

21st May 2011

A small band of recorder players turned up at Ruishton to be instructed by Sheila Clement. Perhaps this was a hang-over of the branch having hosted the festival last month, some having taken holidays now instead of in April. However, Sheila threw us in at the deep end with a version of **Dowland's** *Captain Digore's Piper and Galliard*. Some tricky sections for some parts, which we worked at reasonably successfully. Following this we attempted to play **G. Gabrieli's** *Canzon 5* – one which I am not familiar with. It is scored for 7 parts and this proved challenging for the small group. It is also scored rather highly on all of the instruments, which proved challenging for our ears. Having worked quite hard on the first half, we abandoned it for we when have larger resources. Then something unusual – a selection of short pieces entitled *Harmonium Voluntaries*, written by various 19th century composers – and strange era for recorder players. There were some interesting tunes amongst the pieces, but rather too much in the pedal department for the basses! However, tea was imminent and Mary and Vivien rose to their usual standard with lovely home made cakes. After tea we looked again at the voluntaries, before moving on to a lovely *Pavan* written by **John Okeover**. This was altogether more successful once we were all playing the same piece! A play through at the end of the rehearsal time revealed a lovely piece of music. Finally 2 pieces by **Johann Strauss** the younger – another new venture for recorder players, but a fun way to end the afternoon – the pieces were a *Persian March*, which included many acciaccatura's, and a brisk *Polka*. Thank you for an interesting afternoon, Sheila.