

Saturday 19th June 2010

Pete Willis.

As a change from wall to wall football, or perhaps to cheer themselves up after a dismal England performance the previous night, 19 people came to Ruishton to play a super variety of music under the baton of Pete Willis (although he doesn't actually use a baton!). We began the afternoon with a piece especially commissioned by Pete's wife, Jane, for Pete's 80th birthday – and what a birthday treat – a quartet of dances from the *Suite for recorder Quartet* by **Raymond Dodds**. We worked our way through the first 2 – Slow Dance and Fast Dance before moving on to **Tallis'** *Sanctus Deus* – a quite moving and beautiful piece, with some intricate rhythms and fantastic harmonies. Following this we played *Getting to be a Habit*, an arrangement by **Henry Warren**. This version was scored for many parts including the C bass, which had a visit out of its case for once! Tea followed – lovely flapjacks and something jammy prepared by Jane – and very welcome too! The second half began with a concerto grosso by **Geminiani**, *op 3 no. 2*. This was different to the well known and oft played one, but equally beautiful and challenging. The 3rd movement, an adagio, was particularly beautiful. We then played the other 2 movements from the Raymond Dodds Suite – an Air and another Fast Dance. The afternoon ended with an interesting arrangement of a pianist's classic, *Für Elise*, by Beethoven, arranged as a *Tango* by **Paul Leenhouts**. This had some very interesting directions, particularly in the descant part. Thank you, Pete, for a lovely afternoon of varied music, and for your patience with our attempts at the tricky sections!