

IN MEMORIAM 2026

Name	Branch	Extra info
Bob Horsley	London	former member and Secretary – died in November 2025. Bob had been a very active and enthusiastic member for many decades until the pandemic struck, following which he had become too ill to return to meetings - many will have known him in association with Alistair Read, since they were inseparable.
Maureen O'Sullivan	London	Former member and Treasurer – died in December 2025. Maureen's death from pancreatic cancer was very sudden and shocking - she was always a very fit lady and full of energy, and seemingly had many active years of life in front of her. From the time of her email to the committee in early November telling us that she was having investigations and that it didn't look good and that she wouldn't be there for our November meeting, to her hospitalisation, hospice and death took only about five short weeks. We really miss her presence at branch meetings.
Penny Terrell	Wessex	Penny Terrell was a member of the SRP for a number of years and although not a member recently she managed Wessex music library whilst a member. She died very suddenly from a stroke in June 2025.
Philip Hand	Essex	Philip Hand who died on 30 October 2024
Pamela Ann Duck	Essex	Pamela Ann Duck passed away on 2 nd May 2025. Pamela Duck was a gentle, modest lady who was a skilled artist and qualified pianist who for many years taught the piano to pupils to a high examination level. Thirty years ago Marion Penzetta introduced Pam and her husband Derek to recorder playing enabling Pam to develop into a competent player and long standing member of the Essex Branch of the SRP. Pam shared her love of recorder playing with friends during her weekly recorder ensemble and she was proud to have passed on her musical and artistic talents to her children and grandchildren.
Dick Pyper	Guildford	SRP Chair between 2008 and 2012 and also handled Gift Aid for a number of years so he needs a good mention at conference I feel. He was a lovely man and chaired the Guildford Branch committee.
Esther Sharman	Cambridge	Esther Sharman, wife of Michael Sharman, died on 2nd October, 2025. Michael and Esther offered hospitality at their farm, to the many conductors who came to work with the Cambridge Branch, including a young Helen Hooker (proud of her new satnav!), Paul Clark and Evelyn Nallen. There were many, many more players who visited their home on Friday nights for music making and Esther's desserts. Esther gave her musical support to fledgling consort players. She and Michael hosted the Voices, Viols and Recorder courses twice a year at Halsway Manor. Many people will have fond memories of Esther's warmth and her genuine interest in people and their families, and will sadly miss her.
Joan Grace Brownlow	Newcastle and Durham	Passed away peacefully in Melton House Care Home on 2nd July 2025 aged 87 years. A Newcastle and Durham Branch Member. Joan's father, Geroge Brownlow, features in the Newcastle Branch history as being the founder of Newcastle Branch in 1949 (and musical director) and it says he retired in 1962 and was made Vice President. The SRP are in grateful receipt of a share of her estate following her death.

Keith McDermott	West Riding	Keith, who died 9th June 2025, was Chairman of West Riding SRP for many years, and his votes of thanks to visiting conductors were legendary. Along with 2 other members of West Riding SRP, he toured Poland, giving concerts with the Grosvenor Recorder Consort. He also conducted another recorder group and was an enthusiastic caller for barn dances. He will be remembered, amongst other things for his quiet, unassuming manner and dry sense of humour, and is much missed.
Robert Way	West Riding	Robert was something of a dark horse. A former minister at the United Reformed Church where the West Riding SRP met, he was an extremely skilled and highly-qualified linguist, having obtained his qualifications at Cambridge University. His knowledge of Latin was often put to use when translating the titles and other words of pieces of Early Music. An abiding image of Robert is of him with tea towel in hand, as he always helped the refreshment break at meetings run smoothly. He was a lovely man, kind and gentle, and we have many fond memories of him. He passed away 26th September 2025.
Claire Freestone	Somerset	Claire was a long standing member of Somerset SRP, being treasurer for many years, and also being part of the committee who hosted the 2011 festival. Claire was also a reliable member of many other groups, mostly affiliated to SRP. Claire passed away on 12.2.26.
Sue Bennett and Cynthia Hall	South Staffordshire	Sue Bennett March 2025 Cynthia Hall February 2026 They were keen and loyal members of the South Staffordshire Branch for many years.
April Munday	Wessex	April was the Wessex Branch Secretary for a number of years and also took on the role of treasurer when Wessex hosted the festival in 2018. She was also the Trustee Secretary 2020-2021. She was a very accomplished recorder player and had many other interests, lace making, writing, knitting pub crawls to name a few. She died on Wednesday 25th March at Countess Mountbatten Hospice in Southampton
Margaret Ellis	Warwick	Warwick Branch have only recently heard of the death of Margaret Ellis on 12 January 2026, aged 93 years. Although not a current member of the Society, Margaret was instrumental in the founding of Warwick Branch in 1972. We are hugely grateful for all she did for us.
Agnus Thomas	Birmingham	July 2025 – died of Leukemia. Committee member in the Birmingham Branch.