

# Flutes at the Barns

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## Diary of Spring 2007

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Written by Isabelle, abridged by Zoë

All arrived safely, if a little shell-shocked, but that didn't last long! A good supper soon settled everyone in, ...wine got the conversation flowing, before an early night ready for the challenge of tomorrow!

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Written by Louise, Julia and Elizabeth, abridged by Zoe

I left Cornwall at 7.45 am and had a good journey arriving in time to start the morning's work. How nice to meet new faces and to see old friends again!

Tone work after a very nice lunch; leading into fingering exercises and a very quick look at double-tonguing! Straight into a lovely chamber music session which I really enjoyed as it has been a very long time since I played in a group, and the harmonies emerging were just wonderful. By that time the sun was putting in an appearance, and the tranquil setting, lovely company, joint purpose and plentiful refreshment all contributed to an enjoyable (and beneficial) day.

Ruth and Bob had a quick tango (!), then we attacked the white wine and nuts, shortly followed by some delicious salmon and generous helpings of pudding. Bob played his recording of a very crackly Gaubert playing his own Madrigal – very interesting!

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Written by Patricia, Ruth and Bob, abridged by Zoë

We started the day with breathing exercises which made everyone aware of their full lung capacity and then split into quartet groups. The group I was in got to grips with Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Humoresque by Dvorak. At coffee time we had superb carrot cake, made by Alison.

After coffee we had a masterclass with Isabelle and Louise playing Quantz's "wine and crisps and cheese" duet (a Siciliana!). Next was Julia's Bach B minor Bourree and then Bob's Gluck Concerto in G major. Everyone enjoyed the performances and learnt a lot from Zoë's comments.

After lunch we carried on with the Masterclass in between browsing with Des (from All Flutes Plus). Jacky tried a new flute and it was very interesting seeing the process of selection.

We had a quiz evening; our group was trailing but on the last round voted for a joker and made a last minute spurt and finished second. I think I should have a bonus mark for knowing one of the answers nobody else did!. All this followed after a good dinner.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Written by Jacky and Ali, abridged by Zoë**

What a lovely weekend. Great food, great company, great playing! There were also lots of hints and tips and breathing exercises. I enjoyed playing with different groups and generally learned a lot. We're going home today but I'm looking forward to playing my new flute and piccolo.

After lunch I had a session with Rachael which brought the Bach Adagio to life. We've spent the rest of the afternoon working on some improvisation and flute choir – a successful Humoresque and a slight harder Thieving Magpie, which had some challenging bits... however we started together and finished together in the concert, with most of it in between, so a huge sense of achievement!

Thanks Zoë and helpers! We've had a ball and we will try to remember our:

**Finger  
Articulation  
Tone and  
Breathing!**