

Recorder society report 18th September 2010

Seventeen noble souls turned up for the meeting, which included the AGM. But the good news was that our conductor was Joyce Rudall, which meant a decent selection of music, some of it quite demanding.

We started with a *Partita for Recorder Trio* by Joseph Haydn, arranged by Walter Bergmann.

We played two movements: Allegro (but not too manic warned our conductor). This was sound advice as Haydn is quite good at surprises. The 2nd movement was a contrasting minuet in D, and woe betide you if you did not play lightly when your part was accompanying the melody! The trio went into D minor, then the minuet was repeated. The whole thing sounded very pleasant from the kitchen where Wendy and I were making tea. (I do not intend to give the impression that distance lends.....)

Moving on: after tea we played William Byrd's *The Queenes Alman and Galliard* and yes, it is really spelled like that. GOOD NEWS! The Alman was in 3 flats and marked con moto with a sotto voce intro of "you'll be lucky" It was lovely. The descant melody floated around over interwoven accompaniment from the other three parts. The second half was marked *delicato* in all parts and we gave a good account of this, finishing with a Da Capo.

And now for something a little different.....

North Sea Sketches no 3 Ocean Waves by Alan Bullard. Written for the 2010 national conference.

All the tunes in this piece are traditional British sea songs, with the melody being passed around the sections to good effect. There are changes of key and tempo and some high notes for all parts.

We started with the last section and worked backwards. When you have concentrated like mad on a tricky passage you reach the bit you know and heave a sigh of relief. The piece begins with an introduction reminiscent of the sailors hornpipe, then moves into "Bold Nelson's Praise" in C. this is followed by "The Bay of Biscay" at a lively pace, then the trebles have the melody of "Spanish Ladies" in D minor, marked *moderato mesto*. Back to the key of C for the "Drunken Sailor" with suitably inebriated sounds from the tenors and basses (deliberate of course) and wobbly bits for the descants. Great fun to play!

We finished with *Singin' in the rain* by Nacio Herb Brown and arr. By Philip Evry. During the intro the tenors and descants had to play a percussion part on the base hole of their recorders, to give the effect of raindrops, which they managed successfully after a bit of practice. The piece is not difficult but demands a jazzy feel and accurate counting. We thought we had got through it quite well, then collapsed on the coda! Spurred on with cries of "rests!" and "count" from our conductor we did it! Well it was the end of the afternoon.....

Many thanks to Joyce for giving us an enjoyable challenge.

Gwynneth Flitters.