

Branch Secretary's Report for the 2015-2016 Season

The Branch had 40 members, 2 fewer than the previous season.

The first meeting of the season took place on 28th September at a new venue, the Sanctuary of the Kirk o' Field Centre, later to be renamed the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138 The Pleasance.

We met on 34 Monday evenings for combined playing. One-to-a-part groups met in each other's houses.

On the 5 October the annual EGM was held to approve the branch accounts and form a committee to organize the 2016 Scottish Recorder Festival.

Our Christmas Evening was on Monday 14 December, when we played to an audience of family and friends. The programme included a new composition by Michael Graham – Christmas Crackers: A Christmas Suite. A recording of this can be heard on the Edinburgh pages of the SRP website. The conductors from the Branch were Michael Graham and Peter Wraith, and we were joined by members of the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class conducted by Marg Hall. The collection raised £185 for the Rock Trust.

On 18 January we hosted a joint meeting of the Edinburgh Branch and the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class conducted by Marg Hall and Michael Graham.

On 15 February we welcomed Norwegian visiting conductor Ulf Sverresvold to the branch to conduct traditional and classical music from Norway.

The Branch's annual playing day took place on 27 February at St Columba's by the Castle Church hall. This year's pastoral visitor was Steve Marshall, composer and publisher of May Hill Edition recorder music. Forty-two players took part and we welcomed visitors from other SRP branches, the Scottish Recorder Orchestra, and the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class.

On 21 March the branch held its first Chamber Ensemble Evening, an opportunity for small groups to play informally to a like-minded audience. Following the success of the evening, it is proposed to make this an annual event.

The National Recorder Festival and Conference took place on 2/3 April at Christ's Hospital School, Lincoln. Graeme Jefferies was the Edinburgh Branch delegate at the National Conference on 3 April. The full minutes, reports and accounts of the Conference can be found at <http://www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference/>

Our Summer Evening was on Monday 13 June when we played to an audience of family and friends. The conductors from the Branch were Michael Graham and Peter Wraith, and we were joined by members of the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class conducted by Marg Hall. The collection raised £168 for Help Musicians.

2016 was the Edinburgh Branch's turn to organise the Scottish Recorder Festival. The festival took place at Inverleith St. Serf's Parish Church on 18 June and attracted over eighty players from all over Scotland to play under the direction of eight conductors from Scotland and principle guest conductor Philip Thorby. A full report on the Festival can be found at <http://www.srp.org.uk/previous-scottish-recorder-festivals/> . We are very grateful to the Festival Committee of Barbara Clarke, Anita Cutting, Eileen Finlayson, Michael Graham, Susan McLarty and Judith Stenhouse for all their hard work in making the festival such a success. The festival was also a success from a financial point of view, making a profit of nearly £1000 for the SRP of which one third was returned to the Edinburgh Branch.

On 27 June Ungdomsbløkkfløytistene Uranienborg from Norway gave a concert hosted by the Edinburgh Branch at the Kirk o' Field Sanctuary of the Greyfriars

Charteris Centre. Players from the Edinburgh Branch contributed two items to the programme, as well as joining the Norwegian group for a two choir piece.

Members from the Edinburgh Branch attended playing days in Durham, Eccles, Berwickshire, Denholm, Scottish Borders and Glasgow.

We are grateful to Michael and Peter, for all their hard work, patience and good humour in conducting the branch during the 2015-2016 season.

Eileen Finlayson
February 2017