

Reflections on five days at HISS Summer School Scarborough

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A journey over the northern 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 back-up of assorted recorders, in case everything went pear shaped, 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 lead 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 70yrs 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!