

From the SRP Archives

The lack of recorder teaching in the training colleges was very much in evidence last June, where a performance of Britten's Noye's Fludde included piccolos and flutes in the orchestra instead of recorders. They were hardly an adequate substitute, especially in the charming episode of the dove flight.

Merseyside, 1967

In December the music department of Exeter University, with a local grammar school, performed Noye's Fludde and the branch provided a goodly body of recorder players for the occasion.

Devon, 1963

Musical activity in Edinburgh during the late summer naturally centres on the Edinburgh Festival, and amateur groups tend to go to ground unless, like a consort of members from this branch, they make a place for themselves in the Fringe. The two concerts given by this group, in association with singers and harpsichordists, added musical content to the Fringe which is a field for drama predominantly.

Edinburgh, 1971

A branch concert was held in March which included performances from several school recorder groups. As the branch members were the last to play, they had the rather unnerving experience of performing to an ever diminishing audience as offspring were whisked home to bed.

Northampton, 1990

In November we recorded background music to a film made by two local historians on the history of Nuneaton.

Nuneaton, 1978

A group of young players visited five Bath hotels during their Christmas Eve dinner to play Christmas music to the guests and to collect money for a local charity. This was very well received and the players have already received their invitations for next Christmas Eve.

Bath, 1971

We celebrated our one hundredth meeting in quite an unexpected way. Mr. Paul Shepherd, director of music at the Trinity and All Saints College of Education, had invited Radio Leeds to attend. Part of the rehearsal and interviews with members were subsequently broadcast on Radio 4.

West Riding, 1970

Manchester branch went officially on the air at our local broadcasting station, Radio Manchester on Wednesday 6th January. Our ten minutes share in the broadcast opened with a group playing a Ferrabosco Alman. Then our chairman Edwin Alton gave an account of the Society's set-up; he also gave a brief account of his work in introducing the recorder to Sicily.

Manchester, 1971

We resumed on 18 September where we were able to be amongst the first to celebrate Walter Bergmann's 80th birthday; Paul Clark had arranged a version of Happy Birthday to You with six variations for a recorder quartet, rendered by four of our most illustrious members, and we all joined in a seventh choral variation. Kitty Wyatt had made a lovely cake in a figure of 80, which

Walter then cut, and we all enjoyed a piece of this for tea. One of our former members had designed a very handsome birthday card which we were all able to sign, and this was then presented to Walter. We all hope that he had an enjoyable afternoon and that he was in no doubt about our affection for him and our appreciation of what he has done for the SRP for so many years.

London, 1982

In January a confessional mood brought delectable revelations – our secretary singing recorder melodies at the bus stop, a revered member singing major thirds and minor sevenths in his bath, your correspondent admonished by his shaken wife for practising rhythms on the pedals while driving.

Birmingham, 1981

Through the enterprise of one of our newer members, Norman Taft, a party of eleven visited the Dolmetsch workshops during August, and spent an interesting time seeing the making of various instruments.

Bristol, 1977

The news from East Anglia is that we still have a severe water shortage, and anyone who is a keen gardener should think very hard before moving here. However, this has to be balanced against the wonderful recorder playing for which Ipswich is renowned..... on balance forget the garden – the recorder playing has to come first.

Suffolk, 1991

Though not yet formally beatified (I mean ratified) we were nevertheless blessed on 23rd March by a visit from Saint Theo in the guise of our inaugural Pastoral Visitor. To have Theo say nice things about our playing was the crowning glory of the day. Though we can't promise Theo at every meeting, we can promise a warm welcome to visitors and new members.

Wessex, 1991

We took a stall at an arts festival, exhibiting instruments and giving recitals. Many of those interested were of the "I didn't know you could get recorders that big" or "Gertie used to play, but her teacher said she should take up a real instrument like the clarinet" category. We enlightened them!

Beds & North Herts, 1991