

Saturday 20th January 2018. Frances Webb.

A very wet start to the New Year and a preponderance of lurgies meant that it was, by our usual standards, a small turnout for Frances' visit. However, quality comes in small packages and the playing standard today was very high.

We needed to start the meeting with a short EGM, where a new treasurer and a new catering organizer were appointed, so we can carry on being the successful branch that we are.

Frances then introduced us to one of **JS Bach's** *Fugues* from the well-tempered Clavier, no 6 in d minor. It was a lovely arrangement with something for everyone, and Frances guided us through the main themes very skillfully. We were then getting a bit chilly so Frances then produced a Furiant! This being the Furiant from **Dvorak's** *Slavonic Dance no. 8*. Great fun to play, albeit with some tricky finger changes, and a few jazzy rhythms. The main theme is quite well known, so after initially taking it slowly we speeded up to the (almost) original tempo. Finally before the tea break we looked at the magazine centerspread from the Autumn (2017). This was a *Macedonian Gypsy Dance* by **Michael Copley**. Great fun to play, especially up to speed, and it gave us a good appetite for the wonderful spread of cakes laid on by Julia and Judy.

After the break we went back to the Renaissance, with a beautiful calming piece by **Giovanni Battista della Gostena**. This included no descants, so the top line was mellow and supported by the lower basses and tenors. A fantasia shouldn't have so much to pin it in place as music such as the Bach Fugue, and this *Fantasia 1* was no exception, changing key and style frequently throughout. Finally we moved back to the 21st century (or at least the 20th!) playing **Tom Johnston's** *3 Scottish Country Dances* – great fun to play and Frances guided us through each one expertly.

Many thanks for a really lovely afternoon, Frances, and I hope we see you soon.