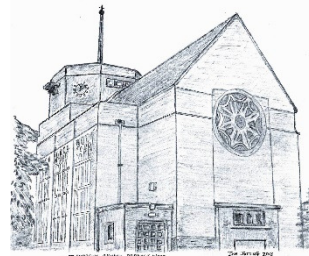




# SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

## WEALD OF KENT BRANCH

### NEWSLETTER ● AUGUST 2025



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## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2025/26

*Since the Covid pandemic our branch has continued to be supported by excellent conductors and a wide range of music. We hope that you will want to continue to support us. Moira Usher will be joining us as our guest SRP visiting Conductor for our playing day in November. She is the new Chair of the Society of Recorder Players and will be bringing pre-loved sheet music for donations to the Walter Bergmann Fund which helps young people under the age of 30 years develop as recorder players. More details can be found at [www.srp.org.uk/walter-bergmann-fund/](http://www.srp.org.uk/walter-bergmann-fund/) . We hope that you will continue to support the work of the branch.*

We will need to hold an Annual General Meeting of the branch and this will take place during our October meeting. Anyone may attend but only branch members may vote on motions and for membership of the committee. Further details will follow nearer the time.

The programme of meetings arranged for the Branch for 2025/2026 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. The annual playing day this season takes place in November 2025 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:** The Committee has been covering increased costs from hall-hire and conductor fees from branch reserves so we will need to increase fees slightly to meet the rise in costs. This will be the branch's first rise in five years. The Central SRP contributions have been kept at the same rate as last year. 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 will be £15 (£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. Where appropriate, a current Gift Aid form would be appreciated.

✚ **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](http://www.srp.org.uk/wealdofkent). *We continue to operate a bookings scheme made in advance via [wealdofkent@srp.org.uk](mailto:wealdofkent@srp.org.uk) . Booking opens about two weeks before each event (except playing day – via booking form) when the reminder email is circulated.*

2025	
20 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>KATHERINE JONES</b> , conducting
18 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>KAREN BARTON-HOLMAN</b> , conducting
15 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>MOIRA USHER</b> , SRP Visiting Conductor: <b>PLAYING DAY 10am – 4.30pm</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>HARRIET OLIVER</b> , conducting
2026	
17 <sup>h</sup> January	<b>MARION SCOTT</b> , conducting
21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>MARION SCOTT</b> , conducting
21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>DAVID MOSES</b> , conducting
18 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>REBECCA AUSTEN-BROWN</b> , conducting
16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>KATHERINE JONES</b> , conducting
20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>HARRIET OLIVER</b> , conducting

KATHERINE JONES		KAREN BARTON-HOLMAN		MOIRA Usher		HARRIET OLIVER	
MARION SCOTT		DAVID MOSES		REBECCA AUSTEN-BROWN			

## 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.

## 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.

## Moira Usher

**Moira** has played recorder since age of five and brought up on Brian Bonsor's music. She attended Trinity College London as cellist and pianist plus played recorder with the early music group under Edgar Hunt. Wide-ranging musical tastes and enjoys variety above all else. Moira taught music in comprehensive schools for 13 years then retrained to teach children with special needs. She also ran a community choir for 15 years and has been an SRP member since the 1970s, joint founder and main conductor of Suffolk Branch. Moira is founder and conductor of the Eastern Recorder Orchestra (EROS) and has been co-ordinator of the 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2022 national SRP festivals. She is also a tutor for the Recorder Summer School, SuRF plus founded and organises ORF and runs some SRP Workshops. Moira also conducts at national Festivals plus many pastoral visits and playing days for the SRP. She was recently elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Society of Recorder Players.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Misérables, 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.

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### SRP NATIONAL AND BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2025/26\*

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		plus	Weald of Kent Branch	
Individuals	£30.00		Individuals	£ 75.00
Students	£10.00		Students	£ 15.00
Households	£42.50		Households	No separate rate
			Visitors	£ 15.00 per session
			Student visitors	£ 2.00 per session
			(under 30 yrs)	or free if with
				accompanying
				adult player

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

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### 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**, General support