

Saturday 27th February 2016

Dick arrived with an armful of music for us to enjoy this chilly afternoon. We began by playing Richard **Mico's** *Fancy number 8*, arranged by Frances Grubb. Fancy number 9 was interesting to play and worked well together. We then split into a larger group, as a recorder orchestra, to play **Steve Marshall's** '*Voyage of the Matthew*', which had been written especially for Dick's home branch of Bristol to commemorate both Bristol SRPs significant anniversary and the arrival in Bristol of the replica of Cabot's ship, Matthew. It is all split into sections to illustrate the voyage of Cabot to the new world, and has an interesting section where one could feel sea-sick!

Tea and cakes were then served by Sue (W) and Gill (R), and quite delicious they were too, giving us energy to tackle **Gounod's** *Andante cantabile from Petite suite*. This was arranged for recorders by Dennis Bloodworth, who died recently. Dennis had been influential in Dick's life, both as his biology teacher at school, which Dick pursued as his career, and in his interest as a recorder player and musician. Some of us had played this before as we recently played it in Mendip Consort, but we mostly took different parts and enjoyed the challenge of learning a new section. It's a lovely lyrical piece with a tricky rhythmic accompaniment, which I think worked quite well on a single playing.

We concluded the afternoon by playing a suite by **Helen Hooker** which was written especially for one of the members of the Bristol Branch. *Polish suite* was fun to play and had interest in all parts, with some challenging high notes for the trebles. Although it was only in 3 parts, it sounded rich and is well harmonised. There are some lovely idiomatic melodies which we enjoyed, and we rounded the afternoon off with a run through of the final section.

Many thanks, Dick, for a lovely afternoon of playing and for an interesting selection of music.