

Saturday 17th November 2012 Julia MacKinley

Julia began the afternoon by encouraging the group to play Ds in tune, followed by both D minor chords and then D major chords. This put the idea of D into our heads for the first piece, (anon) - *When Daphne from fair Phoebus did fly*, straightforward, but nonetheless interesting. Throughout the afternoon she also encouraged sitting straight in order to breathe better, and special advice on reaching the high notes. We followed this with Paul Clark's arrangement of Some short **Farnaby** pieces, collected together into a suite entitled *A Farnaby Suite*. They were pleasing both to play and to listen to, and I think the group managed to interpret them well. We then moved forward about a century to a *Gavotte in F* written originally for harpsichord by **Martini**. It was well arranged (again Paul Clark) and worked well on recorders. Here the trebles had to change to other instruments, so there became a good strong bass department. Julia was careful to tell us about the composers - which made the afternoon very interesting. We concluded the first half of the afternoon by playing an arrangement of **Tea for Two** by **Vincent Youmans** - great fun to play on all parts, and a good place to enjoy cake and refreshments prepared by Gwyneth. After the tea break we played through the Tea for Two again before moving on to another arrangement by **Paul Clark** - this time 7 pieces making up *A Norfolk Notebook*. This was originally written as a dedication to Norfolk branch on the 40th anniversary - and as it is Somerset's 40th next year, perhaps someone will volunteer to write a piece for us??? The Norfolk Notebook was a clever arrangement of popular tunes from Norfolk, and were fun, if slightly challenging to play. We finished the afternoon playing a great arrangement by **Marg Hall** of the popular tune - Bobby Shaftoe's gone to sea. This time she had given it the title *Bobby Goes to Town*. Again another super arrangement - especially for the great bass. So, an excellent afternoon at Ruishton - thank you Julia for travelling so far to see us, bringing such a good selection of music, and I do hope that you will come again in the future.