

## Branch Secretary's Report for 1994-5 season

Owing to refurbishment work being carried out at Augustine Church, the Branch met at St. Mark's Unitarian Church Hall, Castle Terrace, for the 1994-5 season. The Branch is very grateful to St. Mark's for allowing us to have the use of their premises.

The Branch had 48 members, 7 fewer than the previous season (4 new members, 11 non-renewals). 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 was disbanded after less than one term due to falling numbers.

On 17 October Susan Fuchs kindly stepped in at short notice to conduct the Branch when neither Jim or Sandy were available.

The Branch's Special Playing Day was on 29 October when the visiting conductor was Moira Usher, co-conductor of the Suffolk Branch. We welcomed many visitors from the other Scottish branches. The money collected during the buffet tea was sent to the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund.

Our Christmas Evening was on 12 December when we played to an audience of family and friends in St. Mark' Church. We were joined by South Morningside Primary 7 Recorders conducted by Joyce O'Riordan. The collection was divided between St. Mark's Restoration Fund and Amnesty International.

On 3 April we were delighted to welcome Stuart Forrester of the Glasgow Branch to guest conduct one of our regular Monday evening meetings.

This year members attended Special Playing Days in Hawick (6 May) and Glasgow (13 May).

The National Recorder Festival was held at Haslemere on 27/28 May. On Sunday 28 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 two new committee members, Graham Danbury (Mid-Herts) and Mary Tyers (Durham), replacing Douglas Haston and Alyson Lewin. A new branch was ratified to be called the York Guildhall Branch. The demise of the North Staffordshire Branch was also reported. There are now 49 branches. The 1996 National Festival will be at Newcastle on 27 April.

The Scottish National Recorder Festival was at Alva on 10 June and was organised by the Edinburgh Branch. The conductors included Jim Carey (with a new arrangement "A Playford Suite") and Sandy Howie who conducted Religious and Secular Music: Dufay, M. Frank and Lassus. The principal guest conductor was Evelyn Nallen.

On 17 June Jim Carey was Cumbria Branch's Visiting conductor.

Our Summer Evening was on 19 June when we were once again joined by South Morningside Primary 7 Recorders. The collection was divided between the Rock Trust and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In 1994-5 Fentone published James Carey's composition *At the Fair*.

As always we must thank our Musical Directors James Carey and Sandy Howie for all the time and effort they put in to make our weekly meetings so enjoyable and successful.

Eileen Finlayson