PEGGY MARSHALL

Many members of the early music fraternity will be saddened to hear of the death of Peggy Marshall last November, a few days before her eighty-eighth birthday.

For many years Peggy and Arthur were enthusiastic attenders at a whole range of early music events, principally as viol and recorder players. They regularly attended the Ambleside Summer Schools. They were instrumental in forming the West Lancashire Recorder Group and the Friday evening sessions at their home drew quite a few recruits into their circle. Whilst Arthur seemed able to provide an endless variety of music from his library and instruments from his workshop, Peggy's outgoing friendliness and interest in people, coupled with a dry sense of humour brought many, like myself, to derive greater knowledge and enjoyment from our music-making.

She was born and educated in Doncaster, the fourth of five sisters. Although christened Rene Marguerite, she was always known as Peggy. After leaving school she trained as an industrial chemist and thus met Arthur, whom she was later to marry, after wartime employment had kept them apart.

As a busy housewife and mother of three, she still found time to work for the Girl Guide movement and to maintain her interest in music, which was able to develop with the resurgence of interest in early music.

It was in the mid-1970's that I first met Peggy at an evening class. I think that at that time she had not been playing the viol very long; I was up to then a solitary recorder player. One evening when our tutor was delayed, Peggy organised some impromptu one-to-a-part playing. Apparently I must have passed the test, for I was soon invited to join the Friday circle, where my early attempts to cope with the cross-rhythms of the galliard were treated with sympathetic amusement combined with instruction. Those Friday evenings will long remain a happy memory.

Sadly, even before Arthur's final illness, failing eyesight had meant that Peggy found it increasingly difficult to continue playing, and this was a great sorrow to her, but through this and the increasing infirmity

of her later years she remained uncomplaining and always determined to make the best of her situation. She will be sadly missed.

Alan Morris

I would like to add one little story which demonstrates Peggy and Arthur's encouragement of other players. I first met them on the NORVIS course and they told me a tale of how they had sat down with two others for some late night playing. Someone else passed the door and was invited in. This went on and on – Arthur effortlessly producing music with the requisite number of parts as the ensemble grew to 12. The night moved on into the small hours and players gradually retreated to bed until they were back down to four again (though I never heard what time this was!) The 12 part piece was played at the students' concert with great verve.

Elizabeth Dodd