

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	January	2023		31	December	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The Viola da Gamba Society

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 258544

Charity's principal address

12 Macclesfield Road

Hazel Grove

STOCKPORT

Postcode

SK7 6BE

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	Alison Crum	President		
2	John Bryan	Chair		
3	Ibrahim Aziz			
4	Nicolas Hyde			
5	Mary Iden			
6	Ursula Fuller	Honorary Treasurer	Resigned 24 th April 2024	
7	Margaret Woodruff	Honorary Treasurer	Appointed 24 th April 2024	
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20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A		

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)	A constitution known as the Rules, adopted on 18 th June 2017
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Selected from the membership and from the wider music community according to skills and experience, and elected by members at the AGM.

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.

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Section C Objectives and activities

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

To advance the study of the viols, their playing, their music and their making, on the part of members of the society and the public generally.

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 Viola da Gamba Society (VdGS) began informally in 1948 and was registered on 14th April 1970 as a charity devoted to the education of the public in the music and history of the viola da gamba.

Annual membership fees are modest and affordable, starting at £30 p.a. for adults, with generous reductions for students, and membership is open to all, ensuring that there are no barriers to participation.

Education and training: Advancing the appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of Early Music and in particular the viola da gamba. Outreach to schools, music colleges and to adults of all abilities including novices. The viol hire scheme facilitates those without their own instrument to try the viol at a relatively low cost.

Research: Assisting research into the history of the viola da gamba and its music.

Publication: Making available editions of viola da gamba music for purchase by members of the public. Producing a quarterly newsletter for members and annual online Journal which both include a wide variety of articles.

The VdGS acts as a forum both for professional musicians and enthusiasts from all backgrounds to come together to share their enjoyment of the viola da gamba and its music. There are three to four online talks and regular online technique tutorials each year open to members, and occasional live meetings.

The trustees of the VdGS pay due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when planning their activities for the year.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

The VdGS benefits from the services of Honorary Officers who offer their expertise to ensure the smooth running of the charity:

Meetings Organiser Frances Watson took over from Trustee Ibrahim Aziz during the year; Newsletter Editor Mary Iden was supported by Chris Benson, Sue Benson and others;

Andrew Ashbee served as editor of the online *Journal* and as custodian of the *Thematic Index of Music for Viols*. The VdGS archivist was Will Robley.

Outreach officer: Linda Hill engaged with a wide variety of new audiences of all ages.

Tim Soar acted as Instruments Adviser and Susanne Heinrich managed the VdGS website and social media, both of which are essential for enhancing public awareness.

In all we count on the support of around ten committed volunteers each year and last but not least our part-time administrator Sue Challinor.

Section D	Achievements and performance
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The VdGS celebrated its 75th Anniversary during the year with a number of concerts and articles published in *The Viol*.

There were five online meetings during 2023 and two live meetings, including an Anniversary celebration in June. We continue to use the meetings as an opportunity to showcase up-and-coming viol players, through the Young Performers Platform.

The VdGS outreach programme continued to be successful in raising public awareness and in particular amongst students at universities and conservatoires where growing interest is supported by the VdGS viol hire scheme which is open to all members.

Younger players were supported through the *Jamulus ViolJam* initiative launched in 2023, which encourages consort playing both live and online and such was the success that this scheme is now enjoyed by adult players as well.

The Joy Doson Fund was able to offer modest bursaries to student members to enable participation without financial barriers and to fund professional tutors.

The VdGS continued to consolidate and catalogue its archive of materials, preserving valuable history of the Early Music movement and in particular of the viola da gamba.

Section E	Financial review
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Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

The charity has adopted an informal policy of having one year’s income in reserve to support its activities. This reflects the charity’s modest size. During 2024 it is intended that a formal reserves policy be adopted.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

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.

The charity's income derives from members' subscriptions, donations, occasional legacies and from hiring musical instruments to members, the sale of music editions and sundry services to members.

Expenditure supports educational activity to enhance public knowledge of the viola da gamba with live meetings, student bursaries, online meetings and videos and a periodic newsletter, plus the costs of maintaining the instrument hire scheme and sundry expenses.

The charity has no investments and any cash reserves are held in an interest-bearing bank account.

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)	Margaret Woodruff	
Full name(s)	Margaret Woodruff	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Honorary Treasurer	
Date	20 th August 2024	

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY
Accounts for year ended 31 December 2023

	General Fund	Viol Hire Fund	Joy Dodson Music Fund	2023 £ Total	2022 £	2021 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Subscriptions received	8,148			8,148	7,163	9,365
Donations for meeting speakers	183			183	410	1,086
Other donations	290		1,050	1,340	3,800	1,054
Gift Aid reclaimed	528			528	0	0
Unclaimed deposits				0	1,000	0
	9,150	0	1,050	10,200	12,373	11,505
Receipts for services to members						
Viol hire scheme fees		10,658		10,658	6,995	6,882
Viol hire insurance receipts		2,925		2,925	2,741	2,440
Sale of hire viols		1,700		1,700	0	0
Summer course fees				0	0	0
	0	15,283	0	15,283	9,736	9,322
Generated funds						
Newsletter sales	0			0	0	0
"The Viol" advertising	300			300	302	156
VdGS Music Edition sales	1,024			1,024	451	331
Sundry sales and receipts	1,414			1,414	914	1,133
	2,738	0	0	2,738	1,667	1,621
Investment income						
Bank interest	64			64	4	1
Total receipts	11,952	15,283	1,050	28,284	23,780	22,448
PAYMENTS						
Cost of membership services						
"The Viol": printing	1,316			1,316	1,091	689
distribution	1,375			1,375	2,305	1,328
Hire scheme repairs		2,576		2,576	3,699	4,641
Hire Scheme insurance		1,264		1,264	1,224	1,144
Hire Scheme commission		1,721		1,721	1,721	2,159
Purchase of hire viols		5,300		5,300	0	345
Joy Dodson bursaries			1,090	1,090	675	375
Meeting costs	2,076			2,076	3,376	3,367
Summer course costs	0			0	0	0
	4,767	10,861	1,090	16,719	14,091	14,048
Costs of generating funds						
Cost of goods for sale	0			0	315	57
VdGS Music Edition costs	169			169	668	164
Early Music Exhibition costs	520			520	556	527
	690	0	0	690	1,539	747
Support costs						
Administration: fees	4,195	2,097		6,292	6,231	5,440
Website and videoconferencing	218			218	218	0
Postage, stationery and sundries	594			594	664	569
PayPal and bank charges	96	126	1	223	221	241
Other costs	431			431	713	0
	5,534	2,224	1	7,758	8,047	6,251
Total payments	10,991	13,085	1,091	25,166	23,678	21,046
Net receipts/payments	961	2,198	(41)	3,118	102	1,402

	General Fund	Viol Hire Fund	Joy Dodson Music Fund	2023 £ Total	2022 £ Total	2021 £
Balances at 31/12/2022	9,603	13,868	1,485	24,956	24,854	23,452
Balances at 31/12/2023	10,565	16,066	1,444	28,074	24,956	24,854

STATEMENT OF CASH ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted	Joy Dodson	Total
Treasurer's Account	8,969	1,444	10,413
Music Edition Account	5,333		5,333
Deposit Account	7,321		7,321
PayPal Administration Account	1,924		1,924
PayPal Hire Account	3,066		3,066
PayPal Music Edition Account	17		17
Total cash at bank	<u>26,630</u>	<u>1,444</u>	<u>28,074</u>

Notes to the accounts

The insurance value of the hire instruments owned by the society was £133973 on 11/02/2020
The hire scheme commission due for 2024 is £2645.75

The Joy Dodson Music Fund is a restricted fund. This means that the money is earmarked to be spent on bursaries. The receipts are donations, the balance of a legacy, and sales of second hand music to fund bursaries.

Viol hire scheme deposits

Balance at 1 January 2022	1,500
Deposits received	0
Deposits repaid	(50)
Deposits forfeit	0
Old deposits transferred to general fund	
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>1,450</u>

Deposits for the hire scheme are refundable and so are not the Society's money. For that reason they are shown separately.

£1040 of the deposits are for viols currently on hire. The balance is old deposits that have never been reclaimed.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (a) which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met, and (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Caroline MacBrayne

24th April 2024