

18<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Mary Green and Joyce Rudall

We had a change of venue for the July meeting, and that, coupled with the weather and the proximity to the summer(!) meant that only 13 folk 'good and true' turned up for the meeting, including the 2 conductors who each played half a session and conducted the other half. However, the players were of a fine standard and tackled all of the afternoon's music with confidence. The meeting began with Mary conducting **Paul Clark's** little known *Midlands Suite* – a super set of three pieces, although perhaps the publisher should have thought through the difficulties of turning over whilst keeping both hands on the recorder! We followed this with another suite of pieces, this time adaptations from 16<sup>th</sup> century popular music in the form of **Andrew Charlton's** *Bouquet of Fancies*. We spent quite a time perfecting the first two and hope to return to the latter two at another meeting. Finally in the first half we played a rousing version of **Corelli's** *Allegro* from his Concerto Grosso number 6, which even included soli and tutti sections. And so we were ready for cake – and what a wonderful trio of cakes Vivian had provided – lemon drizzle, delicious flapjacks and huge slices of fruit cake – and enough to feed a symphony orchestra! Suitably refreshed everyone took their places and, under the baton of Joyce now, we looked at the piece that had been provided in the current edition of the recorder magazine, **John Hawkes' Ain't never Satisfied**. It took a bit of work to find who was meant to be playing the melody whilst others were meant to play in a more subdued manner, but finally it all came together and was a successful piece. We followed this with another English composer, **William Byrd**, and his *Alman* from the Fitzwilliam collection. After a bit of work we romped through this at a pace that the 16<sup>th</sup> century dancers may have had trouble keeping up with. Then to an arrangement by **John Kitcher** of *Somerset Folk tunes* – very well arranged, but the score was tiny! The other problem was that the bass 2 part was really for great bass and no-one had one today, so we will try them again on another occasion. Then on to one of my own arrangements, an anthem by **Willima Sterndale Bennett**, a 19<sup>th</sup> century English composer, *God is a Spirit*. This works very well on recorders, particularly when all 3 flats are observed! Finally we had a quick look at **Stanley Taylor's** arrangements of *Gathering Peascods*, not as popular as his other fantasia but equally tuneful and well arranged. So the end of a lovely and busy afternoon, and no meeting again until September when we return to our home in Ruishton and have our AGM.