

Saturday 23rd June 2012

We welcomed HAZEL FENTON from Bath for her first visit to Somerset, and she brought a lovely selection of music with her, which she had cleverly organised into playing packages before her arrival, thus saving the group a lot of time handing out music. We began the afternoon with a brisk play through an anonymous piece – *Strawberry Leaves*. This had some tricky areas, which perhaps could have been played better as the second piece, when we had a chance to warm up, but overall the piece went well. We followed this with another anonymous piece, *Daphne*, which was much calmer, easier to play and therefore more successful within our group. Following this we split into 2 choirs to play one of **Viadana's** many two choir canzonas – *La Piacendina*. After a few problems with knowing which group was playing, and how each section within the choirs entered the music, we managed a credible performance. We finished the first section of the afternoon with **Handel's** *He shall feed his flock*. This has a tendency to drag, and we did, so Hazel had a difficult job to keep us all in check. However, it all finished quite well and in time for a lovely selection of cakes provided by Riki and Pat. After the break we moved to the 20th century, with a suite of various pieces of 'Tafel musik' by **Rautavaara** (which is probably spelt wrongly!). These were fun to play and we managed well, getting a feel for the different moods of each movement. Next we played another suite, **Paul Clark's** *Irish Suite*, which was well known to some of us, even if we played an unknown part, so the overall effect was quite impressive. We finished the afternoon by playing a very short work by **Thomas Campion** – *Never Weather Beaten Sail*, a very calm and beautiful way to conclude the afternoon. Thank you for your patience and hard work, Hazel – We hope that you'll be able to revisit in the future.