

April 16th 2016

Robin Powell

A few of the branch arrived late today as we had previously had a concert, but it was lovely to hear everyone in full swing playing one of the movements from **Holborne's Suite for 5 recorders**. We slotted in quietly and enjoyed playing some well known pieces, such as the Honiesuckle and Nowel's Galliarde. Following this we split into 6 to look at **Schmelzer's Sonata á 6**. This is very lively and employed two teams of descants. It was originally a string work, and in some ways it would have been easier on the violin! However, we worked our way through with a degree of confidence, and had a hot tip from Robin which I'm not allowed to disclose!

Following the Schmelzer Robin gave out the *4 Canzons* by **Giovanni Gabrieli**. We worked hard at the first one, then decided that it was tea time, so had delicious tea, including the option of a Somerset Cream tea, prepared by Ann and Jill (S). Much fortified we returned to Canzon 1, and then worked our way through the more gently number 3. (we had just performed number 2 in the aforementioned concert).

Then Robin gave out one of his own compositions – *Change of Season*. He had planned for the weather to be moving into summer by the time of this meeting, but sadly this is not happening! It was a beautifully scored piece, with some tricky leaps and a lot of breathing for the basses. There is also a very dark, chromatic section towards the end, but all ends happily in the major key.

Finally we worked through **Geminiani's Concerto Grosso**. We didn't worry at this stage in the afternoon about choosing soloists, instead just trying to alter the dynamics. Perhaps too many descants attempting the very tricky semiquavers, but good fun to play, nonetheless.

Thank you again, Robin, for a really fun and 'relaxing' afternoon.