

Saturday 17th July.

Mary Green and Joyce Rudall

This month the meeting found us in our alternative venue of Stoke St. Mary village Hall, as Ruishton had their annual 'village day'. The acoustics in the hall are quite good as it is such an unusual shape building. We started the afternoon with Mary in the chair (or actually *on* the chairs). Her plan was to conduct some Holborne, but due to a technical error, we seemed to have two different sets of music, so we abandoned that! Moving on to Handel, we played his 2nd suite of water music. This worked very well and was a super arrangement (from the depths of the SRP library). It provoked discussion on what music to play for weddings and then funerals, but the playing was secure. We then moved on (or back?) to Orlando gibbons – and 2 short pieces of his, *Ah, Dear Heart* and the beautiful *Silver Swan*. Both were very tranquil. Joyce then took over as Mary had run out of music (due to the Holborne experience) and we played the latest offering from the magazine –

Minuet, Trio and finale by Chris Evans (no, not that one!). The first 2 went well, but the finale caused some initial difficulties, so we stopped for tea – a fantastic spread including home made meringues, by Vivien, and resumed playing with much more conviction afterwards. We followed this with an arrangement of a Sterndale Bennett anthem (by Joyce) – *God is a Spirit* – very beautiful, but also an unusual era of music for us to play. We ended the afternoon by playing the new music from the Felixstowe festival – North Sea Sketches, by Alan Bullard. We worked hard at Lament and In Harbour, but will save Ocean Waves for the September meeting. The Lament made an idyllic finale to the afternoon.