

Branch Secretary's Report for the 2018-2019 Season

The Branch had 38 members, up five from the previous season.

The first meeting of the season took place on 17 September 2018 in the Kirk o' Field Hall, 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. Our regular conductors were Anne Martin, Peter Wraith and Margaret McLay.

On the 24 September the annual EGM was held to approve the branch accounts.

Our Christmas Evening was on Monday 10 December, when we played to an audience of family and friends. The conductors from the Branch were Anne Martin and Peter Wraith, and we were joined by members of the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class conducted by Marg Hall. The collection of £270 was sent to the Bethany Christian Trust.

On 13 December 16 members from the branch conducted by Anne Martin took part in the Greyfriars Charteris Centre Community Christmas Concert.

On 18 February the branch held its AGM.

The branch's annual playing day took place on Saturday 23 February when guest conductor was Mary Tyers. Thirty-two players took part and we welcomed visitors from other SRP branches, the Scottish Recorder Orchestra, and the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class.

On 14 March 20 players from the branch conducted by Anne Martin took part in the Edinburgh Competition Festival and were awarded first place in the Wind Ensembles Open Class with an "excellent" mark.

On Monday 8 April the branch held an ensemble evening organised by Tom Pitcairn, when one-to-a-part groups were given the opportunity to play informally to other members of the branch.

On 12/14 April several members of the branch attended the National Recorder Festival and Conference at Ushaw College, Durham. Anne Martin was the Edinburgh Branch delegate at the National Conference on 12 April with Bea Frances as observer. The full minutes, reports and accounts of the Conference can be found at <http://www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference/>

Members from the branch attended the Glasgow Branch Playing Day with guest conductor Caroline Jones on Saturday 11 May.

Sixteen players conducted by Anne Martin visited Linlithgow Primary School on Monday 13 May and Abbeyhill Primary School, Edinburgh on Wednesday 12 June.

2019 was the Edinburgh Branch's turn to organise the Scottish Recorder Festival. The festival took place at Inverleith St. Serf's Parish Church on 25 May and attracted over sixty players from all over Scotland to play under the direction of eight conductors from Scotland and principle guest conductor Moira Usher, Musical Director of the Suffolk Branch. We are very grateful to the Festival Committee of Eileen Holttum, Hilary Campbell, Eileen Finlayson, Bea Frances, Anne Martin and Tom Pitcairn for all their hard work in making the festival a great success.

The branch's Summer Evening Concert was on Monday 10 June when we played to an audience of family and friends. The conductors from the Branch were Anne Martin, Peter Wraith and Margaret McLay, and we were joined by members of the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class conducted by Marg Hall. £250 was collected for Social Bite.

We are grateful to all our conductors for their hard work, patience and good humour.

Eileen Finlayson
February 2020