. This difference can be attributed to additional payments made, such as an additional Zoom invoice and the cost of fulfilling our legal obligation to have our accounts independently examined, as well as an increase in prices and fees.

RESERVES:

The Society maintains an established reserves policy, which considers the potential risks associated with its activities. As of now, our reserves amount to £33,987.

SUMMARY

Overall, the Society experienced a decrease in assets amounting to £668. Of this amount, £400 was intentionally granted from our funds. The remaining deficit of £268 can be explained by the additional costs incurred this year. Given the predicted increase in prices for the upcoming year, we will remain vigilant of any further increases in expenses.

Lizzie Abusch
Treasurer
November 2023

	Income	2022/23	2021/22		Expenditure	2022/23	2021/22
Voluntary Services	Subscriptions	2,710	3,182				
	Donations	420	324				
	Gift Aid	661	147				
Trading Activities	Books and recordings	3,263	3,377	Trading Activities	Printing and postage	786	1,077
Projects				Projects	Books and recording	250	1,110
Events				Events			
	Workshops				Workshops		
20/21	Playford Festival		31	20/21	Playford Festival		50
	Summerschool 2022		19,984		Summerschool 2022	14,948	4,608
	Assembly for Jane Austen		1,190		Assembly for Jane Austen		348
	Dances with Shakespeare		8,220		Dances with Shakespeare		7,749
	Essential French Baroque		366		Essential French Baroque		578
22/23	Dance in the Spanish Golden Age	816	45	22/23	Dance in the Spanish Golden Age	944	400
22/23	Shakespeare's Dances: Online Festival	823			Shakespeare's Dances: Online Festival	220	
22/23	Italian Renaissance Dance - Dances for Noble Halls	24	151	22/23	Italian Renaissance Dance - Dances for Noble Halls	177	
22/23	Dancing Well, Dancing Longer	3,928		22/23	Dancing Well, Dancing Longer	3,638	520
22/23	Summer School 23 Dances of the Italian Renaissance	9,567			Summer School 23 Dances of the Italian Renaissance	1,101	
22/23	Dances for Fashionable Society - Launch	533		22/23	Dances for Fashionable Society - Launch	280	
23/24	America's Dance Revolution	550		23/24	America's Dance Revolution	1,056	
23/24	Dancing in Shakespeare's Era	700		23/24	Dancing in Shakespeare's Era		
Management				Management			
	IT and core costs				IT and core costs	1,114	709
	General Publicity and Communications				General Publicity and Communications	384	494
					Journal	544	
	Teachers, Music and pubs research				Teachers, Music and pubs research		69
	Receipts				Payments	25,442	
	Interest received from COIF Deposit Fund	1,179			Grant given	400	
	Total RECEIPTS	25,174			Total PAYMENTS	25,842	17,712
					ASSETS		
	BALANCE SHEET				CIO HSBC	23,019	24,867
	Balance from last year	57,674	38,270		COIF Charity Fund Deposit Account	33,987	32,808
	Add total receipts from above	25,174					
	Less total payments from opposite	25,842	17,712				
	Balance at year end 30/09/2023	57,006	57,675		TOTAL Carried Forward to 2023/24	57,006	57,675

