**Meeting Report 18 June 2022**

Since returning to our regular monthly meetings attendance has not quite been back to levels we enjoyed prior to the pandemic but nevertheless we had an enthusiastic, mixed ability, if rather small group of 13.

Conducted by Joyce Rudall we were challenged from the start with 2 movements from Henry Purcell’s Fairy Queen, the Entry Dance and Rondeau. Once we had warmed up our instruments and our brains and with Joyce’s coaxing we managed to achieve a good rendition.

There was a theme to the choice of music for the first part of the afternoon so this was followed up by The Queen’s Alman & Galliard by William Byrd, in the light of the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations. These pieces were quite familiar to many of us but still present challenges to play them well; once more Joyce encouraged the best from us as a mixed ability group.

Next came 2 Pavans & a Galliard from Augustine Bassano’s Royal Wind Music which again was familiar to many of us but with a number of parts some ‘one to a part’ playing was required which can be challenging to some of us.

We then broke for our usual and welcome tea interval with refreshments and lovely cakes provided by Gwyneth and Louise. It is also time for a stretch of the legs and a quick catch up with friends before settling down for the second session.

Stephen Watkins Septet for Recorders was commissioned by the Society for their annual festival. Each branch gets their own copy so Joyce thought it a good idea to give us the chance to sample some of it. Once more it was a ‘one to a part’ situation for many, with our few attendees, and was definitely quite a challenge but we persevered and did make a reasonable fist of it with Joyce pushing us on.

We finished with a very lively piece written by Alison Lewin – Midsummer Morris, it being so close to the longest day; this still kept us on our toes so thank you Joyce for a challenging but very pleasurable afternoon’s playing.

Sue Walker

Moderate player