

SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS.

Edinburgh Branch Report for year 1963.

The Branch continues to meet weekly as a whole and in small groups in private homes. Numbers remain fairly steady - at the moment they are 44 fully paid up members and four students.

Since the last Branch Delegates Conference, there have been several highlights. A welcome visit from Dr. Dolmetsch and Mr. Saxby following a weekend School at Newbattle Abbey which was attended by quite a number of members of the Edinburgh Branch. There were also members from the Aberdeen Branch. Some members performed with Dr. Gal's chamber Orchestra and the Sine Nomine Singers, in the Spring. During the last week of the Edinburgh Festival, a quartet played each ~~week~~ night with the above group of singers in one of the fringe events.

A new venture this year was one evening during the summer when we were joined by some children who were pupils of members of the branch.

We are fortunate in having some members who are excellent soloists and at our special Christmas and Summer Evenings, we enjoy their playing with guest instrumentalists. We are also fortunate in being able to call on the services of a group of young string players who join us for these events.

It has become almost a tradition for the branch to have a residential weekend to which members can bring their families. This year we went to Carbery Tower, the former home of Lord Elphinstone, and now used as a Training Centre for Youth workers in the Church of Scotland. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find such places willing to take such a group, as they become fully booked up with the groups for whom the houses were intended originally.

Probably the most enjoyable highlight of the year was a visit to Kelso to join a group of players in Roxburghshire under the leadership of Mr. Brian Bonsor.

During the current season, the leadership of the branch is being shared by Mrs. Murray and Miss Halley, an arrangement which enables the leaders to get some playing themselves.

We have now had our first Branch romance! Miss Mary Gibb and Mr. Alec. Murray were married almost a year ago, and continue to be very regular members.

We were all very pleased to see in the New Year's Honours list, the name of our President, Dr. Hans Gal, who is to receive the O.B.E. He has been honoured before by his own country, and it is good to know that he is being honoured in the country of his adoption.