

Branch Secretary's report for the 1991-92 season

This year we were deeply saddened by the death, on 1 January 1992, of Jean Duckman, who had been a member of the Edinburgh Branch for many years. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in the Branch.

The main branch had 49 members, 2 fewer than the previous year (11 non-renewals, 9 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 29 members, 6 more than the previous season, meeting in Boroughmuir High School on Saturday mornings in school terms (September to June).

The Christmas Evening was on 16 December and we were joined by members of the Junior Section and Joyce O'Riordan's evening class to perform informally to an audience of family and friends. The programme included a performance by the main branch of a new composition by James Carey, entitled "Three Portraits", dedicated to the memory of three former members of the Branch: Eric Gillett, May Whitby and Alan Tothill. The collection was divided between Amnesty International and the Rock Trust.

On 8 January 7 players from the Branch performed at the Christmas concert given by the Sine Nomine Singers in Liberton Convent.

On 21 February a dozen members gave a concert of mainly light-hearted music to an audience of 92 at the Kirk O'Field Social Club. The concert was greatly appreciated and the Club subsequently sent us a donation of £15.

This year members of the Branch attended Special Playing Days at Glasgow (14 December), Hawick (16 May), Newcastle (30 May) and Balbithan House, Aberdeenshire (27 June), when James Carey was the visiting conductor. Our own Special Playing Day was on Saturday 25 April, when the visiting conductor was Philip Evry, musical director of the Bath Branch. We were joined by visitors from other branches to play a varied selection of music including several of Philip Evry's own superb arrangements. The afternoon was voted a great success by all who attended. At this event we raised £18.30 for the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund.

The National Recorder Festival was held at Cambridge on 9/10 May. On Sunday 10 May Eileen Finlayson was the branch delegate at the Society's Annual Conference. The Conference agreed that there would be no increase in the subscription this year. Elections resulted in a new chairman, Michael Sharman (Cambridge) replacing Graham Danbury, a new Musical Director of the Society, Guy Layton Ring, and three new committee members, Douglas Haston (Aberdeen), Alyson Lewin (Sth Staffs) and Petrina Lodge (W. Suffolk and Cambridge). Andrew Short's 3-year term on the Central Committee came to an end at this conference. Theo Wyatt replaced Paul Clark as one of the Musical Directors on the Committee. The title of (Society's) "Musical Director" was changed to (Society's) "Musical Adviser". The next National Festival will be at Winchester on 17 April.

The Scottish Recorder Festival was at Alva on Saturday 13 June. The conductors included James Carey (with a new composition "Mississippi Pictures") and Sandy Howie.

The season ended with the Summer Evening on 15 June when we were once again joined by the Junior Section. The collection was divided between Amnesty International and the Edinburgh University Settlement.

As always warmest thanks must go to James Carey and Sandy Howie for all their hard work and encouragement throughout the season and to Sandy Howie and Andrew Short for directing and administering the Junior Section.

Eileen Finlayson