

Branch Secretary's report for the 1990-91 season

The main branch had 51 members, 7 more than the previous season (6 non-renewals, 13 new members). We met on 34 Monday evenings from September to June for combined playing. One-to-a-part groups met on alternate evenings. The Junior Section had 23 members, 3 fewer than the previous season, meeting in Boroughmuir High School on Saturday mornings in School terms (August to June).

On Saturday 3 November, for our special playing day, the visiting conductor was Dr. Peter Robertson of the Leicester Branch and formerly of Edinburgh and Aberdeen Branches. We had a very enjoyable afternoon's playing and were joined by visitors from other branches. The music included a piece especially composed for the occasion by Daryl Runswick of the Leicester Branch entitled "A Scottish Linsey-Woolsey". Sadly, Daryl Runswick himself was unable to be with us through illness. Dr. Robertson presented the branch with a copy of the music. At this event we raised £18.70 for the Walter Bergmann fund.

The Christmas Evening on Monday 10 December included performances by the Junior Section, Joyce O'Riordan's evening class, the main branch and one-to-a-part consorts. The audience joined in carols at the end. The collection was sent to Family Care.

On 9 January two one-to-a-part groups performed three items at the Christmas concert given by the Sine Nomine Singers in Liberton Convent.

On 4 May the branch took part in the Eric Gillett Memorial Concert held in aid of the Fairmile Marie Curie Silver Jubilee Appeal at Fairmilehead Parish Church hall. Eric Gillett was Musical Director of the branch from 1965 until his death in 1987. We performed some of Eric's arrangements of Mozart, Haydn, Schumann, Grieg, Franck and Debussy, and joined in his arrangement of 3 songs from "My Fair Lady" at the end. Thanks must go to James Carey and Sandy Howie for making the branch's contribution to this event a great success.

The National Recorder Festival was held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday 11 May. On Sunday 12 May Eileen Finlayson was the branch delegate at the Society's Annual Conference at Stafford. The Conference agreed that there would be no increase in the subscription this year. Elections resulted in two new Musical Directors, Herbert Hersom and Evelyn Nallen, replacing Theo Wyatt and Eve O'Kelly, and two new Committee Members, Eric Chapman (Devon) and Peter Sturgeon (Notts). The next National Festival will be at Cambridge on 9/10 May.

The Scottish Recorder Festival was at Alva on Saturday 1 June. The conductors included James Carey (with a new composition, "Three Portraits"), Sandy Howie, and James O'Malley.

The season ended with the Summer Evening on Monday 17 June. The Junior Section, the main branch and one-to-a-part groups took part, and the programme included an arrangement of Gershwin's "They all laughed" by James Carey. The collection was sent to Christian Aid.

On 14 August four members of the branch joined forces with four pupils from Heriot's to play during the interval of the fringe production of "Hamlet at Heriot's".

On 30 August to 1 September 11 members of the branch attended the National Recorder School of Scotland at Craigie College, Ayr.

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 Howie and Andrew Short for directing and administering the Junior Section.

We must also thank Caroline Higgitt, whose chairmanship over the past four years has been greatly appreciated. She is now standing down as chairman and a new chairman will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Eileen Finlayson