

Twenty three of us attended the meeting, looking forward to having a jolly time with Steve Marshall as our conductor. Steve was on good form, always insisting, in a humorous way, on a high standard of playing and attention to detail.

The first piece was *Basse Danse and Tourdion – La Magdelena* – composed anonymously in about 1530 and arranged by Steve Marshall. A Basse Danse was one where the feet were kept low, but this later became unfashionable, and a Haute Danse came into favour. As Steve said “it was just a matter of fashion – how many of you still do the twist?” I put my hand up and his eyes were raised heavenwards (but I don’t think I was the only one!). The Basse danse was arranged for SATB and involved changes of tempo, always good fun. The tourdion in the middle was rather more stately and then we were allowed to be more vulgar in the final Basse Danse. Our final performance was pretty good.

Our second piece, a *Pavane from Mr.s Allerton’s Book of Music*, was by Steve and had no dynamics marked, but he gave us lots of verbal instructions which we had to remember or else! The galliarde which followed was based on the same tune as the pavane in D minor, with a lovely syncopated descant section. It was much faster, but we managed to play it almost up to speed (160!). The trebles were warned not to play their F sharp too loudly in the final chord. We practiced this until the maestro was satisfied.

Four Easter choruses followed (well, it won’t be long until Easter eggs are in the shops)

*This joyful Eastertide* – Charles Wood, 1866 – 1926

I think that this was the one with A,E and D sharps – so beloved by recorder players.

*God so loved the world* John Stainer 1840-1901 (this one had been arranged)

*Easter Morning* Dudley Buck (1839 – 1909)

*Oh though whose sweet compassion* JH Maunder (1858 – 1920)

Number 3 was in the style of a march. In all pieces there were some fairly adventurous passages for some parts. Steve explained that they were playing the organ accompaniment. The pieces had been arranged by Ann Marshall, who had noticed that there was very little Easter music for recorder.

Tea and cakes came next, with a big thank you to Sheila Dickens for providing them. We were reminded that the February meeting would be in the village hall in Stoke St. Mary.

Next came Michael East’s *five Fancies* arranged by Steve Marshall. These were originally written for 3 viols but were amazingly written for SSATTB recorder. We played three of these:

*My lovely Phillis* (G minor)

*My time is spent* (g major)

*Feare not the end* (also in G)

The outer parts were quite challenging, the inner ones less so but they made a tuneful end to an enjoyable afternoon’s playing.

GWYNNETH FLITTERS