

DEVON

It has been a year of challenge and change. Due to major building work, we had to move out of our usual meeting venue. It has now been decided that we shall permanently move to St. Leonards School, oddly enough, where we used to meet many years ago. Another change has been the decision to only have a professional conductor for the morning and the afternoons be led by a member.

Our last meeting of the year was conducted by Ginnie Cox, who efficiently and in a friendly manner led us through a rich variety of music - Telemann to Steve Marshall. We also played *A Highway to Dublin*, as a tribute to Paul Clark, who was so committed to the recorder. We enjoyed a "Bring and Share" Christmas lunch

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh SRP meets every Monday evening and so play a wide repertoire of music. From January to March 2014 this ranged from Byrd to Britten including Orlando Gibbons, Handel, Mozart, Pepusch's Overture to *The Beggar's Opera*, and extracts from Gilbert and Sullivan. For a visiting member only recently joined to the London branch this was a godsend.

If you are a competent player you would not be disappointed by this group. They have a new conductor and Musical Director, Michael Graham, a post graduate student at Edinburgh University, who together with Peter Wraith encourages and challenges players with music for all sections. As a less experienced player I was welcomed and musically nurtured on the back row of the tenors and able to enjoy the two Playing Days run by Eileen Silcocks in February and Sheila Richards in March. Altogether, a stimulating musical scene with very friendly and competent players and an accessible website. SRP Monday evenings in Edinburgh are not to be missed.

Sheila Stiling Ward

LONDON

Our branch has had a very successful start to the year with a variety of formats for our monthly meetings at The Napier Hall, Hide Place Westminster (just off Vincent Square). The central location attracts a number of overseas visitors. In the latter part of 2014 we have a tempting series of meetings planned. We start with Emma Murphy on 20th September. Emma is making quite a name for herself as a recorder virtuoso. Graham Danbury from Mid-Herts is to conduct the meeting on 18th October. We look forward to some choice pieces from the late Herbert Hersom's collection and any other interesting music which Graham always has up his sleeve. On November 15th we will be conducted by David Burgess who is another favourite. Our Christmas meeting will take place on 20th December under the baton of Andrew Melville who always likes to combine playing with teaching us about renaissance dance music. In December members bring offerings of food and we often have a raffle to collect for branch funds so that we have a very special Christmas meeting.

For further information please contact Bob Horsley, details in the magazine.

MACCLESFIELD

We continue to enjoy our monthly meetings and have recently celebrated our first anniversary by enjoying a Playing Day led by Wendy Pettit under whose guidance we played a range of music designed to challenge our skills both individually and as a group. We hope now to build on this

experience with the aim of giving a short recital in the summer. Membership numbers continue to increase which is most encouraging.

MID-HERTS

The Mid-Herts branch continues to thrive under the musical direction of Graham Danbury, with meetings every third Saturday afternoon in the Friends' meeting house in Welwyn Garden City.

Since our last report in the Magazine we have entertained a second time at the Hatfield Water Mill as part of the mill's 400th anniversary celebrations and played in Lemsford church for the village's spring festival. We have also enjoyed pastoral visits from Caroline Jones and Adam Dopadlik.

Most recently Pam Smith conducted us for a whole day. The event was nearly derailed when we learned only the previous week that we could not use the meeting house. Our treasurer swiftly found another venue in the parish church, and all went well with a programme spanning music from the Renaissance to the present day. Pam honoured the memory of Paul Clark by opening the day with his *Irish Suite* and ending with his arrangement of *Moon River*. But perhaps the most haunting was Arvo Pärt's four-part choral piece *Da Pacem Domine*: quite wonderful. Thank you, Pam.

NUNEATON

We will be welcoming Alan Perkins to conduct us again, no doubt bringing an interesting and varied selection of music for our enjoyment, at 3.30 pm on Saturday 20th September at the branch's usual venue, Higham Lane School.

SUFFOLK

Ramblings..... Oh boy did we have a treat in January. Karen Bainbridge - who is an excellent bassoonist - came to play the Weber Bassoon concerto with us, which is quite a substantial work. Our long-suffering conductor arranged it all for bassoon with recorders accompanying which was a feat in itself. The score alone was 55 pages long! We had a wonderful time. It was nice to spend a whole afternoon on one piece (albeit 3 movements) and we felt very proud of ourselves when we played it as a performance to Karen's husband at the end. Wow!

The rest of our meetings are the usual miscellany of pieces which is great - we do get much more variety when the committee chooses the music rather than one person. We are now looking forward to welcoming Marg Hall to our playing day in September. Do join us if you're near!

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

The New Zealand Society of Recorder Players held its 2013 Annual General Meeting at St. John the Baptist Church Hall in Northcote, Auckland. The meeting was preceded by a playing session led by the excellent Kevin Kim.

2013 was the 60th Anniversary of the founding, by Layton Ring, of the New Zealand Society of Recorder Players and a celebration was held in July with tutoring by Kamala Bain, Jessica Shaw and Kevin Kim.

It was with regret and sadness that the sudden death of the current President, John Hume, on 31st July 2013 was noted. John spent some time in England in the late 1960s gaining an FRCO and CHM Diploma at Addington Palace. He was a member of various choirs including the Dorian Choir which made two overseas trips to Europe in the 1970s. He was involved in every aspect of Auckland's

music scene. John had been a stalwart of the SRPNZ for many years and was a consummate chairman. He will be sadly missed.

Lola Gregory, a founder member and supporter of SRPNZ was 90 in March 2014 and a party was held to celebrate, with the trio, Unicus, of Barbara Garriock, Julia Hall and Simon James performing.

We would be delighted to welcome any visitors to New Zealand who would like to meet for a playing session. Please contact Andrew Stewart at srpnz@outlook.com Further information on the history and activities of SRPNZ can be found on our website at srpnz.webplus.net