

George Thorp HISS 2015 review

Reflections on five days at HISS Summer School Scarborough August 2015.

A journey over the northern Pennines from Kendal passing through hamlets of stone built cottages surrounding village greens, following the occasional flock of sheep or tractor along the road with a stop or two for coffee and cake, while leaving all responsibility of home family and work far behind. The start of a five day break inspired by a fellow recorder playing friend!

She had attended the previous four summer schools and thought that others, who liked folk music and made various tuneful sounds, would enjoy a bit of variety. Well, as an absolute self-inflicted beginner, with my fiddle under my arm and the backup of assorted recorders, in case everything went pear shaped, I signed up.

I selected violin/string ensembles to 'taste and see'. Thanks to tutors gifted in so many fields and with deep understanding of ignorance, my confidence in my potential as a string player was greatly improved, to such an extent that a lesson or two might be really beneficial!! I did relax playing recorders in one session under Mary Tyers baton (foot tap as she led on a bass recorder!) but I managed to keep with my cherished Chinese violin through a variety of sessions on memorising folk tunes, arranging some to include a variety of instruments (certainly thinking outside the box), to accompanying choral works for the final concert!

I could ramble on enthusiastically about the course from the excellent food, accommodation, cheerful staff, to the evening sessions playing folk tunes in the bar, when for reasons of speed I did resort to my recorder, to the cheerful company of folk, who just enjoy music and even welcome amateurs like me of 70 years or so revelling in their later years!

I must admit to needing a day or two to relax following this very full week of challenges and fun. I just hope that I can repeat the experience next year and encourage more friends to join me in a worthwhile experience. Thanks to all who work so hard to lead and share such Pastimes in good company!

Oh! I forgot to mention the Tutors Concert. It was EPIC!

George Thorp