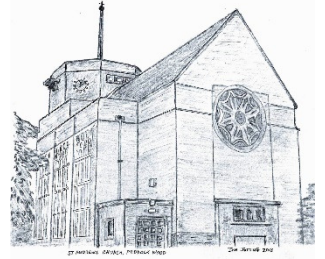




SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS WEALD OF KENT BRANCH NEWSLETTER ● AUGUST 2024



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2024/25

We have had a good year of music making together with an excellent range of conductors and musical opportunities. We hope that you enjoyed our sessions. We have two new conductors leading sessions this season, Louise Bradbury and Rebecca Austen-Brown, both highly experienced recorder teachers and performers. Both play with the Fontanella Recorder Consort. Sophie Middleditch will be our guest SRP visiting Conductor for our playing day in November. We hope that you will continue to support the work of the branch.

Society of Recorder Players National Life Membership for Ulli Burchette and Mike Wilkinson

National Life Membership is the highest grade of membership awarded by the SRP National Committee to only a very few members who have been deemed to have rendered exceptional service on behalf of the Society. Recently both Ulli and Mike, both long-standing members of this branch were recognised for their contributions to the National Committee, Ulli as former National SRP Treasurer and Mike as former National SRP Membership Secretary then General Secretary. This is an honour for both of them. We offer our sincere congratulations to both of them on this recognition for their significant contribution to the Society over many years.

This is a Formal Notice of the forthcoming branch Annual General Meeting which will take place during our first playing afternoon of the season on Saturday 21st September. The agenda and meeting papers will follow nearer to the AGM.

The programme of meetings arranged for the Branch for 2024/2025 is shown below. We look forward to welcoming you to our sessions.

✚ **Dates:** Meetings normally take place on the third Saturday of the month, September to June.

✚ **Venue:** We meet in the Wallis Room apart from the November playing day which takes place in the Winter Room, at St Andrew's Anglican and Methodist Church, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6DZ.

✚ **Times:** Afternoon meetings run from 2.30pm to 5.30pm and includes a refreshment break. Please bring your own refreshments and do not share items. The annual playing day this season takes place in November 2024 and runs 10 am to 4.30pm, for which you need to bring a packed lunch or go to the town centre nearby for items.

✚ **Costs:** We have seen an upturn in members and visitors during the past year so we are delighted to be able to keep the branch charges the same as last year while absorbing

increased hall hire and conductor fees. The Central SRP contributions have however risen by £5, the first such rise in five years. If you plan to come to most sessions, it is more cost effective to consider annual membership of the branch plus Central SRP. We need a completed membership form that can be handwritten and passed back to us, posted or scanned & emailed to our branch email address. If you will only be coming intermittently, then paying per session as a visitor may be more suitable for you. The visitor rate is £14 (£2 if a student aged less than 30 years and in full-time education) per afternoon). We prefer bank transfer, otherwise exact cash on the day. We are unable to give change or accept card payments.

✚ **Music stands:** Please remember to bring your music stands and pencils to all meetings. The programme and any changes to it, will also be shown on the Branch's page of the SRP website at www.srp.org.uk/wealdofkent. *We continue to operate a bookings scheme made in advance via wealdofkent@srp.org.uk. Booking opens about two weeks before each event (except playing day – via booking form) when the reminder email is circulated.*

2024	
21 st September	KATHERINE JONES , conducting
19 th October	LOUISE BRADBURY , conducting
16 th November	SOPHIE MIDDLEDITCH : SRP Visiting Conductor: PLAYING DAY 10am – 4.30pm
21 st December	MARION SCOTT , conducting
2025	
18 ^h January	KAREN BARTON-HOLMAN , conducting
15 th February	REBECCA AUSTEN-BROWN , conducting
15 th March	DAVID MOSES , conducting
12 th April	HARRIET OLIVER , conducting
17 th May	KATHERINE JONES , conducting
21 st June	MARION SCOTT , conducting

KATHERINE JONES		LOUISE BRADBURY		SOPHIE MIDDLEDITCH		MARION SCOTT	
KAREN BARTON-HOLMAN		REBECCA AUSTEN-BROWN		DAVID MOSES		HARRIET OLIVER	

CONDUCTORS

Katherine Jones

Katherine has always played both oboe and recorder to a high standard and feels that one inspires the other. Whilst being a Principal Study Oboist, she has continued her recorder studies at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) with Pamela Thorby and Anna Stegmann. She was previously taught by Marion Scott and under her guidance gained an ATCL Diploma with Distinction in 2012. Katherine is a former member of the National Youth Recorder Orchestra which included performances in Birmingham Town Hall, the Sage Gateshead and the Adrian Boult Hall to name a few. She was also accepted onto the Gifted Young Recorder Players course supported by the Walter Bergmann Trust, part of the Society of Recorder Players. This was run by Tom Beets, a member of the former Flanders Recorder Quartet. Katherine has taken a very active role in the RAM recorder department, playing in masterclasses with Daniel Bruggen, Peter Holtslag, Susanne Fröhlich and María Martínez Ayerza. She has given chamber performances at Handel House and the Greenwich Early Music Festival. She also performed with the RAM consort at Buckingham Palace. Her recorder chamber music performances include the première of *In Feyre Foreste* by Robin Haigh for which he became the youngest ever recipient of the British Composer Award. Katherine has also given a solo performance at the Greenwich Early Music Festival in conjunction with the Centre for Young Musicians and a concert with the Kent Society of Recorder players which included solo and chamber music works.

Louise Bradbury

Louise is a specialist recorder player and trained at the Royal Academy of Music. She adores the recorder's varied repertoire and loves to use many sizes and styles of recorder in her work. Lou has given many concerts with [Fontanella](#) and [Passacaglia](#), performing at beautiful venues across the UK and Europe. Lou has also broadcast for BBC radio and TV, including an appearance on BBC 4's *Martin's Close*, written and directed by Mark Gatiss.

Lou enjoys creating community as she makes music and is a founder-director of [Little Notes](#), where she has led the development of a workshop curriculum for musicians to deliver to families. Lou has taught recorder at schools, music colleges and universities and has a thriving private practice, specialising in group lessons.

Lou has given performance workshops at Junior Guildhall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and for the National Youth Recorder Orchestra.

Lou teaches beginner to diploma level in her Sussex studio and on zoom. She also offers holiday courses for beginner recorder players and ensemble sessions for all levels.

Sophie Middleditch

Sophie graduated from Lancaster University in 1995, Sophie went on to study recorder, modern and baroque flute at Trinity College of Music with Rebecca Miles, Ann Cherry and Stephen Preston. Other teachers have included Pamela Thorby and Rachel Brown.

Sophie has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician, appearing at many festivals throughout the country including Chichester, Brighton, Suffolk, Kingston Upon Thames and Edinburgh and has also been a member of the Essex Baroque Orchestra and the Britten Pears Baroque Orchestra.

As a solo recitalist Sophie has performed at venues including the Handel House Museum; the Victoria and Albert Museum; Farnham Castle, Surrey and at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon.

She is also in great demand as a teacher and has been recorder tutor at Chichester University since 1996.

Sophie formed her own baroque period chamber group, The Parnassian Ensemble, in 1998. Since then, it has gained a reputation for its virtuosic performances and innovative programming. The group has appeared at prestigious venues throughout the British Isles such as The Purcell Room; St John's, Smith Square; St David's Hall, Cardiff and The Fairfield Hall, Croydon. The ensemble also performs for festivals, music societies and museums as well as schools and universities. The group's concert schedule has included appearances at the Victoria and Albert Museum; the National Portrait Gallery; the Cobbe Collection of historical keyboard instruments, Hatchlands, Surrey; the Newbury Spring Festival; the Djanogly Recital Hall, Nottingham; the Firth Hall, University of Sheffield and the Totnes Early Music Society, Devon. An unusual feature of its recitals is the introduction to audiences of fine, original, early eighteenth-century English recorder music which would otherwise remain virtually unknown.

It was this enthusiasm that led to the recording of their critically acclaimed first disc, *A Noble Entertainment – Music from Queen Anne's London 1702-1714* (AV2094) released on the Avie Records label and which is now regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and world-wide. Sophie can also be heard on the New London Chamber Ensemble's recent recording of Carl Nielsen's *Music for Wind and Piano* released by Meridian Records.

Marion Scott

Marion studied recorder, baroque oboe and piano at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She performs and records with all the leading early music specialist orchestras, including English Baroque Soloists with John Eliot Gardner and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. She has been fortunate to perform as a recorder player across the world. Marion also plays the recorder for contemporary compositions, performing with the ensembles such as BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra. Marion has a busy teaching practise, with students at all levels, from beginner to tertiary and beyond. As Professor of Recorder at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama she taught both junior and senior students and has also taught at Trinity College of Music and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Marion was a founding Committee member and tutor with the NYRO and she was also Director of the Kent Youth Recorder ensemble. As a conductor she works with groups across the country for the Society of Recorder Players and Marion is the music director for the Kent branch of the SRP. She taught regularly on a variety of courses and summer schools, including the Easter Early Music Week, Irish Recorder and Viol Course, Baroque Week and Recorder Summer School. In Kent, Marion directs her own recorder Chamber Orchestra, working with advanced players on a wonderful mix of repertoire styles.

Karen Barton-Holman

Karen studied at Trinity College of Music for five years where she won the Chamber Music Prize. When she graduated in 1993, she pursued a busy and exciting career and began to teach for the Inner London Education Authority, The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Kent Music and Canterbury Christchurch University. She also began to perform nationally: venues include Rochester, Canterbury, Chichester, Bury St Edmunds cathedrals, the Royal Festival Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Karen also enjoys conducting and has been the musical director for the Society of Recorder Players Kent branch (1997-2007) and is currently the musical director for Kent Youth Recorders and the Kent Schools Recorder Orchestra. These groups have had the pleasure of performing nationally, internationally and playing for royalty. Karen conducts many recorder festivals throughout Kent which included conducting more than 300 children together at Maidstone's Mote Hall. She is also director of music for Kent's annual recorder summer school held at Benenden School. She is frequently asked to coach ensembles and play the piano for the choir 'Energise'. From 2009 until 2013, Karen was head of Medway Towns' Music Centre and she is now a peripatetic music teacher.

Rebecca Austen-Brown

Rebecca studied in the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, specialising in recorders and early fiddles. As a performer, Rebecca has recorded and toured with many ensembles; most recently The Sixteen, Dufay Collective, The City Musick, I Fagiolini and La Nuova Musica and is a founder member of the Fontanella Recorder Quintet and Bardos Band, with whom she has recorded for BBC TV, Radio 3 and 4. She has toured with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Young Vic. Having developed an obsession with electronics in recent years, she is devising a solo programme exploring the sounds of historical instruments with loop pedals and effects. She is a regular film session musician and can be heard on soundtracks including The Hobbit, Les Miserables, Grand Hotel Budapest and Mary Queen of Scots. Rebecca has given classes in the Royal College of Music, Oxford University, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Birmingham University and Conservatoire, and as well as frequently examining in the UK conservatoires, is in demand as a regular guest adjudicator in Hong Kong and the UK.

David Moses

Throughout his musical career, **David** has written songs, instrumental compositions and arrangements for the various jazz, folk, rock and popular music projects with which he has been involved. His enthusiasm for solo and ensemble recorder playing have provided opportunities for compositions which reflect the wider historical and geographical aspects of his passion for music. He is a member of the London Recorder Orchestra, which has provided David with first-hand experience and insights about the exciting possibilities and some of the limitations associated with large recorder ensembles. An increasing number of his pieces have been played by the National Youth Recorder Orchestra as well as other recorder orchestras in the United Kingdom and further afield. He has also been asked to write music for a one to a part chamber orchestra employing almost the entire range of recorders from soprano to sub contra bass. Regular attendance, both as player and conductor, at S.R.P. massed playing sessions as well as much smaller consort gatherings, means that recorders are playing an ever-increasing part in David's busy musical life. Many of the more recent pieces reflect an understanding of the need for music, which is interesting, imaginative and enjoyable without being too technically challenging.

Harriet Oliver

Harriet is an experienced recorder player, teacher and conductor. She regularly attends courses led by Bart Spanhove, Tom Beets, Saskia Coolen and Matthias Maute, amongst others. She is a member of Tutti Flutti, led by Philip Thorby, with whom she has lessons and plays with Recorders Incorporated, previously conducted by Eileen Silcocks. Harriet currently conducts and tutors eleven adult recorder ensembles in the Woking and Guildford areas, teaches in a primary school once a week and gives individual lessons.

SRP NATIONAL AND BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2024/25*

The SRP national fee has increased while the branch subscription rates have remained the same as last year. **Please note, the total membership fees consist of SRP plus Branch fee).**

The rates for 2024/25 are therefore:

SRP		<i>plus</i>	Weald of Kent Branch	
Individuals	£30.00		Individuals	£ 70.00
Students	£10.00		Students	£ 12.00
Households	£42.50		Households	No separate rate
			Visitors	£ 14.00 per session
			Student visitors (under 30 yrs)	£ 2.00 per session or free if with accompanying adult player

* There is an additional fee for attending the November Playing Day: see separate flyer and application form.

GIFT AID FORMS:

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not previously completed a form, we would like to encourage you to complete a new Gift Aid Form. As a registered charity, we are able to claim an extra 25% contribution for each subscription from hmrc at no cost to you when we hold a completed current Gift Aid Form.

Ian Jutting, Branch Secretary

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Weald of Kent Branch – The Society of Recorder Players

Paula Marsh, Chair

Ian Jutting, Branch Secretary

Jim May, Honorary Treasurer

Brenda Farr, Membership Secretary

Sheila Brown, General support

Anna Picken, Co-Opted member