

A really great start to the New Year to see so many enthusiastic recorder players gathered in Rushton Hall. Steve and Ann staggered in with a box full of lovely looking music and we knew that we were in safe hands for a great afternoon of recorder playing. We began with *Canzon 1 – La Capriola* by the 16th century composer, Maschera. We worked on this for a while and finally gave a creditable performance. WE then moved onto Tallis, and played 2 more very beautiful works by this 17th century English composer, both ably arranged by Steve and Ann. Then the fun really began as our collective counting, clapping, stamping, clicking and shouting skills were tested. Steve and Ann had jointly written '*music that counts*' - a great way to improve your rhythm skills. We had a short break for a super tea, served by Anthony and Sue. After the break we continued to improve our rhythmic skills, before attempting some Bartok – again arranged by the Marshall duo – *Music for children*. Not as easy as it might at first sound, but very effective nonetheless. WE concluded a super afternoon with a rendition of 4 short pieces by Willbye, Bach and Trad from a collection named *Ann's Choice*. Excellent afternoon was had by all, so thank you to Steve for conducting and for Ann for coming to support our slightly depleted bass department.