

Saturday 9th February 2019 Dick Little

February – and many of the branch members gathered ready for an interesting afternoon of English music, guided by Dick Little, who is normally found at our neighbouring branch, Bristol.

We began the afternoon by playing *English Folk Song Suite* by **Andrew Davidson**. This had some well-known tunes hidden amongst the music and was fairly straightforward for the branch to play, with Dick's help we found most of the songs and played them at a good tempo.

We followed this by playing **Raymond Harvey's** *Suite number 1*, a work which we have copies of in our library, and was very interesting to play, as we rarely play music from this era (about 1950s). Dick said that it had sounded very modern when he was a youngster and went to SRP meetings with his father, but to our ears now, it sounded quite pastoral and harmonious.

Tea was wonderfully provided by Jill and Meryl – an amazing selection of cakes. After this we played the centrespread from the Winter magazine *Entre le boeuf et l'ane gris*, by **David Gordon**– ok, a Christmas piece, but we didn't mind, and only spent a few minutes learning the music while everybody settled back.

After this we played one of the set of **Michael East** fantasias, *Desperavi*. Quite a beautiful work with lots of intricate music waving its way through all of the parts. We concluded the afternoon with a piece I have not played for many years – **Elgar's** *Harmony Music*. Originally set for Elgar's friends playing bassoon, Clarinet and Oboe, this was arranged for recorder many years ago by Bristol Branch member, Hugh Blake. It's an excellent arrangement, and we had a lot of fun learning the music.

Many thanks to Dick for a great afternoon of music making again, and we hope to see you again next year.