

May 21 2022 Steve Marshall

It was lovely to welcome Steve and Ann to Ruishton again – Steve used to attend Somerset many years ago when he first returned to the UK, so we feel that we are welcoming a fellow member.

Steve began the afternoon with an *Intrada* by **Melchior Franck** – one of a set of 4. We worked on the style of the music – a flash back to renaissance, rather than looking forward to Baroque, and then we performed it at quite a pace. Sight-reading time on another of the intradas – and again, there was some smart playing.

We then moved on to **Ann Marshall's** composition to accompany the story of the *Lion and the Mouse* (poem by Jeffreys). This was split into a few short movements, which we looked at individually, before Steve read the poem and we filled in the gaps musically. An interesting way of relating the tale.

Before the break we played a piece by **Steve Marshall** – written for the Bristowe Consort, a small offshoot of Bristol SRP. This was entitled *The Bold Pirate*, and Steve cleverly (sometimes too cleverly) incorporated a few sea songs and shanties into the music. Spot the tune!

We broke for tea and cakes, wonderfully prepared by Gill (R) and Sue (W), the first time we have returned to a 'normal' tea break, and it was lovely to be able to chat to everyone in a more informal way.

After tea, we returned to the *Bold Pirate*, a bit more work and then a performance. Following this we learnt a piece by a totally unknown (to most of us) composer, **Matheo Flecha el Jovan** - *Alza Doglioso Canto*. Again, Steve led us through the music in a sensitive way, and also gave the bigger basses another airing.

We finished the afternoon with **Palestrina's** *Sicut Cervus*, a beautiful sacred work by this well-known composer, and a lovely calm way to end the meeting.

Many thanks to Steve for coming to conduct the branch, and to Ann for driving him here and bolstering the great bass section. We look forward to your visit in 2023 for our 50th anniversary.