

Steve Marshall

A wet afternoon is best spent in the company of other recorder players playing a variety of music, and that is exactly what Steve brought along to Ruishton. He also brought Ann, who is a great help in the bass and great bass department, and it was lovely to see them both.

The first piece we played was an arrangement of **Thomas Morley's** *Love's folk in green arraying*. Steve read the rather (for the time) raunchy words, and also pointed out the prevalence of 'fa la las'. An amusing piece and fun to play. We then moved onto a piece of the same era but of a totally different style. Byrd had been the pupil, friend and confidante of Thomas Tallis, who was somewhat older. After Tallis died, **William Byrd** wrote a piece to commemorate his death, *Ye sacred muses*. This is full of pathos and sadness, especially Byrd's repeated setting of the words 'Tallis is gone.' Beautiful to play, and inspired by Steve's conducting.

We followed this by playing the piece of music from the centrespread of the last magazine, which due to circumstances of time we hadn't looked at in our traditional way. *Butterfly Jig* by **Michael Graham** had some tricky moments both with fingerings and timings, but we made a successful attempt at it and the feeling of butterflies dancing came over.

We then stopped for tea, ably provided by Gwynneth and Barbara, a lovely selection of cakes, thoughtfully labelled to help one choose!

We followed the interval with a sneak preview of the next centrespread, which Steve and Ann had written jointly, *Double Vision*. Good fun to play, and I am still left wondering how they did it and are still married!

Next came a beautiful arrangement by Steve of **Gibbons** Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. None of the assembled musicians seem to have heard of this before, although the opening motif of the Magnificat seemed familiar to me. The Magnificat was very grand whilst the Nunc Dimittis was both beautiful and thought provoking.

The final effort of the afternoon was a selection of 3 pieces from around the world, again arranged by Steve. We played a Northumbrian Jig followed by well-known folk songs from the Czech Republic and Russia. Easy and fun – just what is required at the end of a long afternoon of recorder playing.

Thank you so much to both Steve and Ann Marshall for sorting and arranging the music, travelling to Somerset and conducting us in such a positive style.