

HISS 2017 review – by Sara Liber Salloum (HISS2017 Bursary recipient)

I had the pleasure of attending the Historically Informed Summer School in its new East Yorkshire venue. Bishop Burton College in Beverley proved to be the prime location for a busy and diverse week of early and folk music making. From medieval band practice to continuo playing, Alexander technique to a ballad walk through the nearby city of Hull, such a well rounded course was on offer from the excellent tutors at HISS.

Outside of teaching hours, participants were encouraged to form small ensembles and explore their own repertoire. These participant lead ensembles culminated in the course's 'Musical Banquet' where a three course meal was interspersed with a great number of highly entertaining performances – the success of which was testament to the fun-loving, good-hearted nature of every participant.

Such a busy schedule could not have been achieved without the organisational skills of course director Graham Coatman and administrator Jo Wherry, who did exceptional work choreographing the entire week. As a student helper, I spent a portion of my time at HISS helping to ensure the programme ran smoothly, and I'm very grateful to have learnt so much about what happens 'behind the scenes' at a course such as this.

I was still able to attend most of the classes and events I wanted to and, as a student lutenist, I must say it was a dream to attend an entire week's worth of classes with Jacob Heringman. Another real highlight for me was the tutors' concert. What a privilege it was to see all of the HISS tutors performing together in such an energetic and exciting montage of renaissance, baroque and folk music.

Overall, the course has been invaluable in giving me so much to think about and work on at this pivotal time in my musical education. I'm so grateful to have been offered such a generous bursary to help me attend HISS, and I very much hope I will be able to attend again in the future.