

Saturday 18th October 2014

We were lucky enough to welcome Jack Brothwell back to Ruishton to lead our meeting on Saturday. He bought a wide variety of music for us to try, and also a wide variety of instruments, more of which later. He also bought Jackie along, who very ably supported our bass department on both her bass recorder and bass guitar.

We began the afternoon by playing *Stanley Taylor's Fantasia on Somerset Folk Songs*. Although this was well known to some of the group, it was interesting to hear Jack's ideas on performing the music and listen to the group tackle this lovely piece. We followed this by playing *Schmeltzer's Sonata for 7* instruments, which Jack explained had most likely been originally written for recorders as similarly-aged music is usually marked 'traverso' if modern-style flutes are required. A really lovely piece, which gave my Sopranino an airing! We followed this with 2 arrangements of *Holborne's Pavan and Noel's Galliarde*. Beautiful music, and very playable in this form. Jack accompanied this with a Bodh ram, in the style of early music. The lively Galliarde kept us all on our toes, and then it was tea time – beautiful cake provided by Helen.

After tea we moved to a more modern style – *La Paloma*, written by *Jack* himself. Jack accompanied this on his accordion – a really lovely combination of instruments. We then moved to a very moving piece by *John Dowland*, again arranged by Jack, *Semper Dowland, Semper Dolens*. A suitably sad piece as the title suggests. Then again into the South American idiom – *Carlos Gardel's Por Una Cabeza*, again well arranged by Jack. This time Jack accompanied us on his Cajon – a cubic drum which must contain all manner of tricks inside, but looks fairly inconspicuous from the outside. Jack described it as having his own drum section. Another great piece, easy enough to play well but interesting enough to keep us all on our toes. The final piece called again for the Sopranino, and was Jack's arrangement of *The Can-Can* by *Offenbach*. After sorting out how to tackle the opening, and working out where to breathe, we had good fun playing through this to round off a lovely afternoon of playing.

Thank you both Jack and Jackie for coming to guide us through this lovely music.