

Viola da Gamba Society

Charity number 258544

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts to 31st December 2025

1. Alison Crum, President

2025 saw many celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the death of Orlando Gibbons. Most of us will have enjoyed playing his music for many years, and this anniversary provided more opportunities than usual to feature his music in performance, including many events hosted by the VdGS during the year.

The VdGS has continued to provide meetings both 'live' and on 'Zoom', and the viol hire scheme is flourishing, however the running of the society is not getting any easier, and we are in constant need of more volunteers, especially younger ones, to help. We do have a number of officers supporting us (and I am very grateful to them all), but as John writes in his chair's report, we still need more offers of help, especially with the co-ordinating of meetings.

At the VdGS we do particularly wish to focus on developing younger players. There are a few, thanks to universities that have instruments which students can borrow, and some of these young people, when they can no longer rely on their institutions, are pleased to be able to use viols from our special student hire collection. But we do need to encourage more players, and what better way than helping them to buy their own instrument? Thanks to a number of very generous donations in the last couple of years, we have more viols in the hire scheme than we need, and we have taken the decision to sell some of the older instruments at an affordable price. This also helps finance building a collection of well-maintained higher quality ones for hire.

I hope that all our members enjoy being part our society, and that it will continue for many years. But, for that to happen, we need more volunteers (of all ages) and a new generation to keep the flame alive.

2. John Bryan, Chair

I would like to use my report this year primarily to thank and commend those trustees and officers whose enthusiasm and dedication keep the Society's activities engaging and relevant for all members. A year ago I noted that a vacancy had arisen for the essential role of meetings organiser. No-one has come forward to volunteer at the time of writing, and our meetings have been planned by a small team of trustees (Ibrahim Aziz, Mary Iden and myself) joined more recently by Esha Neogy. We hope we have continued to provide

interesting meetings both face-to-face and online, but would really welcome someone to take charge of planning as a new meetings organiser, supported by the current team.

Other non-trustee officers continue to play a vital role in taking a lead on various aspects of the Society's operations. While it is invidious to mention particular individuals, I would still like to do so. Linda Hill has offered particular help with the oversight of the viols in our hire collection, enabling us to identify those which are surplus to requirements and might best be sold to generate funds to invest in better quality instruments. Her work in maintaining strong contacts with universities and colleges where viols are taught, and the young people who are learning there, enables us to develop our membership. David Blazey [a trustee from April 2026] is now deputy editor of *The Viol*, our excellent quarterly journal, and it is good to have his expertise and enthusiasm in this role. I thank all of our volunteers, together with all the officers and trustees.

There will inevitably be periodic changes as individual's circumstances change: this year Ibrahim Aziz has decided that his professional commitments as a player and teacher preclude him from standing for re-election as a trustee. Ibi has been a vital member of the team of trustees whose contribution, especially to the planning and operation of our meetings has been exemplary, and we will miss his input hugely. Ibi has always given us sound advice and wise opinions when we have had difficult issues to resolve, and we wish him well in his performance career.

As in previous years, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Administrator Sue Challinor, who continues to be the first point of contact for many members. She has been doing sterling work in encouraging members to renew their subscriptions and provides the lead on the Society's presence at the annual exhibition at LIFEM.

3. Margaret Woodruff, Honorary Treasurer

2025 Accounts

The result for the year to 31st December 2025 was a surplus of £1,541, leaving the VdGS a healthy overall reserve of £26,718.

During the year 2025 income from members' subscriptions totalled £7,506, somewhat lower than 2024 (£8,007) but as a result of timing differences in receipts. A total of £2,198 in miscellaneous donations and other receipts was recorded, as well as an impressive £1,862 from sales of second-hand music which went towards the Joy Dodson Music Fund.

Viol hire fee receipts were slightly higher than 2024. The insurance charge for hirers covers our insurance costs and provides a little towards any repairs that are needed in between hires. Our charges remain modest and allow students of all ages to access instruments in support of their studies, both the Advanced Student viols and the main stock of hire viols. Some older instruments which had been in stock for a long time and had not been hired out were offered for sale and we were able to realise a total of £2,750 from this.

The VdGS stall at the London International Festival of Early Music (LIFEM) in November was very successful, attracting record sales of second-hand music, which came largely from donations and bequests, as well as the sale of two surplus trebles from stock.

On the expenditure side, distribution costs for *The Viol* have once more risen steeply with the increases in postal rates whilst printing costs for *The Viol* have again stayed about the same.

Hire scheme expenses have gone down considerably, as expected, after the much-needed overhaul of a large part of our hire stock in 2024. During 2025 numerous generous donations of instruments of all sizes were received for the hire scheme and we were most grateful for these. Naturally all donated instruments need assessment and, where necessary, repairs and setting up. As ever, we rely upon the excellent services of Bridgewood and Neitzert in London for making this service possible.

A total of £920 in Joy Dodson Music Fund bursary awards to individual students was made during the year. Other costs remained broadly the same despite the inevitable pressures from general inflation on our overheads.

4. Trustees

The Trustees who served during 2025 were as follows:

Alison Crum, President

John Bryan, Chair

Margaret Woodruff, Hon. Treasurer

Ibrahim Aziz [to 25 April 2026]

Nicolas Hyde

Mary Iden

From 25 April 2026:

David Blazey

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY
Year ended 31/12/2025

	General Fund	Viol Hire	Joy Dodson Music Fund	Total £ 2025 YEAR	Total £ 2024 YEAR
RECEIPTS					
				£	£
Voluntary receipts					
Subscriptions received	7,506			7,506	8,007
Donations for meetings speakers	218			218	514
Other Donations	519		1,862	2,381	1,737
Sally Morris donations	30			30	1,276
Other receipts	1,432			1,432	519
				11,566	12,053
Receipts for services to members					
Viol hire scheme fees		5,854		5,854	5,356
Viol hire insurance		3,559		3,559	3,669
Sale of hire viols		2,750		2,750	0
				12,163	9,024
Investment income					
Bank interest	59			59	87
TOTAL Receipts	11,883	12,163	1,862	25,907	23,032
PAYMENTS					
				£	£
Cost of membership services					
'The Viol' - printing	1,381			1,381	1,345
- distribution	2,653			2,653	1,979
Hire scheme expenses		1,621		1,621	8,459
Hire scheme insurance		1,388		1,388	1,298
Hire scheme commission 2024		1,339		1,339	0
Hire scheme commission 2023		2,665		2,665	0
Purchase of hire viols, bows, cases		300		300	750
Joy Dodson bursaries			920	920	225
Meetings & Exhibition costs	2,744			2,744	2,548
				15,010	16,605
Cost of generating funds					
Cost of goods for sale	0			0	575
VdSG Music Edition costs	0			0	548
Exhibition stand etc.	602			602	560
				602	1,683
Support costs					
Administration: fees	7,862			7,862	7,488
Website & video conferencing	0			0	170
Postage, stationery and sundries	333			333	870
PayPal and bank charges	163			163	201
Other support costs	396			396	363
				8,754	9,091
TOTAL payments	16,134	7,312	920	24,366	27,380
Surplus / (Deficit)				1,541	(4,348)

Viola da Gamba Society Year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Society Reserve	Joy Dodson Music Fund	Total £	Year
Balances at 31/12/2024	22,638	-	2,539	25,177	2024
Balances at 31/12/2025	8,237	15,000	3,481	26,718	2025

STATEMENT OF CASH ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted	Joy Dodson	Total £
Treasurer's Account	6,968	3,481	10,449
Music Edition Account	5,048		5,048
Deposit Account	7,467		7,467
PayPal Admin Account	3,729		3,729
PayPal Hire Account	24		24
Total Cash at Bank	<u>23,237</u>	<u>3,481</u>	<u>26,718</u>

Notes to the accounts

The insurance value of the hire instruments owned by the society was £178,875 on 22nd January 2025

The hire scheme commission payable for the year 2025 is £1,463.

Joy Dodson Music Fund

The Joy Dodson Music Fund is a restricted fund. The fund comprises the balance of a legacy plus receipts from donations of various kinds and is earmarked to be spent on student bursaries.

Bfwd 01/01/2025	2,539
Donations rec'd	1,862
Bursaries made	<u>- 920</u>
Cfwd 31/12/2025	<u>3,481</u>

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

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

19th March 2026