

Saturday 22nd April, 2017.

Frances Webb

It was lovely to see Frances, a local musician, again in Ruishton, and despite the beautiful weather we had a record number of attendees. Frances gave us a straightforward madrigal to begin the proceedings, **Hugh Robertson's** *All in the April Evening*. Interestingly it was printed on green paper – did this make it easier to play, and therefore improve our performance? Frances read the words to us first, and we were in the mood to tackle this piece.

Following this we played *2 Courtly Masquing Dances* by **John Adson**. These tested our use of flats and sharps, but again we gave spirited performances. We then split into 7 parts to tackle **Schmelzer's** lovely *Sonata for 7 recorders*. This is quite well known to a few of us as we are performing it shortly, so we mostly decided to take a different part to that which we are used to – a good way to learn the music. Schmelzer, an Austrian composer, only wrote one work specifically for recorders unfortunately, as this is a really fun and exciting piece to play.

We broke for tea break, ably provided by Julia (T) and Jill (B). The choice between my 2 personal favourite cakes – lemon drizzle or fruit cake was not an easy decision.

After tea we 'performed' the Schmelzer before looking at a very lovely *Fantasia* by **John Willbye**. Frances worked hard at getting the right parts to come forward and take their turn with the tune, and the overall effect was very pleasing.

The final piece from the afternoon was another madrigal - Morley's April is in my mistress' face, which again we gave a creditable performance of. With 5 minutes to spare, Frances thought she'd come full circle and end the afternoon with the piece we had begun with, the Robertson's madrigal – and by now we were such experts that we ended the afternoon on a high note.

Many thanks Frances, and I do hope that you will be able to come and lead the afternoon again very soon.