

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Robin Powell

As usual, Robin came along to Ruishton with a very well organised and planned programme, including a playing list so that we could go away and buy the music if we liked it. We began with a *Fantasia*, number 4 by **Thomas Ravenscroft**, an eminent English composer of the early baroque period. This worked well, although perhaps there were too many descants, especially with the strong acoustic in Ruishton hall. We moved forward in time slightly to a piece which would originally have been played by viols – **Chilcot's Giga**. Robin didn't mention the local link, but Chilcot lived in the Wiltshire/Somerset area. This is a lovely piece, with interest for all parts (especially the basses!) Either side of tea, handsomely provided by Gwynneth and Elsa (and apparently the local WI), we looked at a *Fuga* by **Mendelssohn**. This had obvious breathing difficulties, having originally been a string piece (as we string players don't bother to breath!). However, it was very tuneful, and well received. We moved forward in time again slightly to a piece arranged by **Paul Clark** based on an old Dutch folk tune, *The Horseman*. This was an excellent piece – Paul was such a gifted composer and arranger, and everything seems to work well on the recorder. A lovely bouncy piece, where you could almost imagine riding the horse. Finally we played 2 arrangements of American songs – *Old Comrades* by **Teike** and *Liberty Bell* (without a bell!) by **Sousa**. Both were good arrangements, and if not strictly great music, they were fun to play. Thank you Robin for another enjoyable afternoon of music making, and we hope that we see you again soon.