

Branch Secretary's Report for the 2016-2017 Season

The Branch had 40 members, the same number as the previous season.

The first meeting of the season took place on 19th September in the Kirk o' Field Sanctuary, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138 The Pleasance.

We met on 35 Monday evenings for combined playing. One-to-a-part groups met in each other's houses.

On the 26 September the annual EGM was held to approve the branch accounts.

On 7 December 12 members from the branch conducted by Peter Wraith took part in the Greyfriars Charteris Centre Community Christmas Concert.

Our Christmas Evening was on Monday 12 December, 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 nearly £370 for Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International.

On 30 January we hosted a joint meeting of the Edinburgh Branch and the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class conducted by Marg Hall.

On 20 February the branch held its AGM. After many years' service Sandy Young stepped down as the branch's treasurer and from the branch committee. The AGM expressed their thanks to Sandy for all his hard work over the years and elected Hilary Campbell as its new treasurer.

The branch's annual playing day took place on Saturday 11 March when guest conductor Anne Martin led a workshop entitled "New Adventures in Music: a day with William Byrd (and others)" at the St Ninian's Hall, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, Edinburgh. Thirty-seven players took part and we welcomed visitors from other SRP branches, the Scottish Recorder Orchestra, and the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class.

The National Recorder Festival and Conference took place on 7/9 April at Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge and included an all-stars concert and birthday party in celebration of the Society's 80th Anniversary. Eileen Finlayson was the Edinburgh Branch delegate at the National Conference on 9 April. The full minutes, reports and accounts of the Conference can be found at

<http://www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference/>

On 10 April the branch held its second Chamber Ensemble Evening, an opportunity for small groups to play informally to a like-minded audience.

The branch's 60th Anniversary Concert was on Monday 12 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 was sent to the Marie Curie Hospice.

Members from the Edinburgh Branch attended playing days in Durham, Eccles, Berwickshire, Denholm, Scottish Borders and Glasgow and the Scottish Recorder Festival in Glasgow on 3 June. Members also attended the Early Music Forum of Scotland's instrumental playing day led by recorder specialist Emma Murphy at Inverleith St Serf's Church Centre on 28 January.

We are grateful to Michael and Peter, for all their hard work, patience and good humour in conducting the branch during the 2016-2017 season. We were sorry to say goodbye to Michael who resigned as the branch's Musical Director to take up a position as Musical Director of the Falkirk Tryst Orchestra.

Eileen Finlayson
February 2018

