

WORKSHOP REPORTS

1. Early Music Workshop for Harps North West

On June 13th, by kind permission of Sue and Robert Sykes at Crosthwaite, interested members of Harps North West were treated to a 'taster' session of early music for harps, excellently and ably arranged for us by Elizabeth Dodd. It was to have been for a variety of early musical instruments unusually including the small harp - or clarsach. However, on the day only two brave viol players joined us. The sound was lovely, enriched occasionally by Sue Sheard who brought along her lute as well as her harp and once by Elizabeth who replaced her conducting skills with her recorder. It would have been interesting if more recorder or flute players had joined us too. The music Elizabeth arranged for us ranged from early French and German folk tunes to a stately Galiard by Dowland; some pieces harmonising, some contra puntal with lovely interwoven sounds, and Byrd's *'Ave Verum Corpus Natum'* - a mixture of both. Not only was the music sublime, but the venue too - Sue and Robert's lovely old barn, so well converted for just such an occasion! The day was fine, so an added bonus was the charming, rambling, hillside garden with its spectacular views, where we were able to have our picnics and just sit and enjoy the sunshine, before starting the afternoon session. It was a full, challenging and completely satisfying day, giving us a taste of another fascinating pathway down which to take our harps. Our warmest thanks to Elizabeth for arranging this event, and to Sue and Robert for welcoming us to use their beautiful home.

Virginia Clucas