

Annual Report, 1967/68.

The season started with the usual visit to Kelso to join forces with the Roxburgh Branch and members of the Newcastle Branch. These visits continue to be one of the major events of each succeeding year. On this occasion, we were under the baton of Mr. Roscoe of the West Riding Branch.

Small groups continued to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month on the whole successfully, but one group at least had great difficulty in ever having the same group of people ~~meeting~~ <sup>together</sup> on two consecutive meetings.

The usual Christmas and summer evenings were opened to guests, and guests and players alike enjoyed the singing and playing of our guest artists. Especially the Christmas Evening.

Learning the recorder

The chance to put before parents of children, the possibilities of the Recorder as more than a toy, came with Miss Baird's invitation to play to her Parent-Teacher Association. We welcomed this opportunity, and had a good reception from quite a large group of parents - and grandparents, we suspect!

For various reasons we were unable to have a representative at the Branch Delegates Conference in London this year. This is the first time we have missed a meeting since the branch was formed.

However, we did have a visit from Dr. Dolmetsch and Mr. Saxby following a very successful weekend school at Newbattle Abbey. We are not likely to forget this particular visit from Dr. Dolmetsch, as he very quickly uncovered all our weaknesses, and did not let us off!

The season finished with an enjoyable Sunday afternoon playing with Mr. Brian Bonsor here in Edinburgh. His visits mean a lot to us and we derive great benefit as well as enjoyment from them.

In all this, there is one name we have not mentioned yet, and that is Mr. Gillett, our conductor, whose unlimited patience and toleration of our shortcomings are amazing. I hope he knows how grateful we are and hopeful that we will have him with us for many seasons yet.

Towards the end of our last season, we were all saddened by the sudden grave illness of our Chairman, Lucy Halley, who in spite of an apparent good recovery from a serious operation, died on 12th August last.

Lucy Halley was one of the foundation stones of the Branch. Before there was a Branch, when there were only about half a dozen people - mostly self taught, they needed an accompanist, and Miss Halley agreed to come - only as that accompanist. However, it was not long before she was persuaded into buying a descant, and play along with them. Before long, she was well into it, attending summer Schools at Roehampton, and starting a group in her School St. Georges. One of her groups successfully competed in the Edinburgh Competitive Festival and appeared at the final Concert in the Usher Hall. When our first Conductor had to give us up, Miss Halley took over the baton for a time, until a visit to Rhodesia interrupted this phase in her membership of S.R.P. For the past three years Lucy had been Chairman of the Branch, and could always be depended on to make just the right introductions, give the right welcomes, intimations etc. without ever saying too much. Her own musical knowledge and experience were invaluable, and we shall miss her in very many ways,

We have lost a friend, and the fact that although it was in the middle of holidays, there were about a dozen members present among here many friends at the funeral service in the Church of the Good Shepherd, shows a little of how much we appreciated that friendship.