

Branch Secretary's report for the 1989-90 season

This year we were deeply saddened by the death, on 7 May, 1990 of Alan Tothill, who had been a member of the Edinburgh Branch for many years. His contribution to the branch, both as player and arranger of music for the recorder, was invaluable, and he will be greatly missed. We were also sorry to learn of the death of Hanna Gál, the widow of Dr. Hans Gál, our late President, at the end of 1989.

The main branch had 44 members, 10 fewer than the previous season (16 non-renewals, 6 new members). We met on 35 Monday evenings from September to June for combined playing. One-to-a-part groups met on alternate evenings. The Junior Section had 26 members, 5 more than the previous season, meeting in Boroughmuir High School on Saturday mornings in School terms (August to June).

On Saturday 18 November, for our special playing day, the visiting conductor was Dr. Carl Dolmetsch. We had a most enjoyable afternoon's playing, and were joined by many visitors from other branches and junior members.

The Christmas Evening on Monday 11 December included performances by the Junior Section, Joyce O'Riordan's evening class, the main branch and one-to-a-part consorts, and attracted a good audience. The collection raised £76 which was divided between the Ethiopia Famine Appeal and Family Care.

On 10 January a quartet performed two items at the Christmas concert given by the Sine Nomine Singers in Liberton Convent.

On 7 April James Carey was the Glasgow Branch's visiting conductor.

The National Recorder Festival was held at Ipswich on the weekend of the 21 and 22 April. On the 22 April John Wexler was the branch delegate at the Society's Annual Conference. The Conference agreed to increase all classes of subscription, except students, by £1.00. Elections resulted in a new Musical Director, Paul Clark, two new Committee Members, Michael Sharman and Moira Usher, and a new Honorary Member, Sister Mary Austen. The next National Festival will be at Stoke-on-Trent on 11/12 May.

The Scottish Recorder Festival was at Alva on Saturday 2 June. This year it was the turn of the Edinburgh branch to organise the Festival. The Festival Secretary was Andrew Short and the Festival Treasurer John Wexler. The principal guest conductor was Marion Doherty from Ireland. Other conductors included James Carey, who conducted his arrangements of big band music, Sandy Howie and James O'Malley.

The season ended with the summer evening on Monday 18 June, and included several items from the Junior Section. The music ranged from pieces by Josquin des Prés to the Beatles. The collection raised £67 which was sent to Oxfam.

We must again express our thanks to our Musical Directors James Carey and Sandy Howie for their guidance and inspiration throughout the season; also to Sandy and Sarah-Jane Selwood for directing, and Andrew Short for administering, the Junior Section.

Eileen Finlayson