

SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS - EDINBURGH BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1980-81

The year 1980-81 has been a memorable year for the Edinburgh Branch. Attendance at weekly meetings have been good and membership has gone up from 37 last year to 42.

The principle highlight of the year was the hosting of the National Recorder Festival held in May at George Watson's College. It was a highly successful musical and social event. To quote the 'Recorder & Music' magazine "This was a very happy festival, which highlighted the hospitality for which Scotland is famed, in what can truly be called the 'Festival City'.

Much of the success of the Festival was due to the hard work of the small sub-committee who organised it - Mrs Joyce O'Riordan and Messrs Eric Gillett and Sandy Young. The whole Branch, however, can be justly proud of the way in which all its members and many friends rallied round to help.

Especially thanks are due to those who offered accommodation and hospitality to our guests and to the ladies who worked so tirelessly in the cafeteria. It was a fascinating experience for those who were fortunate enough to be able to take part in the large ensembles under the batons of our star conductors. The only regret was that one could not also attend some other session going on simultaneously.

Several local groups formed consort to participate in the competitions. Two from the Edinburgh Branch were awarded first prize in their sections. The Edinburgh Fluters consisting of David Cooke, Iain Ross & Bill Davidson won the Trio competition playing Hans Gal's Divertimento and the Trio Sonata competition was won by the Lathian Trio of Ian Inglis, David & Helen Cooke with their rendering of the Telemann Trio Sonata. The Pentland Trio formed by Ruth Goudie, Eric Gillett and Trevor Mann, won the second prize in the Trio section.

Encouraged by last year's successful ^{public} concert, another was held in March this year, once more in St. Cecilia's Hall, under the title 'Music to enjoy'. The full band played some popular classical pieces arranged for recorders by our Musical Director and two small groups performed their festival test pieces. Mr & Mrs Gillett & Mr & Mrs Mc Nab delighted us with a selection of songs from the 16th century, the Victorian era and the 20th century. We were enthralled by the beautiful singing of Mrs Linda Howie, accompanied by a recorder trio in a superb composition set to The Lords Prayer by Alan Tothill. All received an enthusiastic response from a large audience.

As usual we had most enjoyable evenings entertaining invited audiences of friends and relations at Christmas and ^{at} the end of session in June. Apart from the music of our own ensemble and consort groups already reported fully in The Recorder and Music magazine, we were indebted to The

Moray House Singers, and string players from the Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra, to lend variety to our Christmas concert. In June our guest artists were Joyce O'Riordan's Saturday Club Recorder Ensemble and Hugh Keith, cello, and John Wood on the piano forming a trio with Eric Gillett on the flute.

Once more, I am sure you would wish me to express to Eric Gillett our grateful appreciation for the time and effort he spends in arranging music for us. We are indeed fortunate in having such a person for our Musical Director. The unfailing patience and good humour shown and the inspiration given both by him and by Jim Carey when conducting our playing, makes each weekly meeting a stimulating experience.