

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012

PETE WILLIS

We knew we were in for a good afternoon's playing when Pete produced the first piece of music : J Strauss' Saenger Polka. We had only played a few bars and Pete asked us to stop and work on those to make a better sound – which we duly did, and that set the tone for the afternoon – great music, but a high standard expected by Pete. We also had chance to use the group's new contra bass in this piece. By the end we were all really enjoying the music and making a good sound, letting the music sound like a dance. The same discipline applied to the next piece : Gibbon's Fantazia in four parts. A really beautiful piece, again aided by having the deep sound of the contra. We then moved to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, playing Raymond Dodd's Swings and roundabouts. This piece was great fun and worth spending time sorting out the rhythmic problems. Then it was tea – a beautiful selection of cakes made by Vivien, helped by Mary. After tea we played Gabrieli's Cantate Domine – a really beautiful piece which may have sounded better on sackbuts, but was pretty good on recorders. Following that we returned to modern times, playing Tango by David Thompson – a great piece for rhythm practice, and a super bass part. Sadly a few of us had to leave before we had completed this as we had a concert in Axbridge. This left the group a little bereft of bass players, so they continued with Weelke's As Vesta saw, which we have played before, and ended the afternoon with a fun menuetto by Ditters from Dittersdorf. Another great afternoon of recorder playing and useful information, thank you Pete.