

SRP Meeting Saturday 18 March 2017

As has become the norm of late there was a healthy attendance of 25 keen players at Ruishton this month. There have been several new faces over the past few meetings; and two new ones, Louise and Linda, came this time. I gathered from both that they were impressed with the strength of the group and felt very welcome.

Our conductor was not Rachel, whom we expected, but Joyce who had swapped with her so we will look forward to Rachel later this year. Nevertheless it was a very enjoyable afternoon playing since Joyce does not generally disappoint. Not an easy ride but challenging enough, certainly in parts, to keep us on our toes and earn our tea break. This was provided by Diana and Felicity who maintained the high standard we have come to expect with a wonderful choice of cake!

Our programme began with the centre spread piece from the latest SRP magazine, Love and Kindness composed by Allan Herbie Jones, musician, writer and arranger based in Edinburgh. This was a gentle warm up to the afternoon being a straightforward, simple melody; a good start. Next we embarked on another modern composition by Raymond Harvey; Suite No 5 'In Sherwood Forest'. There are 6 short movements all presenting their own somewhat tricky but enjoyable outcomes. We managed the first 3 in the first half of the afternoon but had time at the end of the 2nd session to complete the suite which was satisfying, if a little sad ending with the 'Death of Robin Hood.

Before tea we also played a 16th century piece, Antony Holborne's Fantasia II, very different but still with its own challenges.

After tea, with some shuffling and re-arranging of chairs we split into 2 choirs and played an early Baroque piece; Hans-Leo Hassler's 'Canzon duodecimi toni' arranged for recorders by Greg Lewin. With plenty of guidance by Joyce we made quite a good fist of it and the effect was very satisfying when we played it right through.

Altogether a very satisfying afternoon with a friendly group of like-minded recorder players, thank you.

Sue Walker