

The afternoon opened with the branches Annual general Meeting which was attended by 21 members. The various reports were given and accepted by those present. All the existing officials were re-elected. A tribute was made in respect of Thomas Round, the international tenor, who was a member of the branch. He was just a few days short of his 101st birthday when he passed away at the beginning of October.

The entertainment theme for the day was “**Acoustically Recorded Instrumentalists**” which provided scope for a wide variety of musical likes. There were nine machines on show, including two phonographs. These included a Dulcetto Model ‘M’, Decca junior from 1925, Columbia 202, HMV Monarch with a wooden horn, Edison Fireside Model 8 and an Edison Amberola.

The first piece of music was Bazzini’s “La Ronde Des Lutins” expertly played by violinist Jascha Heifetz on HMV which was followed by Sergeant Leggett’s “Softly Awakes My Heart” on Blue Amberol 23185 from 1914. These two recordings set the tone of the session which allowed us to listen to a variety of differing instruments.

We heard the banjo of Vess Ossman with “Maple Leaf Rag” and a harp version of “Men of Harlech” from F.C. Barker on Zonophone. Another cylinder recording by the Green Brothers Novelty Band featured the xylophone on “Down Where The Daffodils Grow” whilst “The Wren Polka” was heard in a 1905 version on piccolo by Eli Hudson.

The jazz lovers amongst us were well catered for as we heard Bix Beiderbecke & His Rhythm Jugglers performing “Davenport Blues” and trombonist Kid Ory performing his own composed “Ory’s Creole Trombone” on the Jazz Collector label. Bix fans had a later second helping with “Oh baby” whilst the penultimate track was King Oliver with “Chimes Blues”.

The highly rated pianist Percy Grainger was heard with “Shepherd Hey” whilst a further piano piece was Chopin’s Ballade Op. 47 in Aflat by Vladimir D. Pachmann. A permissible deviation from the ‘instrumental’ theme allowed Eli Hudson to perform the “Whistling Polka” whilst Gilbert and Sullivan fans enjoyed the Overture from HMS Pinafore.

Perhaps the most unusual recording of the day was the Empire Day Record on HMV RE 284 which had the Coldstream Guards Band conducted by R.G. Evans in a medley that included “Home Sweet Home” and “God Save Our King”. The oldest recording was a 1999 recording by Regimento Infantiria Del Ray of “El Tourito”, a Spanish Paso Doble, which was recorded in Madrid and was heard on a 7” Gramophone Record No. 60051.

Our final session of 2016 showed the wide taste of music enjoyed by our members and provided a suitable conclusion to the year.

Albert Pattison