

21st March 2009

Virginia Brookes

The first day of Spring, and it was a stunning day, most unusual for this date when usually the gods throw their worst weather at us. However, 24 people abandoned their gardens and turned up at Ruishton village hall – quite a crowd – for Virginia's visit from Oxford. We began by playing a *Pavan* – very slow! – and *Galliarde* – much more raucous – by **Gibbons**, a really lovely piece of music well arranged for 6 parts with interest for everyone. We followed this with a very early example of a sonata by **William Young**, *Sonata Quinta*, written in about 1640. This followed the four movement layout of a sonata but segue and a lot shorter than a more modern rendition of the form. We then looked at the start of **Frescobaldi's** *Bergamasca*, becoming familiar with the bergamasca motif, before we broke for a lovely tea provided by Riki and Pat. We continued with the *Bergamasca* after the interval and enjoyed moving through the different sections. Moving forward in time we then played a *Quintet in F* by **Pepusch**, another piece in 4 movements which could have been mistaken for a sonata, with the gigue movement ending the work. Finally we returned to the Gibbons and gave a 'concert performance'. A very enjoyable, interesting and informative afternoon – thank you for visiting out county, Virginia.