

November 14th 2009

Well, the gales raged outside and the rain threatened to flood the Somerset levels, but the lucky 13 gathered in the warmth of Ruishton Hall to play some lovely music under the skilful guidance of Pam Smith. We began with a very thorough look at **Mico**'s *Fancy no. 13*, which had plenty of interest for all parts. After working on the dynamics, the style and mostly the Bflats we played a creditable performance of the whole work. This we followed by a new work – **Judith Bush**'s three movements from *Music for a Play*. This began with a March Rondo which the bass section were keen to take at double speed. Pam sorted us out and we realised that it all sounded better if everyone stayed at the same tempo – ie. the one which Pam was beating! This was followed by a very atmospheric movement entitled 'Crossroads.' We even had to practice our flutter tonguing. The whole piece had a feel of the Somerset Levels on a cold Autumn evening (like today!). The third movement was also quite playable and the entire suite would be an asset to any small group or SRP as part of their repertoire. After a lovely tea with a variety of cakes provided by Julia, we tackled **Haydn**'s *Feld Parthie*, and excellent arrangement of Haydn's original by Hugh Blake. By the time we had worked on each movement of this and performed the whole work it was time to go and face the elements, so thank you to Pam for a very enjoyable afternoon's playing and we look forward to your next visit.