

Saturday 18th November 2017

A lovely afternoon was spent under the baton of Steve Marshall (baton down at 2.00! – or is it batten the hatches...). We began with a look at 2 *Chansons* by a fairly unknown French composer – **Crecquillon**, who by the sound of his music seemed to be a contemporary of Josquin. The 2 pieces are probably unrelated, but work very well together and gave the large instruments a chance to shine. We stayed with a 6 part formation for the next piece, a modern work by **Helen Whormersley** from Cornwall, entitled *Paddling around Penryth*. This had quite a few tricky lilting rhythms in it, but was very pleasant to play. Before the tea break (ably provided by Elsa, with help from Mary), we played some very lively *Canzons*, by **Banchieri**– Steve tried to make us sound like trumpets, and the effect in our lovely acoustic was very good. The music was very lively and quick, so a bit of a challenge.

Refreshed after our tea we played some of **Steve's** own arrangements – firstly 2 well known songs, *Bobby Shaftoe* (tricky passive motifs) and the gentle *Bonny at Morn*. These were both, in Steve's view, well played, and needed little work. Finally we ended with a piece of jazz – testing players on swung rhythms. This was an arrangement by **Steve** again of a piece by **Schwertberger**, *All OK Blues*. This was a popular piece to end the afternoon on a we always enjoy playing a bit of Jazz when Steve comes to visit us in Somerset.

Many thanks, Steve, for a super afternoon of varied music, and we look forward to your visit next year!

Joyce Rudall