



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
From	01	01	2023	To	31	12	2023

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Decibellas

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1197363

Charity's principal address

7 Goosebrook Close

Comberbach

Northwich, Cheshire

Postcode

CW9 6BX

### 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	Joan Mason	Chair		
2	Gwyneth Struthers	Secretary		
3	Amanda Moran	Treasurer		
4	Deborah Jowett	Vice Chair		
5	Susan McNeil	Music Librarian		
6	Jacqueline Nevin	Events Co-ordinator	01.01.23 – 16.02.23	
7	Elizabeth Laycock	Events Co-ordinator	16.02.23 – 31.12.23	
8	Jacqueline Turner	Music Librarian		
9	Helen Rae	Fundraising & Sponsorship		
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### 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)

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution adopted on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022
How the charity is constituted	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods	Trustees are appointed or reappointed at the Annual General Meeting held in the spring term for a two-year term of office.

### 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 choir was granted charity status on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Membership of the choir is open to all adults who sing soprano or alto and can attend rehearsals in Tarporley, Cheshire.

The choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs.

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

- To promote the enjoyment of music through public concerts
- To use music to improve people's wellbeing
- To support other charitable organisations through the provision of grant funding

**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)**

In planning our activities for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The choir held a number of public performances during 2023:

- Joining Songs of Praise from Chester Cathedral in February
- Manchester Amateur Choral Competition
- Our summer concert in St Boniface Church, Bunbury in July
- Light up a Life service at St Luke's Hospice, Winsford
- Our Christmas concert at St Boniface Church, Bunbury.

#### **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.

In 2023 the choir decided to appoint our first Assistant Music Director, a young person with a strong musical background who seeks more experience in choral conducting. This position is intended to be for a two-year period initially. Under the stewardship of our Music Director, she is gaining experience in leading rehearsals, selecting repertoire and leading the choir in performance.

The choir relies on its members to volunteer to assist in all aspects of running the choir, including marketing, fundraising, music organisation, concert preparation and administration.

The choir is proud to support a charity called The Neuromuscular Centre for production of all our promotional materials and concert programmes.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The choir obtained charitable status on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

We held two concerts in 2023, attracting audiences of over 200 in Boniface Church, Bunbury. In keeping with our charitable objects, most of the proceeds have been awarded to local charities through small grants. The remaining proceeds have been retained for the advancement of the choir's objectives in purchasing new repertoire and improving performance.

Decibellas raised over £3,000 from ticket sales and sponsorship for each of its two concerts in 2023, held in July and December. With the proceeds, the committee decided to invite local charities to submit applications for a small grant. For 2023, choir members voted to support charities working in the field of children's mental health. Five charities submitted grant requests, all of which were awarded. The charities Decibellas awarded grants to are:

1. Platform for Life – awarded £1,000
2. Chapter – awarded £1,000.
3. Visyon – awarded £1,000.
4. Friends of CIS – awarded £500.
5. Motherwell – awarded £1,000.

Decibellas' members also invited one charity to hold a bucket collection at each of their two concerts. Platform For Life and Visyon raised £1,146.10 and £1,200 respectively.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £9.4k of which £6.2k is unrestricted.  
£1.5k represents members music deposits which are refunded when they leave and return their music to the choir. This sum is shown as restricted funds.  
Around £1.7k of funds are amounts deposited by members held for their use in funding the Tour to Sicily which took place in April 2024. This money is also shown as restricted funds.  
The balance is retained for working capital and unforeseen circumstances.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

### 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.

Our main source of funds is membership subscriptions, which are used to fund the cost of rehearsals – rent of rehearsal room and payment to the Musical Director and Accompanist, and also to purchase new music to expand the choir's repertoire.

We also raised money through our July and Christmas concerts (through ticket sales and sponsorship) which enabled us to share our pleasure in singing with the audience and also to support our nominated charities through our grantmaking programme.

## Section F

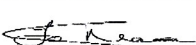

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Joan Mason	Amanda Moran
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	17 July 2024	





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Decibellas

On accounts for the year  
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1197363

Set out on pages

3 & 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 29th February 2024

Name:

Dr Alan Walter Downen

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

PhD, MChemE, CEng

Address:

17 Brookside, Ashton Hayes

Chester CH3 8BZ



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

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/01/2023

To

Period end date  
31/12/2023

### Section A Receipts and payments



	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Members subscriptions	12,495	-	-	12,495	11,561
Dresses	520	-	-	520	65
Sundry	209	46	-	255	62
Grants and donations	395	-	-	395	800
Workshop tickets	-	-	-	-	380
Wedding choir	200	-	-	200	1,080
July concert	3,292	-	-	3,292	2,252
Christmas concert	3,795	-	-	3,795	2,907
Money from members - Christmas party & Tour	1,594	26,325	-	27,919	1,711
Items bought and returned	13	-	-	13	64
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	210
Other events	-	-	-	-	250
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>22,512</b>	<b>26,371</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,883</b>	<b>21,341</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>22,512</b>	<b>26,371</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,883</b>	<b>21,341</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Music Director & Accompanist	9,410	-	-	9,410	7,675
Room Hire	1,512	-	-	1,512	1,264
Costs of concerts	2,935	-	-	2,935	1,765
Cost of other events	1,379	-	-	1,379	2,059
Charitable donations	4,500	-	-	4,500	2,250
Insurance	176	-	-	176	137
Computer security & websites, zoom	401	-	-	401	394
Sheet music	1,954	-	-	1,954	1,178
Bank charges	69	-	-	69	73
Payment for Christmas party	1,594	-	-	1,594	1,711
Items bought then returned	13	-	-	13	64
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	210
Sundry	959	-	-	959	629
Tour payments on behalf of members	24,480	-	-	24,480	-
Tour funded by choir	1,020	-	-	1,020	-
Members Tour money returned	1,200	-	-	1,200	32
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>51,602</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,602</b>	<b>19,440</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>51,602</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,602</b>	<b>19,440</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 29,090</b>	<b>26,371</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 2,719</b>	<b>1,900</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>25,665</b>	<b>- 25,665</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>9,617</b>	<b>2,554</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,171</b>	<b>10,270</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>6,191</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,452</b>	<b>12,171</b>



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at Bank (current a/c)	5,603.34	-	-
	Music deposit account	-	1,540	-
	Deposit account	588.12	-	-
	Tour account	-	1,720	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,191</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				
	Risers for performance	unrestricted	-	-
	Sheet music	unrestricted	-	-
	Keyboard	unrestricted	-	-
	Amp	unrestricted	-	-
	Curtains for risers	unrestricted	355	-
	Christmas garlands & storage bags	unrestricted	116	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				
	Tour account	unrestricted	1,720	
	Music deposits	unrestricted	1,540	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		AMANDA MORAN	15/2/24
		JOAN MASON	15/2/24





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
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On accounts for the year  
ended

31st December 2023

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## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
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To

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<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				
	Risers for performance	unrestricted	-	-
	Sheet music	unrestricted	-	-
	Keyboard	unrestricted	-	-
	Amp	unrestricted	-	-
	Curtains for risers	unrestricted	355	-
	Christmas garlands & storage bags	unrestricted	116	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				
	Tour account	unrestricted	1,720	
	Music deposits	unrestricted	1,540	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		AMANDA MORAN	15/2/24
		JOAN MASON	15/2/24